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Emiliano Zapata

Emiliano Zapata

Another of the Leaders of the Mexican Revolution of the early twentieth century, Emiliano Zapata was born on August 8, 1879, in Anencuilco in the state of Morelos. Zapata was the son of a mestizo peasant who trained and sold horses. Emiliano was orphaned at the age of 17 and looked after his brothers and sisters. In 1897, he was arrested when he took part in a protest by the peasants of his village against the hacienda that had stolen their lands. After obtaining a pardon, he continued agitation among the peasants until he was drafted into the army. He served for six months, at which point he was discharged to a landowner to train his horses. In 1909, his neighbors elected him president of the board of defense for their village. After useless negotiations with the hacienda landowners, Zapata and a group of peasants occupied by force the land that had been taken from them by the haciendas and distributed it back among themselves.

Francisco Madero lost the election in 1910 to the dictator Porfirio Díaz and fled to the United States. He proclaimed himself as president before reentering Mexico and was aided by many peasant guerrillas. Zapata and his friends decided to support Madero. In March 1911 Zapata's tiny force took the city of Cuautla and closed the road to the capital, Mexico City. A week later Díaz resigned his dictatorship after Pancho Villa sacked the city of Juarez. Díaz left for Europe after appointing a provisional president. Zapata, with 5,000 men, entered Cuernavaca, the capital of the state of Morelos.

Madero entered Mexico City in triumph. Zapata met Madero there and asked him to exert pressure on the provisional president to return the land to the ejidos (the former Indian communal system of landownership). Madero insisted on the disarmament of the guerrillas and offered Zapata money so that he could buy land, an offer that Zapata rejected. Zapata began to disarm his forces but stopped when the provisional president sent the army against the guerrillas.

Madero was elected president in November 1911, and Zapata met with him again but without success. With the help of a teacher, Otilio Montaña, Zapata prepared the Plan of Ayala, which declared Madero incapable of fulfilling the goals of the revolution. The supporters of the plan renewed the revolution and promised to appoint a provisional president until there could be elections. They also vowed to return the stolen land to the ejidos. Zapata adopted the slogan "Tierra y Libertad" ("Land and Liberty").

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

Continued from Page 1



Emiliano Zapata

During his campaigns, Zapata distributed lands he took from the haciendas, which he frequently burned without compensation. He often ordered executions when taking lands from the haciendas, and his forces did not always abide by the laws of war. But underneath his picturesque appearance, drooping moustache, cold eyes, big sombrero was a passionate man with simple ideals that he tried to put into practice. The Zapatistas avoided battle by adopting guerrilla tactics. They farmed their land with rifles on their shoulders, went when called to fight, and returned to their plows at the end of a battle or skirmish. Sometimes Zapata assembled thousands of men; he paid them by imposing taxes on the provincial cities and extorting from the rich. Their arms were captured from federal troops.

When General Victoriano Huerta deposed and assassinated Madero in February 1913, Zapata and his men arrived at the outskirts of Mexico City and rejected Huerta's offer to unite with him. This prevented Huerta from sending all his troops against the guerrillas of the north, who, under the direction of a moderate politician, Venustiano Carranza, had organized the Constitutionalist Army to defeat the new dictator. Huerta was forced to abandon the country in July 1914.

Zapata knew that Carranza's Constitutionals feared him. He attracted some intellectuals from Mexico City, among them Antonio Díaz Soto y Gama, who became his theorist and later established an agrarian party. When Huerta fell, Zapata invited the Constitutionals to accept his Plan of Ayala and warned them that he would continue fighting independently until the plan was put to practical use.

In October 1914 Carranza called an assembly of all the revolutionary forces. Pancho Villa, who commanded the most important part of the army of the north, refused to attend the meeting because he considered Mexico City as enemy ground. The assembly was moved to Aguascalientes, where both the Villistas and the Zapatistas attended. These two groups constituted a majority, and the convention agreed to appoint General Eulalio Gutiérrez as provisional president. Carranza rejected this decision and marched with his government to Veracruz.

War broke out between the Carranza and the revolutionaries Zapata and Villa. On November 24th Zapata ordered his army (now called the Liberation Army of the South and numbering 25,000 men) to occupy Mexico City. Two weeks later Zapata and Villa met on the outskirts of the capital and then visited the National Palace. The two leaders promised to fight together until they put a civilian president in the palace, and Villa accepted the Plan of Ayala.

Zapata created agrarian commissions to distribute the land; he spent much time supervising their work to be sure they showed no favoritism and that the landowners did not corrupt its members. He established a Rural Loan Bank, the country's first agricultural credit organization; he also tried to reorganize the sugar industry of Morelos into cooperatives. In April 1915 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's personal representative in Mexico to met with Zapata. Zapata asked that Wilson support but Wilson had already recognized the Carranza government.

Meanwhile, the war continued. Zapata occupied the city of Puebla and won various battles. In 1917 Carranza's generals defeated Villa and isolated Zapata. Carranza then called together a constitutional convention but did not invite Zapata; the convention approved and passed a constitution and elected Carranza as president of the republic.

A new U.S. envoy, William Gates, visited Zapata and then published a series of articles in the United States. He supported Zapata's social revolution and cause in the articles and when they were read to Zapata, he said, "Now I can die in peace. Finally, they have done us justice."

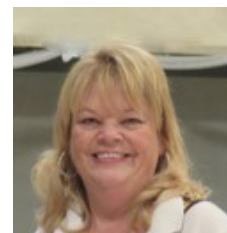
Soon afterward General Pablo González, who directed the government operations against Zapata, dispatched Colonel Jesús Guajardo who pretended to want to join the agrarians. He set up a secret meeting with Zapata at the hacienda of Chinameca in Morelos. There, Zapata was ambushed and shot to death. His body was carried to Cuautla where it was and buried.

