

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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www.savefoggybottom.com

May 13, 2009

Cinco de Mayo: Celebrating Benito Juarez

Foggy Bottom's second Cinco de Mayo celebration last Saturday—with a live Mariachi band and authentic Oaxacan (pronounced Wa-ha-kan) tamales—started at the Watergate Mall Plaza with an audience of 40 that grew to 100 as the stiff breeze subsided and foreboding clouds dispersed.

The event highlight was a passionate talk by Barbara Tenenbaum, Mexican Cultural Specialist from the Library of Congress. She discussed the similarities between Mexican and U.S. values beginning with the objectives of presidential contemporaries, Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln, both challenged by civil wars.

Dr. Tenenbaum pointed out that Mexico, like the U.S., pushed monarchy aside for democracy, championed the end of slavery and the promise of liberty for all, and did not endorse the Church, as was typical of the South American and European countries of the time. She said this really represented the "New World," a departure from the "Old World" of landed European aristocracy ruling the country.

At the time there were only two paths to attain success for the non-gentry, the Church or military. Juarez, an orphan and Zapotec Indian, chose neither and forged his own way, leaving his village and walking the

44 miles to Mexico City to begin his education. He became a lawyer, a judge, and ultimately entered politics, which cost him dearly. He lost five children while in office. He was imprisoned twice, scheduled for execution and went into hiding, once in the United States.

As Tenenbaum stated, Juarez, like Lincoln, was low-key—even said to be "boring"—because his focus was on nation building and a bigger cause rather than personal enrichment or self-aggrandizement. He chose to wear a black suit and refrained from the adornments of medals or a military uniform. Juarez could have easily accepted the imposition and

The Mariachi Son de America performed traditional mariachi music.



PHOTO BY KERRY STOWELL

aiding of then-Emperor Maximilian, but he took the more difficult path.

Foggy Bottom's celebration of Cinco de Mayo is unique among U.S. celebrations. We are the guardians of the cherished Benito Juarez Memorial Statue, a gift from the Mexican people to the American people on the occasion of the opening of the Kennedy Center in 1968. Had our FB community not prevailed, the statue of Mexico's first and still most beloved President would

have been removed.

Our celebration also recognizes the friendship of the Mexican people—steadfast as allies—regardless of their economic and political situation. Juarez supported President Lincoln by returning Confederate generals and was likewise supported by Lincoln with much needed arms to fight the French at the end of our civil war. In WWII, Mexico sent their elite Aztec Eagles to provide air support with the 58th Fighter

(continued on next page)

SPEAKING OF JUAREZ – Catherine Mayo, FB Author

The newest book by Catherine Mayo, THE LAST PRINCE OF THE MEXICAN EMPIRE has just been released. Who knew that Mexico had a half-American prince with a D.C. connection? The prince's mother, a Washington belle, grew up at Rosedale, the historic country estate on Newark Ave NW (very near Wisconsin Ave) founded by her grandfather, General Uriah Forrest.

This little boy's future was hotly debated not just in Mexico but in Washington D.C. and in every court in Europe. Set in the mid-19th century when Maximilian von Habsburg was Emperor of Mexico, THE LAST

PRINCE OF THE MEXICAN EMPIRE is based on the true and never before completely told story about a half-American, half-Mexican boy who, as in a fairytale, became a prince and then a pawn in the struggle-to-the-death over Mexico's destiny.

The book is available at Barnes & Noble, Politics & Prose, and Amazon (buying locally always suggested).

For more info go to www.cmmayo.com



"Epic in scope... impressively researched... Mayo's reanimation of a crucial period in Mexican history should satisfy history buffs and those in the mood for an engaging story brimming with majestic ambition."
—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:

- PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
- VICE PRESIDENT – Jacqueline G. Lemire
- SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
- TREASURER – Bille Hougart
- MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – David Hertzfeldt

FBA Board of Directors:

- Rita Aid, Dusty Horwitt, Donald W. Kreuzer, Lawrence G. Mrozinski, Greg Snyder
- Ex-Officio: Ron Cocome (Immediate Past President); Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

Cinco de Mayo (cont'd)

Group in the liberation of the Philippines. Flying P-47D "Thunderbolt" single-seat fighter aircraft, pilots flew long-range sorties over Formosa, earning praise from Allied theater commander, General Douglas MacArthur, and decorations from the

U.S., Mexican and Philippine governments.

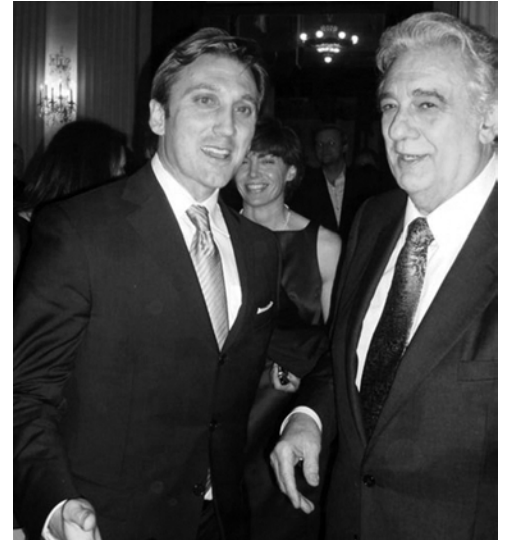
With FB community's preservation and guardianship of Juarez Circle and its memorial statue, we celebrate our nations' friendship and, in so doing, we learn more about Juarez

— an exceptional leader — and of the highest of values shared among us as "true" fellow Americans.

This event was underwritten by the FBA Defense and Improvement Corporation in collaboration with the Mexican Cultural Institute.

"Plácido Domingo Sings: From My Latin Soul" was a critical and audience hit..."
said the Washington Post.

OUR FB NEIGHBORS: Plácido Domingo and Marcos Galvany (left) converse after a sensational evening of music by Domingo at the DAR Constitution Hall. Many-time, Grammy Award-winning Domingo leads the Washington National Opera. Marcos Galvany, a Spanish composer, debuts his concert opera at Carnegie Hall on April 10, 2010.



CALENDAR

FARMER'S MARKET — WEDNESDAYS 2:30–7 PM

GI FILM FESTIVAL — MAY 13-17

Celebrate the successes and sacrifices of the American military through the medium of film. Among the films is the Red Carpet Premiere of Taking Chance which chronicles the emotional journey taken by Lt. Col. Michael Strobl as he escorts the body of a fallen Marine hero, Lance Corporal Chance Phelps, back to his hometown of Dubois, Wyoming. Invited participants include actor Kevin Bacon and Director Ross Katz. Those who hold ALL ACCESS passes can attend this May 15, 7 pm event at Carnegie Institution of Washington. 1530 P Street NW, 202-387-6400, www.gifilmfestival.com/film

AFTER DARK LIVING GREEN MASQUERADE BALL — HOUSE OF SWEDEN, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 8 PM - 1 AM

An evening of music by three DJs, exhibitions, design, rooftop lounge and much more. "Green" costume or mask is mandatory.

Tickets can only be purchased from www.ticketweb.com (no sales at the door) at \$20/person.

26TH STREET PARK SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

All volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

Suggested items to bring: gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels.

TUESDAY, MAY 26. FBA MEMBERSHIP MEETING: WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION TO MEET FBA BOARD CANDIDATES. 7 PM SOCIAL. 7:30 PM PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 — CATHERINE M. MAYO, READING THE LAST PRINCE OF THE MEXICAN EMPIRE & BOOK SIGNING. 7 PM

Barnes & Noble Booksellers 4801 Bethesda Avenue, Bethesda MD