

**Annual Report**  
**Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board**  
**July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board consists of seven sister cities (listed with the year the relationship was established): Toba, Japan (1966), Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (1973); Weihai, China (1993); San Juan/Manila, Philippines (2000); Dingle, Ireland (2003); Kotor, Montenegro (2009); and Patras, Greece (2010). The Sister Cities Board consist of ten members, three appointed by the City Council plus one representative from each sister city committee. Attached are the reports from each committee. The board was involved in the following activities. Since my term as chair of the board expired on December 31, 2018, my portion of this report is from July 1 to December 31, 2018.

**July 11, 2018**

Whitney Rush was introduced as a new board member, City-at-Large appointee by the Santa Barbara City Council.

**July 23, 2018**

The Annual Report for July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018, was submitted to the Mayor and Council.

**August 2-4, 2018**

The Sister Cities International Annual Conference was held in Aurora, Colorado. Board member, Pat Fallin, Gil Garcia and his wife, Marti attended the conference representing the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board. Former mayor, Helene Schneider also participated and became a national board member of SCI.

**September 1-30, 2018**

Items given to Santa Barbara by our Sister Cities were exhibited at the Central Library Display Case.

**September 11, 2018**

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Barbara **9-11** Peace Concert was held at 5:30 pm at the Faulkner Gallery of the central library. Performers included Santa Barbara's favorite pianist, Gil Rosas, Jackson Gillies, the winner of the Teen Star, 2016 competition, and the Z Wilde's Fratelli-a men's chorus. There were about 120 that

attended, and the concert was a great success. Mayor Cathy Murillo, and Barbara Gaughen-Muller, local United Nations Association, welcomed the attendees.

### **October 17, 2018**

Board chair, Takako Wakita, received an award from the Japanese government called “The Foreign Minister’s Commendation Award” at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles. She was recognized for her achievements in the promotion of cultural exchange and goodwill spanning nearly a half century. Thirty-five people attended the ceremony, including four Sister Cities board members and Linda Gunther, city staff representative.

### **October 21, 2018**

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Sister Cities Celebration in honor of United Nations Day was held at the Carrillo Recreation Center. There were over 100 attendees from all seven sister city committees, and the entertainment was the Greek Orthodox Church Dancers ZOI and a singer, Nicky Monreal. Mayor Cathy Murillo and Barbara Gaughen-Muller, Santa Barbara Chapter President, United Nations Association, were the honored guests and offered greetings.

### **November 7, 2018**

The board received a new sister city proposal from Mitzpe Ramon, Israel by Gail Tennen, co-chair of the Board of Trustees for the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara. A sub-committee was created, and the decision will be made at the next meeting.

### **December 12, 2018**

A Board appreciation luncheon was held for Takako Wakita, for her 23 years of service as the chair of the Sister Cities Board. It was at the University Club of Santa Barbara, and Mayor Cathy Murillo presented a proclamation and a bouquet of flowers to Takako from the City of Santa Barbara.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Takako Wakita, Chair (term expired December 31, 2018)

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**January 1, 2019** – Pat Fallin was appointed by the Santa Barbara City Council to the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board for a four-year term. Pat replaces Takako Wakita, who retired from the Board.

At a meeting of the three members appointed to the Board by the Santa Barbara City Council, the following three officers were selected: Pat Fallin, Chair; Margaret Saaverada, Vice Chair; and Whitney Rush, Secretary.

Brain Slattery replaced Pat Fallin as the Dingle Sister City representative and Maureen McFadden, is the alternate.

A proposal for a new sister city in Israel, Mitzpe Ramon, was presented for a vote. The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board sub-committee had reviewed the proposal and after careful consideration determined that, based on the “Guidelines for Establishing a New Sister City,” Mitzpe Ramon is not a qualified city citing the #1 characteristic, specifically the population and geographical structure. The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board accepted the recommendation of the sub-committee and voted to not accept Mitzpe Ramon as a sister city.

**March, 2019** – The Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board voted to join the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce. Each sister city will pay a portion of the yearly dues. It is felt that this will be an opportunity for the Sister Cities to get more exposure and a better connection with the community.

