



The Voice

Newsletter of the American Society of Jalisco, A.C. August 2010 Edition

Celebrating 65th years of activities in Guadalajara!

The American Society of
Jalisco, A.C.

La Sociedad Americana de
Jalisco A.C.

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Announcements and Notices:

Members, \$25 peso per month
donation to AmSoc
Non-members \$50 pesos/m

Miraculous survival!

A letter from Cam Esser

Hi, everyone!

Cliff and I had as near-to-death experience that we ever hope to go through again (except when the real one comes!) Now we are just celebrating life and rejoicing that we are here with family and soon to be enjoying your company once again in December in Mexico.

We were returning from visiting friends in Prince Edward Island, Canada and were passing through New Brunswick just north of Maine. I (Cam) was driving a Tahoe SUV, but nodded off in mid-afternoon, while driving 60 mph on the highway. We crossed over lanes without hitting anyone, and I awoke after slamming into a guard rail. We went airborne, and according to witnesses, spun 6 times in the air before hitting land again in a small ravine and sliding and turning again several times before we landed on the roof.

I had closed my eyes when we went into the air since I knew I had no more control over the vehicle. Cliff was reading a book and saw everything. When we impacted on the final slam, my face was in gravel, but I was conscious. I was able to slide my hand down and unlock the seat belt and extract myself through the broken driver's window. People began to come down from the highway, and we went to get cliff on the other side. At first he didn't answer me, but then we saw that he was twisted in the seatbelt, but not hurt. Someone yelled, "Does anybody have a pocket knife?" then, as I searched for something, before my eyes, appeared on the ground a box-cutter. It had flown out of our tool-box. I cut cliff out of the belt and we pulled him out, with some minor cuts to his scalp since he was touching the shattered windshield.

The ambulance drivers said they couldn't believe we were both alive and uninjured, since the roof was crushed down. At first, even I couldn't believe I was alive, thinking I was only dreaming.

We were saved because we both had on our seatbelts. Recently we had gotten into the habit of asking each other "seat belt on?" before we would start the car for any occasion. In this accident, the one who did not have on their seat belt would have died ... and we were saved because God decided it was not our time to go, and wanted us to stay here on earth some more time to enjoy our family and friends, His blessings and other people who will come into our lives.

A second miracle happened when a Canadian couple who saw the accident came up to us in the ambulance and seeing we were from the U.S., offered us their home to stay in while we could get our bearings since we were pretty much in the middle of no-where with no car and knew nobody. We stayed with them for 3 days, which allowed us to contact our family, and insurance people, retrieve our valuables from the towed Tahoe, etc. Our host even drove us 150 miles into Bangor, Maine to get a one-way rental car back to Virginia since ours had been totaled. They were true angels in distress, and we can never thank them enough for their kindness, nor say enough about the Canadian spirit of hospitality. Well, that's our story for now. We have been blessed and rejuvenated, and look forward to seeing you again.

Cam and Cliff

It is we who are truly blessed, knowing you are safe and will be here again next winter. And, as a Canadian, I'd like to say the Canadian couple was privileged to have had you in their home. Vicki



Humor in the News

A Little Gas

A Dutch veterinarian was fined 600 guilders (about \$240) for causing a fire that destroyed a farm in Lichten Vourde, the Netherlands. The vet had been trying to convince a farmer that his cow was passing flatulent gas (sic). To demonstrate, the vet ignited the gas and the cow became a "four-legged flame-thrower", running wild, setting fire to bales of hay. Damage to the farm was assessed at \$80,000. The cow was unharmed. AP

Oil Change

45 year-old Amy Brasher was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, after a mechanic reported to police that 18 packages of marijuana were packed in the engine compartment of the car which she had brought to the mechanic for an oil change. According to police, Brasher later said that she didn't realize that the mechanic would have to raise the hood to change the oil.

Note to Mechanic

An auto mechanic received a repair order that read: "Check for clunking sound when going around corners."

Taking the car out for a test drive, he made a right turn, and a moment later he heard a 'clunk'. He then made a left turn and again heard a 'clunk'. Back at the shop he opened the car's trunk, and soon discovered the problem.

Promptly he returned the repair order to the service manager with the notation, "Removed bowling ball from trunk".

Opinion

Giving

Sharing money is what gives it its value. Elvis Presley

Anyone who follows the daily news—and who doesn't?—must be aware of the appalling things that are happening to innocent people all over the world. Even though we are concerned, we feel helpless, don't know where to start, or wonder if our little offering will make any difference. But there are simple and convenient ways we can make a difference (without getting into politics or religion). I have been looking into this lately and have come up with three organizations that have excellent reputations and are dedicated to helping the poorest of the poor, especially children. Not only do they give aid, they often risk their own lives and safety in some of the more turbulent areas of the world.

