10 Years of Community

We want to rally our dedicated volunteers, our clients, our friends and neighbors, to help us promote ticket sales for El Sol Fest Preview Night on October 22.

Preview Night and El Sol Fest on October 23 represent the culmination of a community effort and months of planning. We will be celebrating 10 years of history.

For Preview Night, Hampton Forks, a gourmet food delivery service here in Jupiter, is providing hors d’oeuvres. Our garden will sparkle with lights and ticket holders will enjoy cocktails and live music from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

We hope attendees will dress to impress and bid on the unique items specially donated to our event by local partners. Jupiter’s Police Chief, Frank Kitzerow, will be honored with El Sol’s Legacy Award.

Tickets are $40 online and will be $50 at the door. Preview Night is our only major public fundraiser for the year. We depend on ticket sales to help us continue providing services to clients.

Thank you for helping us to spread the word. And thank you for reading.

Purchase tickets at elsol.eventbrite.com

October and November

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<td>Hispanic Heritage Festival</td>
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For an updated calendar visit

friendsofelsol.org
Thank you El Sol Fest Sponsors

The Community Foundation is an organization that facilitates informed philanthropy. Together, with its donors, it serves to lead as a catalyst for building vibrant communities. More information is available at yourcommunityfoundation.org

Marcela Mejia is a freelance designer and instructor who has been in the fashion industry for 25 years. Born and raised in Colombia, Marcela studied fashion in Bogota and completed her studies in Florence, Italy, where she earned her diploma in couture.

Marcela also has degrees in fashion and graphic design. She has been teaching since 1992, starting at the National Service of Learning-Sena.

While living in Colombia, she operated her own brand, “Marcela Mejia.” She considers fashion to be her passion.

The Palm Beach Post
REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

From upscale, local food delivery service to wedding catering; Hampton Forks in Jupiter offers catering services for your every occasion. More information is available at hamptonforks.com

The Palm Beach Post has the largest newsroom in the Palm Beaches, with more than 100 reporters, editors and photojournalists on staff. The Post delivers comprehensive, in-depth, journalism in print, online, mobile and social. Stay up on the latest news at palmbeachpost.com

Thank you to our festival sponsors WPBF and estrella TV. Visit wpbf.com

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Featured Worker
Jose Yoyero

Jose is from a small town of a few hundred families in Guatemala called Saquitacaj.

He likes living in Jupiter but he has no long-term goals for himself, he said. All he wants is for his four children back in Guatemala to feel secure in their education and careers.

“I’m burning in the sun and working hard so my family can get ahead,” Jose said.

Comfortable working as a day laborer, Jose has experience with remodeling, moving and painting jobs.

Our labor coordinator, Wilberto, selected Jose as our latest featured worker because he is a dependable volunteer.

“This center exists to help us,” Jose said. “I always volunteer because you have to keep your workplace clean.”

Jose’s 21-year-old daughter, the oldest of his four children, is a teacher. His second-oldest, another daughter, is a certified cook.

He is proud that his two daughters are educated and have careers, he said, but has to continue working so he can send money back home for the education of his two sons.

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Featured Volunteer
Lois-Anne Davis

Lois-Anne Davis has been volunteering for about five years and currently serves on our communications committee and on our festival committee for El Sol Fest. She has taken a leadership role in organizing the Preview Night silent auction.

Lois-Anne is a frequent contributor to El Sol Shines. For our last issue she covered the visit of Mayor Camposeco of Jacaltenango.

“It was a wonderful event and I learned a great deal from attending,” Lois-Anne said. “Just the perspective of the families that are separated... about sending resources for people to be educated in Guatemala. People are working here so their families can sustain themselves there and build a culture there and build a community that is sustainable.”

A pediatric language pathologist, Lois-Anne moved to Jupiter in 1983 and currently lives in Tequesta. She said the area has grown a lot over the years.

