



# The Voice



The American Society of Jalisco A.C.  
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Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico



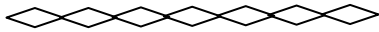
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January 2016

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The President and the AmSoc Board of Directors send Best Wishes for 2016 to all members and friends!



## 2016 Events Schedule Review

- January 28: Book Club meeting at 10:00 am.
- February 11: Valentine's Day and installation of 2016 Board members.
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- April 14: Spring Day
- May 12: Parent's Day
- June 9: Ice Cream Social
- July 4: 4th of July (subject to change)
- August 11: Ice Cream Social
- September 15: Mexican Independence Day
- October 27: Halloween / Octoberfest
- November 24: Thanksgiving
- December 15: Christmas. There will be no December 22nd lunch.



The New Moon this month will be on Saturday the 9th.

The Full Moon this month will be on Saturday the 23rd.



## Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

More fun with words! When you see or hear 'ocupa' or 'ocupar', you might immediately assume that the person means 'occupy'. And yes, in many cases it does, but in Spanish it more often means 'to provide employment for workers', 'this concerns (ocupa) us', 'how do you spend (ocupas) your time', 'they don't use (se ocupa) that word in Chiapas', and other meanings. Oddly enough, what you will hear more often in Guadalajara is ocupar used to mean 'want, need, or like', as in a store '¿que ocupa?' or if you are eating at someone's house '¿que ocupas?' Other than the 100 most used words in Spanish, I hear (and maybe you do, too) '¿que ocupa?' more often than any other phrase.



Now, I'll admit I may be wrong about that last sentence above, because 'quitar' is used for many, many things even though there are a variety of words in Spanish that could be used. We do that in English with the word 'get'. "She got (was accepted) into the best schools and got to be (reached the goal of being) a lawyer. She was so good that she got (advanced) to be the executive director of the law firm, so she got (became) rich." With one million words in the English language, it is too bad when we limit ourselves to the easiest words over and over. I'll admit I often use 'get and got' myself much too often, but I've tried to be more aware of it since I began teaching English. The same is true with the word 'quitar' in Spanish. There are three hundred thousand words in Spanish, and yet in everyday use, Spanish speakers use 'quitar' instead of many other useful words such as 'apartar, retirar' "¡Quita esa silla de en medio!" (get that chair out of the way!); 'quita tus cosas de mi escritorio' (take your things off my desk); 'quitar la mesa' (to clear the table); 'me quitaron la cartera del bolsillo' (someone took or stole my wallet from my pocket).

The fact is that we all, no matter whether it is English or Spanish, get lazy and reuse the same words over and over. The point of this column is not just to tickle your fancy, but to raise our awareness of why it is difficult to learn another language. ☺

Check out the [English is Illogical](#) Facebook page for more oddities.

## Recipe of the Month

Chicken and Dumplings

I know it's not all that cold here, but it is January and here is a classic, warm and healthy American winter recipe. I found this one on the 'Real Simple' website.

As quoted from Wikipedia; Chicken and dumplings is a popular comfort food dish, commonly found in the Southern and Midwestern United States, that is also attributed to being a French Canadian meal that originated during the Great Depression.



### INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon olive oil • 6 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs  
 kosher salt and black pepper • 4 stalks celery, chopped  
 4 carrots, chopped • 2 onions, chopped  
 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves or 2 teaspoons dried thyme • 2 cloves garlic, chopped  
 2 bay leaves • 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
 1 tablespoon baking powder • ½ teaspoon baking soda  
 6 tablespoons butter (¾ stick melted)  
 ¾ cup buttermilk • 3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leafed parsley

### DIRECTIONS

Heat the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Season the chicken with salt and pepper. Brown in batches, 4 to 6 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate; reserve the pot.

Add the celery, carrots, onions, thyme, and garlic to the drippings in the pot and cook, stirring, until the vegetables begin to soften. Add the chicken, bay leaves, and 10 cups water. Bring to a simmer and cook until the chicken is cooked through, 25 to 30 minutes. Discard the bay leaves and transfer the chicken to a plate; let cool. Shred the chicken with 2 forks and return it to the pot (discarding the skin and bones.)

Whisk together ½ cup of the flour, 2 cups of the cooking liquid, and ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper in a small bowl. Slowly whisk the flour mixture back into the pot and simmer until slightly thickened, 8 to 10 minutes.

