

VOLUME 38, MARCH, 2022  
VOLUMEN 38, MARZO, 2022

FREE  
GRATIS

# CONEXIONES

People Helping People • Gente Ayudando Gente

**Extending Our Legacy**  
**Ampliando nuestro legado**

**Vamos Juntos • Coming Together**



PUBLICACIÓN



# Concerts in the Park

Presentado por  
Steve Balfour

Enjoy Vallarta, Broadway & Hollywood Performers  
in the Lush Gardens of



Tickets available at the Lake Chapala Society  
Office 10:00 am - 2 pm Monday through Saturday,  
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## 2 PERFORMANCES IN ONE DAY

3 PM SHOW



### US TWO

TUESDAY  
MARCH 15

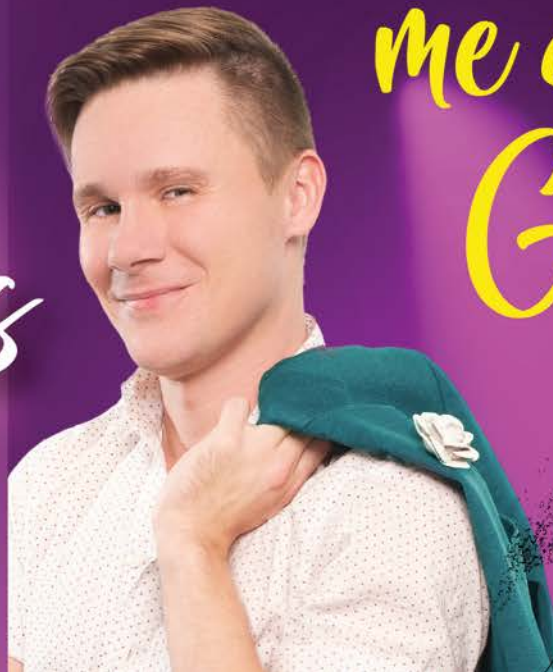
5:30 PM SHOW



U2 Two  
TRIBUTE TO  
ELTON JOHN  
AND ABBA

SUNDAY  
MAR  
20  
2:30  
5PM  
SHOWS

### Seth Sikes



### me and my Gals



# The Lake Chapala Society

## 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.*

**Publisher / Editorial:** Lake Chapala Society

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**Production Manager / Director de producción:** Marianne Carlson

**Translations / Traducciones:** Diana Ayala y Neri Navarro

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](mailto:submissions@lakechapalasociety.com). Advertisement inquiries should be directed to [ventas@lakechapalasociety.com](mailto:ventas@lakechapalasociety.com).

*Propuestas de artículos para la revista Conecciones. Nos reservamos el derecho de editar según sea necesario. Las consultas deben dirigirse a [editor@lakechapalasociety.com](mailto:editor@lakechapalasociety.com). Las consultas sobre publicidad deben dirigirse a [ventas@lakechapalasociety.com](mailto:ventas@lakechapalasociety.com).*

All prices include free design work except business card ads. 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](mailto:ventas@lakechapalasociety.com) / *Todos los precios incluyen el trabajo de diseño gratuito, excepto los anuncios de tarjetas de presentación. Todos los anuncios/información de anuncios deben ser enviados antes del día 10 del mes para su inclusión en la revista del mes siguiente. [ventas@lakechapalasociety.com](mailto:ventas@lakechapalasociety.com)*

# INDEX / ÍNDICE

2	Message from the President
2	<i>Mensaje del Presidente</i>
3	The Importance of LCS
4	Learning a Language is Learning a Culture
5	<i>Aprender una lengua es aprender cultura</i>
6	Evolve or die?
7	<i>Reinventarse o morir</i>
8	Volunteers at LCS
9	<i>Voluntarios en LCS</i>
10	Community Outreach
11	<i>Alcance comunitario</i>
12-13	COVER STORY: Extending Our Legacy Through Campus Master Planning!
LCS-1	Events
LCS-2	LCS Educational Program
LCS-3	Art Fair, Open circle, Library Updates
LCS-4	Spanish Classes, Oir Bien
16	<b>ARTÍCULO DE PORTADA: ¡Ampliando nuestro legado mediante el Plan Maestro para el campus!</b>
17	LCS Student Aid Program
18	Concerts in the Park
29	<i>Conciertos en el parque</i>
21	Information Desk: A Special Place
22	<i>Escritorio de información: Un lugar especial</i>
23	Well-Hearing is Well-Being™
24	LCS and TecMM
25	<i>LCS y el TecMM</i>
26	The Poet's Eye, the Artists Tongue
27	<i>El ojo del poeta, la lengua del artista</i>
28	OPEN CIRCLE: A Place for the Curious

COVER: LCS Blue patio – Domitzu

## Conecciones Advertising Prices / Precios de los Anuncios 2022

	Cost / Precio	with/ con IVA
Back cover / Contraportada (8.5 x 11" / 22 x 28 cm) .....	\$5000 .....	\$58000
Inside front & back cover / Contraportada interna (8.5 x 11" / 22 x 28 cm) .....	\$4500 .....	\$5220
Full page / Página completa (8 x 10.5" / 20 x 27 cm) .....	\$3600 .....	\$4176
1/2 page / 1/2 página (5.25 x 8" / 13 x 20 cm) .....	\$2150 .....	\$2494
1/4 page / 1/4 página (4 x 5.25" / 10 x 13 cm) .....	\$1150 .....	\$1334
1/8 page-business card / 1/8 página-tarjeta de presentación (3.25 x 2" / 8 x 5 cm) .....	\$ 400 .....	\$ 464



### Looking Forward, a message from the President's Desk

As we approach our Annual General Meeting this month, I cannot help but to look back over the past 700+ days where we have "all been in this pandemic together". During these 2 years, like most entities and individuals, we have gone through tremendous struggles and challenges and had to face the need for change to survive.

My biggest reflections are on the tremendous support we have seen from so many during this period. In 2020 I put up a challenge to the Board of Directors with my Urgency of Now challenge and they rose to the occasion with over half of the board reaching or surpassing the \$1,000 USD donation challenge and the others are working on their plans. Also, I reflect on our dear friends and supporters who rose to the monthly appeals in 2020 and donated over \$2 million pesos - without these donations our campus would have been forced to close between June and September of 2020. The outpouring of friends and supporters of LCS who stepped up with their generous donations was overwhelming.

Then we moved to 2021 where more and more programs were restarting and bringing in program revenue. Thanks to some close talented friends, I was able to start up the Concert in the Park series which along with some of our annual events, played the biggest role in ensuring our gates would stay open and our employees able to provide for their families. We are so touched by the many hundreds of people who have shown tremendous support for these fundraising events.

We were also honored to have our Board members involved in many initiatives in the community to help others, from the Cruz Roja fundraiser we did back in June to the startup of FoodBank Lakeside at the very beginning. Two of our board members were amongst the startup group of this initiative and others were involved with Apollo2020 which helped local small businesses with cash flow. We also have a board member who has contributed countless hours to musical efforts here in the community and others who are part of the Foundation for Lakeside Charities. In addition we have also been involved with the Tech School on the Libramiento and our student aid funding program has continued to support local students.

Now we look forward to 2022 by putting the spotlight on several core values from within LCS 2.0, our long-range plan for LCS. At the upcoming AGM we will be putting the spotlight on: Customer Service, Community Engagement, Community Visibility, Upgrading our Technology to become more effective and efficient, and a major effort by our campus committee to Taking Care of What We Have.

We hope that you will join us for the March 15 Annual General Meeting. Info to register is available on our website. This promises to be a very informative AGM and we know you will learn a lot by attending. We will also hold an introductory to the AGM at the March 13 Open Circle, this info is on our website as well. This Open Circle will be your opportunity to share your thoughts and insights as well.

Please Join Us,

Steve Balfour, President, Your Lake Chapala Society

### Mirando al futuro, un mensaje del Presidente

A medida que nos acercamos a nuestra Asamblea General Anual de este mes, no puedo evitar echar la vista atrás a los más de 700 días pasados en los que hemos "estado todos juntos en esta pandemia". Durante estos dos años, al igual que la mayoría de las instituciones e individuos, hemos pasado por tremendas luchas, desafíos y hemos tenido que afrontar la necesidad de cambiar para sobrevivir.

Mis reflexiones son sobre el maravilloso apoyo que hemos visto de tantos durante este periodo. En 2020 planteé un reto a la Junta Directiva con mi desafío de la Urgencia de Ahora y estuvieron a la altura de las circunstancias con más de la mitad de la Junta alcanzando o superando el reto de la donación de 1,000 dólares y los demás están trabajando en sus planes. También, reflexiono sobre nuestros queridos amigos y partidarios que estuvieron a la altura de los llamamientos mensuales en 2020 y donaron más de 2 millones de pesos - sin estas donaciones nuestro campus se habría visto obligado a cerrar entre junio y septiembre de 2020. La avalancha de amigos y simpatizantes de LCS que dieron un paso adelante con sus generosas donaciones fue abrumadora.

Luego pasamos a 2021, donde más y más programas se reiniciaron y trajeron ingresos. Gracias a algunos amigos con talento, pude poner en marcha la serie de Conciertos en el Parque que, junto con algunos de nuestros eventos anuales, desempeñaron el papel más importante para asegurar que nuestras puertas permanecieran abiertas y que nuestros empleados pudieran mantener a sus familias. Estamos muy conmovidos por los cientos de personas que han mostrado un gran apoyo a estos eventos de recaudación de fondos.

También tuvimos el honor de que los miembros de nuestra junta directiva participaran en muchas iniciativas en la comunidad para ayudar a los demás, desde la recaudación de fondos de Cruz Roja que hicimos en junio hasta la puesta en marcha del FoodBank Lakeside en sus inicios. Dos de nuestros miembros de la junta estaban entre el grupo de esta iniciativa y otros estaban involucrados con Apollo2020 que ayudó a las pequeñas empresas locales con el flujo de caja y un miembro de la junta que ha contribuido innumerables horas a los esfuerzos musicales aquí en la comunidad y a los que forman parte de Foundation for Lakeside Charities. También hemos estado involucrados con el Tecnológico en el Libramiento y nuestro programa de apoyo económico a los estudiantes ha continuado.

Ahora miramos hacia el 2022 poniendo el foco en varios valores centrales de LCS 2.0, nuestro plan a largo plazo para LCS. En la próxima asamblea general nos centraremos en: El servicio al cliente, la participación de la comunidad, la visibilidad de la comunidad, la actualización de nuestra tecnología para ser más eficaz y eficiente, y un gran esfuerzo de nuestro comité del campus para cuidar lo que tenemos.

Esperamos que se unan a nosotros para la Reunión General Anual del 15 de marzo. La información para inscribirse está disponible en nuestro sitio web. Esta promete ser una AGM muy informativa y sabemos que aprenderás mucho asistiendo. También tendremos una introducción a la AGM en el Open Circle del 13 de marzo, esta información está en nuestro sitio web también. Este Open Circle será tu oportunidad para compartir tus pensamientos y puntos de vista también.

