

VOLUME 41, JUNE, 2022
VOLUMEN 41, JUNIO, 2022

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Mission & Vision

—Our mission is to promote the active participation of Lakeside’s inhabitants to improve their quality of life lakeside.

— Our vision is a future where all Lakeside residents continually have a role in enriching the community’s quality of life, vitality and prosperity through the exchange of knowledge, expertise, culture, heritage & language.

—*Nuestra Misión es promover la activa participación de los residentes de la Ribera de Chapala, para mejorar la calidad de vida en la comunidad.*

— *Nuestra Visión es un futuro donde todos los residentes de La Ribera participen continuamente en mejorar la calidad de vida, vitalidad y prosperidad de la comunidad a través del intercambio de conocimiento, experiencia, cultura, patrimonio y lenguaje.*

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The magazine’s name, Conecciones -Connections in English-reflects its purpose, which is to enable the Lake Chapala Society to connect with its community. / *El nombre de la revista Conecciones refleja su propósito, favorecer la conexión de The Lake Chapala Society con la comunidad.*

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Conecciones welcomes submissions of articles from Lakeside authors We reserve the right to edit as necessary. Submissions should be in MS Word 600 words, and should be directed to

submissions@lakechapalasociety.com. Advertisement inquiries should be directed to ventas@lakechapalasociety.com.

Conecciones agradece el envío de artículos. Nos reservamos el derecho de editarlos si es necesario. Los envíos deben ser en MS Word de 600 palabras, y deben dirigirse a submissions@lakechapalasociety.com. Las solicitudes de publicidad deben dirigirse a ventas@lakechapalasociety.com.

All prices include free design work. All ads/ad information must be submitted by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the next month’s magazine. Send to ventas@lakechapalasociety.com / *Todos los precios incluyen el trabajo de diseño gratuito. Todos los anuncios/información de anuncios deben ser enviados antes del día 10 del mes para su inclusión en la revista del mes siguiente. Enviar a ventas@lakechapalasociety.com*

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COVER: Guadalajara Pride

Conecciones Advertising Prices / Precios de los Anuncios

2022	Cost / Precio	with/ con IVA
Back cover / Contraportada (9 x 11.4" / 23 x 29 cm).....	\$5,000	\$5,800
Inside front & back cover / Contraportada interna (9 x 11.4" / 23 x 29 cm).....	\$4,500	\$5,220
Full page / Página completa (8.2 x 10.5" / 21 x 27 cm).....	\$3,600	\$4,176
1/2 page / 1/2 página (4.7 x 7.2" / 12 x 18.5 cm).....	\$2,150	\$2,494
1/4 page / 1/4 página (3.5 x 4.7" / 9 x 12 cm).....	\$1,150	\$1,334
1/8 page-business card / 1/8 página-tarjeta de presentación (3.5 x 2" / 9 x 5 cm).....	\$ 400	\$ 464

President's Message

Mensaje del Presidente

Happy month of Pride.

At The Lake Chapala Society we pride ourselves on being an organization open to everyone. We embrace our LGBTQ+ members of the community who continue to work towards equality.

It is the diverse life styles, backgrounds, upbringing and talents that come together to make this area we all so lovingly refer to as Lakeside. We are very thankful to the tremendous number of people who join us here at LCS and share these qualities with us so willingly. This is what makes the strength of our organization. And allows us to share what we each bring, along with the many qualities of the Mexican community who greet us with open arms and hearts. Together we continue to grow and enrich our neighborhoods.

During the past couple of years we have all had to be open to new possibilities and changes to our life styles. While the community continues through this "Covid new normal" adjustment period, we are very proud of all our members, volunteers, staff, board of directors Mexican Advisory Council and the many community members who make LCS what it is today and more so - what it will be going forward.

There is a tremendous amount of work being done on campus and in committees to make LCS stronger, more supportive of our common interests and an enhanced organization as well as to maintain our seat at the table with our government counterparts. If you have not been on campus lately we invite you to stop by to take another look.

If you would like to learn more or better yet, if you would like to get involved in making a difference, please visit our website and sign up to be a volunteer. If you would like to make a donation to our annual fund, your gifts are what make all this possible. On our website, click on the word DONATE on our website home page. <https://lakechapalasociety.com>

LCS 2.0 is our comprehensive long-range master plan. We are making strong progress towards this plan of "Extending our legacy as an oasis for personal enrichment, socialization and collaboration throughout lakeside". Won't you help us?

Steve Balfour
President

Lake Chapala Society

Feliz mes del orgullo.

En The Lake Chapala Society nos enorgullecemos de ser una organización abierta a todos. Abrazamos a nuestros miembros de la comunidad LGBTQ+ que siguen trabajando por la igualdad.

Es la diversidad de estilos de vida, el origen, la crianza y los talentos que se unen para hacer de esta zona que todos tan cariñosamente se refiere como Lakeside algo único. Estamos muy agradecidos por el enorme número de personas que se unen a nosotros aquí en LCS y que comparten estas cualidades con nosotros. Esto es lo que hace la fuerza de nuestra organización. Y nos permite compartir lo que cada uno aporta, junto con las muchas cualidades de la comunidad mexicana que nos recibe con los brazos y los corazones abiertos. Juntos seguimos creciendo y enriqueciendo nuestros barrios.

Durante los últimos dos años todos hemos tenido que estar abiertos a nuevas posibilidades y cambios en nuestros estilos de vida. Mientras la comunidad continúa a través de este período de ajuste de la "nueva normalidad de Covid", estamos muy orgullosos de todos nuestros miembros, voluntarios, personal, junta directiva del Consejo Consultivo Mexicano y los muchos miembros de la comunidad que hacen de LCS lo que es hoy y más aún - lo que será en el futuro.

Hay una tremenda cantidad de trabajo que se está haciendo en el campus y en los comités para hacer que LCS sea más fuerte, que apoye más nuestros intereses comunes y que sea una mejor organización, así como para mantener nuestra presencia en la mesa con nuestras contrapartes gubernamentales. Si no has estado en el campus últimamente, te invitamos a que te pases a echar otro vistazo.

Si quieres saber más o, mejor aún, si quieres participar para marcar la diferencia, visita nuestra página web y apúntate como voluntario. Si quieres hacer una donación a nuestro fondo anual, tus donaciones son las que hacen posible todo esto. En nuestro sitio web, haz clic en la palabra DONATE en la página de inicio de nuestro sitio web.

<https://lakechapalasociety.com>

LCS 2.0 es nuestro plan maestro integral a largo plazo. Estamos avanzando fuertemente hacia este plan de "Extender nuestro legado como un oasis para el enriquecimiento personal, la socialización y la colaboración en toda la orilla del lago".

¿Nos ayudas?

Steve Balfour
Presidente

Lake Chapala Society

This special Pride printed edition of Conecciones Was made possible thanks to the generous donations from:

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Diverse Family Models In Jalisco

By Dolores López Jara

Deputy of the Congress of the State of Jalisco

Recently in the Jalisco State Congress we approved several legal reforms aimed at guaranteeing the rights of all Jalisco citizens regardless of their sexual preference.

Undoubtedly it was not an easy or smooth legislative process. Forces of resistance to change exercised different pressure measures, some of which could be classified as aggression and disrespect.

However, after dialogue and analysis, most of the popular representatives considered it imperative to get our entity out of the backwardness in which it was kept in terms of legislation in favor of the LGBTQ community.

To recognize, as never before, International Gay Pride Day and the whole month of June, a period in which the events, actions and commemorations related to the events that took place in Stonewall in 1969 are celebrated, is surely an unbeatable success for all members of the LGBTQ community in Jalisco and in the Chapala Riviera.

One of these legal modifications consisted of changes to different articles of the Civil Code of the State with the objective of eliminating from said ordinance the requirement that in order to contract a marriage the interested parties must be a man and a woman. Now it is simply two people, either women or men.

This small modification to one of the laws of the State will not only give legal security to thousands of people, but also dignity, because the rights and guarantees are equal for all.

In Jalisco, as well as in this country and this planet, there are no people of first and second category or importance. Human dignity is what gives wealth to each one of us, leaving aside what we prefer or what we like.

Prior to this legal reform, which was approved by the majority of the legislators that make up the Congress of the State of Jalisco, some did not have the “privilege” of getting married, simply because they did not conform to hegemonic correctness. Today we must shout to the four winds: there is not only one form of family.

In this beautiful state of Jalisco that throughout its history has welcomed hundreds of thousands of people from other regions and other countries, we can proudly say that those families, those unions formed by two people of the same sex, are no less worthy than those already known traditionally, because in our State we are all equal.



In this context of dignity and respect for others, we also include in the law the recognition of the gender identity of transgender persons, thus guaranteeing health services, education, labor insertion, etc., among other benefits that every Mexican citizen is entitled to, in order to safeguard this human right.

Local legislators consider it imperative to safeguard the rights of “trans” persons and promote non-discrimination. Therefore we agreed to modify the regulatory framework so that when a new birth certificate is requested for the recognition of gender identity, the original certificate is annotated and reserved, in order to safeguard the human right to privacy.

A third reform that ratifies the commitment of the majority of the local deputies to diversity and respect, was the modification to the Penal Code to prohibit any form of ‘conversion therapy’. The law will now punish the individual or legal entity that impacts, promotes, employs, applies, obligates or finances any type of method, treatment, therapy, non-surgical practice or service, with or without lucrative purposes, with the purpose of modifying, reorienting, impairing, restricting or annulling the sexual orientation or sexual identity of a person.

These rights are now firmly and legally established and in the State Congress we will continue working for the benefit of all.



Diversos Modelos de Familia en Jalisco

Por Dolores López Jara

Diputada del Congreso del Estado de Jalisco

Recientemente en el Congreso del Estado de Jalisco aprobamos diversas reformas legales encaminadas a garantizar los derechos de todos los jaliscienses sin importar su preferencia sexual.

Sin duda alguna no fue un proceso legislativo sencillo ni terso, fuerzas de resistencia al cambio ejercieron distintas medidas de presión, algunas que se podrían catalogar como agresiones y faltas de respeto.

Sin embargo, luego del diálogo y el análisis la mayoría de los representantes populares consideramos imperativo sacar a nuestra entidad del rezago en el que se mantenía en cuanto legislación a favor de las personas de la comunidad LGBTQ.

Inmejorable contexto para que todos ellas en Jalisco y en la Ribera de Chapala, reciban como nunca el Día Internacional del Orgullo Gay y todo el mes de junio, periodo en el que se extienden los eventos, acciones y conmemoraciones relativos a los hechos sucedidos en Stonewall en el año de 1969.

Una de esas modificaciones legales consistió en cambios a distintos artículos del Código Civil del Estado con el objetivo de eliminar de dicho ordenamiento que para contraer matrimonio los interesados deban ser hombre y mujer, sino simplemente dos personas, ya sean mujeres u hombres.

Esta pequeña modificación a una de leyes del Estado vendrá a darle no sólo seguridad jurídica a miles de personas, sino también dignidad, porque los derechos y las garantías son para todos en forma igualitaria.

En Jalisco, así como en este país y este planeta, no existen personas de primera y de segunda categoría o importancia, la dignidad humana es lo que viene a dar riqueza a cada uno de nosotros, dejando de lado lo que prefiramos o lo que nos guste.

Previo a esta reforma legal, que fue aprobada por la mayoría de los legisladores que integramos el Congreso del Estado de Jalisco, algunos no tenían el “privilegio” de contraer matrimonio, esto, por el hecho de no pertenecer a lo hegemónicamente correcto. Hoy día debemos gritar a los cuatro vientos: no hay una sola forma de familia.

Porque en este bello Jalisco que ha acogido a través de su historia a cientos de miles de personas originarias de otras regiones y otros países, podemos decir con orgullo que aquellas familias, aquellas uniones formadas por dos personas del mismo sexo no son menos dignas que las ya conocidas tradicionalmente, porque en nuestro Estado todos somos iguales.



