



# Let Holiday Bells Ring

## DINNER GALA

### GRANDVIEW TERRACE

December 4th, 5 pm

Election of Officers

Dining and Dancing

Reservations by Nov. 28th



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#### MEET JOHN O'DONNELL



When I came to SCW, I was happy to read about Club Español and classes being offered in Spanish. I have been a member of the Spanish club for six years and I taught the Beginning Spanish class in 2011. I enjoyed bringing this rich language and culture to others and look forward to teaching again.

I am a retired high school teacher and Department Head of World Languages. I have a B.A. from Catholic University with a major in French and minors in Spanish and Latin. I taught Spanish, French and Latin in a junior high in the Birmingham, Michigan public schools. Later I became Department Head at one of the high schools and taught French. I have travelled to Spain twice; once by car from Burgos to Madrid to Barcelona and later, with a group of students, toured the cities of Madrid and Toledo.

I am a member of the Advanced Conversation Spanish group and continue to enjoy the opportunity to speak and learn Spanish.

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

## LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS AT THE DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix, AZ 85008

(480) 941-1225



5:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Members Only: December 3 - 6  
General Public: November 27 & 28,  
December 10-13, 16-23, 26-31

This season brings one of Arizona's best holiday events, *Las Noches de las Luminarias*, *Bruce Munro: Sonoran Light at Desert Botanical Garden*, together for 24 magical evenings.

Each night of *Luminaria*, the Garden will come to life with the soft glow from more than 8,000 hand lit luminaria bags, thousands of white twinkle lights and Munro's vibrant works of art. As you walk the paths with a warm cup of cider, the sounds of handbells ringing and Mariachis singing will remind you of what the season is all about.

### Spanish Reading Club

This year's suggested book list (coming in a separate email) will introduce you to Spain - its culture, history, and people. These books will help bring Spain to life for all of us as well as prepare those who will travel to Spain with the Spanish Club in the spring. Thank you to Ed Zacko and Jim Khami for helping develop this list.

Books can be ordered through Amazon.com. Anyone who wishes to discuss the book of the month can meet on the first Friday of the month at Beardsley in the Mesquite Room. For December only, this date will be moved to the 2nd Friday, Dec. 11, because the fiesta is on the 4th. Bring questions as well as topics you might wish to discuss.

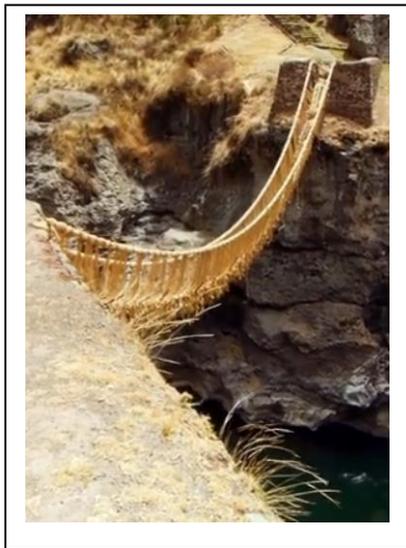
The book that will be discussed on December 11 is *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal. Widely hailed as a revelation of a "lost" golden age, this history brings to vivid life the rich and thriving culture of medieval Spain where, for more than seven centuries, Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived together in an atmosphere of tolerance, and literature, science, and the arts flourished. This book will be especially interesting in view of the recent bombings in Paris.

Happy reading, *MaryAnn*.



**Editor's Note:** Email Providers have changed the rules about the number of recipients I can include in any one email. Our temporary solution to the problem is to have three different people send out flyers and the newsletter to portions of the membership list. We are working on a permanent solution. Joan Novy

## The Q'eswachaka Bridge of Perú



**Inca rope bridges** were simple suspension bridges over canyons and gorges and rivers to provide transportation access for the Inca Empire.

The Incas used natural fibers from the local vegetation. These fibers were woven together creating a strong enough rope and were reinforced with wood creating a cable floor. Each side was then attached to a pair of stone anchors on each side of the canyon with massive cables of woven grass linking these two pylons together. Adding to this construction, two additional cables acted as guardrails. The cables which supported the foot-path were reinforced with plaited branches.

This multi-structure system made these bridges strong enough to even carry the Spaniards while riding horses after they arrived. The design naturally sags in the middle.

Part of the bridge's strength and reliability comes from the fact that each cable is replaced every year by local villagers as part of their public obligation. Even though there is a modern bridge nearby, the residents of the region keep the ancient tradition and skills alive by rebuilding the bridge annually in June.



The villagers stretch the rope to strengthen it.

Several family groups each prepare a number of grass-ropes to be formed into cables at the site, others prepare mats for decking, and the reconstruction is a communal effort. The effort is performed to honor their ancestors and the Pachamama (Earth Mother). The last remaining Inca rope bridge is the Q'eswachaka Bridge that spans the Apurimac River near Huinchiri.

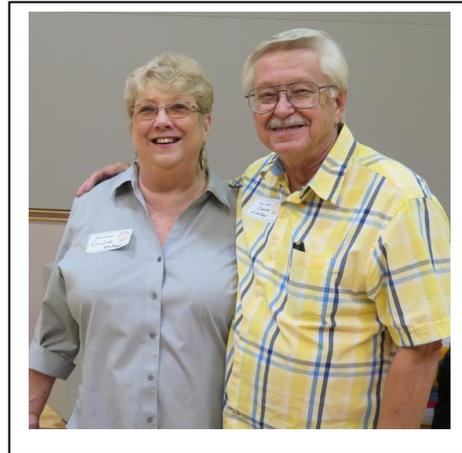
The finished bridge takes only three days to assemble! And it is strong enough to support a dozen men.



Thanks to Anna Scheidt for finding this story!

## ***TAPA HOPPER PARTY PROVES SUCCESSFUL***

The concept of a "cocktail" type party flowing around several tables of finger food (Spanish Tapa Style) had its skeptics, but the evening proved to be really very popular! As a matter of fact, several people commented that they actually preferred the new concept. So once again, kudos to MaryAnn Jasken for trying out a new idea.



*Un Padre es un  
Tesoro, un Hermano es  
un Consuelo, un  
Amigo es Ambos.*

*- Benjamín Franklin*

