



The Voice



The American Society of Jalisco A.C.
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2016 AmSoc Events Schedule

September 15: Mexican Independence Day. The meal includes Chamorro (pork shank), beans, rice, salad, and flan for dessert. The cost is \$150 per ticket.

October 27: Halloween / Octoberfest

November 24: Thanksgiving Feast

December 15: Down Home Christmas Feast

And on a weekly basis...

Thursday, scrumptious Luncheon / Monday and Wednesday, morning exercises and evening AA meetings / Tuesday and Friday, evening AA meetings / Saturday, English conversation class. / 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cancer & Health Support Group.

Links

Our own AmSoc Website:

<http://amsocguadalajara.org/>

Lucky Dog Rescue in Ajijic:

<http://luckydogmx.weebly.com/>

Pintrest:

<https://es.pinterest.com/>



Meet & Greet! We need a volunteer for the fun and rewarding front desk receptionist position at the club house ASAP! The hours are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm every Friday (only once a week.) Call (33) 3121-2395 or e-mail amsocial@gmail.com.



Show us Your Publishing Skills! If you enjoy reading, writing, and researching, we need a volunteer to take over the production of the weekly BLAST and/ or the monthly VOICE newsletter. It's not as hard as you might think and I can step you through the process. It just takes time. Please let me know if you are interested. Call me at (33) 1955-2469 or e-mail me@terisaya.com.



Teri

Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

Time for more false cognates and partial cognates. For those who are new, a cognate is a word that means the same thing in both languages (whatever languages) though it often spelled slightly differently. They also are almost always pronounced differently. **That's why when you read something in Spanish, you discover that there are words you understand but aren't really in your Spanish vocabulary yet. The little word "móvil" does mean mobile, but it also can be used in Spanish to mean "motive". Probably the most common word used in Spanish for "motive" is "motive", however, which is a cognate. Are you confused yet? Okay, I'll try harder.**

Though this is not about cognates, it is interesting. In any language, some words change meanings over time. If you ever had to read Beowulf in the original language (old English) and struggled with spelling and meaning, you know what I mean. One example I remember is in the older versions of the King James Bible. I Thessalonians 4:15, which **talks about the rapture of believers, and says "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."** Our 21st century minds wonder how we could "prevent" that happening. However, back when the KJV was translated close to 500 years ago, "prevent" meant "precede" (go before). A Spanish example could be "embarazada", which we looked at in one of the first columns. If any of you read novels based on the settling of the American west, you may have noticed that being pregnant was considered an embarrassing thing, and wearing clothing that hid the 'bump' was common. **Sometimes families did not even tell their children another child was coming. Apparently, the same was true years ago in Spanish. Over time, "embarazada" came to mean "pregnant", and even though the dictionary lists the use of "embarazada" as being "embarrassed" as the final meaning, it is seldom used in that general sense. I would love to hear about other Spanish words that have gone through this type of evolution – but please give details, not just the word.**

One final thing. In November, 2015, I did a column that included the verb "hacer" meaning both "to make" and "to do". If anyone has a definitive website or other resource that explains when to use

which English verb and why, I would like to hear about it. Just send an email to [Teri](#) (lady that sends you The Voice), and she will forward it to me.

If you are on Facebook, be sure to check out the group "[English is Illogical](#)". Among other things, you will see old "The Voice" columns. Enjoy the jokes and puzzle over the serious articles. ☺



Swearing & Curses

by Pauline Van Havere

"She followed like a bruised shadow." OK, that's neither swearing nor cursing; it's a lovely little word picture from [The Paris Winter](#) by Imogen Robertson – quite a good read. Franklyn would enjoy the word play. Diane would enjoy the historical perspective. Cam will enjoy a book referral.

But it reminded me of this interesting curse: "Oh for the godforsaken mercy of the twice-bugged mother of Christ!" from [The Signature of All Things](#) by Elizabeth Gilbert. I nearly choked when I read that. Outside of this quote it's an intriguing story that I'd recommend to anyone. (There's another referral for you Cam.)

Letting my mind cavort about since that's what it appeared to want to do, the content of French Canadian swearing popped up. Things like: Tabernac and Sacre Bleu which simply mean "Tabernacle" (or the box on an altar containing the host) and "Holy Blue". Obviously the strict Roman Catholic training kept a tight rein on expletives.

Many common English swear words are four letter expletives related to sex. Some comedians and teenagers restrict their vocabulary to a minimal set of these little word-ettes. (palabritas? Maybe Bette will do a column on the ever-handy Spanish ita suffix.)

But I digress yet again. Next time you're really annoyed with someone but feel in the need for political correctness, you can simply say: "I have a thought for you which involves sex and travel."

There! Isn't it good to read about something that's NOT violent, racist, sordid or depressing? I'm inspired by Anne Murray who used to sing: "Sure could use a little good news today." ☺

Nuggets from Cyber Space

Interesting Short Articles Found on the Internet



Why 4 Feet, 8.5 Inches is Very Important

Railroad Tracks: The U.S. Standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the U.S. Railroads.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did 'they' use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular Odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.