The Young Artists and Authors showcase was held at Pilgrim Terrace on March 15. The art work submitted by high school students in Santa Barbara was judged and the first place winner was selected to be sent to the Young Artists and Authors competition in Washington, DC. The winners also received cash prizes of First Place - \$250; Second Place - \$150 and Third Place - \$100. Morgan Stanley sponsored the reception and the \$250 First Place prize was contributed by the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. The remaining cash prizes were contributed evenly among the remaining six sister city committees. Three art pieces sent from San Juan, Philippines was sent to Sister Cities International in Washington, D.C. for the Young Artists and Authors competition.

A sub-committee was appointed to study the Guidelines for Establishing a New Sister City – the sub-committee will give a report to the Board of their recommendation at a later Board meeting.

The seven Sister Cities are active with interesting programs and exchanges as are shown in their reports.

Respectfully submitted by  
Pat Fallin, Chair (Term began on January 1, 2019)

Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Members

Chair: Pat Fallin, appointed by Council – term ends 12/31/2022  
Vice-Chair: Margaret Saavedra, appointed by Council – term ends 12/31/2020  
Secretary: Whitney Rush, appointed by Council – term ends 12/31/2020  
Sister City Committees:

Dingle, Ireland: Brian Slattery – Representative to the Board  
Maureen McFadden – Alternate to the Board

Kotor Montenegro: George Lily – Representative to the Board  
David Zamichow – Alternate to the Board

Patras, Greece: Georgia Gastouniotis – Representative to the Board  
Bessie Condos – Alternate to the Board

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Gil Garcia – Representative to the Board  
Robin Cederlof – Alternate to the Board

San Juan, Philippines: Albe Dumlao – Representative to the Board  
Limar C. Delicano – Alternate to the Board

Toba, Japan: Linda Mathews – Representative to the Board  
Gary Maxwell – Alternate to the Board

Weihai, China: Peter Haslund – Representative to the Board  
George Ayoub – Alternate to the Board

## **ATTACHMENT**

### **Annual Reports from Seven Sister City Committees**

#### **Santa Barbara/Dingle Sister City Committee**

The Dingle Sister City Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday. The Officers who were elected at the February, 2018 meeting remain in the same positions for 2018-19: President, Pat Fallin; Vice-President, Linda Mathews; Secretary, Marti Correa de Garcia; Treasurer, Tom McCool; Corresponding Secretary/Membership, Brian Slattery; and Public Relations, Mo McFadden. Directors at Large include: Gil Garcia, Joe King, Tom Parker and John McNally was added in March, 2019. We have spent the past year continuing to reorganize the Committee, re-electing officers, re-writing the Bylaws and re-establishing our finances and paperwork with the California Finance Board and the IRS. Many thanks to Gil Garcia, Linda Mathews, Pat Fallin for their help with the bylaws and a special thank you to Tom McCool for getting the finances in order and all of the paperwork completed for the IRS and the California Finance Board. Brian Slattery has built and is maintaining the database and email list for the Committee announcements. Maureen McFadden has done an excellent job of public relations and getting the Dingle Sister City committee a lot of positive press. We have also been exploring the possibility of expanding the Sister City relationship beyond Dingle to the entire County of Kerry to reach a larger population base and governing body. Thank you to the entire Board of Directors for all of the hard work that you have put in to bring back the Dingle Sister City Committee. We are once again a functioning sister city committee with about 30 members, monthly board meetings and several general membership meetings per year.

The Dingle Sister City activities the past year are:

- General Membership Meeting – July, 2018 at Pilgrim Terrace. Dinner and entertainment by Russ Doherty, musical trio and discussion of his 2012 book “The Quiet Man Fiddles”.
- Trip to Dingle, Ireland, September, 2018. Twenty-eight members travelled to Ireland, Scotland and London. Many were from the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee. They met with the County Kerry governing body and there was a reception for them in Dingle with sightseeing all along the way.

Thank you to Marti Correa de Garcia for her work in planning and promoting the trip.

- General Membership Meeting, November, 2018 at Pilgrim Terrace. Dinner and slide show by Blas Garza on the September 2018 trip to Dingle.
- General Membership Meeting, March, 2018 at Pilgrim Terrace. St. Patrick's Day themed dinner and entertainment by Irish dance troupe Celia Rua.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Slattery, Membership and Communications  
Santa Barbara-Dingle Sister City Committee

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### **Santa Barbara/Kotor Sister City Committee Annual Report**

This was our first year of collaboration with the UCSB Music Department with Violinist Sara Bashore chosen to perform in the prestigious KotorArt International Music Festival in August 2018.