The easiest way to help is by donating a small amount every month directly from your bank account. This means not having to put out a large chunk of money at one time, and it helps the organizations to budget their activities. All such organization must publish an Annual Report every year showing how the funds are spent and the proportions dedicated to overhead expenses, etc. I think if you look into this, you will find that the percentage used for overhead is quite low. This may be because many of the people who do the work for these organizations are volunteers. You can set up a donation online. This method is quite safe and no one outside your bank has access to your personal information (I did this for years while I was working and never had a problem).

They issue tax receipts once a year in the country from which the donation is made. If you do not live or bank in the USA there are divisions in most major countries.

UNICEF

<http://www.unicefusa.org>

helps children in disaster emergency situations and those living in dire poverty.

Famine: Children boiling bush leaves for food (Niger)



Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/> is an international

medical humanitarian organization working in more than 60 countries to assist people whose survival is threatened by violence, neglect, or catastrophe. Winners of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize.

Disease: TB in Chechnya



OxFam <http://www.oxfamamerica.org/>

working to end poverty and injustice; helping people help themselves.

Disaster: Floods in Pakistan

The reason I like these organization is that they use constructive ways, teaching methods by which people living in poverty can help themselves, without attaching conditions, and they help communities, not just individuals. In addition, they are not affiliated to any religion or political organization. Check them out!



If you prefer to donate closer to home, you might consider these worthy organizations in Guadalajara, both of which you can visit to get more information and see how the money is used: **Hogar de los Niños** (Salvation Army orphanage), **MAMA, A.C.**, an organization that helps street children by providing healthcare, food, clothing and education as well as addiction counseling.

Vicki



It's a good thing Edgar raised his voice because Pedro understood loud English

AmSOC Board Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2010

Present: Ann Whiting, Bruce Newby, Jerry Dankner, Jim Watkins, John Griffin, Regis Soileau, Patricia Olarte

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 am with a quorum in attendance.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Bank balance as of June 30, 2010 \$256,397.56

Bank balance as of June 30, 2009 \$204,873.51

Old Business:

The July 4th celebration was successful; thank you Sponsors and Donors:

Almidones Mexicanos

Embotelladora La Favorita

Leticia Rodríguez - Masseur

La Trattoria de Guadalajara

Gretchen Coffey - Mary Kay

Restaurante/Café La Paloma

Restaurante El Colibrí

Sandi Bookstore

Rodrigo Navarro - Dentist

Destiladora Suprema de Los Altos, S.A. de C.V.

Bruce Newby

And all the AMSOC staff and volunteers who contribute so much to making these events successful.

New Business:

1. Due to the high cost of electricity, Jerry will evaluate the possibility of replacing the single two-phase meter with two single phase meters with the added possibility of one for upstairs and one for downstairs.
2. The motion was presented and adopted to require paid reservations for future AMSOC events.
3. We wish to thank the anonymous donor for the new table cloths, Bob Fields and friends for the poker table (last Thursday it accommodated 8 players) and Pat Haskins for the decks of cards. NOTE: We wish to invite additional bridge players to join our Thursday luncheon and bridge game (please arrive around noon). We would also appreciate any other games that anyone wishes to donate.
4. A combined US Labor Day and Mexican Independence Day celebration is planned for September 11th with a Taquiza (taco table).
5. A combined US Columbus Day and Canadian Thanksgiving celebration was discussed but no decision was taken.
6. The annual Halloween party will be held on October 30th.
7. Christmas will be celebrated at AMSOC on the 18th of December.

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 am.

Quotations

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

Napoleon Bonaparte

The world is full of willing people, some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.

Robert Frost

When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed to discover they are not it.

Bernard Baily

Lo más increíble de los milagros es que se realizan.

G.K. Chesterton

Discovery: Good Music Radio

Whenever I'm in Southern California, I listen to the USC classical radio station **KUSC**. Now I've discovered it online and can listen to it via my computer, but I need reasonably

good speakers. KUSC plays a wide spectrum of classical music without too much talking and no commercials; what joy! So far I haven't heard any so-called "new music"—which to me sounds like a torture chamber for musical instruments—nor do they play the saccharine "easy listening music" a la Sarah Brightman. Every recording I've heard so far has been enjoyable and many of them are compositions I haven't heard before. You can find it at www.kusc.org

Announcements

Please note

Advertising rates will increase on January 1, 2011. Member rates will be \$30 pesos per month or \$300 per year; non-member rates will be \$60 per month or \$650 for 1 year.

