

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bienvenidos!

Here we are in beautiful springtime which is a great thing after a truly wet and rainy winter. While it is nice to have the rain, I must confess I prefer warm sunny days better, especially if I am at Ocho Cascadas!

I am sure all of our members who travelled to Puerto Vallarta this winter were happy to escape the cold winter in the northern hemisphere. Ocho Cascadas is a such a wonderful respite from the hectic pace that our everyday lives can bring. Something truly magical happens the moment you step foot on the property. You are able to experience a moment of Zen when things magically slow down and you begin to become in sync with the beauty of the surroundings and the rejuvenating nature of Ocho. You truly unwind and relax. Maybe it's the welcoming staff, the cold margarita(s), the incredible sunsets, or the mesmerizing view of the Bay of Banderas. It's probably the combination of all these elements but the one thing I know for certain is that Ocho has "it" and I love it!

I will be travelling down to Ocho with my family in May and I am so excited to see all the welcoming faces and soak in the atmosphere of our "home away from home." My relationship with Ocho Cascadas has always been one of the highlights of my life. I applaud my late husband Edward Giddings in my heart for his vision and creativity for bringing such a jewel into our lives!

I am very happy for those who have already had their



vacations down here! For those who have their vacation coming up, we look forward to welcoming you to our own special kind of paradise!

Mi Casa Su Casa,

*Patricia Giddings*

President  
Board of Directors



To help keep our members updated we've created an e-mail update that will be sent about six times a year and will include local updates, happenings onsite, and anything else that can help our members stay connected. You may 'opt out' at any time and if you have questions or information you'd like to see shared, please let us know. To sign up, please visit [www.ochocascadas.com](http://www.ochocascadas.com).

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I once again have the pleasure of greeting you from Ocho Cascadas, a fabulous destination in the beautiful city of Puerto Vallarta! I hope to see you very soon in your home away from home. The Ocho team is ready to prepare your Villa so that you can return to enjoy a memorable vacation.

It has been a wonderfully temperate winter with a daily average of 78-degree sunny days. Guests and staff have enjoyed viewing the blood wolf moon and super snow moon this winter from their villas and the lobby. Watching these special moons glisten over the Bay of Banderas was spectacular!

We have created many new activities for the enjoyment of our members and guests. Do not miss the opportunity to learn how to cook the Chef of Ocho's recipes. During the cooking class, you will cook delicious dishes alongside us, savor the sumptuous food you've created and enjoy some tropical drinks. You could also choose to simply "stay out of trouble in town" by joining us for our basic Spanish class and learn some basic Spanish phrases and words to help with your adventures in Mexico. Furthermore, we have put together a new list of suggestions of what to do in town so be sure to stop by the front desk.

Come on down to Ocho to relax and enjoy a delicious margarita by the pool. Your team here at Ocho Cascadas is ready and waiting to serve you. We wish you the all the best for 2019.

Hasta la vista, see you soon!

*Ulises Alfaro*

General Manager ☺



## Do you know about the International Friendship Club?

by Noé Jauregui

We are excited to tell you about them! The International Friendship Club is a charity located in Puerto Vallarta committed to funding charitable causes. They mainly help with dental health services for kids, cleft palate surgery, educational assistance and helping families in need. They also offer basic English language classes to people who need it for work. Their work focuses on the people living in the southern area past Boca de Tomatlan, and communities where it is hard to get medical services or education programs.

The International Friendship Club works with the best doctors and schools in order to provide real help, and quality services for those who need it. They offer discounts with affiliated businesses in town for members such as Restaurant Bravo's and the Botanical Garden. They also have a big space located near the cathedral that can be rented for events such as business meetings, and special occasions.

The International Friendship Club makes most of their funding through a very special activity called Home Tours (you can sign up for this through their webpage). Taking

a Home Tour is a fabulous way to see Puerto Vallarta and the most beautiful and spectacular houses within the city. But don't get too excited, they are not for sale! You can take pictures and enjoy touring them, because those are not just houses, they are homes with history. Every house has a legend or an interesting origin story, from German World War II soldiers to eccentric ladies with expensive decorating tastes.

