



### Porfirio Diaz

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Porfirio Diaz

Porfirio Diaz (1830-1915) perhaps qualifies as one of Mexico's most controversial statesmen. President of the country for 30 years, Diaz is frequently remembered as being one of the country's most notorious dictators. The bitter irony to his record lies in his accomplishments, of which there were many. Diaz brought Mexico into the modern age and the country achieved financial solvency under his reign.

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, Porfirio Diaz had mestizo blood. He grew up in the capital of the state, the city of Oaxaca. The early years of his life were filled with economic hardship and tragedy. His father died when he was just three years of age, leaving the family impoverished. Porfirio's mother, struggling to raise eight children on her

own, nonetheless recognized the importance of an education and enrolled Porfirio in the seminary.

However, Porfirio Diaz' destiny lay in the world of temporal affairs. He switched his studies from the the priesthood to law. Known to be a diligent student, one of his tutors was Mexico's future president and beloved hero, Benito Juarez. Influenced and inspired by Juarez' commitment to social justice, Diaz' early allegiance was to the ideals of liberalism.

Mexico during the second half of the 19th century was facing internal challenges as well as threats from abroad. War was in the air and Porfirio abandoned his studies to become a soldier. In short order, Porfirio Diaz became known for his bravery, cunning and ability. He fought valiantly during the War of the Reform and was promoted for his efforts. His daring maneuvers during the Battle of Puebla earned him the title of hero. This famous battle is why Cinco de Mayo is celebrated today.

Subsequent skirmishes had Porfirio captured and imprisoned. Walls and guards could not hold him and he would successfully escape his captors. His extraordinary abilities on the battlefield earned him the rank of General and the loyalty of the men who served under him. His future success was assured with a career in the military but Porfirio had further ambitions.

Breaking completely from his former mentor Benito Juarez, Porfirio ran against his elder for the office of president. He lost the election but undeterred, sought the

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## **History of Mexican Revolution Cont.**

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General Porfirio Diaz

office yet again when another rival succeeded Juarez, Lerdo de Tejada. Porfirio staged a rebellion and crafted the "Plan of Tuxtepec", a plan of governance that mainly rested upon the principle of a one-term presidential office with reelection forbidden.

The subsequent election that followed brought Porfirio success. He became president in 1877 and served the remaining one term, abiding by his previously advertised platform. A hand-picked successor assumed the office next, Manuel Gonzalez. Chaos and instability dogged this administration. The next election saw Porfirio Diaz reneging on his earlier promise of a one-term presidential office. Porfirio promptly emerged the winner and assumed office.

From 1884 to 1911 Porfirio Diaz ruled Mexico as a dictator. He quenched all opposition by violence and intimidation. His reign of office is known as the "Porfiriato". Porfirio Diaz is credited with the establishment of the "rurales", bandits that the president heavily armed so that they could carry out his orders.

The poor and indigenous suffered enormously under the dictatorship of Diaz. Lands were taken away and the indigenous were forced into a debt-slavery system. As well, freedom of speech was not tolerated under the "Porfiriato". Hacienda owners however prospered as did other select groups.

Porfirio and his advisors followed the philosophy of positivism whose basic tenet prized economic development no matter what the cost. This philosophy provided a rationalization for Diaz and his followers, the científicos who believed that only when economic stability is achieved can social progress be made.

Indeed, under the reign of Diaz, Mexico prospered incredibly in terms of over-all economics. Mexico entered the modern age with electricity brought to the cities and thousands of miles of railway built. Factories sprung up and the national debt was paid in full.

However, the social atrocities occurring in tandem with these achievements created an unrest that could not be quenched. The cry of revolution could be heard throughout the country. Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata and others answered the call. The Mexican Revolution had begun and Porfirio Diaz was forced to flee the country. He died in exile in Paris, France.

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## **2017 Membership Renewal**



Yes, it is that time again..... To send in your renewal for this year's membership in the Friends of Taxco. We are planning on a GREAT year and have already started the fun with our January Celebration of Hello Dolly at Randy & Linda Lewis' home.