Hypnosis & Psychotherapy

Stop smoking	Lose weight
Stress	Self confidence
Insomnia	Depression
Memory	Concentration

Patricia Dygula 3632-5723
www.terapnosis.com

Over-eaters Anonymous

12-step program for compulsive eating. The group is self-supporting from member contributions. No fees or dues. Meetings are held in the library every Saturday 11 a.m. – 12 noon Contact: Daryl 33-3507-4746

Cirugía Plástica

Dr. Rodrigo Navarro

Equipo de cirugía plástica

Cirugía Oral

Odontología Cosmética

Consultas

Bilingual English/Spanish

Mobil: 044-33-1285-5124

IMPLANTES – LIPO – LASER

*AmSoc Member

Recovery Corner

Friends of Bill W. AA Group has moved their meetings into the main AmSoc building from the Parrot Cage. Meeting times are the same: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from **6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Lunch and a Meeting AA Group** now meets at Mexicaltzingo 1238 esq. Pavo in Centro on Tuesday, **Thursday & Saturdays from 12 – 1:00 PM.** The location is 1-1/2 blocks from the Mexicaltzingo light rail [Tren] station, between La Paz & Niños Heroes.

Weekly Calendar

Monday	Breakfast 9 a.m. Aerobics 8:30 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m.
Tuesday	Breakfast 9 a.m.
Wednesday	Breakfast 9 a.m. Aerobics 8:30 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m.
Thursday	Breakfast 9 a.m. Lunch 12:30 p.m. Games 1-4
Friday	Breakfast 9 a.m. Aerobics 8 a.m. AA Meeting 6 p.m.
Saturday	Breakfast 9 a.m. Overeaters Anon. 11 a.m. English conversation 1 p.m. Toastmasters 1 p.m.

Salud Integral

Club de AmSoc

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

Terapeuta: Leticia (Lety) Rodriguez

Tel: 044-333-103-2528

San Francisco 3332, Chapalita

Recipe

Carrot Muffins Recipe:

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (50 grams) pecans or walnuts, toasted and broken into pieces
- 2 cups (270 grams) grated raw carrot (about 2-3 peeled carrots)
- 1 large apple, peeled and grated
- 2 cups (260 grams) all-purpose flour
- 3/4 of a cup (125 grams) raw sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder



- 1/4 teaspoon (3.5 grams) salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 cup coconut (sweetened or unsweetened) (optional)
- 3 large eggs
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) safflower, soya, or canola oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Cream Cheese Frosting: (optional)

- 1/4 cup (56 grams) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 4 ounces (1/2 cup) (110 grams) cream cheese, room temperature
- 3 tablespoons confectioners' (powdered or icing) sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Method

Sift together the flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and ground cinnamon. Stir in the nuts and coconut. Set aside.

Beat together the eggs, oil, and vanilla extract. Fold into the flour mix, along with the grated carrot and apple, stirring until just moistened. Evenly divide the batter between the prepared muffin cups and bake for 20 - 25 minutes in 350°F (180°C) oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Let cool on a wire rack before frosting.

Makes 18 standard-sized muffins.

Frosting: Beat the butter and cream cheese until very smooth with no lumps. Gradually beat in the powdered sugar until fully incorporated and smooth. Beat in the vanilla extract.

Place a dollop of the cream cheese frosting on the top of each muffin.

Note: This same recipe can be used to make Carrot Cake in a cake or loaf pan.

Good Dentist

who speaks English

Dra. Olga C. Sanchez Vergara

Cleaning \$450p

Filling \$550

X-Ray \$70

Crown \$1,200

Calle Juan Alvarez 672

2½ blocks east of Federalismo)

English Speakers only call:

044-33-3614-7893

The Last Word

I haven't been able to find much news about AmSoc in recent months—probably because of my lack of attention—and I'm contemplating creating a new newsletter not specifically focused on club activities. The content would be similar, and all the AmSoc articles and notices could be included free of charge, but the focus would be more general. Next Month, time permitting, I will send a sample of the new format and see what the response is.

I will be going to California on August 20 and will gladly take your mail provided it is at AmSoc by noon on August 19 (Thursday)

An old scam revisited

By Vicki Wootton

Something very strange happened to me a few weeks ago. I was walking home from the market with a loaded shopping cart when a man stopped and asked me to help him find something, although I couldn't tell what he was seeking. He was a neatly dressed, respectable-looking man who said he was from Costa Rica and had been staying at Lake Chapala. From his garbled explanation—he didn't speak English—all I could gather was that he was looking for houses and land to buy. I pointed out a street where I'd seen several houses for sale, but that didn't satisfy him. When he kept on babbling, becoming more agitated, I got very frustrated, not knowing what he wanted. I finally told him I didn't understand and that I was not feeling well. He kept persisting, so finally I looked around for a Mexican who would at least understand him.