Por favor, únete a nosotros,

Steve Balfour, Presidente, Lake Chapala Society.

# The Importance of LCS

## By Frank Lynch

When I moved to Lakeside nearly three years ago, the Lake Chapala Society was my lifeline.

Upon entering, I could feel myself relaxing as my breath was taken away by the beautiful gardens, ponds and landscaping. Friendly volunteers are there to greet you and direct you to whatever you need.

At the ATM, I met a bank representative who helped me set up an account and explained how the banking system works here.

When I was having trouble with my computer, I went to the office to see if they knew of someone who could help. Within minutes, I had an appointment set to see a computer tech who answered all my questions. (For that issue, anyway!)

I was able to meet with an insurance agent who explained my many options. A local hospital provides free blood pressure checks and information once a week. I took a class called “Mexican Manners” where I learned the various customs and idiosyncrasies of my new community.

I discovered that twice a month on Thursdays, I could get a free 10-minute chair massage!

At the outdoor cafe, I could get a bite to eat, meet new people and listen to some music.

From the big bulletin board, I learned about upcoming concerts that take place on the campus. I also found information about community theaters, apartments for rent, and city events.

I’m currently taking Spanish classes on the gazebo.

There are group activities for almost every interest—chess, scrabble, pilates, stretching, cooking classes, knitting circles. I found a writer’s group, “Write to a Prompt” that meets on Thursday mornings. A great way to get the creative juices flowing!



**Shiatsu Massage**  
**10 min free to active LCS members**  
**Make your appointment 331 604 0971**

A black massage chair is positioned outdoors on a paved path. The chair is modern and appears to be part of an outdoor service area. The background shows some greenery and a path leading away.

There are specialists who can help with glasses or hearing problems; There are support groups that meet on Zoom and/or in person for Diabetes, AA, Dementia, etc.

Do you like to keep learning? LCS has one of the largest English-language libraries in Mexico which also is a nice quiet place to read. On Sundays, there is what is called, “Open Circle” where invited guests come to speak and answer questions on a wide variety of topics. (I got to meet the former Mexican ambassador to the US!)

Maybe you like to help? One nice thing to do is to meet with the cat rescue group that takes care of the cats on campus. You can even “borrow” a cat for company if you’re not ready to make a full-time commitment.

It’s common to have questions about immigration, travel, health coverage, legal issues, licensing. Most likely, you can find answers at LCS!

But the best thing about being saved by LCS? Meeting all the nice people and guests who frequent the place.

Become a member today!  
The Lake Chapala Society is located at 16 de Septiembre 16-a, Ajijic..



# Learning a Language is Learning a Culture

By Neri Navarro

I remember from my college classes that bilingualism comes with biculturalism. That is to say, learning a second language (or a third, or a fourth) means learning from another culture. Languages are indeed tools for human communication, but they also represent the window to a very particular worldview. This is why if you are interested in learning a new language, the best thing you can do is to learn while immersing yourself in the way of life, customs and traditions of its speakers. We have all imagined a future (or rather, a present in progress) where, by the means of some device, we can decipher every language instantly



and bring down the Tower of Babel. Would that not be the most comfortable and convenient thing in the world? Then we wouldn't have to worry about twisting our tongue to replicate difficult phonemes or learning endless vocabulary lists.

The problem comes when you look words up on Google Translate without a context and get generic translations that, although technically correct, aren't suitable for a specific situation. One of my students in the Spanish in Action program tells a funny story involving his neighbor:

"When I first lived here in a small apartment in Chapala, my downstairs neighbor was an older señor named Chava. During my first hot months I thought I would show how my Spanish was progressing by saying to him, frequently, 'soy caliente'. He would just nod and smile, but he never corrected me. Something else I didn't learn until we discussed in class one day."



Learning a language in the country where it's spoken is a unique experience. Day by day you encounter situations that expose the beauty of the language, its idioms and the personality of the residents. In Ajijic, the presence of so many North Americans has motivated the entire population to speak English (I learned the language while working as a waitress myself), but this also limits the interactions in Spanish between Mexicans and foreigners. In the Spanish classes we offer to our members at LCS, we look for this interaction to become a routine: not only to get out of situations like going to the store, calling a taxi or making an order at a restaurant, but also to create meaningful bonds with people in your neighborhood. Another one of my students shares that:

"Part of the beauty of Mexico is the heart and minds of the native people and how this is expressed in the language they speak: Spanish. I learn Spanish to appreciate the beauty of the people of Mexico".

Maybe the time one has to invest in its study before being able to form perfect sentences outweighs our desire to chat with our attractive neighbor, but there is nothing better than the feeling of being understood even after making some mistakes. It requires a lot of courage, self-confidence and, above all else, interest in becoming a bicultural bilingual.



# Aprender una lengua es aprender cultura

Por Neri Navarro

Recuerdo de mis clases de universidad que el bilingüismo viene acompañado del biculturalismo, es decir, aprender una segunda lengua (o tercera, o cuarta) implica aprender de una segunda cultura. Los idiomas son una herramienta de comunicación para el ser humano, sí, pero también representan una ventana a una visión de mundo muy particular; por eso, si uno se interesa por aprender otra lengua, lo más conveniente es hacerlo mientras nos internamos en las formas de vida, las costumbres y las tradiciones de sus hablantes. Todos nos hemos imaginado un futuro (que, más que futuro, es un presente en progreso) donde, a través de un aparatito, desciframos todos los idiomas y destruimos la Torre de Babel. ¿A poco no sería lo más cómodo y conveniente del mundo? Así no tendríamos que preocuparnos por hacer gimnasia con la lengua para reproducir los tan complicados fonemas ni memorizar listas interminables de vocabulario.

La mala noticia aquí está cuando quieres usar Google Translate para buscar palabras sin contexto alguno, y obtienes traducciones genéricas que, si bien son correctas, no son adecuadas. Por ejemplo, uno de mis estudiantes de Spanish in Action cuenta una anécdota chistosa con un vecino suyo:

*“When I first lived here in a small apartment in Chapala, my downstairs neighbor was an older señor named Chava. During my first hot months I thought I would show how my Spanish was progressing by saying to him, frequently, soy caliente. He would just nod and smile, but he never*

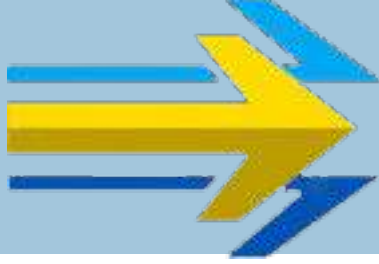
*corrected me. Something else I didn't learn until we discussed in class one day.”*

Además, aprender un idioma en el país donde se habla es una experiencia única. Día con día van surgiendo situaciones que te enseñan la belleza del idioma, múltiples expresiones y maneras de ser entre las personas que ahí habitan. En Ajijic, la presencia de los miles de norteamericanos ha motivado a toda la población a hablar inglés (yo misma lo aprendí trabajando como mesera), pero esto limita mucho la interacción en español entre mexicanos y extranjeros. Dentro de las clases de español que proveemos en LCS para nuestros miembros, buscamos que esta interacción se vuelva rutina: no sólo para salir de situaciones como ir a la tienda, pedir un taxi o hacer un pedido en un restaurante, sino además crear vínculos significativos con la gente de la cuadra. Otra de mis estudiantes menciona que:

*“part of the beauty of Mexico is the heart and minds of the native people and how this is expressed in the language they speak: Spanish. I learn Spanish to appreciate the beauty of the people of Mexico”.*

Quizás el tiempo que uno le tenga que invertir al estudio antes de poder formar oraciones perfectas rebasa nuestras ansias de platicar con la vecina guapa, pero no hay mejor sensación que la de sentirse entendido aún cuando se han cometido errores. Eso requiere mucho valor, confianza en uno mismo y, sobre todo, interés por volverse un bilingüe bicultural.





# Evolve or die?

By Alfredo Pérez

Of course the preferred answer to this question is evolve, which happens naturally, organically, all the time in nature. That which is strong prevails and that which is not, dies. But that which does not survive is not lost; it is recycled, transformed, recreated in new energies, new forms that will help to bring new results. This is the way forward.

LCS is entering a new phase in education, poco a poco, yet taking firm and strong steps.

We are evolving, initiating both long range and interim plans for transformation and updates. There are four main approaches to this: Spanish as a second language, English as a second language, continuing and diverse education for English and/or Spanish speakers, and student support at university level. Let's talk a little bit about each of them.

Spanish as a second language. A couple of years ago we hired an expert in teaching the language to adults, and we managed to offer a system tailored to our members. It is a system that we have been polishing as it is taught, and that will continue in a process

of continuous improvement. It is intended to cover the oral and written communication needs of those who decide to come to live in the region and in addition generate immersion programs that will appear gradually. We are also starting to work on expanding the team of people who collaborate in the teaching and design of programs and activities in Spanish in order to offer something for everyone.

As for English as a second language, the pandemic stopped us temporarily, but we are ready to come back little by little. In the medium term, we plan to offer our students a document/certificate valid for work or school. The state educational system does not make it easy, but we will evolve to the point of achieving it, in addition to creating activities that allow people to learn, and us to teach, even more effectively than we currently do.

Regarding the Student Aid program; Neill James created its precedent more than 60 years ago, formalization happened almost 30 years ago, and to date, hundreds and hundreds of students in the region have passed through it. Our goal is to expand it to support more than the current average of 40 students.

We need more people with a university level education to raise the standard of living in our region. Thanks to the support of our donors, LCS contributes to this need, creating development projects, "grains of sand", in which these students can generate, develop, and execute skills necessary for their own development and that of the communities where they are from.

Finally, we are working on expanding the offer of educational, recreational, informative classes and courses, which will soon see the light of day. To this end we are working with new volunteers whose experience in the educational and organizational area will eventually bear fruit. In the process of creation, we will focus efforts on bringing basic and advanced topics, both for newbies and for those who have lived in the area for a long time, and of course, for locals. Experts in different areas will support the educational offerings to continue assisting LCS in achieving one of our goals, to improve the lives of those who live beside Lake Chapala.

If you are interested in participating, being part of the change, sharing your experience and putting your hands to work, welcome. Let's achieve a more nurtured and informed community, equipped with power and knowledge to make better decisions.

Send us an email. [directoreducation@lakechapalasociety.com](mailto:directoreducation@lakechapalasociety.com).

Enjoy  
30% better speech understanding  
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# Reinventarse o morir.

Por Alfredo Pérez

Morir no es una alternativa, pues es un proceso natural que pasará tarde o temprano, lo mismo que nacer, pero ¿qué sucede en medio de ambos? Eso dependerá de las metas y gustos de cada uno de nosotros. Y claro del tiempo y empeño que pongamos en ello.

A lo largo de andar en el planeta podemos darnos cuenta de que solo una cosa es “permanente”, el cambio. Ya sea que nos llegue de golpe, de ribete, lo veamos suceder a los de enfrente o lo provoquemos nosotros mismos. Siempre está ahí.

