



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB
Edificio Parian del Puente # 13 (upstairs)
Libertad corner of Miramar, El Centro,
Puerto Vallarta
Hours 9 am - 1 pm
Tel: (322)-222-5466

from the US/Canada 1-310-844-7411

www.ifcpv.com

Email: ifcvallarta@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago

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!

BEYOND VALLARTA TOUR and the INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB

announce its' exciting new tour season;

Copper Canyon: January 26-February 1

The Colors of Oaxaca: January 17-23---new Feb 16-22

City of Contrasts (Mexico City): March 1-6

(San Miguel de Allende & Guanajuato): April 5-10

The Essence of Guadalajara: January 11-13, February 8-10 and March 15-17

“SALE”-ing: January 4,5 ---new ladies shopping trip for the “sales”

For more information contact jeana 222.6726
beyondvallarta@live.com www.beyondvallartatours.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mandy MacLeay

Welcome to our new 2010-2011 season. This season will be filled with new challenges and we are counting on your help to secure the donations needed for our Cleft Palate Program and our School and Community Services projects.

Simply renewing your membership and taking part in our Club activities designed as mini fundraisers helps us to reach our goals.

Your participation in our Home Tours, bringing your guests and promoting the tours at large will ensure the continued success of our community programs.

Many other institutions also benefit from your generosity through your active participation in our varied fundraising events and all gain from our continued support.

So bring your friends, have fun, enrich your lives and you will automatically enrich the lives of others and create winners all around!

WELCOME HOME TO OUR I.F.C. FAMILY!!!

As more expats are arriving daily to P.V., the excitement is growing at our Clubhouse. Many of our former members are back to renew their memberships in our club, as well as new faces we are happy to have join us. Many new plans are underway for the year ahead enabling us to continue the important charitable work that we do. As Puerto Vallarta continues to grow so grows the need for aid to so many causes that we support, such as the cleft pallet surgeries, aid to the schools, special needs facilities, and many many more. Your membership in our club and participation in these efforts will guarantee our ongoing success. Remember also that as members you will enjoy the benefits of discounts at many of our finest restaurants, as well as hotels, spas, etc. Included this year will also be a discount for Air Evacuation insurance, a much needed service for expats! We look forward to seeing you all at the opening November meeting.

Barbara Bornstein

Jan Blacklidge

Co- Chairs Membership



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.

IFC STARTS A NEW SEASON OF HOME TOURS WITH SOME EXCITING CHANGES

The International Friendship Club kicks off another season of Home Tours beginning November 17 and 18 and continuing every Wednesday and Thursday until April. We will be visiting four outstanding homes representing the architecture and variety of Vallarta living. By the way, we have the best group of knowledgeable docents who will make the trip both informative and fun. The biggest change this year is that we are relocating our starting point back to the Rio Cuale area. This year we will be hosted by Bean and Gone, located at Aquiles Serdan #242, across the street from the new Molina de Agua condominium development. Elements, the fine home furnishing and accessory store located on the corner of Aquiles Serdan and Ignacio Vallarta also is sponsoring the tours.

Also new this year, we will be taking advance reservations on Friday, Monday and Tuesday for the upcoming week's tour. Advance reservations can be made at the IFC office. For advance reservations, there will be a \$5.00 or peso equivalent discount. Otherwise, tickets go on sale at 9 a.m. the day of the tour with buses departing at 10:30 a.m. The cost of the tour will be \$35.00 US or peso equivalent, cash only.

The proceeds from the tours fund a number of Puerto Vallarta charities, including the Cleft Palate Surgical Program, Becas Vallarta, Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza (R.I.S.E), and Positos de Luz, among others. We hope that many of our IFC members will participate as volunteers, enjoy the tour yourself and/or bring friends and families on the tour. In appreciation of IFC members' continued support, we will be offering you a significant discount for the four tour dates in November. Those tickets will only cost \$20 US each for you and your family. Make sure to have your valid membership card on hand to receive your discount.

We encourage everyone to wear good walking shoes, bring a bottle of water and do not forget your camera. So you have no excuse for not helping us start the new season with a bang. If you have any questions, Mike McGee, the Home Tour Director, can be reached at: 322-221-5681 or call the IFC office at 322-222-5466.