President's Article

Welcome to Spring...well maybe Summer

It feels like we've gone directly from winter to summer with the heat this month!

May excitement- we have 6 delegates coming from Taxco to experience the people, culture, and fun of our organization as we enjoy their company. Joining us this year are Manuel and Tony Carbajal, Wendy Morales, Enrique Quaaas, and Alicia and Jorge Sierra. We are welcoming them with our annual Fiesta Fling, with a patriotic flare on Saturday May 27th. It will feature a prime rib dinner, silent auction baskets, and music and dancing with the Generation Gap band. Please see the flyers and Barb's article for all the events we have planned for the delegation during their time here. Members are encouraged to join in on as many as possible.



Jo Lamoreaux

Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, United Airlines- what do these have in common? Our members have made reservations on these various airlines to be a part of the Canoga Park delegation going to Taxco in October. Our delegation is leaving Friday, October 27th and returning Saturday November 4th. Consider joining us, if you've never experienced our sister city – this trip will prove to be exciting! We will be there for one of the largest festivals of the year celebrating the silver industry and the tradition of remembering family and friends that have passed with the Dia De Muertos festival. After the heat of the Los Angeles summer- their average temperature of 70 degrees will be a welcome treat!!

I'll see you at the delegation activities,

Jo.

2017 Fiesta Fling



FIESTA FLING

& Welcome Party

Come Greet the 2017 Taxco Delegation

\$30 Per Person

Saturday, May 27th - 6:00 PM

Canoga Park Elks Lodge - 20925 Osborne St.

Complete Prime Rib Dinner - Dancing to the Generation Gap Band

RSVP to: Lynne Davies - (818) 341-3032 or lynne.davies@att.net

2017 Adult Visitation Program

The Taxco Delegation will be here in Canoga Park
Friday, May 26 through Sunday, June 4.

- Our **Welcome Party/Fiesta Fling** will be on Saturday, May 27th at 6:00 PM for check in at the bar, 7:00 PM for dinner and dancing at the Elk's Club. \$30 per person.
- Sunday May 28th we will have **Family Dinners**. You may volunteer to host a family dinner and have a Taxco guest or two and their hosts at your house.
- Monday, May 29th we will have front row seats at the **Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade** and then go to the Canoga Park Elks Lodge for libations, hamburgers and hot dogs.
- Tuesday, May 30th we leave for an overnight in **Newport Beach** to see the beautiful harbor and Balboa Island.
- Thursday, June 1st from 10:00-11:30 AM, we will visit **Anatola Elementary School** to see the Kindergarten classes that have written pen pal letters to the Kinder students in Taxco. Then that evening beginning at 6:00 PM we have a relaxing American Musical event and full Tri-Tip Dinner planned at the Lewis Home including a no-host bar. We hope everyone will be able to attend this delicious and fun event with our Taxco guests.
- Friday, June 2nd at 1:00 PM we visit the **Gamble House in Pasadena**. Then have a late lunch and go to the **Norton Simon Museum** at 5:00 PM. Limited Availability - *Call if desiring to attend*.
- Saturday, June 3rd at 10:00 AM we have the Joint Board Meeting with our FOT Board and the Taxco Board at Jo's house. Then from 9:00-9:00 PM we will have the **Farewell Dinner** at Marmalade Café in the Commons. \$40 per person.

You do not have to be a host family to participate in any of the activities. Just call Barb White at (818) 347-2136 so we know how many people to accommodate.

We would especially love to see you at the **Welcome/Fiesta Fling Party** and the **Farewell Party**. It is fun to meet our visitors and learn what our organization is all about. Please feel free to invite your family and friends to these events!

Hosts and Guests

Ruth and Warren Bromund
Barb and Rush White
Jo and Les Lamoreaux

Jorge and Alicia Sierra
Wendy Morales
Enrique Quaas

Calendar of Events 2017

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| May 13 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Lewis Residence |
| May 26 | Delegation Arrives From Taxco - 4:40 PM
Aeromexico Flight #644 |
| May 27
\$30.00 | Fiesta Fling & Welcome Party - 6:00 PM
Canoga Park Elks Lodge - 20925 Osborne St. |
| June 3
\$40.00 | Farewell Party - Marmalade Café - 6:00 PM
4783 Commons Way, Calabasas |
| June 1
\$15.00 | Tri-Tip Dinner - 6:00 PM
Lewis Residence - 21305 Chase St., Canoga Park |
| June 4 | Delegation Returns to Taxco - Aeromexico Flight #647
Need to be at the Airport 3 hours early - 1:15 PM Departure |



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

contact information
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2017 Adult Exchange

Activity Sign-Up Sheet

If you would like to attend one of the many functions we are having while the Taxco Delegation is visiting us please fill out the form below and return it with your check made payable to the **FRIENDS OF TAXCO**. Send the form and payment to:

Linda Lewis

P.O. Box 9070 - Canoga Park, CA 91309

Payment must be received by: May 15th

<i>Event</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Name & Number Attending</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Welcome Party At Elks Lodge 5/27	\$30 per person		
Memorial Day At Elks Lodge 5/29	On Your Own		
Newport Beach At Hyatt Newport Beach 5/30 & 5/31	On Your Own Contact Linda		
Tri-Tip Dinner At Lewis Home 6/1	\$15 per person		
Farewell Dinner At Marmalade Café 6/3	\$40 per person		