



The Voice



The American Society of Jalisco A.C.
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May 2016

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2016 AmSoc Events Schedule Review

- 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



Life is Like a Maypole

The Maypole is as the Pillar of the community,
Wrapped by ribbons of love.

To be wrapped in love that comes from above;
Is what I'm thinking of.

It happens in May, the spring of the year;
And this festivity is held near and dear.
New growth, new life; the birthing of souls,
Is represented by the Maypole.

Mayday, Mayday; new beginnings on the way.
It all springs forth as a new dawn begins,
And then the festivities come to an end.

Around the same time the very next year;
All the festivities... reappear.

Just as life cycles, so does this day,
Mayday, Mayday; it will never end,
As your life transitions, a new one begins. ☺

Those who attended the Spring Day Luncheon & Art Show on April 14th, were given a chance to make their own artwork. A large canvas, chalk, colored pencils and markers were provided. The result was an interesting mixture of artistic talent.

See page 3 for more photos.

Book Club Meeting

10:00 am, Thursday, May 19th.

Our next selection is for you modern history buffs: *The Battle for Spain: The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939* by Anthony Beevor (2006), available on Kindle. With new material gleaned from the Russian archives, **Spain's #1 bestseller** provides a balanced and penetrating perspective on one of the most bitter and hard-fought wars of the twentieth century. **We'll see if we can get the movie "For Whom the Bells"** for our film. ☺



Short but Concise Literary Wonders

The ability to reveal a great deal in just a few words, to provide food for thought and arouse feelings and emotions in a concise way, is surely an indication that a writer has reached the height of his or her abilities.

Below is a collection of short literary compositions. Each one demonstrates the undeniable talent of its author.

Hemingway made a bet with someone that he could write a story consisting of just six words which would be able to touch the heart of anyone who read it. He succeeded: **"For sale: baby shoes, never used."**

Frederic Brown wrote perhaps the most disturbing **piece of short fiction ever to appear: "The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door..."**

The American writer O. Henry won a competition to write the shortest possible story which had an identifiable plot and conclusion. He came up with **this: "The driver lit a cigarette and leaned over the gas tank to see whether there was much fuel left. The deceased was 23 years old."**

Alan E. Mayer wrote a short entitled "Bad Luck."
I awoke to searing pain all over my body. I opened my eyes and saw a nurse standing by my bed.
"Mr. Fujima," she said. "You were lucky to have survived the bombing of Hiroshima two days ago. But you're safe now here in this hospital."

Weakly, I asked, "Where am I?"
"Nagasaki," she said.

A short story competition was once organized in England. Each participant had to include reference to the Queen, to God, to sex, and to a secret. First place went to the following:

"Oh God," exclaimed the Queen. "I'm pregnant and I don't know who the father is!"

A short-short written by Robert Tompkins entitled **"The Search."**

Finally, in this remote village, his quest ended. There, by the fire, sat Truth.

Never had he seen an older, uglier woman.

"Are you truth?" He asked.

The wizened, wrinkled hag nodded.

"What message can I take from you to the world?" he pleaded.

She replied, spitting into the fire, "Tell them I am young and beautiful." ☺

What's in Your Book?

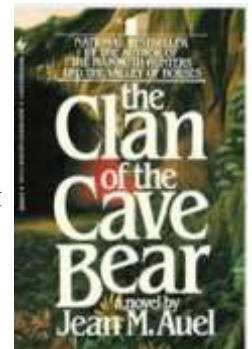
What are you reading right now? Or what have you recently read that really got you going? Are you so excited about it that you'd like to share it with other Amsoc readers? Just submit a couple of paragraphs with the book's name and author. E-mail to [Teri Saya](mailto:Teri.Saya).

Submitted by Teri Saya

Ok y'all, no one sent me a submission, so I'm going to do one...

"Clan of the Cave Bear," the first of the Earth's Children series by Jean M. Auel. A fascinating look into the far past, Jean Auel writes an intriguing story of historical fiction. Normally, I would not read anything to do with history, but I could not put this book down, and I went on to read the next five books in the series.