So next time you visit Puerto Vallarta make sure to check the Home Tour availability to visit interesting homes and make your contribution to this Foundation.

The International Friendship Club also hosts different activities in order to raise funds for their charity, such as Bridge Friday, and a monthly art bazaar for local artists.

You can visit their website to get further information or to get involved with them and help people in need. Visit [www.ifcvallarta.com](http://www.ifcvallarta.com) and check out the pictures and testimonials they have. The Ocho Cascadas family likes to take any opportunity to help those in need. ☺

# GOOD NEWS!

At the most recent Conchas Chinas Home Owners Association meeting, held on February 28th at Villa Alejandra, among the many objectives set forth, there is one that will help keep our neighborhood safe and crime free. The HOA is providing a place to serve as headquarters for a police unit made up of 6 officers who are already patrolling the area day and night. There are three more officers that are in charge of coordinating security logistics and tactics. In addition, there are 25 key people, including our General Manager, Ulises Alfaro, that are in a Whatsapp chat group to report and communicate any suspicious activity amongst ourselves. Great news indeed! 📍

# RECOGNITION

The Conchas Chinas HOA celebrated their annual meeting at Ocho Cascadas this year. During the event, we were recognized for our continued support and commitment to the Conchas Chinas community. 📍



# FRIENDLY REMINDERS

1. As most of you may already know (and for those of you that don't), we now have Uber in town providing an alternative means of transportation. In spite of being high tech, there seems to be a little glitch when using the app. If you are not situated in the lobby when requesting a driver, the app will send the driver to the lower entrance of Ocho. This has resulted in a lot of cancelled trips. In case you use the app, just remember to order your Uber from our Lobby or make sure the address input is Paseo de Las Conchas Chinas 125.
2. Remember that you may go to the Ocho website and fill out the pre-arrival form any time before your next trip here. Should you forget something or think of something else you want to add, just fill out another one form with a note to add to the existing one. 📍

# HAPPY MEMBER COMMENTS

*"Everything was Outstanding!"*

*"Excellent customer service by the whole staff! We feel special and well cared for when we are here."*

*"Wonderful place, like family. Always welcoming, feels like coming home every year. Helpful and fun."*

*"Excellent +++ You are always on top of problems. You make us feel like family, thank you!"*

*"Everything was FANTASTIC!"*

*Thank you for taking the time to fill out comment cards with comments and suggestions! Your feedback is appreciated and allows us to know the areas in which we are doing well and how we can help improve your vacation experience.*

# UPCOMING EVENTS IN PUERTO VALLARTA

Looking for something to do while visiting Ocho? Check out these great events!

## *Restaurant Week*

From May 15th to June 10th, Puerto Vallarta and Riviera Nayarit are home to this delicious food festival. During the two weeks of the festival, all participating restaurants offer innovative three-course menus, with three options available for each course. It's a great way to explore new restaurants and re-visit your old favorites at a reduced price!

## *Color Running y Vallarta Color Race*

On June 4th and June 18th, Puerto Vallarta will be filled with color as participants race to the finish line. The races cost \$200 pesos for adults and \$160 pesos for children and the races include a t-shirt, sunglasses, a medal and water.

1st Race: June 4th beginning at 8:40 a.m.

2nd Race: June 18th beginning at 8:40 a.m.

## *San Blas Sport Fishing Tournament*

Enjoy fishing? Come down for the San Blas Sport Fishing Tournament held the third week of June (June 21st to June 25th). The tournament is in its 58th year and participants compete in the following three categories: sailfish, marlin, and mahi-mahi.

## *RHA Festival*

This is one of the most anticipated music festivals in the area featuring some incredible exponents of house and techno music. You are in for a real treat if you attend because you will enjoy great music with beautiful scenery. The name RHA comes from wixarika, which means flowering water, an indigenous reference to the journey of life. The festival takes place April 26th and 27th at the Marina Riviera Nayarit.

## *International Fishing Tournament for Marlin and Tuna at Nuevo Vallarta*

From Thursday July 18th to Saturday July 20th, you could join in the International Fishing tournament for marlin and tuna at Nuevo Vallarta. Riviera Nayarit has the rods and reels ready for this great tournament!

