

SPANISH CLUB NEWS...



JANUARY, 2018

Volume 6, Issue 1

DECEMBER FIESTA AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!

Members and guests treated to a special evening of surprises...



Bill Price and *rhumba* partner Rose Schreurs



Roland Robinson and Bet Smith *tango*!

Though a few of our members had vacated the desert for holiday venues, Sun City West was rocking December 8th. Laughter, good food, and a festive atmosphere were punctuated by a dance exhibition by two of our favorite members and their partners. There could be no better way to kick off the end-of-year festivities than a Spanish Club Fiesta. Joyous, indeed!

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



One of many tables of Spanish Club members- Smiles all around

**FEBRUARY 16TH YOUR PERFECT
VALENTINE FIESTA DATE!**

Don't you dare miss the catering by Sharko's and entertainment by the West Valley Jazztet! Jo and crew invite you to join the festivities and make great memories! Watch for the announcements or check our website.



FROM OUR (new) PRESIDENT...

First I want to thank Maureen Ball for her leadership this past year.... the club has expanded and improved in many areas, and there is real excitement about all the activities planned for this year. What strikes me the most is the connectivity between learning the Spanish language, the history and the culture through our many club activities including travel, book club reads, and movie night just to name the obvious. Many of us have been to the places we read about and see in movies, which provides a multi-dimensional perspective.

Our Holiday Fiesta was attended by 107 members, and by all accounts a huge success. The venue had been remodeled and was very classy, the food very good, and the Spanish dancing performance by some of our members was outstanding. Our website is one of the most informative and easy to use that I've seen, and well worth the time exploring it to find out what the club does and is about. Stay tuned for more improvements in the works for this year.

Lastly, it is important to note that this club is very successful because of the hard work of our membership, so if you have yet to take an active part, please consider volunteering, even if only for a limited time. Your help will be welcome and appreciated!

- Paul Voorhees

FROM THE DEEPEST FORESTS PERU



IMPROVE YOUR STATUS IN LIFE- ADD A LITTLE SPANISH...TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

- multi-levels classes
- world class fiestas
- Latino book club
- travel
- dancing
- cooking
- movies
- games
- cultural opportunities
- AAA rated "Friendliest Club in town" (well, at least, it should be...)

ARE WE GREAT RECRUITERS? (OR JUST PLAIN LUCKY!)

Last Train from Cuernavaca by [Lucia St. Clair Robson](#) *A Spanish Cub Review*

In the Christmas season of 1913, Grace Knight's elegant old hotel on Cuernavaca's main plaza is the place to see and be seen. Mexico's landed aristocracy, members of the foreign community, wealthy tourists, and young army officers with their wives flock to the Colonial, in this city just south of Mexico City. Under the ballroom's hundreds of twinkling electric lights, they dance to old Spanish tunes and to the new beat of ragtime. Meanwhile, the country is in the midst of its 10 year Mexican Revolution, a war between several factions for control of the country. The fight between the liberal factions led by Emiliano Zapata, and the monarchists led by General Rubio and his federal troops (the Federales), who are supported by the Catholic Church. The bigger picture is that the many indigenous groups have had their land taken away by the government and the Catholic Church, and the liberals have attempted to take it back and return it to the people.

(continued p.8)



“Just because I’m in Jim Khami’s class, they called me a Khamunist!”

Joining our Spanish Club teaching staff is exceptionally qualified Venezuelan-born Henriquetta (Keka) Wessman. Our Club could not have a finer Holiday gift!

Keka graduated from Kansas State University with a Master's degree in Criminology and Spanish Literature. She worked in the personnel field for the federal government for 23 years and retired as a Human Resources Officer in 2007. During her working career she taught Spanish to university students and adults in other settings. She taught several semesters at Kansas State University. Then, in Washington DC, she worked for a language academy. Later, she was contracted with the Navy to teach Navy and Civilian personnel who worked in the Navy liaison for the Royal Spanish Navy office. She also taught at a satellite campus of the University of Maryland in Japan.

Keka and Larry recently moved into their “new” home in SCW, where they will winter from Spokane, as Keka says, in this “great sunny place!” She and Larry have 3 grown sons and 5 grandchildren.

Spanish is the official language of 22 countries and the second largest native language in the world, the second most used for international communication and the third most used language on the Internet.

[Wikipedia](#) and [Instituto Cervantes](#)

PROOF THAT *BLESSINGS* COME IN PAIRS, NEW TEACHER BRENDA MELCER TAKES OVER THE WEDNESDAY BEGINNERS' CLASS

Brenda tells us a little about herself...



Brenda Melcher

A family trip to Mexico when I was seven years old began my fascination with Spanish and ultimately led to my becoming a Spanish teacher. During the 21 years I taught high school Spanish in Normal, Illinois, I served as Foreign Language and ESL Director and enjoyed traveling with my students to Spain and Mexico and hosting exchange students in our home. In 1989, I changed my focus to spend the next 14 years as the district's Director of Professional Development. Upon retiring in 2003, I established my "Learning Connections" business and continue to secure contracts for statewide work in educator development. Since purchasing a second home in SSW in 2009, my husband, Steve, and I spend six months in IL and six in AZ. Early in 2017, I decided to retire my business when my current contract with MA expires in December. My very next decision was to reconnect with my love for Spanish - after a 28 year hiatus! Teaching a Spanish class and attending conversation classes will hopefully let me make new friends, share my love of the language, and improve my skills!

