

# The Voice



June 2006 Edition

## The American Society of Jalisco

San Francisco 3332  
Colonia Chapalita  
Guadalajara · Jalisco  
Tel: (33) 3121-2395  
email:  
[amsoc@megared.net.mx](mailto:amsoc@megared.net.mx)

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Editor: Vicki Wootton  
Tel: (33) 3634-9421  
Email:  
[la.inglesa@gmail.com](mailto:la.inglesa@gmail.com)  
Contributor: Dave Landes

## Discoveries

### French Crepes

A little bit of Paris right here in Guadalajara.

Located in Plaza del Sol is a delightful cafe with *French Crepes* and assorted baguettes. You can experience both the sweet and the savory sandwich-type crepes, and an assortment of sandwich fillings and breads. The crepe batter and assorted fillings remind one of the streets of Paris. There is another *French Crepes* at the corner of Teranova and Eulogio Parra.

The owner is Canadian and his wife Mexican, therefore, we are treated to French crepes in Mexico via Canada.

Debbie Weissman

## Mother's Day Lunch

### By Dave Landes

On Wednesday, May 17, AmSoc's monthly luncheon celebrated Mother's Day with a meal Momma would have been pleased to serve. Chefs, Lupita Elizando and Roscia Huerta, started the taste treat with a fresh garden salad featuring several types of lettuce mixed with a variety of sliced, shredded and diced fresh vegetables, accompanied by salad dressings for every taste.

The main course was sweet and sour pork chunks with delicious fried rice. The aroma drifting from the kitchen into the dining room was worth the price of admission. The sweet ending to this palate-pleaser was lemon custard cake washed down with coffee, tea, or bar drinks.

Once more, we offer our compliments and thanks to the Lupita and Roscio for a fine performance.

## July Picnic

The Independence Day picnic is planned for Sunday, July 9, 2006 at the American Legion Post in Las Fuentes. More information will be posted as it becomes available.

Looking ahead to the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, raffle tickets are now on sale at the AmSoc clubhouse reception desk. Prizes have already started arriving: the latest in electronic items, weekends for two at resort hotels, restaurant meals for two, and many more. Tickets are \$10 pesos each or a book of eleven for \$100. For more information, or if you would like to donate a prize, telephone AmSoc: 3121-2395 Monday to Friday between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm.

## Stupid People Awards

[*Kalamazoo Gazette*] James Burns, 34, of Alamo, MI was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police described as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while he hung underneath so that he could find source of a troubling noise. Burns's clothes caught on something, however, and the driver found him "wrapped in the drive shaft."

[*UPI Toronto*] Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto Skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was demonstrating the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Peter Lawyers, managing partner of the firm, Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man firm.

# Approaching Global Crisis

## The future is now

One AmSoc member told me he thought this subject was boring, and besides everybody knows about it already. In my opinion, this does not detract from the gravity of the problems, nor does it mean we should ignore them if there is something we can do personally to alleviate them. I do not intend to just delineate the problems; I want to offer simple ideas that do not require great sacrifices. Although the suggestions won't make a lot of difference, we have to begin somewhere, before it's too late. After all, this is our children's future we are gambling with.

No one can deny that the planet is under severe pressure; the evidence is all around us. The contaminated air we breathe, soaring fuel prices, hunger and poverty, the increasing severity of natural disasters, are but a few examples. The BBC News in its program *Planet Under Pressure* outlined the six areas where experts agree that a crisis is brewing:

**Food:** An estimated 1 in 6 people in the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition while attempts to grow food are damaging large areas of productive land.

- **Water:** By 2025, two-thirds of the world's people are likely to be living in areas of acute water shortage.
- **Energy:** Oil production could peak and supplies start to decline by 2010.
- **Climate change:** The world's greatest environmental challenge ... with increased storms, floods, drought and species losses predicted.
- **Biodiversity:** Many scientists think the Earth is now entering its sixth great extinction phase.
- **Pollution:** Hazardous chemicals are now found in the bodies of all new-born babies, and an estimated one in four people worldwide are exposed to unhealthy concentrations of air pollutants.

None of these problems can be tackled in isolation—they are all interrelated—solving one will not help much without solving the others.

We must start to live within the planet's means, which need not condemn us to giving up what we now assume we need for a full life, just to sharing it. The challenge we face is not about feeling guilty for our consumption or virtuous for being "green" —it is about the growing recognition that, as the population of this planet, we stand or fall together. Ingenuity and technology continue to offer hope of a better world. But they can only do so much, the rest is up to us. So what can we do? Let's take the problems one by one.

## Food

Thirty thousand children under the age of five die every day from hunger and preventable diseases.

In 2003, 842 million people did not have enough to eat, a third of them in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Hunger and malnutrition kill ten million people a year, twenty-five thousand a day—one life extinguished every five seconds.

The problem is not so much that we don't have enough land to produce the food the world needs, but that we use it ineffectively and inefficiently. For example, ten times as many people can be fed if land is used to produce crops rather than being given over to raising meat animals. Consider this:

- Thirty-four percent of world grain supplies are fed to livestock reared for meat;
- a cow eats 700-800lbs of fodder per month (its own weight);
- it takes approximately 15,000 lbs of feed to produce 450 - 500 lbs of meat.

In addition, animal grazing contributes to soil degradation—often leading to desertification, loss of productive land—and it pollutes waterways and ground-water. Soil degradation has already reduced global agricultural productivity by thirteen percent in the last half-century.

A key element in food production is water. The seventeen percent of cropland that is irrigated produces an estimated thirty to forty percent of all crops, but in many countries there will be progressively less water available for agriculture. Many of these are poor countries, where irrigation could boost crop yields by up to four hundred percent.

