



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB
Edificio Parian del Puente # 13 (upstairs)
Libertad corner of Miramar, El Centro,
Puerto Vallarta
Hours 9 am - 4 pm
Tel: (322)-222-5466
from the US/Canada 1-514-418-2123
www.IFCVallarta.com
Email: info@ifcvallarta.com
ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago

Facilities Management

We are having an exciting season so far at the IFC with lots of great things happening. It sure has kept me hopping getting all of the things done associated with all of these activities. We have a great team working this season and I would like to thank them for all of their efforts and hard work making all these things happen.

The club just finished a very successful scavenger hunt that was very well attended. Everyone had a great time in search of items. There was some delay in getting the food out to everyone and the staff at El Torito was doing the best they could with that many people in attendance. This is one area that we will improve on for future events.

Now we are preparing for Valentines Day event and this will be a fun time for everyone so plan to attend.

I have been enjoying the socials and we are having a lot of people coming out for the evening. My restaurant tours are being well attended with everyone having a great meal and conversation with old and new found friends plus a discount from participating restaurants.

Well that's it for now and thank you all for your kind and encouraging comments. They are very much appreciated and makes my work easier knowing that it is appreciated. Enjoy the rest of the season with us and your time here in this wonderful city and the people of Mexico.

Fred Forbes

President's Message

The season is now in full swing and we had a very successful Open House to celebrate our new office refurbishing, thanks to the assistance of all our great volunteers.

We were very lucky to have Zuri return for a new season of Spanish lessons and in the spirit of it I asked Josue to communicate with me in Spanish. It works most of the time and my command of the language has improved a little. So you see it is never too late!

This February, Murray Beer is giving us more opera appreciation by presenting the sound and life of Joan Sutherland. I hope you will join us for these Wednesday evening music celebrations. Dan Grippo is now directing a Meditation class on Saturday mornings, and for the months of February and March this is followed by Marilyn's water colour classes. Many thanks Marilyn for sharing your knowledge with us.

Our clubhouse is vibrant with in-house activities. Fred Forbes is keeping our club in great order and always making improvements, to say nothing about his running of our electronic equipment.

Our new co-ordinator of events, Linda Mellor, is creating some fun and exciting outside events this season with the help of a great team. Contact Linda if you wish to participate, add your ideas to the mix and help us raise more funds for our charities.

I encourage you all to visit our website and Facebook, become our friends and spread the word. We need many ambassadors and, who better than you, our members!

Visit: ifcvallarta.com and sign in as friends of IFC on Facebook.

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!

IFC Scavenger Hunt

The first ever IFC Scavenger Hunt was held on Monday Jan 30. People began to congregate at El Torito (corner of I Vallarta and V Carranza) starting at 10:30 and by 11:00 there were almost 100 there. Linda (IFC Events Coordinator and mover behind this event) gave preliminary instructions. Teams of 4 were randomly selected, each team chose a leader and their team name. They were given a plastic bag, a map of the romantic zone, a huge list of items and a pencil for their records.

About 11:40 they left to search for about 70 items to locate, collect, beg, or borrow (but not steal) and put in their plastic bags along with about 20 cryptic clues for other items to collect or record from specific places.

At about 1:30 they came streaming back to El Torito many of them sweating profusely and panting quite hard. (We may re-name this event the "Puerto Vallarta Romantic Zone Marathon"). The organizers had each team count and record their items, the top few had their lists validated and the winners were determined.

The top place winners somehow or other retrieved all but 6 of the 90+ items. Rather impressive. A total of 12 prizes were awarded for first, second and third places and then there was a door prize and a raffle where the winner received over \$1800 pesos.

We thank El Torito for hosting the event; and A Page in the Sun, Artesanias Watakame, Coco's Kitchen, Gilmar Restaurant, Harry's Pub, Miel, Polo's, Sea Monkey and Tony's Please for their generous donation of prizes, as well as several merchants who agreed to participate in our folly! Great fun was had by all and we intend to repeat it – with a few improvements based on this experience. Almost \$12,000 pesos was raised for the IFC to support cleft palate surgery for local children.



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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Home Tours

We are about half way in our Home Tours this season. Unfortunately, we continue to see a decline in guests which will obviously affect the club's ability to contribute to critical charity activities. As of the end of January, our numbers are down nearly 25 % from last year. Unfortunately, we continue to be negatively impacted by a similar tour program offered by PEACE. If we did not have this competition, our numbers would have been significantly better, likely matching last season. But there is nothing we can do to change that fact.

Now we need your help more than ever. If you have not been on one of our tours lately, do it. You will visit four outstanding casas each Wednesday and Thursday and the cost is only \$450 pesos. When you have family and friends visiting Vallarta, encourage them to go on the tour. It is a fun 3 hours, very entertaining.