En ese contexto de dignidad y respeto al prójimo, también incluimos en la ley el reconocimiento a la identidad de género de personas transgénero, garantizando con ello: los servicios de salud, educación, la inserción laboral, entre otros beneficios que todo ciudadano mexicano tiene derecho, a efecto de salvaguardar este derecho humano.

Los legisladores locales consideramos imperativo privilegiar los derechos de las personas “trans” y promover la no discriminación, por ello acordamos modificar el marco normativo para que cuando se solicite el levantamiento de una nueva acta de nacimiento para el reconocimiento de identidad de género, se haga la anotación y reserva del acta primigenia, a efecto de salvaguardar el derecho humano de privacidad.

Una tercera reforma que ratifica el compromiso de la mayoría de los diputados locales para con la diversidad y el respeto, fue la modificación al Código Penal para prohibir y castigar a la persona física o moral que imparta, promueva, emplee, aplique, obligue o financie cualquier tipo de método, tratamiento, terapia, practica no quirúrgica o servicio, con o sin fines de lucro con el objeto de modificar, reorientar, menoscabar, restringir o anular la orientación sexual o identidad sexual de una persona.

Los derechos no se consultan y en el Congreso del Estado habremos de seguir trabajando en beneficio de todas y todos.



Rainbow Lining

By David Ellison

I never chose to be gay. Indeed, I spent nearly two decades attempting to deny it, run away from it, pray it away...anything.

As a teen, I furtively scanned the ladies' bra and underwear sections of the Sears catalog, desperately trying to find the featured women sexy. Later in the full throes of puberty, my gut would clench tightly whenever I saw an attractive boy. "No! No! No!" I pleaded, suppressing all my crushes.

In college, I dared to confess my "dirty" thoughts to the dorm rector. The priest tried to console me with the idea that longings were not evil in themselves; the implication being, unfortunately, that acting on them would be. I buried myself deep in the closet. Deeper still because of AIDS. If I ever tried anything sexual with a man, I could never, ever give blood again, since the blood of all homosexuals was — and is — considered to be tainted. There could be no going back even if I just "tested the water" once.

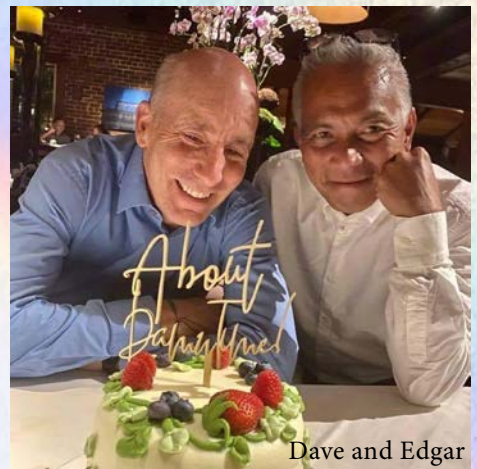
Very deep, indeed, since I eventually became a teacher. Everyone knew that "gay" was synonymous with "pedophile." I spent the next decade immersing myself in noble workaholicism — becoming a columnist, a mentor teacher, a teacher trainer, a community activist, a hike leader, the member of multiple boards — all a pathetic attempt to run away from intimacy with myself or anyone else, and to convince myself and the world that, despite my

terrible, secret shame, I was still a worthwhile human being.

When I turned thirty, however, I dared to meet with a counselor. He oh-so-gently nudged me out of the closet into the light of my life. "I can't tell you what you are, David" (knowing I'd have to be the one to tell myself), "but I can tell you it's time to stop running away. You need to get out and meet some gay people."

And so, I went on my first hike with the local gay and lesbian section of the Sierra Club. I was confused when I arrived at the trailhead. None of the other hikers looked gay. (I guess I was expecting pink spandex with feathers.) Once on the trail, I just listened. One hiker complained about her rent, another about his boss. Three debated California politics. Two men who'd been together for 17 years bickered about whose turn it was to do the laundry. Why, these homosexuals were just ordinary people. They seemed happy! Who'd have thunk? Many hikes later, I came to respect them — and, through them, myself.

Several hurdles remained. In a subsequent meeting with the therapist, I finally, haltingly, confided my most heinous secret: I found some of the young men in my classes attractive. I was terrified he'd have to inform the authorities and end my career. That therapist did a marvelous thing. He looked at my angst-ridden face for a brief moment, and then burst out laughing. He took



Dave and Edgar

off his glasses, wiped his eyes, all the while saying, "Oh, David! Oh, David!" Finally, "I can see how this has tormented you! Well, let me be the first to let you know: teenagers are gorgeous! Do you think the straight teachers don't notice? I know you're a fine teacher, David. And you'll be even better if you just learn to accept yourself and relax."

Slowly, I did. Three years later, after working my painstaking way up the ladder of family and friends, coming out to the easiest ones first, there remained only my parents. Mom initially just cried. "I've always pitied gay people," she said. Dad looked over at my pained face and Mom's tears, pulled himself off the couch, came to me placing my head in his hands, and said, "That must have been really hard. I'm proud of you!" Then, he kissed me on my forehead. I later recounted that moment in homage at his funeral.

Mom came round quickly. My favorite line of hers remains, "I pray every day that God will send you a boyfriend, David. It felt really odd at first, but I'm getting used to it." I lead a charmed existence. And, part of that charm is being gay. No, I didn't choose to be gay. I finally chose only to live an authentic

life, to be myself. Even all the tortured years in the closet, despite the deep scars they left, had their rainbow lining. Coming out forced me to plumb myself to my core, find a courage I doubt I would have otherwise, made me a better person and teacher, and introduced me to some of the finest people in my life — including and especially my husband, Edgar.

It's been a difficult journey, but in the end a grand adventure. I wouldn't have missed it for anything.

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El revestimiento del arcoiris

Por David Ellison

Nunca elegí ser gay. De hecho, pasé casi dos décadas intentando negarlo, huir de él, rezar para que desapareciera... cualquier cosa.

Cuando era adolescente, escudriñaba furtivamente las secciones de sujetadores y ropa interior femenina del catálogo de Sears, intentando desesperadamente que las mujeres que aparecían fueran sexys. Más tarde, en plena pubertad, se me apretaban las tripas cada vez que veía a un chico atractivo. “¡No! ¡No! ¡No!” suplicaba, reprimiendo todos mis enamoramientos.

En la universidad, me atreví a confesar mis “sucios” pensamientos al rector de la residencia. El sacerdote trató de consolarme con la idea de que los anhelos no eran malos en sí mismos; la implicación era, desafortunadamente, que actuar sobre ellos lo sería. Me encerré en lo más profundo del closet. Más profundamente aún a causa del SIDA. Si alguna vez intentaba algo sexual con un hombre, nunca más podría donar sangre, ya que la sangre de todos los homosexuales se consideraba -y se considera- contaminada. No habría vuelta atrás aunque sólo “probara el agua” una vez.

Muy profundo, por cierto, ya que finalmente me convertí en profesor. Todo el mundo sabía que “gay” era sinónimo de “pedófilo”. Pasé la siguiente década sumergiéndome en una noble adicción al trabajo -convirtiéndome en columnista, profesor mentor, formador de profesores, activista comunitario, líder de excursiones, miembro de múltiples juntas directivas-, todo ello en un patético intento de huir de la intimidad conmigo mismo o con cualquier otra persona, y de convencerme a mí mismo y al mundo de que, a pesar de mi terrible y secreta vergüenza, seguía siendo un ser humano que valía la pena.

Sin embargo, cuando cumplí los treinta años, me atreví a reunirme con un consejero. Él me sacó del closet y me hizo ver la luz de mi vida. “No puedo decirte lo que eres, David” (sabiendo que tendría que ser yo quien me lo dijera), “pero puedo decirte que es hora de dejar de huir. Tienes que salir y conocer a gente gay”.

Y así, fui a mi primera excursión con la sección local de gays y lesbianas del Sierra Club. Estaba confundido cuando llegué al inicio del sendero. Ninguno de los otros excursionistas parecía gay. (Supongo que esperaba licras rosas y plumas), Una vez en el sendero, me limité a escuchar. Una excursionista se quejó de la renta, otra de su jefe. Tres debatieron sobre la política de California. Dos hombres que llevaban 17 años juntos discutían sobre a quién le tocaba lavar la ropa. Estos homosexuales eran gente común y corrientes. Parecían felices. ¿Quién lo hubiera pensado? Muchas caminatas después, llegué a respetarlos y, a través de ellos, a mí mismo.

Quedaban varios obstáculos. En una reunión posterior con el terapeuta, finalmente, y de forma vacilante, le confíé mi secreto más atroz: algunos de los jóvenes de mis clases me resultaban atractivos. Me aterraba que tuviera que informar a las autoridades y acabar con mi carrera. El terapeuta hizo algo maravilloso. Miró mi rostro angustiado durante un breve instante y luego se echó a reír. Se quitó las gafas y se limpió los ojos, sin dejar de decir: “¡Oh, David! Oh, David!” Finalmente, “¡Ya veo cómo te ha atormentado esto! Pues déjame ser el primero en decírtelo: ¡los adolescentes son preciosos! ¿Crees que los profesores heterosexuales no se

dan cuenta? Sé que eres un buen profesor, David. Y serás aún mejor si aprendes a aceptarte a ti mismo y a relajarte”.

Poco a poco, lo hice. Tres años más tarde, después de trabajar mi camino hacia la escalera de la familia y los amigos, saliendo primero con los más fáciles, sólo quedaban mis padres. Al principio, mamá se puso a llorar. “Siempre me han dado pena los gays”, dijo. Papá miró mi cara de dolor y las lágrimas de mamá, se levantó del sofá, se acercó a mí poniendo mi cabeza entre sus manos y dijo: “Debe haber sido muy duro. Estoy orgulloso de ti”. Luego, me besó en la frente. Más tarde conté ese momento en el homenaje que le hicieron en su funeral.

Mamá volvió en sí rápidamente. Mi frase favorita de ella sigue siendo: “Rezo todos los días para que Dios te envíe un novio, David. Al principio me pareció muy raro, pero me estoy acostumbrando”. Llevo una existencia feliz. Y, parte de esa felicidad es ser gay. No, no elegí ser gay. Al final sólo elegí vivir una vida auténtica, ser yo mismo. Incluso todos los años de tortura en el closet, a pesar de las profundas cicatrices que dejaron, tuvieron su forro de arco iris. Salir del closet me obligó a profundizar en mí mismo, a encontrar un coraje que dudo que hubiera tenido de otra manera, me hizo mejor persona y profesor, y me presentó a algunas de las mejores personas de mi vida, incluyendo y especialmente a mi marido, Edgar.

Ha sido un viaje difícil, pero al final una gran aventura. No me lo habría perdido por nada del mundo.



Gay Hiking

We mourn the passing
of Mrs Laurie Paul Wilson.



We publicly want to thank her for
her generous donation to the LCS
educational programs.

We will receive the benefits from the
sale of her property in
Hidalgo 83, Ajijic.

*Thank you Laurie, the legacy you are
leaving us will be appreciated and of
great benefit for all our community.*

People like you, make a better community.
Thank you very much from the bottom of our hearts.



Emile Michael Badawy 1946-2022

We regret to inform you that our dear friend
Emile Badawy passed away on May 23.
He always have a smile and the best
disposition to help, he was for many years a
dedicated volunteer at LCS and an important
part of our community.

Please join us in keeping him, his wife Alix,
family and friends in our thoughts and
prayers at this time.

*Thank you Emile
for all your time
and work, we will miss you.*

ARTISTIC EMBROIDERY AT LCS

By Karl Homann and Maria Lupita Vega

Three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 16:30, a group of local women meet in the Ken Gosh Pavilion to practice the traditional craft of artistic embroidery. Their designs are original, and every piece is hand made. They have been doing so for more than five years. The number of women attending each work session may range from 10 to 15. Their designs vary from shirts and blouses to pillows and puppets. All designs reflect the colors of their surroundings, mostly in the form of flowers and birds. The women also accept individual orders made to your own taste.

