

President's Message

I am always a little surprised at the end of each season how fast it is time to head back North. We have such an enthusiastic group of volunteers this year and sure needed all of your help!

People are still talking about our great Open House and what a success that was with all the help from members like Clara Forbes that arrange a great working place for the food preparation and all the special touches she brought to the hors d'oeuvres. Thanks to Eric Davies for asking D'Rachel to play for us. D'Rachel and her partner were supposed to play for only one hour but donated more time and played throughout the event. And I cannot forget the generosity of Michael Bouffard of River Cafe who called me and said that we would donate 400 hors d'oeuvres to help us out! We sure used them all with a crowd of about 250 people dropping in to get reacquainted with the IFC. I have to thank all of our greeters, food servers, bar tenders and our Membership Renewal information team that work throughout the evening. All volunteer members of the club. Thank you so much.

The constitution of our Club has always been based on the devotion and hard work of our volunteers. Sure we also want to enjoy our time in our Vallartan Paradise but part of the joy is to feel that we live and participate in the well being of our community and I say that our members surely do!

Dan Grippo has again this year delighted us with his interesting lectures, Mary Lynn Coulter has brought her knowledge of watercolour techniques to teach us not to be afraid to experiment and enjoy! Murray's bridge lessons are always appreciated by many and this year we also had the pleasure of some law lectures given by Dan Lahanan. These events not only provide cover a well diversify field of interests but also bring welcome donation to the Club, thank you.

We also have a great addition to our group of Chairpersons in the presence of Linda Mellor, co-ordinator of events. Linda and her group of volunteers started only in January and yet were able to put events in January (the Scavenger Hunt), February (the Valentine's Day Dinner) and with Donna Feldman in charge (the First Designer Showcase) in March (the St-Patrick's Casino "Luck of the Irish Night") for April our end of season brunch and fashion show on April 15. Eric and Jan put together the first "BoZo" tour and the feedback on it has been great and most encouraging. Mike McGee has done a successful season despite the economic slowdown and change in the tourist pattern visiting Puerto Vallarta. I thank you all and all of the volunteers that have helped making these events a success.



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB
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Email: info@ifcvallarta.com
ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago

I must also thank all of our office worker volunteers that give a hand to Josue Santiago. In the high season from January to the end of March we need friendly, knowledgeable volunteer members that answer the phone, greet our visitors, and answer questions about our tours and any other current activities we are provide. They also take care of the tickets sale for our events including the tickets for our very popular Spanish Classes. So I thank them all for their time and commitment to be present on their scheduled day either morning or afternoon. Without your support we could not afford to keep the extended hours we can offer to all.

Mandy MacLeay

WHO WE ARE

The International Friendship Club was founded in 1987. Today there are members from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Europe and many other countries. The Club is a volunteer organization operated totally without personal gain and has been granted Registered Charitable Status by the Mexican Government. The club is operated on a Committee-Structure basis.

The International Friendship Club has 3 mandates: to solicit and distribute funds and materials in response to the humanitarian needs of our community; to promote friendship through social and cultural activities; and to help organize and unite our community.

General meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the IFC clubhouse. Everyone is welcome!

Home Tours

We ended the Home Tours on a very high note. While mid-season we were down about 25 % in attendance, we recouped dramatically ending the season at budget projected revenues. Our numbers were still down about 20 % from last year, but considering the slow recovery in the economy and other tour options, we did good. Thankfully, we still are in a position to continue funding our charitable programs at prior year levels.

The proceeds from the tours fund a number of local charities, primarily our Cleft Palate Program and Educational and Community Service Programs. We also provides assistance to Becas Vallarta, the Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza (R.I.S.E), the Los Mangos Biblioteca, Santa Barbara Clinic Rehab and the Salvation Army, among others. All the work is accomplished by volunteer club members dedicated to contributing to our long established goals of a giving a helping hand to the less fortunate children of Puerto Vallarta and its surrounding areas.

Again, this year we want to thank Elements of Design located at Ignacio Vallarta and Aquiles Serdan for its continuing support and contributions. And the tour could not continue its success if not for our host, Restaurante La Albufera from where the tours depart at Aquiles Serdan #242.

Next season, the Home Tours will begin on November 14 and continue every Wednesday and Thursday until April 11, 2013. If you are available to volunteer next year, please contact the IFC office. Thank all of you for your continued support. See you next season.

Mike McGee



Kelly Trainor de O, the USA Consular agent, will be in the IFC Clubhouse the first Wednesday of the month (9:00 am to 11:00 am) to assist you with all your passport needs or any other information you may require. For further information: consularagentpvr@prodigy.net.mx.

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Education

The Fiscal year of the Club is rapidly coming to an end.

All of our many Charities we support are in place and covered with the earnings, dues, events and donations that have made this all possible.

Our Volunteers should all be applauded!

Education likewise is ending on a high note.

Besides making available thousands of books for different grades and different schools, books that can be taken home read, and returned for another. The teachers monitor this with library cards like in a regular public library.

Now before the ending the school year we will be furnishing new wood bookcases to

those schools that need them to properly display their new books.

Finally, to close out the Education Year, we are making a dream come true for a very

active and kind lady, who wants to become a nurse.

