



# The Voice



The American Society of Jalisco A.C.  
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April 2016

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## 2016 AmSoc Events Schedule Review

- April 21: Book Club Meeting
- April 14: Spring Day Luncheon & Art Show
- May 12: **Mother's Day Luncheon**
- June 9: **Father's Day Ice Cream Social**
- July 7: American Independence Day Celebration
- August 11: Ice Cream Social
- September 15: Mexican Independence Day
- October 27: Halloween / Octoberfest
- November 24: Thanksgiving Feast
- December 15: Down Home Christmas Feast



## The Fountain Planter Project

The fountain used to be in the middle of the short sidewalk in the garden. In 1988 AmSoc bought the building and moved the fountain to its present location so the garden area near the exterior stone wall could be redesigned to accommodate changes in the building.

The pump had not worked for many years and various agaves and cactus filled the nearby space. Recently, as part of the renovation of the area, the large overgrown plants were removed. Soil that had been put into the base was also discarded.

John Griffin and Cam Esser conceived the idea of removing the water resistant coating from the base and drilling drainage holes. They brought in five glazed clay pots filled with classic colorful croton plants that thrive in Jalisco. Various sized smooth stones fill the upper two layers of the fountain.

Karen Ashby assisted in the final transition and took these photos. The upgraded area now makes a gracious welcome to the home of the American Society.



## Book Club Meeting

10:00 am, Thursday, April 21st.

This is going to be an invigorating day of discussion, lunch and movie! Who would have thought that Allyn Hunt in the Guadalajara Reporter (March 26-April 1, 2016) would have picked up on the tremendous social value contained in the 1973 book and the 1990 film *Awakenings* by Oliver Sacks which happens to be our very next selection?



The film stars Robin Williams as Sacks, and Robert De Niro as his patient. Both book and film issue from what has been called 'the most intense medical and human involvement' that many film viewers have ever experienced. Attentive viewers live briefly with patients who had been transfixed, motionless, **trancelike, for decades**" by the 1920s *sleeping sickness* epidemic. The author describes his work in the late 1960s to help these patients at Beth Abraham

Hospital in New York. The book (464 pages) is available on Kindle.

A special treat: While revisiting Guadalajara for a week, a dear past member and facilitator of the Book Club, Pauline van Havere, will join us.



The movie will be at 1:15 pm

in the upstairs Media Room. Contact: [cesser483@gmail.com](mailto:cesser483@gmail.com). ☺

## April 3, 2016 - Spring Forward

The term "spring forward - fall back" is meant to trigger your memory to set your clocks forward one hour in the spring at the start of DST, and one hour back in the fall when DST ends.

Daylight Savings Time starts here in Mexico when local standard time is about to reach Sunday, April 3, 2016, 2:00AM clocks are turned forward 1 hour to Sunday, April 3, 2016, 3:00AM.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Apr 3, 2016 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.



## What's in Your Book?

What are you reading right now? Or what have you recently read that really got you going? Are you so excited about it that you'd like to share it with other Amsoc readers? Just submit a couple of paragraphs with the book's name and author. E-mail to Teri Saya, [me@terisaya.com](mailto:me@terisaya.com).



Submitted by Pauline van Havere

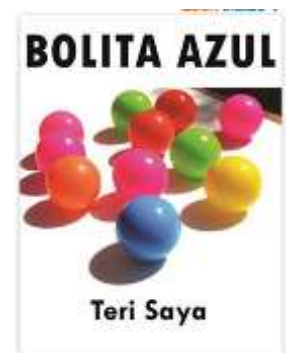
I just had to tell someone: I finally finished reading *Awakenings* by Oliver Sacks. Phew! It's definitely not an easy read on many levels. His command of English is phenomenal so I spent time on dictionary lookups - very handy with a Kindle. It's also a bit hard to get used to the medical terminology. His footnotes drove me to distraction at times; these are harder to deal with in a Kindle than in a paper book. I also found myself having to stop periodically to ponder the intensely powerful emotional states in which his patients lived and died.

