

Friends of Mexico, A.C.

Newsletter

Amigos de Mexico, A.C.



Cost: 5 Pesos

"Promoting acceptance among all nationalities"
"Formentando amistad entre todas las nacionalidades"

Friends of Mexico Website: mazinfo.com/fom

Email: fom@mazinfo.com

October 2005



Mark Your Calender!

The 2nd Annual "STARS OF TOMORROW" will be held on Saturday, November 26th ,2005

Full details to follow next month's newsletter.

Letter from Bruce George

Hola Friends of Mexico. This will be the last note from yours truly as our President has returned and I am gratefully relieved of this duty. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our President Nancy Blakeslee and all our returning members. BUT, I would really like to spread a little praise to those people who have been here plugging along through the long hot summer. Your Board Members, Foundation Members and Committee members are all Volunteers, not only donating their time, but their gas, money and hearts to kids in need. It has been said in many different ways, but to simplify, "you have to give it away to get something back". I, for one, get back at least double when I go out to the schools we help and see the faces of the kids. If you haven't done it, please do. Get involved, you will be rewarded. To the those of you putting in countless hours you ARE awesome. I want to give a special GRACIAS to Susan Luce for the amazing job she has done with our newsletter..... YOU ROCK! Thank you all.....Here's to a great season!!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Friends of Mexico Board Members

President:
Nancy Blakeslee

Vice President
Joe McDonald

Secretary:
Diane Schultz

Tresurer:
Susan Silva

Foundation:
Jacque Demmer

Membership:
Cliff Brown

Member Services:
Fr. Jim Story

Newsletter:
Susan Luce

Web Page:
Kim Peters

Discount Services:
Henri Jarrat

Events Coordinator:
Bruce George

Continuing Education:
NEED VOLUNTEER

Radio:
Val/JackMoreau

*All board members may be contacted by e-mailing:
fom@mazinfo.com*

BEAT THE RUSH!!

With the exception of new members who joined after August 1, 2005 and those who have already paid for 2006 , membership fees are due by the Annual General Meeting in January. There is usually a rush to pay at that meeting so if you want to avoid standing at the table in January you can pay anytime between now & then. After the January meeting, unpaid members will lose their great discounts and will be dropped from our roster. Also don't forget your support goes to help to educate the poorer kids in Mazatlan.

Thanks for your continued support,
Cliff Brown, Membership Chairman

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Thanks for the support of the following advertisers this month

- * Mazatlan IS Paradise
- * Dr. Eduardo Ibarra Zanbrabi
- * High Road Property Management Solutions
- * Carpintera Aleman
- * Royal Spa
- * La Ventanita
- * Heather's Place
- * Jungle Juice
- * MASA
- * International Massage
- * Christine's Coffee House
- * Mazatlan King David
- * Mazatlan Realty
- * Multi-Services Mazatlan
- * Sinaloa Sun Properties
- * Tenerife Condominiums

Friends of México A.C.

General Meeting Minutes

September, 2005

Number in attendance: 28 (22 members, 6 guests)

1. Meeting called to order by Bruce George
2. August General Meeting minutes were approved:
1st- Cheryl , 2nd-Fr. Jim
3. Treasurer's report approved: 1st-Jerry, 2nd-Cheryl
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Foundation-Jacque Demmer:
 - Presented appreciation gifts to 3 angels
 - Thanked Sor Juana volunteers
 - See report in newsletter
 - B. Events-Bruce George:
 - Accepting deposits for the Copper Canyon trip
 - Forthcoming events: 2nd annual Stars of Tomorrow; Cook off; bus trips to Tonalá and archeological petroglyphs
 - C. Membership-Susan Silva for Cliff Brown:
 - Welcomed 6 guests and 3 new members
5. **Guest Speaker:**
 - Martha Armenta of Conrehabit A.C. Wildlife Conservation Asst. showed a video of their new location. She also requested volunteers to help develop the location
5. Announcements: December 9th – a fund raiser for Conrehabit at Canuck's
7. Attendance drawing winner: Elona Beaudetter
8. Adjourned at 11:15 AM

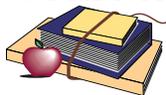
Submitted by Lee Story for Diane Schultz, Secretary

THANK-GRACIAS YOU

A *very special thanks* to the following for their contributions to the FOM Foundation:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Pat Lahti | • Anita Broagno |
| • Maggie Spencer | • Dale Bates |
| • Paul & Marian Helveston | • Carolyn Franklin |
| • Bea Garay | • Sheila Hansen |
| • Gail Hanlon | • C. Michael Traw |
| • Joanne B. Bunker | • Don Bisbee |
| • Lee Toney | • Mike Freitas |
| • Elsie Brolan | • Bob & Kathy Russell |
| • Leslie Hardy Tamel | • Marge & Ed Hand |
| • Catherine Sheldon | • Carole Ann Baccelli |
| • Laura Flager | • Katie Hassett |

FOUNDATION COMMITTEE



MEETING

September 30, 2005

The committee met on September 30, 2005 at Mr. A's. Attending: Lee Story, Fr. Jim Story, Jacque Demmer

Projects:

Sor Juana:

The reorder of polo shirts, backpacks and school supplies were delivered to the individual students that did not receive them on the original day of distribution.

