

Diálogos

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Calendar, Trivia & Conversation Circle



September: The month in which various Latin American countries celebrate their independence: Mexico, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua

September 15 - October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the Hispanic culture in the US

September 15-October 12: "Viva Pedro" Spanish film festival, Lagoon Theater, Minneapolis. Information at www.vivapedro.com

Bienvenido!

Welcome to the Spanish Institute Newsletter!

Another State Fair's come and gone...the Vikings are gearing up again...and soon, even the mosquitoes will be a fading memory. That means it's Back-to-School in Minnesota - and at the Spanish Institute.

We're excited to offer a full slate of courses starting September 25. We encourage each of you to join us in discovering the richness of the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Whether you're studying for the first time, or one of our many returning students, you'll appreciate our focus on making learning fun. Check out our [class schedule](#).

In addition, watch for periodic communications from us, such as this newsletter, to keep you informed of opportunities to engage with the local Spanish-language scene.

As always, we welcome your comments - dialogue with us!

~ The Staff of the Spanish Institute ~

Arts & Culture: "Viva Pedro" Festival Celebrates Renowned Spanish Filmmaker

This fall, the Spanish Institute sponsors the "Viva Pedro" film festival, which re-releases eight modern-day classics by the Oscar-winning Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar.

Born in La Mancha, Spain, in 1951, Almodovar grew up in rural areas under the dictator Francisco Franco. It was a climate where artistic freedom - including the ability to study filmmaking - was limited. A short stint in a strict school spurred Almodovar to run away from home at age 16. He started a new life on his own in Madrid.

After holding odd jobs, absorbing the city, and nurturing his creative side through writing novels,

the Spanish Institute, Edina,
from 5:00-7:00 pm
www.spanishin.us

September 21: Conversation Circle meets (See more info below)

September 25: Fall classes start at the Spanish Institute, Edina. [Sign up](#) today!

October 12: Dia de la Raza (Columbus Day), celebrates the race that emerges in Latin America with the arrival of Europeans to the New World

October 13: Spanish Institute [Film Night](#), featuring "Bodas de Sangre" ("Blood Wedding") by director Carlos Saura, 7:30 p.m. at the Spanish Institute, Edina.

November 2: Dia de los Muertos, Mexican holiday of rich tradition which honors loved ones who have died.

November 17: Isabel Allende at the Fitzgerald Theater. Today's most read Hispanic writer in the world presents her latest novel "Ines of My Soul" at the Fitzgerald Theater at 7:00 pm.

December 8: Spanish Institute [Film Night](#), featuring "Carmen" by director Carlos Saura, 7:30 p.m. at the Spanish Institute.

State Fair Trivia: Spanish on-a-stick

Spanish Institute enjoyed a day at the Minnesota State Fair with a fun promotion called "Spanish-on-a-Stick." Test your

magazine articles, and even fronting a punk rock band, Almodovar saved enough money to purchase a Super-8 camera. He began filming shorts and eventually, as the Franco regime ended in 1978, was able to release his first commercial film.

His films reflect his varied experiences in Madrid, where all but his most recent release are set. Characters are emotive, colorful dreamers struggling to find their place in the world - just as their creator worked to find his.

"Viva Pedro" features eight Almodovar classics, originally released between 1985 and 2004:

- Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown
- All About My Mother
- Talk to Her
- Flower of My Secret
- Live Flesh
- Law of Desire
- Matador
- Bad Education

The "Viva Pedro" festival runs September 15-October 12 at the Lagoon Theater in Minneapolis.

For show times and trailers: www.vivapedro.com or www.landmarktheaters.com

Class Spotlight: Beginner Courses - Relax!

Beginner Spanish Makes Learning Fun, Comfortable

For many busy adults, the idea of spending a weeknight back in the classroom is enough to make a root canal look attractive! That's where our Beginner courses set us apart.

"Everyone was very encouraging and helped me not be so timid about trying to speak Spanish," says one recent Beginner 1 student.

