



# The Voice



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## Is it December?

by Teri Saya

Is it December? I cannot say.  
In Zapopan the days are warm,  
a tad chilly in the evening.  
No rain, no snow, but  
the stores sell big, poufy coats anyway.  
Christmas decorations abound!  
Looking outside my window, I cannot tell  
if it is September or December.  
Is it December? Do I miss the seasons?  
I sit in the December sun,  
with my dog upon my lap.  
She knows nothing of the seasons,  
and she is quite content.



Check out our [Facebook page!](#)  
Join us for conversation,  
information, education,  
communication, and  
contribution!

## It's That Time of Year Again!

Thursday December 15 will be a regular a la carte luncheon. There will be no prepared regular luncheons on December 22, December 29, and January 5. We will resume regular Thursday luncheons on January 12.

On Christmas Day, December 25, soup and sandwiches.

**New Year's Day**, January 1, there will be informal potluck offerings (bring a dish to share.)

AmSoc will be open 10 AM to 2PM weekdays from December 21 to January 10, but on a more relaxed schedule.

We are hoping that, starting next year, one or two of our members can volunteer to prepare holiday meals. We are shorthanded since two of our holiday cooks are leaving. That may limit our ability to continue with this tradition, leaving catering as our next option. If you are interested, please contact either Cliff or Cam Esser at 3813-0991 or [cesser483@gmail.com](mailto:cesser483@gmail.com).

## While Covering All Bases...

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

# SEASON'S GREETINGS!

# JOY AND PEACE TO YOU!

If any one of these holiday greetings offends you...tough patooties! We're getting in the spirit whether it's politically correct or not.

## Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

This You probably already know that “techo” not only means the ceiling inside your house, but **the roof of the house outside.** The word “techo” for roof is particular to Latin American. Apparently, in **Spain, they use the word “tejado.”** Just for fun, grab a piece of paper and pencil and write down all the words you can think of that have two entirely different meanings. Use your own language or your second language, or both. Here are a few examples.

Muñeca = wrist and dolly.

Crane = a machine used in construction and a large bird usually seen near or in water.

Engaged = promised to be married and very involved in a project (the students were engaged in identifying the parasites under the microscope.)

Foil = aluminum foil and a term used in dramatic presentations (she was a foil to his character,) and a word used in fencing with a sword.

**Back to false cognates.** ‘Manner’ and ‘way,’ maybe a century ago were closer in meaning than today. In Spanish, you might say “¿En que manera quiere hacerlo?” but nowadays in English it is almost universal to say “What way do you want to do it?” In English we still use ‘manner’ but in phrases like “She has a pleasant manner.” Which in Spanish would be “Tiene una forma de ser agradable.” Or in English we might use the expression “in a manner of speaking,” which in Spanish is “hasta cierto punto”. We would say someone has “bad manners” when they do something socially unacceptable, while in Spanish, it is said “falta de educación.”

‘With’ (con) is used quite differently in Spanish. We often use “to” when Spanish uses “con” and many times we do not even use a preposition. “I married someone from Canada.” Spanish would say “Me case con alguien de Canadá.” To be married “with” someone sounds funny in English. If you and your twin decided to get married to your beloveds in the same ceremony, it would be valid, in English, to say “I got married with my sister/brother at the same time in the same church.” I know a bilingual person, when quoting a news item, who says in English “according with” because that is the way it is said in Spanish, but in English we say “according to.”

Another thing I hear from time to time is “Sometimes have you been in that building?” When the English expression is “Have you ever been in that building?”

It is so easy for us, whether we learned English or Spanish first, to say funny or even embarrassing things in our second language. Don’t let it bother you, everyone does it. But if someone is kind enough to point it out to you, you have the opportunity to learn from your mistake. And keep in mind, the longer you have been making that particular mistake, the harder it is to break the habit.



## What's in Your Book?

What are you reading? Want to tell us about it? Submit a review with the book's name and author, e-mail it to [me@terisaya.com](mailto:me@terisaya.com).

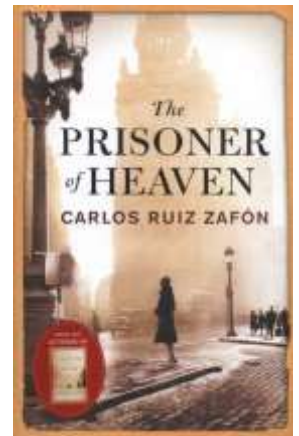
### Book review by Pauline Van Havere

I’ve just devoured “*The Prisoner of Heaven*” by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. What a fabulous read! Like his best seller “*The Shadow of the Wind*,” this story is also set in Barcelona around the Spanish Civil War. It’s not a war story though; it’s a story of compellingly intriguing characters in that time period.