Esta pandemia nos ha traído mucho qué reflexionar sobre nosotros mismos y sobre lo que hacemos, y vaya, lo que queremos hacer. Hablemos un poco de lo que LCS quiere hacer respecto a educación.

La dirección de educación ha iniciado hace tiempo planes de transformación y actualización a largo y mediano plazo. Hay cuatro enfoques principales frente a ella: español como segunda lengua, inglés como segunda lengua, educación continua y diversa para hablantes de inglés y/o de español y apoyo estudiantil para universitarios.

Hablemos un poquito de cada uno de ellos.

Español como segunda lengua, hace un par de años contratamos una experta en la enseñanza de la lengua para adultos, y logramos traer un sistema hecho a la medida para nuestros miembros, sistema que hemos ido puliendo conforme se imparte en el tiempo, y que seguirá en proceso de perfeccionamiento permanente para cubrir lo más posible las necesidades de comunicación oral y escrita de quienes deciden venir a vivir a la región. Además de generar programas de inmersión que verán poco a poco apareciendo. Por otro lado, empezamos a trabajar en ampliar el equipo de personas que colaboran en la enseñanza y diseño de programas y actividades de esta lengua para ofrecer algo para todos.

En cuanto a inglés como segunda lengua, la pandemia nos detuvo, pero estamos listos para regresar poco a poco. En el futuro medio lograremos que nuestras clases puedan ofrecer un documento/certificado con validez para el trabajo. el sistema educativo estatal no nos lo pone fácil, pero habremos de evolucionar al punto de lograrlo. Claro, demás de crear actividades que permitan aprender más y mejor de lo que ya hacemos.

Respecto al programa de Apoyo Estudiantil cuyos precedentes creó Neill James hace más de 60 años, y cuya formalización sucedió hace casi 30 años, por el que han pasado cientos y cientos de alumnos de la región. Nuestra meta es expandirlo para lograr apoyar a más del promedio de 40 alumnos beneficiarios actuales. Necesitamos más personas con nivel universitario para elevar el nivel de vida de nuestra región, ese es uno de los granitos de arena de LCS, gracias al apoyo de nuestros donadores. Además de generar proyectos de desarrollo en los que dichos alumnos pueda generar, desarrollar, ejecutar habilidades necesarias para su propio desarrollo y el de las comunidades de donde son originarios.

Finalmente, estamos trabajando en ampliar la oferta de clases y cursos tanto educativas, recreativas, informativas, etc., que con el tiempo verán la luz. En ello estamos trabajando con nuevos voluntarios en esta dirección cuya experiencia en el área educativa y organizativa dará frutos. Dentro de la oferta en proceso de creación, enfocaremos esfuerzos en traer temas básicos y avanzados, tanto para nuevos habitantes como para los que han vivido mucho tiempo en el área y claro, para locales. La información estará respaldada por expertos en diferentes áreas con el fin de seguir logrando uno de nuestros objetivos: mejorar la vida de los que vivimos en la ribera del lago de Chapala.

Si estás interesado en participar, ser parte del cambio, compartir tu experiencia y poner las manos a trabajar, bienvenido seas. Logremos una comunidad más nutrida, más informada y con mejor poder y conocimiento para tomar mejores decisiones.

**Diane Pearl**  
Gallery

**Art and Activities Center**

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creativelyminfulart.com Complimentary gift Wrapping



# Volunteers at LCS

By Barbara Merchant

Volunteering has many benefits for the volunteer, including a sense of personal satisfaction for helping a cause that is meaningful to the volunteer. At Lake Chapala Society our volunteers also serve as ambassadors to newcomers to this area and to this community. Volunteerism is crucial to the success of this unique asset which is Lake Chapala Society and which would not be able to function without our volunteers.

We have almost 300 volunteers at Lake Chapala Society. The effective service of these volunteers depends on the training and management and scheduling of volunteers by managers in each area of service. Our managers are also volunteers and dedicate themselves to many hours of preparation each week.

We have volunteers who serve as docents and acquaint our visitors with our campus, staff the books and video libraries, support the service, information and membership desks, serve the IT department, beautify our gardens, assist the children's art program, teach English and man the campus for special events and fund raisers. One longtime volunteer manages the post life information for members and non-members. Volunteers produce the Conecciones Magazine each month. Volunteers make it possible to provide additional services whenever possible to benefit our visitors and members.

Lake Chapala Society is governed by a board of directors who are also volunteers. The board provides a crucial role in setting the vision, mission and policies of the organization. They also are instrumental in fundraising and developing community contacts.

It is impossible to sufficiently reward our Lake Chapala Society volunteers but we try to remember to thank them often, sing their praises to people we know and each year acknowledge their contribution with a volunteer appreciation event of a program and a luncheon.

When you visit Lake Chapala Society look around and appreciate the volunteers who make it possible to provide so many services. When you can, give them a "High Five" and a thank you for all they do.



*Thank you to all our sponsors for supporting us  
in celebrating our volunteers!*

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David Herrera, Karla Boentgen, Marianne OHalloran  
Yuray Rivero García, Yolanda Martínez.



# Voluntarios en LCS

## Por Barbara Merchant

El voluntariado tiene muchos beneficios para el voluntario, incluyendo un sentido de satisfacción personal por ayudar a una causa que le es significativa. En Lake Chapala Society nuestros voluntarios también sirven como embajadores a los recién llegados a esta área y a la comunidad.

El voluntariado es crucial para el éxito de este activo único que es la Lake Chapala Society y que no podría funcionar sin nuestros voluntarios.

Tenemos casi 300 voluntarios en Lake Chapala Society. El servicio eficaz de estos voluntarios depende de la formación, gestión y programación de ellos por los gerentes en cada área de servicio. Nuestros gerentes son también voluntarios y dedican muchas horas de preparación cada semana.

Tenemos voluntarios que actúan como guías y dan a conocer nuestro campus a los visitantes, atienden las bibliotecas de libros y vídeos, apoyan los escritores de servicios, información y afiliación, prestan servicio al departamento de informática, embellecen nuestros jardines, ayudan en el programa de arte infantil, enseñan inglés y atienden el campus en eventos especiales y para

recaudar fondos. Una voluntaria con muchos años en Lake Chapala Society gestiona la información sobre la vida posterior para los socios y los no socios. Los voluntarios producen la revista Conexiones cada mes. Los voluntarios hacen posible proporcionar servicios adicionales siempre que sea posible para beneficiar a nuestros visitantes y miembros.

Lake Chapala Society está gobernada por una junta directiva que también es voluntaria. La junta desempeña un papel crucial en el establecimiento de la visión, la misión y las políticas de la organización. También son fundamentales en la recaudación de fondos y el desarrollo de contactos con la comunidad.

Es imposible recompensar suficientemente a nuestros voluntarios, pero tratamos de recordar darles las gracias a menudo, compartir sus hazañas a la gente que conocemos y cada año reconocer su contribución con un evento de agradecimiento que incluye el almuerzo

Cuando visite Lake Chapala Society mire a su alrededor y aprecie a los voluntarios que hacen posible la prestación de tantos servicios. Cuando pueda, chóqueles los cinco y agrádezcáles todo lo que hacen.



*Felipe González*  
*Attorney at Law*



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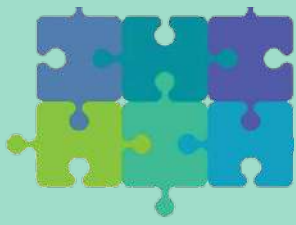
info@felipejgonzalez.com

@Mtro. Felipe González

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm  
Saturdays 8:30am to 2:00pm







## Community Outreach By Harriet Hart

*Conexiones* began in January 2019, replacing the LCS newsletter. The decision to move from an internal publication targeting LCS membership to a print magazine geared to a more general audience was part of the organization's new direction to reach out more to the community.

There are significant differences, advantages and disadvantages, between a newsletter and a magazine. Newsletters have specific audiences, are brief, inexpensive to produce, and have a quick turnaround time. Often, a single writer does the work. Magazines have a broader reach, are longer, more expensive to produce and take more time. They feature articles, stories and photos on multiple topics, sometimes with an overall theme, and are written by multiple authors. This makes them more attractive and more interesting but requires a team prepared to meet monthly deadlines.

The vision of LCS 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 and language." What better way to reach out to all residents with information than through a free magazine?

Where else can a newcomer (or an old-timer, for that matter) find out all the benefits Lakeside has to offer? If you answered with *The Guadalajara Reporter* you are partially correct, because it's the right place to look for current happenings because it is published weekly. *Conexiones*, a monthly, strives to provide knowledge on what is happening longer term. For example, we've printed articles on topics like what is the Ajijic Society of the Arts? Or how can I join a local choir, play pickle ball or disc golf?

Annual events have been covered in descriptive articles such as November's The World's Largest Book Fair (by Herbert Piekow) and Feria Maestros del Arte (by Marianne Carlson). We've published articles under the umbrella term Understanding Mexico, explaining the federal, state and municipal governments, investment and banking, and the natural world (Mexico's flora and fauna, the butterflies, birds, mammals, insects and trees). Navigating the system is another broad general category that includes such titles as How To Get a CURP Number by Claudia Stevens and Getting Your Driver's License by Blue, both long time volunteers at the Information Desk.

*Conexiones* educated our readers on Mexican culture and heritage by soliciting pieces on such diverse subjects as The Legend of *Michichualli*, Day of the Dead, *Globos*, *Carnival* and Three King's Day. Local geographers Tony Burton and Rick Rhoda have generously contributed their expertise, as has Judy King, author of *Living at Lake Chapala* and former educator in the LCS PEP program. Several talented regular contributors have stepped up to the plate at our request: Carol Bowman, Steve Parker, Barbara Hildt, Diana Hunt and Michael McLaughlin from the expat community, and Mexican nationals Jesús López Vega, Dr. Gabriel Vázquez Sánchez, Neri Navarro, Alberto Paz Bustamante. Editorial staff have written dozens of articles on various subjects. And Level Four students from the Wilkes Center have written wonderful articles every issue.

The editorial team, headed by Managing Editor, Rachel McMillen, and comprised of LCS staff members Luis Pacheco, Diana Ayala, and Domitzu Medrano, and volunteers Harriet Hart and Marianne Carlson, makes a concerted monthly effort to add to your knowledge about and understanding of Lakeside. Since the outset, we have printed articles in both English and Spanish, in recognition of this unique place and its residents.

*Conexiones* is one way that LCS reaches out to the entire Lakeside community. Our vision sees past the front gates, and we endeavor in each issue to inform and entertain all residents. Distribution is always challenging, however, so why not stop by the LCS campus, Monday through Saturday, 10 till 2, and pick up a copy at the Information Desk or the main office? Ask an LCS docent to show you around, take time for a coffee. Complete the connection.

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By Maggie Garcia





## Alcance comunitario Por Harriet Hart

Conecciones comenzó en enero de 2019, reemplazando el boletín de LCS. La decisión de pasar de una publicación interna dirigida a los miembros de LCS a una revista impresa orientada a un público más general fue parte de la nueva dirección de la organización para llegar más a la comunidad.