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

PRESIDENT

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FUNDRAISING

Position open

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NEWSLETTER

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PUBLICITY

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donpat@prodigy.net.mx

BAR

Fred Forbes 044-322-171-8537
Fforbes1@rogers.com

River House

for rent - - - - Boca de tomatlan
 2 bedroom 2 bath
 minimum 10 days, 30 usd/day
 Contact: Pedro Davalos 322-299-5204

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income & Expenses 6/1/2009 Through 5/31/2010

Account Balance

INCOME

Altruism Festival Deposit Holding	527,153.00
Bazaar (Net)	5,250.00
Club House Income	108,557.75
Club Raffles & Bar (Net).	26,735.00
Clubhouse bar and food	380.00
Commissions-book sales (NET)	600.00
Donations (NET)	5,540.50
Donations – Medical.	2,661.00
Donations – Education	56,200.00
TOTAL Donations (NET)	64,401.50
Home Tour South (NET)	665,418.08
Interest Income Bank.	10,993.37
Membership dues (NET)	87,969.25
Miscellaneous Fundraisers (NET).	1,406.25
Tour Sales (NET)	8,980.00
TOTAL INCOME	1,507,844.20

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting Fees	58,321.50
Bank Fee	5,698.14
Clubhouse	11,284.00
Clubhouse Expenses	10,106.60
Clubhouse Rent (Net)	121,995.00
Electricity	9,422.00
Newsletters	240.00
Office Administrative Costs	10,771.00
Office Equipment	5,760.00
Office Supply Services, Copies	10,039.00
Public Relations	1,680.00
Salaries & Benefits	123,746.16
Taxes Hacienda	5,771.00
Telephone	15,587.65
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	390,422.05

COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS

Arturo y los Hijos	24,000.00
Clinica de Rehabilitation Santa Barbara	25,175.00
Feed the Kids Program Susan Davalos	2,000.00
Food Program Rice & Beans.	42,000.00
Pacitos de Luz	48,000.00
R.I.S.E.	38,000.00
Salvation Army	6,000.00
Special Community Service	26,000.00
Special Projects	8,835.00
TOTAL COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS	220,010.00

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Becas	20,000.00
Library Annual	36,831.00
School Projects	94,534.60
TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	151,365.60
Home Tours Expenses	2,291.00

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

Cleft Palate Program	200,869.23
Patrocinio	22,520.15
TOTAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS	223,389.38

TOTAL EXPENSES. 987,478.03

OVERALL TOTAL (income minus expenses) 520,366.17

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Scotia Checking	977,967.33
Scotia Savings Account.	413,825.42
Petty Cash-Pesos	904.00
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts.	1,392,696.75
TOTALASSETS	1,392,696.75

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	
Altruism Holding Acct	527,153.00
Cleft Palate Liability.	0.00
Prepaid.	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	527,153.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	527,153.00
EQUITY	865,543.75

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,392,696.75

Travel Assist Network Mel Bornstein

We would like to make our IFC members acquainted with a new service available to members at a discounted rate.

This is Travel assist network, a company that will take you back by medical jet plane to your home state in the event of a serious illness or accident

This is VERY important, especially for those on Medicare, so you are then covered for your medical and hospital expenses without any cost here in Puerto Vallarta.

We have checked on many companies that offer medical evacuation insurance, BUT most will take you to the closest city in Mexico, such as Guadalajara or Mexico City if PV does not have adequate doctors or hospitals to treat you. And then Medicare does not reimburse you.

Travel Assist covers any age without a doctor affidavit of your condition, which most other plans do require. Also the rates are exceptionally favorable, less an IFC member discount of 20% and an expected larger discount, as much as 40% when it comes time for your renewal. Also a family rate is available

You can check the rates and coverages at www.travelassistnetwork.com, or call me at 221 5659 for info on any of the above. Or call the company directly at 866 500 0333 or international number +1-(512) 330- 0360

Ask for Kimberly and be sure to mention you are an IFC member. Your club wants you to enjoy life and health and activity with less worries



Vallarta Botanical Gardens

Open 7 days a week
Dec 13 thru May 1st.
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

www.vallartabotanicalgardensac.org

24 Km south of town (on Hwy 200)

**Cleft Palate Program
Patricia Mendez**

The Cleft Palate surgery program completed their fall program September 1, 2 and 3. For those of you who weren't here, that was the day after the bridge over the Ameca collapsed - effectively isolating Vallarta. Now if you are shaking your head wondering how in the world did they manage that again, I am going to tell you. It was through an amazing and heartwarming response from the community. Our plans had been made the month before with housing and restaurants donating mostly in Nuevo Vallarta, airline tickets purchased, materials gathered and patients lined up and ready to go. We were looking forward to a 3 day program that we can do practically standing on our heads with one arm tied behind. Then it rained ... then it poured ... then the bridge broke and uncertainty broke out. A bare 24 hours before the start of our 3 day marathon we were dancing on marbles. Our logistics had to be reconstructed on one day's notice after the bridge fell and we thought we would not be able to use our regular housing in Nuevo Vallarta, or the restaurants who had planned their donation to the medical team.

