

Trondheim
Norway
(1960)

Akashi
Japan
(1968)

Bagamoyo
Tanzania
(1993)

La Spezia
Italy
(1989)

Baguio City
Philippines
(1993)

Jincheon
South Korea
(2002)

Ensenada
Mexico
(2024)

18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



Saturday, August 24, 2024 | 06:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Filipino Community Center
611 Amador Street, Vallejo, CA 94590



Who We Are

Vallejo Sister City Association is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to fostering international friendships. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization, comprised of ordinary citizens from Vallejo who are passionate about building meaningful, long-term relationships with communities across the globe. Officially recognized by Sister Cities International, our partnerships are sanctioned by the highest elected officials from both Vallejo and our sister cities.

What We Do

Our organization aims to promote peace and mutual understanding through various exchanges and collaborations. Each sister city relationship involves activities in areas such as:

- Municipal and governmental cooperation
- Business and trade development
- Educational and cultural exchanges

We currently have sister city partnerships with Trondheim, Norway; Akashi, Japan; La Spezia, Italy; Baguio City, Philippines; Bagamoyo, Tanzania; Jincheon, South Korea; and Ensenada, Mexico. Through these relationships, we create opportunities for citizens to engage in diverse, enriching experiences that bridge cultural and geographical divides.

How to Join

Joining the Vallejo Sister City Association is a wonderful way to contribute to global peace and understanding. Here's how you can become a member:

1. **Visit our website:** Learn more about our mission and activities.
2. **Attend a meeting:** Our annual membership meetings are open to the public. Check our website for dates and locations.
3. **Fill out a membership form:** Available on our website or at our meetings (you can scan the QR code below).
4. **Volunteer:** Participate in events and exchanges with our sister cities.
5. **Donate:** Support our programs through financial contributions.

By joining, you will help foster international friendships and participate in unique cultural, educational, and business exchanges.



Scan me
www.vallejosistercity.com



Norma Placido

President, Vallejo Sister City Association
Commissioner, Vallejo Sister City Commission

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the **Vallejo Sister City Association's 18th Annual International Dinner & Auction** fundraiser. Your presence here tonight is a testament to the enduring relationships and shared values that connect our global community.

Tonight, our theme is Italy. We are immensely proud of the lasting bond we share with La Spezia. Together, we celebrate the beauty of Italian culture, the warmth of its people, and the strength of our global friendship.

This past year, we had the honor of visiting Akashi, Japan, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of our sister city relationships. These visits were a profound reminder of the strong bonds of friendship, cultural exchange, and mutual respect that have been cultivated over decades. Looking ahead, we are excited about our planned travels in 2025 to Jincheon, Korea and Baguio, Philippines, which will further strengthen these invaluable connections.

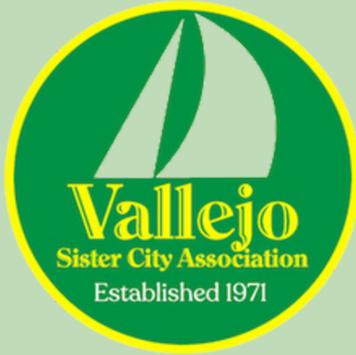
Tonight's event would not be possible without the generous support of our guests, sponsors, donors, and advertisers. Your contributions not only make this evening a success but also enable us to continue our mission of fostering international goodwill and understanding.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment to the mission of the Vallejo Sister City Association. Your involvement ensures that we continue to build bridges across cultures, creating a legacy of understanding and goodwill for future generations.

Thank you, and enjoy the evening!

