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Meet our new President
TRAVIS WHITLOW



Travis Whitlow is a native of the upper Midwest, having spent his formative years in Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. After a hitch in the Navy, he settled in the Chicago area in 1963, where he remained for the next 48 years.

Professionally, Travis started off as a telephone systems engineer, but soon realized that he wanted to work in a job that challenged his creative side. So he got into writing for a living, first as a technical writer and eventually as Manager, Corporate Communications for the A.C. Nielsen Company, the well-known television ratings firm.

When he retired in 2008, he and his wife Audrie set their sights on the Phoenix area. Because they had relatives in Sun City, they had been visiting the area for a number of years to attend various family functions and decided that the Sun City/Sun City West area is where they wanted to spend their retirement.

Travis joined Club Español in early 2012, just four months after arriving in Sun City West. "The opportunity for meeting new people while keeping my mind active just naturally appealed to me," said Travis. "And when the opportunity to become president came up, it just seemed like a natural. I'm looking forward to the upcoming year and building on the solid foundation left me by MaryAnn Jasken."

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

Spanish Reading Club

The book of the month is *Or I'll Dress You in Mourning* by Larry Collins and Dominique LaPierre. This is a story that traces the rise of Spanish matador El Cordobes from anonymous, impoverished boyhood to fame and multi-millionaire. Born into poverty, his father had to go to jail for his political ideas during the Spanish Civil War. His mother died shortly after and a year later, his father was released from jail and died in Cordoba. Reared in an orphanage, and working as a construction-worker and petty criminal, El Cordobes dreamed of being a bullfighter. *Or I'll Dress You in Mourning* tells his story.



This book is great on three levels: One, it has a spellbinding plot that can keep you up all night. Two, it teaches some Spanish history and bullfighting lore. Three, it makes you grateful for what you have and shows that with perseverance your dreams can come true. Thanks to Ed Zacko for recommending this book.



GPS TEACHER

In Destinos class we are reviewing the subjunctive and Joan refers to a command given in the program.

Automatically, I think: it is imperative so it is like the subjunctive except there is a variation in the "tú" form. So why do I know this? My teachers will all agree that at best, I am an average student! But, I have a secret teacher: my GPS turned to North American Spanish. For example, it says: "*Gira a la derecha en dos kilometres*". (turn right in two kilometers—don't worry, it also does miles). Or it says "*Toma la siguiente salida*" (take the next exit).

Constant repetition means that you develop easy recall of directions, useful for travel, and as a bonus, you hear the imperative form. It is interesting that the GPS uses the "tú" form, as the formal *Usted* appears to have disappeared in oral discourse. Or maybe it is just that the GPS treats me like a child!

El GPS: *Gira a la derecha en quinientos metros*. (turn right in 500 meters.)

El GPS: (reproachfully) *!Recalcular!* (recalculating)

Me: It wasn't my fault! There was a detour. (*i No fue mi culpa! Hubo un desvío.*)

El GPS: (urgently) *Cuando posible hace una vuelta*. (When possible, make a U turn)

Me: Really, I can't. (*Realmente, no puedo.*)

El GPS: (pause) *Gira a la izquierda*

Me: *!Claro! vámonos!*



- Colleen Parrish



HASTA LUEGO

I've been told that in Mexico, one never says "*Adios*" on leaving, but rather "*Hasta Luego*". And so to all of you with whom I've had the privilege of becoming acquainted, to all my students and past students, and to all of you who have become my good friends, *Hasta Luego*.



Last week, someone told me that if I think I'm done being a leader in the club just because I'm no longer the president, I need to think again. I hope that's true, because working with all of you has brought me great joy, even though it has been a little overwhelming at times. I will continue to be involved, just in other ways.

Your gratitude, symbolized by your beautiful gift at our Holiday party, will be treasured. Thank you for that and for all the support and encouragement you've given me as your leader. I leave you in good hands. The new board of directors is ready to continue making Club Español the great club it has become.

Muchas gracias, MaryAnn Jasken



FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH

Both frankincense and myrrh have been traded in the Middle East and North Africa for upwards of 5,000 years. Ancient Egyptians bought entire boatloads of the resins from the Phoenicians, using them in incense, insect repellent, perfume and salves for wounds and sores. They were also key ingredients in the embalming process.

Myrrh oil served as a rejuvenating facial treatment, while frankincense was charred and ground into a powder to make the heavy kohl eyeliner Egyptian women famously wore.

According to the Hebrew Bible, frankincense and myrrh were components of the holy incense ritually burned in Jerusalem's sacred temples during ancient times. The ancient Greeks and Romans also imported massive amounts of the resins, which they

burned as incense, used during cremations and took for a wide variety of ailments.

By this time, medical practitioners had recognized and documented the substances' antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties, prescribing them for everything from indigestion and chronic coughs to hemorrhoids and halitosis.

Myrrh appears with more frequency than any other plant substance in the writings of the Greek physician Hippocrates. The Roman historian and botanist Pliny the Elder wrote in the first century A.D. that the pricey dried sap had made the southern Arabians the richest people on earth.

At the time of Jesus' birth, frankincense and myrrh may have been worth more than their weight in the third gift presented by the wise men: gold.

SPOTLIGHT ON DECEMBER'S HOLIDAY DINNER DANCE

Many thanks to Roland Robinson for making this delightful Club event possible. Roland is a resident of the Grandview Terrace and always makes sure we are offered tasty meals and well-appointed tables. Roland, you are very special and always make us feel special on this occasion! ¡Mil Gracias, Amigo!