The sheer amount of the Earth we need to produce our food is having an enormous impact. Globally, we have taken over about twenty-six percent of the planet's land area (roughly 3.3 billion hectares) for cropland and pasture, replacing a third of its temperate and tropical forests and a quarter of its natural grasslands.

Furthermore, much of our food is transported over long distances, an inefficient practice requiring high fuel consumption and exacerbating other problems such as pollution and the waste of diminishing energy resources.

## What can we do?

We can eat local, seasonal food whenever possible, it is fresher and more nutritional than that shipped from afar, and we can cut back on the amount of meat we consume. Even making a commitment to having one meat-free day a week would help. We can conserve water by taking fewer and shorter showers, and by using "grey water" to irrigate the garden. **Vicki Wootton**

## Quotes

*The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.*

Paul Valery

*The world is my country, all mankind are my brethren, and to do good is my religion.*

Thomas Paine

*Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body*

Joseph Addison

## Technology

### Robot Vacuum Cleaners

Excerpted from [howstuffworks.com](http://howstuffworks.com)

There are many models of robotic vacuums available today, ranging in price from \$70 to \$1,800. These vacuuming robots are typically low-slung and compact—some as low as 3.5”—meaning they can get under furniture that a regular upright vacuum cleaner can't

Most manufacturers will tell you that a robotic vacuum is meant to supplement a standard, human-pushed vacuum cleaner, not replace it, however, if you're one of those people who hate vacuuming, a robot is better than nothing.

You typically need to empty the dirt bin at least once for each room the robot vacuums, and possibly two or three times depending on how dirty your floors are. It doesn't know when the bin is full—it just keeps going. There's also a filter needs replacing when it gets too clogged, but there's no vacuum bag—you just dump the bin and put it back in the unit.

As far as cleaning power goes, some cleaners have as much suction as a standard upright, although tests found that they clean quite well on hardwoods and linoleum, and pick up a good amount of the dirt and pet hair on low- and medium-pile carpet.

Robot vacuum cleaners use acoustic impact sensors to decide which areas need extra cleaning. When the agitator kicks up a large amount of dirt, the dirt causes more vibration when it hits the metal plates of the sensors. The sensors detect that increase and tell it to go over the area again. To make the transition between floor types, the cleaning deck (which houses the agitator setup) automatically adjusts its height when it senses a half-inch rise in the floor surface.

### Robotic Vacuum Models

#### Lentek RV01 IntelliVac

Cost: \$70. It has a sweeper attachment for hardwoods and four built-in cleaning patterns. This model is only meant for tile, hardwood, and low-pile carpet.

#### iRobot Discovery 4210

Cost: \$280. Has self-charging base station that calls the robot home, takes less than three hours to charge, has a larger dust bin than previous models and will clean a single area as long as necessary.

#### iRobot Roomba Scheduler

Cost: \$320. This model lets you set cleaning cycles in advance.

#### Electrolux Trilobite EL520A

Cost: \$1,800. It uses sonar to navigate and avoid obstacles. Programmable to clean on schedule and in three cleaning modes. Creates a map of room and calculates a cleaning path that will maximize coverage. When it runs out of power, it returns itself to the charging station and resumes cleaning once it is recharged.

## Notices & Ads

### Wanted

**2 BR unfurnished** apartment with fridge & stove. Clean & quiet. Close to AmSoc. Not more than \$4,000 per month. Call Vicki: 3634-9421.

### The Voice by email

If you would like to receive your copy of the Voice by email, please send your request to this address: [la.inglesa@gmail.com](mailto:la.inglesa@gmail.com)

### Help Wanted

I am in desperate need of English teachers for my school as well as workers for our new marketing and real estate business. [www.RentGlobe.com](http://www.RentGlobe.com)  
Email: [michaelraye@rentglobe.com](mailto:michaelraye@rentglobe.com)

### English AA

Meeting times: Mon., Wed., Fri. at 6:00 pm  
Address: Alcamo 3077 between Yaquis and Pablo Cassals, Col. Providencia.  
Tel. Group - 3601-1179, Info. - Matt 3944-6430

## *Father's Day Luncheon*

Saturday, June 17 at 1:30 pm

Bar opens at noon

### *Menu*

Salad · Barbequed Ribs · Baked Potatoes

Tickets: \$150 at door · \$90 in advance

# JUNE CALENDAR

| Monday   | Tuesday                   | Wednesday   | Thursday                                      | Friday   |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|
|  |                           |   | <b>1</b><br>Lunch 12:30<br>Games 1:00 – 4:00  | <b>2</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>US Mail pickup 11:00<br>Social Friday 7:00  |
| <b>5</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00<br>Lunch 12:30  | <b>6</b><br>Board Meeting | <b>7</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00  | <b>8</b><br>Lunch 12:30<br>Games 1:00 – 4:00  | <b>9</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>US Mail pickup 11:00<br>Social Friday 7:00  |
| <b>12</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00<br>Lunch 12:30 | <b>13</b>                 | <b>14</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00 | <b>15</b><br>Lunch 12:30<br>Games 1:00 – 4:00 | <b>16</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>US Mail pickup 11:00<br>Social Friday 7:00 |
| Saturday, June 17 · Father's Day Luncheon · 1:30 PM                |                           |   |   |  |
| <b>19</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00<br>Lunch 12:30 | <b>20</b>                 | <b>21</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00 | <b>22</b><br>Lunch 12:30<br>Games 1:00 – 4:00 | <b>23</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>US Mail pickup 11:00<br>Social Friday 7:00 |
| <b>26</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00<br>Lunch 12:30 | <b>27</b>                 | <b>28</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>Spanish lessons 11:00 | <b>29</b><br>Lunch 12:30<br>Games 1:00 – 4:00 | <b>30</b><br>Aerobics 9:00<br>US Mail pickup 11:00<br>Social Friday 7:00 |