Agustin Bas, of Tango Rentals, donated an apartment for two nights for the medical team from Guadalajara. Betty Epps and Mary Lou & Bob Zahner opened their homes for volunteers and patients who couldn't make the commute from the north bay area. Heather Wilson, of the Vallarta Tribune, volunteered to find us dinner for Wednesday and Thursday night calling on her friends in the community, Trio and The Hacienda San Angel. Our medical team of surgeons and assistants arrive on Wednesday and lunch was donated by 8 Tostadas in the Marina, thank you very much Jose Arnuldo Macedo and Mari Ahumada. That afternoon at the Hospital Regional de Puerto Vallarta they saw 56 patients in clinic visit and scheduled 13 patients for surgery. Of those, 4 were infants who were having their first surgery to close the lip. Two girls were to have the palate closed. Two repairs to the pharyngeal flap for kids 3 and 6 yrs old. Two lip retouches for kids that were just to start school. There was a 16 year old cleft palate girl to have her nose straightened...aligned and centered on her face....probably her last surgery. There is also a 16 year old girl who was born with no nose. She has been in our program for most of her life waiting to complete growth of her facial bones. The surgeons placed a skin expander in her forehead so that over the next 3 - 6 months she will grow enough skin that they can then cover a prosthetic nose.

Ulf Henriksson and the staff at Trio welcomed us for dinner on Wednesday night after consultations.

As always, Jorge Zambrano, Andale's, prepared breakfast for the medical team before they start the day. As rotten luck would have it, on Thursday morning our anesthesiologist, Dr. Emigdio Llontop, from the Instituto de Cirugía Plástica y Reconstructiva in Guadalajara, was delayed on his way to the airport by a demonstration that closed the highway and missed his flight at 7, was standby for 11, and finally got on the 4 pm flight arriving at the hospital at close to 5 pm. There just aren't that many anesthesiologists here in Vallarta that can work on infants and trust me they are booked weeks in advance. Dr. Joel Herrera, of the Regional Hospital, was kind enough to volunteer and able to stand in for the 16 yr old, but there was nothing to do but wait for Dr. Llontop for the infants. We had to suspend surgery for the older children who are more able to wait till the next program. So in the end of it all we were able to do the surgeries for 6 kids under 2 yrs of age, the most important in terms of development and health, and for one teenager who is embarking on a two year journey to have a plain nose on her face. Unfortunately, that had us leaving the hospital at 11 at night, too late to take advantage of the kindness offered us by Janice Chatterton and the Hacienda San Angel who so graciously offered us a rain check for the next program which will be Dec. 1 - 3.

**Medical Committee
Susan Davalos**

It has been a great summer for me! Lots of clouds, lots of rain and an escape to the US for a few weeks! Now I am back to work for you! I look forward to another exciting and giving season.

It takes what you have to give to make us (the friendship club) what we are. We stand in the community on our solid reputation: of many years of service to the Vallarta community. We were the first and are the best! Let us put our best effort into this new season and all of the challenges it will bring to us.

A high spot in last years work was helping a 52 year old man receive the cataract surgery necessary to restore his sight. I met Señor Fulgencio when he was blind and unable to provide for himself or his family. I left him after a celebratory meeting with DIF, a man with vision and a new hope! Our funds paid for one half of the surgical costs. DIF's Miguel Angel called me seeking help from the IFC. Between IFC, DIF and Eagle's Wings, the needed money was collected. We need to give our generous THANK YOU's to our favorite DR. MONICA GOMEZ ROSENWEIG, who performed the sight restoring surgery. She is English speaking and helps us with all of our eye patients. Her office is 222-0019 on Paraguay near Ley. She has been our trusted guide for many years.

During August, just prior to school starting, monies from the IFC and private donations were used to buy school materials for over 200 kids. We can always use more money for this cause. As I have said before, the school year begins in the worst of times for the local community. The wages are drastically reduced during the summer months and the need for food on the table outweighs the price of a uniform or school supplies.

The IFC has a way that you can personally become a part of whatever program you would like to support.

Through the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED, a 403c charity, money can be donated and earmarked for your specific interest...and kids can be helped! Salud!!!!

Mexican History

New Fall Lecture Series by Dan Grippo

Dan will bring to life important periods of the History of Mexico! Mexico's Bicentennial by the Numbers: 1810, 1910, 2010.

The lectures will be from 10:30 a.m. – Noon on Fridays: Nov. 26, Dec. 3, Dec. 10

This three-week series will offer of glimpse of life in Mexico in each of the anniversaries commemorated in this year's bicentennial celebration of Mexico's Independence. What were the conditions and concerns in 1810 that led to the Independence movement? What strife and tensions in 1910 resulted in the outbreak of the Mexican Revolution? What are some of the main cares and concerns of Mexican society today? Format: Lecture with time for Q & A at the end.

Series Discount for IFC Members: 3 Tickets for \$250 pesos. Tickets at the Door: \$100 pesos (no discount)

