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**MEET
MARALEE REINER**

Maralee comes from the Bay Area in California. She came to Sun City West in 2000 and planned to stay for a couple of years and possibly move on to Mexico. But times change and she is still here. Maralee majored in French and Spanish at UC Berkeley and received a Master's Degree from Middlebury College in Madrid.

With such emphasis on language it would seem she would have been a language teacher. Instead she has spent the majority of her career in the counseling field. Maralee also received a Ph.D. in Psychology from the Center of Psychological studies. She retired as a bilingual vocational consultant from *Maralee Reiner Associates* in 1997 and from California Healthcare in 2000.

Not one to sit idle after retirement, Maralee has been involved with numerous volunteer projects. In Contra Costa County, she was part of the Senior Peer Counseling program. In Phoenix, she participated at "Maggie's House," a residential program for single mothers and their children.

Currently, she is a participant in the Longevity Project sponsored by Sun Health and accepted a request to take over a Wednesday Spanish class offered by Club Español. Maralee also enjoys creative writing. Her last published short story was "His Little Darling," which was a spoof on a murder in a senior citizen community. Can you guess which one?

The Mission of the Spanish Club is to learn the language and appreciate the Latin culture through classes, cultural events and fiestas.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first time I was asked why I accepted the position as president of Club Español it caught me off guard. It seemed obvious to me, but it may not be to others, so let me explain.

MaryAnn Jasken and the people who worked with her clearly had a good grasp of how to organize and run a club. Club members all interact in a positive and friendly way, the fiestas are fun and help people meet one another, and the classes and discussion groups are organized into logical sequences and groups.

What attracted me most is the group of volunteers who worked with MaryAnn to make all this possible. All these events and activities don't just "happen." They're the result of a lot of commitment and work by a substantial group of people. And that's what really attracted me: a group of volunteers who willingly work together to make so much possible. They're creative, committed, and energetic. Club Español couldn't happen without them. When you voted for me, you voted for them, too.

FLAMENCO IN FEBRUARY

Friday, February 12, 2016
Shuffleboard Room



A LIVE FLAMENCO
GUITAR AND DANCE
PERFORMANCE

The trip to Spain in April is a historic event for the Club that shows what can happen when a member gets an idea and makes it a reality. Jim Khami had an idea that soon will become an event that all the participants will remember for the rest of their lives.

Finally, the diversity of the people and their willingness to share their stories and their thoughts on how to make the Club a more interesting, fun place to be is an important part of this. I think all of these reasons will come together to make 2016 one of Club Español's best years ever. And I hope you do, too.

-Travis Whitlow

DID YOU KNOW...that the Mayans developed their own version of penicillin to treat ulcers and some types of infectious diseases? They used a mold called "Cuxum" that grew on rotted corn, which they then roasted.



A NATIONAL COSTUME WITH A MESSAGE

Amid the flap over pageant host Steve Harvey's initially announcing the wrong winner of the Miss Universe contest, relatively few viewers may have paid attention to the eye-popping national costume worn by Iroshka Lindaly Elvir as Miss Honduras.

Those who did may have puzzled over the number of decorative skulls trailing behind in the gown's train and in the crown of her headdress. It turns out they have many layers of symbolism, touching on ancient culture, modern-day violence and even health care in Honduras.

The double meaning about cultural origins and present-day violence was probably no accident. On her Facebook page, Elvir is holding a sign that is a call for an independent, U.N.-appointed anti-corruption task force to be appointed for Honduras. The extremely high murder rate in Honduras is ranked as the highest in the world by the U.N.

So Miss Honduras managed to channel ancient Mayan culture, reference the country's current sky-high murder rates and gain public visibility for the cause of political reform, all through the unusual means of a beauty pageant costume.

And beauty pageants are a way of gaining visibility. Of course, you have to be beautiful to be a beauty queen, but the candidate, who represents a region or family or institution, wins only if her "team" sells the most tickets and raises the most money.

Tragically, the last beauty pageant winner in Honduras to gain international attention was 19-year-old Maria Jose Alvarado. In 2014, Maria was crowned Miss Honduras. But she and her sister, Sofia, were gunned down before she was to leave for London to compete in the Miss World beauty pageant. Sofia's boyfriend confessed to the murders, saying the motive was that she had danced with another man, press reports said. It is a really twisted irony that this costume [with its skulls] is used the year after that murder.



It's not exactly clear how much symbolism was intentional and how much was coincidental. And the TV viewing audience likely missed the point. But people in the Honduras heard the message of the skulls loud and clear.

Read the whole story at <http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/12/23/460700446/another-burning-miss-universe-query-why-did-miss-honduras-wear-skulls?sc=ipad&f=1001>

El Museo del Jamón

The Museo del Jamón in Madrid isn't a museum but a chain of bars that sells special ham backpacks for carrying a whole ham leg — hoof and all.

Spanish airports have special luggage rules for them. A leg of ham is the most popular family gift at Christmas.

Every self-respecting Spanish household has a *jamonera* — a kitchen countertop rack on which to mount and cut slices off a ham leg.



When the World Health Organization warned that eating 50 grams a day of processed meat — defined as including anything cured or salted, like Spanish ham — can raise your risk of cancer, Spaniards were aghast.

"It's the ingredient we use most in Spain — essential to our cooking and to our lives," says Jesus Engamo, a ham cutter, "We can't live without it!"

2016 CALENDAR

- Monday, January 4 Classes Begin
- Monday, January 11 NO Classes (Facility Maintenance)
- Tuesday, January 12 Beginning Spanish-Rosemary Bossert
In Sagebrush Rm on Jan 12
In Mesquite Rm thereafter
- Friday, January 22 Movie Night 7 PM, Agave Room
- Friday, February 12 Flamenco Fiesta Shuffleboard Rm
- Friday, February 26 Movie Night 7 pm, Agave Room
- Friday, March 18 Movie Night 7 pm, Agave Room
- Friday, April 15 Last Day of Regular Classes
- Friday, April 15 Movie Night 7 pm, Agave Room
- Friday, April 15-22 Set up Summer Schedule and Notify
Rec Center
- Friday April 22 Spring Fiesta, Shuffleboard Rm
5 PM set-up
- SUMMER SESSIONS to be determined
- Thursday, October 6 Fall Reunion and Registration
Presentation of Slate of Nominees
- Monday, October 10 Fall Classes Begin
- Wed-Fri. Nov. 23-25 Thanksgiving Break; no classes
- Friday, December 9 Holiday Dinner/Dance & Election
- Thurs, December 22nd Last class of 2016

THE SNOWBIRD SPECIAL IS COMING!

Beginning Spanish Level 1 is recommended for those who have never studied Spanish or who would like to review their beginning skills. The goal of this introductory class is to learn the Spanish alphabet, Spanish pronunciation and basic vocabulary and grammar with an emphasis on how to express oneself in the present tense. Listening and speaking will be emphasized.

THE DUES BLUES

It's that time of the year
When your Club dues appear
Pero icaramba! ¡qué pasa?
¡Yours are still in your casa!

You know who you are
Olivette's not that far
Un cheque en el correo
Y todo será bueno

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\$15