He does a fascinating section at the end on how the actors prepared for the movie. If anyone's tempted to skip material - this is not the place to skip! Although I said the book's 'not an easy read on many levels', it is definitely worth the effort to read because it's astounding on many levels; a veritable kaleidoscope of humanity. ☺

*A book is a gift you can open again and again.*  
—Garrison Keillor

Do you have a child in your life who is learning to read and speak Spanish? This new, colorful adventure picture book is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) now on Kindle!

Ages 4 to 11



## Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

When the words ‘compromiso’ and ‘compromise’ are written, they look like they mean the same thing. It is true that both mean agreement. But more common in Spanish, ‘compromiso’ means ‘commitment’. ‘Compromise’ in English often has the slant toward giving up something in order to reach a mutual goal.



‘Terminate’ and ‘terminar’ are similar but sometimes are used differently. Basically, it means ‘end’ in both languages, though in English ‘end’ is used more often than ‘terminated’. We as English speakers would not say or write ‘referring to

the account that terminates in 0033’. We would say ‘ends in 0033’. The first time I saw something from the bank here that said that, I thought they had ended, i.e., ‘terminated’ my account. And of course ‘Terminator’ the movie used it in the sense that the Terminator put an end to things (usually people), where usually, if referring to human life, he would be called the ‘executioner’. So even in English, we use words for our own purposes.

‘Permanente’ used to sort of scare me. I walked up to a restaurant I really liked and saw a sign on the closed door that said it was ‘cerrado permanente’ with a date after it. I thought it was permanently closed as of that date, but what it meant was that it was not going to open today (or maybe for a week if they were on vacation). So, ‘permanente’ does not always mean something that is final.

Now a question for all you Spanish speakers out there. I received an email from Telcel after I added money to my phone. It said ‘La carga de saldo con cargo a tarjeta ha sido procesada.’ If I were using a different tense, I would have said ‘estuvo procesada’, using ‘estar’ as an auxiliary verb. Someone help me with my confusion. Contact me at [betted60@gmail.com](mailto:betted60@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** I made a serious mistake in last month’s Oddities column. Thanks to an eagle-eyed bilingual reader, here is the correction.

‘Rape’ means the same thing in both languages, but ‘Rape’ in Spanish is ‘Violar.’ However, the Spanish word ‘Rape’ means ‘monkfish’, also another use is ‘tiene el pelo cortado al rape’---‘he has closely-cropped hair’. And add an accent mark (which changes the pronunciation) and you have ‘rapé’--- which means ‘snuff’. In English we often politely call ‘rape’ ‘molest’ particularly when it refers to children—‘a pedophile molests children’. However, in Spanish ‘molest’ means many things. The use you hear the most is probably ‘bother’. An examples is: ‘perdone que lo molesta’. I’ve also heard it without the word ‘que’. ☺

## St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Photos

March 17th 2016



Thank you to Gail Early for taking these photos for the Voice

## AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Ann Whiting, John Griffin, Regis Soileau, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, Fred Hanna, Frank Rodriguez, Klyf Harrison, Diane Golz, and Karen Ashby. Also attending were Doug Mattoon and Charles Butler.

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

**Committee Reports:** **The St. Valentine's Day** luncheon had 50 attendees and was profitable. Thank you to all the cooks and volunteers that helped make this event successful.

Doug Mattoon commented expenses were underreported and Cam Esser handed out and **explained Gail Early's Weekly Food P & L Cost Calculator** that will be used to provide a more accurate record of costs. Gail will show Lupita how to use this for all Thursday lunches.

Cliff Esser reported that he was charged with setting the tables as well as cooking and would like to see this situation remedied in the future. Ann Whiting stated Lupita and Rocio should do table set-up for the monthly special lunches and not involve the menu committee.

**Old Business:** The new bathroom toilet and grab bars were installed. Thanks to John Griffin in coordinating this project and to Javier for the timely installation.

The office copier has been replaced with a new 3 in 1 copier.

Cam Esser reported the wooden sign for the front door and the metal wall address projects are ongoing.

John Griffin reported the two speakers and a stereo donated by Sharon Martin have been wired up. Two wireless microphones were purchased and the amplifier purchase is in process.

Cam Esser emailed Christine Walker that the Guadalajara Bridge Club would need to become members in order to use the media room space in lieu of a donation. Christine has not responded back.

MAMA and Casa Huichol received the donations from the American Society and were grateful.

