



The Voice

Newsletter of the American Society of Jalisco, A.C.
September 2009 Edition

The American Society of Jalisco, A.C.
La Sociedad Americana de Jalisco
A.C.

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The cost of ads and announcements in The Voice is a donation to AmSoc of \$25 pesos per month for members or \$50 for non-members.

Unattributed Photos
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Meet Daniel Keller, the New Consul General

The new U.S. Consul General, Dan Keller and his wife Mingchen were guests at AmSoc's celebration of Mexican Independence on Saturday, September 19. They are a charming couple, relaxed, intelligent, and friendly.



We talked a little about their experiences in the Consular Service; however the most interesting story was about how Mr. Keller got into the service.

He met his wife while at University in Omaha, Nebraska, where Mingchen Liao was also a student. After they were married, his wife suggested they take a trip to Taiwan. That was all it took for Mr. Keller to discover that he loved travelling abroad even though he hadn't, until then, travelled very far from his Minnesota birthplace.

They stayed on in Taiwan for a time while Mr. Keller studied Chinese and gave classes at the University. Eventually, Mr. Keller heard of a job that would allow him to travel and live all over the world, not only that, he would be paid for it. This was an opportunity he couldn't pass up so he applied and was accepted in the Foreign Service of the U.S. State Department.

They have since lived and worked in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In the meantime, they had three children who grew up all over the world and eventually left for University.

Until he was transferred to Madrid, Mr. Keller's favorite posting was Moscow where he and his wife were able to see and hear some of the finest musical performances in the world. Tickets were inexpensive, the theaters were nearby, and the performers, which included the Bolshoi Ballet, were first class.

After Moscow, their next posting was Madrid. They found Spain enchanting with such a rich culture and history that it soon fell in love with the country and its people.

It is obvious that the Kellers are great representatives of their country. It's not hard to see that they are truly interested in and enthusiastic about the counties in which they serve. In his response to Ann Whiting's welcoming speech, Mr. Keller said he found the Tapatios to be very warm friendly people, and that the Mariachi performances here were the best he has seen or heard anywhere. The new Consul General stated that he hopes to help strengthen business and cultural ties between Mexico and the United States.



Let's hope we will see more of the Kellers in the next three years, and that they come to enjoy Guadalajara as much as their other favorite places.

Office Manager, Lupita Elizondo

Everyone at AmSoc sends you our sincerest condolences in your time of sorrow for the loss of your mother.

AmSoc Celebrates

September has been a month for celebrations at AmSoc.



Aurelia Vega and Luz Maria Tafolla

First we had the Labor Day Barbecue on the 5th which took place in the afternoon and was attended by 55 people. The menu comprised barbecued chicken and salad, followed by ice-cream.

Jim Watkins, Jim Armstrong, and Keith Byall worked on the barbecue while Lupita Elizondo and Rocio Huerta did the setup and prepared the salads.



Labor Day Buffet

Mexican Independence Day Party

More than fifty people turned up at AmSoc on Saturday night, September 19 to celebrate Mexican independence. We were happy to be able to welcome a large number of Mexicans, many of whom came in traditional Mexican costumes.

The Guests of Honor were the new Consul General, Dan Keller and his wife, Mingchen.

Many thanks to Enrique Rochin for steadfastly sitting by the entrance to greet guests and sell tickets.

A supper of traditional Pozole was served with all the trimmings, and guests were entertained with live music, including a local Mariachi singer, Ricardo Gonzalez.



Isabel & su papá Enrique Rochin

Many thanks to organizers Mikki Frech and her English group, also Jim Armstrong, Reg and Maria Soileau, and everyone who helped prepare the food and decorate the room.



Katherine and Alfredo Gonzalez Briones & Maria Martha Garcia Lopez

Guadalajara Outings

Hospicio Cabañas - Instituto Cultural Cabañas

Guadalajara's **Hospicio Cabañas**, which is a World Heritage Site, is one of the oldest and largest hospital complexes in Spanish America.

Founded in 1791 by the Bishop of Guadalajara, it was designed to combine the functions of a work-house, hospital, orphanage, and almshouse. It owes its name to Juan Ruiz de Cabañas who was appointed to the See of Guadalajara in 1796. The Bishop engaged Manuel Tolsá, a

renowned architect from Mexico City, to design the structure.

Tolsá's design was based on classic examples such as Les Invalides in Paris and El Escorial near Madrid. The complex was built on one level, to facilitate the movement of the sick, the aged, and children.



Plaza Tapatia facing the Hospicio Cabañas. Photo: Master Gerai

Following the death of Cabañas in 1823, construction continued until 1829. Although it served for a time as a barracks in the mid-19th century, the hospital lasted well into the 20th century and continued to function until 1980.

