

President's Message

Greetings friends and members, and welcome to another full season of social activities, classes, tours, Cleft Palate support, charitable giving, and great volunteer activities!

I'm delighted to introduce our new Spanish teacher, Adriana Bedolla. Adriana has a bachelor's degree in Education, a graduate degree in teaching Spanish as a second language, and was a founding member of Spanish Experience Center where she taught students and teachers of all levels for 9 years to rave reviews. We are delighted to have her lead our classes this year (see our calendar online at ifcvallarta.com for class schedule).

Our ever-popular Home Tours led by Vicky Mason start up Tuesday and Wednesday, December 2 and 3. Please join us for an early season tour and bring a friend! Social hour hosted by Fred Forbes starts up Friday, December 5 at 5:30, followed by dinner at an IFC supporting restaurant. Bridge classes, social bridge, lectures, and other classes will also start up in December, please check our online calendar and E-Newsletters for start-up dates.

It was a very busy summer for IFC community support. Cleft Palate Clinic and Surgery Days organized by April Miton and her great team of volunteers were held in May, July, and October, with a total of over 25 surgeries performed. Supportive funding of many thousands of pesos a month was distributed to a wide variety of qualified local charities all summer long. A full list and description of our charitable giving can be found on the "What We Do" page of our club website, ifcvallarta.com, as well as our colorful Home Tours website, ToursForVallarta.com.

Over the summer the Education Committee sponsored and committee chair Henry Golas coordinated a one day outing to the Vallarta Botanical Gardens with guided tour, lecture, and sandwiches and snacks for more than 40 economically challenged students in the Volcanas area.

School supplies were distributed again this summer thanks to the hard work of Susan Davalos, who also manages our Rice and Beans and Community Aid programs which are active year round. As well, our new IFC Dental Outreach Program under the direction of Christina Martell continued over the summer to help needy students from the Boca de Tomatlán region receive dental care.

Josué Santiago kept our office and our paperwork in good order all summer long, and we ended our fiscal year in very strong financial position. Our treasurer Michael Montagano will have a full report for the membership at the December 9 General meeting.

T.J. Hartung updated our membership list database this summer, so be sure to renew your membership for 2015 online or at the office. Your membership not only helps cover Clubhouse expenses but also brings you great discounts at fine local restaurants and other businesses



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from the US/Canada 1-514-418-2123
www.IFCVallarta.com
Email: info@ifcvallarta.com
ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago



through our Preferred Merchant program, kept up to date by Bill LeBeau, T.J., and other volunteers.

And please make the greatest contribution of all—volunteer to help in one of the many areas needing help, such as events, publicity, memberships, facilities, front desk, and community services. If you email me at dangrippo@yahoo.com, I'll be happy to connect you with the area of your interest. Our all-volunteer club is only as strong as our all-volunteer base!

All best wishes for another great season of caring and sharing!

Dan Grippo
President



E-Newsletter

Are you receiving the IFC E-Newsletter?

Do you get it directly, or from a secondary source?

Only about half of our members are receiving it directly and in a timely manner.

About 10% of our members are not receiving it at all, and are missing current information on classes, events, social gatherings, vital community information, and much more.

Verify your email address is correct on the IFC web site (www.ifcvallarta.com). When doing that, make sure you have a password to protect you and other IFC members.

Also, make sure you have checked the box allowing you to receive emails, notifications and Instant Messages through the web site.

You paid for your membership; you should receive the full benefits of it.

Membership

Welcome back everyone to a new season!

You can renew your memberships for 2015 at the IFC office (9-2) or online at ifcvallarta.com under Membership link, where you will find more benefits of memberships outlined.

On Saturday mornings 9:00-1:00 I will be selling memberships at the new market in the La Luna building, 466 Venustiano Carranza in the Emiliano Zapata area between Jacarandas and Naranjo. I am looking for a few occasional volunteers to help me once a month when I am away. The markets around town are a great way to connect with friends and I need a little help selling memberships.

I would also like to set up a table at the Thursday night market in the Marina. Does anyone live in the area who could take this responsibility on? I will give you all the equipment and support. It would involve selling memberships and giving out information about the IFC. It would give us more visibility.

Please bring a friend to one of our social hours or activities this year and introduce them around to people. I can't wait to reconnect with all my friends at the IFC and meet the new people who are joining everyday. Don't forget to use your membership card for discounts at many of our fine restaurants and other merchants. See you at the Brunch November 11th.

Beverly Le Beau
Membership Chairperson

Education

Welcome back everyone.

In June the Education Committee, in keeping with our mandate to educate the less fortunate, sponsored a trip for forty children from Volcanes to the Botanical Gardens. We met at the sports park across from the Sheraton Hotel and took an air conditioned bus to the gardens.

At the gardens we were met by four tour guides who guided the children throughout the park explaining the names and uses of the different plants.

After the tour the children were treated to a delicious lunch of sandwiches, fruits and a drink. As a parting gift the Botanical Gardens gave each child a rooted plant for their own personal garden.

It was such a joy to see the smiles on the children's faces and to hear the inquisitive questions they were asking.