Sara's performance was so well received that KotorArt has invited the University to send a musician to perform in the 2019 Festival. In addition the artists who performed with Sara have been invited to perform, with Sara, at UCSB and the Music Academy of the West in 2019.

**Sara Bashore**



**KotorArt/UCSB Trio**



Santa Barbara's Premier Water Polo Club U18 traveled to Kotor in June/July 2018 to train and compete with the finest coaches and young water polo players in the world. A great learning experience in travel to a foreign country and creating friendships that will last a lifetime.

### **Santa Barbara at Primorac Club in Kotor**



Our most successful program is our Goran Milic Culinary Academy that teaches deaf students at the Resource Center in Kotor the basic skills for entry-level positions in Montenegro Resorts and Restaurants. In a country where there are limited employment opportunities for young people, especially those with hearing impairment, this is a life changing opportunity.

Photos below show Goran Milic with Culinary Students in training and Milan Matic, one of our students in 2018, who has just been hired at the prestigious Aman Sveti Stefan Resort in Montenegro.

### **Chef Goran and Students**



### **Milan Matic**



While our primary focus is culinary, athletics and music we were pleased to have a number of dignitaries visit Kotor this year. Pictured below are Ichak Adizes with the US Ambassador to Montenegro and Takako Wakita with the Mayor of Kotor.

**Ichak Adizes**



**Takako Wakita**



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### **Santa Barbara/Patras Sister City Committee**

- The Santa Barbara/Patras Sister City Committee is continuously working in expanding our membership. We accept all nationalities.
- In March we held another successful Greece Independence Day celebration at the Santa Barbara Winery and Tasting Room. All funds will be donated to the Children's Hospital (Karamandaneio) in Patras.
- Our Santa Barbara/Patras Sister City Committee is exploring different schools from Middle school to High schools for a student exchange program and a SKYPE program. We hope to have some reports soon.
- We have supported the Firefighters in Patras in building a water reservoir near an oak forest in the county of Patras (Achaia).
- Our meetings are held every other month at Pilgrim Terrace.

Respectfully,

Georgia Gastouniotis  
Santa Barbara/Patras Sister City Committee, President

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### **Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee**

**July 2018** - Sister Cities International Conference in Aurora, Colorado. Four members participated in the annual SCI conference. Gil Garcia was part of a panel, entitled “Program Resources Found in the Open World Leadership Center”.

**August 2018** – Sponsored three food booths at McKenzie Park Old Spanish Days Mercado, Cesar’s Place on Milpas Street, Club Santa Rita and Tacos Popeye. And, for the second year we sponsored a food booth at de la Guerra Plaza. A donation of over \$2,100 was earned toward the Puerto Vallarta I. Madonnari Festival project and other Puerto Vallarta projects.

Four Puerto Vallarta police officers came to Santa Barbara to participate in the annual Law Enforcement Exchange. The Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Department held classes and various other law enforcement tactics training. Altogether, the officers participated in 40 hours of training, and each was awarded a diploma honoring the successful completion of their training.

**September 2018** – A successful fund-raising event BBQ was held on September 1<sup>st</sup> to meet the visiting Puerto Vallarta police officers and for the opportunity to raise funds to finance the visit.

Members participated in the September 11<sup>th</sup> Peace Concert at Faulkner Gallery in main library.

A special presentation was made to six students in Puerto Vallarta who received scholarships donated by Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee and Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North.

**October 2014** – The club initiated the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Raffle. It was a success, raising over \$4,000 for our projects in Puerto Vallarta.

Sister Cities United Nations Day - Members of our organization assisted in the Annual United Nation Day dinner. Members helped decorate the tables and set-up the beverage station and sold tickets for the drinks.

Four members attended a one-day United States/Mexico Sister Cities International workshop in the City of Arandas, Mexico.

We supported Puerto Vallarta I Madonnari Festival, with funding for five Santa Barbara chalk painting artist. The Puerto Vallarta I Madonnari Festival is growing, many artists from outside of Puerto Vallarta are participating.