Norma Placido





2024-2025

Vallejo Sister City Association Officers

Norma Placido, President

Victoria Grace-Barksdale, Vice-President

Rochelle Frias-Del Rosario, Secretary

Helen Casaclang, Treasurer

Luchi Marte, Finance Secretary

Pelton Stewart, Property Manager

Vallejo Sister City Association Board Members

Yolanda Kim

Norma Placido

Elissa Shanks-Stewart

William Kim

Mike Browne

Ravi Shankar

Pelton Stewart

Dinah Villanueva-Ryan

Emma del Rosario-Cordova

Brenda Brumfield-Ross

Victoria Grace-Barksdale

Helen Casaclang

Lonnie Brumfield

Rochelle Frias-Del Rosario

Vallejo Sister City Commissioners

Pelton Stewart, Chair (outgoing)

Paul Lamb, Vice-Chair

Elissa Shanks Stewart, Chair (incoming)

Yajaira Rubio-Machado, Commissioner

Norma Placido, Commissioner

Paul Ligda, Commissioner

Emmanuel Andres, Commissioner

*Our mission is to promote peace through mutual respect,
understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one
community at a time.*

Vallejo Sister City Association Past Presidents

We proudly recognize and honor the past presidents of our association, whose dedicated leadership and vision have shaped our organization's success. Their tireless efforts and commitment to our mission have laid a strong foundation that continues to guide us today, and we are deeply grateful for their invaluable contributions.

Florence Douglas (1971)	David Lindquist (1992-1993)
Lynn Toch (1973)	Dom Datu (1994)
William Doig (1974-1975)	Teena Pelky (1995)
Hilda Buchanan (1975)	Brenda Brumfield-Ross (1996-1999)
Ray L'Amoreaux (1976)	Dinah Villanueva (2000-2005)
Jewyl Longan (1977-1978)	Zenneth Zadwick (2006-2009)
Florence Bell (1979-1980)	Paul Ligda (2010-2011)
Marvin Fruth (1981-1982)	Pelton Stewart (2012-2013)
David Lindquist (1983-1984)	Yolanda Kim (2014-2017)
Rich Harrington (1985-1986)	Elissa Shanks Stewart (2018-2019)
Barbara Kondylis (1987-1988)	William Kim (2020-2023)
Mohsen Sultan (1989-1990)	Norma Placido (2024)
Diji Christian (1991)	

Sister City Commission Past Chairpersons

We proudly recognize and honor our past Commission chairpersons, whose dedicated leadership and vision have shaped the success of our organization. Their tireless efforts and commitment to our mission have established a strong foundation that continues to guide us today, and we are deeply grateful for their invaluable contributions.

Ernest Wichells (1960-1965)	Lynn Teifert (1989-1990)
John Buchanan (1968-1971)	Joel Harter (1991-1990)
John Buchanan/Lynn Toch/ Chester Gilies (1973)	Robert Sather (1993-1997)
Gordon Darling (1974-1975)	Dinah Villanueva-Ryan (1998-1999)
Joyce Leigh (1976)	Teena Miller (1999-2000)
Florence Douglas (1978-1981)	Brenda Brumfield-Ross (2001-2003)
Joe Norlin (1982-1983)	Linda Geoffroy (2004-2005)
Louis Farone (1984)	Dinah Villanueva-Ryan (2006-2013)
Rich Harrington (1985)	Pelton Stewart (2014-2017)
Joe Norlin (1986-1987)	Elissa Shanks Stewart (2018-2021)
Raymond Bell (1988)	Pelton Stewart (2022 - Present)

18th Annual International Dinner & Auction

CONGRATULATIONS
VALLEJO SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION ON YOUR
18TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DINNER & AUCTION!



For more great Vallejo special events check us out online:
VisitVallejo.com · 707.642.3653



*Congratulations to the Vallejo Sister City Association
on your 18th Annual International Dinner & Auction!*

Rotary 
Solano Sunset
Rotary Club



Join us at our Wednesday meetings from 5:30-6:15 pm.
For more information scan the code or go to SolanoSunset.org



Victoria Grace Barksdale

Event Chairperson

Vice- President, Vallejo Sister City Association

Thank you for joining us at our 18th Annual International Dinner and Auction!

As this year's chair, it has been my honor to work with our amazing Vallejo Sister City Association (VSCA) board and committees to present a community event celebrating our 35 year anniversary with our Sister City La Spezia, Italy.

Through a recommendation from the Vallejo Sister City Commission in 1985, the idea to make La Spezia, Italy, Vallejo's third official Sister City was born. In 1989, the formal charter was recognized by Sister Cities International. I invite you to learn more about the history and hard work that was put into fostering the relationship by reading about it in our souvenir program and exploring the display table at the dinner. Additionally please enjoy the traditional Italian dance group, Balliamo, performing at today's event.

