

# Mujeres en Cambio

November 2011

Vol. 1, Issue 1

## Join Us, Help Others

As with every organization, Mujeres en Cambio needs volunteer help. We are an all-volunteer, grass-roots organization so we're always looking for a "few good women...or men." Contact Committee Chairs, listed on the second page of this newsletter, to find out about your special volunteering opportunity.

## Our New Officers

**Kathleen Devine**, President, previously worked in sales, marketing and human resources. She was a Vice President of a major bank and a Founding Board Member of the Friends of the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women, the fundraising arm of the Commission.

**Claudine Langan**, Vice President, had a career in various communication roles, including working on the news desk for CTV television news, and in sports where she became the first female television director for Major League Baseball. Claudine's last career position was Director of Consumer Marketing for Bell Canada, taking on the responsibility of generating \$600 million of annual revenue.

**Diana Ellsworth**, Secretary, taught French and ESL English for 28 years. As a mentor teacher, she did teacher training programs. In San Miguel Diana enjoys being a student of Spanish, tutoring, and supporting Mujeres en Cambio and Jovenes Adelantes' scholarship programs.

**Diane Ruszczyk**, Treasurer, taught math for eight years, and then spent the next 30 years working for public school teachers and students with the Michigan Education Association and the California Teachers Association. During that time she held positions as a staff representative and a manager.



**Meet Your New Officers (from left to right) Kathleen Devine, President; Claudine Langan, Vice President; Diana Ellsworth, Secretary; and Diane Ruszczyk, Treasurer.**

## Message from the president of MeC

**Greetings, everyone!** It is quite exciting to be writing the first ever President's message in the inaugural edition of our Mujeres en Cambio Newsletter as one of my first duties as your new President! I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me and the rest of the officers and committee chairs to steer our 16 year-old organization into the future.

Already, the energy and synergy of our membership is producing exciting new ideas for fundraising events and new projects to pursue. Our core business of generating funds to support the 150 young women in the pursuit of their education with scholarships, and supporting our Las Rancheritas Rug Hookers remains a priority.

As optimistic and energized as I am about MeC, the daunting news about the world economy is not lost on me. With this in mind, we need to continue to be creative in our fundraising and outreach programs. Therefore, we welcome all ideas that our members and supporters wish to put forth.

Thanks to all of you who work, donate, or contribute in any way to our success. We look forward to a bright and challenging future for Mujeres en Cambio!

Be sure to put on your calendars November 17 for our delicious Turkey and Ham Luncheon, and December 15 for our elegant Holiday Cocktail Party! We want all of you there with your friends and family!

Saludos,  
Kathy Devine



# Mujeres en Cambio

## Annual Holiday Luncheon

November 17, 2 pm, 150 pesos  
Hacienda de las Flores,  
Hospicio 16.

Tickets available 2 weeks  
before at Border Crossings,  
Mesones 57 and La Conexion,  
Aldama 3

## Want to Help? Contact...

JENIFER – if you want to contribute food or wine, help out in the kitchen, or have ideas for events or venues:  
**Mujeresencambio1@yahoo.com**

KAREN – to make a donation, or provide info about grants: **154-9602 karen@gootmail.net**

DEBE – to meet our scholarship recipients, join a Rancho Team, or help distribute becas (scholarships): **152-8974 debem234@yahoo.com**

CAROLE – Are you a chef? Or do you have a favorite restaurant you'd like to recommend to be our Guest Chef: **100-2054 bodybenfts@yahoo.com**

CHARLOTTE OR CAROLYN – if you're interested in working with the rug hookers, or hauling wool and supplies from the US:  
**Charlotte: char@charlottebell.com**  
**Carolyn: 152-4516 smagratton@gmail.com**

KATHLEEN (our President) – to join us, or for information about Mujeres en Cambio:  
**154-9137 katalinasma@hotmail.com**

## A few lasting memories

By Jenifer Phillips Lopez

Recently I had an incredible experience. I was out at Augustin Gonzalez, a rural community on the road to Guanajuato, waiting to speak with the "Ejido" (town council) about a project that Mujeres en Cambio wanted to start out there. I was standing in the yard of one of Las Rancheritas, under a big shady tree, when a very subtle wind came up. It was the kind of wind that brings back memories and makes you much more aware of your surroundings than normal. It washed over me and I drank in the sensation. As I stood there, I began writing down my recollections of time spent in that community, the women, the children, sights and sounds and in no time I had scribbled away many pages.

In minutes, I would face the council of community members, many of whom were old enough to be my great grandparents. I thought that it would be a piece of cake but seeing them all gathered together was daunting. In my barely adequate Spanish I addressed them for what seemed to be an endless amount of time. Eventually, I did what I set out to do and got approval to start our project.

My years as president of Mujeres en Cambio reminded me of that day. They are washed in memories, filled with sharp sensation triggered by the smallest things. I have done things I never dreamt I would have the courage to do and worked with some of the most amazing people I have ever had the honor to know.

We have accomplished great things by sheer will power and never saying "no, it can't be done". I would like to thank everyone in Mujeres en Cambio, both the Executive Committee and the Core Members, for making my job so enjoyable and so much easier.

I would also like to thank my daughter, Dancey Jasmine, for putting up with all the hours it took me away from her. She is my life. I look forward to the next chapter of this adventure together.

Thank you.  
Jenifer Phillips Lopez  
Past President

## Holiday Cocktail Party!

December 15, 4 pm, 200 pesos

Mayer Shacter and Susan Page's  
Galeria Atotonilco.

Catered by Patsy Dubois of Patsy's  
Place  
Carpool available

Check out our  
new video on  
YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow2yF2nXF9U>