

The Voice

January 2014

January Events

Photography Club

Thursday January 9th, 10:30 a.m.

The January meeting has been re-scheduled for January 9th to give everyone a chance to catch a breath.

Don Parker, who helped start the Digital Photography Club at the Lake Chapala Society, will be giving a photo presentation on composition.

The agenda will include scheduling the January trips to the Flower Market in Zapopan and the Butterfly and Bird Houses at Parque Azul. A date for the February trip to the Zoo will also be determined.

The Board has given us permission to hang our photos at the club. Do you have some outstanding photos just sitting on your hard drive that you would like the world to see? Join us and help determine the best way to move forward with this project.

A Super Bowl party

Sunday February 2nd

Hors oeuvres (please bring some to share)
plus chili. Bar will be open.

A donation of \$60 pesos is in order.

New Game! Thursday January 2, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. A new fun game will be added to the Thursday Game Day round-up. Test your crossword puzzle dexterity with Cam Esser who will cheer-lead on participants as they work their way through a Giant Group Cross Word Puzzle. Polish up those obscure and "on the tip of your tongue" answers that have bedeviled crossword enthusiast for decades. Moderate difficulty. Spread the word! If you're not into poker, or Skip-Bo, or Uno, you might enjoy this new challenge!

The AmSoc Book Club

Thursday January 16, 2014

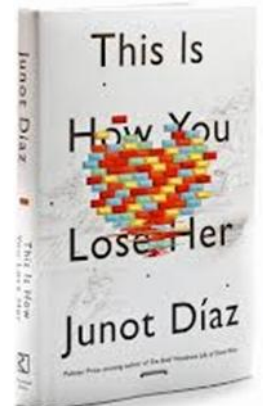
The book: "This Is How You Lose Her" by Junot Diaz.

An adolescent boy moves from the Dominican Republic to the rough streets of New Jersey in the 1980's and describes his turbulent adjustment as an immigrant to an unfriendly environment and re-counts his many equally as turbulent relationships with women.

The author makes a well-received follow-up on subjects he first introduced in his Pulitzer-winning novel, "The Brief Wondrous World of Oscar Wao".

A movie will follow at 2 pm on the topic of current Hispanic immigration in the United States.

The book is available on Kindle.
All are welcome even if you have not read this book



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Christmas Posada 2013



Photos above © Carlos Ruiz Checa

Photos below courtesy Jerry Dankner



Quotations

Some of the following quotes are from people who died in 2013. I couldn't find a Peter O'Toole quote so I chose one from T. E. Lawrence, O'Toole's greatest acting role.

For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others. Nelson Mandela

All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible. T. E. Lawrence

I know death is coming, and I do not fear it. I was perfectly content before I was born, and I think of death as the same state. I am grateful for the gifts of intelligence, love, wonder and laughter. You can't say it wasn't interesting. Roger Ebert

Laughter is by definition healthy. Doris Lessing

Español

El cuerpo humano es el carruaje, el yo, el hombre que lo conduce; el pensamiento son las riendas, y los sentimientos los caballos. Plato

On The Road Again – Dec 2013

© Pauline Van Havere

I like to go on a short trip in Mexico in December to see the lovely red poinsettias that are used to decorate public places. San Luis Potosí, about 4 hours northeast of Guadalajara, was appealing because friends had told me it sported some lovely colonial architecture. They were right!

The downtown area contains many lovely buildings in many delightful parks. My favourite was the Plaza de Armas. The vehicular traffic around it is cut off so several of the narrow streets are now pedestrian walkways. The downtown streets are also cobblestone, but regular rectangular cobblestone,



not the nasty jagged things you find in places like San Juan Cósala. Also I like the way that they gradually slope the sidewalk curbs down to street level at each corner. It makes a huge difference when you're walking.

The Palacio del Gobierno is an impressive colonial building taking up the entire block on the east side of the Plaza.

Inside is a typical colonial open interior courtyard with second floor balconies running all around. This courtyard contained an elaborate life-sized nativity scene. Brilliantly coloured 6-point piñatas were suspended over the scene.

My travel book said to be sure and ask to see the Benito Juárez room on the second floor of the Palacio. So I asked an employee to let me in to what turned out to be a set of rooms that Juárez had used. He'd been there twice as president. The first time was in 1863 when he was running from the French invader Maximiliano, and the second was in 1867 when he was there to condemn Maximiliano to death.

My guide first led me into a delightful little sitting room. There were delicate tufted brocade chairs, settees, and tables. The chair and table legs were painted gold as was the frame of an ornate mirror on one wall.

I was taking pictures and being generally enthralled by this perfect capsule of time from the Juárez era when my guide invited me into yet another room. And what a room that was! It must have run the entire length of the building. Tall windows ran all along the outside wall making it very bright. The woodwork, the floors, the ceilings, the walls, the furniture, the carpets, the drapes were *all* period Juárez. If the little salon I'd just been in was a time capsule to the past, this was the mother ship.