The Cabañas Cultural Institute (*Instituto Cultural*), with its affiliated schools for arts and crafts, took over the building in 1980.

The highlight of the interior decoration is a series of monumental frescoes by José Clemente Orozco, including one of his most famed creations, the allegory of *The Man of Fire* (1936-39).



Orozco Murals: Photo by Paco Juarez

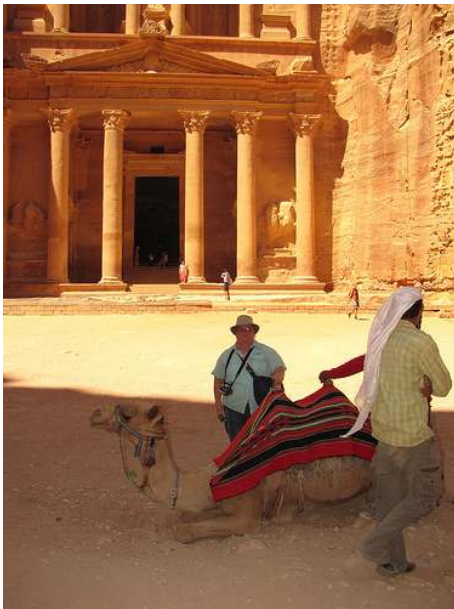
Wonders of the World

Photos and article by Pauline Van Havere

Ever wanted to transport back in time and walk the streets of a 1st century Roman city? Ever wanted to ride an Arabian horse through a steep gorge to the "Lost City of Petra" - as Harrison Ford did as Indiana Jones in *The Last Crusade*? Ever wanted to ride

in a camel caravan in the Sahara Desert? Ever wanted to cruise along the Nile River? Gaze upon 10 meter high statues of Ramses II? Gaze at the pyramids? Talk to the Sphinx?

This was *exactly* what took place in my recent vacation. We started off by walking through Hadrian's Arch in Jerash, Jordan. Yes! There were Roman cities in Jordan and this is one of the best preserved. Our guide had warned us that we would be traveling in time and he certainly did not exaggerate. Every step along the richly colonnaded Roman street took us further back in time, to temples of Zeus and Artemis, to theatres, and fountains. It was enchanting.



Our next major stop in Jordan was far south in the desert, at the famous "Lost" City of Petra. Bedouin guides with flashing eyes led us on Arabian horses to the "siq"—the spectacular narrow gorge in red sandstone rock leading to Petra. The walk through the siq was an adventure in itself but the site of the first of the ancient city's buildings left us all speechless. The buildings were not "constructed", they were "carved" *into* the living red sandstone cliffside.

The city was stunning as we walked amid the camels, donkeys, and horses that robed Bedouins hopefully offered up as transport.

However it was not until we arrived in Cairo that we mounted our own camels for a sloughing ride through the sands of the Sahara desert. Let me assure you that mounting a camel is not an experience for the faint of heart—nor is staying astride once mounted and moving. To mount you

must swing your leg up chest high over the saddle of the camel that is waiting patiently with long legs folded intricately under his body. Once you get seated, the camel handler guides the camel to stand, which it does by jerking forward and backward till all the joints of its long legs are unfolded and straight. It's a *long* way up there! Stirrups, you ask? No señoras, no señores, not on the models we rode!

Our next mode of transportation was much more elegant—a riverboat cruise along the Nile River. We stopped at various ancient temples and finally took a bus to Abu Simbel, the phenomenal monument to Pharaoh Ramesses II and Queen Nefertari. The monument itself is outstanding but the incredible effort to move it in its entirety has turned this into a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Using yet another mode of transport we flew back to Cairo to be further dazzled by the Great Pyramids of Giza. You simply can*not* appreciate the enormous scale of the pyramids until you have stood on one of the many rows of enormous stones.

And although the nearby Sphinx was looking worn, it was just that wear which brought home the antiquity of the monument. Viewing the Sphinx was a very appropriate finale to this stunning trip.

Ed: Here are some links to additional information:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerash>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwX3ui0fnDM>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Simbel

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_pyramid_of_giza

Quotes of the Month

A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization.

Dr. Samuel Johnson

Walk tall as the trees; live strong as the mountains; be gentle as the spring winds; keep the warmth of the summer sun in your heart, and the Great Spirit will always be with you.

Native American Proverb

The surest defense against evil is extreme individualism, originality of thinking, whimsicality, even, if you will, eccentricity... Evil is a sucker for solidity. It always goes for big numbers, for confident granite, for ideological purity, for drilled armies and balanced sheets.

Joseph Brodsky (Russian Poet)

Al principio, los hábitos son como hilos de telaraña, después como cables.

Jim Ryun

Ads – Anuncios

The cost of ads and announcements in The Voice is a donation to AmSoc of \$25 pesos per month for members and \$50 for non-members.