The purchase of a television for the school has been postponed until further notice, pending the investigation of the missing backpacks from the director's office.

Josefina:

The School supplies purchased with the donation from Nanaimo Rotary Club were delivered to the school and received with great cheer. Alejandro Gonzales Lie from the local Rotary club as well as the president of the club was with us and helped unload the van.

At this time we noticed that the new television for their library had been purchased so Lee and I returned with their new DVD player the following week. Lee and I were also there for the presentation of 50 individual desks for the students. Through a contact at Rotary Club of Mazatlan District 4150, Sra. Teddy Gil, Josefina received these desks and possibly, will receive more in the future. This school was in desperate need of desks.

Flores Magon:

The repair of the bathrooms has still not begun. They do not need any school supplies at this time. Unfortunately, they were robbed again and lost their stereo, and other electronic equipment.

Hogar:

Bruce delivered the office equipment to Sister Amalia and she was thrilled to receive these items. Just days after Wendy Osuna from the Canadian Counsel donated these items, Sister Amalia inquired if there was any way we could donate typewriters as the older boys at the home were taking typing classes and needed a typewriter for homework.

Father Jim has 2 monitors that he will donate to complete the two CPU units, keyboards and mouse that Wendy donated as well. Thanks again Wendy.

El Venadillo

School supplies were delivered. I am very happy to report that the fund for the repair, actually the replacement of the bathrooms, has finally been received. With this money and the help of the parents, the old bathrooms have been torn out and new ones will be built. It's great to see such progress happening at these schools.

Felton: Susan Silva

Lourdes, the director of Felton is interviewing potential recipients for our scholarships there.

MCA:

Kathryn Koyler is hard at work planning the second annual Paul Koyler Stars of Tomorrow competition. It's going to be even more spectacular this year!! Don't forget to mark **NOVEMBER 26TH** on your calendar. You won't want to miss this.

Other Business:

Aquarium trips:

Since "our" schools were suppose to be on the schedule for September, I once again visited the aquarium but Angles Cruz was not available. I spoke with the Director, Sr. Zuñiga and he assured me that I would be receiving a call with the dates for their visit.

Eye Exams:

Dr. Armand Radke and his group will be in Mazatlan March 11-18 and has agreed to provide this service to "our" students.

More Schools:

Lee and I visited the 2 additional schools in very poor colonias that requested Friends of Mexico's help. Lee and I agree that they certainly could use help. At this time, our budget is completely designated for the existing schools, but perhaps we can provide some minimal help.

Music:

I have received a request from a professor in Mexico City to provide an introduction to music to our students. Unfortunately, he needs for us to fund this endeavor, \$3-4,000.00 pesos plus accommodations. I will present this to the committee and, if they so desire, to the board.

Donations:

Thanks to the generosity of others, we have received **\$1,915.00 U.S.** in donations. **THANKS!!!** Remember, **at FOM 100%** of every penny or peso donated to the organization is spent on the needs of less fortunate students. No funds donated are used for administrative or other expenses, or for any other purpose. All their time, money for gas, phone calls, etc. is donated by our hard working committee members. There are over 160 schools in Mazatlan. At present, we are helping 6 schools by providing, at minimum, school supplies. We need your donation so that we can help more of these young students in need.

Respectfully Submitted, Jacque Demmer

Thought for the Month:

There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."

Aduana Has Moved!

If you have a U.S. car in Mazatlan, when you renew your FM 3, you will also need to get an extension on your permit for this car. To do this you need to go to the Aduana's office and request the extension. The office for this service has changed locations. It is now located at Av. Emilio Barragan s/n (no number). It's at the port harbor, close to where the cruise ships dock. To reach this office, you go down the malecon to Av. M. Aleman. At the East end of Aleman street, turn right. Go around a couple of curves in the road, and on the left side of the street you will see a new beige building with white trim. Over the entrance is a sign: ADUANA MEXICO. You will need to check in at the desk at the entrance. After checking in, go to the right, through the doors and to the office on the left. You will need the following documents to get your extension.