**November 2018** – Annual visitation to Puerto Vallarta, over 36 members participated in a fun-filled 10-day event. We were able to visit the projects our club has been funding and to visit with our many friends in Puerto Vallarta. This was a fundraising trip where we raised over \$7,000.

**December 2018**- Annual “Las Posadas” event held at Pilgrim Terrace Dining Room. Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican Christmas event where singing, eating of traditional tamales and a reenactment of a Bethlehem scene.

**January 2019** - New board members and a new President, Carlos Velasco, take office.

Donated nine computers for the Puerto Vallarta Police Academy. They will be used for their training classes. The Rotary Club of Santa Barbara North and several Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City members helped with the cost.

**February 2019** – Medical supplies purchased by the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee finally arrive at the Boca de Tomatlan Medical Center.

**March 2019**– Exercise Equipment for the Puerto Vallarta Rehabilitation Clinic is delivered. The clinic was constructed in early 1990 with the assistance of our Sister City, to this day we still contribute annually to the clinic.

**May 2019** – Hosting a Puerto Vallarta artist who will participate in the Santa Barbara I Madonnari Festival at the Old Mission (May 24 – May 27, 2019).

### **Other Information:**

Our finances are healthy, with a reserve account. We presently have approximately 150 dues paying members on our active roster and another 35 honorary or complementary members.

Our charitable contributions include donations to:

- I Madonnari for activities here and in Puerto Vallarta.
- Santa Barbara Sheriff Department for training project in Puerto Vallarta and Santa Barbara.
- Support and cash donations to Boca de Tomatlan Regional Health Clinic in Puerto Vallarta.
- Donations to charitable institutions, such as the Rehabilitation Clinic of Puerto Vallarta.
- Cinco de Mayo Festival held by the Santa Barbara Response Network.

Sister City Committee members are informed by:

- Monthly General Membership Dinner Meetings
- Monthly Newsletter
- Active participation of membership in the face book page
- Web-page (sbpvsistercity.org)

Active Sister City members supporting sister city programs:

- Sister City member Gil Garcia, Margaret Saavedra and Marti Correa de Garcia serve on the Southern California Sister Cities International (SoCal).
- Sister City member Pat Fallin (appointed by the City Council) serves as Sister Cities International State Coordinator for Southern California.
- Sister City members Margaret Saavedra (appointed by the City Council) and Gil Garcia (Committee Representative) serve on the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board.

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### **Santa Barbara/San Juan Sister City Committee**

Mission statement: The San Juan City, Metro Manila having established close ties with the city of Santa Barbara in California hopes to bring into fruition the immense benefits of people-to-people activities by the friendly exchange in

diverse governmental, social and civic as well as cultural and educational endeavors.

On March 20, 2019, three high school students from San Juan Manila entered the Sister Cities International competition in the Young Artists and Authors Showcase by submitting entries where they expressed their visions for a more unified and peaceful world through paintings. One was selected and sent to Washington D.C. for the global competition.

In April of 2019, a member of the Santa Barbara/San Juan Sister City Committee went to the Philippines and visited the city of San Juan. After the preliminary arrangements for the building of a dolphin fountain were completed, the San Juan Sister City Committee decided to go ahead with the project.

This October 2019, a delegation from the City of San Juan will attend the United Nations. A letter of invitation from the Santa Barbara City Mayor Cathy Murillo will be hand carried to the new mayor elect, Mayor Francis Zamora as soon as the names of the delegates are available.

Meanwhile, the monthly activities (July 2018 to June 2019) of the San Juan sister city Committee together with the Filipino Community Association of Santa Barbara started with a Hawaiian luau night in August 2018. An annual picnic was held at Tucker's Grove last September followed by a costume party in October. Also in the same month, the San Juan Sister City Committee joined the United Nations dinner. A thanksgiving party was held in November. And a Christmas party was held in December 2018. A valentine's party was held in February at the Filipino Community Association building on State Street; and an Easter Sunday BBQ was held at Tucker's Grove this past April. In May we held a Parents' Day with an Italian dinner and in June a Filipino American friendship day was held at the Elks club.

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### **Santa Barbara/Toba Sister City Committee**

Our Committee had a year filled with milestones this year, starting in July with the 25th anniversary of our Student Exchange Program. To celebrate, we arranged to share a simultaneous Skype party--dinnertime here, lunchtime in Toba, where old and current students and host families could greet each other "in person." We had

one of our earliest exchange students, some very early host parents, and some parents/students who had never seen each other again after their exchange summer! Emotions were happy, sad, and often accompanied by tears.

