

SPANISH CLUB NEWS...

October 2020

Volume 8 Issue 2



Set your screen at 150% for best reading...

VIRUS PROGRESSES, AS THE CLUB GOES VIRAL!

Much activity and progress seen from the efforts of our Board and volunteers during shut-down

SUMMER SPANISH ACTIVITY

MaryAnn Jasken, Jim Khami, and new teacher Minú Johnson, are experimenting with electronic Spanish classes this summer, determining the best way to meet members' Spanish language needs in the fall.

MaryAnn says, "I especially enjoy the informality of the small classes. Members lose their fear of making mistakes and are learning quickly. We're having fun." She is hoping to provide each of her students from last year the opportunity to continue learning using Zoom. She indicates she has learned a number of things: Small groups are best, an hour-long class is ideal, the host can access excellent learning opportunities for her students on the computer, and there is the flexibility to meet any day at any hour.

Jim says that he appreciates the opportunity to finish the last three chapters of the book that were cancelled in March. While he prefers in-person teaching, he recognizes the advantages that Zoom has offered in the summer- 12 of his students are actively participating in learning the conditional, perfect tenses, and present subjunctive.

Zoom has also made it possible for four snowbirds to participate from their summer residences. Another student was able to join a meeting from Prescott where she was vacationing.

For others who have had to miss a class or two due to other responsibilities, recordings of the classes are made and offered to them for watching at their convenience.

BOARD MEETS PANDEMIC WITH BOLD NEW PLANS!

"When faced with a difficult situation, improvise, adapt and overcome." That is Board member Paul Voorhees' solution to our Club's pandemic conundrum. Paul says he borrowed the phrase from the Marine Corps. And so appropriate it is!

Our Board's recent meeting featured an agenda of challenges in this difficult time. They embraced difficult topics and made decisions. In this edition you'll notice some appropriate changes for 2020.

MEET CLUB ESPAÑOL'S PRIVATE ZOOM TEAM!

We have written in the past about the amazing volunteer spirit of the 2019-20 beginning Spanish students. They've done it again!

Katie Switaj, David Hodnik, and Frank Seaberg decided that Spanish classes would continue in spite of the pandemic. They spent many hours this summer developing a Zoom program for our club. They are continuing to spend hours training Zoom hosts to host our classes, helping teachers learn about Zoom, and helping our interested members learn how to use the program to take advantage of our classes.

In addition to all this, they are also acting as hosts for our summer trial classes. Through these trial classes, our teachers are discovering if Zoom is an option for teaching his or her individual class. A great thank you to this team of dedicated tech-savvy members. What a gift they've given our club!

On Zoom...

"Who would have thought, 6 months ago, that we would have had to learn a whole new way to teach and study in order to have Spanish classes this fall. And yet, so many members have pulled together with great collaboration and patience to go outside their comfort zone to Zoom our way to another fun year of Club Español. We can do this, and successfully, albeit it differently."
-Katie Switaj

website: Spanish.scwclubs.com



Zoom team member David Hodnik



Katie Switaj, Zoom team
and Frank Seaberg, Z-teamer



from Donna Howard...

"Zoom Spanish Classes will begin October 26th, 2020. For additional information about classes, check the Spanish Club website.

During the Fall 2020 class session there will be no Spanish Language Beginning 1 Level 1 for first time language learners. It is the hope of the club that during the winter class session of 2021, we will be able to offer classes for first time Spanish language learners."

STUDENTS RESPOND TO ON-LINE CLASSES...

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"I am a first year student taking Spanish classes via zoom with MaryAnn Jasken. Kathleen Switaj hosts the sessions.

Our professor can see our faces to help us with pronunciation. The sessions enable us to interact with classmates in several states and work on text and on-line stories (I was the only student in Arizona this week). MaryAnn presented her expectations that participants would do work during the week and be prepared for the session, that we help and encourage each other and respect each other's time.

Firm start and end times are musts and proper zoom etiquette is observed. The class is very useful and supports continued studies while allowing flexibility.

MaryAnn is an amazing instructor and Kathleen is very adept at posting work on our screens and making the process easy for all participants."

-Jennifer Hyder



"I truly love our clase de español. Me encanta! It is so good and fun to connect with others. But in this unprecedented time, connection/friendship is so valuable, and we have all connected as friends and colleagues. To have some fun with our learning and speaking is an extra perk. To hear and get the feedback is so valuable to our progress, much (if not solely) due to bringing this all to our homes." -Sandy Dickson

2020 OFFICERS AND LEADERS

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V-Pres. - **Miriam (Mimi) Williams***

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Class Administrator – **Donna Howard***

Membership- **Arlene Peterson***

*board members

Curriculum Director- Mary Ann Jasken

Communications/Travel - Jim Khami

Student Advisor - Brenda Melcher

Volunteer Coordinator – Tish Iwaszuk

Movie Night – Austin McGeary

Book Club – Jo Keitges & Paul Voorhees

Mexican Train – Arlene Foster

Club photographer (open)

Cooking Classes – Karen Brown

Newsletter Editor - Jim Jasken

sugarbushwordshop@hotmail.com

Proofs- Margaret Rauch, Jim Khami, Jan

Gameros

Newspaper photographer – Cathy Cowen

Website Admin - **Michael Marrah**

WEBSITE - Spanish.scwclubs.com

STAY INSPIRED MAKE A PLAN! by Donna Howard, Class Administrator

Staying inspired, let alone committed to learning Spanish is challenging when you are sitting in your living room all alone with no one to talk to in Spanish and no one telling you what a great job you are doing. To keep myself connected to Spanish during this time of social distancing and limited social gathering, I decided I needed a plan.