- 4 copies of the letter requesting this service
- 2 copies of the permit with the Hologram.
- 2 copies of the letter you received when you renewed your FM 2 or 3

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

OCTOBER	
11th - Fran Grantham	28th - Gail Ankele
11th - Danielle Martin	28th - Jana Graves
13th - Deb Lord	29th - Betty Donaldson
15th - Rochelle Cattrell	29th - Andrea Dorratt
17th - Jim Marlatt	30th - Roy Barnacal
17th - Angel Weeks	31st - Nancy Blakeslee
18th - Pat Poses	31st - William Huffman
19th - Paul Clayton	NOVEMBER
23rd - Kim Peters	1st - Nancy Huffman
24th - Rose Guillas	1st - Don Meredith
25th - Silvia Kemp	6th - Pat Lahti
26th - Anne Heynen	7th - Lynne Hernandez
27th - Arlene Tupper	7th - Dorothy Owre

Attending: Bruce George, Jacque Demmer, Lee Story, Kim Peters, Susan Silva, Cliff Brown & Jim Story

1. Meeting called to order by Bruce at 9:35 am
2. September board meeting minutes were read; and motion to approve; 1st-Susan, 2nd-Bruce; approved 7-0

3. Committee Reports:

- A. Treasurers Report-Susan: See report in this newsletter
- B. Foundation-Jacque: See report in newsletter
Motion: \$1000 for school supplies for Gual. Vincente Guerrero Primary School; 1st-Jim, 2nd-Bruce; approved 7-0
- C. Programs-Bruce: October speaker Raul Rico of the Teatro Angela Peralta
- D. Events-Bruce: Copper Canyon trip, 40 seats available, taking deposits.

- Stars of Tomorrow on November 26. 2005

- E. Membership-Cliff: roughly 350 members; Now collecting annual renewal dues
- F. Discount Services-Jim: Updates sent to the website today
- G. Website-Kim: Send updates to Kim at mkpeters@mazinfo.com
- H. Member Services-Jim: Table of contents for the information folder will be available for the general meeting
- I. Volunteers-Bruce: Need a new chairman

4. Old Business:

- A. New member's information packet to be expanded
- B. Locking cabinet for Sor Juana may not be necessary; this will be researched
- C. The January general meeting will be held at the Aquarium's auditorium

5. New Business:

- A. Discussed the feasibility of preparing a packet listing procedures one should take for penal and civil actions
- B. Discussed advertising for events
- C. Research a "stand alone" website
- D. Secretary to send minutes of board meetings to absent board members.

6. Meeting adjourned at 11:25; motion 1st-Susan, 2nd-Bruce; approved; 7-0. *Submitted by Lee Story*

WHY? ... does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Friends of Mexico Statement of Purpose

To be a non-profit organization of Mazatlán providing community services and promoting better understanding among Mexicans and non-Mexicans.

To accomplish this purpose we will:

- Offer activities, information and services to the members of Friends of México, and
- Contribute to the local community by providing educational opportunities to those in need.

CONSULATE NUMBERS

U.S. Consulate Agency in Mazatlan:

Patty Fletcher de Arteaga

Tele/Fax: 916-5889 mazagent@mzt.megared.net.mx

Canadian Consulate Office in Mazatlan:

Wendy Osuna 913-7320 Fax: 914-6655

A complete list of Friends of México "by-laws" can be found on our website at: mazinfo.com/fom

And Don't Forget....

✉ Outgoing mail to the USA is collected at the back table.

🚗 FOM has a **blood donor list**. Contact Fr. Jim, fom@mazinfo.com Silva or Jacque Demmer at fom@mazinfo.com to **sign up or if in need**.

🏠 Gisela Garcia is the person to call if you are shut-in and in need of some companionship or you know someone who is. She'll visit you at the hospital or in your home. Contact her at fom@mazinfo.com

☎ A Foreign Residents phone directory is available at the back desk for 25 pesos. If you want to be included in this directory, email www.maztravel.com/maz/phones/signup.html.

💻 Register with your consulate on-line when you arrive and leave. US at www.usembassy-mexico.gov and Canada at www.voyage.gc.ca.

Mexico City, Sept. 8 (AP)

U.S. asks Mexican officials not to visit New Orleans because of security concerns: U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asked Mexican officials not to visit the city of New Orleans because she could not guarantee their safety, officials said Thursday.