Mary Ann will continue to assist Brenda with the class.

(Last issue, I commented that our teaching staff credential pages read like that of a *university faculty department*... it's even more so, now! -ed.)

Bob Middendorf, Bill Price and Ed Ash Tutor 2nd Language, Make Remarkable Differences in Lives!

Grand View Terrace (GVT), through its Scholarship Committee, offers various educational opportunities for its valued employees, many of whom are second language people.

One program, for employees who have been with GVT for six months, provides free one-on-one tutoring sessions in English as a Second Language. This program uses GVT Residents as tutors, provides free language books and workbooks, and one hour each week paid time off for the employees to take the lessons.

Spanish Club Members Ed Ash, Bill Price, and Bob Middendorf are among the volunteer tutors. All the Tutors remark on how gratifying it is for them when employees gain self-confidence and expand their horizons because they can use their newly acquired English almost overnight in their daily activities.

GVT resident Louisa Kellam heads up the Tutoring Program at GVT, and also tutors students at Dysart Community Center, where there is a waiting list for would-be students.

This is such a great opportunity for Spanish Club members to truly make a difference in the lives of those who wish to better themselves!

CLUB ELECTS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS for 2018



From left to right: Tish Iwaszuk, member-at-large; Dianne Heisner, public relations; Paul Voorhees, president; Jo Keitges, fiesta; Olivette Miller, treasurer; Jim Dodson, secretary (Howard Lee, vice president, must have been somewhere else!)

MEXICAN TRAIN KEEPS ROLLIN'



January 16 1:45-3:00 Chicory Room (Beardsley) bring drinks, snacks and a game set, if you have. You'll meet some awfully fine Club members... **Arline Foster**(new number) 406-534-1611
Or fosterhealth@bresnan.net

-ADDRESSES OF NOTE-

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EDUCATION AND VACATION, WHAT A GREAT COMBINATION!

The Spanish Club is offering the first Spanish immersion program next April in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. The program is for all levels and has 1 or 2 week options.

The program includes 20 hours of Spanish instruction in a relaxed

environment per week, cultural classes, and an excursion to Tulum and Chichén Itzá.

Playa del Carmen is located in a beautiful part of the Yucatán Peninsula, about 45 minutes from Cancun. For more information contact: Eleine Greene at (541)344-069

ecgreenerainbow@yahoo.com

CLUB TRAVEL AGENDA FEATURES PERU

In a year of expanded opportunities, Jim Khami has been busy assembling a special Spanish travel experience to Peru, South America!

Mixing travel with learning has become a significant plan for our Club. Eight mem-

bers and a guest are gearing up for their first trip to South America and experiencing the highlights of Peru, including Lima, Cuzco, and Machu Picchu. In preparation for the exciting trip the travelers held their first meeting at the home of Jim and Dianne Heisner on Friday, December 22. They plan to meet monthly in January, February, and March before departing on March 23, 2018, for the 8 day and 7 night guided excursion offered by Trafalgar Tours.

Several handouts were provided to the travelers discussing common concerns such as security, money changing, weather, and sharing shuttle service to and from Sky Harbor Airport. Questions regarding altitude sickness and any need for vaccinations for the trip were also discussed. Future meetings will include learning about the history of the Inca Empire, its conquest by Francisco Pizarro, and current issues. Reading suggestions were also offered and all were encouraged to do individual research before the trip.

The group is especially appreciative that two native Spanish speakers, Gloria Mamola, and her sister, Esperanza Foreman, are taking the trip with them. Gloria teaches the Thursday conversational Spanish class year-round. Both sisters grew up in neighboring Colombia and have always wanted to visit Peru and Machu Picchu. An added bonus is that their cousin lives in Lima and will be a valuable source of local information for the travelers.

More than three million tourists visit Peru every year. The eight club members and guest are excited to be among them, especially during Semana Santa!



PAUL VOORHEES BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO CLUB PRESIDENCY

Dad was an engineer at Boeing, and Mom was a dietician. Major interests included snow skiing and ham radio, Boy Scouts and sailing with my Dad on our 30' Dragon class sloop. Most of our vacations were car camping (for seven), but we did get to visit Washington D.C., and our east coast cousins in the late 50's, as well as our Canadian relatives in B.C. and Alberta.



I trained for the Military Police, and after 21 months I got an early out to finish school, after enduring fairly relaxing assignments in Georgia and Korea. In Korea, I ran the MARS radio station in my spare time, and periodically talked to my Dad (also a ham). I married my best friend, Rondy, while in the service. I had given her rides back and forth to college for several years. My degrees are in Economics and Business Administration. Before graduating I had job offers from two banks and the Federal Government. The latter paid more, had better benefits and offered a budget analyst intern program.