Recently the women adopted the name of “Cooperative Colibri. The tradition of this handicraft was once practiced widely in the area as a source of income until the women’s hands were replaced by machines. A couple of the present members of the group knew Neill James as children and used her ample gardens as their playground and for mischief making, such as stealing peanuts from a bush and giving them to Paco, the resident and noisy parrot who could not be silenced so as not to reveal the children’s antics. The children’s aunts and mothers, on the other hand, made themselves useful at doing various task and labors for Ms. James.

We are fortunate that by chance we encountered the opportunity to recover the original art form of handmade, thread-by-thread “painting” amongst our enduring activities. During the LCS series of videotaped interviews of locals who had known Neill James personally, I had been assigned someone at a given address half a block from the LCS main entrance. However, this person did not live there.

Instead, I met Maria Lupita Vega, who during the interview told me that she once took over her mother’s store, called the “Pink Door”, where she sold her own embroidery products – an art she had learned from her mother. But because of health issues she had to give up the intensive embroidery work. However, she expressed her desire to teach other women the craft.

The LCS director at the time accepted our proposal and endowed her with 5,000.00 pesos seed money to buy the first batch of needed materials like cloth, threads, needles, and frames. Thus the “Colibri Cooperative” became one of the enduring local outreach features of LCS programming.

The women have since taken part in all art fairs on the LCS campus and in the two years preceding the COVID pandemic were invited to the Feria de Los Maestros in Chapala and will be part of the Fair again next year.

While the additional income from any sales of their wares is certainly welcome, of equal importance are the therapeutical and emotional benefits of feeling valued over and above the household chores and spending a couple of hours in a friendly gathering with their peers, learning from and encouraging each other. Like a family, they also celebrate each other’s birthdays and the birth of a grandchild.

The group is thankful for the ongoing support it has been receiving from the Lake Chapala Society, especially the provision of a suitable place for their gatherings because the Pavilion is open to the West and provides sufficient and suitable late afternoon sunlight for the choices and delicate coordination of colors.

What remains to be said is, that both newcomers and expatriates are welcome to join the group, by simply showing up at one of their sessions, by phoning Maria Lupita at 33.1075.9443, or visiting her at the store right next to St. Andrews Church in Ajijic on Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Those who are shy and believe that their Spanish is not good enough, not to worry. Much of the learning is visual. The women learn from each other. Besides, a couple of the women speak sufficient English to explain. It is also a chance to practice your Spanish, no matter how basic it may be and make some local friends. You will be most welcome.

On behalf of the “Colibris”,
Maria Lupita Vega and Karl Homann



Felipe González
Attorney at Law



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Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Saturdays 8:30am to 2:00pm





BORDADO ARTÍSTICO EN LCS

Por Karl Homann y Maria Lupita Vega



The original group of 2016

Tres veces a la semana, los lunes, miércoles y viernes a las 16:30, un grupo de mujeres locales se reúnen en el Pabellón Ken Gosh para practicar el oficio tradicional del bordado artístico. Sus diseños son originales, y cada pieza está hecha a mano. Lo han estado haciendo durante más de cinco años. El número de mujeres que asisten a cada sesión de trabajo oscila entre 10 y 15. Sus diseños varían desde camisas y blusas hasta almohadas y marionetas. Todos los diseños reflejan los colores de su entorno, principalmente en forma de flores y pájaros. Las mujeres también aceptan pedidos individuales hechos a su gusto.

Últimamente las mujeres adoptaron el nombre de “Cooperativa Colibrí”.

La tradición de esta artesanía se practicó ampliamente en la zona como fuente de ingresos hasta que las manos de las mujeres fueron reemplazadas por máquinas. Un par de los miembros actuales del grupo conocían a Neill James cuando eran niños y usaban los amplios jardines como su patio de recreo y para hacer travesuras, como robar cacahuets y dárselos a Paco, el loro residente y ruidoso que no podía ser silenciado para no revelar las travesuras de los niños. Las tías y madres de los niños, por otro lado, se hicieron útiles haciendo diversas tareas y trabajos para la Sra. James.

Somos afortunados de que por casualidad encontramos la oportunidad de recuperar la forma de arte original de la “pintura” hecha a mano, hilo a hilo entre nuestras actividades perdurables. Durante la serie de entrevistas grabadas en video de LCS de lugareños que habían conocido personalmente a Neill James, me habían asignado a alguien en una dirección determinada a media cuadra de la entrada principal de LCS. Sin embargo, esta persona no vivía allí.

En cambio, conocí a María Lupita Vega, quien durante la entrevista me dijo que una vez se hizo cargo de la tienda de su madre, llamada “Pink Door”, donde vendía sus propios productos de bordado, un arte que había aprendido de su madre. Pero debido a problemas de salud tuvo que renunciar al trabajo intensivo de bordado. Sin embargo, expresó su deseo de enseñarlo a otras mujeres.

El entonces director de la LCS aceptó nuestra propuesta y la dotó de 5,000.00 pesos semilla para comprar el primer lote de materiales necesarios como tela, hilos, agujas, y bastidores. Por lo tanto, la “Cooperativa Colibrí” se convirtió en una de las actividades de alcance local perdurables de la programación de LCS.

Desde entonces, las mujeres han participado en todas las ferias de arte en el campus de LCS y en los dos años anteriores a la

pandemia de COVID fueron invitadas a la Feria de Los Maestros en Chapala. Volverán a ser parte de la Feria el próximo año.

Si bien los ingresos adicionales de cualquier venta de sus productos son ciertamente bienvenidos, de igual importancia son los beneficios terapéuticos y emocionales de sentirse valorado por encima de las tareas domésticas y pasar un par de horas en una reunión amistosa con sus compañeras, aprender de cada uno y animarse mutuamente. Al igual como familia, celebran los cumpleaños suyos y el nacimiento de sus nietos.

El grupo está agradecido por el apoyo continuo que ha recibido de la Sociedad del Lago de Chapala, especialmente al proporcionar un lugar bien adecuado para sus reuniones porque está abierto hacia el oeste y proporciona suficiente y adecuada luz solar para la coordinación delicada de colores.

Lo que queda por decir es que tanto los recién llegados como los expatriados son bienvenidos a unirse al grupo, simplemente presentándose en una de las reuniones, llamando a María Lupita al 33.1075.9443, o visitándola en la tienda justo al lado de St. Andrews el martes y jueves por la mañana.

Para aquellos que son tímidos y que creen que su español no es lo suficientemente bueno, no se preocupen. Gran parte del aprendizaje es visual. Las mujeres aprenden unas de otras. Además, un par de mujeres hablan suficiente inglés para explicar una tarea. También es una oportunidad para practicar algo de su español, sin importar lo básico que sea, y hacer amigos locales. Serán bienvenidas.

María Lupita Vega y Karl Homann

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* Your discount is equal to 5% or \$500 USD, whichever is less. To receive the discount and have us make the donation to LCS, use discount code: LCS. Expires December 31, 2022

PRIDE PARADES FOR DIVERSITY

Juan Manuel Cobián

Advocacy Coordinator of Guadalajara Pride and General Director of Chapala Pride.



In June 1979, a contingent of around a thousand people arrived at the now defunct Plaza Carlos Finlay in Mexico City, and the route they marched was the antecedent of the first Gay Parade in Mexico. Although it was not the first public demonstration of a group of homosexual people, it was the first one identified as such in our country. A few months later, more LGBTTTTIQ+ civil society organizations emerged.

FIRST DEMONSTRATIONS IN GUADALAJARA

In 1983 the Grupo Orgullo Homosexual (GOHL) was born in Guadalajara, headed by Pedro Preciado, an activist from that city. Preciado decided to create the group after the arbitrary and discriminatory detentions, illegal actions and harassment of homosexuals by the metropolitan police during the government of Flavio Romero de Velasco, which was characterized by repression of the gay community in the 80's. The march was born on May 8, 1983.

The parade was born after years of struggle to carry it out and after several movements against homophobia in Guadalajara. Guadalajara was the second city in which openly gay movements sprouted, as well as demonstrations and marches demanding equal rights for the LGBT community.

While the first gay demonstrations and organizations in Guadalajara were being strongly consolidated in the 80's when gays were still being harassed by the then ultra-conservative government, nowadays the diversity parade event enjoys a respected reputation and every year sees better attendance and quality.

The origin of the gay parade dates back to 1969, with the Stonewall riots in New York, when a group of homosexuals were arrested and harassed by police forces in the early morning of June 28th. This gave rise to the first public demonstrations as a rebellion against the authoritarian system of the United States. From there, the first LGBT demonstrations began, which continue to be a reference in the struggle for the recognition of the rights of the LGBTTTTIQ population in the world. The following year, in June 1970, the first LGBT Pride march was held in New York.

This event, which marked a turning point in history, was declared the International Day of Sexual Diversity, and later, the month of June was declared Pride Month. This is why pride and diversity marches are held all over the world during June, accompanied by celebrations, festivities, diversity weeks, recreational, cultural, sporting, social and political events.

FIRST DEMONSTRATIONS IN MEXICO

On July 26, 1978, during the march for the anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, some thirty homosexuals, lesbians and transvestites who identified themselves as members of the Frente de Liberación Homosexual de México (Homosexual Liberation Front of Mexico) participated. A group of young people with the stubborn hope of changing the world and putting an end to the abuses faced by homosexuals, left from the Independence Column and walked along Lerma Street, where they were diverted by the police so as not to pass through Paseo de la Reforma.

Defiant, and fueled with adrenaline, posters and slogans such as "There is no political freedom if there is no sexual freedom!" and "Without sexual freedom there will be no social liberation!" the marchers advanced. Perhaps without knowing it, with their steps they were writing a new episode in the public life of our country and in the struggle for the recognition of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transvestite, transsexual and intersex (LGBTTTTIQ+) people.



The first public demonstrations of sexual diversity or pride had a purely revolutionary charge: protest. The struggle was to achieve the full recognition and acceptance of our rights by the authorities, focusing mainly on police repression, sexual freedom, political freedom, non-discrimination, and equality. Over the years marriage between people of the same sex has been included in that struggle.

However, the historical, political and social contexts have made the political struggle of sexual diversity have its own narratives. These demonstrations or protests have now been expanded to include festive elements such as music, dance, color, caravans, costumes, vehicles and decorated platforms as a means of expression. They have become a party, a fiesta, and they are a statement of freedom to celebrate being LGBTTTIQ+ people. They affirm our existence and presence with pride and dignity, an existence that sadly continues to be criminalized, stigmatized and demonized.

The Pride Parade celebrates the pride of being yourself. Pride in the achievements obtained as a result of our struggle. Pride to continue standing up despite the adversity and discrimination suffered and the violence exercised even within the same family, work and/or social nucleus. Pride to not be ashamed of who we are, whatever our sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Pride is a mechanism of political defense against the traditionalist, heterosexual, macho system used by those who believe that we differ from heteronormativity, which is expressed in actions of violence, discrimination, exclusion, and aggression that can end in hate crimes against the LGBTTTIQ+ population.

Currently the pride or diversity parades are spaces of free expression and manifestation of identity, of freedom for LGBTTTIQ+ people. They are moments of annual visibility, taking to the streets of the city to protest

discrimination and violence and demand recognition of our rights.

That struggle for freedom and rights continues to be championed in public demonstrations against oppression, discrimination and inequality and against the lack of legislation and public policies, thereby reestablishing the sense that gave rise to these movements, accompanied by the brightness and color that characterizes us.

Currently there are several diversity parades throughout Mexico. In Jalisco alone we have 15 diversity parades which are held in: Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Chapala, Tepatitlán, Lagos de Moreno, Atotonilco, Autlán, El Grullo, Ameca, Cuquío, Casimiro Castillo, Poncitlán, Arandas, Cocula, Sayula.

In 2022 Guadalajara Pride, the second largest parade in Mexico which in 2019 drew more than 130,000 people, will be held on Saturday, June 4, at 3:00 pm, starting from the Minerva traffic circle and following López Mateos Avenue, then along Hidalgo Avenue to Plaza Liberation. It will culminate with a show, a rally festival, with local and international artists. After 2 years of absence due to the Covid 19 pandemic, we will take to the streets again. The streets will be ours again!