Carlos Ruiz Zafon is an absolute master of story telling. Reviewers have described the almost gothic atmosphere he creates as “magical realism”. They’re right! The characters, the world they live in, the lives they lead, and their complex inter-relationships become mystically real.

The Prisoner of Heaven is a compelling, powerful, and totally enthralling read. It’s one of those books that leaves you pondering after you’ve turned the last page. You’re so glad you read it, but a bit sad that it’s over.

The Amazon web site sells it in Kindle and paper format. I notice that “*The Angel’s Game*,” a book I haven’t read yet, is sandwiched in between “*The Shadow of the Wind*” and this book. Can’t wait to get my hands on it. Although the three books share the same setting, they seem to be standalones.



### The Book Club Selections for 2017

- December 15, 2016 – *The Crystal Frontier*, by Carlos Fuentes
- January 19, 2017 – *Prisoner of Heaven*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
- February 23, 2017 – *Just Kids*, by Patti Smith
- March 23, 2017 – *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, by Madeline Hien
- April 20, 2017 – *Genghis Khan: Making of the Modern World*, by Jack Weatherford
- May 18, 2017 – *Dreams of My Russian Summers*, by Andrei Makine
- June 15, 2017 – *My Own Words*, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- July 20, 2017 – *Life after Life*, by Jill McCorkle
- No August Meeting
- Sept 21, 2017 – *Maya The Maya* (Ninth edition) (Ancient Peoples and Places,) by Michael Coe and Stephen Houston
- Oct 19, 2017 – *Where the Air is Clear* by Carlos Fuentes
- Nov 16, 2017 – *Attention Merchants: The Epic Scramble to Get Inside our Heads* by Tim Wu
- Dec 14, 2017 – *The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories* by P.D. James



For more information about these books and meeting times [click here](#).

**Do you currently feel like this when you attempt to speak Spanish or another language?**

I can help you get from embarrassed to confident, from missing out to making connections and deeper relationships, from a shy observer to proud participant with my Language Confidence Coaching Program using proven hypnosis to help you to change your thought patterns/remove blocks around learning the foreign language.

You only need about 30 minutes per day!  
You will be part of a structured program in a supportive group AND have FUN!

Call or email Sophia Davis cel: 33 1214 8918 mexisophi@gmail.com

### The Stolen Car

The proud owner of a magnificent 1956 Chevrolet convertible, had finished restoring the car to perfection, and on a warm summer afternoon he decided to take his car to town. It needed gas, as the gauge was practically on empty, but he wanted ice cream, so he headed first to his favorite ice cream shop.

He had trouble finding a parking space and had to park the car down a side street. He noticed a group of young guys standing around smoking cigarettes and eyeing the car rather covetously. He was a bit uneasy leaving it there, but people often take interest in such an old and well-preserved car, so he went off to enjoy his ice cream.

The line at the ice cream shop was long and it took him quite a while to return to his car. When he **did, his worst fears were realized... his car was gone!**

He called the police and reported the theft and then waited on a bench outside the ice cream shop. About ten minutes later the police called him to say they had found the car abandoned near a gas station a few miles out of town.

It was unharmed and he was relieved. It seems just before he called, the police had received a call from a young woman who was an employee at a self-service gas station. She told them that three young men had driven in with this beautiful old convertible. One of them came to the window and prepaid for \$20 worth of gas. Then all three of them walked around the car, looking at it carefully, and then just walked away without filling the tank.

The question is, why would anybody steal a car, pay for gas that they never pumped, and then abandon the car later and walk away?

**The answer....they couldn't find where to put the gas.**



The Thanksgiving Feast & Art Show Photos - November 24, 2016



This event was a big success and everyone was full and happy by the end. If you were not able to make it to the art show this time, you're in luck! The Joyce Bownds paintings and some of Luiz Cotto's photographs are still on the walls at the club and will be for a while. Come on down and take a look. To see more photos and descriptions of this event, [click here](#).

## AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes November 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Ann Whiting, Bruce Newby, Regis Soileau, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, Frank Rodriguez, Fred Hanna, David Ruiz, Diane Golz, and Karen Ashby. Also attending were Doug Mattoon, Maria Soileau, Arik Gohl, and Ray Golz.



**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was presented and accepted by the board.

**Committee Report:** The Halloween / Octoberfest celebration had 46 attendees and was profitable.

**Old Business:**

1. The amended constitution is in process and should be completed before the end of the year.
2. Nominations for the 2017 Board of Directors were discussed.
3. The large outdoor grill was sold and a smaller grill will be purchased in the future.

**New Business:**

1. Voting for Board members begins Monday, November 21, 2016 and Board election ballots will be available in the office through Friday, November 25, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
2. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.
3. Lupita will be off for Christmas vacation from Wednesday, December 21, 2016 through Monday, January 9, 2017. **There will be no Thursday lunches on December 22, December 29, and January 5.** Rocio is still on disability leave.
4. Christmas bonuses and vacation pay will be paid to Lupita and Rocio.
5. David is donating \$1,840MX monthly for his use of space vacated by Leticia.
6. **David is hosting an open house at Tequila Enterprises'** new location – Planeta 2686, Interior 2 on December 2nd from 7 pm – 10 pm.
7. The American Society of Jalisco [Facebook page](#) is up and running thanks to Teri Saya. Please join.
8. Bruce donated a used refrigerator he purchased from the Coffeys to replace the defunct one.
9. Special thanks to Maria for all her extra help in the kitchen.
10. **Proceeds from artist Luiz Cotto's Mexican life** photographs sold during the Thanksgiving Day Art Show will be equally divided and donated to the

Salvation Army and Huichol.

11. Arik Gohl, CEO/Founder of the Gohl Program ([www.gohlprogram.com](http://www.gohlprogram.com)), a specialized physical therapy technique, introduced himself and will be giving a **presentation in February after the Valentine's Day lunch.**

12. Thanks to Ray Golz who shared his thoughts and expertise on building membership.

13. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

**A big thank you to Karen Ashby for taking the meeting minutes and sending to the Voice publisher.**



### For a Good Cause

AmSoc member Michael Hogan sent this e-mail: [Here is an upcoming event which may be of interest to our fellow members.](#)

#### WINTER CELEBRATION

at the American School of Guadalajara  
Colomos 2100, Guadalajara  
Wednesday, Dec.14, 2016--5 PM to 7 PM

- ◆ Traditional holiday music, free tamales, banuelos, and hot chocolate.
- ◆ Book sales with special discounts on best-seller "Abraham Lincoln and Mexico."
- ◆ Traditional crafts and jewelry along with other Christmas gifts.
- ◆ **Accepting donations of men's shoes (for FM4 migrants from Guatemala,) and used books for children in local children's homes.**









**Proceeds of crafts and book sales will go to the school scholarship fund.**



**Spanish Lessons for Beginners** – At AmSoc twice a week for a six week semester. Each class is \$50 pesos. The first semester will begin mid-January. Starting off with a very basic review of Spanish pronunciation and phonetics, and then progressing toward learning and practicing simple phrases and understanding responses. With enough interest, we will continue with a second semester. If this sounds like something you would like to join, please email Paty Gonzales at [patygonzales01@hotmail.com](mailto:patygonzales01@hotmail.com) or Frank Rodriguez at [frankkly@yahoo.com](mailto:frankkly@yahoo.com).

# December 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				<p>1 AmSoc Lunch  12:00 - 1:30 Pork Chops!</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 English class 12 to 2</p>
<p>4 AA Meeting 11:00 am</p>	<p>5 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>6 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>7 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>8 AmSoc Lunch  12:00 - 1:30</p>	<p>9 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>10 English class 12 to 2</p>
<p>11 AA Meeting 11:00 am</p>	<p>12 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>13  Full Moon  Board Meeting 10:30 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>14 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>15 AmSoc Lunch  12:00 - 1:30</p>	<p>16 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>17 English class 12 to 2</p>
<p>18 AA Meeting 11:00</p>	<p>19 Virgen de Guadalupe! Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>20 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>21 First day of Winter! Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>22 No lunch @ AmSoc</p>	<p>23 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>24 English class 12 to 2</p>
<p>25  Christmas Day!</p>	<p>26 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>27 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>28 Light Exercise 10 am AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>29  New Moon No lunch @ AmSoc</p>	<p>30 AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>31 English class 12 to 2</p>