



# El Amigo

## FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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June 2018

### The History of Morelos

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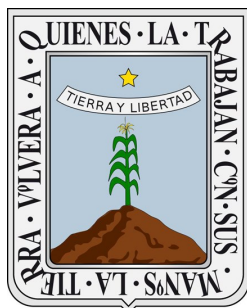
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Seal of Morelos

Famed as the birthplace of revolutionary hero Emiliano Zapata, Morelos has long been home to Nahua Indians, who still engage in subsistence farming throughout the state. Today, the state of Morelos is densely settled and urbanized, with one-fifth of its population concentrated in the capital city. An extensive network of railways and roads facilitates transportation within the state, and an express highway connects Cuernavaca to Mexico City in the north and the port of Acapulco in the south.

#### Early History

Human settlements in Morelos date back as far as 2000 B.C., when Toltec groups began farming the land. Around 600 A.D., Xichicalco became the region's largest settlement and, according to some historians, the first society to worship the god Quetzalcóatl, who was regarded as the father of civilization. In the 12th century, the Toltec empire came to an end, allowing other groups to move into the region. During the 14th century, the Tlahuicas dominated the area, but in the late 1420s they were overpowered and absorbed by the Aztec empire, despite fierce resistance.

Although the Aztecs are best known as the inhabitants of the great city of Tenochtitlán and the conquerors of a great Mesoamerican Empire, the term Aztec actually represents a very large population composed of many local ethnic groups, all linked together by a broader Aztec culture and a common language. The Tlahuicas are considered a subgroup of the Náhuatl-speaking Aztec Indians of south central Mexico.

The largest city of the Tlahuica settlement was Cuauhnahuac, which was later renamed Cuernavaca by the Spaniards who were unable to pronounce the original Náhuatl name. With a current population of approximately 350,000, Cuernavaca is now the state capital of Morelos. The Tlahuica also founded Huaxtepec, which today is called Oaxtepec, and Xochicalco, which became a thriving center of culture, commerce, and agriculture during the pre-Hispanic era.

#### Middle History

When the conquistador Hernán Cortés arrived in Mexico, he sent Gonzalo de Sandoval to conquer the region of present-day Morelos in 1521. Sandoval settled the area in 1523 and established North America's first sugar cane mill at Tlaltenango. The first Franciscan priests arrived in 1529 to convert the indigenous people to the Roman Catholic faith, but diseases and mistreatment by Spanish settlers drastically reduced the indigenous population during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Sugar production in Morelos had to contend with the sugarcane fields of the Caribbean, where slave labor kept costs low. To compensate, Spaniards in Morelos

## **The History of Morelos Cont.**

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adopted the hacienda system, which gave a few powerful individuals vast tracts of land as well as complete authority over the inhabitants. The indigenous peoples became pawns, obligated to work land that did not belong to them. The hacienda system continued into the 20th century, when the Mexican Revolution (1910-1921) finally abolished the system.

### **Recent History**

Though the Mexican War of Independence began in 1810, the movement did not reach Morelos until 1811, when Cuernavaca became a center of the revolt. José Morelos y Pavón, a parish priest turned military leader, fought for independence throughout the region until he was captured and executed in 1815.

Like the rest of Mexico, Morelos was marked by political instability in the 19th century. The state remained one of the largest producers of sugar cane in the world, and the hacienda system continued to cultivate enormous inequalities between the wealthy landowners and the working peasants.

The Mexican Revolution began in 1910, and one of its central promises was land reform. Emiliano Zapata, a resident of Morelos, emerged as one of the most important leaders of the revolution. Along with Francisco “Pancho” Villa, he fought against the established government to promote the redistribution of land. Zapata led the Southern Liberation Army and continued to fight for peasant rights even after the end of the revolution, until he was ambushed and killed in 1919.

After the revolution Morelos rapidly became industrialized, developing the infrastructure that helped it to become an agricultural and industrial hub.

### **Morelos Today**

Manufacturing and services account for the bulk of employment in the state; chief products include textiles, chemicals, refined sugar and other food products. Service-based companies account for about 23 percent of the state’s economy, while manufacturing is the second largest economic component at 19 percent. Trade accounts for about 17 percent, followed by finance and insurance companies at 14 percent, agriculture and livestock at 12 percent, transportation and communications at 9 percent, construction at 5 percent and mining at 1 percent.