To make the dumplings, whisk together the remaining 2 cups of flour, the baking powder, baking soda, and ¼ teaspoon each salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Whisk in the butter, buttermilk, and parsley. Reduce heat to low and drop the mixture into the broth in 8 large spoonful's. Simmer, covered, until the dumplings are firm, 12 to 15 minutes. Serve sprinkled with parsley.

*Enjoy!*

## AmSoc's General Assembly Minutes

November 28, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Ann Whiting, John Griffin, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, David Ruiz, and Frank Rodriguez. Also attending were Robert Birdsall and substitute secretary Karen Ashby.

### President's Report:

Thank you to all of the board members for their very hard work this past year and for doing such a great job. Special thanks to John Griffin for his work as treasurer and Karen Ashby for stepping in early to be our secretary.

### Treasurers Report:

The budget was read and approved. There will be less income in 2016 and expenses will need to be controlled.

### Committee Reports:

Elections for Officers and Board of Directors for 2016

### Officers Elected:

President: Ann Whiting  
 1st Vice President: John Griffin  
 Honorary 2nd Vice-President 1: Sergio Garcia  
 Honorary 2nd Vice-President 2: Regis Soileau  
 Treasurer: Bruce Newby  
 Secretary: Karen Ashby

### Board of Directors:

Gail Early  
 Cam Esser  
 Cliff Esser  
 Fred Hanna  
 Frank Rodriguez  
 David Ruiz  
 (Alternate) Diane Golz  
 (Alternate) Klif Harrison  
 (Alternate) Doug Mattoon (pending his acceptance)



The amended version of the American Society Constitution was approved.

Building maintenance continues to be the largest expense. Metal kitchen cabinets will not be replaced at this time but legs will be replaced. Roof maintenance is a priority. Periodic roof checks and repairs will be made.

Cliff Esser acknowledged and the board gave a

special thanks to Frank Rodriguez and Karen Ashby for staying late to help with Thanksgiving festivities cleanup. A number of reservations were made to attend the Thanksgiving meal, were not paid for, and were not cancelled resulting in extra food ordered and a whole table in a prime location left vacant during the festivities. Habitual offenders may be required to pre-pay in the future.

The need to find a better way to provide vaccinations and flu shots was discussed.

David Ruiz reported the AmSoc website is up and running and will go live to the public on December 15, 2015. Work is continuing on populating various sections. Classes will be offered on how to use the website. An updated AmSoc members list from Office Secretary Lupita Elizondo, a welcome statement from President Ann Whiting, and an updated Board of Directors list from substitute Secretary Karen Ashby are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m. ☺



What is the shortest word in the English language that contains the letters: a-b-c-d-e-f?

Answer: **feedback**. Don't forget that feedback is one of the essential elements of good communication.

## AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members John Griffin, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, Diane Golz, Fred Hanna, Doug Mattoon, and Frank Rodriguez. Also attending were Board of Directors elect Klyf Harrison and Secretary elect Karen Ashby. John Griffin, **Treasurer, presided in Ann Whiting's absence.**

### Treasurer's Report:

1. The budget was read and approved.
2. There are expenses coming due later this month which are not reflected in the bank balance but are estimated in the anticipated expenses section following.
3. The largest item of note was the decline of about \$7000 pesos in Mexican equities.

### Committee Reports:

1. The Thanksgiving dinner had 76 attendees and was profitable.
  - a. The 11 kilograms of left-over turkey will be enjoyed at the Thursday, December 17 luncheon. To avoid excessive left-over food in the future, a suggestion was made to query past Thanksgiving Day attendees to see who plans to be out of town.
  - b. Overtime pay was questioned. Overtime was due to the long kitchen cleanup time on Thursday afternoon and evening. In general, the Friday after Thanksgiving is used for common area cleanup during regular working hours but kitchen cleanup should be a priority.
  - c. Special thanks to all Board members and volunteers for making this Thanksgiving Day feast a success. The food was delicious and was commented on by many and the prize baskets were beautifully presented.

### Old Business:

#### Officers Elected:

President: Ann Whiting  
 1st Vice President: John Griffin  
 Honorary 2nd Vice-President 1\*: Sergio Garcia Gil  
 Honorary 2nd Vice-President 2\*: Regis Soileau  
 Treasurer: Bruce Newby  
 Secretary: Karen Ashby

#### Board of Directors:

Gail Early \*\*  
 Cam Esser  
 Cliff Esser

Diane Golz  
 Fred Hanna  
 Klyf Harrison  
 Doug Mattoon \*\*\*  
 Frank Rodriguez  
 David Ruiz

The amended version of the American Society Constitution was approved.

