



El Amigo

FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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Jose Maria Morelos

worked as a farm hand, muleteer and menial laborer until entering the seminary. The director of his school was none other than his cousin, Miguel Hidalgo, who must have left an impression on the young Morelos. He was ordained as a priest in 1797 and served in the towns of Churumuco and Carácuaro. His career as a priest was solid and he enjoyed the favor of his superiors: unlike Hidalgo, he showed no propensity for "dangerous thoughts" before the revolution of 1810.

On September 16, 1810, Hidalgo issued the famous "Cry of Dolores," kicking off Mexico's struggle for independence. Hidalgo was soon joined by others, including former royal officer Ignacio Allende and they raised an army of liberation. Morelos made his way to the rebel army and met with Hidalgo, who made him a lieutenant and ordered him to raise an army in the south and march on Acapulco. After the meeting, they went their separate ways. Hidalgo would get close to Mexico City but was eventually defeated at the Battle of Calderon Bridge, captured shortly thereafter and executed for treason. Morelos, however, was just getting started.

Ever the proper priest, Morelos coolly informed his superiors that he was joining the rebellion so that they could appoint a replacement. He began rounding up men and marching west. Unlike Hidalgo, Morelos preferred a small, well-armed, well-disciplined army that could move fast and strike without warning. Often, he would reject recruits who worked the fields, telling them instead to raise food to feed the army in the days to come. By November he had an army of 2,000 men and on November 12 he occupied the medium-sized town of Aguacatillo, near Acapulco.

Morelos was crushed to learn of the capture of Hidalgo and Allende in early 1811. Still, he fought on, laying an abortive siege to Acapulco before taking the city of Oaxaca in December of 1812. Meanwhile, politics had entered the struggle for Mexican independence in the form of a congress presided over by Ignacio López Rayón, once a member of Hidalgo's inner circle. Morelos was often in the field, but always had representatives at the meetings of congress, where they pushed on his behalf for formal independence, equal rights for all Mexicans and continued

Jose Maria Morelos

José María Morelos (September 30, 1765 – December 22, 1815) was a Mexican priest and revolutionary. He was in overall military command of Mexico's Independence movement in 1811-1815 before he was captured, tried and executed by the Spanish. He is considered one of the greatest heroes of Mexico and countless things are named after him, including the State of Morelos and the city of Morelia.

José María was born into a lower-class family (his father was a carpenter) in the city of Valladolid in 1765. He

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

Continued from Page 1



Morelos Statue in Morelia

privilege of the Catholic Church in Mexican affairs.

By 1813, the Spanish had finally organized a response to the Mexican insurgents. Felix Calleja, the general who had defeated Hidalgo at the Battle of Calderon Bridge, was made Viceroy, and he pursued an aggressive strategy of quashing the rebellion. He divided and conquered the pockets of resistance in the north before turning his attention to Morelos and the south. Calleja moved into the south in force, capturing towns and executing prisoners. In December of 1813, the insurgents lost a key battle at Valladolid and were put on the defensive.

In early 1814, the rebels were on the run. Morelos was an inspired guerrilla commander, but the Spanish had him outnumbered and outgunned. The insurgent Mexican congress was constantly moving, trying to stay one step ahead of the Spanish. In November of 1815, the Congress was on the move again and Morelos was assigned to escort it. The Spanish caught them at Tezmalaca and a battle ensued. Morelos bravely held off the Spanish while the congress escaped, but he was captured during the fighting.

He was sent to Mexico City in chains. There, he was tried, excommunicated and executed on December 22.

Morelos felt a true connection to his people, and they loved him for it. He fought to remove all class and race distinctions. He was one of the first true Mexican nationalists: he had a vision of a unified, free Mexico whereas many of his contemporaries had closer allegiances to cities or regions. He differed from Hidalgo in many key ways: he did not allow churches or the homes of allies to be looted and actively sought support among Mexico's wealthy Creole upper class. Ever the priest, he believed that it was God's will that Mexico be a free, sovereign nation: the revolution became almost a holy war for him.

Morelos was the right man at the right time. Hidalgo started the revolution, but his animosity towards the upper classes and his refusal to rein in the rabble that made up his army eventually caused more problems than they solved. Morelos, on the other hand, was a true man of the people, charismatic and devout. He had a more constructive vision than Hidalgo and exuded a palpable belief in a better tomorrow with equality for all Mexicans. Morelos was an interesting mixture of the best characteristics of Hidalgo and Allende and the perfect man to carry the torch they had dropped. Like Hidalgo, he was very charismatic and emotional, and like Allende, he preferred a small, well-trained army over a massive horde of angry rabble. He notched up several key victories and ensured that the revolution would live on with or without him. After his capture and execution, two of his lieutenants, Vicente Guerrero and Guadalupe Victoria, carried on the fight.

Morelos is greatly honored today in Mexico. The State of Morelos and City of Morelia are named after him, as are a major stadium, countless streets and parks and even a couple of communications satellites. His image has appeared on several bills and coins over Mexico's history. His remains are interred at the Column of Independence in Mexico City along with other national heroes.

