

Amigo Club plans annual dinner/auction

By Kernan Turner for the Tidings

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Ashlander Lynn Lamoree (third from the left) visits the family of Municipal Councilor Juan Carlos Delgado Zarate (second from left) and his wife, Alma Arredondo (second from right) and their children, Mariana (far left), son Sebastian and daughter Paula (far right). The family dog is Jiron. [Photo by Delgado's son Fabian]

The Amigo Club of Ashland, Oregon, Inc. has announced it will offer a third annual Guanajuato Nights fundraiser for the club's endowed scholarship fund administered by the Southern Oregon University Foundation.

The dinner/auction will be held the evening of Nov. 18 in the Rogue River Room of the Stevenson Union at Southern Oregon University. It will feature silent and live auctions, music and authentic Mexican cuisine prepared by Jerry Gander, the university's executive chef.

Gander's background includes culinary training in Los Angeles and 27 years cooking for large resorts in the desert community of Palm Desert, Calif. He joined SOU six years ago and has become its retail and catering executive chef.

"Just recently, I was asked by the president of SOU to teach cooking to students and allow that creativity to fan a flame of healthy dining options for the rest of their lives," Gander told the Amigo Club.

The Amigo Club was founded 48 years ago to encourage sister city relations between Ashland and Guanajuato. It began granting scholarships two years ago to students participating in the Amistad student exchange program between SOU and the University of Guanajuato in Ashland's sister city.

For Guanajuato Nights tickets, contact the Amigo Club by phone at 541-482-3095 or email amigo@97520.net.

Guanajuato student nurses to participate in exchange program

University of Guanajuato nursing students will visit Ashland for three weeks as the latest participants in a three-year-old international student exchange program with the Ashland campus of the Oregon Health and Sciences University's School of Nursing.

The students will arrive on Oct. 28 with their instructor, Maria Luisa Flores Arias. This is the first time that Flores Arias has traveled to Ashland. The OHSU nursing school campus is at Southern Oregon University.

Patricia “Trish” Kohan, a clinical assistant professor at the Ashland campus, said the Mexican students will join Ashland students on projects focused on adolescent high-risk behavior, migrant worker access to health care, and holistic healthy living.

Their activities include working with SO Health-E, a regional health equity coalition financed by the Oregon Health Authority, on policies and regulations related to health-care translation services, and connecting with La Clinica on projects concerning suicide in adolescents and on a project to build a 12-session cooking curriculum for children.

Ashland couple visits Guanajuato

Lynn and Tom Lamoree of Ashland are visiting Guanajuato, where Lynn reports she was enthusiastically greeted on Sept. 7 at the Leon, Guanajuato, airport by Municipal Councilor Juan Carlos Delgado Zarate and his son, Fabián.

“I stayed with the family for the next three weeks where my every wish and need was taken care of. I awoke to lovely breakfasts each morning and began 10 weeks of Spanish classes at an excellent language school near Teatro Juarez in El Centro.

“Tom flew in on Oct. 6, and the two of us shared a cute “casita” near the historic Alhóndiga, the main venue for the XLV Festival Internacional Cervantino (45th International Cervantes Festival), Oct. 11-29. It’s the largest performing arts festival in Latin America with 2,300 artists from 35 countries.

“Tom and I will return to the Delgado home at the end of the month for a traditional Mexican Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration.”

The Lamorees will be back in Ashland in November.

—Amigo Club’s Entre Amigos (Between Friends) column about Ashland ties to its sister city Guanajuato, Mexico, appears on the third Tuesday of each month. Longtime AP reporter and bureau chief Kernan Turner is an Ashland resident and Amigo Club member.