I wanted my plan to be fun, free and easy to access. I started by putting together a list of things I could do. I also asked friends what they were doing this summer to stay active in the language and have fun. I'm sharing my list with you as the list contains many easy, fun and inspiring activities. Bottom line, the list was easy, the plan was definitely more challenging. I hope you find a few things on the list that will inspire you and keep you involved with learning Spanish. My simple plan is posted here. Be inspired!!!

Activities and Resources To Support Staying Connected To The Spanish Language:

Read Spanish magazines and newspapers online. Read books in Spanish.

Watch Saturday morning cartoons on the Spanish TV channels. Listen to Podcasts in Spanish.

Check out **Snappyspanish.com**, short stories and app. Watch Butterfly Spanish on Youtube.

Write your grocery list in Spanish. Add Spanish subtitles while watching TV.

Write a letter to a grandchild in Spanish. Try a Spanish recipe written in Spanish.

Change the language on one of your devices to Spanish. Listen to Spanish radio.

Make Spanish flashcards and test yourself. Play Scrabble and bingo in Spanish.

Create Spanish labels for things inside your house.

Use the quizlets connected to the Spanish Is Fun Book 1 to build your vocabulary.

Go to **Studyspanish.com** and utilize the free portion of the program.

Do a search on your computer for "learning Spanish"

Check out <http://learningspanish.thisiscool.com>

THE HARD PART - Making a plan -

1. Give yourself permission to study Spanish for 15 minutes everyday.
2. Set a specific time everyday. I like right after lunch. It's too hot to be outside, so sitting inside where it's cool is perfect.
3. Set the oven timer. 15 minutes!
4. Congratulate yourself for following through with your plan.

THE 2021 BOARD ELECTION PROCESS
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

As noted in President Howard's recent letter regarding deferment of 2021 registration, we will not have our normal Fall Reunion and Registration Meeting in October. Since we normally start our Board election process at that time, we will also be doing that differently.

We ask you to begin thinking about helping the club next year by volunteering for one of the following three positions:

Club Treasurer. This position involves collecting funds for membership and book sales, paying appropriate expenses, and providing a monthly status report to the Board, and an annual report to the recreation center. At present the system is manual using MS Excel, but we anticipate further automation for accounting for revenue and expense as well as reporting. Our annual budget is fairly small, about \$5,000 per year.

Language Class Coordinator. This position serves primarily as a representative on the Board for teachers and students. In addition, the coordinator orders textbooks, coordinates class schedules and classroom requirements for the coming year.

Information Technology Volunteer, to assist with our website and automation of our financial operations. We have identified a system used by another club that could be easily adapted to our needs, and an experienced IT person is needed to help make that happen.

If you are interested in or would like more information on any **of these positions**, please contact me via email or phone. Further information on our election process will be provided in the coming weeks.

Mimi Williams

Vice-President and Nominating Committee Chair

mimiqw31@gmail.com

VALENTINE'S FIESTA ROCKED THE HOUSE!

CLUB HOSTED NEARLY ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY
MEMBERS IN THE HOLIDAY GALA EVENT!

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LANGUAGE STUDY IS PRIMARY AT OUR SPANISH CLUB (but there is so much more!)

Watch for information and announcements regarding the following:

- book club discussions
- games (Mexican Train is a dandy)
- Spanish movie nights
- fiestas
- popular travel options
- Spanish Immersion opportunities
- entertainment choices
- cooking classes
- volunteer possibilities

All these and more are great ways to make new friends and renew old acquaintances! Many are currently paused, but will open as health concerns subside.

Please take a moment to check whether you have saved box tops for our **Thompson Ranch School** Project. Please get them to Jo Keitges as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping.

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



CLUB ESPAÑOL BOOK CLUB recommended reads... (thanks Paul Voorhees)

Conquistador: Cortes, Montezuma and the Last Stand of the Aztecs, Buddy Levy, The true story of the conquest of the Aztecs by Hernan Cortez

Admiral of the Ocean Sea, A Life of Christopher Columbus, Samuel Morrison, A chronicle of the Columbus voyages to the new world and the many challenges he faced

Homage To Catalonia, George Orwell Orwell writes a gripping account of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War fighting Franco's fascists.

Havana Nocturne, TJ English, The true story of the US mob and Batista in from the 1920's in Havana, until the revolution and take over by Fidel Castro.

Turn Right at Machu Picchu, Mark Adams. "With a healthy sense of humor...Adams unearths a fascinating story, transporting his readers back to 1911, when Yale professor Hiram Bingham III hiked the Andes and stumbled upon on of South America's most miraculous and cloistered meccas."—NPR.org

The Spy Wore Red, Countess of Romanones Aline, Adventures of 21-year old American society woman who served as OSS spy in Spain in WWII

My Beautiful Life, Sonia Sotomoyer, Raised in the Bronx by her Puerto Rican grandmother and aunts, overcoming diabetes, Harvard Law School and ultimately on US Supreme Court.

Driving Over Lemons, Chris Stewart, In this real-life account, the one-time drummer of Genesis and his family relocate to Spain and adjust to new cultures and traditions.

Born To Run, Christopher McDougall, A "riveting" narrative featuring the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico's Copper Canyons.

The President Miguel, Angel Asturias (Nobel Prize for Literature), It is a story of ruthless dictator and his schemes to dispose of a political adversary in an unnamed Latin American country usually identified as Guatemala.

Following The Milky Way, Elyn Aviva, In 1982 Aviva explored the nature of pilgrimage alon us Camino de Santiago trail in northern Spain — before its newfound popularity.

Stories From Spain, G & W Barlow & Stivers, Readers follow nearly 1,000 years of Spanish history in brief short stories printed in Spanish and English.



Thanks for staying in touch by reading this edition. Informed members are *valuable* members!

To further increase your social status check the website: Spanish.scwclubs.com