\* Honorary 2nd Vice-President positions are not elected.

\*\* Gail Early has resigned due to excessive commute times and other commitments.

She also notified John Griffin that she will be helping David Ruiz on the American Society web page.

\*\*\* Doug Mattoon has declined to be on the Board.

**2. It was suggested that next year's ballots not contain the Honorary Vice-President positions.** The ballot should also be reformatted for clarity.

#### New Business:

1. Special luncheons: The situation of reserved but unpaid no shows continues to be a problem. It was suggested that there should be a general policy that reservations coming in less than one week in advance of the special luncheon be paid in advance. An exception could be made for members in good standing.

#### 2. Christmas vacations:

a. Lupita and Rocio will be on vacation from Monday, December 21, 2015 through Monday, January 11, 2016. They will return to work on Tuesday, January 12, 2016.

b. The American Society will be open as usual (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) **including Christmas Day and New Year's Day** but due to various personnel being out of town, a coordinated effort will need to be made with members having keys to unlock and lock up.

3. Christmas bonuses and vacation pay will be paid to Lupita and Rocio.

4. The 2016 Events Schedule was presented by Cam Esser and discussed by Board members. There will be no Super Bowl Party, Oscars Night, or Posada scheduled this year. See page **1 for this year's schedule of events. (All events are subject to change.)**

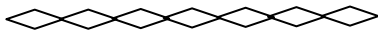
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## Board Meeting Minutes (continued from pg. 4)

## 7. Donations:

- a. There were no donations to MAMA, Casa Huichol, and Salvation Army in 2014.
  - b. The Board voted to give the Salvation Army \$5000 pesos. Cam Esser will take the check to the Salvation Army and present it to the Captain on December 15.
  - c. With the cancellation of the Posada, it was suggested that a food donation be given in 2016. Pizzas or hams at Easter were some ideas brought up.
8. With the passing of the amended American Society constitution, Cam Esser presented a draft of the new Membership Application. Karen Ashby will format the application and send it out for review and comment.
9. The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Because Lupita will not return from vacation until that Tuesday, please send any items you wish to put on the agenda to Karen Ashby at karenashby3@hotmail.com no later than noon on Monday, January 11, 2016.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m. 😊



## Tips & Tricks

### Grate Your Butter

Your stick of butter has to be close to frozen for it to work, and you must work fast to keep it from melting, but the grated butter is perfect for adding to flour before baking biscuits, scones, muffins, etc.. It also makes the butter melt much faster, so if your butter is too cold to spread, consider grating it first and then topping toast, veggies, or a baked potato!



### Store Ice Cream in a Ziploc Bag

A plastic freezer bag keeps the cold air from making your ice cream rock hard. If you like straight spoons and soft ice cream, this trick is worth the extra step! Try to push out as much air out of the bag as you can before putting it in the freezer.



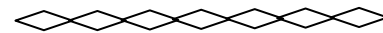
## AmSoc Book Club

Thursday, January 28th

**January's** selection is the much-acclaimed 2012 mystery thriller from Sweden: Camilla Lackberg's "*The Stonecutter*". Our discussion will be at 10:00am on Thursday, January 28th. Contact: [Cam Esser](mailto:cesser483@gmail.com) [cesser483@gmail.com](mailto:cesser483@gmail.com).

"*The Stonecutter*" is one of those mysteries that ruin a vacation. Take it to the beach and your eyes will be so locked on its pages, you'll never even know there's an ocean in front of you. There are two primary and at least five subsidiary story lines in this thick novel: All of them have to do with doomed relationships and fatally fractured families; all of them slither seamlessly in and around each other in one big snake pit of warped desire.

*from a review by Maureen Corrigan*



## The Face of a Bartender

by Teri Saya

He looks approachable pouring drinks behind the crowded bar. He has that wise aura, that knowing nod. It makes you want to pour your heart out while he fills your glass. He has the uncanny ability to know what drink you want before you ask for it. He seems to listen intently, making every person there feel respected and cared for.



The sad, heartbroken souls that belly up to the bar, walk **out feeling better.... because the bartender understood** their plight.

At the end of the evening, he cleans the glasses and wipes down the bar. He pours a drink for himself and downs it while counting out his tips. He puts on his jacket and hat, turns off the lights and steps outside, locking the door behind him. Standing under the eaves watching the rain come down, he slowly reaches up and pulls the plugs from his ears. Putting both hands in his pockets, he steps off the porch and, hunching against the rain, trudges toward home.