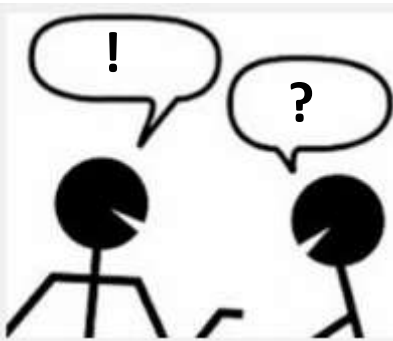
The story takes place 30,000 years ago when Mammoths roamed the earth and just before the Neanderthals died out. An orphaned **child of the "Others" (Cro-Magnons)** is adopted by a Neanderthal clan, and the story weaves into an amazing, intricate and epic journey of wonder and discovery for the little girl Ayla. ☺



Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

Some words are ‘prestado’ –borrowed from English. The one you will probably hear most often is ‘lonche’ which sounds like it means ‘lunch’. However, lonche is a certain kind of sandwich usually made with a bolillo. The word ‘(to) lunch’ in Spanish is ‘almorzar’. And just so you will know, if you don’t already, ‘desayunar’ means



‘to eat breakfast’, and ‘cenar’ means ‘to eat dinner’. Technically speaking, when modern words are ‘prestado’ from English, they are not cognates (words in both languages that mean the same, and sound and are written very similar). For this

reason, you wouldn’t call ‘lonche’ and ‘lunch’ either cognates or false cognates. However, when a word has been added to Spanish a long time ago, such as the French words from the time of Fernando and Carlotta (and before) or the thousands of Arabic words from the 800 year occupation of Spain by the Moors, these words are now considered to be Spanish words. ‘Tsunami’, from Japanese is a scientific word and is considered to be a Spanish word now. Time will tell which ‘prestado’ English words will eventually be part of Spanish.

This month’s trivia. There is an academy in Madrid that decides the rules for Spanish. Personally I don’t know of any other language that is controlled in that way. If you know this particular rule, it may explain something that has bothered you. The rule is that all words from whatever language are to be pronounced by Spanish language rules. This is why you hear Chevrolet, ballet, and buffet pronounced with the ‘t’ sound at the end of the word. In English there is some attempt to pronounce these and other French words the way they are pronounced in France.

I often tell my students that the American way of being blunt and direct can be seen as being rude to the Spanish-speaking person. In the March, 2016, issue of The Voice, you saw the word ‘rude’ in the paragraph about the word ‘gross’ because it is often translated ‘grosero’. In this issue we will look at the words ‘rude’ and two Spanish words, ‘rudo’ and ‘ruda’. You might suppose that at least one of these two mean the same as ‘rude’ in English, and yes, ‘rudo’ means ‘rough’ or ‘coarse’ in English. And ‘rough’ in English can be translated as ‘rude’ though it is listed as seldom used that way. So ‘rudo’ and ‘rude’ would be partial cognates, but not used frequently. ‘Ruda’ in Spanish, however, means ‘rue’ as in “You will rue the day when you made that decision.” ☺

Spring Luncheon & Art Show Photos

April 14th, 2016



Stuffed potatoes w/ chili, then strawberries and vanilla ice cream!



The art show remained at AmSoc an extra day.



Art Sanchez



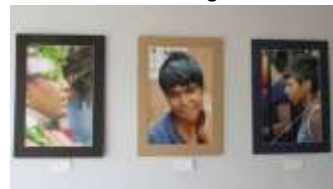
Gail Early



Elaine Halleck



Marcia Gran Argentin



The Crew



Make your Mark canvas result

AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members John Griffin, Regis Soileau, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, Fred Hanna, Frank Rodriguez, Klyf Harrison, Diane Golz, and Karen Ashby. Also attending was Doug Mattoon. First Vice President John Griffin was acting chairperson in the absence of President Ann Whiting who is recovering from surgery.



Treasurer's Report:

- ◆ The treasurer's report was presented and accepted by the board. John Griffin reported that due to the decrease in Thursday luncheon revenues, cash may need to be transferred from our reserves.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ **The St. Patrick's Day / American Society's 71st** birthday luncheon had 40 attendees and was profitable. Cam Esser reported the event went off smoothly and Cliff Esser commented that the hard work behind the scenes was certainly worthwhile. A huge thank you to the menu committee and volunteers. The menu committee report was approved by the board.