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Brian Mattes and the not so Little Theater

By Diana Ayala

One hot May afternoon I went to Brian Mattes house, where I was greeted by an entourage of 3 big dogs, who wouldn't let me in because they were so excited. From that moment I knew this was going to be a very interesting or perhaps dramatic visit.

Brian was recently appointed president of Lakeside Little Theater and my intention was to interview him and learn about his plans. I started by asking him about his life before retirement. Originally from California, he spent much of his life in Pennsylvania working as a lobbyist, a word for which there is no easy explanation, but it is someone who works closely with congressmen providing relevant information for decision making. Interesting, I thought. Maybe he focused on the arts and that's why his interest in theater. No, his work was mainly related to taxes, pensions, and investments.

When I asked him where his relationship with the theater came from he told me that he was a theater lover. He used to go whenever he could to see a production either where he lived, when he went on a trip ,or when he escaped to his favorite place: Broadway.

At this moment one of the three dogs that had received me had disappeared, another had settled on the couch next to me and the third was playing with a ball, which she hid under the table or the sofa to be given to her again, looking for Brian's attention. He happily looked for it and threw it.

I confess that for a moment I thought the interview would end there and I would have to find another way to fill this space, but then I asked him, what is your favorite play?

His eyes lit up and he told me without hesitation: The Phantom of the Opera! I have seen it at least 10 times, 8 of which were on Broadway!

He had also read the book and discovered that the ending of the book and the play were not the same, so he wrote to the director to tell him about it. Only a real theater buff writes to the director of a Broadway play to complain about the ending: the best part of the story. The director wrote back, saying that Brian was the only person who had told him about it and he gave him an explanation of the technical issues behind the staging and the limitations to carry out the ending as in the book.



From there, he told me about the Andrew Lloyd Weber plays he had seen and many others, especially All the Way and Bryan Cranston's performance as Lyndon B Johnson for which he won a Tony.

His love of theater was evident to me, and I confess he mentioned several other plays but I didn't take notes on all of them! The question that followed now was to know how he had come to LLT?

January 2019 was the first time he went to LLT. He had recently been residing in the area and marveled at meeting so many intelligent, interesting and eager-to-collaborate-with-the-community people. He decided to start taking acting classes and in January 2020 he joined the board as Director of Development, where he had the great challenge of facing a closed theater due to the pandemic. In October 2021 he participated as Jack in the play Everything in the Garden and the board, seeing his enthusiasm, invited him to run for president. He was elected.

Before taking office as president on May 1 and putting his ideas into play, in order to get a more complete picture he spoke with directors and actors about their concerns. As a result, he will seek to generate more cooperation, improve communication, provide master classes and workshops, and promote more theater to reach more audiences.

As he told me about his plans and all the people involved, I realized that the Lakeside Little Theater was not so little and that with Brian at the helm there will be great improvements. It was a very interesting talk and although I had planned to be there for an hour, it was more than two hours!

Brian has a big heart for the theater and the community, and for animals. He has 7 dogs and 3 cats, all rescued.



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Pull Out

Office & Library Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Grounds open: Lakeside Gate: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
Main Gate: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

*Open to the Public (S) Sign up (C) Member card (M) LCS members only

LESSONS (M)

Beginners Chess for Seniors M 1:30-2:30
 Bordado Artístico (Spanish) M+W+F 4-6
 Children's Art SAT 10-12 Invitation only
 Dance Fitness M 10-11
 Exercise M+W+F 9-9:50
 Gentle Yoga & Body Awareness W 10-10:50
 Hurachess Club* SAT 12-1*
 Intermediate Hatha Yoga T 2-3:30
 Introduction to Spanish (S) T, 7, 14, 21 June, 12:30-2. Cost
 Introduction to Lakeside M 9-12, June 13 campus
 Joy of Movement F 10-11, beginning June 17
 F 9-12 June 10 Zoom
 Line Dancing, gail@doughertynet.com T + TH 10-11:15
 Stretch & Balance, T+TH 8:45-9:45
 harry_bertram@hotmail.com
 Spanish in Action classes (español en acción) See LCS website
 or in the office for more info
 Spanish a la carta Online program, See LCS website/more info
 Tai Chi for Elders M+W+F 11-11:50
 Tech Help via Email lcs.tech.training@gmail.com
 Write to a Prompt Writers' Group TH 10-12

LIBRARIES (M)

Book + DVD Libraries M-SAT 10-2
 Books on Tape & Library of Congress Talking Books. To order
 books on-line, you must use a computer or a tablet/iPad. It is not
 possible to order using a cell phone. Go to lakechapalasociety.
 com & select libraries/English.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (M)

American Man Jongg TH 10-1
 Bridge4Fun T+F 1-4:30
 Discussion Group W 12-1:30
 English/Spanish Conversation* Open to public Sat 12-1:30*
 Everyday Mindfulness M June 6, 20, 27 10:30-12 Campus
 M June 13 10:30-12 Zoom
 Game Group TH 1-4
 HOT Science Zoom, hotsciencelcs@gmail.com T 1:45
 Scrabble F 11:30-1:30
 Tournament Scrabble T 12-1:50

HEALTH INSURANCE*

Hospital San Antonio TH 10-12
 IMSS & Immigration Services M+T 10-1 ; Call for
 Appointment 333-157-9472 No sign up

Lakeside Insurance T+TH 11-2
 Shiatsu Chair Massage 2nd & 4rd TH 10-12
 Appointment only, call 331-604-0971

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

Becerra Immigration TH 10:30-12:30
 Intercam Banking Services M-F 10-1
 Audiology- hearing care specialists M+W+F 10-3
 Call for appointment 332-945-3267
 Optometrist Claravision (S) TH 9-4;
 Call for appointment 331-411-1178
 Skin Cancer Screening (S) 2+4 W 10-12; Call for appointment
 333-408-0951
 SkyMed 1st F 10-12
 Solbes & Solbes 2nd Monday 10-12

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS *

Al-Anon (Spanish) M 6-7:30, W 5:30-7:30
 ASA Board Meeting Last W, 10:30-12
 Caregivers of Spouses with Dementia T 11:30-1:30
 (Support Group)
 Diabetes Support Group Zoom, 1st F 11:00
 welchk4diabetes@gmail.com
 Information Desk M-Sat 10-2
 Lakeside AA M+TH 4-5
 Needle Pushers T 10-11:45
 Open Circle Sun 10:30-11:30
 Toastmasters M 7-9
 Overeaters Anonymous W 3-4

NEW ACTIVITIES:

- US Voter Registration**
 Beginning March 28, on Mondays from 10am-1pm on the Blue
 Umbrella Patio
 Democrats Abroad sponsors voter registration. Open to all US
 citizens to register and request ballots for voting.
 Votefrombroad.org,
 Larry.Pihl, 331-704-6475, larrypihl@gmail.com

- Overeaters Anonymous (OA)**
 12 Steps and traditions applied to compulsive overeaters,
 anorexic and bulimic eaters.
 Dave MacMillan, DaveMac55@gmail.com



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Mexican Manners

By **Alfredo Pérez**

Wednesday, June 01

10:00 to 12:30 pm

Fee: \$400

Getting your Jalisco driver's license without losing your mind

By **Alfredo Pérez**

Monday, June 06

Fee: \$500

2:00 to 3:45 pm Class

Thursday, June 16 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test). Early in the morning.

Introduction to Spanish

By **Inez Dyer**

Tuesday, Jun 07, 14 & 21

12:30 to 2:00 pm

Fee: \$380

3-session class. The instructor will introduce learners to Spanish pronunciation, some vocabulary and social protocols.



Introduction to Lakeside

By **Rachel McMillen**

In person \$600

Monday, June 13 at 9am to 12pm

Online \$500

Friday, June 10 at 9am to 12pm



NUMBERS, DATES AND THE TIME

Beginners

June 08 & 16, 10:00 to 11:20 am by Zoom

Numbers are part of our everyday life: money, telephone numbers, measurements, time, date... In this course we will practice with numbers in different situations, as well as some expressions to ask the price of something, ask for the bill, make an appointment, and some math.

AQUÍ, AHÍ, ALLÍ // ESTE, ESE, AQUEL

Beginners

June 08 & 16, 12:00 to 1:20 pm by Zoom

For Spanish, there are three levels of proximity and this is always calculated from the perspective of the speaker. For this class, we are going to broaden our perspective of space and practice in a fun way the uses of these demonstratives.

POR VS PARA

Intermediate

June 22 & 26, 10:00 to 11:20 am by Zoom

In these two classes we will practice with two problematic prepositions: POR and PARA. Through exercises and games you will be able to identify their functions and use them appropriately in a sentence.

NOUNS IN SPANISH

Beginners

June 22 & 26, 12:00 to 1:20 pm by Zoom

In these sessions, we will practice the pronunciation of Spanish consonant sounds and their graphic representations.

Classes are on Wednesday 2-session class only.

Price per each 2-session class: \$240 pesos

No refunds, unless LCS cancels the class.

Classes only for members. No waiting list.

Classes are online. We use Zoom.

The link for the class will be sent 24 hours before the class.

Enrollment at LCS Office

Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am - 2 pm

LakeChapalaSociety.com LCS MEMBERS ONLY

Registration requires payment. There is no refund.

Library Updates

In keeping with the theme of this issue of *Conexiones*, the LCS library would like to add to the celebration of Pride month by making our readers aware of our rich collection of books about LGBTQ issues.

For readers who might be looking for historical information on LGBTQ issues, we suggest To Believe in Women [What Lesbians Have Done for America], described as a landmark work of lesbian history focusing the battle to secure the rights and privileges that large numbers of Americans enjoy today; Queers in History [Comprehensive Encyclopedia of Historical LGLBTs] which is hailed as the first comprehensive biographical compendium of important historical and contemporary figures who were/are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. From Egyptian pharaohs, Catholic popes, and Abraham Lincoln to Neil Patrick Harris and Angelina Jolie; or The Gay Metropolis, a social and political history of modern gay life focusing on New York City and describing the gay rights movement and prominent gay figures.

Interesting memoirs in our collection include Love, Ellen: A Mother Daughter Journey by Betty DeGeneres about her famous daughter Ellen; Pleasures of a Tangled Life, an anecdotal memoir by Jan Morris of her colorful life, controversial sex-change operation, and journey to self-discovery; and the 2020 bestseller and winner of numerous

awards How We Fight for Our Lives by poet Saeed Jones where he explores coming of age as a young, black, gay man from the South.

For our members who prefer great storytelling, the library has a diverse collection of interesting titles to choose from. These include books written by gay or lesbian authors as well as stories with LGBTQ protagonists. Some are well-known, while others might be unfamiliar to our readers. Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City series is beloved by readers everywhere as are the works of Ruby Mae Brown, including the landmark coming-of-age novel Rubyfruit Jungle. Other titles to check out include Tipping the Velvet by Sarah Waters; Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin and Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson.

And finally who can forget the popular TV show *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*? Did you know that you can read the guys' advice in the book, The Fab 5's Guide to Looking Better, Cooking Better, Dressing Better, Behaving Better, and Living Better?

Happy Pride Month and Happy Reading from the volunteers at the LCS library!



Music Accompanies Us: LGBTIQ+ Stories

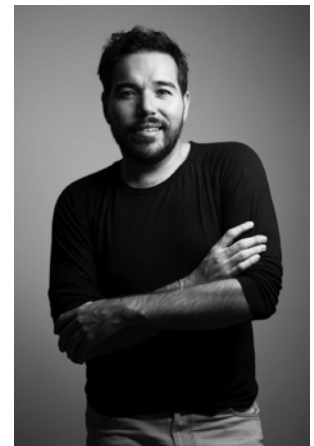
is a dramatized reading of stories by Rob Hernández.

The readings, excerpted from the book "Sarao, LGBTIQ+ Stories", will be accompanied by classical piano, with sexual diversity undertones, and performed by Emm Ceballos.

It is worth mentioning that The Lake Chapala Society is sponsoring this presentation in Ajijic, which is part of the Centro Cultural González Gallo's extra-mural program. In this way, the power of museums to promote respect and inclusion can be extended to other spaces.