The proceeds from the tours fund a number of Puerto Vallarta charities, primarily our Cleft Palate Surgical Program and other in house Educational and Community Service Programs. It 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.

The tours meet at 242 Aquiles Serdan, just west of Ignacio L. Vallarta in front of "Restaurante La Albufera" across from the Condominium Molino de Agua.

We are always looking for volunteers, especially those who can help with distributing posters and flyers to the hotels and businesses around town. If you have any questions, please contact me at 322 221 56 81.





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

Vallarta Botanical Gardens

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Palm Gardens • Rose Garden
- Tree Fern Grotto • Orchid House
- Jungle Trails • Tropical Bird Watching
- Agave Gardens • Mexican Wildflowers
- Carnivorous Plants • Restaurant

24 Km South of town (on Hwy 200)

www.vbgardens.org

Why be part of the IFC, an interview with Tom Hibbs:

Q: Tom, give us the short version of where you are from:

A: Born in a small town in Iowa and went to the Big City (Chicago) to make fame and fortune. Worked there for thirty years, met Betty, got hitched, retired and we started coming to PV.

Q: How long have you been coming to PV?

A: Ten years, liked it so much we bought a condo in 2007 at the peak of the market. It's a great investment, know anyone who wants to buy a condo?

Q: What kept you coming back to PV?

A: We feel fortunate to have found such a paradise. What's not to like? The people are fun, the weather is great and we feel safe walking the streets. It is safer here than in Chicago.

Q: How long have you been a member of the IFC?

A: I don't know, you'll have to ask Betty.

Q: How did you learn about the IFC?

A: Our first exposure was through the Home Tours, then we learned about the bridge and we were hooked.

Q: What do you like most about the IFC?

A: I like group settings where you can meet and converse with many diverse people, I like the idea that we do so many good works in the community and of course did I mention we play bridge.

Q: How do you give back to the IFC?

A: We attend the regular meetings, donate items for the IFC to sell at the bazaars, work with Maury Beer with bridge lessons Monday mornings and Don Spencer and I organize the contract bridge on Friday afternoons.

Q: Would you recommend the IFC to others?

A: Sure, it is great way to meet people, expand your mind and did I mention we play bridge?

Place your ad HERE!!!

3.5 inches x 1.5 inches

100 pesos per issue

250 pesos for 3 issues

Christ Church by the Sea

Worldwide Anglican Communion

Services Sunday 10:00 a.m.

English-Traditional Holy Communion

All Faiths Welcome

Questions? Call Father Jack Wehrs

322-209-0895 cell: 044-322-229-1129

www.christchurchbythesea.org - www.iglesiacristodelmar.org

Beyond Vallarta Tours, in conjunction with the IFC, held its annual January party for past and current



guests' travelers of Beyond Vallarta Tours.

The get together was held at director Jeana Dunphy's home, on the terrace overlooking the city. More than 100 returning guests reconnected with guests from past tours. Those going on trips this season met others with whom they will be traveling. Trips going out this season include; Heart of the Maya--Chiapas/Palenque, in February and Mexico City in March. Both tours are sold out.

Guests going to Copper Canyon had a chance to meet before their trip also in March. There are still a few available seats on this trip so don't miss your chance.

In attendance were Mandy McLeay, President of the IFC, Beyond Vallarta Tours associates John Hamlin, John Lockington & Marsha Germaise, and Director Jeana Dunphy.

Jeane also introduced a new tour she is developing for late autumn to Oaxaca for the celebrations of the Day of the



Angus MacLeay, Mandy MacLeay, Jeana Dunphy, John Hamlin, Marsha Germaise, & John Lockington.

Dead. This is such an important tradition in Mexico and this location is an ideal showcase of this very unique custom.



Beyond Vallarta Tours makes a donation to the IFC for each guest traveling on a tour.



IFC Web Site

Have you visited the IFC Web Site? Full of up-to-date information.

Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter? If not, check your email address on **Edit Contact Info**. And while you are at it, **Edit Profile** will allow you to provide more info about you to other IFC members.

Want to contact another IFC member? Just click on their name on the membership list and you can send an anonyms email. Your email address is hidden.

Just recently, we added and removed some **Preferred Merchants**. See who's in or out. Discounts to members for meals and other services.

Trying to explain the IFC to your friends? Click on **What the IFC Does**.

Looking for something to do? Click on **Activities Calender**. Want to bring some donations from "up North"? Check our current **Wish List**.

Who's Who at the IFC - **IFC Officers** will tell you who is who and what their background is.

Upcoming **Special Events** are always listed with full information.

And always, you can reserve your **Home Tour** Tickets or renew your membership using Paypal, and get those valuable miles on your credit card as a bonus.

www.IFCVallarta.com