Make sure to send your renewal to: Ceci Gomez at her home address. You can find her address on the 2017 Membership Renewal Form or in the Roster. If you can't find either of those just call Randy Lewis.

***Invite A Friend & Help Us Build Our Membership***

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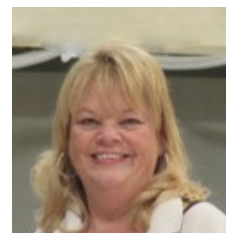
## **Message From The President**



Guess Who This Is

Welcome to a Blustery February (after a blustery January!),

The new year is underway and we launched it with a great social in January themed around the movie Hello Dolly. Thanks to everyone who participated - we had a great turnout, and we learned as great as this movie is, there was a lot of drama in the background! Thanks to Randy and Linda for hosting and the 'Harmonia Gardens' themed dinner and Bobbie Strelow for all the trivia and great centerpieces.



Jo Lamoreaux

We have many plans for upcoming events. See the article and flyer for February. In March, we are planning our third progressive dinner and the month of April is National Jazz Appreciation month and we will have an event centered around jazz music. We'll have our annual major fundraiser in June this year, and later in the year - we're looking to celebrate Arbor Day and get ready for a trip to Santa Anita to play the ponies!

We have lots of exciting activities for our members and guests. If you haven't sent in your dues - please send them in. If you are aware of someone interested in joining, please let us know. Ceci Gomez is our new membership chair for this year. If you have any questions, feel free to give her a call at (818) 917-4127.

Planning is beginning to host our delegation from Taxco. Our visitors will arrive in June. If you are interested in being a part of the committee - please contact Barb White at (818) 347-2136 or via email at [rushandbarbwhite@gmail.com](mailto:rushandbarbwhite@gmail.com). We have many projects large and small - so if you can lend a hand, please let us know.

Looking forward to seeing you at the February general meeting - we'll update the membership on the organization, vote on the 2017 budget, have a great lunch, and hear more about the great city of Taxco!

Take care, Jo

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## **Taxco General Meeting**



Barbara White

The Friends of Taxco first General Meeting of 2017 will be held on Sunday, February 19 at 1 p.m. with social time and lunch at the Canoga Park Women's Club. We hope that all of you will be present to enjoy our Guest Speaker, Bruce Troe who will be sharing a video about Taxco. Bruce has travelled there often and has much insight to pass on to us as we begin making plans for our 2017 visit .

We will also be presenting our proposed budget for 2017.

We hope that you will consider joining us on our trip, leaving Friday, October 27 and returning Sunday, November 5. We will talk about air fares and plan our flights.

We are so excited that we will be in Taxco at the end of October and into early November ....BECAUSE we will see first hand the wonderful traditions Taxco has when they celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of The Dead ) I am really looking forward to this opportunity. I have never experienced this celebration in Mexico so maybe it will be A FIRST FOR YOU too. Let's plan on it!

## General Meeting

# “Traveling in Taxco”

## *February 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting*

### *Program by Bruce Troe*

Bruce was a teacher for LA Unified for over 30 years and has traveled in Mexico and Taxco extensively. Please join us for an interesting and informative program.



*Luncheon  
\$12.00  
per person*



Photo by Sergio Dominguez

*Starts at 1:00 PM*

Kindly RSVP To: Lynne Davies  
(818) 998-2860  
lynne.davies@att.net

## Calendar of Events 2016

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|-------------|--|
| February 19 | <b>General Meeting - 1:00 PM - Taxco Video by Bruce Troe</b> |
| \$12.00     | Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.                  |
| February 25 | <b>Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch</b>                  |
|             | Lamoreaux Home   |
| March 18    | <b>St Patrick's Progressive Dinner - 5:30 PM</b>             |
|             | Start at Bobbie Strelow's Home                               |
| March 22    | <b>Board Meeting - 7:00 PM</b>                               |
|             | Lewis Home   |
| April 22    | <b>Board Meeting - 10:00 AM</b>                              |
|             | Location TBD   |
| April 29    | <b>Jazz Dinner Show - 6:30 PM</b>                            |
| \$15.00     | Location TBD   |



**FRIENDS OF TAXCO**  
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