To "Connect Globally, Thrive Locally" has been at the forefront of the Sister Cities movement, and our organization aims to do exactly that. It is my hope that we can continue to build upon the amazing diversity that is the City of Vallejo through more exchanges, cultural events, international trips and programs for our local community. In support of the mission of the Vallejo Sister City Commission and Sister Cities International, VSCA will continue to contribute to our local community through programs such as our newly created Sister Schools Program, connecting a local middle school, Griffin Technology Academy, with a high school in our Sister City of Baguio City, Philippines and event such as the International Dinner and Auction.

One of the biggest highlights of our International Dinner is sampling the diverse cuisines representing each of our seven (7) Sister Cities: Akashi, Japan; Baguio City, Philippines; Bagamoyo, Tanzania; Jincheon, South Korea; La Spezia, Italy; Trondheim, Norway and Ensenada, Mexico. Delight your senses and explore our silent auction while supporting a great cause!

Diversity is the strength of our Vallejo community and we thank you for helping us to continue fostering our international relationships while supporting our diverse cultural communities of Vallejo. To learn more about all of our Sister Cities, including our 3 friendship cities: Muju, South Korea; Rota, Northern Mariana Islands; and Parun, Afghanistan; or to find ways to get involved, please visit our website at www.VallejoSisterCity.com.

Enjoy!

Exploring the Rich History Behind the Vallejo-La Spezia Sister City Bond

1985

In **June, 1985** the Commission recommended the City consider inviting a sister city relationship with a city in Italy. City officials warmed to the idea and approved a selection process that led, over the next several months, to the recommendation of extending an invitation to the mayor of LaSpezia.

1986

On **May 6, 1986**, Mayor Terry Curtola wrote a letter to the mayor of LaSpezia suggesting the establishment of a sister city relationship. The response led to a meeting in the mayor's office chaired by Vice-Mayor Sid Berry on October 24 attended by Daniel D'Amico, Shelia Elliott, Tony Puleo, David Lindquest and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Zunino representing Vallejo's interest and Dr Suaro Baruzzo, President of the LaSpezia Regional District and Enzo Coniglio of the Italian Consulate representing LaSpezia's interest. All agreed to move forward and create the relationship. On **December 30, 1986**, on recommendation of the Sister City Commission, the City Council unanimously approved the relationship.

1987

The LaSpezia Council, on a vote of 25-1 (Egidio Banti casting the one vote), approved in 1987, although Sister City International did not issue a formal charter until August, 1989. Between **September 19 and 26, 1987**, Mayor Curtola and the Zuninos went to LaSpezia to discuss common interests and potential exchanges that might strengthen the bond.

1988

In **1988**, Mayor Tony Intintoli greeted two visitors from LaSpezia, Gian Luigi Burrafato and a member of the city council.

1989

On **June 3, 1989**, LaSpezia artist Gabriella Peggion Zolezzi had an exhibition of her paintings at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum. Later that year, Rosi Tartarini visited the city while on vacation in California.

1992

In **May, 1992**, Diji Christian led a delegation that included Marjorie Lund, Rachael Madison, Elaine and David Yeager on a visit to LaSpezia where they were greeted by Mayor Sauro Baruzzo, shown the local sights, and entertained at the private villa of Maddalena Benelli.

1993

In **July, 1993**, Elaine and David Yeager hosted Rosi Tartarini on her visit to Vallejo.

1995

On **July 19, 1995**, Rosi Tartarini brought a delegation that included her brother, Francisco Tartarini, Maria Luisa Buffatto, Fausto Gambarelli, and eleven teenagers on an official visit to the city. The visitors were housed with local families and entertained with a picnic at the Elks Club and a reception sponsored by the Sons of Italy. There were frequent visits to San Francisco and to Marine World before the farewell potluck supper hosted by Libby Richardson at her home.

1996

In **September, 1996**, Paul and Anne Ligda, and their three year old daughter, Brandy, were guests of Rosi Tartarini and her family for three days at her family's vacation home in Portovenere.