Hay diferencias significativas, ventajas y desventajas, entre un boletín y una revista. Los boletines tienen un público específico, son breves, baratos de producir y tienen un tiempo de entrega rápido. A menudo, un solo redactor se encarga del trabajo. Las revistas tienen un mayor alcance, son más largas, más caras de producir y llevan más tiempo. Presentan artículos, historias y fotos sobre múltiples temas, a veces con un tema general, y están escritas por varios autores. Esto las hace más atractivas e interesantes, pero requiere un equipo preparado para cumplir los plazos mensuales.

La visión de LCS es “un futuro en el que 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 conocimientos, experiencia, cultura, patrimonio y lenguaje”. ¿Qué mejor manera de llegar a todos los residentes con información que a través de una revista gratuita?

¿En qué otro lugar puede un recién llegado (o un veterano, en realidad) descubrir todas las ventajas que ofrece Lakeside? Si ha respondido con The Guadalajara Reporter, está en parte en lo cierto, ya que es el lugar adecuado para informarse de la actualidad porque se publica semanalmente. Conecciones, de periodicidad mensual, se esfuerza por dar a conocer lo que ocurre a más largo plazo. Por ejemplo, hemos publicado artículos sobre temas como ¿qué es la Sociedad de las Artes de Ajijic? ¿O cómo puedo unirme a un coro local, jugar al pickle ball o al disc golf?

Los eventos anuales han sido cubiertos en artículos descriptivos como la Feria del Libro más grande del mundo de noviembre (por Herbert Piekow) y la Feria Maestros del Arte (por Marianne Carlson). Hemos publicado artículos bajo el término general Entender México, explicando los gobiernos federal, estatal y municipal, la inversión y la banca, y el mundo natural (la flora y la fauna de México, las mariposas, las aves, los mamíferos, los insectos y los árboles). Navegar por el sistema es otra amplia categoría general que incluye títulos como Cómo obtener un número Curp, de Claudia Stevens, y Cómo obtener la licencia de conducir, de Blue, ambos voluntarios desde hace tiempo en el mostrador de información.

Conecciones educó a nuestros lectores en la cultura y el patrimonio mexicanos publicando artículos sobre temas tan diversos como La leyenda de Michicihualli, Día de los Muertos, Globos, Carnaval y Día de Reyes. Los autores Tony Burton y Rick Rhoda han contribuido generosamente con su experiencia, al igual que Judy King, autora de Living at Lake Chapala y antigua educadora del programa PEP de LCS. Varios talentosos contribuyentes regulares han dado un paso adelante a petición nuestra: Carol Bowman,

Steve Parker, Barbara Hildt, Diana Hunt y Michael McLaughlin de la comunidad de extranjeros, y los mexicanos Jesús López Vega, Dr. Gabriel Vázquez Sánchez de Aipromades, Neri Navarro, Alberto Paz Bustamante. La redacción ha escrito decenas de artículos sobre diversos temas. Y los estudiantes del Nivel Cuatro del Centro Wilkes han escrito maravillosos artículos en cada número.

El equipo editorial, encabezado por la editora principal, Rachel McMillen, e integrado por los miembros del personal de LCS Luis Pacheco, Diana Ayala y Domitzu Medrano, y las voluntarias Harriet Hart y Marianne Carlson, hace un esfuerzo mensual concertado para contribuir a su conocimiento y comprensión de Lakeside. Desde el principio, hemos publicado artículos en inglés y en español, en reconocimiento a este lugar único y a sus residentes.

Conecciones es una de las formas en que LCS llega a toda la comunidad de La Ribera. Nuestra visión va más allá de las puertas, en cada número nos esforzamos por informar y entretener a todos los residentes. Sin embargo, la distribución siempre es un reto, así que ¿por qué no pasar por el campus de LCS, de lunes a sábado, de 10 a 2, y recoger un ejemplar en el mostrador de información o en la oficina principal? Pida a un guía de LCS que le muestre el lugar, tómese un café. Completa la conexión.

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## Extending Our Legacy Through Campus Master Planning! By Larry Barnhardt

The Lake Chapala Society has been serving the needs of its members and Lakeside communities for over 65 years and has grown to become one of the oldest and largest organizations of its kind in the world. We are very proud of this legacy! Amidst the COVID pandemic, LCS has been working hard to not only survive these challenging times but to find ways to extend this legacy to better serve the needs of our members and the Lakeside community for generations to come. One of the ways LCS intends to extend this legacy is by updating our Campus Master Plan by creating an overarching vision for the future revitalization of our campus and our programs, activities, services, and events.



- The buildings include the Neill James Residence, Wilkes Educational Center, Gazebo, South Campus building and casita, West Campus, library, member services, office buildings, restaurant, garages, and bodegas.
- The grounds include landscaping and hardscaping (gardens, trees, plants, lawns, irrigation, perimeter walls, sidewalks, entryways, walkways, lighting, patios, other outdoor meeting spaces, and architectural features such as murals, ponds, fountains, artwork, etc.) and infrastructure (power, water, sewer, communications systems, garbage, recycling, etc.).



### LCS Campus

The Campus Master Plan will include the Wilkes Educational Center and all of the adjacent properties that make up the main LCS Campus. Campus master planning is a multi-year process that will be completed over the next two to five years.

**Phase I of the Campus Master Plan** will focus on assessing the conditions of all our existing buildings and grounds:

Along with assessing the condition of the campus, Phase I includes a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the types of programs, activities, services, and events we should a) continue, b) do more of, c) do less of, d) eliminate, and e) create anew (things that LCS has yet to offer its members or the Lakeside community).



We anticipate this phase to be completed by the Fall of 2022.

**Phase II of the Campus Master Plan**, LCS will take the findings and conclusions of the Building Conditions Assessment and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment to guide the development of a comprehensive Campus Master Plan. This plan

will help LCS identify and prioritize multiple Campus Improvement Projects that will bring the existing buildings and grounds up to acceptable standards and make greater use of all the campus's interior and exterior spaces. Over the next two to five years, LCS will execute these Campus Improvement Projects in harmony with the existing architecture and surrounding environments. In addition, these plans will help

1. create improved and expanded program offerings along with updated instructional furnishings, equipment, and supplies,



2. upgrade campus-wide safety and security,
3. address risk and liability concerns,
4. provide more accessibility to individuals with mobility issues,
5. incorporate best practices to make the campus is more sustainable, and
6. continue efforts to bring the Heritage Gardens back to their former glory.

To assure our success, LCS is seeking advice, assistance, and support from our key stakeholders — members, volunteers, staff, and the Lakeside community. With your input and insights, we can transform our offerings and our campus to meet or exceed the expectations of those we serve. Specifically, we are looking for volunteers who have the interest and the skills to assist in the building conditions assessment (architects, engineers, contractors) or the comprehensive needs assessment (educators, program planners, event organizers).

If you want to get involved, please complete an LCS Volunteer Application. Under the section “Please list any additional skills, knowledge, or comments.” type in Campus Master Plan along with your specific area of interest. A member of the LCS Campus Committee will contact you. With your help, we can extend our legacy as an oasis for personal enrichment, socialization, and collaboration throughout Lakeside.

We will keep posting updates on our progress in *Conexiones Magazine* and a special section on the LCS website. Stay tuned!





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# IT'S TIME TO ENJOY

—WE'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE—

**We'll be here, whatever you need.**

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# 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)

Basic Principles of Drawing/Painting	T 9-11
<i>jorge.garcia003@gmail.com</i>	
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
Hurachess Club*	SAT 12-1*
Intermediate Hatha Yoga	T+TH 2-3:30
Intro to Lakeside Zoom	F, 11 Mar 9-12
Introduction to Lakeside	M, 14 Mar 9-12
Introduction to Spanish (S)	T, 1, 8, 15 March 12:30-2. Cost
Line Dancing, <i>redheadinmexico@gmail.com</i>	T + TH 10-11:15
Low Impact Aerobics	W 10-11
Mudlarks Pottery Open Studios (S)	M+F 10-2
Scottish Country Dancing	T+TH 11:15-12:45
Stretch & Balance,	T+TH 8:45-9:45
<i>harry_bertram@hotmail.com</i>	
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.
Tech Help via Email	<i>lcs.tech.training@gmail.com</i>
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](http://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 Zoom, <i>barbarahildt@gmail.com</i>	M 10:00
Game Group	TH 1-4
HOT Science Zoom, <i>hotsciencelcs@gmail.com</i>	T 1:45
Scrabble	F 11:30-1:30
Tournament Scrabble	T 12-1:50

## HEALTH INSURANCE\*

Cruz Roja Table	T 12-1:30, F 10-12
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	1st+3rd 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 (Support Group)	T 11:30-1:30
Diabetes Support Group	Zoom, 1st F 11:00
<i>welchk4diabetes@gmail.com</i>	
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

## NEW ACTIVITIES:

- **Shiatsu Chair Massage:** 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 10-12, Pond Patio. Free 10-minute massage for LCS Members only. Appointments required. Call David at 331-604-0971 for appointment time. Massage focuses on back, spine, neck, shoulders, arms and hands. David Herrera Lara, [masajes5e@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:masajes5e@yahoo.com.mx).
- **Cruz Roja Table:** Tuesdays, 12-1:30, Fridays 10-12, Blue Umbrella Patio. Information on Cruz Roja services available. Emergency kits for medical and health information available for sale. Colleen Beery, 415-717-6062, [colleenbeery@gmail.com](mailto:colleenbeery@gmail.com)
- **Skin Cancer Screening Changes.** Description: Free skin cancer screenings for specific concerns. No full body screenings. If procedure is performed, there is a charge.. Sign up by calling 333-408--0951 for appointment day, and time. LCS will no longer do sign ups in the LCS office. All other dermatological concerns need to make appointment to see the doctor at her office



# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

## Mexican Manners

By Alfredo Pérez

Wednesday, Mar 02

10 am to 12:30 pm Fee: \$400



## MOLE? 3 ways to make it at home

By Ana Moreno

Wednesday, Mar 9

12 to 2 pm Fee: \$690

Join in this celebration. Let's learn about the origins of mole and their varieties. Let's prepare 3 types of mole you can make at home and celebrate.

## 5 different ways to cook BEANS Mexican style

By Ana Moreno

Thursday, Mar 10

12:30 to 2:30 pm Fee: \$600

Learn to prepare charro, borrachos, colorados, puercos and "with morisqueta" beans. Learn what accompanies them and how to serve them!  
- Toot, Toot! See you there.

## Introduction to Lakeside

By Rachel McMillen

In person \$600

Monday, Mar 14. 9 am to 12 pm

Online \$500

Friday, Mar 11. 9am to 12pm

No April Class, for Intro to Lakeside

## 5 CORN-based traditional dishes full of flavor

By Ana Moreno

Wednesday, Mar 16

12 to 2 pm Fee: \$600

We will prepare corn tortillas and other homemade delicacies from the dough. This includes the fillings, side dishes and traditional sauces that accompany them.



