

The Voice



The American Society of Jalisco, S.A.

San Francisco 3332
Colonia Chapalita
Guadalajara, Jalisco
Tel: (33) 3121-2395
email: am-
soc@megared.net.mx

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Editor: Vicki Wootton
Tel: (33) 3647-6232
Email:
la.inglesa@gmail.com

Contributor: Kitty Michiel

Please contact editor if
you would like to receive
The Voice by email.

Christmas Posada
Wednesday, December 20
Entertainment by the
Salvation Army Children's Choir
Menu
Fresh baked ham, scalloped potatoes,
green beans almandine, salad, and pie
Doors open noon, lunch served as 1:30
Santa Claus will be in attendance

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving was another record-breaking event at the American Society. Ninety-four people were served. In addition there were thirteen take-outs for the Guadalajara Reporter, thanks, to Sean and Michael and the rest of the staff at the Reporter, who were tied to their desks that day, putting the latest edition to bed.

This year, we were happy to welcome some members of the American Legion to our dinner, as well as many Mexican friends. It must have been good planning, or just plain serendipity, but we had exactly the right amount of food to serve everyone, and no leftovers. The weather also cooperated by being seasonably cold.

One of the great things about AmSoc events, such as the Thanksgiving dinner, is the way volunteers rally round to help in the preparation and service. I feel almost compelled to make this article a tribute to Bob Letendre whose noble efforts behind the scenes made the event such a success. What many diners may not realize is that Bob and his helpers were working on the preparations for two weeks before the day the food was served, even longer if you

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consider that Bob brought cranberry sauce and other ingredients back from the States. Bob was in the kitchen working at seven a.m. on Thanksgiving day.

Don Mencl, our official event organizer and menu planner, also deserves a vote of thanks for putting it all together, and for helping with the decorations and cooking. Other volunteers, without whose help this event would not have been possible, were the people who baked the turkeys in their home ovens: the Sinons, Chuck Parsons, the Newbys, David Ruiz, the Mencls, and the Soileaus. Regis and Bruce helped with the shopping, and new member,

David Ruiz did a stint at the microphone, helping to prevent chaos. Thanks also to Al Klob, who tended the bar, and Maria Soileau, who helped serve the guests. Last, but not least, thanks to our two staff members, Lupita and Roscio, who not only set up the tables and did the decorations, but gave invaluable assistance in the kitchen, making salads and helping the cooks.

The merry season appears to have started with a bang this year. Let's hope it continues to be this successful through the New Year. We have several more exciting events planned for December, so don't go away folks!



*Martin and Debbie Weissman
enjoy a warm drink before lunch.*

Profile: David Ruiz

The son of a Mexican agricultural worker, David was born in Stockton, California. He has two younger sisters. He had a bicultural upbringing, a blend of his parents' Mexican traditions and the traditions of the United States, where he lived and attended school. The strength of his family helped overcome any hostility and racism he may have encountered in the United States. He says he grew up in a functional family in a dysfunctional world.

His father took the family back to Mexico for summer vacations, to help them become completely bilingual and learned more about their cultural identity.

His dream as a child was to become an architect. He used to make architectural drawings of his designs, complete with floor plans and everything, the whole layout.

David describes school as an adventure. Most of his classmates were Mexican, African, and Asian Americans. His favorite subject during his school years was science, specifically electronics. Although he didn't fulfill that dream to become an architect professionally, he did graduate from San Jose State University with a degree in engineering. His timing was perfect; it wasn't long before he was working in Silicon Valley, where he was employed for several years at Apple Computer.

The greatest tragedy in David's life was the loss of his parents, his father many years ago at the age of forty-seven, and his mother this year at ninety-one.

David is very proud of his children, two girls and two boys. The younger ones now live with their mother in Texas, although he goes to see them every chance he gets.

The greatest regret in David's life is that he didn't follow his dream and become an architect. The quality he feels he lacks and would like to have is patience. At the end of his life, he would like to know he had made a difference.

David believes that it is important to listen to one's inner voice, to open up new channels of the mind.

One of his pet peeves is people who are too lazy to live up to their potential and abilities.

David thinks that AmSoc members and other expatriots living in Mexico would get much more pleasure out of the experience if we participated more in the Mexican culture.

From my conversations with David, I know he will be a great asset to our club and his presence among us will enrich all our lives.

Warm Wishes to Martin Weissman

Martin is currently in hospital with heart-related problems. We'll be thinking of you, Marty and Debbie and wishing you a speedy return to good health!

