

HBSCA NEWS

Heramosa Beach Sister City Association Newsletter

VOL. 1, ISSUE 6 JULY 2020

Top stories in this newsletter: Celebrating our Partners!



Friends of Loreto
Foundation – Cerritos, CA



Dear Members and Friends, I hope this July Newsletter finds you healthy and happy. As we continue to exercise caution in the face of the global pandemic, I find that there must be a silver lining. Creating this newsletter was something I wanted to do but never could “get around to” *until I had nothing to do but be locked in!* As we begin to venture back out into the world, I hope to keep it going. This month, I wanted to look at all the partnerships we have available to us. We are not alone in loving Loreto and living our vision of “a people to people” program. We move forward, together!
– Liz Ramirez, President HBSCA

Eco-Alianza de Loreto - Why Another Sister City? Ventura, California?

By Linda Kinninger

Members of Eco-Alianza de Loreto, A.C., a non-profit conservation organization founded in 2007, began contemplating a Sister City relationship with Ventura during a visit to the Channel Islands National Park in November 2013 to explore the proposed Sister Park project. While Ventura has a larger population, it was agreed there are great similarities between the two cities from a historical and geographical perspective. Both cities were founded under the influence of the Spanish missionaries, and both hold a unique relationship with five offshore protected islands. Loreto is the gateway to the Bay of Loreto National Park, and Ventura is the gateway to the Channel Islands National Park.

During the five-year initiative facilitated by Eco-Alianza to establish the Sister Parks, it was discovered both cities share a mutual desire to develop appropriate strategies that support the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in their respective territories. The Channel Islands National Park leaders proposed and strongly supported approval of the Sister City relationship bringing the dream of a Sister Park between the Channel Islands National Park (CINP) and Parque Nacional de Loreto (PNBL) closer to fruition. It was believed by all that when finalized the Sister Park status would provide opportunities for the exchange of shared scientific information, research projects, cultural interchanges, resources, and environmental education based on science.

Eco-Alianza served as the facilitator and coordinator of both the Sister City program and the Sister Park. Loreto's former mayor, Jorge Avilés, wrote to the National Commissioner of the Natural Protected Areas of Mexico (SEMARNAT), Luis Fueyo (the Mexican counterpart to the U.S. National Park Service), requesting approval of the Sister Park on behalf of Loreto. It was wholeheartedly believed that approval of the Sister City relationship would strengthen Eco-Alianza's Sister Park cross-border initiative.

In 2015, the Loreto City Council and San Buenaventura (Ventura) City Council voted unanimously to approve a Sister City relationship. Loreto and Ventura's mayors exchanged Keys to their cities, expressing enthusiasm about potential opportunities for both cities in areas of cultural, historical, economic exchange and eco-

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tourism. Ventura's then Mayor Cheryl Heitmann celebrated the historic, cultural, religious, and natural resources common to both cities, and the exchanges that will benefit both municipalities.

Not only are Loreto and Ventura Sister Cities, but our missions are now also Sister Mission Covenants. The Pastor of Ventura's historic Mission San Buenaventura, Father Tom Elewaut, has repeatedly visited Loreto as part of the Sister City committee, and spearheaded a motion to create a Sister Mission relationship. Unique to this relationship is the religious history of both missions, which is the foundation and very fabric of our mutual heritage that has sustained our communities for centuries. The Sister Mission partnership also pledges to support each other during natural disasters or other emergencies by raising funds or collecting needed supplies. By sharing each other's cultures through sister relationships, communities can gain insight into the history, values and spirit that make up their sister mission, sister city, and sister national parks and reserves.

This "sisterhood" in all its manifestations will benefit Loreto and other initiatives -- from strengthening our marine park management to strengthening our social ventures incubator to reach the goal of helping establish a marine science program for Loreto's campus of the state university (UABCS), to fostering sustainable land use and water management approaches both here and in the U.S.A.

These combined actions and initiatives ultimately lead to a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed June, 2019 with the University of California, establishing Loreto as an official "Sister Reserve" and named Eco-Alianza as the Mexican entity empowered to shepherd potentially dozens of scientific research projects. This hallmark accomplishment will positively impact Eco-Alianza and Loreto's natural, cultural, and educational environment for decades to come. There will be some exciting news to share regarding the Sister Reserve project in the coming months.

All in all, over the last seven years, these alliances culminating in the partnership with the University of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS) hold the promise of urgently needed scientific research to provide data critical to conservation management of marine, insular, coastal, and inland environments. The research will help create an international focus on Loreto's natural wonders and its overwhelming conservation needs and will also expose Loreto's youth to terrestrial and marine science through educational programs and to working with scientists.

Eco-Alianza, the Loreto Sister City Committee and the Sister City of Ventura are eager to join forces with Loreto's Hermosa Beach Sister City, now celebrating 53 years of sisterhood with Loreto, to explore opportunities for mutual collaboration with Ventura's fledgling Sister City. Carl Morehouse, President, Ventura Sister City committee and former Mayor of San Buenaventura states, "We believe it is our common mission to work together on projects that benefit Loreto to help build a sustainable future for generations to come. This collaboration was evident, although informally, through the recent generosity of Loreto's Hermosa Beach and Ventura Sister City committees and its members together donating so generously to help Loreto in its time of great financial need during the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic." Linda Kinninger, Co-founder, Treasurer, Eco-Alianza states, "Loreto is grateful beyond words for its Sister Cities incredible generosity and support. Loretanos look forward to welcoming you all back to your Sister City in the Fall. We will be waiting for you." www.ecoalianzaloreto.org





Cerritos Friends of Loreto Foundation - How it all began...