## 5 basic homemade Mexican SALSAS to have at home

By Ana Moreno

Wednesday, Mar 23

12 to 1:30 pm Fee: \$600

## 3 types of POZOLE you can make at home

By Ana Moreno

Monday, Mar 28

10 am to 12:30 pm Fee: \$690

Is pozole a soup or a stew?  
Come and discover with us. We will teach you how to prepare this very traditional Mexican dish.

## Introduction to Spanish

By Inez Dyer

Tuesday, Mar 1, 8, & 15

12 to 1:30 pm Fee: \$350

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

## Getting your Jalisco driver's license without losing your mind

By Alfredo Pérez

Monday, Mar 7

2 to 3:30 pm

Thursday, Mar 17 visit to

Secretaría de Transporte (test). Early in the morning.

Fee: \$500

## Arrival of Cortez - A change in ancient Mexican history

By Ted Rogers

Wednesday and Friday

Mar 9, 11, 16, & 18

1 to 2 pm Fee: \$500

4-session class. Here we will look at the first European contact with the Aztecs, and how this led to the invasion by Cortez in 1519, culminating in the founding of New Spain in 1521.



## How to Manage Economic Inflation as an ExPat

By Ted Rogers

Tuesday and Friday

Mar 22, 25, 29 & April 01

2 - 3 pm Fee: \$700



# ART FAIR

## March 18 & 19

10am to 4pm each day

### Entry Fee \$50 pesos

Enjoy a walk through our relaxing gardens & grounds while enjoying the art and handicrafts of over 60 local artists and artisans!

*This is a fund-raising event to support LCS Programs that have suffered from revenue loss during COVID*



- All COVID protocols will be followed •
- This event does NOT require proof of vaccination •



CLÍNICAS AUDIOLÓGICAS



*Congratulations to Oír Bien  
Welcome to LCS*

Felicidades a Oír Bien, bienvenidos a LCS

## Library Updates

As many of you have begun to note, changes are happening in the Back Room of the library. We've begun to think about how to better profile certain genres of books by putting them together, rather than having them spread throughout the non-fiction collection.

Our first such consolidation is Memoirs. They are still shelved by topic according to the Dewey Decimal System, but we are working to get them all together along the back wall for easier browsing.

Jessica Dukes of Celadon Books provides a good description of the genre which, hopefully, will entice you into our Back Room for a closer look. "A memoir is written from the perspective of the author, about an important part of their life. Memoir authors choose a pivotal moment in their lives and try to recreate the event through storytelling. The author's feelings and assumptions are central to the narrative. Memoirs still include all the facts of the event, but the author has flexibility because he/she is telling a story as he/she remembers it, not as others can prove or disprove it."

Transformation memoirs are written after an author has endured a great challenge. These stories almost always include a theme of redemption, whether it's achieved or missing. Educated is Tara Westover's incredible account of how she overcame a childhood spent in survivalist camps in rural Idaho and worked her way into Harvard and Cambridge universities.

Cofessional memoirs are unapologetically bold. The author shares painful or difficult secrets about themselves or their family and how it has affected them. Running with Scissors is Augusten Burroughs' childhood laid bare. His mother left him to be raised by her psychiatrist who lived in squalor, never sent him to school, and never protected him from the pedophile living in the back yard.

Professional or celebrity memoirs cover important moments in the author's rise to fame and success. I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai details her horrible attack by the Taliban, her recovery, and her decision to fight for girls' education worldwide.

Travel memoirs let us escape with the author and learn about a time and place through their experiences. Cheryl Strayed's Wild takes us on her emotional solo journey along the Pacific Coast Trail as she grieves the loss of her mother and her marriage. A Year in Provence is Peter Mayle's heartwarming account of the year that he threw caution to the wind and moved his family into a crumbling, 200-year-old farmhouse in the French countryside.



# LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY A.C.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY . MARCH 15 . 2022**

**10:00 AM - NOON**

1. Call to Order
2. Establishment of Quorum
3. Reading of Order of the Day
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Receipt of Minutes
6. President's Report  
President Steve Balfour
7. Ratification of 2021 Financial Report, Treasurer Tim Boardman
8. Receipt of 2022 Budget Projections  
Treasurer Tim Boardman
9. 2021 External Audit Report and ratification of Grant Thornton as external auditors  
Audit Chair Brian Dalziel
10. Ratification of Membership Categories & Dues
11. Ratification of Reserve Fund Deposit, Treasurer Tim Boardman
12. Election of Board Officers & Directors-at-Large, Nominating Committee Chair Nancy Creevan
13. Granting Power of Attorney
14. LCS 2.0 Update – Larry Barnhardt  
Major accomplishments of LCS 2.0 in 2021  
Priorities for LCS 2.0 in 2022
15. Annual General Meeting authorization for the Board of Directors to approve the 2022 AGM Minutes.
16. Adjournment



### IMPROVE YOUR PRONUNCIATION /D/, /T/

Beginners - Intermediate  
March 07, 10:00 to 11:20 am

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

### AQUÍ, AHÍ, ALLÍ // ESTE, ESE, AQUEL

Beginners  
March 07, 12:00 to 1:20 pm

Distance is also learned in another language: 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.

### IMPROVE YOUR PRONUNCIATION /P/, /B/, /M/

Beginners - Intermediate  
March 21, 10:00 to 11:20 am

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

### -ITO, -ITA: MORE THAN JUST "A LITTLE... A SMALL..."

Intermediate  
March 21, 12:00 to 1:20 pm

Diminutives are in all Mexican Spanish words, but does it mean that everything in Mexico is small? You will be surprised to learn about the extensive use of diminutives and their relationship to culture, politeness and their connection to indigenous languages.

#### 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.





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## An Online Auction and Wine Pull

Starting Tuesday March 22, 2022 at 12:00pm (noon) CST  
Ending Saturday March 26, 2022 at 6:00pm CST

This online auction will show many "must haves", along with our famous "Wine Pull"

**Don't Hesitate....Participate!!!**

- For Email Updates, register for our mailing list at [www.programaninos.com](http://www.programaninos.com)
- Coming early in March, access to the Online Auction Website which you can
  - View the Online Auction Catalogue prior to the event
  - Register Online prior to the Launch on March 22nd

Destinations

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## ¡Ampliando nuestro legado mediante el Plan Maestro para el campus!

By Larry Barnhardt

The Lake Chapala Society ha servido a las necesidades de sus miembros y de las comunidades de la Ribera durante más de 65 años; y ha crecido hasta convertirse en una de las organizaciones más antiguas y grandes de su tipo en el mundo. ¡Estamos muy orgullosos de este legado! En medio de la pandemia de COVID, LCS ha estado trabajando duro no sólo para sobrevivir a estos tiempos difíciles, sino para encontrar maneras de ampliar este legado y responder de mejor manera a las necesidades de nuestros miembros y las generaciones venideras de las comunidades que conviven en la Ribera. Una de las formas en que LCS pretende extender este legado es mediante la actualización de nuestro Plan Maestro del Campus, creando una visión global para la futura revitalización de nuestro campus y nuestros programas, actividades, servicios y eventos.

El Plan Maestro del Campus incluirá el Centro Educativo Wilkes y todas las propiedades adyacentes que conforman el Campus principal de LCS. La planificación maestra del campus es un proceso de varios años que se completará en los siguientes dos a cinco años.

La fase I del Plan Maestro del Campus se centrará en evaluar las condiciones de todos nuestros edificios y terrenos existentes:

- Los edificios incluyen la Residencia Neill James, el Centro Educativo Wilkes, el Gazebo, el edificio y la casita del Campus Sur, el Campus Oeste, la biblioteca, los servicios para miembros, los edificios de oficinas, el restaurante, los garajes y las bodegas.
- Los terrenos incluyen el paisajismo y el hardscaping (jardines, árboles, plantas, césped, riego, muros perimetrales, aceras, entradas, pasillos, iluminación, patios, otros espacios de reunión al aire libre y elementos arquitectónicos como murales, estanques, fuentes, obras de arte, etc.) y las infraestructuras (electricidad, agua, alcantarillado, sistemas de comunicación, basura, reciclaje, etc.).

Además de evaluar el estado del campus, la fase I incluye una evaluación exhaustiva de las necesidades para identificar los tipos de programas, actividades, servicios y eventos que deberíamos a) continuar, b) hacer más, c) hacer menos, d) eliminar y e) crear de nuevo (cosas que LCS todavía tiene que ofrecer a sus miembros o a la comunidad de la Ribera). Prevemos que esta fase se completará en otoño de 2022.

En la Fase II del Plan Maestro del Campus, LCS tomará los resultados y conclusiones de la Evaluación de las Condiciones de los Edificios y la Evaluación de las Necesidades Integrales para guiar el desarrollo de un Plan Maestro del Campus integral. Este plan ayudará a LCS a identificar y priorizar múltiples proyectos de mejora del campus que llevarán a los edificios y terrenos existentes a estándares aceptables; y harán un mayor uso de todos los espacios interiores y exteriores del campus. Durante los próximos dos a cinco años, LCS ejecutará estos proyectos de mejora del campus en armonía con la arquitectura existente y los entornos circundantes. Además, estos planes ayudarán a

- 1) crear una oferta de programas mejorada y ampliada junto con mobiliario, equipos y suministros de instrucción actualizados,
- 2) mejorar la seguridad de todo el campus
- 3) abordar los problemas de riesgo y responsabilidad,
- 4) proporcionar más accesibilidad a las personas con problemas de movilidad
- 5) incorporar las mejores prácticas para que el campus sea más sostenible, y
- 6) continuar con los esfuerzos para devolver a los Jardines del Patrimonio su antiguo esplendor.

Para asegurar nuestro éxito, LCS está buscando el consejo, la asistencia y el apoyo de nuestros principales interesados: miembros, voluntarios, personal y la comunidad de la Ribera. Con sus aportes y opiniones, podemos transformar nuestras ofertas y nuestro campus para satisfacer o superar las expectativas de aquellos a quienes servimos. En concreto, buscamos voluntarios que tengan el interés y las habilidades para ayudar en la evaluación de las condiciones del edificio (arquitectos, ingenieros, contratistas) o la evaluación de las necesidades integrales (educadores, planificadores de programas, organizadores de eventos). Si quiere participar, rellene una solicitud de voluntario de LCS. En la sección “Por favor, indique cualquier habilidad, conocimiento o comentario adicional”, escriba Plan Maestro del Campus junto con su área de interés específica. Un miembro del Comité del Campus de LCS se pondrá en contacto con usted. Con su ayuda, podemos extender nuestro legado como un oasis para el enriquecimiento personal, la socialización y la colaboración en todo la Ribera.

Seguiremos publicando actualizaciones sobre nuestros progresos en la revista Conexiones, nuestras redes sociales y en una sección especial en el sitio web de LCS. Estén atento.



# LCS STUDENT AID PROGRAM: Empowering young people to pursue community transformation.

By Luis Pacheco

For Western and modern societies, the word education necessarily evokes the memory of having gone to school. Therefore, to be educated in what you learn at school appears to be the legacy of civilization.