“It’s clearly a community where we have access to many many things, many comforts,” she said. “Many people want to give back and so that makes it nice.”

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Volunteer report reflects positive experiences

Joanna, an AmeriCorps VISTA member and our community impact evaluator, recently completed the 2016 El Sol Volunteer Report.

Ninety-three percent of respondents rated their experience volunteering at El Sol as good or outstanding. According to the report, most are motivated by a sense that they are helping their community. Some also indicated they are motivated by our mission.

Volunteers also made recommendations for improvements at El Sol, including that we work to raise awareness of programs and events such as the annual health fair and our school for parents. They would also like more training, better communication and more opportunities to use their specific skills.

Respondents cited lack of affordable housing and limited access to healthy foods as top health and safety problems faced by El Sol clients. Seventy-six percent indicated they think Jupiter is a welcoming place for immigrants.

According to our executive director, Jocelyn, data gathering in the form of client and volunteer surveys will help guide us in strategic planning for the future.

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Important Reminder for Volunteers: Please make sure to log your hours in the book. Do not make changes to the volunteer calendar unless approved by Karen Lau.
**VISTA Team Contributes to Healthier Jupiter Walkability Project**

AmeriCorps VISTA members from El Sol and other Palm Beach County locations participated in the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance with a service project led by Lynn Hays and Carrie Brown of Healthier Jupiter.

VISTA members surveyed Jupiter residents regarding pedestrian and bicyclist safety in town. El Sol day laborers were asked how often they walk or bicycle in the area, whether they believe it is safe, and what they think could be done to make Jupiter safer. Residents expressed concerns regarding bike lanes being too narrow, drivers not respecting the right-of-way of pedestrians, and crosswalks not working properly.

Healthier Jupiter is fighting obesity and Type 2 Diabetes by advocating for increased physical activity in the community.

“We want to encourage everyone to make physical activity a daily part of their lives,” said Lynn Hays, co-chair of the Healthier Jupiter Initiative.

“And as part of that objective, we want to ensure biking and walking are safe for everyone in our community.”

“We’ve reviewed survey results and data from other sources, but the VISTAs helped tremendously by actually talking with people outside of schools, businesses and grocery stores to understand their concerns.”

The results of the survey will be combined with the results from data mining conducted by Healthier Jupiter, and presented to officials representing Palm Beach County and the Town of Jupiter on October 25.

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**New VISTA arrives at El Sol**

Born in Chicago, Sergio Vargas studied International Relations at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois.

In Guatemala, he worked on direct trade student businesses. He also helped out on films about highland Mayan families. Most recently, he worked in Japan as an English instructor. His goal in that country was to foster international communication while working with local governments.

Sergio is serving at El Sol as a community resource developer. He has already made an impact helping to secure entertainment for El Sol Fest and setting up an online ticket system for Preview Night.

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**Jupiter’s Farmer’s Market at El Sol**

We are preparing for Jupiter’s Farmers’ Market at El Sol.

Our garden coordinator, Cliff, and his volunteers are tending to our Sunshine Organic Community Garden, creating artisan products, and preparing for our coming season. Vendors will sell locally grown vegetables and goods.

A grant from Healthier Jupiter will allow us to offer reward cards and other incentives for people making healthy food choices.

The market will be open every Sunday from November 13 to December 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sunshine News Briefs

• Jill Herrmann, manager of educational engagement at CareerSource Palm Beach County, visited El Sol to share with staff about available resources for job seekers.

“The unemployment rate is under five percent which is the best it’s been in many years,” Jill said. “But if you’re the guy without the job, it’s not good for you. So obviously we want everyone who wants a job to be employed in Palm Beach County.”

• Jill recommended job seekers at El Sol acquire as many skills and certifications as possible. She said it is a given they should be working to perfect their English.

After Jill’s visit, Hannah, our VISTA financial literacy coordinator, helped Jelani update his resume. They discussed his longterm career goals and she shared tips from Jill. He began working at a local coffee shop a few days later.