At the Spanish Institute, we strive to create a relaxed, comfortable environment that takes the fear out of learning Spanish. Our small classes encourage participation and our patient instructors make learning easy. In addition, there's less than an hour a week of homework, thanks to the in-class environment with its focus on activities to put into

knowledge by matching these Spanish and English phrases:

1. La gran reunión minnesotana
 2. Toda la leche que puedas tomar
 3. Rueda de la fortuna
 4. Listón azul
 5. Chuleta de puerco en paleta
 6. Feria ganadera
 7. Me duelen los pies
 8. Me divierto en la feria
 9. Escultura de mantequilla
 10. Salchicha-rebozada de harina de maíz – en paleta
- A. I have fun at the fair
B. Corn dog-on-a-stick
C. Butter sculpture
D. My feet hurt
E. The great Minnesota get-together
F. Pork chop-on-a-stick
G. All the milk you can drink
H. Ferris wheel
I. Livestock exhibition
J. Blue ribbon

(Answers appear at the end of this newsletter.)

Conversation Circle (advanced level)

Speak in Spanish with people like you who wish to maintain and improve their conversational fluency.

Participants will previously read a newspaper article and discuss it with others at the meeting.

This is an open and free conversation get-together, just come the first and third Thursdays of September, October and November at 6:30 pm. The first meeting will be **September 21** at the Spanish Institute. Prepare by reading [Besar prolonga la vida](#) and

practice what students have just learned.

"I really appreciated the small class sizes and the varied activities. I felt we were all encouraged to practice speaking and had plenty of opportunities to do so during class," comments another first-time learner.

Beginner I starts new students on the way to basic conversation and reading skills. Students learn how to:

- *Understand the basics of the Spanish language*, like the alphabet and numbers, how verbs, nouns and other articles of grammar work, and basic vocabulary.
- *Give personal information*, such as introducing yourself, your work and where you're from, telling about your family, and indicating your likes and dislikes.
- *Acquire travel-related vocabulary*, from destinations to services to modes of transportation.

Best of all, Beginner I students end the class with newfound confidence in their language abilities.

To [enroll](#) or learn more,
Call: 952-933-9940
E-mail: dialogos@spanishin.us
Web: www.spanishin.us

Meet the Staff: Carolyn Tabor "Try, Try, Try"

*Native of Chile Encourages Students to try
Describes Diverse Regions of Her Home Country*

It doesn't take an inborn talent to learn a language, explains Spanish Institute instructor Carolyn Tabor. It's most important simply to "Try, Try, Try!"

"Practice, practice, practice," she explains. "We all have doubts, but if we don't take the risk and try to send the message, if we are afraid to do it because we might be wrong or say something that's broken, we'll never learn. Speaking frequently removes the doubt that holds back students."

It's just that encouragement and enthusiasm for teaching that make Carolyn a favorite among

[Si vas a robar algo, que sea un beso](#)

Quick Links...

- [More About Us](#)
- [View class schedule](#)
- [Register now](#)

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Spanish Institute students. Those who've taken her Beginner courses describe her as "a wonderful instructor" with "exceptional teaching skills."

"Carolyn was wonderful – such an encourager and so pleasant. She's very knowledgeable about both Spanish and English, and an excellent, patient instructor," writes one student.

A native of Chile, Carolyn began teaching in the U.S. in 1990. She holds a degree from the University of Chile.

"I love meeting new people. Sharing my language and cultural traditions is one of the best parts of teaching," Carolyn says.

She says the Spanish language in Chile is "standard," without many regional variations. However, one distinct difference is the common use of diminutive nouns, which express warmth and affection.

"For example, where we might normally offer a houseguest té (tea) or café (coffee), in Chile we would offer tecito (small tea) or cafecito (little coffee)," she describes. "The diminutive expresses endearment rather than small size."

Because of its long and narrow geography between the Pacific Ocean and the high mountains of the Andes, Chile boasts a wide variety of climates and features – everything from one of the driest deserts in the world to tropical beaches, volcanoes, lakes, and rich agricultural areas, including wine-growing regions. Carolyn describes its most southern climate as very similar to that of Minnesota.

"What's great about Chile is that you can swim in the ocean, and two and a half hours later, be skiing in the mountains," she says.

Carolyn resides in the Twin Cities with her husband and two children.

Spanish-on-a-Stick Answers: 1-E, 2-G, 3- H, 4-J, 5- F, 6-I, 7-D, 8-A, 9-C, 10-B

email: dialogos@spanishin.us
web: <http://www.spanishin.us>