Friends of Loreto Foundation in Cerritos, CA is a story that shows the good that can come from tragedy. I wondered how the Friends of Loreto Foundation came to be and found this story in the Los Angeles Times by Scott Harrison.



"An Aeromexico DC-9 had left Loreto, Mexico, early in the morning of Aug. 31, 1986, carrying 64 passengers. As it passed about 6,000 feet above Cerritos en route to Los Angeles International Airport, the jet was clipped by a single-engine plane flown by William Kramer of Rancho Palos Verdes."

Kramer and his wife and daughter were killed instantly. The damaged jet lost control and crashed into a quiet neighborhood just before noon.

A Times headline the next morning described it as 'a sledgehammer from the sky.' In addition to the 67 people killed in the two planes, 15 Cerritos residents died amid the flaming wreckage and burning jet fuel that destroyed at least eight homes.

In Cerritos, the emotional wounds from the crash took time to heal. In 2006, a memorial next to City Hall was completed and dedicated. The sculpture bears the names of all of the victims.

Cerritos residents also formed a group that offered support for Loreto, including equipment for its hospital. Loreto officials were on hand for the memorial dedication.

*"They felt the same pain that we did," the founder of the **Friends of Loreto Foundation** said in 2006."*



Since that time, Jim Weisenberger and his friends and associates have worked with Loreto and donated many vehicles and equipment to the city, hospital, and fire department. They continue that work today and are in the process of donating TWO fire engines and firefighting equipment from the Tulare City Fire Department and LA County Bomberos Organization to Loreto! HBSCA will be adding equipment that has been in the Hermosa Beach City Yard since the re-organization of our Fire Department. Jim is working hard with us and LA County to get it to the Loreto Bomberos by August!



Congratulations to Michell Green of Loreto!

Michell Green (on the left), a former student exchange participant from Loreto, went on "[La Voz](#)" (An American Spanish-language singing show on Telemundo) and had ALL FOUR CHAIRS turn around for her! She and her singing partner selected Belinda, a Mexican singer, songwriter, and actress, to be their coach. Nicole Burke congratulated her on Facebook saying, "I am so beyond proud to see a girl from small town Mexico chase her dreams!"

Michell's proud father is Dr. Oscar Green Davis, MD. He works at the Hospital in Loreto, is also a former exchange student, and has been a dear friend to HBSCA for many years!

George Barks says Michell's grandfather, Al Green, put Loreto on the map, literally! As a prominent businessman, actively involved in Loreto politics, he was instrumental in the promotion of Loreto as a tourist destination and sports fishing mecca. He was the first airport manager of the newly constructed Loreto Airport in 1980.

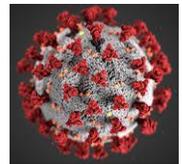
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“Did you know that LORETO...”

- Was named the “Aquarium of the World” by Jacques Cousteau? The Sea of Cortez is a natural reserve that houses more than 80% of the aquatic life that lives in the Pacific Ocean.
- Is nestled on the shores of the Loreto Bay National Marine Park? It is around 800 miles of protected area.
- Is the only “Pueblo Magico” (Magical Town – a Mexican Federal Designation) in Mexico with its own International Airport?
- Was named the 2nd best place in the world for practicing kayaking?
- Is among 8 places in the world recognized for paddle boarding?
- Is famous for their Blue Whale, Grey Whale, and Humpback Whale sightings? (December – April)
- Has the first and best-Mexican-preserved Mission of the California’s? It was established by the Catholic Church’s Jesuit missionary Juan Maria Salvatierra in 1697.
- Has become world renowned for its excellent sports fishing throughout the year? Fish include the famous El Dorado (Golden Mahi Mahi), Mojarra, Striped and Blue Marlin, Roosterfish, Yellowtail, and Cabrilla, just to name a few.
- Is one of the few places where it is still possible to visit prehistoric sites? In the Sierra de la Giganta (the mountain range that runs along the peninsula behind Loreto), you can find ancient paintings in canyons and caves dating from 7,500 years ago.
- Is home to the only TPC (Tournament Players Club) golf course in Mexico? TPC Danzante Bay at the Villa del Palmar – Islands of Loreto Resort was named the BEST golf course in Mexico and Latin American by the World Golf Awards.
 - Adapted from **Villa del Palmar Beach Resort and Spa - At the Islands of Loreto**

The Corona Virus: From Camping to Dining Out: Here's How Experts Rate The Risks Of 14 Summer Activities – [Listen to NPR Podcast or Read the Transcript by clicking here](#)



UPDATES:

- Join us for our July **General Membership Meeting on Monday July 13 at 6:30pm** via Zoom (Details for how to join meeting on Zoom will be emailed.)
- Join HBSCA for a **Downtown LA (Virtual) Walking Tour of Venice Boardwalk and Canals on Saturday, July 11th at 11am.** Contact [Liz Ramirez](#) for details on how to register. See the description [here](#)
- Visit us on [Facebook](#) and post your favorite photos and stories of Loreto/Hermosa Beach!
- Visit our [Website](#) for more information about our work!

Stay Safe and Sane, Healthy and Happy Out There!