Board of Directors Meeting November 8, 2006

Meeting called to order at 10:30 AM, Ann Whiting presiding
Present: Bob Letendre, Don Mencl, Bruce Newby, Frank Raimo, Regis Soileau, Ann Whiting, Vicki Wootton
Absent: Sergio Garcia, Walter Januszko

1. **Treasurer's Report** The Halloween lunch brought in a good return, and rental income is up. The revenue from the Friday Social is down a little this month.
2. **Election of officers** The Annual General Meeting and election of officers will be held on Sunday, November 26 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM.
Nominees: Bob Fields (write-in), Sergio Garcia, Bob Letendre, Don Mencl, Bruce Newby, Frank Raimo, David Ruiz, Regis Soileau, Ann Whiting, Vicki Wootton.
Anyone wishing to be on the board should submit his/her name before November 15th.
It was noted that we should make a public announcement of this event in the Reporter at least one week before the meeting.
3. **Advertising** Ann reported that Lloyds is willing to pay for two AmSoc ads in the Guadalajara Reporter starting in 2007.
4. **Christmas Bazaar** Don Mencl is in charge of organizing a Christmas bazaar and book sale. It will take place on December 9, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
We will advertise in the Reporter as soon as possible, asking for donations and vendors to rent tables. Table rental will be a 25 peso donation.
We will also invite vendors from the American Legion yard sale to participate.
5. **Christmas Posada** Will be held on December 20 starting at noon. Salvation Army Orphans Choir will be invited to entertain guests.
Menu: Fresh ham, scalloped potatoes, almond green beans, salad, pie.
David Ruiz has volunteered to be "Santa". We will need to get a "Santa" costume.
6. **Holidays for the staff** approved for November 20 and December 1.
7. **Brochures** Discussion of updating brochures for photocopying. Vicki to work on it.
8. Discussion on the necessity of making AmSoc more friendly and welcoming to newcomers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Quotes

The holy passion of friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money.

Mark Twain

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forward.

Sören Kierkegaard

A fool must now and then be right, by chance

William Cowper

Hoorah for Mexicans!

Kitty Michiel

For the many years when I lived in New York, I felt sadness and joy as one Christmas event approached: the lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. The tree was always beautiful and majestic, the lighting a real joy, however, I could not forget that I was looking at a dead tree. A huge tree that, after growing for maybe a hundred plus years, had been cut down, taken from its natural habitat, set down amongst buildings that dwarfed it, and adorned with electric lights, just for people to look at it for a few weeks.

I am not an environmental activist and I understood that when the season was over the tree would be used for practical purposes, just as many other trees are, but I always thought that in America with so many materials from which a tree can be created, why then use a real one for this kind of exhibition?

So, I was pleasantly surprised, this November, my first in Guadalajara, when I saw at Plaza del Sol what was obviously the beginning of the construction of a huge artificial Christmas tree. In my daily visits to the *plaza*, I saw it grow into a beautiful green pine, much taller than the buildings surrounding it, bearing gifts and lights that create feelings of joy, because we know the tree "grew" there, at the mall. That is what makes me say: "Hurrah for the Mexicans!" The ceremony of the lighting of the tree, on the last weekend of November, was such a joyful event.

Recipe of the Month

Eggnog

2 cups milk
1 cup whipping cream
1/2 tsp. vanilla
2 egg
3 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. each cinnamon and nutmeg
1 shot of rum or brandy

Whip the cream, egg white and vanilla until it is thick, like whipped cream. In a separate bowl, combine the egg yolk, sugar, spices, milk and liquor. Beat until well mixed. Slowly add the milk mixture to the cream mixture with your beater on low, until all are combined. This is the BEST eggnog you will ever have! (Source: Yahoo!Answers)

Notices & Announcements

Passports

Remember that, as of January 1, 2007, passports will be required for all Americans entering the United States. Applications forms are available at the AmSoc clubhouse and can be submitted to the US Consulate in Guadalajara for processing.

AA Meetings at AmSoc

AA meetings are held in the Parrot Cage on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 6:00 pm.

Salud Integral

Physiotherapy · Massage Therapy
Anti-stress · Rehabilitation
Sciatica · Sprains
Reflexology · Bioenergetics
Pain Management · Post-surgery Therapy

Terapeuta: Leticia (Leti) Rodrugues

Tel: 044-333-103-2528

San Francisco 3332, Chapalita

The Memorial Society

Information desk open Mondays at AmSoc from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Enrollment: AmSoc Members: \$250 pesos
Non-Members; \$300 pesos

Costs of Services:

Donation of remains to Med School \$400 US
Cremation: \$500 US

Funeral Home: Capillas San Miguel

Notary: Ruben Alberto Santana

AmSoc Representative: Chuck Parsons

The Memorial Society needs volunteers to work the information desk on Mondays.

Bus Routes & Schedules Online:

<http://sistecozome.jalisco.gob.mx/rutas.html>



Loretta Eisbrenner and friends waiting to be served

DECEMBER CALENDAR

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Open House 7:00 – 10:00 PM <i>Children Welcome!</i>	2 Aerobics 9:00
4 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	5	6 Aerobics 9:00	7 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	8 Social Friday 7:00	9 Aerobics 9:00
11 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	12	13 Aerobics 9:00 Board Meeting 10:30!	14 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	15 Social Friday 7:00	16 Aerobics 9:00
18 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	19	20 Christmas Posada 12:00 – 3:30 PM	21 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	22 Social Friday 7:00	23 Aerobics 9:00
25 Aerobics 9:00 Lunch 12:30	26	27 Aerobics 9:00	28 Lunch 12:30 Games 1:00 – 4:00	29 Social Friday 7:00	30