

The “Friendly” in the International Friendship Club

By Peggy A. Nelson, Vice President

As you may know by now, I’m a fan of the social and educational programs of Vallarta’s International Friendship Club (IFC). Spanish classes, “Meet & Greet” cocktail hours, as well as restaurant “Dine Arouds” and Home Tours are among my favorites. These programs bring people together. They introduced me to many friends.

It’s rewarding to be part of a club, originally formed, in 1985, to support families in the Vallarta area needing surgery for children born with cleft palates, that since has expanded to support upwards of 20 local social service, artistic and educational charities.

The IFC is many things to me. It is a place I go to socialize. It’s a venue for a variety of interesting classes, including Spanish, yoga, meditation, Mexican history, bridge, many more. And, it’s a club that makes important financial contributions to the Vallarta non-profit community.

As we start the new 2023-24 season, the IFC is especially interested in knowing how you would like to see IFC programs expanded or changed. Are there programs that you would like to see developed? How do you feel about the IFC? We’d love to know. Please send me an email and I’ll be sure it gets to the right person. nelsonp1954@gmail.com Or send me your contact info and we can get coffee.

The season kick-off reception is sure to be a blast. Sunday, December 3, at 5:00 PM, at Arte VALLARTa Museo. Live music, beverages and tidbits. This is an opportunity for people who are new to Vallarta or to the IFC to break the ice and check out what’s on offer. [CLICK HERE](#) to get your tickets.

Also, you are welcome to stop by the Clubhouse, located at Calle Libertad and the corner of Miramar, and have a chat, or look at program offerings. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

The IFC is run almost entirely by volunteers. And its volunteers aim to make it fun or interesting, and often both. here are a few dozen volunteers who run the IFC’s famous Home Tours. I’ve never seen such an enthusiastic bunch. Last season, they drove the IFC’s Home Tours rating on Trip Advisor from 38 to 10th best out of 419 possible Vallarta tours. The tours take several hours each week, all volunteer supported. And they love doing it!

The IFC front desk, bridge classes, dine arounds, meet & greets and games are run by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in our next season, please visit the IFC website, ifcvallarta.org, and click on the Ways to Help tab, or drop a note to ifcvallarta@gmail.com.

Membership. Membership in the IFC is a key piece of the fundraising that enables the IFC’s charitable giving. Plus, being a member means you are part of something much bigger than yourself. Members are entitled to substantial discounts at many restaurants, entertainment venues and other businesses around Vallarta. [CLICK HERE](#) to become a member today. Membership fees largely support the IFC Clubhouse and its expenses. Donations, on the other hand, as well as Home Tours support the Club’s charitable work.

By the way, Home Tours resumed this week, and are scheduled for November 28 and December 5, 12 and 19. If you have not been on a tour yet, you are in for a treat. If you want to see what the excitement is all about, [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets.

For these, and other events, please check the IFC website calendar, at ifcvallarta.org.

We hope to see you at the opening reception!