Old Business:

- ◆ The Seguro Social fine incurred by the American Society for payment issues found in a 2012 audit has been reportedly resolved. The board requested paperwork be obtained from our accountant or from Seguro Social to complete our files. John Griffin will follow up. The board authorized payment of these fines should this become necessary.
- ◆ The American Society website is in process and John Griffin will handle the technical issues.
- ◆ John Griffin is in the process of buying honor boxes that will be placed by the beer/soft drinks, coffee machine, and newspapers.
- ◆ The fountain area project has been completed thanks to the efforts of Cam Esser and John Griffin. John noted that two small spaces on either side of the fountain have also been planted.
- ◆ Cam Esser reported she is investigating having the wooden front gate sign replaced with a weather resistant plastic sign. John Griffin reported due to the inability to drill into the stone for the metal wall address numbers, a plastic plaque may need to be made.
- ◆ Cam Esser reported that she and John Griffin, along with artists Gail Early, Marcia Gran, Elaine Halleck, and Art Sanchez spent Monday installing the art for

the Spring Day Art Show being held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15.

- ◆ Cam Esser will talk with Ann Whiting for a status **update regarding the American Society's new constitution translation and authentication** that was scheduled to be completed on March 11 and to facilitate any follow up that is required.
- ◆ There are only 11 paid reservations for the upcoming Thursday, Spring Day luncheon. Doug Mattoon reminded us that these special luncheons are fundraisers for the American Society and we should encourage participation.

New Business:

- ◆ Doug Mattoon will be in charge of the Thursday, May 12th **Mother's Day luncheon which will feature a lighter, summertime fare of chicken Caesar salad and apple pie with regular Thursday lunch prices.** A larger Caesar salad option will be available at a slightly higher price.
- ◆ Cam Esser suggested that due to the decreased size of our luncheon crowd, the menu committee should host only six instead of 11 special Thursday meals during the year. There was no objection to this change.
- ◆ Frank Rodriguez brought up the problem of mosquitoes and Cam Esser agreed she will pick up oil/insecticide and mesh screening for the back patio drain and plug-ins with liquid/oil. To eliminate the standing water, the board approved removing the large plant and the pots from the back patio. The board also approved Cam Esser talking with member Eliza Osher about suggestions for painting a mural on the back patio wall.

Next board meeting will be held on May 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Authentic Mexican food?





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The Masks - by Teri Saya

Sometimes getting closer with your children and friends takes an electric outage.

This is a mask my friend Art and I made many years ago, during one of those storms on the coast that took out the electricity. Whenever this would happen, Art would pull out "The Box" and we would do arts and crafts or play board games until the electricity came back on. In a tiny town on the northern California coast, the outage could last for days. The older boys had moved out and there was only the youngest, Jessi, left in the house at this point.



Picture this....It's daytime so we don't have to light candles just yet. Jessi and I are sitting back in chairs with our heads resting on the table and our faces toward the ceiling. Art puts a layer of Vaseline and over that, a thick layer of wet casting tape on both our faces, and we are breathing through

beverage straws. We try not to giggle or smile lest we crack our works of art.











It doesn't take long to dry and our masks are soon ready to be decorated. After washing the Vaseline off our faces, we sit down at the table. It is loaded with a huge assortment of craft materials and broken computer parts (which we had plenty of.) We tell stories, joke, laugh, and gossip while creating "the most awesome masks ever!" as my son put it.

I used clear marbles for the eyes, wires for the hair, and computer parts for the accents.

Thinking back, it's sad to say, the adults in the house worked with computers for a living and so the kids did not get much attention until things went dark and the computers shut down.....I'll never forget times like these and neither will my kids.

On the rare moments when all of the boys took time off from their busy lives and gathered for holidays at home, I would look up at the sky and if it was the least bit drizzly, suddenly the electricity would go off. No one suspected that I knew where the main switch was, they just assumed it was yet another winter blackout. ☺

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p>  <p>Dia del Trabajo</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Dia de la Santa Cruz</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Cinco de Mayo!</p>  <p>AmSoc Lunch Noon</p> <p>Batalla de Pebla Holocaust Memorial Day</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>New Moon</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>English conversation class 2 to 4 pm</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>Happy Mother's Day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Dia de las madres</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30</p>	<p>13</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>English conversation class 2 to 4 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Dia del maestro</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Armed Forces Day</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>19</p>  <p>AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30</p>	<p>20</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>Full Moon</p> <p>English conversation class 2 to 4 pm</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30</p>	<p>27</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>English conversation class 2 to 4 pm</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30</p>  <p>AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30</p>	<p>AA meeting 6 pm</p>	<p>English conversation class 2 to 4 pm</p>

I hate it when the voices in my head go silent....I never know what they are planning.