Don't Forget to check out the markets!

*Farmers Market held every Saturday Parque Lazaro Cardenas from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*Marina Vallarta Art & Market held every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.*

For more information about local events taking place in Puerto Vallarta, please drop by the front desk. You can also fill out the pre-arrival tour form on the website to reserve an event in advance! 📍

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

We invite all of our owners to join us for Ocho's first annual meeting of the members which will be held on June 22, 2019 at the Hills Hotel at 25205 La Paz Road, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 at 2:00 p.m. Come and meet your board of directors, committee members and key management team personnel from Trading Places Management. During the meeting we will be discussing what happens in 2020 when the developer resigns from the board of directors and your homeowner association takes full control of beautiful Ocho Cascadas. At the 2020 annual meeting, we will be electing 5 board members. Come learn what the board does and see if you can help to keep Ocho Cascadas beautiful and running smoothly for many years to come. 📍

## TELL US YOUR STORY!

We'd love to hear from you! Will you share your comments, stories, and vacation photos with us?

Please send your story and fun and pretty vacation shots (high-res) to Trading Places International, Attn: DRO Admin at 25510 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100, Lake Forest, CA 92630 or email [droadmin@tradingplaces.com](mailto:droadmin@tradingplaces.com). 📍



# THINGS TO DO

## By David Giddings

Every time I talk to people who are heading to Ocho Cascadas or Puerto Vallarta they always ask me this question: "What are some fun things to do?" To be honest, I am getting reacquainted with the city because over the last several years I have been spending a lot of time in Cabo San Lucas. Reacquainting myself with beautiful Puerto Vallarta and discovering all the activities there are to do has been so much fun and illuminating!

So here's a list of things that I have come to enjoy:

The Botanical Gardens about 30 minutes south of the resort is an absolute must! The array of flowers and botanical gardens are spectacular, and the restaurant is good. The fish tacos and the fresh guacamole were top notch in my opinion. I even jumped in the rumbling river with my son. What a great memory to share!

The Zoo is incredible too with lions, tigers, bears, pumas, peacocks, ostriches, giraffes and a multitude of other animals. I have never seen these sorts of animals so close before and it truly gives you the sense of awe for these magnificent creatures.

Another great way to spend the evening is a leisurely stroll out to the Pier at Playa Los Muertos to see the sights and sounds of South Vallarta. The Malecon is vibrant with music, families, tourists and great restaurants such as La Palapa, The Blue Shrimp, Daquiri Dicks to name a few.



I would be doing you a disservice if I did not highly recommend Archie's Wok. Here is the short story: famed Hollywood writer and director John Huston's personal chef opened Archie's Wok on Mr. Huston's suggestion many years ago. It is the best Asian fusion cuisine I have ever had. The braised barbecue shorts ribs are something to fight over!

Last but not least, going for a snorkel at Los Arcos is great fun. The whole experience, leaving by Panga out of the jungles of Boca De Tomatlan, feels like a scene out of a movie. The trip captures the raw beauty of the land and sea of tropical Mexico.

This is just a short list of things to do. I still haven't ziplined or done the many other activities that abound in Puerto Vallarta but I will get around to it someday soon! 🌊

## Sales Update



A big "muchas gracias" to all of our Ocho Cascadas owners for bringing and sending your friends and family to visit Ocho.

Many of them fall in love with this unique gem and become part of the Ocho family of special owners. We value and appreciate your support.

Great news for everyone... most of our Winter weeks are completely sold out! If you have been thinking of picking up another winter week, we only have a few remaining so please contact me. However, we continue to offer some amazing incentives to our owners and their guests on the remaining unsold weeks between June and September. The summer is truly an amazing time of year to be in Puerto Vallarta. I am often asked, "is it hot then?" My answer is always the same... "it's amazingly beautiful that time of year." The peace and quiet of the less crowded Vallarta is restful and the lightning shows from your villa are priceless. Just come and see for yourself!

Contact me at [luisa@ochocascadas.com](mailto:luisa@ochocascadas.com)

Or by calling the front desk 011 52 322 221-5278, or my cell 011 52 1 322 150-6994

¡Hasta pronto!