The main exports from Morelos are motor vehicles, tomatoes, sugar cane, honey and flowers. Nissan Mexicana, Upjohn, Beecham de Mexico and Firestone all operate large facilities in the state, mostly near Cuernavaca. Morelos’ rich cultural tradition is well preserved at museums across the state. Notable museums include the Museo Cuauhnahuac (the oldest civilian building in Mexico) as well as the Museo Robert Brady, named after an American art collector who fell in love with Cuernavaca in 1959. The eclectic offerings of the Museo Robert Brady feature such diverse displays as Mexican puppets, Canadian Totems and stone art from Cameroon.



### **Morelos Facts & Figures**

Capital: Cuernavaca

Major Cities (population): Cuernavaca (349,102)

Jiutepec (181,317) Cuautla (160,285)

Temixco (98,560)

Yautepec de Zaragoza (84,513)

Size/Area: 1,820 square miles

Population: 1,612,899 (2005 Census)

Year of Statehood: 1869

The Palace of Cortés in Cuernavaca, Mexico, built in 1526. Photo by Randy Lewis during Adult Visitation in 2015. The building began as a fortified residence for conqueror Hernán Cortés, colonial authorities had the structure renovated and used it as a barracks and jail during the War of Independence, later it became the Government Seat for the state of Morelos. In the 20th century it was converted to a regional museum which it still is today.

## **President's Article**

What a magnificent visit we had. A big THANK YOU to JO LAMOREAUX and her committee for a beautiful schedule of events!! BRUCE TROE set up a great luncheon at Mission College of gourmet food cooked and presented in first class style and then a tour of their College of Cuisine. ANA BONILLA set up and gave us a wonderful tour of the Getty Center, sharing her extensive knowledge with us!! BOBBIE STRELOW set up a day at the races for us and it was very well received by our guests!! They enjoyed themselves and won some money! There were many other members of the committee and all of them did a great job at researching, booking and implementing the tours. THANK YOU ALL!!!



Barbara White

Our visitors were very well received and taken care of by our host families and co-hostesses. Thank you all for all of your work! It is definitely a wonderful experience to host one or two of our Taxco visitors. Please consider doing this next year if you haven't already!!

This month we are going to see ELVIS!! On Sunday June 10 at the Warner Park. See the flyer for details and get your reservation into Bobbie as soon as possible.

Looking forward to seeing you as we sing and dance along with Elvis!!

Love,  
Barb White



Photos above are from several of the events that were attended by the Taxco Delegation and our members. From top left (Welcome Party) - top right (Santa Anita Race Track) - bottom left (LA Times Building) - and bottom right (Agua Dulce Winery). The attendees had a wonderful time together during the visitation.



## June Ways and Means Event

# Picnic in the Park

June 10th - 5:00 PM - \$15.00

Warner Center Park - 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular is an amazing era-by-era tribute to the King of Rock-N-Roll, **Elvis Presley** featuring **Shawn Klush** and **Justin Shandor**!



### Justin Shandor

Since the passing of the King more than 37 years ago, there has never been a tribute artist that has so captured the look, moves, and especially the sound of the King more than **Justin Shandor**. Justin has the raw talent that shot Elvis to the top. In the last two years Justin and his manager have created the World's Ultimate Elvis Band made up of horns, gospel singers, strings and rhythm section that has cloned the music of an Elvis's 70's show.

### Shawn Klush

For many years **Shawn Klush** starred as 'Elvis' in the award-winning Las Vegas show, "Legends in Concert" in Myrtle Beach, Las Vegas, Branson and Atlantic City. On Elvis' 70th Birthday, Shawn became grand champion at the "World Elvis Tribute Artist Competition." Shawn was also named the 'First Ever' "Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist" by **Elvis Presley Enterprises**.



## RSVP - Bobbie Strelow

**bobbiejoann2@gmail.com - (818) 388-7801**

*Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on.*

## Calendar of Events 2018

June 10	<b>Picnic In-The-Park "A Tribute to Elvis" - 5:00 PM - Lawn Chairs</b>
\$15.00	Warner Center Park - 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
June 23	<b>Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - Brunch Provided</b>
	Obdulio & Mary Galeana Home - 18813 Cantlay St.
July 21	<b>Pool Party &amp; BBQ - 6:00 PM</b>
\$15.00	Rush & Barb White Residence - 22619 Marlin Place
July 28	<b>Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch</b>
	Bobbie Strelow Residence - 20939 Lanark St.
August 5	<b>General Meeting - 1:00 PM Luncheon</b>
\$12.00	Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.



### **FRIENDS OF TAXCO**

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