The window in the center of the big room was actually a doorway onto a little balcony. Turned out to be THE balcony - the one used for the traditional El Grito celebrating



Mexican Independence Day on the eve of each September 16th. At one side was a bell rope which ran up above to the bell— THE bell—a replica of

the one used by Father Hidalgo to initiate the fight for independence.

What a thrill! I was standing where Juárez had stood and where many government leaders after him had continued the tradition of ringing that bell. My hand almost trembled at my side as I forced down the urge to reach over and give the rope a little tug - just one little tug!

The view from the balcony was spectacular. The Plaza de Armas stretched out below with its beautiful manicured greenery, inviting benches, and the wonderful stone bandstand in the middle.

Across the Plaza towered a fabulous cathedral. It was stunning both the interior and the exterior. The two bell towers are ornately sculpted as is the entire façade housing the many niches for exquisite life-sized marble statues of religious figures.

Inside the cathedral you are treated to a stunning vision when you look up at the ceilings of the three-nave interior. Graceful arches and trim flow in all directions from one section of the ceiling to another.

And all along the length of the church are doorways with glittering gold-leaf lintels. Some of these have simple or

Moorish arches below leading into little altar areas. Religious statues decorate altars throughout. It's one of the most impressive cathedrals I've ever seen.



A few blocks away is a marvelous colonial estate house that has been preserved and now serves as the city's Museo de Máscaras, Mask Museum. Some 2,000 folkloric masks from all over Mexico are displayed there. Even if you're not that interested in masks, the Museo is a treasure to visit because it is an excellent example of colonial architecture.

Also very much worth visiting is the courtyard of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí originally a Jesuit college constructed in 1653. The courtyard is so large that it does not appear dwarfed in any way by the 40 foot high trees sweeping gracefully skyward. The stone ring at the base of each tree is decorated with more red poinsettias which form a stunning contrast above the grey stone paving. Poinsettias were also used to spectacular effect around the lovely courtyard fountain.

San Luis Potosí is a lovely city because of the well preserved colonial core area. The traffic was rather hectic, so take the bus or park your car at a downtown hotel and start walking. I recommend it for a visit with or without the poinsettias.

AMSOC Board Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2013

Present:

Ann Whiting, Jerry Dankner, Diane Golz, John Griffin, Bruce Newby, Regis Soileau, Jim Watkins, Alejandra Vielma and Joan White, with guests Cam and Cliff Esser, Fred Hanna and Bette Drummond..

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM with a quorum in attendance.

Treasurer's report:

The electric bill was \$2,098 pesos because the solar system was turned off and of which \$1,000 will be paid by the Junior League. The treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports:

Our Thanksgiving event was a big success with 114 attendees and great food.

Old Business:

1. Bruce finished the medicine cabinet.
2. Diane has updated the newcomer information and will E-Mail it to the members of the Board for review.
3. Jerry purchased a second receiver for the Interphone system and its installation is pending Lupita's selection of an installer.
4. Installation of an upstairs mailbox is pending.
5. Jerry is responsible for investigating the integration of our studio speakers with the TV and microphone, which will be done in the New Year.

New Business:

Christmas and vacation bonuses will be given to Lupita and Rocio in accordance with Mexican law.

Lupita and Rocio will have paid Christmas vacations starting Monday December 23rd 2013 thru Sunday January 5th 2014 (Rocio returns Monday January 6th). Lupita will take extra unpaid vacation days from Monday January 6th thru Sunday January 19th 2014 (Lupita returns Monday January 20th).

Joan will send out our AMSOC Christmas card.

Bette Drummond suggested it's time to replace the AMSOC sign on the front of the building with something easier to see. The Board agreed and Bette will follow up on her suggestion.

Holiday and Event Schedule:

1. We will continue the tradition of pot luck luncheon for Christmas and New Year's days, with doors opening at 10 AM and food will be served at 12:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome. Also, breakfast will be available on New Year's Day, starting at 8 AM.
2. A super Bowl party is planned for Sunday February 2nd, with hors oeuvres (please bring your own to share), chili and the bar will be open. A donation of \$60 pesos is in order.
3. Because of Lupita's schedule, it was agreed that we will hold a joint Valentine's Day and Installation luncheon on Thursday the 13th of February, with carrot soup and spaghetti and meatballs.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Minutes of the AmSoc General Meeting November 24, 2013

Agenda:

- Registration of Attendees
 - Reading and vote on the agenda
 - President's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Report on the Vote of New Officers and Board of Directors
 - Other
 - Closure
1. The meeting was called to order at 10 AM on Saturday the 24th of November 2012. Due to the lack of a quorum the meeting was reconvened at 10:30 AM with seven AMSOC members in attendance.
 2. The agenda was read by the Secretary and approved by unanimous vote.
 3. The Vice president, Bruce Newby, thanked all of the board members for their participation in contributing so much to the society during the last year, with special thanks to our treasurer John Griffin, our employees Lupita Elizondo and Rocio Huerta and all of the many volunteers who have helped on Thursdays and at our special events. A special mention goes to Regis Soileau, Alejandra Vielma and Joan White. We also wish to thank the Guadalajara Reporter for their continuing support.