2000

In **2000**, the Hon. William Harrison, while visiting LaSpezia, delivered a plaque marking the millennium to Rosi Tartarini. In 2011, Rosi Tartarini visited Vallejo. She was greeted by Councilman Mike Wilson and hosted by Ward and Elissa Stewart who held a private party in her honor. In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the Vallejo/LaSpezia relationship, Commissioner and Vallejo Sister City Association board member, Elissa Shanks Stewart, along with LaSpezia Chair Dr. Ward Stewart and members Erin Stewart and Sharon Meadows paid an official visit on October 5, 2012. At that time they visited high school, Einaudi Chiodo Institute, LaSpezia City Hall, and naval base, Arsenale Militare Marittimo di LaSpezia. They were housed at the lovely vacation home of Rosi Tartarini and her family in Portovenere, a town next to Cinque Terre. Shortly after the visit to LaSpezia, Rosi Tartarini was made the official communicator between Vallejo and LaSpezia.

18th Annual
International Dinner & Auction
Program

Master of Ceremonies

Victoria Grace-Barksdale
Vice-President and Board Member, VSCA

Dinner Music by

DJ Tron

Entrance of International Sister City Flags

Victoria Grace-Barksdale
Vice-President and Board Member, VSCA

Invocation

Reverend Rey Bernardez

Welcome Address

Norma Placido President, VSCA Commissioner, Sister City Commission	Pelton Stewart Chair, Sister City Commission Board Member, VSCA	Brenda Brumfield-Ross Board Member, VSCA SCI State Representative
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Acknowledgement of Honoured Guests

Victoria Grace-Barksdale
Vice-President, VSCA

Greetings / Saluti

Robert H. McConnell
Mayor, City of Vallejo

Dinner

Prestazione Uno

Latin Rhumba by FCSCI Tea Dance Group

Introduction of Dignitaries

Dinah Villanueva-Ryan
Chairperson, Vallejo-Baguio & Akashi Sister Cities Committee
Board Member, VSCA

Prestazione Due

Balliamo Dance Group

Silent Auction Closes

Lonnie Brumfield
Board Member, VSCA

Closing Remarks

Victoria Grace-Barksdale
Vice-President, VSCA

*18th Annual
International Dinner & Auction*

Congratulations



...on the 18th Annual Dinner & Auction sponsored by the Vallejo Sister City Association and Vallejo Sister City Commission.

We applaud your continued work to strengthen our International relationships around the globe while celebrating and supporting our diverse cultural communities here in Vallejo!

Pippin Dew
Candidate for
Mayor of Vallejo



18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



Commissioner/Board Member
Elissa Shanks Stewart
and Family

18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



RAVI SHANKAR

for Vallejo Mayor 2024



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18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



IN LOVING MEMORY

Den Kittelson



18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



Office of Councilmember Rozzana Verder-Aliga
555 Santa Clara Street · Vallejo · CA · 94590 · 707.648.4576 · Voicemail 707.648.4134



Congratulations to VSCA officers and members for another successful International Dinner Auction 2024! Your annual event has drawn huge support from our community and the Bay Area!

I also commend your efforts in partnering with the Sister City Commission. Together, you have done an outstanding job in promoting citizen diplomacy through your relationship with our seven Sister Cities and three Friendship Cities. My family and I are excited to join you this evening!

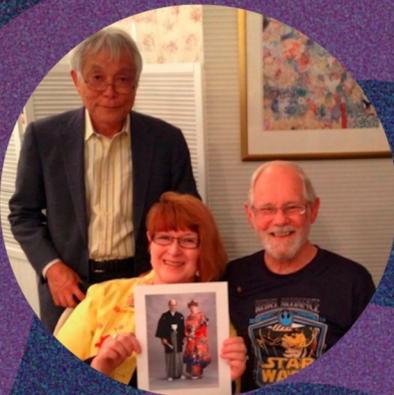
Thank you for showcasing the very best of our City of Vallejo!

Dr. Rozzana Verder-Aliga, EDD, LMFT
Vallejo Councilmember and City Council Liaison

OUR VALLEJO

SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

UNITES US IN THE WORLD...