The next 31 years went fast, with more challenging jobs in Seattle, Washington D.C., and Albuquerque, N.M. I completed my MBA. The highlights of my working life included some South Pacific and European business travel, as well as testifying before Congressional committees on agency budgets. My last job was working for the Judicial Branch, managing the operating budget for the Federal Courts.

Upon retiring we opted to return to Washington State, where aging parents would need our help, and two of our three sons were raising their families. The three boys have given us eight grandchildren.

NEWSLETTER: sugarbushwordshop@hotmail.com

WEBSITE: Spanish.scwclubs.com

**It's not too late to renew your membership or encourage a friend to join.
A big year is planned with classes, travel, fiestas, games and much more!**

TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT OUR CLUB!



SEE YOU AT THE FEBRUARY VALENTINE'S FIESTA...

STUDENTS ATTEND COCO

Six students from our Wednesday 2nd year Spanish class accompanied Tish and Mary Ann to the Pixar Film COCO, which deals with cultural aspects of Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). The movie proved not only educational, but enjoyable as well.

The picture at right was sent along with the story information, but the editor could not determine which character is Mary Ann and which is Tish...

(REVIEW con'd from Page 4)

Unfortunately, due to the size of the country and the numerous groups involved, there is no cohesive leadership of the liberal factions.

Outside the city, in the shadows of the valley's two volcanoes, a company of federal soldiers raids the *hacienda* of Don Miguel Sanchez, hunting for men sympathetic to the cause of the Zapatistas. In a hailstorm of rifle fire, sixteen-year-old Angela Sanchez sees workers from her father's farm murdered. After the soldiers leave, she returns to the ruins of her family's home. She collects her father's old Winchester carbine, gathers the survivors among his workers, and rides off in search of Zapata's Liberating Army of the South.

During this conflict a romance unfolds between Grace Knight and Federale Captain Federico Martin, and another involving the well-born teenage Angela, the leader of a ragtag band of rebels, and her childhood friend Antonio. Angela soon takes on the identity of Angel, a man, to garner the support of the many peasant locals who join the rebel cause. Through various guerilla tactics, Angel and the band of rebels inflict harm on the Federales under overwhelming odds.

This historical novel high lights the struggle of the Mexican people during this tumultuous time, as well as two strong women who fight injustice and survive.

–Paul Voorhees, contributor



NAME BADGES NOW AVAILABLE TO CLUB MEMBERS!

The Board of Directors recently approved the design of a name badge for the club. Since that time, Arline Foster has worked with the company to develop an alternative design. The new design has 2 lines for the name, with the first name being enlarged. This may be easier for some to read, especially for those with long names.

The Board has approved the additional design, and members may order either, the price of \$8.35.

To order, send an email to Jamie Phillip at jamie@bestnamebadges.com, and ask for a “Spanish Club badge”.

Include the name you want on the badge and specify either a 1-line or a 2-line name, your email address, and reference order # 258768.

You will receive a link to use when paying for the badge, once the company has created it. The whole process will take about one week.



1 Line name



2 Line Name

Fortunately, the editor has Jan and Margaret as quality proof Readers (to bail him out of tough situations!)



Must one be a student to be a member of the Club?

Not necessarily. Our mission statement includes interests in Spanish culture, history, fiestas and travel (as well as the language itself). Tell your friends!

WHY EVERY PERSON IN SUN CITY WEST SHOULD TAKE SPANISH!

Expands one's horizons - With 329 million native speakers, according to Ethnologue, **Spanish is the second most commonly spoken language in the world (after English)**. Get to know your gardener or hemispheric neighbors in Latin America.

Improves one's cognitive skills-

Not only does learning a second language improve your brain, it helps your mind stay *sharp*. Several studies show that being bilingual increases cognitive skills unrelated to language; may forestall Alzheimers.

SOURCE- **LATINO VOICES**
08/31/2015 (Ramirez Planas)

Communicate with grand-children By 2050, the U.S. will be the largest Spanish speaking country according to the Association of Spanish Language Academie. (U.S. census reports, 12.9 percent of Americans currently speak Spanish. at home.)

Even if you are not progressing as you might like (in a perfect world), your Spanish study is *balm for your mind*-improving your mental efficiency amongst great people.

“THANKS” ARE IN ORDER!

The New Year starts a new class, and a post election turnover for our officers.

Former President **Maureen Ball** over-saw a club that grew in class curriculum, new activities, student and membership numbers, and facility use.

Mary Ann Jasken has resigned from the Board and will give more time leading our curriculum and staff. She has been a club *spark plug*.

Wendie Schumacher will retire from her teaching post due to health concerns. We especially wish her the very best.

We appreciate all of your contributions!



NEW CLASS OFFERED!

A new beginning Spanish class designed for students with no past language experience met for the first session on January 12 in the Mesquite Room at Beardsley. For details or to register for this class, email instructor Rosemary Bossert at rcbossert@att.net.