I can hear you thinking, "why didn't she just walk away?" It's hard to explain, but when someone asks for help we—especially women—automatically want to help, and another reason may be that I hate to admit I don't know something.

At just the right moment I saw another man approaching us. He looked like a businessman, in a suit and carrying a brief case. I asked him (in Spanish) "Can you help this man? I don't understand what he wants."

So the man stopped and said a few things to the "Costa Rican" and then turned to explain to me. What it boiled down to was the first man had the winning ticket in a lottery. To prove it, he brought the ticket out of his shirt pocket and handed it to the businessman who scrutinized it carefully. Then they did a nice little song and dance—hand shaking and "Congratulations, you're a new millionaire. Put the ticket away; don't let anyone see it." Furtive glances around to make sure no one was looking.

I thought I could leave then and get my shopping home, but they weren't ready to let me go yet. The next thing that came up was that the first man wanted to cash in the ticket, but he didn't have any I.D. with him so he needed someone with I.D. to accompany him to the lottery office to help him make his claim. He offered to pay \$3,000 pesos to the person who helped him and fished a thick roll of \$200 peso bills from his pants pocket. The other man went through the mime "put it away! You don't want anyone to see it" (Tatum O'Neil was much more convincing in Paper Moon.) I said I didn't need money; I just needed to go home for and take some medicine.

By now, of course, "SCAM" was flashing in neon letters over both of them. One of the things that tipped me off was that the second man was always explaining to me, as if it were my problem. I thought, *why isn't he explaining to the guy with the problem?*

I kept reiterating that I was in pain and really needed my medicine, bending forward with my arms across my stomach, but that didn't faze them. I wasn't lying either. I think at one point, one of them grabbed my arm to stop me leaving. I asked the second man why he couldn't go with the new millionaire, but he shook his head and said something to the effect that he was busy or had to go somewhere. I told them I wouldn't do anything until I spoke to my *compañero*, but the businessman said that wasn't necessary, looking rather disappointed.

Then they started asking me questions like "Do you have a Mexican bank account?" "Do you live alone?" "Is

there anyone at your house now?" "How much money have you got in the bank?" I couldn't believe how stupid they were. Part of me wanted to see how far they would go—I was on a fairly busy street in the middle of the day, so I didn't feel too threatened, but I really was in pain and it was getting worse.

Finally, I turned away firmly and said I was going home to take some medicine. They asked if I would come back. The businessman said, "We'll wait for you in the park." I told them I would (liar!) and continued to the house. I noted they didn't try to follow me, probably because I said there were a lot of people at my house. When I got home, I tried to call my friend, but couldn't reach him, so I called (my landlord and told him about it. He's the one who told me this type of scam had been used in Detroit many years ago.

I almost felt sorry for the two guys. They were such amateurs, and trying to play on someone's greed would never work with me. I was born without the greed gene. They may have been luckier if they'd known my real passions is for books, art, and computer software.

More recently

Last week I received a phone call that scared me. When I answered, a man asked in Spanish if my name was Vicki and did I live on San Francisco. I told him I had never lived in San Francisco. He was talking very rapidly, so I didn't understand everything he was saying. Once I realized he meant *Avenida San Francisco*, I thought he was looking for English lessons and told him I didn't teach any more. He seemed to get more agitated and kept saying, "*No, permítame explicar*," I said I didn't understand what he wanted and told him to call back later when my *compañero* got home. He didn't like that. He kept on for a while longer and more than once I heard the word *narco-traficante*, so I asked if he was with the police. No! Finally, I said, "*No necesita explicar. Yo no entiendo*," and hung up.

More light was shed on this later when an acquaintance told me the wife of one of his friends had received a similar call. It was a *narco-traficante*—or someone impersonating one—who accused her husband of reporting some other traffickers to the police. He asked her to pay a large sum of money or they would kill her whole family.

Stay out of trouble

1. The best thing if you receive a phone call from a stranger is to hang up. If the caller knows your name, ask for his number and say you'll get your spouse to call him back; then hang up.
2. The best response when a stranger asks you (in Spanish) something you don't understand is, "*Lo siento, no hablo español*." Be polite because ninety percent of the time the person is innocent of any evil intent.
3. Whether on the phone or in person, never admit you are alone. On the phone, you can say your spouse is next door or in the bathroom and offer to call him/her to the phone. On the street, never walk alone at night, unless you have a large dog with you. In the daytime, walk on streets that have plenty of traffic, and hold on to your purse or wallet.
4. Don't wear gold chains or any other expensive-looking jewelry around your neck. It can disappear in a flash.
5. Never carry more money in your wallet than you can afford to lose. If you need to carry extra money or credit cards, use a money belt or put them in a zipped inside pocket.