Emm Ceballos



Rob Hernández

Saturday, June 25 at 6:00 p.m.
Centro Cultural González Gallo (Spanish)

Sunday, June 26 at 12:30 p.m.
Lake Chapala Society. (English)



COSTCO & GALERIAS

JUNE 15TH AT 8AM

Fee LCS-Member: \$550 plp
Fee Non-Members: \$650 plp

TOURING

experiences



LCS returns with short trips to provide cultural, educational, recreational and convenience experiences.

This one is on Jun 15 to Costco, Sam's and Galerías 360 mall.

The last date to register is June 10 at 1:30 pm.
You can register at the LCS office or at www.LakeChapalaSociety.com | Limited seats.



The Bus will depart promptly at 8:00 am from the sculpture in La Floresta.

Trabaja Inteligentemente



No trabajos Duro

Charla sobre Libertad Financiera
por Darío Ochoa

Oriundo de Guadalajara Jalisco quien, en los últimos 16 años, ha colaborado con el Banco Intercam. Actualmente se desempeña como Director Adjunto de negocios. Miembro del consejo mexicano en LCS, interesado en fomentar el ahorro en la comunidad de la Ribera de Chapala en todos los niveles socioeconómicos.



18 de Junio
Entrada libre **10 a. m. - 11:15 p. m.**

Centro Educativo Wilkes (Biblioteca pública)

Hermenegildo Galeana 18, Ajijic

Brian Mattes y el no tan pequeño teatro.

Por Diana Ayala

Una acalorada tarde de mayo fui a casa de Brian, donde fui recibida por una comitiva de 3 grandes perros, los cuales no me dejaban entrar de tan emocionados que estaban, desde ese momento supe que esta sería una visita muy interesante o dramática.

Brian fue nombrado recientemente presidente del Lakeside Little Theater, la idea era entrevistarle y conocer sobre sus planes. Empecé por preguntarle sobre su vida antes de retirarse; originario de California gran parte de su vida la pasó en Pensilvania trabajando como lobbyist, palabra para la cual no hay una traducción al español, pero es alguien que trabaja de cerca con los congresistas proveyendo de información relevante para la toma de decisiones. Interesante, pensé, tal vez se enfocó en las artes y por eso su interés en el teatro. No, su trabajo se relacionaba con impuestos, pensiones, inversiones principalmente.

Entonces le pregunté, ¿de dónde viene su relación con el teatro? Y me dijo que era un amante del teatro, que solía acudir cada que podía a ver alguna producción ya fuera en donde vivía, si salía de viaje o escaparse a su lugar favorito: Broadway.

En este momento de los tres perros que me habían recibido uno se había ido, otra se acomodó en el sillón de al lado y una más jugaba con una pelota, la cual escondía debajo de la mesa o del sofá para que se la entregaran nuevamente, buscando la atención de Brian, quien feliz la buscaba y la lanzaba.

Confieso que por un momento pensé que la entrevista terminaría ahí y tendría que buscar la manera de llenar el espacio, así que ahora le pregunté, ¿cuál es tu obra de teatro favorita? los ojos



se le iluminaron y me dijo sin dudarle: El fantasma de la Ópera, la he visto al menos unas 10 veces, 8 de las cuales en Broadway; además había leído el libro y descubrió que el final del libro y el de la obra no eran iguales, así que le escribió al director para comentarle al respecto. Solamente un real apasionado por el teatro le escribe al director de una obra de teatro de Broadway para reclamarle por el final, la mejor parte de la historia, le respondió, diciendo que él era la única persona que le había dicho algo al respecto. Y le brindó una explicación de las cuestiones técnicas detrás de la puesta en escena y las limitantes para llevar a cabo el final como en el libro.

De ahí, me platicó de las obras de Andrew Lloyd Weber que había visto y muchas otras más. Resaltando la de All the Way y la actuación de Bryan Cranston como Lyndon B Johnson por la que ganó un Tony.

Su amor por el teatro me fue evidente, confieso que mencionó varias otras obras y no alcancé a tomar notas de todas; la pregunta que seguía ahora, era saber ¿cómo había llegado al LLT?

En enero 2019 fue la primera vez que fue al LLT, tenía poco residiendo en la zona y se maravilló de conocer a mucha gente inteligente, interesante y con ganas de colaborar con la comunidad.

Así decidió empezar a tomar clases de actuación y en enero 2020 se integró en la mesa directiva como Director de Desarrollo, donde tuvo el gran reto de enfrentar un teatro cerrado la pandemia. En octubre 2021 participó como Jack en la obra Everything in the Garden; la mesa directiva al ver su entusiasmo lo invitó a postularse como presidente y fue elegido.

Antes de tomar posesión como presidente el pasado 1 de mayo y poner en marcha sus ideas, platicó con directores y actores sobre sus inquietudes, eso le dio un panorama más completo; buscará generar más cooperación, mejorar la comunicación; clases magistrales, talleres. Promover más al teatro, llegar a más audiencia.

Mientras me platicaba sus planes y todas las personas involucradas, caí en cuenta que el teatro no era tan pequeño y que con Brian al frente vendrán grandes mejoras. Fue una plática muy interesante, yo tenía planeado estar ahí una hora y fueron más de dos horas.

Brian tiene un gran corazón por el teatro y la comunidad, además tiene 7 perros y 3 gatos, todos rescatados.

MARCHAS POR LA DIVERSIDAD

Juan Manuel Cobián

Coordinador de Incidencia Política de Guadalajara Pride y Director General de Chapala Pride.

El origen de las marchas de la diversidad se remonta al año de 1969, con los disturbios de Stonewall Nueva York, cuando un grupo de homosexuales fueron reprimidos por las fuerzas policíacas la madrugada del 28 de junio, surgiendo las primeras manifestaciones públicas como rebelión al sistema autoritario de los Estados Unidos. De allí parten las primeras manifestaciones LGBT que siguen marcando una referencia en la lucha por el reconocimiento de los derechos de la población LGBTTTTIQ en el mundo. El siguiente año, en junio de 1970, se realiza la primera marcha por el Orgullo LGBT en Nueva York.

Este acontecimiento que marcó la historia como un punto de inflexión, es declarado el día internacional de la diversidad sexual, y posteriormente junio mes del orgullo; razón por la cual se realizan las marchas del orgullo y la diversidad en todo el mundo, acompañadas de celebraciones, festejos, semanas de la diversidad, eventos recreativos, culturales, deportivos, sociales y políticos.

PRIMERAS MANIFESTACIONES EN MÉXICO

El 26 de julio de 1978, durante la marcha por el aniversario de la Revolución Cubana, participó una treintena de homosexuales, lesbianas y travestis que se identificaron como integrantes del Frente de Liberación Homosexual de México. Un grupo de jóvenes con la terca esperanza de cambiar el mundo y acabar con los abusos a los que se enfrentaban las personas homosexuales; partieron de la columna de la Independencia y caminaron por la calle de Lerma desviados por la Policía para no transitar por el Paseo de la Reforma.

Desafiantes y entre adrenalina, carteles y consignas como “¡No hay libertad política si no hay libertad sexual!” y “¡Sin libertad sexual no habrá liberación social!” las y los asistentes avanzaban y, quizá sin saber, con sus pasos escribían un nuevo episodio en la vida pública de nuestro país y en la lucha por el reconocimiento de los derechos de las personas lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, travestis, transexuales e intersexuales (LGBTTTTI+).

En junio 1979, los contingentes, que juntaban a alrededor de mil personas, llegaron a la hoy extinta Plaza Carlos Finlay de la Ciudad de México, con su recorrido marcaron el antecedente de la primera Marcha del Orgullo Homosexual de México. Si bien no es la primera manifestación pública

de un grupo de personas homosexuales, sí se trató de la primera identificada como tal en nuestro país. Pocos meses después surgen más organizaciones de la sociedad civil de la población LGBTTTTIQ+.

PRIMERAS MANIFESTACIONES EN GUADALAJARA

En 1983 nace en Guadalajara el Grupo Orgullo Homosexual (GOHL) encabezado por Pedro Preciado un activista tapatío quién decide crear dicho grupo tras las detenciones arbitrarias y discriminatorias, acciones ilegales y acoso a los homosexuales por parte de la policía metropolitana durante el gobierno de Flavio Romero de Velasco el cual se caracterizó por la represión hacia la comunidad gay en la década de los 80's.

La marcha nació el 8 de mayo de 1982, después de años de lucha por llevarla a cabo y después de varios movimientos contra la homofobia en Guadalajara, fue la segunda ciudad en la que los movimientos abiertamente gays brotaran, así también como manifestaciones y marchas, exigiendo igualdad de derechos para la comunidad LGBT.

Mientras que las primeras manifestaciones y organizaciones gay en Guadalajara se fueron consolidando fuertemente en la década de los 80 quienes seguían siendo hostigadas por el entonces gobierno ultra conservador, en la actualidad el evento de la marcha de la diversidad goza de una organización respetable y cada año una mejor difusión y calidad.

Las primeras manifestaciones públicas de la diversidad sexual o del orgullo, tenían un cargo meramente revolucionario, de protesta, de lucha por lograr que las autoridades realizarán el pleno reconocimiento y aceptación de nuestros derechos, volcándose principalmente en contra de las represiones policíacas, la libertad sexual, la libertad política, la no discriminación, la igualdad, con los años se agrega el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo.

Sin embargo, los contextos históricos, políticos y sociales han hecho que la lucha política de la diversidad sexual, tenga sus propias narrativas, estas manifestaciones o protestas se han reforzado al incluir elementos de corte festivo, como lo son música, bailes, fiesta, color, caravanas, disfraces, vehículos y plataformas adornadas, como un espacio de expresión, de libertad al celebrar el orgullo



de ser personas LGBTTTIQ+, para enunciar con orgullo y dignidad nuestra existencia y presencia, existencia que sigue siendo criminalizada, estigmatizada y satanizada. El orgullo de ser tu misma, tu mismo, de los logros obtenidos a raíz de esta lucha, del orgullo por seguir de pie a pesar de las adversidades, discriminaciones sufridas y las violencias ejercidas incluso hasta por el mismo núcleo familiar, laboral y social. De no avergonzarse de lo que se es, sea cual fuere su orientación sexual, su identidad o expresión de género.

El Orgullo como un mecanismo de defensa política, contra del sistema tradicionalista, heterosexual, machista utilizado por quienes creen que diferimos de la heteronormatividad que se concreta en acciones de violencia, discriminación, exclusión, agresiones que pueden terminar en crímenes de odio contra la población LGBTTTIQ+.

En la actualidad las marchas del orgullo o la diversidad son espacios de libre expresión y manifestación, de identidad, de libertad, propios de las personas LGBTTTIQ+, significando momentos únicos de visibilidad anuales, tomando las calles de la ciudad en protesta a la discriminación, violencias y reconocimiento de nuestros derechos. Se sigue abanderando la lucha por la libertad y el derecho, como manifestaciones públicas contra la opresión, la discriminación y la desigualdad, contra la falta de legislación y políticas públicas, retomando el sentido que dió origen a estos movimientos, acompañados de la fiesta, el brillo y color que nos caracteriza.

Actualmente se realizan diversas marchas de la diversidad en todo México, en Jalisco ya somos 15 marchas de la diversidad se realizan en: Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Chapala, Tepatitlán, Lagos de Moreno, Atotonilco, Autlán, El Grullo, Ameca, Cuquío, Casimiro Castillo, Poncitlán, Arandas, Cocula, Sayula

En 2022 el Guadalajara Pride, la segunda marcha más grande de México, al reunir en 2019 más de 130,000 personas, se realizará el sábado 4 de junio, a las 15:00 horas, partiendo de la glorieta la Minerva, siguiendo por la avenida López Mateos, la avenida Hidalgo hasta plaza liberación. Culminando con un show, mitin festival con artistas locales e internacionales. A 2 años de ausencia por la pandemia de Covid 19, ¡volveremos a tomar las calles, las calles volverán a ser nuestras!