Luisa

[luisa@ochocascadas.com](mailto:luisa@ochocascadas.com) 🌊



# WHAT ARE YOU READING?

## Guest Article by Mark Harbour (Finance Committee Chairman)

Given the quiet and calm environment in Ocho Cascadas, many of us take some time periodically to read and reflect. Given that thought, perhaps sharing some ideas for reading and topics of interest with each other might be a good idea – and – perhaps a way to get to know our community based on common interests.

One of my personal interests (given my age) is gerontology. I have been reading some interesting material on how our life expectancies are getting longer, and the implications for our culture. The conclusions and substance are suggesting we will have to make some changes in how we view, plan for, and deal with the implications in the future.

“There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.” -Sophia Loren

A few suggested books for this topic you may wish to consider are above.

Title	Author
The Longevity Economy: Unlocking the World’s Fastest-Growing, Most Misunderstood Market	Joseph F. Coughlin
A Long Bright Future	Laura Carstensen
Unlocking Generational Codes: Understanding What Makes the Generations Tick and What Ticks Them OFF	Anna Liotta
Finding Meaning in the Second Half of Life	James Hollis
The Brain that Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph From the Frontiers of Brain Science	Norman Doidge

If you have suggestions for other topics or specific book references, please pass them along for future listings to either Dave Stoenner, Sales Directory, or myself (harboal@ca.rr.com). 📧

## Rosalio Pelayo Martinez

### A special recognition for the 2018 employee of the year!

Hi, my full name is Rosalio Pelayo Martinez but you may know me as ‘Chalo.’

I was born in Puerto Vallarta Jalisco on April 20, 1977 and I belong to a family of 10. I have 7 brothers! I am happily married, and I have 4 children, two girls and two boys. Among the things that I enjoy the most besides my work and family, is singing. Some of you already have had the honor of being able to hear me sing with Pedro and Lalo.

I remember my beginnings in this beautiful company Ocho Cascadas with great pride and joy. This beautiful place has given me a lot: well-being, great learning and personal improvement. When I arrived at Ocho Cascadas, the remodeling of all the villas and areas was already planned! I started working on the night shift taking care of the property when I met the Giddings family who are great people who always offer their friendship! I have great respect and affection for all of them.

With the passage of time I have learned a little bit of everything regarding the pools and maintenance.

Little by little the staff have been learning and getting to know our guests more and more. Year after year we meet again, and the affection gets stronger! We all do our best to know what each of you like and we try to make your stay at Ocho Cascadas more and more pleasant!

I would also like to thank Mr. Ulises Alfaro, our onsite manager, who has been a key player in my development and learning. He has always given me the confidence and support I need. Like me, my colleagues also agree!

I feel really proud to be part of this great team, thank you for all your support. 📧



# Members & Memories





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Don't forget to post your story to our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ochocascadas](http://www.facebook.com/ochocascadas)



**“Over the Top Vacation”**

*What an amazing experience in the penthouse at Ocho. From our personal chef Lalo to our houseman Pedro, our concierges Noe, Marcel and Odette. Everyone went above and beyond to make our stay memorable. A special mention for Louisa our personal liaison, when one of our party got sick she had a Dr. to our villa within 30 minutes. The accommodations, architecture, service and food all FIRST class. The arrangement of private cars, drivers and tours was great and easy. We would definitely return. | River D.*

**“Amazing Vacation Escape”**

*We look forward to our stay at Ocho Cascadas every year - it is the most incredible vacation escape with views unlike anywhere else. The house is a unique indoor/outdoor experience with all the amenities you could need. The staff is a highlight to staying at Ocho, they are extremely helpful before and during the stay - helping to arrange groceries to be waiting for us when we arrived, in-house massages, and excursions throughout the city. I highly recommend Ocho to anyone looking for a unique Mexican experience! | Sandra J.*

**“Our Little Piece of Paradise”**

*It is little wonder that we are owners at Ocho Cascadas as it is a place where the exceptional is the norm. This is our 4th year and we could not be happier with our decision. The views, the staff, and the food created by their inhouse floating chefs make your stay truly memorable. One should pencil Ocho on their list of places to stay and perhaps even to buy. | Gary J.*