At least for our culture, the process of education and the institution of the school, seem inseparable. You cannot have one without the other. What are we to say, then, of societies without schools or where only a minority enjoy the privilege of attending them?

Knowledge differs from culture to culture, as do the institutions that facilitate passing knowledge from generation to generation. These institutions (intended for education) are uniquely human. In this context for the West, pedagogy is the art of teaching. And therefore, in this same context, we could say that not only is education the continuation of life, but also what transforms life.

When being educated, life is being transmitted. And it is through participation in each other's lives that education proceeds, and the knowledge, values, beliefs, and practices of a society are perpetuated.

All of this takes place in a context or environment. Just as communication is communion or communality of life and transmission is perpetuation and legacy, the environment or context is variation.

The promise of education will then be to provide the capacity to respond and to be responded to. Education is a responsibility, to be able to give account, to be accountable. The success of commonality is then not discovering what individuals have in common but where they differ and then enabling that diversity to coexist. Education is a dynamic, not a static creation.

That's why being able to attend school in our own context is so important. It guarantees the transformation of a community and enriches the possibilities of life. That's why the LCS Student Aid program is crucial in pursuing our Mission and promoting life quality for the community sharing life at Lakeside.

A community can be held together by variation, not by similarities. In other words, being a community is not



living together but giving oneself together, precisely because, thanks to the differences, we all always have something to offer. To have things in common is therefore not a starting point but an aspiration. It is something not given but a task to be built with the community's effort. Attending school is critical to achieving this for new generations. Denying someone the possibility of education denies them the possibility of a good life.

LCS aims to support young Mexican kids in search of building good lives for their communities. That is why at LCS, we maintain an average of 40 students per semester while they attend University within our Student Aid Program. By supporting students while they go through their studies, we are supporting a dream of constructing a better life for our communities.

The first student Neill James sponsored and drove to School in San Miguel de Allende was Maestro Zaragoza in the 1960s. The program was formalized in 1994. Since then, hundreds of students have received support.

We collaborate with many Universities and even support CONALEP and CETAC, although they are not at the university level. We have students from Ocotlán, Chapala, Ixtlahuacán, Jocotepec and are looking to expand our outreach.

We hope that you also support us in supporting our youth. We dream of transforming the program so that, in addition to providing economic support, it can provide a more accurate follow-up of its beneficiaries' academic, human development, and family needs with the intention of generating projects that develop soft skills for life and work.

LCS Student Aid Program is our way of empowering young people to pursue community transformation and create life-changing projects.



# Concerts in the Park

Presented by  
Steve Balfour

The Lake Chapala Society has always had a major focus on art. It is so much a part of our very fiber. From the amazing joy of an art student like Jose Maria when he was recognized for his talents, to the mentor and maestro, Javier Zaragoza who has the skill to help Jose Maria to find his own love for life and express it on a canvas.

With Concerts in the Park, I have tried to bring yet another element of art to our community. My parents were not supportive of my love of music and as such I was not able to develop the musical skills of playing an instrument or singing. But throughout my life, I have found that music has helped me a great deal in facing the world. One of my favorite quotes from a wonderful movie on this topic – August Rush: Music it’s all around us. All you have to do is open yourself up. All we have to do is listen.

Perhaps you have had the opportunity to use music to get you through these past 700+ days. Whether it is music in your home, in your head, or hopefully you have come to, or will come to, one of the Concerts in the Park series of musical events with a theater twist. It was about 700 days ago that I was in the middle of discussions with Mark Rome and his partner Robert to purchase the Spotlight Club. For many years Mark has brought tremendous talent to our community. He continues to be a local Realtor but also continues sharing music with the masses through his efforts in Puerto Vallarta at The Palm Cabaret. Mark being a true friend, anticipated that Covid could be around for a long time and asked if maybe I should hold off on the purchase of The Spotlight until more was known. Truly the Spotlight Club was one of the early victims of Covid.

Having both an entrepreneurial and an extensive nonprofit background as well as anticipating that Covid would be around for a while, I took the opportunity to develop another option that would allow this type of great music to return to Lakeside. For 40 years I have produced many hundreds of events with music. I talked at length with my friends in the business and to Branden and James who have helped me with fundraisers for LCS in the past. We explored various options and they jumped at the opportunity to be the “opening act” of Concerts in the Park a year ago. Since that start, I have presented 25 concerts with two shows each. Every show has employed members of the Latino community. We are training Salomón, who came to LCS from the Tec School on the libramiento to do his social work, to be the sound technician for the

shows giving him a chance to use his skills and have a startup job as well.

My personal goal is to use my concert series to raise funds for a variety of charities here at Lakeside who have also struggled through this pandemic. Being President of LCS I am keenly aware of the need for funds to keep our programs going and our gates open. At the upcoming AGM, I will speak more on this topic. These concerts have truly not only kept the gates open, but allowed our employees to provide for their families and keep our gardens lush and our facilities strong. These concerts are held in the spacious gardens of the LCS with fresh air and plants. These past 25 concerts (50 shows) have been a labor of love. I have done this as a volunteer as my part, my contributions to the community. Volunteerism is the heart and soul of LCS.

One of these concerts was a benefit on my birthday last year for Cruz Roja, an organization that as a kid I had been involved with in my hometown. Thanks to the tremendous friendship of Yolanda Martinez, and a team of volunteers and talent, we were able, to take a lesson from Mickey and Judy in – “Let’s Put On A Show”. We did just that. Thanks to very generous donors and an amazing matching gift plan, we raised a million pesos to benefit Cruz Roja, Chapala because of this one show. Likewise, I was honored to team up with Ajijic Cares on December 1 to create community awareness and we are looking forward to a benefit for FoodBank Lakeside coming. There are many other charities that also can benefit from the generosity of the Concerts in the Park ticket buyers and talent, and we look forward to working with them.

Speaking of talent, it is worth sharing that Concerts in the Park has brought tremendous talent from Hollywood to Broadway and the shores of Vallarta to make for a great kick off year series. I wish to thank my good friends: Branden & James, Enrique de Allende, Roy Gomez, Maru Prado, Effie Passero and Kim Kuzma, who have all done more than one concert each with us and the many others who have done their first show and look forward to a return show in the months ahead.

If you have not yet come to enjoy a Concert in the Park, the best music is essentially here to provide you something to face the world with, while making a difference in your life and our community. More information can be found on the Lake Chapala Society website.





Lake Chapala Society siempre ha tenido un enfoque importante hacia el arte. Es una parte muy importante de nuestra fibra. Desde la asombrosa alegría de un estudiante de arte como José María cuando fue reconocido por sus talentos, hasta el mentor y maestro, Javier Zaragoza que tiene la habilidad de ayudar a José María a encontrar su propio amor por la vida y expresarlo en un lienzo.

Con los Conciertos en el Parque, he intentado aportar otro elemento artístico a nuestra comunidad. Mis padres no apoyaron mi amor por la música y por ello no pude desarrollar las habilidades musicales de tocar un instrumento o cantar. Pero a lo largo de mi vida, he descubierto que la música me ha ayudado mucho a enfrentarme al mundo. Una de mis citas favoritas de una maravillosa película sobre este tema - August Rush: La música está a nuestro alrededor. Todo lo que hay que hacer es abrirse. Todo lo que hay que hacer es escuchar.

Tal vez hayas tenido la oportunidad de utilizar la música para superar estos más de 700 días. Ya sea con música en tu casa, en tu cabeza, o con suerte has venido, o vendrás, a uno de los Conciertos en el Parque, serie de eventos musicales con un toque teatral. Hace unos 700 días estuve en medio de conversaciones con Mark Rome y su socio Robert para comprar el Spotlight Club. Durante muchos años, Mark ha aportado un enorme talento a nuestra comunidad. Él sigue siendo un agente inmobiliario local, pero también sigue compartiendo la música con las masas a través de sus esfuerzos en Puerto Vallarta en The Palm Cabaret. Mark siendo un verdadero amigo, anticipó que Covid podría estar alrededor por un largo tiempo y sugirió si tal vez debería aplazar la compra de The Spotlight hasta que se supiera más. Verdaderamente, el Club Spotlight fue una de las primeras víctimas de Covid.

Teniendo tanto una experiencia empresarial como una amplia experiencia en asociaciones sin ánimo de lucro, así como previendo que Covid estaría por aquí durante un tiempo, aproveché la oportunidad para desarrollar otra opción que permitiera que este tipo de música volviera a Lakeside. Durante 40 años he producido muchos cientos de eventos con música. Hablé largo y tendido con mis amigos en el negocio y con Branden y James, que me han ayudado con la recaudación de fondos para LCS en el pasado. Exploramos varias opciones y ellos se lanzaron a la oportunidad de ser los “teloneros” de Conciertos en el Parque hace un año. Desde ese comienzo, he presentado 25 conciertos con dos espectáculos cada uno. En todos los espectáculos han trabajado miembros de la comunidad latina. Estamos capacitando a Salomón, que vino a LCS desde el Tecnológico en el libramiento para hacer su servicio social, para ser el técnico de sonido de los espectáculos dándole la oportunidad de usar sus habilidades y tener un trabajo también.

Mi objetivo personal es utilizar mi serie de conciertos para recaudar fondos para una variedad de organizaciones benéficas aquí en Lakeside que también han luchado por esta pandemia. Como presidente de LCS soy muy consciente de la necesidad de fondos para mantener nuestros programas en marcha y nuestras puertas abiertas. En la próxima asamblea general, hablaré más sobre este tema. Estos conciertos no sólo han mantenido las puertas abiertas, sino que han permitido a nuestros empleados mantener a sus familias y mantener nuestros jardines exuberantes y nuestras instalaciones fuertes. Estos conciertos se celebran en los amplios jardines del LCS con aire fresco y plantas. Estos últimos 25 conciertos (50 presentaciones) han sido una labor de amor. Lo he hecho como voluntario, mi contribución a la comunidad. El voluntariado es el corazón y el alma de LCS.

Uno de estos conciertos fue en mi cumpleaños el año pasado a beneficio de la Cruz Roja, una organización con la que desde niño había estado involucrado en mi ciudad natal. Gracias a la tremenda amistad con Yoly Martínez, y a un equipo de voluntarios y talento, pudimos, tomando una lección de Mickey y Judy en - “Vamos a montar un espectáculo”. Y eso es lo que hicimos. Gracias a donantes muy generosos y a un increíble plan de donaciones de contrapartida, recaudamos un millón de pesos a beneficio de Cruz Roja, Chapala, gracias a este espectáculo. Del mismo modo, tuve el honor de asociarme con Ajijic Cares el 1 de diciembre para crear conciencia en la comunidad y estamos preparando uno a beneficio para FoodBank Lakeside. Hay muchas otras organizaciones sin fines de lucro que también pueden beneficiarse de la generosidad de los compradores de entradas y el talento de Conciertos en el parque, y esperamos trabajar con ellos.