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BRANDEN & JAMES

Community is what humans depend on whether we wish to acknowledge it or not. Without it, we'd live in a state of desperation and fear. Since forming a musical duo and aptly calling ourselves BRANDEN & JAMES, we've been coming to Jalisco to play shows in Puerto Vallarta, and have since always escaped for a long weekend to make music in the beautiful, magical community of Ajijic near Lake Chapala. The air is fresh, and the special energy engrosses each time us as we ride down the hill from our journey from the Zapopan bus station.

As soon as we stepped foot into this breathtaking community, we knew we were going to be received respectfully. As married, LGBTQ+ individuals who travel the world, we don't always feel as welcome wherever we may land. Branden has always known his mom's heritage was Mexican and Spanish. Only recently, Branden delved further into his roots with 23 and me, and discovered that his mother's Mexican ancestry specifically comes from Jalisco. That, along with the friendly spirits of the Mexican people must explain why we keep coming back.

The first time we laid our eyes on Lake Chapala, we were mesmerized. We arrived in the late afternoon on a typical, January day. Having come from New York, the weather felt like a relief to us, and we immediately decided to go for a jog on the malecón we'd spotted on our quick car tour through downtown. After a sweaty run of a few trips from one end of the malecón to the other, we sat on a bench and watched the sun set on the lake whilst we caught our breath from the unforgiving 5,000 feet of altitude. As the sun dove below the mountains in front of us, the scene brilliantly morphed from orange, and then to purple. Long, slender birds resting on lily pads were silhouetted against the glassy backdrop as they grazed on their evenings' feed. The mountains cascaded above us from all sides, and the slivered moon peeked its head out as a satisfying evening chill descended upon us. We decided it was time to have a shower, discover a new place to eat, and then turn in for the night. We had our first performances in the area the following day which consisted of two shows at the community's massive Auditorium Theatre.

The small town of Ajijic is ruled by locals, and respectfully inhabited by tourists and retirees of other countries origins. The streets are mostly made of cobblestone, and there are an astounding number of charming murals lining its walls. Despite being unknowns in the area, we had great crowds of music lovers who were mostly curious about the role of the cello (played by Australian James Clark) in the group. Along with Puerto Vallarta, it was this amazing community that first gave us the impetus to be ourselves, without apology. The invitation was in the air; all we had to do was seize upon it. The more we revealed in our shows, the more the audiences were sincere about the information they were receiving.

Since 2016, we've kicked off our Mexico season in



Ajijic. After the Auditorium Theatre, we moved to the Spotlight Club, once owned by Mark Robert Rome for a couple of seasons. It was there we were connected with Steve Balfour who asked us if we would do some fundraising concerts for The Lake Chapala Society. Steve invited us for a tour of LCS to see what was hiding behind its tattered walls. We were mesmerized as Steve explained the vision he had for LCS to be restored to its former glory, and even go well beyond what it once was to give back to the community.

Now, we look forward to starting our Mexico season in Chapala before heading to the much more competitive and hectic scenario in Puerto Vallarta. It has become a soft-opening of sorts for our new show ideas. While we are very much open about our marital status, and our relationship, our music doesn't necessarily reflect that of typical gay artists. There is no crass humor, nor techno music, nor drag costumes that appear in our performances, and we're ok with that. For the first few seasons, we were trying to please the demographic that has a hunger for such flash, but we've realized instead that we are classical-crossover musical artists who happen to be gay. Our true audience is the retired demographics that line the shores alongside Chapala and Ajijic.

Isn't that how it should be? We can all coexist and appreciate good art and music regardless of our differences. As Branden says, "music is the language that brings us all together," after all.

Without community, Mexico's largest freshwater lake would just be another suburban pueblo. With the Lake Chapala Society as a cornerstone of the community, the area has turned into a rich cultural center that bestows the gifts of fine entertainment, cuisine, and nature in droves. As long as we play shows in Mexico, we will always support the endeavors of the Lake Chapala Society.

Written by Branden James, a season 8 finalist of America's Got Talent, the lead singer of the duo, BRANDEN & JAMES, and award-winning author of Lyrics Of My Life. If you'd like to get to know BRANDEN & JAMES a bit better, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/brandenandjames>.



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Rainbow Sunset..

By Juan Pablo Macias.

The way in which new generations can express their sexuality is changing by leaps and bounds. It is true that this depends a lot on the country and family context in which the person develops, but in general, our society is moving towards increasingly open and accepting canons regarding the expression of sexuality. Although we still encounter some resistance, more and more rights are being recognized, and it should not be otherwise, because society must evolve to become just a forum that facilitates the development of our personality and potentiates our talents.

If things continue at the current pace, perhaps soon we can stop worrying about such basic things as our sexual orientation or gender identity and become part of a society focused on developing the talents of each individual, focusing on facilitating this to happen.

Today, more and more couples from the LGBTIQ+ community are deciding to make use of the rights that are increasingly being recognized for them. In the case of Mexico, the growth of egalitarian marriages has been constant. In 2010 Mexico City legislation began to recognize and protect this civil institution. That year 689 marriages were registered, while in 2020 (despite being a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic) 4,952 egalitarian marriages were registered. That is an increase of 618.72% since the laws allowed this type of unions in our country.

These statistics speak to us of a Mexican society in constant change; a very positive one from my personal perspective. It is also important to point out that the family dynamics adopted in these egalitarian families are in many cases disruptive with respect to the traditional model we know. Many of the same-sex families have decided not to be parents and direct their efforts into the professional and personal growth of the two members. They can become very loving and dedicated in their close family circle, even forming part of specific market segments such as DINK (Double Income, No Kids), in which a large part of their income can be used for purposes such as culture, leisure, investment, etc.

It is also important to point out that these family and social dynamics will generate, among other results, a generation of older adults who will have to foresee their retirement years in a different way than what we know today in a country like Mexico.

It is undeniable that today's cultural standards dictate that, in most cases, children are responsible for the care of their parents, even if not 100%. That generates a dynamic of attention and of being aware of the needs, care, medical appointments and everything else that may be required to care for the elderly.

In the case of the LGBTIQ+ generation that is currently part of the DINK's market, a different strategy must be generated so that their "sunset" is as pleasant and com-

forting as the productive stage they are going through these days. Most of them will not have direct descendants to provide them with the care and attention in their last days.

Countries a little more advanced than Mexico in this aspect, are already facing this phenomenon. An example of this case is Spain. In a study conducted in 2021 focused on the area of Barcelona, it was reported that 9.5% of the members of the LGBTIQ+ elderly community hire home help services, and these services range from tele-assistance services, meals in company, home care, to sheltered housing or even care homes.

It is important to envision what kind of scheme we will choose for our future and to start planning it in every possible way: financially and family-wise. The scheme has to be clear enough for us to be able to design a plan and start executing it as soon as our vitality and economic independence allow it.

A plan that can be interesting and that lately has become very popular, is a kind of "commune" in which related groups of the community get together with their "family by choice," that is to say, groups of friends, and with the pooling of capital, acquire land in common. Later on, they will build separate properties on the same land, so that they can live in them during their retirement days. Thus, they will be able to be attentive to each other and the sunset of the rainbow will be one more of the enjoyable stages of the road they have decided to travel.

In the end the choice is up to each individual. However, it is important to create a plan for each of the stages we know we will go through in the future.

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Atardecer Arcoiris...

Por Juan Pablo Macías.

La manera en la que las nuevas generaciones pueden expresar su sexualidad está cambiando a pasos agigantados. Es cierto que esto depende mucho del país y contexto familiar en el que la persona se desenvuelva, pero en general, nuestra sociedad está avanzando a cánones cada vez más abiertos y de aceptación respecto a la expresión de la sexualidad. Si bien todavía nos encontramos con algo de resistencia, cada vez son más los derechos que se reconocen, y no debería ser de otra forma, pues la sociedad debe evolucionar hasta convertirse solo en un foro que facilite el desarrollo de nuestra personalidad y potencialice nuestros talentos.

Si las cosas continúan con el ritmo que ahora se desenvuelven, tal vez dentro de poco podamos dejar de preocuparnos por cosas tan básicas como nuestra orientación sexual o identidad de género y podamos formar parte de una sociedad enfocada en desarrollar el talento de cada individuo, poniendo foco en facilitar que esto suceda.

Al día de hoy son cada vez más las parejas de la comunidad LGBTIQ+ que deciden hacer uso de los derechos que cada vez se van reconociendo más para sus integrantes. En el caso de México, el crecimiento de los matrimonios igualitarios ha sido constante. En 2010 la legislación de la CDMX comenzó a reconocer y proteger esta institución civil, ese año se registraron 689 matrimonios, mientras que en 2020 (a pesar de ser un año marcado por la pandemia de COVID-19) se registraron 4,952 matrimonios igualitarios, es decir, un incremento del 618.72% desde que las leyes permitieron este tipo de uniones en nuestro país.

Estas estadísticas nos hablan de una sociedad mexicana en constante cambio, uno muy positivo, desde la perspectiva de un servidor. Es importante señalar también que las dinámicas familiares que se adoptan en estas familias igualitarias, en muchos de los casos son disruptivas respecto del modelo tradicional que conocemos. Muchas de las familias homoparentales han decidido no ser padres / madres y direccionan sus esfuerzos en el crecimiento profesional y personal de sus dos integrantes. Pueden llegar a ser muy cariñosos y dedicados en su círculo familiar cercano, llegando incluso a formar parte de segmentos de mercado tan específicos como el DINK (Double Income, No Kids), en el que gran parte de sus ingresos pueden destinarse a fines como cultura, esparcimiento, inversión, etc.

Es también importante señalar que estas dinámicas familiares y sociales generarán, entre otros resultados, una generación de adultos mayores que deberán prever sus años de retiro de una manera diferente a como hoy la conocemos en un país como México.

Es innegable que los estándares culturales de hoy, nos dictan que, en la mayoría de los casos, los hijos son responsables del cuidado de sus padres, si bien no al 100%, si se genera una dinámica de atención y estar al pendiente sobre las necesidades, cuidados, citas médicas y todo lo que, derivado de la atención al adulto mayor, pueda requerirse.

Pues bien, en el caso de la generación LGBTIQ+ que en este momento forma parte del mercado de los DINK's, deberá generar una estrategia diferente para que su "atardecer" sea tan

placentero y reconfortante como lo está siendo la etapa productiva que están atravesando en estos días. La mayoría de ellos no contarán con los descendientes directos para poder depositar en ellos el cuidado y la atención de sus últimos días. Países un poco más aventajados que México en este aspecto, se enfrentan ya a este fenómeno. Un ejemplo de este caso es España, en un estudio realizado en 2021 enfocado en el área de Barcelona, se da a conocer que el 9.5 % de los integrantes de la comunidad LGBTIQ+ de la tercera edad, contratan servicios de ayuda en el hogar, y así las opciones se diversifican y van desde servicios de tele asistencia, comidas en compañía, cuidados a domicilio, hasta las viviendas tuteladas o incluso las residencias de asistencia.

Es importante vislumbrar que tipo de esquema elegiremos para nuestro futuro, comenzar a planearlo en todas las formas posibles: financieras, familiares. El esquema tiene que resultarnos lo suficientemente claro como para poder diseñar un plan y comenzar a ejecutarlo desde ahora que la vitalidad e independencia económica lo permiten.

Un plan que puede resultar interesante y que últimamente ha tomado mucho auge, es una especie de "comunidades" en las que grupos afines de la comunidad se reúnen con su familia por elección, es decir grupos de amigos, y con la unión de capitales, adquieren terrenos en común. Mismos en los que tiempo después construirán propiedades por separado, pero que estén en el mismo terreno, para poder vivir en ellos sus días de retiro. Así pues, podrán estar al pendiente los unos de los otros y el atardecer del arcoiris será una más de las etapas disfrutables del camino que han decidido recorrer.

Al final la elección depende de cada quién, sin embargo, es importante crear un plan para cada una de las etapas que sabemos atravesaremos en el futuro.

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By Maggie Garcia

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First Person Singular

Should You Get a Basset Hound?