In September we again honored the memory of the 9/11 victims alongside our other Sister Cities. One of our local teenage performers from the event has really taken off as a national talent, which warmed our hearts.

In October we enjoyed our second milestone of the year as our long-time member, Takako Wakita, was honored at the Japanese Consulate General, receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation Award for her 40+ years of Sister City involvement, and her cultural outreach, teaching Japanese to hundreds of local students. Several Board members and friends of Takako traveled together to witness this singular honor for Takako.

As we have for many years, we celebrated with our other Sister Cities the United Nations Day dinner in late October. The food was even better than last year! The entertainment was singer, Nicky Monreal, a local Dos Pueblos grad now in college, who sang at Fiesta, and we enjoyed a charming Irish children's dance group.

In the New Year we enjoyed a great Shinnenkai New Year's Dinner. We changed things up this year, featuring a Hawaiian Hula group as entertainment. We learned about the early involvement of Japanese immigrants in Hawaii in this ancient and beautiful art. The making of our sushi dinner was projected on the big screen and narrated by our Chef Arief, of Sushi on Site, and by Takako, giving us some real insight into everything that goes into make great Sushi!

In March, our President traveled to San Antonio to attend a Sister Cities International symposium on U.S.-Japan Sister Cities in Texas. We learned how closely the Japanese business community works with Sister Cities there, and thought to try to approach the Consulate General in Los Angeles to see if such connections can be forged to energize our own activities.

Our third milestone this year was the celebration of Hanami--Cherry Blossom Viewing, in April. This was the first year we could gather under the tiny blooms of the three cherry trees donated to our city by the 50th Anniversary Toba Delegation two years ago. We paired our potluck food and drink with the music of a Hawaiian Ukelele music group, which brought just the right touch to the

party! Hope many more fans of the Toba Sister City Committee can join us next year, when the flowers should be even bigger and showier.

And finally, we have interviewed and chosen our four students and a great chaperone for this year's exchange, and look forward to receiving the four students from Toba at the end of July.

Linda Mathews, President, S.B.T.S.C.O

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### **Santa Barbara/Weihai Sister City Committee**

#### Committee Members include:

Anna Kwong, President  
Jill Stassinis, Vice President  
Roland Lewin & Peter Haslund, Treasurer  
George Ayoub, Committee member  
Winston Li, Committee member  
Alex Sheldon, Webmaster  
Eliese Bollinger, Committee member  
Peter Haslund, Representative to the City Board  
Jill Stassinis, Alternate to the City Board

Weihai, located in Shandong Province, China, just west of the Korean peninsula, became a Sister City to Santa Barbara on August 10, 1993. Santa Barbara and Weihai interactions have focused on personal and cultural understanding through visitations by groups of teachers and students between the two cities with focuses on English learning and instructional methods. However, we have not had any travel/personal exchange between our Sister Cities this past year.

For the year 2018-2019, our Weihai Sister City Committee has been focusing on building our membership, planning a trip to Weihai, and establishing more activities related to China as a whole.

In 2018-2019, the Weihai Sister City Committee organized one event on February

8. Members, friends, and guests of the Weihai Sister City Committee attended a dinner banquet at the China Palace, Montecito to celebrate the Year of the Dog Lunar New Year. About 45 members and guests participated.

Upcoming events in our plan:

1. The Weihai Sister City Committee is currently planning a prospective trip to Weihai, China for business and educational purposes. We expect to work with the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce in order to make this trip successful.
2. Our Committee is planning to host a trip to Chinatown, Los Angeles with the purpose of increasing awareness and knowledge of Chinese business culture and dining etiquette.
3. We also are planning on a business educational seminar exploring the United States trade policy with China under the Trump Administration.

We have not been a member-based organization for some years, so one of our goals for the coming year is to reestablish our membership. We are discussing and planning the most efficient ways to recruit members and reach the community as a whole.

Our Committee will continue to convene on a regular basis to plan and pursue the activities mentioned above.

Anna W.F. Kwong, President  
Peter Haslund, Representative to the City Board  
Santa Barbara – Weihai Sister City Committee

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