



# Tucson-México Sister Cities

Promoting  
Cultural,  
Educational,  
Social, and  
Economic  
Development

## A Message from the New President

### Jose Luis Hernandez



It's always a privilege to "greet" new friends and talk about "dreams for the future". First, however, I'd like to introduce myself as your new Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities President. After 23 years of service, I recently retired from the United States Air Force. Those were wonderful opportunities... working with great people while living and working in exciting locations.

My most rewarding years were the two I spent living in Mexico while working at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, as well as many months and countless trips traveling through Argen-

...tina, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador. Our Hispanic culture is a great one—a culture of warmth, friendship and an opportunity for exchange and interaction. That is what most appealed to me and why I joined TMSC two years ago.

The Sister Cities organization, offers the same opportunity to live, grow and enjoy life in wonderful company that I saw in my tour of duty with the Air Force. We have similarly motivated individuals in both organizations...the same opportunity to grow...and to expand our personal and professional well being with Sister Cities, while jointly working toward a common goal of helping others. Together we can enhance cultural, arts and business opportunities.

I follow in the footsteps of Amy Lopez who steered us through the unforeseen departure of energetic Ana Romero. I applaud these ladies for a phenomenal job, keeping us on an even keel and visionary path. However, it takes a great

Fourth Quarter 2009  
Newsletter



#### Special points of interest

- Christmas Dinner Dance, Dec 11, 2009
- Mazatlan Activities
- Donations to Date
- Projects

#### Inside this issue:

Mazatlan	2
Gloves for Love-	4
Monthly Mixer	3
Festival de Rebozos	3
Ciudad Obregon	4
Tucson Meet Yourself	5
Officers/Application	6

## Goodwill Trip to Mazatlan: A Great Success!

The “Pearl of the Pacific” otherwise known as Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico welcomed a delegation of Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities board members on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. The purpose of the Goodwill Trip was to ratify Mazatlan’s and Tucson’s union as Sister Regions. Participants from Tucson were Amy Lopez, President and her husband, Jerry, Sister Cities’ official photographer along with Donna Whitman, Mazatlan Liaison and husband Frank Valenzuela, representing Chairman Richard Elias. Other participants from Tucson were Alicia Vasquez, past president and husband, Ed Frazier, and Melissa Black of Long Realty and her new company Solar Gain. Kelly Chinchilla, board member also was in attendance.

Mazatlan’s Mayor Mr. Jorge Abel Lopez hosted a very nice business breakfast at the Hotel Aqua Marina. He was accompanied by members of his cabinet, along with Jose Luis Hernandez Magallon, Director of the Department of Economic Development, Southern District, plus the Directors of Tourism, Real Estate, Mazatlan Community Arts and Liz Quintanilla, President of Tucson Mexico Sister Cities in Mazatlan.

Donna Whitman presented gifts to Mayor Lopez Sanchez from Tucson Metropolitan Chamber

of Commerce and Visitor’s Bureau and a gift on behalf of Richard Elias and Pima County. She then presented the Mayor Lopez with a copper letter from Tucson’s Mayor Bob Walkup declaring Tucson and Mazatlan Friendship Cities which is the first step to becoming Sister Cities. A roundtable discussion ensued regarding projects in both the arts, humanitarian and business sectors for both cities. Frank

Valenzuela, on behalf of Chairman Elias, extended an invitation to the mayor and his group to attend Tucson’s Birthday Gala Celebration in August. Information from Pima Community College Long Distance Learning Division and the Tucson Women’s Commission was also provided to Mazatlan with a cordial offer to provide assistance to Mazatlan in these two realms. It was a unanimous consensus that both cities had a strong desire to pur-

sue the Sister Cities relationship and a tentative date was set for the Mazatlan delegation to visit the Old Pueblo.

During this time, an IOU of \$500 from TMSC was presented by Alicia Vasquez, Melissa Black and Kelly Chinchilla and to the UNESCO School located on the Isla de la Piedra, to help with funding for a school ramada to protect the children from the heat and sun during recreation time.

Putting business aside, Tucson’s delegation took time from the limited time available to enjoy the sights and sounds of this beautiful city. Picture this...sitting under the palm trees, with margarita in hand, noshing on shrimp cocktails listening to the jazz combo under the stars. Doesn’t get any better than that?



Sister Cities Members with the Mazatlan Mayor and representatives.

(President's Letter cont'd from pg. 1)  
TEAM of dedicated individuals to keep us moving forward. For instance, our Social Events Committee put together, with great effort and much success, some wonderful events to "meet-and-greet" potential new members. These gatherings also provided an opportunity for current members to relax, chat, "hang-out" and enjoy the camaraderie that we all share. Thanks Hannibal and Norma!

We also had countless opportunities for others to move us for-

ward during exchanges to Mazatlan, Ciudad Obregon and Guadalajara, where we met and interacted with local leaders and helped deserving charitable organizations, while having overall fun cultural experiences.

Elements of a common vision are also shared with other organizations, such as the Tucson Museum of Art Latin American Arts Patrons organization, and with other sister cities organizations in Tucson, Mexico and Arizona. So back to the "dreams for the future" I already mentioned.

Really, they aren't different from what we've been doing all along: sharing experiences; meeting new people; helping those in need; funding scholarships; and facilitating cultural, arts and business interactions.

I firmly believe our "dreams for the future" are deeply rooted in continuing the friendship that comes from belonging to the "FAMILY" we call the Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities Association. We are at your service and welcome your participation by joining our family!