By Larry Kolczak

A former co-worker recently sent me an email saying a girlfriend of hers was considering getting a Basset Hound puppy. She knew I'd had a Basset for almost ten years, and wondered if I could provide any insights that would help her friend make the decision. Here's what I told her.

Dear Tina -- First of all. How does your friend feel about dog hair? I don't mean an occasional white hair finding its way onto your black Pashmina shawl. I'm talking about veritable clouds of fur drifting throughout your house and descending like volcanic ash on the hapless victims of Pompeii.

Would your friend mind cleaning up piddle every time the dog excitedly greets a visitor? Is she looking for a dog that can flunk



out of obedience school -- twice? A dog that won't learn even the most basic commands?. Ours responded to "sit" only if she was tired, and "come" only if there was food involved. As long as it wasn't dry dog food.

Would your friend be willing to keep all her waste paper baskets up on counter tops so the dog couldn't eat the tissue paper? The Purina company could make a fortune off Basset owners if they just made dog treats that look like Kleenex. Used Kleenex, preferably. Our dog was the only member of the family who looked forward to flu season.

Is your friend likely to have any elderly houseguests who might leave their partial dentures or hearing aids on the nightstand? Our dog has enthusiastically devoured both. Are you listening Purina?

Is your friend aware that a Basset should not be allowed to jump up and down to

high places? That it can lead to back problems? And, sure enough, after ten years of lifting our dog into and out of the car, I have back problems.

Was she hoping to play "fetch" with her dog? Because ours couldn't be bothered chasing a ball. I guess she figured if you didn't want it, why should she? She had no interest in doggie toys of any kind. The only things she played with were rolled up pairs of socks. That seemed cute until you went on a trip and found that all your socks had been stolen out of your suitcase while you were packing.

Was your friend hoping to get a little aerobic exercise while walking the dog? Because, there is nothing aerobic about walking a Basset. It is more like shuffling along with a small child. But this toddler stops to sniff every tree, post, weed, car tire, and trashcan along the way. And all forward progress comes to an abrupt halt whenever the dog decides to post a message on one of her many social networking sites.

Worse than that, she required constant vigilance as she waddled along the street. Otherwise she would scarf up every candy wrapper, peach pit and fossilized chicken bone she encountered. And there is plenty to encounter in a Mexican village with cobblestone streets, sidewalk food vendors, and -- oh yeah -- horse traffic.

To get an idea of what it's like walking a Basset, tell your friend to try dragging her vacuum cleaner two blocks down the street without having sucked up anything disgusting.

Oh, and one more thing. Is your friend married to a veterinarian?

Our dog finally passed away about a year ago. She died pretty much as she had lived, sleeping on her favourite couch in the TV room. I'm not sure, but I suspect the Downton Abbey marathon that night had been a little too much for her.

I suppose the real question is, if I had it all to do over again, would I get a Basset Hound?

IN A MINUTE!

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR

Conecciones invites our readers to contribute to our new regular column called First Person Singular, which will showcase contributions from the Lakeside community. We invite our readers to submit works of short fiction (600 words) or personal essays of the same length. This issue features a delightful inaugural piece titled Should You Get a Basset Hound? By Larry Kolczak.

Writer's Digest defines the personal essay as "a piece of nonfiction writing that shares an interesting, thought-provoking, entertaining, and/or humorous story for readers that is drawn from the writer's personal experiences (even if it's second-hand information). Also called a narrative essay, the personal essay is different from the other essays, because it shares a story."

So share your stories with us. Send them to submissions@lakechapasociety.com We look forward to hearing from you.

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then scroll down to EVENTS section

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Why wait? Get started right now at VoteFromAbroad.org.

The Mexican Connection

By Leslie Johansen Nack

William Randolph Hearst, the most famous newspaper tycoon in America during the 1920s and 30s, loved Marion Davies with his whole heart.

He also loved Babicora, his 1.6-million-acre ranch in the Chihuahua province of Mexico that he inherited from his father, George Hearst, in 1919. George bought the land for a nominal amount at the end of the 19th century and raised cattle on the property which would be moved by vaqueros and then by train to New Mexico and Texas and sold in the US market. The property measured 117 miles long and 70 miles wide. The southern border ended near Temosachic, the northern boundaries near the Cumbre Tunnel. The ranch extends from Madera on the west to Namiquipa to the east. The headquarters ranch house was burned to the ground several times, including reportedly once by Pancho Villa, the Mexican revolutionary general.



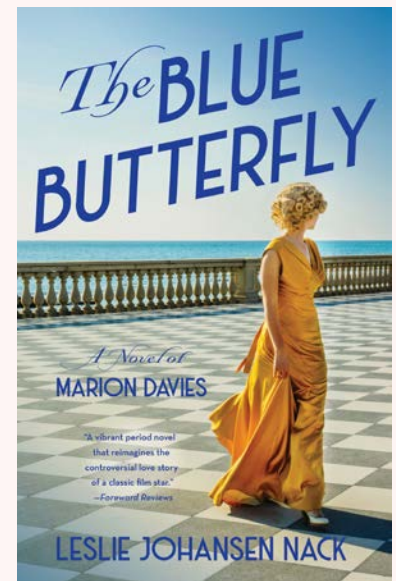
WR Hearst and his mother, Phoebe, visited the ranch for the first time shortly after the purchase in 1900. He was 37 years old and it took three days by stagecoach from Chihuahua City to reach the ranch headquarters 160-miles south of El Paso, Texas.

WR Hearst visited again in the fall of 1921 when he took his mistress, Marion Davies, on a pilgrimage from New York City with friends to visit Babicora and other smaller parcels of lands he inherited in the southern province of Vera Cruz. At the time, President Álvaro Obregón hosted WR and Marion for a private dinner. It was the first time Marion had been included in such a high-level social gathering.

WR was married and was never granted a divorce from his wife, Millicent. She was the public “figure-head” in his life and would attend all State dinners with him. But on this occasion in Mexico, Marion was included, which signaled to everyone how serious he was about his relationship with her. The two love birds already shared a secret child together, born in 1919, although the world didn’t know about Patricia. Marion decided to let her sister Rose raise the baby girl as her own, with Marion fulfilling the role as benefactor and Aunt. The secret was kept from the public for their entire lives although Patricia found out Marion was her mother when she was twelve, and Hearst apparently admitted he was her father at her 1937 Hearst Castle wedding. As to when the public finally had confirmation, it was only on her deathbed in 1993 that Patricia publicly admitted to being their daughter to the Los Angeles Times.

At the dinner with President Obregón, WR and Marion were wined and dined at the Presidential palace in Mexico City, and Marion loved every minute of it, promising to buy some land for herself in Mexico someday, although it isn’t clear if she ever did.

Beginning in the 1940s, the Mexican government wanted Babicora to distribute to the people for agriculture and farming. They tried for years to take it back from WR, but he would not relent maybe due to his successful cattle and horse breeding businesses, but maybe also due to his love of Mexican culture. When deals were being made with other wealthy foreign landowners, William Randolph Hearst refused to sell, employing an army of lawyers to stop the expropriation.



One of the last times he and Marion visited the property was in 1942, after Hearst lost control of his empire due to years of overspending and declining newspaper sales during the Great Depression. On his death in 1951, Hearst’s five sons did not have the will to fight the Mexican government and a deal was struck that paid the boys \$2.5 million dollars (nearly \$28 million today) for the ranch. The government never did parcel out the property to peasants in small lots, but instead sold it to private owners in plots of up to 375 acres.

Like William Randolph Hearst, I am a dreamer of adventures in Mexico. I don’t own land yet, but I’m seriously considering full-time residency. In 2020, the Mexican government counted 1.6 million expats living in Mexico permanently – that could be 1.6 million plus one!

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY, A NOVEL OF MARION DAVIES was published May 3, 2022, an historical fiction novel that tells Marion Davies’ side of the storied life she shared with William Randolph Hearst.

Book party: LCS on June 15 from 3-5pm, please make your reservation at: leslie@lesliejohansennack.com

There will be food and a special Marion Davies cocktail sample for everyone and giveaways.

Foreign Footprints in Ajijic: A Review

By Harriet Hart

The subtitle of Tony Burton's new book is *Decades of Change in a Mexican Village*, that village being Ajijic. He focuses on the period between 1940 and 1980 and "how foreigners have helped shape the Ajijic we know today." In 1900 the total population was 1355; growth was slow during the first half of the twentieth century. However, since 1940 it has been rapid; the 2020 census recorded the population at 11,439. Of these 2198 were born outside Mexico.

Burton divides these into adventurers, trailblazers, trendsetters, free spirits and modernizers with approximately ten chapters devoted to each. This is a thorough, well-researched and impressive piece of historical writing. It is also a daunting read, packed as it is with names, dates, facts and events. I confess I'm not a history buff so tackling 288 pages proved challenging. What I realized was this is a perfect research tool for specific topics.

When I first arrived in Ajijic, with no intention of retiring here, I was surprised to discover an extensive English library at the Lake Chapala Society, a charming venue, the Lakeside Little Theatre, and an auditorium, the Auditorio de la Ribera, where concerts were held. How did these cultural entities come to exist in a Mexican fishing village?

Foreign Footprints in Ajijic has the answers. LCS began back in January 1955 when "a diverse band of foreign residents then living in Chapala met to form 'The American Society.'"

Twenty-one people signed up, elections for officers were held and two committees formed to address mosquito control and the need for information services. A month later the name was changed and a children's reading room established. By 1971 the membership roster had grown to 550 and in the 1970s an educational scholarship program had begun, along with a Spanish biblioteca and free lessons in English, painting and flower making.

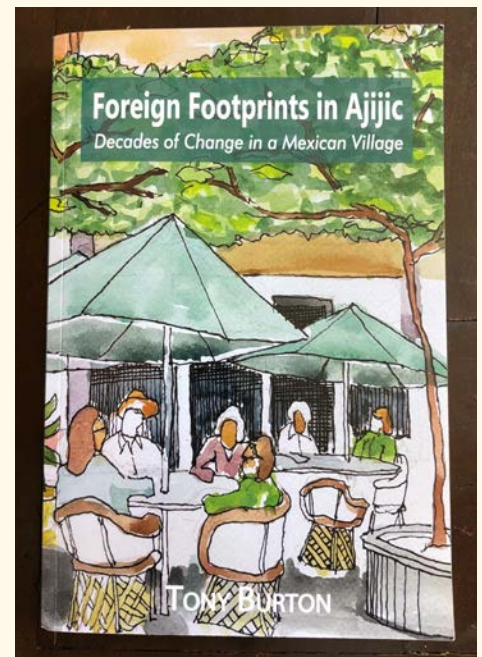
In 1983 Neill James offered a portion of her property to the organization rent-free provided it took over management of the children's library. Today LCS continues its work with children's art classes, two libraries, and a successful educational scholarship program.

Chapter 26 is entirely devoted to the LCS Children's Art Program, CAP. Burton describes how Neill James offered youngsters who used the library free art lessons and says linking these two activities was "a stroke of genius." Three remarkable women ensured the program's success in the early decades: Neill James, Angelita Aldana Padilla and Mildred Boyd; their work continues today under the leadership of another remarkable woman, Danielle LePage. "Almost seventy years since it began as many as seventy local children continue to enjoy CAP classes each week. The children's library and CAP remain integral components of the important linkage between the Lake Chapala Society and the local community.

We've all driven past the Auditorio and wondered what is being done to it (and when will they ever finish?) I was curious to learn who was responsible for building the auditorium in the first place and found my answer in Chapter 43. Music lovers Enid McDonald and Josephine Warren dreamt of a venue where small-scale music and theatre groups, always struggling to find suitable venues for productions, could have a home. They registered a non-profit organization to negotiate with state authorities in Guadalajara to build an auditorium.

Their first local fundraiser, the Amethyst Ball, was held in April 1974. State administrators approved final plans in September 1974, and construction, expected to take eight months, started almost immediately. Just like now, however, there were lengthy delays, but Burton says, "Early supporters...can be justly proud of their efforts. The Lakeside Auditorium became an enduring tribute to a fine spirit of cooperation between local residents, foreign visitors, and municipal and state officials."