With Gratitude
to Our Sister
City of Akashi
for all their
Kindness
extended to Me,
Teena and my
husband
J.D. Miller



Congratulations
to All For Their
Hard Work And
Their Gracious
Hearts
Connecting One
Another!
In 2024!

*18th Annual
International Dinner & Auction*

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18th Annual International Dinner & Auction



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611 Amador Street, Vallejo 94590
Call For Reservations: (707) 319-6864**

*Greetings from the
Filipino Community of
Solano County!*

Jess & Annie Ramos, President of FCSCI



18th Annual International Dinner & Auction

kw

**KELLERWILLIAMS
VACA VALLEY**



***Congratulations
to Vallejo Sister City
on forging
a new connection with
Ensenada, Mexico! We're
excited to celebrate
Vallejo's 7th Sister City,
strengthening our
community's global ties.***

Emily Dum Dumaya | Keller Williams Vaca Valley
[\(707\) 631-5681](tel:(707)631-5681) | emdumdumaya@gmail.com
<https://emilydhomes.com>

18th Annual International Dinner & Auction

LIVING BENEFITS *in Life Insurance*

Did you know that there is life insurance where you do not have to die to collect benefits? It is called LIVING BENEFITS in your Life Insurance policy.

70% of people who have suffered a heart attack, stroke or been diagnosed with cancer survive, and many may not be able to return to work.

What are Living Benefits? They are the **Critical, Chronic and Terminal** illness rider to a Life Insurance policy that you don't have to die to use. You can collect your living benefit while alive. *They are at no additional cost to your policy.*

- ◆ **What is Critical Illness?** *If you have a heart attack, stroke, cancer, ALS, end stage renal failure, or you are partially blind, you can accelerate or access the death benefit while you are still alive.*
- ◆ **What is Chronic Illness Rider?** *These cover your activities of daily living, like eating, bathing, dressing, continence, toileting, and transferring. If you cannot perform any two of these and the doctor certifies it, you can accelerate the death benefit, depending on the severity of the illness.*
- ◆ **What is Terminal Illness Rider?** *This is when you only have 24 months or less to live, some insurance companies vary, you can accelerate your insurance benefit while you are alive.*

**For more information,
please call today.
(707) 631-5681**

One of my clients was only 40 years old when I met her, her name is Amie. She was very healthy and purchased a 35-year term \$1,000,000 death benefit. After five years, she was diagnosed with invasive, stage 3, Breast Cancer. I filed the claim and she received a check in 30 days. Amie was able to continue her quality of life without being worried about not having money because of the Critical Illness Rider claim.

Here's what Amie had to say:



"I was very terrified and devastated, all I could think about is that I just want to live for my daughter, who is now eight years old... I called Emily after I learned about my diagnosis, she walked me through the process and I received a check that will help me pay medical expenses for my breast cancer treatments and more... I strongly recommend this product with living benefits because I am proof of the living benefits that the Quality of Life insurance policy gave us."

~ Amie



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18th Annual International Dinner & Auction

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to Vallejo Sister City
on establishing an official sister
city relationship with Ensenada,
Mexico, making it City of Vallejo's
7th Sister City.

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Acknowledgements

The Sister City Association is grateful to these donors of Food, Beverages, and Items for Auction who have provided so much to the success of this event in support of Sister city programs

Yolanda Kim	Norma Placido	Elissa Shanks-Stewart
William Kim	Mike Browne	Ravi Shankar
Pelton Stewart	Dinah Villanueva-Ryan	Emma del Rosario-Cordova
Brenda Brumfield-Ross	Victoria Grace-Barksdale	Helen Casaclang
Lonnie Brumfield	Rochelle Frias-Del Rosario	

Vino Godfather Winery

Bambino's

Olive Garden

Zio Fraedo's

Mark A. Porter

Mrs. Keiko Perri

Ms. Dinah Villanueva-Ryan

Mrs. Yolanda Kim

Ms. Beth Cancaglini

Swahili Spot

Mama Naasira Ageela

& Dr. Gregory Joe Bledsoe

El 2 de Oros Produce Market

Dr. Ahmad Zamani

Special Thank You's

Thank you to our Board Members, Commissioners, Donors, Volunteers and guests on making this night a memorable evening.

*18th Annual
International Dinner & Auction*



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