Over-eaters Anonymous

12-step program for compulsive eating. Group is self-supporting from member contributions. No fees or dues. Meetings are upstairs in Louise Mattos's office.

Every Saturday 11 a.m. – 12 noon
Contact: Daryl 33-3507-4746

Salud Integral

Physiotherapy • Massage Therapy

Stress Management
Rehabilitation

Sciatica • Sprains

Reflexology • Bioenergetics

Pain Management
Post-surgery Therapy

Rehabilitación post-cirugía

*Masaje relajamiento
Manejo del dolor*

Reflexología • Depilación laser

**Terapeuta: Leticia (Leti)
Rodriguez**

Tel: 044-333-103-2528

San Francisco 3332, Chapalita

FOR RENT

All prices in pesos

House Calle Rinconada de Almeria # 1452 Fraccto las Alamedas, 2 BR, 2 stories, 1.5 baths, parking \$4,000/mo.

House Calle Saino #1490-9, Fracc Haciendas Tepeyac. 2 BR, 1.5 baths, 2 stories, parking 1 car, \$3,800/mo.

House Calle Espada # 1462-16 Fracc Haciendas Tepeyac. 2 BR, 1 bath, 1 floor, parking 1 car, \$3,700/mo.

All these rentals require 1 month's rent plus a deposit, a co-signer with property, also personal local references.

Call: **Judy Becker** at 3684-8480 or **Jerry Dankner** at 3133-6520

Bilingual Service & Information

Comprehensive help for visitors and newcomers to Mexico

Help working with government agencies

Rental or purchase of property
General maintenance and repairs

Carlos Ruiz Checa

*AmSoc Member

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044-33-3153-9888

Email: caruche@hotmail.com

www.caruche.com

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 & Ninos Heroes

Humor

One day a little girl noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair among the dark brown. She asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

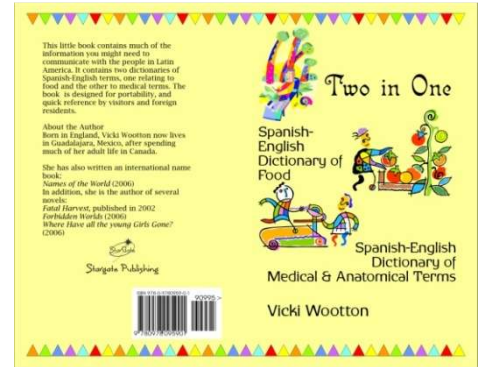
The little girl thought about this for a while and then asked, "Mommy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white

Mexican Independence Day Celebration



Two in One: Spanish-English Dictionary of Food & Medical Terms

by Vicki Wootton



On sale at AmSoc for \$80 pesos
A percentage of sales is donated to AmSoc

Wanted to Rent

2 BR apartment or small house in a quiet location, not more than 3km from AmSoc. Must receive plenty of light and have ample cupboards and closets. Rent under \$4,100/mo.

Call **Vicki at 3647-6232**

Weekly Calendar of Activities

Note time change for aerobics

Monday Breakfast 9:00 am
Aerobics **8:30** am

Tuesday Breakfast 9:00 am

Wednesday Breakfast 9:00 am
Aerobics **8:30**

Thursday Breakfast 9:00 am
Lunch 12 - 1 pm
Games afternoon

Friday Breakfast 9:00 am
Aerobics **8:30** am
Social 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Breakfast 9:00
English group 1:00
Toastmasters 1:00

Lupita: queremos darle nuestras más sinceras condolencias por el fallecimiento de su mamá.

Use of Passport Card on the Rise

Would you like a more convenient and less expensive document to use when entering the United States by land? The US passport card is a wallet size card that will allow you to enter the United States at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry (i.e., not by air) from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. The production of the U.S. passport card began on July 14, 2008, and to date over 1 million cards have been issued. Passport cards already account for about one-third of all crossings on the U.S.-Mexico border.



The card has the same period of validity as the U.S. Passport Book: 10 years for an adult and 5 years for minors under age 16. The card costs 45 dollars for a first-time adult passport applicant and 35 dollars for all minor applicants under age 16. Adults who already have a fully valid passport book may apply for the card and pay only 20 dollars. Processing times are similar to those of a passport book.

To increase speed, efficiency, and security at U.S. land and sea border crossings, the passport card contains a radio frequency identification (RFID) chip. This chip directs Customs and Border Protection inspectors to a stored record in secure government databases. There is no personal information contained in the RFID chip itself. With RFID technology, inspectors will be able to access photographs and other biographical information stored in secure government databases as the traveler approaches an inspection station.

The passport card uses state-of-the-art security features to prevent against the possibility of counterfeiting and forgery. In addition, a protective, RFID-blocking sleeve is provided with each passport card to protect against unauthorized reading or tracking of the card when it is not in use.