Special thanks to the British American School for supplying adult supervisors and the Botanical Gardens for supplying the tour guides free of charge.

Don't forget to volunteer your time for one of the groups at IFC.

Henry Gola
Education Chair

Community Services

We are closing down on the balmy, tropical, rainy low season and gearing up for the excitement that high season brings. Many new visitors and returning friends bring a hustle bustle climate to Puerto Vallarta and the IFC! New opportunities beckon to us. The club house is a meeting place to share and learn. WELCOME!

Community services has been helping the school kids with notebooks, pencils, pens, colored pencils and erasers. I bought a few uniforms for especially poor kids. I tried to disperse as far and wide as possible, paying special attention to the programs we currently assist. Our president has done due diligence, to screen these organizations to be sure they are legal and reliable to get the donations out to those in need. Certainly no one organization can help all....or even make a dent in the poverty that surrounds us, but the donations from the IFC put a smile on many faces preparing to return to school.

Our IFC rice and beans program has continued through out the low season. Much of the product goes to after school centers that assist families and/or kids with homework, health and hygiene. Education is high on our list of priorities for the civil associations that are a part of the IFC programs receiving donations. As we all know, through increased education - change can be made and the chains of poverty be broken.

Education is Hope. I believe the challenges on the students of today is greater than at any other time in history. I pray that our high season will be a winning combination of good health and good cheer to all corners of Puerto Vallarta! Let's keep a SMILE on our Friendship Club, where ever we are!

Susan Harrie Davalos RN
Community Services Chair

We would like to thank CMQ Hospitals for generously donating hospital rooms and services to the IFC Cleft Palate Program



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Open 7 days a week
 Mid-December thru Mid-April

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Beyond Vallarta
 tours beyond the ordinary

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MX: 322.222.6726 | beyondvallarta@live.com

2015 Tours

For more Information contact

Mexico City - Jan 8

Oaxaca - Jan 31

Puebla - Feb 16

Copper Canyon - March 3

Guanajuato/San Miguel - March 17

Chiapas - April 1

Beyond Vallarta Tours

beyondvallarta@live.com

322-222-6726

IFC Publicity

Hola! I am Janie Blank and I have once again volunteered to head up Publicity for the IFC. This basically consists of trying to get the word out to local media on everything the IFC does throughout the season.

I negotiate and purchase the ads for the Home Tours that appear in the local papers, try and get an article published each week to let the public know what we have planned as well as keeping the IFC name before those who read PV's print and online publications.

One area where I desperately need assistance is with Facebook. I will only be in PV from early January until mid April so a lot of what I do, I do from our home in Columbus, Ohio. I mention this to let anyone who might volunteer to help me know you need not be in PV to login to our Facebook page and post a photo or quick line about the club's activities. You will be copied on activities and given access to photos. If you use Facebook this would be the perfect way to volunteer without the need to come into the club. Think about it...

And if anyone enjoys writing articles and would like to help out with that I welcome your help! Thanks!

Janie Albright Blank
Publicity Chair, IFC
janeablank@aol.com

Medical

As fall approaches, it is great to see visitors arriving a little earlier every year.

We had very successful cleft palate clinics in May and July with more children being seen and treated by our amazing doctors.

It is so exciting to be able to announce that we also held another clinic at the end of October. We must thank, as always, CMQ hospital for their incredible dedication to our program. The services and facility that they provide is so appreciated.

We are hopeful that we can have another clinic early in 2015. Hospitals are of course much busier during high season so we will work closely with the facility to find a space available.

Without the generosity of folks that donate to this program, and the amazing dedication by the IFC as well as restaurants like Daiquiri Dicks, 8 Tostados, Prime 159, Ginger, and so many others, and condo owners who generously offer their condos for our doctors to stay, this program would not be as successful as it is.

We look forward to another fabulous program this month and in the upcoming year 2015.

April Miton
Cleft Palate Chair

Our New Spanish Teacher

Adriana Bedolla was born and raised in Cuernavaca, México where she studied Special Education at the State University of Morelos (UAEM). After graduating, she obtained a post-graduate degree in teaching Spanish as a second language. She joined the founding team of the Spanish Experience Center where she taught both students and teachers of all levels for nine years. Her professional accreditation includes keeping current with her continuing education credits and professional licenses.

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced student, please join us at our regular classes at the IFC. See the calendar online at ifcvallarta.com for class schedule.



Internet Safety

A few months ago, several members received an email through the IFC web site from someone who is not a member. Thanks to a notification from the company that handles the hosting of our web site, the non-member's access was disabled within hours. But - not before a number of emails were sent to actual members.

This person went trolling through the members list, looking for a member who had an open entry, which is to say, a member whose IFC data was NOT protected with a password. This person then completed the "join" process, and in doing so, changed the name and email address of the valid member, and added a password, thus giving that person the ability to send messages to other IFC members.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Fortunately, the design of our web site does not allow others access to email addresses. They can send you an email, but they can't see your email address. If you respond to their email, YOU are giving them your email address.

You can prevent this from happening again by adding a password to your membership record on the IFC web site (www.ifcvallarta.com)

T.J.
IFC web master