So, who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since.



And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot.

In other words, bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification, procedure, or process, and wonder, 'What horse's ass came up with this?', you may be exactly right.



Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses.

Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, you will notice that there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs.

The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit larger, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site.



The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important! Now you know, Horses' Asses control almost everything.

Explains a whole lot of stuff, doesn't it? 😊

AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Ann Whiting, John Griffin, Bruce Newby, Regis Soileau, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, Frank Rodriguez, Diane Golz, and Karen Ashby. Also attending were Doug Mattoon and Ioan Rotarescu.



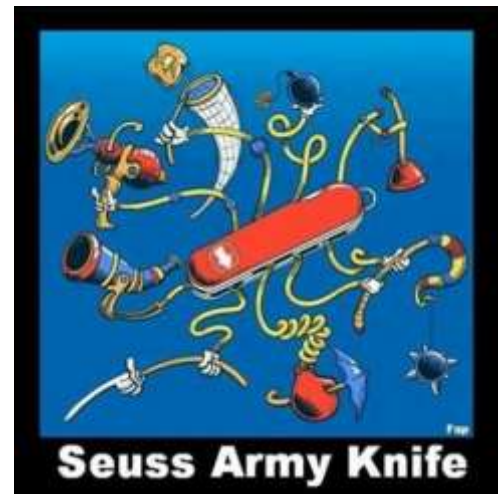
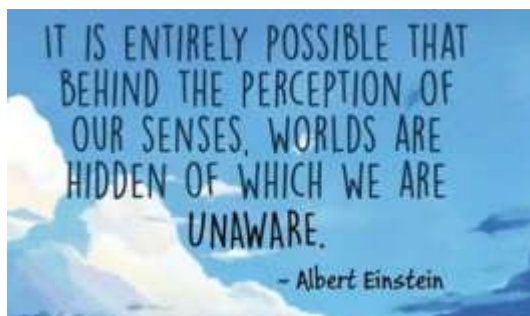
Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was presented and accepted by the board.

Committee Report: The American Society website has been transferred to the new WordPress platform. Profuse thanks to Teri Saya and Gail Early for their tireless work accomplishing this. Also many thanks to Teri for her weekly Blast and monthly Voice newsletters.

Old Business: Ann reported there are a few more legal requirements that need to be made prior to filing the addendum to the constitution with the appropriate authorities.

New Business:

- ◆ The present contract of accommodations for the Junior League, David Ruiz, Jose Luis Tedeo, the AA group, and Leticia Rodriguez will be extended to March of 2017.
- ◆ The Mexican Independence celebration will be held Thursday, September 15th. The meal includes chamorro (pork shank), beans, rice, salad, and flan and will cost \$150 per ticket.
- ◆ Lupita and Rocio will be off on Mexican Independence day, Friday, September 16.
- ◆ Nominations for the American Society Board will begin September 1.
- ◆ The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. 😊



The Clocks

Patricia Dygula sent me this little gem in an e-mail....enjoy.

A man died and went to Heaven.

As he stood in front of the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks on the other side. He asked, "What are all those clocks for?"



Saint Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone who has ever been on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock move.

"Oh", said the man. "Whose clock is that?"

"That's Mother Teresa's", replied Saint Peter. "The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie."

"Incredible", said the man. "And whose clock is that one?"

St. Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abraham told only two lies in his entire life."

"Where's Donald Trump's clock?" asked the man.

Saint Peter replied, "We're using it as a ceiling fan."



September 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			 New Moon 	1 AmSoc Lunch  12:30 - 1:30 Chicken Divan!	2 AA meeting 6 pm	3 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
4 AA Meeting 11:00 am	5  10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	6 AA meeting 6 pm	7 10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	8 AmSoc Lunch  12:30 - 1:30 BBQ Burgers!	9 AA meeting 6 pm	10 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
11  AA Meeting 11:00 am	12 10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	13 AA meeting 6 pm	14 10:00 am Exercise  1:00 Cancer & Health Support Group AA meeting 6 pm	15 Special Mex Independence Day AmSoc Lunch  12:30 - 1:30 Chamorro!	16  Full Moon Dia de la Independencia! AA meeting 6 pm	17 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
18 AA Meeting 11:00 am	19 10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	20 10:30 am, Monthly Board Meeting  AA meeting 6 pm	21 10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	22 AmSoc Lunch  12:30 - 1:30 First Day of Autumn!	23 AA meeting 6 pm	24 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
25 AA Meeting 11:00 am	26 10:00 am Exercise AA meeting 6 pm	27 AA meeting 6 pm	28 10:00 am Exercise  1:00 Cancer & Health Group Meeting AA meeting 6 pm	29 AmSoc Lunch  12:30 - 1:30	30  New Moon AA meeting 6 pm	