Monterrey, Mexico, Sept. 9 (AP)

Mexico beats deadline for eliminating ozone-depleting chemicals: Mexico has stopped producing ozone-depleting chemicals four years before a deadline set by an international agreement, the environment secretary announced Friday.

Mexico City, Sept. 9 (AP)

Mexico gearing up for Chinese tourism: Se habla Chinese? Apparently not enough Mexicans do, so the country's Tourism and Economy Departments are joining with the elite College of Mexico to prepare for a growing flow of tourists from the world's most populous nation.

Mexico City, Sept. 21 (AP)

In Mexico, Russian foreign minister discusses energy, terrorism with Mexican counterpart: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed energy issues with his Mexican counterpart Wednesday, saying that government officials and private sector leaders from both countries have discussed joint investment in natural gas production.

Mexico City, Sept. 21 (AP)

Mexican president sends energy reform proposals to Congress: Mexican President Vicente Fox has sent to Congress a proposed constitutional amendment to allow private companies to explore for and produce Mexican natural gas not associated with oil fields, his spokesman announced on Wednesday.

Mexico City, Sept. 21

Mexico razes smuggler hub on U.S. border: Mexican authorities have demolished dozens of abandoned homes in a village on the U.S. border that was one of the major hubs for smugglers hauling drugs and for illegal migrants sneaking into the United States.

Monterrey, Mexico, Sept. 22 (AP)

Hundreds of Mexicans hurry home ahead of Hurricane Rita: Hundreds of Mexicans living on the Texas Gulf Coast were rushing home Thursday to avoid Hurricane Rita, while authorities in northern Mexico readied shelters and prepared for heavy rains.

Mexico City, Oct. 1 (COPLEY NEWS SERVICE)

Mexico received NFL's first handoff: If you think football and fiestas are an unusual combination, 85,000 Mexicans beg to differ. These Mexicans – avid football fans each and every one – snapped up nearly every ticket to see the San Francisco 49ers face off against the Arizona Cardinals Sunday, October 2nd at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium.

La Paz, Mexico, Oct. 2 (AP)

Hurricane Otis weakens to tropical storm, Tropical Storm Stan crosses southern Mexico: Otis weakened to tropical-storm status Sunday as it churned slowly toward an unpopulated stretch of the Baja California Peninsula, while Tropical Storm Stan came ashore at a sparsely-populated area south of the Caribbean resort of Tulum.

No immediate reports of damages or injuries were received in connection with either storm, officials in Baja California Sur and Quintana Roo said.

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 2 (AP)

Mexican companies try to brew U.S. market for spicy beer mixer: Now that Americans have become accustomed to sticking lime wedges in their beers, Mexican companies are hoping they will start reaching for cold ones with a spicy kick.

In last months newsletter, I ran an article written by the AP press on Mexico's involvement in aiding the US after hurricane Katrina. From a completely different perspective, here are the thoughts of the "people" of Mexico - specifically those of Mazatlan. - The editor

Letter From Mazatlan

New Orleans shows we're about a single disaster from the Third World

by DAVE WIELENGA

Orange County Weekly, September 16 - 22, 2005

The gusting rain of the thunderstorm was falling so hard on the corrugated-metal roof of Tortas Kuwait - the best neighborhood sandwich spot in Mazatlan - that they had to turn up the volume on the always-blaring TV to hear the reports of disaster and rescue from New Orleans. That measured local interest in the consequences of Hurricane Katrina better than anything else.

Normally, people here unplug everything during storms to protect their appliances from the power surges that rage through the primitive electrical system. Normally, people here head home during downpours because drainage is so bad that it takes only minutes for

MEET A FELLOW MEMBER

Elona Beaudetter



Elona, a transplanted Canadian, resides 10 months a year in Mazatlan from Vegreville, Alta, Canada. For her first six years she was a six month "snowbird" but now returns to Alta in only in June & July.

Elona was attracted to Mazatlan by the beautiful beaches, friendly people and the perfect weather. She loves to dance and walk daily to keep in shape and rehabilitate her knee after surgery. You'll also find her constantly socializing or else on some of the golf courses around town.

After talking to Elona, I found out she is quite the business woman. She started her career by owning a campground, then went onto a sports shop specializing in bicycles. From there, she moved onto motorcycles and snowmobiles until she became owner/operator of a motel in Canada. One of her daughters bought her motel and runs it herself. As a result of this, Elona still receives an annual income that makes her retirement in Mazatlan possible.

When you see her, stop Elona and just say "hola" - she would love to chat with you. Also ask her about her two daughters and five grandchildren. I'm sure she has a lot of stories.

(Elona was the winner of the attendance drawing at the September 2005 General Meeting.)