Hablando de talento, vale la pena compartir que Conciertos en el Parque ha traído maravilloso talento desde Hollywood a Broadway y Vallarta para hacer una gran serie de inicio de año. Deseo agradecer a mis buenos amigos Branden & James, Enrique de Allende, Roy Gómez, Maru Prado, Effie Passero y Kim Kuzma, que han hecho más de un concierto cada uno con nosotros y a los muchos otros que han hecho su primer show y esperan volver a hacerlo en los próximos meses.

Si aún no has venido a disfrutar de un Concierto en el Parque, la mejor música está esencialmente aquí para proporcionarte algo con lo que enfrentarte al mundo, mientras marcas la diferencia en tu vida y en nuestra comunidad. Puedes encontrar más información en la página web de la Lake Chapala Society.





## Information Desk: A Special Place

By Steve Parker

For me, The Lake Chapala Society Information Desk is a special place. Every Wednesday morning, I wake up with a smile on my face knowing that I am going to have a wonderful fun-filled day working with some old friends and a group of new inquisitive and excited visitors to the Lake Chapala scene. Over the years some very dedicated individuals have amassed a tremendous amount of information about almost anything a person might want to know and placed it lovingly in a chest for volunteers to use. Each week I still find something new in the files that can help a visitor.

Usually, after being greeted by the Docents at the front gate, new visitors arrive at the bulletin board and see the range of homes for rent or sale, the services and the special events. That is my chance to greet them with a “Hello” or “Good Morning” usually followed by “Do you have any questions I might help with?” Many times the answer is . . . We just got here and I am not sure what to ask.” That’s my clue to invite them to sit down and I can begin to find out more about them, how they decided to visit the area, where they are from and more.

Often, I ask if they want to have a tour of the grounds and can contact a docent to walk them around or they can just wander on their own, viewing the amazing facilities. I can show them a list of all the activities offered to members, benefits and cost for membership, followed by the location of the membership office. They are surprised to find our library is the largest English library in Latin America. Then, if they have questions, I can use the resources available to

me. *El Ojo Del Lago* and *Conecciones* magazines are valuable resources to help visitors understand the many services available to the residents.

Other very common questions involve renting or buying a home. The Info Desk has a list of many local realtors. “Where should we live?” Again, the Info Desk is supplied with some very good maps of the local scene as well as maps of the entire area.

“What about restaurants?” I always begin with the restaurant located on the LCS grounds, but also have a small take-away map listing several shops and restaurants, and while we are on the subject, show them a copy of *The Guadalajara Reporter*, talk about it, showing restaurants, cultural events and more, advising them they can purchase a copy at the membership office or the restaurant.

“What about health care?” I talk about cancer screening, vision services and mention times where representatives from medical services come to the campus for questions and answers. I can give them examples of our major hospitals, dental offices, and specialists that are available in the area as well.

Our files are filled with flyers on safety, emergency phone numbers, calling information, Immigration services. And don’t forget all the PEP programs offered on campus focusing on Mexican culture, food and even a class on getting a Mexican Drivers License. I point out all the great musical events right here on the campus.

“What about transportation?” “How much does a bus cost and where do I catch one?” “Is there a taxi stand or a number I can call?” “Are there companies that offer travel around the area?” “Where can I rent a car?” “How much does it cost to get to Guadalajara airport?”

New visitors are always interested in the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday markets available to get great food and gifts to take back to friends. I cannot help but talk about the bike and walking path stretching from Chapala eastward for miles and what about our beautiful *Malecon*.

There are a few questions that I am always surprised to get . . . Are there any snakes?” “Is Scorpion Island really full of giant scorpions?” “Can I fish in the lake?”

But one I can always answer . . . Is the weather ALWAYS this nice?” My answer . . . Nope, most times it’s even better.”





## Escritorio de información: Un lugar especial

Por Steve Parker

Para mí, el escritorio de información de Lake Chapala Society, es un lugar especial. Cada miércoles por la mañana, me despierto con una sonrisa en el rostro sabiendo que voy a tener un maravilloso día lleno de diversión trabajando con algunos viejos amigos y un grupo de nuevos visitantes al Lago de Chapala, curiosos y emocionados. A lo largo de los años algunos individuos muy dedicados han acumulado una tremenda cantidad de información sobre casi cualquier cosa que una persona pueda querer saber y la han colocado cuidadosamente en un cofre para que los voluntarios la usen. Cada semana sigo encontrando algo nuevo en los archivos que puede ayudar a un visitante.

Normalmente, después de ser recibidos por los guías en la puerta principal, los nuevos visitantes llegan al tablón de anuncios y ven la oferta de viviendas en alquiler o venta, los servicios y los eventos especiales. Esa es mi oportunidad de saludarles con un “Hola” o “Buenos días”, normalmente seguido de “¿Tiene alguna pregunta en la que pueda ayudarle?”. Muchas veces la respuesta es... “Acabamos de llegar y no sé qué preguntar”. Esa es mi pista para invitarles a sentarse y poder empezar a averiguar más cosas sobre ellos, cómo decidieron visitar la zona, de dónde son y mucho más.

A menudo, les pregunto si quieren hacer una visita guiada por el campus y puedo contactar con un guía para que les acompañe o simplemente pueden pasear por su cuenta, viendo las increíbles instalaciones. Puedo mostrarles una lista de todas las actividades que se ofrecen a los socios, las ventajas y el costo de la afiliación, así como la ubicación de la oficina de socios. Se sorprenden al ver que nuestra biblioteca es la mayor biblioteca en inglés de América Latina. Luego, si tienen preguntas, puedo utilizar los recursos disponibles. La revista El Ojo Del Lago es un recurso valioso para ayudar a los visitantes a entender los muchos servicios disponibles para los residentes.

Otras preguntas muy comunes tienen que ver con el alquiler o la compra de una vivienda. El escritorio de información tiene una lista de muchos agentes inmobiliarios locales. “¿Dónde deberíamos vivir?” De nuevo, tenemos algunos mapas muy buenos de la escena local,

“¿Y los restaurantes?” Siempre empiezo con el restaurante situado en el recinto de LCS, pero también tengo un pequeño mapa para llevar con una lista de varias tiendas y restaurantes, y ya que estamos en el tema, mostrarles una copia del Guadalajara Reporter, hablar de él, mostrando restaurantes, eventos culturales y más, aconsejándoles que pueden comprar una copia en la oficina de socios o en el restaurante.

“¿Y la atención médica?” Hablo de las pruebas de detección del cáncer, de los servicios oftalmológicos y menciono los momentos en que los representantes de los servicios médicos vienen al campus para resolver dudas. Puedo darles ejemplos de nuestros principales hospitales, consultorios dentales y especialistas que también están disponibles en la zona.

Nuestros archivos están llenos de folletos sobre seguridad, números de teléfono de emergencia, información sobre llamadas,

servicios de inmigración. Y no olvides todos los programas que se ofrecen en el campus y que se centran en la cultura mexicana, la comida e incluso una clase para obtener la licencia de conducir mexicana. Señalo todos los grandes eventos musicales aquí mismo en el campus.

“¿Y el transporte?” “¿Cuánto cuesta un autobús y dónde lo tomo?” “¿Hay una parada de taxis o un número al que pueda llamar?” “¿Hay empresas que ofrezcan viajes por la zona?” “¿Dónde puedo alquilar un coche?” “¿Cuánto cuesta llegar al aeropuerto de Guadalajara?”

Los nuevos visitantes siempre se interesan por los mercados de los lunes, martes y miércoles, en los que se puede conseguir comida y regalos estupendos para llevar a los amigos. No puedo dejar de hablar del sendero para bicicletas y caminatas que se extiende desde Chapala hacia el este por kilómetros y qué decir de nuestro hermoso Malecón.

Hay algunas preguntas que siempre me sorprenden... “¿Hay serpientes?” “¿La Isla del Alacrán está realmente llena de escorpiones gigantes?” “¿Puedo pescar en el lago?”

Y mi pregunta favorita... “¿Siempre hace tan buen tiempo?” Mi respuesta.... “No, la mayoría de las veces es incluso mejor”.



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Join us for a lively afternoon of bidding to help 100+ rescued dogs. Raffles/refreshments.

**Sunday  
March 20th  
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Cultural Center, Ajijic Plaza**

**MASKS REQUIRED**

[www.lakechapalasociety.com](http://www.lakechapalasociety.com)





## Christine Laberge

SkyMed Ambassador

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I tap danced out of my mom's dance studio in Wisconsin  
*Aprendí tap en el estudio de baile de mi madre en Wisconsin*  
into the world of glitz and glamour.  
*en el mundo del brillo y el glamour.*

Twirling in front of a camera as an international model

*Posando frente a la cámara como modelo internacional*

and commercial actress, my career took me around the world.  
*y actriz comercial, mi carrera me llevó por todo el mundo.*

My keen eye, along with my talents for beauty and styling  
*Mi perspicacia y mi talento para la belleza y el estilo*  
led me to a 25 yr. career in photography.  
*me dejó 25 años de experiencia en la fotografía.*

From teens to adults, kids and families, weddings,

*Desde jóvenes hasta adultos, niños y familias, bodas,*

models and actors, now I enjoy using all my past  
*modelos y actores, ahora disfruto toda mi experiencia pasada*  
experiences creating fabulous photos!  
*creando fotos fabulosas!*

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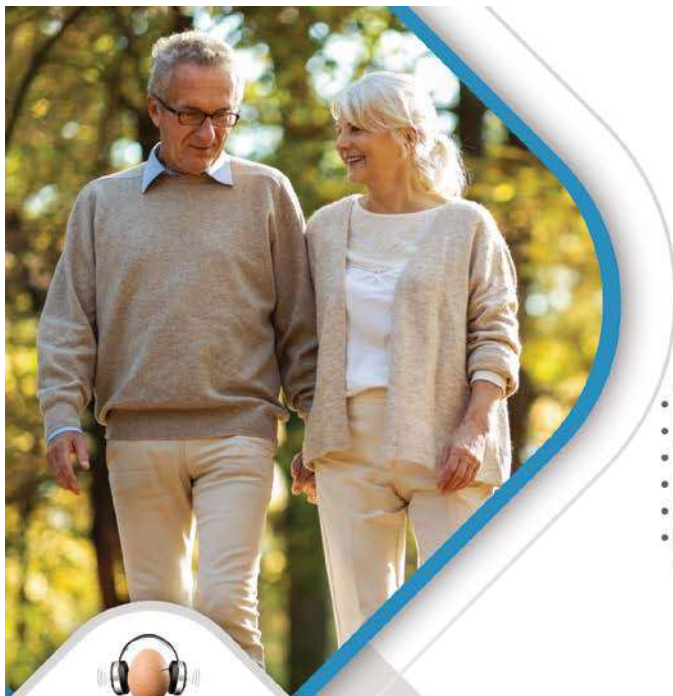
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# LCS and TecMM

By Diana Ayala

Since its inception LCS has maintained the vision of supporting young people in the area to continue their studies at the professional level. Years ago these youngsters had to move to Guadalajara to continue their studies. Now we have greater academic choice in the area and a diversity of campuses that offer different options, whether to study online, on-site, in hybrid format or even semi-schooling, allowing them to study and work at the same time.