## **Pallea Member Social**

New member, Britta Meissner hosted a Pallea party at her home in August and Mike Weber cooked his famous Pallea. The Mazatlan committee, Liz and Fernando Valdez and their 3 children were visiting Tucson, from Mazatlan and attended the gathering

## **Festival de Rebozos at Tucson Museum of Art**

A reception and fashion show introduced this year's Festival de Rebozos (shawls), on May 9. Approximately 200 people attended the celebration, which ended on May 10, Mothers Day, The event included a fashion show of rebozos, a dance troop and selling the beautiful shawls. The event

took place in the courtyard of the Tucson Museum of Art.

Michael Weber, TMSC Board Member, and his helpers are due special thanks for arranging for an artist from Guadalajara, one of Tucson's sister cities, to participate and coordinate the event.

with the great group from Latin American Art Patrons at Museum of Art in Tucson.

Congratulations to all who assisted in creating this successful event.

Many attendees enjoyed dancing in the courtyard after the show.

### **GLOVES FOR LOVE : Mazatlan**

Our very own Board member, Kelly Chinchilla, spear-headed the "Gloves for Love" Campaign for the Elementary School on Isla de la Piedra, after school program, across the harbor from Mazatlan. The UNESCO school there does not have baseball equipment for the students so Kelly and friends, obtained a garage full of new and donated equipment from Big Brothers, Big Sisters and individuals. Coach Isidro Luna will coordinate and care for the equipment.

We look forward to seeing the shining and enthusiastic smiles the recipient children!

Kelly, Hannibal and friends recently took an inventory of all the equipment, and packed it for shipping to Mazatlan. Any extra equipment will be given to schools in Mazatlan and that will be coordinated by Liz Quintanilla, President of the Matatlan Sister City Organization..



School at Isla de La Piedra in Mazatlan, site of the ramada donation from TMSC.



Isla de la Piedra school entrance.

### **DONATIONS TO DATE:**

Hermosillo Tragedy : \$1,001 was sent with monies from State Sister Cities Organization. (Our part was \$500.00)

Guaymas/SanCarlos Hurricane Relief \$500.00 was given to Mesa /Guaymas Sister Cities to be bundled with their monies.



One of many feasts given in TMSC's honor, delicioso!

### **Sister Cities Participate in Ciudad Obregon Event**

Two board members of the Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities organization, joined the Vamos a Tucson program in a breakfast presentation in Ciudad Obregon. During the event, and on behalf of the Tucson delegation, donations for over \$5,000 were given to two charities in Ciudad Obregon. Tucson-Mexico Sister Cities has participated in other similar events to raise funds for local charities. Last year, TMSC joined Vamos a Tucson, private companies and the state government of Sonora, and were part of a Casino Night in Ciudad Obregon, where over \$100,000 were raised to build a house for orphans.

Shaun Page and Felipe Garcia, co-chair the initiatives with Ciudad Obregon, which include programs in different areas such as education, tourism, medical services and more.



## LUNCH MAZATLAN STYLE !

### **TUCSON MEET**

**YOURSELF**— Profitable and fun!

Our booth at TUCSON MEET YOURSELF made about \$1,350, and Mike Weber donated many folk arts. The small baskets, viejos and “papel picado” were very popular items. We were so successful we had to re-stock for Sunday, way to go Claisalia and the gang! These monies will be used to help fund the donation to the Mazatlan Handicap Park, being built and coordinated by the Mazatlan Rotary Club . Tucson Mexico Sister Cities will fund one of the play stations. Thanks to Yvette Lopez and Claisalia Robertson for coordinating this event!

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY & ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009**

**Radisson Hotel 6555 East Speedway**

**Let's celebrate a successful year of Tucson Mexico Sister Cities!!!**

**Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing, and Silent Auction**

**\$40/person or \$75/couple**

**Reserve now by calling Norma at (520)370-5655 or Enna at (520)743-0015.**

**Board Meetings** are the second Thursday of each month at Ward 6, 3202 E. 1st Street. Board meetings begin at 5:30 with a formal agenda. Members are encouraged to attend.

\*\*A special thank you to Gloria Corral for bringing nourishing “comida” for meetings.

**Board Members**

Jose Luis Hernandez: President

Donna Whitman: Mazatlan Liaison

Claisalia Robertson: Vice Pres

Michael Weber: Guadalajara Liaison

Enna Cassler: Treasurer

Shaun Page & Felipe Garcia: Ciudad Obregon

Yvette Lopez: Secretary

Liaisons

Gloria Corral: Corres. Sec.

Melissa Black & Marilyn Civer : Co-Chair’s

Amy Lopez: Board Member

Membership. Norma Permisco: Event Chair

\*\*Special thanks to Ron & Maria Elena Newman for their past work, co-chairing Ciudad Obregon and to Hannibal & Kelly Chinchilla co-chairing the Membership Committee

**Membership Application**

“Transcending the Border One Friendship at a Time”

[www.tucsonmexicosistercities.org](http://www.tucsonmexicosistercities.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ w \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City,State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please Chose a Category:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$40 Couple \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Student (high school-college)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Business (1-25 Employees) up to 2 member representatives

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Business (26-75 Employees) up to 3 representatives

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 (76+ Employees up to 4 member representatives

Please send your checks payable to Tucson Mexico Sister Cities, a 501© 3 non profit Organization! Thank you.

**Tucson Mexico Sister Cities**

**PO Box 41571 Tucson, Arizona 85717-1571**

**Melissa Black at 520-256-0306 or Marilyn Civer at 520-404-2917**

(This newsletter is a joint effort by Marilyn Civer, Melissa Black and Board members who wrote articles about our projects.)