Cam Esser reported plans are coming along for the

Spring Day Art show being held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15. Gail Early, Marcia Gran, Elaine Halleck, and Art Sanchez will be displaying their artwork.

### **The American Society's new constitution**

translation and authentication will be ready by this Friday, March 11. Ann Whiting will get it to the lawyer. All Board members will need to provide copies of their passport (photo page) and Mexican immigration documents in black and white.

The pizza donation to Salvation Army Hogar **didn't work out and**

other options were discussed. Also, discussed was having the Hogar children sing at one of the regular Thursday lunches during the holiday season in November or December.

Teri Saya and Gail Early asked Cam Esser to read to the Board their review of the AmSoc website and to present their idea to simplify the management of the site. Discussion followed and the Board approved the simpler website along with the commitment of Teri and Gail to manage the site. Klyf Harrison has volunteered to help write and will contact Teri. Ann Whiting and the Board thanked David Ruiz and his group for all their hard work.

**New Business:** The Thursday, April 14 Spring Day special lunch will cost \$120 pesos per person and reservations are required. The menu includes tossed salad, tomato soup, baked potatoes with chili, cheddar cheese, bacon chips, sour cream, butter, and chive toppings and strawberries with vanilla ice cream for dessert.

The Board agreed to give Lupita and Rocio Good Friday, March 25 off with pay although this is not a holiday required to be paid by Mexican law.

The Seguro Social fined the American Society for issues found in their audit of the 2012 payments. John Griffin reported that we have receipts and Raul, our accountant, is investigating. John reports everything else is fine through 2015.

The pay box for the Guadalajara Reporter newspaper, the drinks, and phone calls/internet will be replaced with three separate pay boxes to



continued on page 5

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#### Board meeting minutes continued from page 4

better track shortages. If change is needed, it should be made from the cash box and not these pay boxes. Lupita also has change in the office and should be sure there are small denominations in the cash box.

**For Thursday lunches, \$500MX bills won't be accepted** due to the problem with change. Payment should be made with denominations of \$200MX bills or less. A sign will be posted at the American Society and a notice published in the Blast.

The Board approved the Democrats Abroad group showing the movie the Big Short on a Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the American Society with a Board member present. A \$20MX per person donation will be made.

The Board approved and reimbursed Cam Esser for one of the two lamps on the fireplace mantel. Thank you, Cam, for your donation of the second lamp and for providing light in that dark space.

Ann Whiting donated an Omron Manual Inflation Blood Pressure Monitor and this is located in

#### Lupita's office.

John Griffin reported Gail Early is making a monthly donation to the American Society for the use of space to tutor students once per week. He also asked desk volunteers to be careful taking and communicating messages and filling out receipts.

A special thank you to Frank Rodriguez who brought in four new members this week.

Cam Esser reported that Helen is doing well and recuperating from her fall. Frank Rodriguez mentioned that one of his students sells accident insurance and the cost would be \$100MX per year for a member of the American Society. Diane Golz suggested any insurance consideration by our members be carefully investigated as Mexican policies can be written differently than what members may be used to.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.**

# April 2016

Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				 New Moon 	1  <b>APRIL FOOLS' DAY</b> AA meeting 6 pm	2 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
3 	4 AA meeting 6 pm	5 AA meeting 6 pm	6 AA meeting 6 pm	7  AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30	8 AA meeting 6 pm	9 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
10 Horario de Verano	11 AA meeting 6 pm	12 AA meeting 6 pm	13 AA meeting 6 pm	14  AmSoc Spring Day Lunch Noon - 1:30	15 AA meeting 6 pm	16 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
17	18 AA meeting 6 pm	19 AA meeting 6 pm	20 AA meeting 6 pm	21 10:00 am   AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30 Full Moon 	22 AA meeting 6 pm	23 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
24 	25 AA meeting 6 pm	26 AA meeting 6 pm	27 AA meeting 6 pm	28  AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30	29 AA meeting 6 pm	30  English conversation class 2 to 4 pm

April Spring, beginning the season of birth. Fresh rain nourishes the budding, sprouting green life. Barefoot children blow bubbles and giggle on the grass. Butterflies flit from flower to flower. Babies mewling, squeaking, peeping. A cornucopia of Life!