He noted that during the year we continue to hold special events on an almost monthly basis, as well as support the

Salvation Army Children's Home and the Huichol Indians with blankets and sweaters.

This past year significant building maintenance was required and accomplished. We now have solar powered electricity. The kitchen has a new commercial oven and stove with 6 burners plus an exhaust vent system. Bruce has completed the building and replacement of our bookshelves.

In conclusion, he pointed out that our membership remains stable; our society celebrated 68 years in March of this year.

4. Our treasurer, John Griffin, provided the financial situation of the society, the planned budget for 2014 and the accountant's yearly report. The reports were approved by unanimous vote.
5. The votes for officers, chairman and board members were tabulated with the following results:

The 2013 officers are:

President	Ann Whiting
First Vice President	Bruce Newby
Honorary Vice President	Sergio Garcia
Treasurer	John Griffin
Secretary	Gerald S. Dankner

Chairman of the Membership and Education Committees:
David Ruiz

The 2013 Board members are:

Diana Golz	Fred Hanna
Regis Soileau	Alejandra Vielma
Jim Watkins	Joan White

6. It was recommended and unanimously approved that future elections will be conducted by sealed envelope, with verification of the voter.
7. There were no additional items.
8. The meeting adjourned at 11 AM by unanimous vote.

Weekly Calendar

AA Meeting (Mon, Wed, Fri.) 6:00 p.m.

Thursday

Book Club (3rd Thursday) 10:00 a.m.

Photography Club (1st Thur.) 10:30 a.m.

Games 11:00 a.m.

Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Saturday:

English Conversation 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

2013

Try as I might, I cannot find much to say about 2013. It's hard to find any good-news stories. Three events that come to mind and give me some hope for the world are the investiture of a new pope. Pope Francis swept in like a fresh breeze, promising great changes to a stagnant old institution. The nation of Uruguay is the first country to show some common sense and decriminalize marijuana. The most moving event for me was Malala Yousafzai's address to the United Nations.

The World's Healthiest Cities

Monaco; Sidney, Perth and Freemantle, Australia; Tokyo, Japan; Copenhagen, Denmark; Singapore; Hong Kong; and Stockholm, Sweden.

Why? It's a combination of healthy lifestyles, good transit systems, large green areas, and superior health care.

The best films of 2013

Don't expect these to sources to agree. What I find interesting is how much they differ. Must be different audiences.

	BBC	Rotten Tomatoes
1	Inside Llewellyn Davis	Sound City
2	American Hustle	Wajda
3	Before Midnight	20ft From Stardom
4	The Great Beauty	Before Midnight
5	Her	Mud
6	A Touch of Sin	Blackfish
7	The Act of Killing	Short Term 12
8	Fruitvale Station	Cutie & Boxer
9	All is Lost	Act of Killing
10	Enough Said	Drug War

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Last Word

I'm not going to make any resolutions this year because I didn't keep the ones I made last year. I did recycle my yoghurt containers, but I still haven't done several years' income tax returns. VW

Happy New Year, everyone!

¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos!



New Year Celebration Tokyo, Japan (L) and Bali, Indonesia (R)

Salud Integral

Ubicación: Club de AmSoc
San Francisco 3332 Chapalita

Stress Management Physiotherapy
Massage Therapy Rehabilitation
Sciatica · Sprains · Reflexology
Bioenergetics

Pain Management Post-surgery therapy
Rehabilitación post-cirugía
Masaje relajamiento Manejo del dolor
Reflexología · Depilación laser

Emergency house calls
Terapeuta

Leticia (Lety) Rodriguez
044-333-103-2528

Who died in 2013?

This list is not intended to depress anyone. It's more of a trip down memory lane and an answer to the question, *whatever happened to...?*

You will probably have to be at least sixty to remember some of these people, but in their day they were celebrated.

Writers

Tom Clancy (66)

Doris Lessing (94)

Frederick Pohl (93)

Elmore Leonard (87)

Actors

Eileen Brennan (80)

Joan Fontaine (96)

Peter O'Toole (81)

Julie Harris (87)

Karen Black (74)

James Gandolfini (51)

Esther Williams (91)

Jean Stapleton (90)

Eleanor Parker (91)

Jonathan Winters (87)

Annette Funicello (70)

Leaders and Politicians

Nelson Mandela

Margaret Thatcher (87)

Hugo Chavez (58)

Singers and Musicians

Patti Page

Lou Reed (71)

Eydie Gorme (84)

J.J. Cale (74)

Slim Whitman (90)

Rise Stevens (99)

Ritchie Havens (72)

Van Cliburn (78)

Patty Andrews (94)

Patty Page (85)

Others

Roger Ebert (70)

Scott Carpenter

David Frost (74)

Dr. Joyce Brothers

C. Everett Koop (96)

Stan Musial 92

General Giap of Vietnam (101)

Prince Friso of Holland