• The new florist program has launched. Carlos, our worker development coordinator, and Byron, our VISTA Vocational Training Coordinator, developed the curriculum, which incorporates both an online component and a hands-on training component.

Carlos and Byron secured time for class participants at local flower shops. They also put together tool kits for them.

• Junior and senior Spanish students from the Pine School visited our labor center. The Pine School is an independent college preparatory day school located in Hobe Sound, Florida. Students volunteered to participate in the “Meet the Worker Program.”

Students interviewed workers, in Spanish, on their experience at El Sol, Jupiter, and the United States. “There are a lot of tears on the way back,” said Lillian Nova, a Spanish teacher at the school.

• Wells Fargo volunteers helped out in El Sol’s Sunshine Organic Community Garden. They helped clear weeds and fill plots with dirt. They also planted tomatoes, squash, cilantro and basil. The produce grown is used in the preparation of meals in our kitchen.

Both the Wells Fargo volunteers and Chef Dom Bakija were photographed and mentioned in a Palm Beach Post story about El Sol’s 10th anniversary.
In 2013, when El Sol Executive Director Jocelyn Skolnik traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept a Champions of Change award from the White House, she carried issues of El Sol Shines with her. Other nonprofit leaders expressed admiration for the professional quality of the newsletter.

The driving force behind El Sol Shines for more than five years, Wendy Meehan, is stepping down from her position as editor.

“Wendy’s hard work, creativity, talent and dedication to the community never went unnoticed,” Jocelyn said. “She stuck by us through all sorts of transitions, including volunteer and staff changes, and she continued to help us after she moved to another state!”

Wendy lives in Georgia and she described late nights working on the newsletter when the light from her computer defied the darkness. “Shining out like a lighthouse, a beacon across these hills,” she said.

She said she committed to El Sol because she believed in the mission. “It didn’t seem like a job,” she said. “It seemed like I had to do it.”

A high school science teacher for 25 years, Wendy has also been a SCUBA instructor and a research diver. Today she works as a graphic designer. “I always enjoyed helping people tell their story,” she said.

Though she has clients that depend on her and keep her busy, Wendy still considers herself semi-retired. And when she is not at home in the hills of Georgia she enjoys traveling in France with her husband to explore wine regions.

Wendy is leaving a legacy of high quality and beautiful design. We will miss her.
El Sol Shines September/October 2016

El Sol Workers Give Back at Kidz Exploration

New Security Cameras Installed

El Sol is taking a proactive approach to ensure the safety of everyone at the center. In an effort to improve security, El Sol is currently installing a new security camera system. Thanks to a grant from Jonathan’s Landing Cares, we are updating from an older 8-camera system.

Our new system will feature 15 cameras and be web-based. The cameras are weatherproof and have a range of up to 100 feet where they can see in the dark. El Sol’s Board and staff are constantly working to provide a safe and organized place for community services. This upgrade is part of a larger effort to improve our security under the guidance of the Jupiter Police Department.

The Jupiter Police Department has provided training to our staff members so they are better prepared in case of an emergency. We are grateful for the invaluable input.
Glendy Hernandez has been in the United States for about a year but she was only introduced to El Sol six months ago. In August, workers elected her as president of the Workers’ Council.

“I’m very grateful that my fellow workers chose me to be their president and to be their voice,” she said.

Glendy frequently volunteers in the kitchen, where a few times she has been asked to cook. She also takes morning and evening English classes and makes time for Capacitate Para Empleo courses in the computer lab.

Glendy also helps out with Pouran Rissmaney’s weekly beading art class. “I’m always encouraging all the other ladies to participate,” Glendy said. “I’m a very cheerful person. I love talking to people, communicating with people who were born in other countries and making friends.”

More people should participate in discussions and activities when guest speakers or guest instructors visit the labor hall, Glendy said. “While you are waiting for work, it won’t hurt you to learn something new.”