Lakeside Little Theatre grew more "organically" as accomplished musicians such as Betty and Dudley Kuzell held musical events in their homes and in venues such as the train station in Chapala, the Balneario in San Juan Cosalá and the clubhouse at the



Chula Vista Country Club. Construction of a permanent theatre began in 1986 on land donated by Ricardo O'Rourke. Chapter 36 is devoted exclusively to the men and women whose efforts resulted in a community theatre we enjoy to this day.

But you need not be an avid reader, a theatregoer, or someone who loves musical events to benefit from owning this book. It is an invaluable record of how the village of Ajijic became the cosmopolitan retirement destination that it is today. Tony Burton, who many of us appreciate for his guidebooks to Western Mexico, is owed another debt of gratitude, this time for caring enough about the place we call home to chronicle its history so thoroughly.

Foreign Footprints in Ajijic: Decades of Change in a Mexican Village by Tony Burton is available at La Nueva Posada, Diane Pearl's, Mi México and Hotel QQ in Chapala.

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Welcome the Rain

By Steve Parker

Today is the first day of May and this morning the first siren song of the “Rain Birds” assaulted my ears. Just as predicted the rain birds (or cicadas) start their yearly ritual appearing from below ground or from tree bark where eggs have been stored until they hatch. Nature then beckons them to start their short life of mating, laying eggs and joyfully performing the prelude for the coming Lake Chapala Rainy Season Overture. It is as if these noise makers want to give us fair warning about the upcoming season, however it usually takes about six weeks of high-pitched sirens before we see moisture bearing results. Some believe because only the male cicada makes the noise that perhaps the female only mates to shut him up.

The Lake Chapala area has two main seasons. It could be called the “nice season” and the “nicer season” but in reality, it is the dry season from October through May and the rainy season from June to October. During the rainy season Lake Chapala receives an average of 3 feet, (94 cm) of water in about 82 days of rain, hopefully doing its best to replenish the lake to its natural level. As the rainy season continues, looking at the mountains to the north we see the dried brown brush begin to change quickly to almost appear as heads of bright green broccoli.

Days of rain may be a misnomer, for most frequently, rains occur late in the afternoon with billowing white thunderhead clouds capping the mountains or appearing across the lake and turning more ominous into the night hours where we are often

treated to a dazzling display of lightning flashes and booming, rolling thunder, then rain, which can be gentle or harsh and stinging. Upon awaking in the morning, the sun is bright, the air has been washed clean, the smell of new green life awaits and evidence of the storm can be seen everywhere rolling off the mountains, filling the ditches and bubbling on the cobblestones on its downhill journey to the lake.

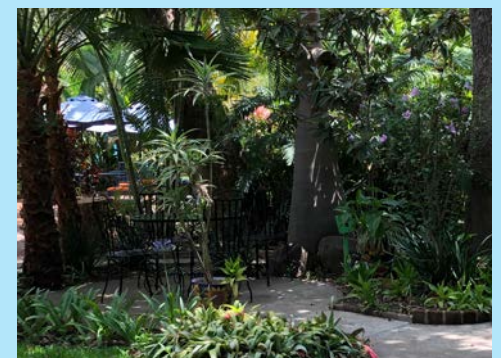
Appreciation of our beautiful lake
Many people are aware that Lake Chapala is the largest freshwater Lake in Mexico but Lake Chapala has other interesting facts worth noting. The main source of water comes from the Lerma River, the second longest river in Mexico traveling nearly 470 miles from near Toluca on a plateau of about 9000 feet before finally winding up emptying into Lake Chapala. The lake sits on the border between the states of Jalisco and Michoacan. Lake Chapala and it is approximately



50 miles from east to west and averages 8 miles from north to south. The lake is quite shallow with a mean depth of 15 feet and a maximum of 34 feet. Pollution from the Lerma River has always been a problem, but government efforts are currently being addressed to make changes.

Although many welcome the rains enthusiastically, ending the hot humid days, the rainy season in Lake Chapala can be powerful and changes from year to year. In recent years, flooding and mudslides became a problem, lightning strikes started mountain fires and hail damaged crops. Still, the majority of residents are smiling and looking forward to the season and as John Mark Green so aptly phrased,

“Let’s just sit quietly and listen to the secrets the rain wants to tell us.”



Bienvenida la lluvia

por Steve Parker

Hoy es el primer día de mayo y esta mañana el primer canto de sirena de los "pájaros de la lluvia" ha asaltado mis oídos. Tal y como estaba previsto, los pájaros de la lluvia (cigarras, o chicharras) comienzan su ritual anual apareciendo desde el subsuelo o desde la corteza de los árboles donde se han almacenado los huevos hasta que eclosionan. La naturaleza les llama entonces para que comiencen su corta vida de apareamiento, puesta de huevos y alegremente ejecutando el prelude de la próxima Obertura de la Temporada de Lluvias del Lago de Chapala. Es como si estos ruidosos personajes quisieran advertirnos sobre la temporada que se avecina, sin embargo, suelen pasar unas seis semanas de sirenas agudas antes de que veamos los resultados de la humedad. Algunos creen que, porque sólo la chicharra macho hace el ruido, la hembra se aparea para callarlo.

La zona del Lago de Chapala tiene dos estaciones principales. Podrían llamarse "temporada agradable" y "temporada más agradable", pero en realidad es la temporada seca, de octubre a mayo, y la temporada de lluvias, de junio a octubre. Durante la temporada de lluvias, el lago de Chapala recibe

una media de 94 cm de agua en unos 82 días de lluvia, con lo que se espera que haga lo posible por reponer el lago a su nivel natural. A medida que la temporada de lluvias continúa, mirando a las montañas al norte vemos que la maleza marrón seca comienza a cambiar rápidamente para aparecer como cabezas de brócoli verde brillante.

Los días de lluvia pueden ser un término equivocado, ya que la mayoría de las veces las lluvias se producen a última hora de la tarde, con nubes blancas y ondulantes que cubren las montañas o aparecen en el lago y se vuelven más ominosas en las horas de la noche, donde a menudo nos encontramos con un deslumbrante despliegue de relámpagos y truenos retumbantes, y luego la lluvia, que puede ser suave o dura y punzante. Al despertar por la mañana, el sol brilla, el aire se ha limpiado, el olor de la nueva vida verde espera y la evidencia de la tormenta se puede ver en todas partes rodando desde las montañas, llenando las zanjas y burbujeando en el empedrado en su viaje cuesta abajo hacia el lago.

Apreciación de nuestro hermoso lago

Mucha gente sabe que el lago de Chapala es el mayor lago de agua dulce de

México, pero el lago de Chapala tiene otros datos interesantes que vale la pena destacar. La principal fuente de agua proviene del Río Lerma, el segundo río más largo de México que recorre casi 756 kilómetros desde cerca de Toluca en una meseta de unos 2,700 metros antes de desembocar finalmente en el Lago de Chapala. El lago se encuentra en la frontera entre los estados de Jalisco y Michoacán y mide aproximadamente 80 kilómetros de este a oeste y una media de 13 kilómetros de norte a sur. Tiene una profundidad media de 4.5 metros y una máxima de 10.2 metros. La contaminación del río Lerma siempre ha sido un problema, pero actualmente se están realizando esfuerzos gubernamentales para realizar cambios.

Aunque muchos reciben con entusiasmo las lluvias, que ponen fin a los días húmedos y calurosos, la temporada de lluvias en el lago de Chapala puede ser potente y cambia de un año a otro. En los últimos años, las inundaciones y los deslaves se han convertido en un problema, los rayos han provocado incendios en las montañas y el granizo ha dañado las cosechas. Aun así, la mayoría de los residentes están sonriendo y esperando la temporada y, como John Mark Green dijo tan acertadamente

"Sentémonos tranquilamente y escuchemos los secretos que la lluvia quiere contarnos".



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Diego Díaz Solbes
Civil attorney
33 36 76 62 45
diegosolbes@hotmail.com



María de las Nieves Solbes Luis
Civil specialized attorney with masters degree in constitutional law
33 15 20 55 29
neus_sol@yahoo.com



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A Primer on Pets

Think Carefully Before Getting a Parrot

by Diana Hunt



Birds are not nearly as easy to care for as most people think. In fact, with an African Grey's or an

Amazon's high intelligence and long life expectancy, -- generally 40-80 years, -- I think they are one of the highest maintenance pets on the planet. Owning one of these parrots means an equally high commitment on the part of the owner.

Two absolute essentials for caring for a large parrot in captivity are: 1. Access to an avian veterinarian and 2. A minimum of four hours each day spent in human-bird interaction. They have a unique physiology that exotic animal vets are well versed in navigating.

As for time spent in interaction, the minimum four 4-hour requirement is not an exaggeration. It's an absolute necessity for maintaining an African Grey in good physical and mental condition. Be prepared to spend almost the same amount of quality time with your bird as you would a highly interactive, bright, inquisitive preschooler. These are not solitary creatures and should never be isolated.

Amazons tend to be more independent birds and can amuse themselves much of the day if they are given adequate toys and space. It is a good idea to give them a tower with many perches and toys for exercise and amusement.

Among the must-haves for your parrot is a cage that is big enough for it to spread its wings and flap vigorously without contacting anything, as well as it being draft-free and located in a safe, low stress but social area. Your bird's cage should have a variety of natural branch perches (not dowels) and contain a variety of organic, shreddable toys, paper-stuffed toys, nontoxic enrichment "goodie bags," and organic hemp rope toys for chewing. Replace or rotate toys often.

The cage should be cleaned daily with a nontoxic cleaner. The cage floor should be lined with newspaper that is discarded daily. All loose material should be carefully disposed of before disinfecting cage surfaces. Birds should be removed from the area during the disinfecting process to protect them from fumes.

They need to be fed a high-quality diet of species-appropriate fresh foods including fruits, vegetables, sprouted seeds, whole nuts and sprouted grains; also organic, dye-free commercial pellets can also be offered.

Birds need access to direct sunlight for eight to ten 8-10 hours a day and at least ten 10 hours of dark, quiet



sleep time each night. Amazons that do not get enough sleep can be grouchy and aggressive. Males also can become very aggressive when hormonal. It is best to train your parrot to stand on your hand and not on your shoulder because of their unpredictability during "mating season.

In addition, you need to provide fluoride and chlorine-free, filtered water; no room sprays or scented candles; a smoke free environment and no home products with a "call poison control" advisory on the label.

Greys get dusty, so regular bathing is important. Many Greys love baths; some will splash around in a tub of shallow water, others will join their owners in the shower, still others enjoy a gentle spray from a mister.

Amazons should be showered regularly for feather and skin health. They can develop a musky odor so regular showers helps keep the smell from getting too strong. Most Amazons adore being soaked to the skin with a mister.

African Grey parrots have the reputation for being the best talkers of the parrot kingdom. They have an uncanny ability to not only mimic speech, but mimic it in a voice that sounds quite human. They also imitate sounds, like a dripping faucet, with incredible accuracy. Be careful about uttering any words you don't want your bird to learn, since they seem to have a knack for learning just what you don't want them to learn!

Because of their exceptional intelligence, African Greys require an extremely stimulating environment. They can easily become bored and birds that are left cage-bound can develop serious behavioral problems, such as destructive feather mutilation. They can also be very nervous birds and are prone to heart conditions and seizures, particularly in their old age.

Amazons are known for their wonderful singing ability. They tend to be much louder than African Grey, communicating with loud vocalizations and rapid eye movements.

Greys tend to be more affectionate, while Amazons tend to be goofy clowns with an amazing ability to imitate nearly all noises. Amazons are prone to obesity and fatty liver disease.

These birds are not simply colorful, entertaining cage decorations. They are high-maintenance pets -- expensive, messy, noisy, time-consuming, unpredictable, emotional and sometimes aggressive. However, these birds can make wonderful companions for knowledgeable, dedicated owners who have the time and resources required to ensure the best possible quality of life for their pets.

Excerpted from an online article by Avian Veterinarian Dr. Anthony Pilny



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