We will conditionally pay her college tuition and fund her school supplies....

And we KNOW the end results of her schooling will lead to her serving the community in a way she dreams to....

Such great things can be accomplished with the International Friendship Club, volunteers, members and donors.

Mel Bornstein

Activities

This season the IFC had a very full and successful calendar of events. Thank you to everyone who participated in our events to make this such a great season. Many new events were featured this year, including the Scavenger Hunt, the Showcase of Designers and the BoZo tour. Our Valentine's dinner and dance at Playa de Los Arcos Hotel exceeded our expectations selling out even after adding more seats to accommodate the demand for tickets.

Next season we are planning more new, exciting events as well as more social activities at the club. You can look forward to a Season Opening Brunch, a Whale Watching tour and a Murder Mystery Dinner. We will also be revamping our other events to keep them fresh and interesting.

I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize these events. Without their time and effort none of these events would have been possible. Last but not least thank you to all the businesses who donated prizes for our fundraising efforts.

Linda Mellor



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Altruism Festival

The International Festival of Altruism is the biggest charity event of the year in the Banderas Bay region. Last year it raised over 580,000 pesos of which 24,000 pesos went to the IFC. It is organized by Kelly Trainor de O, the US Consul, and held at the Marriott Casa Magna Hotel. This year the event will be on May 6th starting at about 6:00. Tickets cost 300 pesos when bought beforehand or 400 pesos at the door.

Tickets can be obtained from Eric Davies, (edavies.pv@gmail.com, 222-0523) or at the IFC clubhouse. ALL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING IFC MUST SELL AT LEAST 50 TICKETS. Tickets include entry to the event, food, drinks and entertainment.

There are 24 charities allowed to participate. Along with the booths of the 24 charities there is FREE food served by about 3 dozen restaurants -- many of them are the very best in Banderas Bay.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale and each of the



SEASON END MESSAGE

Well the end of another wonderful season is fast approaching and some of us return to our other homes and life, leaving behind many Mexican friends and acquaintances, and the many friends we have met at the friendship club functions over the years.

It has been a great season here for me with lots of activities at the club and all being well attended and everyone having a good time with old and newfound friends.

Our Friday night social has been very successful again this year and my restaurant tours have been well attended with everyone enjoying the fabulous foods they serve.

I look forward to seeing you all for the next season here in Vallarta at the IFC and hope that you have a healthy and happy summer, either here in beautiful PV or your respective country.

Fred Forbes



participating charities is given a "source" to solicit prizes. This year we have "Vallarta Novelties".

So, if any of you know any relevant "sources" I would be delighted if you would tell me about it. Even better would be for you to arrange as many prizes as you can -- and I guarantee to give you credit.

We can also solicit in other areas or even come up with our own ideas.

Now here comes the real plea.

Eric, Trace and Silvia will be at the Marriott at 11.00 to set up the IFC booth, but at least 2 strong bodies are also needed at 11.00 a.m. to help bring out tables, chairs, set up booths, decorations, etc.

At least 2 strong bodies will be needed between 4.00 and 6.00 to help the restaurant owners bring all the cooking apparatus, freezers, utensils, food, ice etc into the arena.

We need volunteers to man the IFC booth from opening (at 6 PM) until closing (at 9 PM). If you can spare 30 minutes to an hour, please let me know.

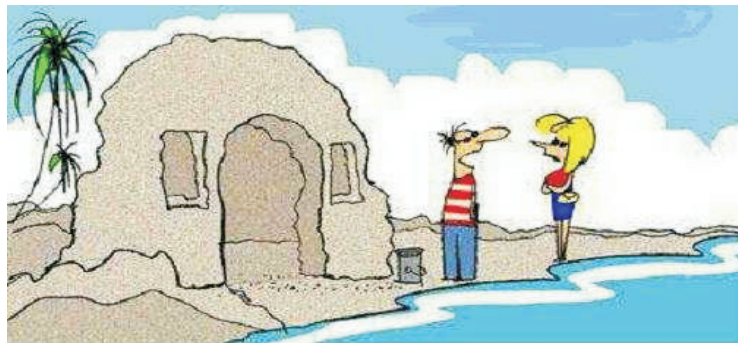
We need volunteers at the entrance from 4:15 to 6:00 - again 30 to 60 minutes per person would help. We need volunteers at the "Game stand" from 5:00 until 9:00 - in shifts is easier.

We need volunteers to sell raffle tickets.

At least 2 strong bodies are needed between about 9:00 and 10:00 to move back chairs and tables and help the restaurants load back up.

It will obviously take MANY volunteers. PLEASE let me know ASAP (Eric Davies, edavies.pv@gmail.com, 222-0523) if you can help in any way. BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE. This is a terrific event - the food and entertainment is fantastic - and you can mingle with volunteers of all the other participating charities and so is an excellent way to build up friendships across the bay. It would be great if IFC had dozens of volunteers, not only at the event, and to solicit raffle prizes, but also to sell entry tickets, lottery tickets and more.

Lets show them what IFC is made of.



"It's a house made out of sand. What did you think I meant when I said I owned a beach house?"