Glendy acknowledged women are hired less often than men through the labor program at El Sol, but they can improve their chances by picking up new vocational skills. She also suggested a better job could be done to market the skills of the women at El Sol as housekeepers, babysitters, companions for the elderly, and even as helpers on moving jobs.

Summit of Latin America Caribbean Consulates

Associate Director Dora Valdivia presented on ten years of work at El Sol at the first Summit of Latin-America Caribbean Consulates hosted by the Palm Beach Sheriff’s Office and the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Dora highlighted the contributions made by the center’s committed Board of Directors, its dedicated staff and its selfless volunteers.
Jupiter Tequesta Athletic Association Welcomes El Sol Families

El Sol partners with Healthier Jupiter for Zumba in the Park

About a year ago, Carrie Browne, project director at Healthier Jupiter, and Betzy Rega, our health coordinator, held a focus group for members of the community to discuss the barriers that keep people from exercising.

“What we found varied from not knowing where the parks were to high cost of gyms in our area,” Betzy said.

In an effort to help people exercise more, Carrie and Betzy worked together to launch a Zumba class at Officer Bruce St. Laurent Park behind the Jupiter Library. Planning for the dance fitness class at a public park required the support of town officials. Carrie called the project a true community partnership.

Nora Lara, an El Sol health promoter, leads the class. About a dozen women have been attending every Thursday.

“Zumba in the park has been a great addition,” Betzy said.

Healthier Jupiter is a community-driven initiative designed to address health and quality of life issues from diabetes prevention and management to other areas of wellness. Recently, the organization published a resource for people looking to stay active.

Check out Healthier Jupiter’s Get Fit Map at healthierjupiter.org/initiatives/get-fit-map/

“El Sol is hiring! To learn more about current job openings, please visit our website at http://friendsofelsol.org/employment”
In the Second Quarter of 2016, a total of 4,233 jobs were filled. El Sol registered 76 new workers. For the quarter, an average of 104 workers registered for work each morning, of which 46 were hired, at an average daily placement rate of 45 percent. Volunteers provided 375 hours to the Labor Program at the Employer Desk and the Labor Desk.

During the Second Quarter of 2016, volunteer attorneys, assisted by our Legal Coordinator and The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, helped a total of 107 people with legal questions. These cases consisted of immigration, criminal, labor, domestic, and miscellaneous issues.

The Plazas Comunitarias Program has undergone an overhaul of the program with a transition to coordinate with the Jupiter Community High School to attract students who are in need of Basic Spanish literacy assistance in school. We have begun daytime classes at Jupiter High School and are continuing the nighttime classes at El Sol.

In the Second Quarter of 2016, we served a total of 2,727 healthy meals with an average of 36 meals per day. Volunteers contributed 1,002 hours in the kitchen. Thirty-four members of the community attended three workshops given by a local chef. They were Spinach, cucumber and kohl rabi and peanut salad, Cabbage and kohl rabi seasonal slaw, and Zoodles with herbs from our community garden.

In the Second Quarter of 2016, we harvested 332 pounds of food from the Sunshine Organic Community Garden. Community members volunteered 74.5 hours in the garden.

Quarterly Report Released

- Source: friendsofelsol.org/about/quarterlyreports

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Administrative Notes

Associate Director Dora Valdivia thanked Jill Hanson and Mike Richmond, past presidents of El Sol. “To them we owe pretty much all that we are,” she said.

Standing at the stage in the labor hall, Dora continued by thanking the staff, the AmeriCorps VISTAs, and the workers for their part in helping El Sol reach its 10-year milestone.

Taking the microphone, Jill spoke about the center’s early days and about her husband, Sol Silverman. Many people nowadays may not realize El Sol is partly named after him, she said. “He spoke to many political leaders in the town and in the county and in the state to encourage them to support El Sol,” she said.