Member Opportunity



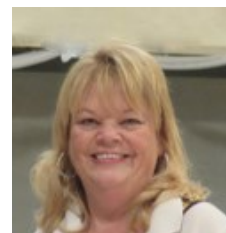
Volunteering to serve is vital to most all of today's organizations, and the Friends of Taxco is no exception to that reality. In fact, it is through the efforts of our membership over these many years, we have helped build and equip fifteen schools in the greater Taxco de Alarcon area. Today we are seeing a slow increase in the number of individuals who are joining civic and community organizations. As a result it will ultimately bring back many of them that have traditionally suffered due to membership losses. It is through members participation in leadership positions that will ultimately bring a revival to many of our community organizations.

This year you have the opportunity to assist the Friends of Taxco by learning about the open positions on the Board. Please call our President or other members of the Board to find out the duties of the vacant positions. If you would like to fulfill one please contact Jo Lamoreaux.

Message From The President

Welcome to Harmonia Gardens!

We are kicking off 2017 with a trip down memory lane celebrating the movie Hello Dolly over dinner and drinks at the Lewis home. If you happen to have a coat and tails, top hat or a fashionable 1890's ladies dress or hat- this is the time to break them out! Most of us remember Dolly Levi's entrance into the Harmonia Gardens- but do you remember what Dolly kept telling Horace Vandergelder he should eat for good health? We'll have a great German Dinner with all the trimmings! What is your guess for the drink special of the evening?? I can confirm it won't be tea!! See the details on page 4 of this newsletter.



Jo Lamoreaux

Lynne Davies has stepped up to take the communications secretary position. His first event for reservations is the January social on the 21st. Look for an email or phone call from him. His number is 818/998-2860 and lynne.davies@att.net. Lynne is prepared- he has his schedule and roster with everyone's name on it, so he can log your reservations!

'Tis that time of year- no not Christmas -we are just barely getting the decorations down and put away! It is membership dues renewal time! Enclosed with this bulletin is information on sending in your 2017 dues. We have a great year planned for activities- kicking off with Hello Dolly, February we have a speaker with a short movie about Taxco, we've got plans for a trip to Santa Anita to try out luck with the horses, an event celebrating jazz music, a Hollywood celebrity cocktail party, music in the park and much more. In 2016 our educational gift to Taxco made a huge difference in the lives of high school students. We replaced equipment in a high school chemistry and biology lab that had last been updated in 1969! The students and facility were extremely appreciative our gift. Your membership dues and participation in our events allow us to raise the money to continue our wonderful educational gifts to our sister city. Please consider renewing your membership this month!

Taxco Gift



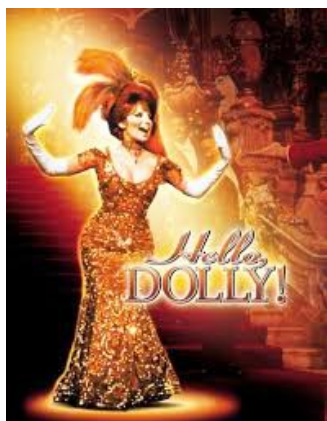
Our Friends of Taxco Audit and Budget Committee will soon be meeting to determine an approximate amount for the 2017 Taxco Gift Donation. Once the Budget is approved we will forward the information to the Comité de Ciudades Hermanas de Taxco and request a proposed school and educational project for our 2017 Taxco Gift Contribution.

The numerous 2016 Taxco Gift Donations overwhelmingly exceeded our expectations and the kindness of those who made a contribution will make 2017 a memorable year. The Friends of Taxco do not take any of the donations we receive for the operation of our organization, which means 100% of the monies we receive go toward our Taxco educational project.

Most recently Ethel March joined our dedicated members who gained their angel wings and left us with so many fond memories. Donations in her name came from all over the country including Alaska. On behalf of our 2016 Taxco Gift Chairman, Ethel, the Lewis and March families, we want to again thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity.

Individuals who would like to make a donation may mail your check payable to Friends of Taxco. Please note Donation – Taxco Gift and mail it to Linda Lewis, PO Box 9070, Canoga Park, CA 91309-0070.

Hello Dolly Celebration



Dine At the Famous New York Restaurant Harmonia Gardens

Known For It's Famous German Cuisine

January 21st

6:00 PM

At the Home of:

Randy & Linda Lewis

21305 Chase St., Canoga Park

\$15.00
Per Person
Add \$3 if no reservation

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



Calendar of Events 2016

January 21	Hello Dolly Celebration - 6:00 PM
\$15.00	Randy & Linda Lewis Home
January 28	Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch
	Barbara White Home
February 19	General Meeting - 1:00 PM - Program by Bruce Troe - Taxco Video
\$12.00	Canoga Park Women's Club
February 25	Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch
	Location TBD
March 18	Board Meeting - Pot Luck Brunch
	Location TBD
March 25	Ways and Means Event
	Location TBD



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

contact information

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