Advertise HERE!

MONTHLY ADVERTISING PRICE LIST

Business Card	2 1/4"x 3 5/8" = 30 pesos
Half Column	4 1/2"x 3 5/8" = 50 pesos
One Column	9" x 3 5/8" = 80 pesos
Half Page	4 1/2"x 7 1/2" = 100 pesos

Ads in the "Advertising Directory" must run a minimum of three months (event ads do not apply) and be PREPAID. For further information, telephone Susan Luce at 982-8474 ext. 118. or email smltgt@yahoo.com

Mazatlan IS Paradise

A popular travel book written by FOM's own Chuck Hall

Useful information for Visitors, Snow Birds and Expats

**Purchase at La Vina Church, Mazatlan
Book and Coffee, Christine's Hair Salon &
Canuck's Restaurant in Olas Altas**

*All proceeds from the sale goes to La Vina Mission
and Amigos de los Animales*



Holiday Helper

October 12	Dia de la Raza (<i>Day of the Race</i>)
October 13	Yom Kipper
October 30	Daylight Savings Ends
October 31	Halloween
November 1	Todos los Santos (<i>All Saints Day</i>) - Start of celebration for Day of the Dead
November 3	Dia de los Muertos (<i>Day of the Dead</i>)

the streets to become impassable rivers that often overflow their high curbs and gush into houses.

People here know this isn't normal everywhere. They get American TV. They get the expression on my American face, which still so often shows incredulity despite having lived in Mexico for nearly three years. They don't like the inconvenience of living this way. They lament the expense. Ultimately, however, they're apt to sum it up with a smilingly delivered truth: *Asi es la vida aqui en El Tercero Mundo*. That's life here in the Third World.

But there was nothing normal about the images of destruction, suffering and death being relayed to Mazatlan from the First World. Nor about the account of a rescue mission - an overland army convoy, a navy ship - that was dispatched from Mexico to the United States. Through lightning and thunder and roaring rain, the TV stayed on at Tortas Kuwait, and so did the people watching it.

Nobody was shaking their heads in disbelief at the scenes unfolding before them. If what they were seeing on the screen was unimaginable to them, it was only because most of them didn't have to use their imaginations to conjure pictures of the devastating combination of natural disaster with government incompetence or indifference. This is hurricane country too. The people used their memories, and nodded their heads in solemn recognition.

Nobody was very surprised at President Bush's slow and largely ceremonial response to the disaster - Bush isn't very popular here, nor considered very competent. But they seemed quite surprised that the American people were surprised. Public opinion polls here invariably reveal that Mexicans see through the posturing of elected officials and recognize that most are in office for themselves. Mexicans are fascinated by Americans' determination to fool themselves about this.

Everybody was struck by the significance of the Mexican rescue mission. Nobody was gloating, although some people did have to work through their indignation when Bush first rejected offers of assistance from nations ranging from Canada, Japan and France to Honduras, Jamaica, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Venezuela and Mexico.

"*Bush Dobra La Mano*" sassed the headline in the street-talking daily paper La Primera Hora - translated, "Bush Folds His Hand," an expression used to describe the all-bluster losers of card games and arm-wrestling matches - when the magnitude of the Katrina disaster forced the U.S. president to swallow his pride and accept assistance.

Mostly, however, people were cognizant of the historic irony of a Mexican rescue mission to the U.S. and seemed proud that they could overcome the powerful forces of some pretty delicate feelings to be of service to people in need.

They beamed at video of a 47-vehicle, 195-person Mexican military convoy crossing the border at Laredo, Texas, loaded with military engineers, doctors, nurses, water-treatment equipment and portable kitchens capable of feeding 7,000 people a day. Likewise at the clips of the navy vessel Papaloapan anchoring off the Gulf Coast with a mobile ambulance, two helicopters, potable water and other supplies.

"That is Mexico!" shouted Mexican President Vicente Fox, *a todo pulmon* (with all his lungs) in a nationally broadcast ceremony. "It is solidarity, it is love, it is caring, it is power to defeat adversity."

It was a little hyperbolic, but it evoked applause at Tortas Kuwait . . . until gradually attention turned from the television and conversation turned to the last time the Mexican army had been on American soil. It was 159 years ago - so long ago that there was some dispute over whose soil it really was. That dispute, the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, ended with Mexico losing half of its country to the U.S.

Nobody applauded that. The only sound was the rain, pounding away on that corrugated-metal roof. *Asi es la vida aqui en El Tercer Mundo*.



Zoe Bunnell
Vierl Bunnell
Heather Kasenmeier

Hails from
California
California
Washington