Tito Perez, who claims to have been the first person to fulfill a job request through El Sol, continues his relationship with the center. He said he remembers the early days, when only about four or five people who showed up to work found gigs. In June, 25 people were hired per day on average.

“El Sol has provided us a means for getting ahead in life,” Perez said, “It has given us the opportunity to grow as individuals and I’m very thankful. Everything I have, it is because of El Sol.”
Since opening the firm now known as Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles more than 30 years ago, El Sol Board Member Gerald A. Rosenthal has been a dedicated champion of the everyday hero – police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, construction workers, farm workers, and more.

Passionate about preserving the civil rights of laborers, he has fought tirelessly against giant insurance companies who deny the injured workers their benefits. It’s not just the lawsuit Gerald fights to win – he is driven by the opportunity to restore his client’s quality of life.

Before Gerald became known as one of the best Palm Beach lawyers, he had his beginnings as a student at the University of Florida College of Law. His studies were interrupted by the draft. He served in the United States Army in Vietnam and with the Florida National Guard before returning to UF to earn his Juris Doctor in 1973. A member of the Florida Bar, he is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court (Southern District), the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

One of the most experienced and respected workers’ compensation lawyers in the US, Gerald maintains membership in a number of state and national organizations. His nationwide network of contacts and resources keep him attuned to the newest events and cases which may affect his clients.

After thirty years at the helm of Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles, Gerald sums up the philosophy and goals of his firm by saying, “The most important elements of our legal system are fairness and equality. In representing my clients, it is a privilege to use my ability and resources to level the playing field for them.”

El Sol thanks Gerald Rosenthal for his dedication and support.
**Mission Statement**

El Sol is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to improve the quality of life of all residents of Northern Palm Beach by providing services to those in need, especially day laborers and their families.

**Vision**

El Sol promotes a harmonious integrated community in which all people can achieve their highest potential. We seek to be the model for other communities dealing with day-laborers.

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**El Sol Wish List**

- Class supplies for education programs: Paper, Colored Paper, Markers, Art and Craft
- Computers purchased in the last two years.

**Special Kitchen Needs:**
- **WE NEED MEAT!** Ground Beef, Hot dogs, and Sausages.
- 20 lbs of ground beef or 80 hot dogs/ sausages will cover a day here at El Sol (approx 40 meals).

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**El Sol**

Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center

106 Military Trail
Jupiter, FL 33458
Phone (561) 745-9860
Fax (561) 745-9834

Find us on the Web at www.friendsofelsol.org

“Like” us on Facebook at El Sol, Jupiter’s Neighborhood Resource Center
Twitter: @ESolJupiter
Instagram: @ElSolJupiter

El Sol’s Hiring Hall is open
- 6am - 2pm Monday through Saturday
- 7am - 12 noon Sunday

Donate online through Network for Good on our website: www.friendsofelsol.org

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**Staff**

- Jocelyn Skolnik, executive director
- Dora Valdivia, associate director
- Wilberto Luna, labor coordinator
- Betzy Rega, health coordinator
- Karen Clark, office manager
- Angie Willoughby, kitchen coordinator
- Carlos Gonzales, worker development project coordinator
- Meriel Perez, case manager
- Ismael Villatoro, assistant labor coordinator
- Karen Lau, volunteer coordinator
- Vickie Granati, daytime ESOL coordinator
- Jesus Duran, nighttime ESOL coordinator
- Katerina Pecora, AmeriCorps VISTA leader
- Cliff Ross, garden coordinator
- Maria Naranjo, computer class coordinator
- Marcela Mejia, sewing coordinator
- Myrtelina Cintron, sewing class teacher
- Surynai Janowicz, legal coordinator
- Mariluz Perrott, Plazas Comunitarias coordinator & ESOL teacher
- Andres David Lopez, communications coordinator

**El Sol Shines is published six times a year**

Andres David Lopez, editor
Robert Cadogan, communications committee chairman

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**Contributors**

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