

Winter 2015



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB
Edificio Parian del Puente # 13 (upstairs)
Libertad corner of Miramar, El Centro,
Puerto Vallarta
Hours 9 am - 2 pm, Mon. - Fri.
Tel: (322)-222-5466
from the US/Canada 1-514-418-2123
www.IFCVallarta.com
Email: info@ifcvallarta.com
ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago

President's Message

Greetings Members and Friends of the IFC and a “Prospero 2015” to one and all!

As we enter into our busiest season, the Clubhouse is humming with educational, cultural, and social activities, all of which help raise funds for the many Mexican charities we actively support.

We have two film nights this year (Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, and check for additional showings). There are bridge classes Monday mornings, social bridge Friday afternoons, and Bunco Thursday mornings at the Sea Monkey for the game enthusiasts. We offer guest speakers many Thursday evenings, history lectures on Friday mornings, meditation and yoga on Saturday morning, and social hour every Friday at 5:00 pm to round out the week.

Enrich your experience of being in Mexico by learning the language. It will open door to conversations and understandings otherwise not possible. Spanish classes are in full swing on Mondays, Tuesday, and Thursdays, check our calendar online or in the office for the class level that suits you.

English Outreach, now in its second year, will be offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from January 20 - March

26 from 4:30-6:00. This is a class in basic English for economically challenged Mexicans who can use it for work or school.

Home Tours are running strong, drawing healthy attendance every Tuesday and Wednesday morning with departure at 10:30 from the Sea Monkey. Our popular Tours raise the funds that for nearly 30 years has funded our Cleft Palate clinics and surgeries, changing smiles and changing lives for countless Mexican children. Please support them in every way possible, by going on Tours, spreading the word, dropping flyers and posters off around town, and helping us find homes to show.

Our Education Committee is preparing another round of grants and will award over \$100,000 pesos to local educational organizations serving the most underserved sectors of our community with everything from remedial education to books for rural libraries, from HIV prevention programs to school supplies and computers for classrooms. Our Patrocinio program—“each one helps one”—is available to help Mexicans with one-time medical costs on recommendation of an IFC member. Check the office for details and forms.

And as always, your membership renewal, attendance at meetings and fundraisers, and willingness to volunteer to help the cause are the essential elements that go to making the IFC a true community of caring and sharing. All best wishes for a wonderful season filled with warm days, warm friendships, and the making of many warm memories!

Dan Grippo
President



Membership

I will now be selling memberships on Saturday at the Old Town Farmer's Market in the month of January and part of February. The market is located up above the parking garage across the street from Daiquiri Dicks. The market people are very inclusive and welcoming to the IFC and have even given us a table and chairs. So, if you need to renew or join the IFC please stop by on Saturday and I will help you. I will have the membership cards with me.

This year we lost several merchants that participated by giving our members a discount at their establishments. A great committee was formed and many super new merchants have been signed up. Please check online for a current listing of participants.

Please ask a friend in your condo or neighborhood if they would like to join our friendly club. There are plenty of activities for everyone.

Beverly Le Beau
Membership Chairperson

Community Services

The New Year is upon us! We are getting back on track after a lot of fun and festivities! This year, I'm looking forward to working with others on our primary focus...supporting charities that reach out to the local communities.

Puerto Vallarta is growing and the areas where the most kids are at risk are not found downtown or in the resort sections. There are many small communities known as "colonias" that divide the whole Bay Area.

There are many in deep poverty. Parents without education find themselves with no job or very low paying jobs. Unable to maintain rent, food on the table, older children in the family are forced out of school after grade 6, enter into the tourism trade (if they are lucky). Some don't make it that far from home and are sucked into the drug cartel life. For the last decade, the IFC has had a goal of supporting after school programs that provide lunch, hygiene, English and crafts programs. These programs, in the heart of the colonias, reach the neediest children and families. This is how the IFC is able to reach out to the neediest. We help the programs that give hope and education. IFC gives out school supplies in August, through these same Mexican charities.

IFC members work tirelessly even during summer months to continue the works started during the tourist season. There are many ways to help the IFC help others. Look for something that appeals to YOU! HELP!

The HOME TOURS are our major way to fund our programs. We also collect gently used clean clothing for all age kids. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels and soaps! Thanks in advance!

Susan Harrie Davalos RN
Community Services Chair

The International Friendship Club

would like to thank

Sea Monkey Restaurant

for hosting our Home Tours and offering great meal deals to our members and tour guests.

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



CMQ Downtown Hospital
Basilio Badillo ·365
Col. Emiliano Zapata
(322) 223 1919

CMQ Premiere Hospital
Av. Francisco Villa ·1749
Col. Vallarta Villas
(322) 226 6500

Gorgeous Oceanview Condo

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Call 322 120 1841 for an appointment
email ninivite minister@hotmail.com for pictures & more info



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

Vallarta Botanical Gardens

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



24 Km South of town (on Hwy 200)

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

www.vbgardens.org

Emergency Medical Evacuation

The Air Rescue Card
40% Discount for IFC Members
Contact: Mike Altman
MikeAltman@PV-Health.com
US: (949) 720-1663
Mexico Toll Free 01-800-681-6742

Beyond Vallarta

tours beyond the ordinary

www.beyondvallartatours.com

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

This year has brought a number of challenges and has diminished my ability to personally write an article for the Mirror each week for our 6 month season.

Dan put out a call for help and we have had several people step up to the plate. The teamwork is not only much appreciated but adds a new dimension. After several seasons I was getting pretty stale. I am very excited with my new team.

John Warren wrote a superb article about the Medical Evacuation insurance, meeting personally with Mike Altman our General Meeting speaker in December. If you missed it you can go to PVmirror.com and click on City Paper for the Dec. 6 edition p. 5.

John will be sharing his writing talent with the IFC throughout the season.

Gail Isaacs wrote a wonderful blog piece about our last Cleft Palate clinic that we were able to use in the Dec. 20 edition.

And Sue McGregor did a nice article about the Classic Movie Series being presented by the IFC on Monday nights this season.

Please look for their work at the PV Mirror each week as well as at many online publications such as BanderasNews.com, Pvguide.org and teamangels.com.

Longtime member Frank Meyer wrote a 2 part series detailing IFC history and activities in the Vallarta Tribune in December. They rarely print anything we submit so this was quite a bonus.

I am returning to PV about the time you read this. I look forward to your comments, input and of course welcome additional volunteers. Our goal is to get the word out about the IFC and everything it offers, its charitable mission, and the Home Tours that fund our goals. Every member can help by spreading the word to those you meet.

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



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.

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