Tecnológico Mario Molina, (TecMM) located on the Libramiento was one of the first campuses in the area to offer higher education, starting with engineering, business management, computer systems and digital animation and later adding gastronomy while always seeking to offer quality education focused on the needs of the area. It is an institution that is part of the academic options supported by the government, but it is autonomous, has its own facilities and must generate part of its own resources. In Jalisco there are 13 academic units, one of which is Chapala. Each one of them has different educational options according to the area.

Within this setting, it was logical for these two institutions to collaborate, and this has been the case for many years. LCS



through its Student Aid program has provided financial support to enable a number of students to finish their studies and currently we help 6 TecMM students to achieve their dreams.

As of January 2021 students from the Business Management program started doing their social service with us, supporting

LCS in administrative tasks. Later Salomón Castellanos arrived to support Open Circle and now we have Fernanda López helping us. Two others, Melissa and Vanessa, did their internships with us, helping us in the Human Resources area by creating manuals. In April 2021 Vanessa filled the vacancy of administrative assistant and since then she has been part of the staff. Salomón has joined the Concerts in the Park team.

All TecMM students must prove their knowledge of another language at the end of their studies, so to help them prepare for this LCS is supporting them with English workshops and soon, together with Ajijic Cares, workshops and talks on sexual health will be held.

We have big plans together and for that a formal collaboration agreement was signed between the two institutions. You can expect great news in the future!





# LCS y el TecMM

## Por Diana Ayala

Desde su inicio LCS ha mantenido la visión de apoyar a los jóvenes de la zona para proseguir con sus estudios a nivel profesional, los cuales hacen años tenían que trasladarse a Guadalajara para poder continuar con sus estudios. Ahora contamos en el área con una mayor oferta académica y una diversidad de planteles que brindan diversas opciones, tanto para estudiar en línea, presencial, el formato híbrido o hasta el de semiescolarizado, permitiendo así que estudien y trabajen al mismo tiempo.

El Tecnológico Mario Molina, (TecMM) ubicado en el libramiento fue una de las primeras opciones en el área en ofrecer una educación superior, empezaron con ingenierías, gestión empresarial, sistemas computacionales y animación digital; agregando después gastronomía. Siempre buscando ofrecer educación de calidad, enfocada en las necesidades de la zona. Es una institución que forma parte de la oferta académica por parte del gobierno, pero es autónoma, cuenta con sus propias instalaciones y debe generar parte de sus recursos. En Jalisco se cuenta con 13 unidades académicas, una de



ellas es la de Chapala. Cada una de ellas cuenta con diferentes opciones educativas acordes a la zona.

Con estos antecedentes, era lógico pensar que estas dos instituciones colaboraran en conjunto, y así ha sido desde hace muchos años; LCS a través de su programa Student Aid ha brindado apoyo económico a estudiantes para que terminen sus estudios, actualmente contamos con 6 alumnos del TecMM que reciben apoyo; a partir de enero 2021 empezamos a tener alumnos realizando su servicio social con nosotros de la carrera de Gestión Empresarial apoyando en labores administrativas; posteriormente Salomón Castellanos llegó para apoyar en Open Circle y ahora tenemos a Fernanda López; En cuanto a prácticas Melissa y Vanessa realizaron su proyecto con nosotros y nos ayudaron en el área de Recursos Humanos, creando manuales. En abril 2021 Vanessa ocupó la vacante de asistente administrativo y desde entonces forma parte del staff; por su parte Salomón se ha integrado al equipo de Concerts in the Park.

Todos los alumnos del TecMM deben al final de sus estudios acreditar el conocimiento de otra lengua, por lo que LCS los está apoyando con talleres de inglés para prepararlos en este requisito; y próximamente en conjunto con Ajijic Cares se llevarán a cabo talleres y pláticas sobre salud sexual.

Tenemos grandes planes en conjunto y para eso se firmó un convenio de colaboración entre las dos instituciones, así que espera grandes noticias.







## The Poet's Eye, the Artists Tongue By Harriet Hart

Judy Dykstra Brown moved to Lakeside in 2001 from California, a decision that forced her sell off all the tools of her artistic trade, torches, presses, and other implements she needed to make metal jewelry and paper art. Judy needed to find a new art form, in addition to the poetry and writing she already did, a way to tell stories using objects instead of words.

The fates were smiling. Judy's friend, Linda Hanna, who runs a bed and breakfast in Oaxaca, needed a vacation. Could Judy babysit the place for a month? She and Linda had met at craft shows in California, and both were collectors. When Judy got to Linda's B&B, she discovered a toy chest crammed with "stuff," and was inspired to begin making *retablos* or memory boxes.

The word "*retablo*" is from the Latin "*retable*", and refers to a structure forming the back and shelf of an altar, or a frame enclosing painted panels. In Mexico, these boxed metal or wooden frames traditionally contain images of saints or the holy family. Judy extended the concept to include family, friends and famous figures from art history, as well as characters from Mexican history, daily life, and mythology.

Each *retablo* tells a tale. Finding the objects to place inside them is half the fun. Judy raids antique stores, bazaars, street markets, to purchase tiny items, always on the lookout for things that speak to her: figurines, dolls, milagros, bits of fabric, post-cards, objects that carry symbolic meaning.

"Each *retablo* is unique and every item is there for a purpose," Judy says. "Although each piece tells a particular story, I prefer the viewers look closely and try to develop their own stories. The names furnish clues. I often include mirrors that encourage viewers to see their own reflections in the box, to draw themselves into the story."

"A *retablo* is often sparked by a picture, a photo or perhaps a doll," Judy explained. They have themes. For Holland, which will become a tribute to her grandparents, Judy has collected wooden shoe charms, the top of a chocolate box, a tiny sailing ship, all destined for the box. "Sometimes I do *retablos* for friends or family members who have died, sometimes for those still alive."

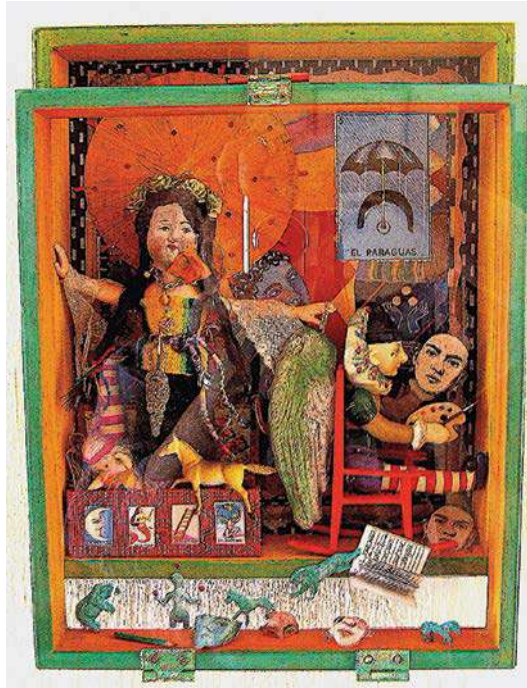
Judy is happy to explain particular *retablos*. Circus Muses is an example:

"Did I ever have a fantasy of running away to join the circus? I did. The small town traveling circuses of my American 50's youth still exist in Mexico, so maybe in running away to Mexico,

I've finally come closer again to that childhood.

For 13 years, I traveled around the USA doing arts and crafts shows. Putting up and tearing down the tents, creating a new world every weekend, I felt that I'd finally joined the circus. What I learned was that circuses are hard work, but still carry magic.

The beginning of this piece was the assembled image of the woman muse. In the beginning, she had the face of my mother, which I copied onto white cotton and glued over the face of the old ceramic doll form. I know that much of my creativity comes from early writing sessions with my mother. The creativity, which she chose not to pursue, was handed on to me, and I wished to honor her. While I was working on this piece, however, Frida kept creeping in and trying to take over. I glued her face over that of my mother, then peeled it off, then glued on another and peeled it off. In the end, I covered all the layers with a mask, but later chose to raise the mask that now resides perched atop her head. What we do to expand the themes and techniques and legends of those who come before us, needs to rise above imitation. What we can bring that is both authentic and new is the constant task



of the artist.

Judy's *retablos*, jewelry, and found art (items washed up at the beach, collected, and lovingly transformed) will be on display throughout the month of March at the Gallery of Jesús López Vega in Ajijic.

I encourage you to attend the opening aptly titled: *The Poet's Eye, The Artist's Tongue* on Saturday, March 26 from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Mixed-media *retablos*, jewelry and floor and wall sculptures by Judy Dykstra-Brown, and paintings and etchings by Jesús López Vega will be featured.

The gallery is located at # 1 Rio Zula on the corner of Ocampo (the same street as Casa Linda Restaurant.) At the *careterra*, Rio Zula is named Rio Bravo and changes its name at Ocampo. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 and Saturday and Sunday by appointment. (Call 33 11 03 83 80). Books written by both artists will also be available. This is your opportunity to see stories told by two gifted local artists and writers, old friends showing their work together for the first time.

Jesús López Vega, born in Ajijic, was inspired at an early age to paint and draw and credits his participation in the art program begun by Neill James with helping him become the professional artist he is today. He gives back to this community by teaching today's aspiring artists at the LCS Children's Art Program. He and Javier Zaragoza coordinated and painted the mural depicting its history in the back garden of the Lake Chapala Society.



# El ojo del poeta, la lengua del artista

## Por Harriet Hart

Judy Dykstra Brown se mudó a la Ribera de Chapala en 2001 desde California, una decisión que la obligó a vender todas las herramientas de su oficio artístico, sopletes, prensas y otros utensilios que necesitaba para hacer joyas y arte en papel. Judy necesitaba encontrar una nueva forma de arte, además de la poesía y la escritura que ya hacía, una manera de contar historias utilizando objetos en lugar de palabras.

El destino le sonrió. La amiga de Judy, Linda Hannah, que tiene un bed and breakfast en Oaxaca, necesitaba unas vacaciones. ¿Podría Judy cuidar el lugar durante un mes? Ella y Linda se habían conocido en ferias de artesanía en California, y ambas eran coleccionistas. Cuando Judy llegó al B&B de Linda, descubrió un baúl de juguetes repleto de “cosas”, y se inspiró para empezar a hacer retablos o cajas de recuerdos.

La palabra “retablo” viene del latín “retable”, y se refiere a una estructura que forma la parte trasera y el estante de un altar, o un marco que encierra paneles pintados. En México, estas cajas de metal o madera contienen tradicionalmente imágenes de santos o de la sagrada familia. Judy amplió el concepto para incluir a familiares, amigos y figuras famosas de la historia del arte, así como a personajes de la historia, la vida cotidiana y la mitología mexicanas.

Cada retablo cuenta una historia. Encontrar los objetos para colocarlos en su interior es la mitad de la diversión. Judy recorre tiendas de antigüedades, bazares, mercadillos, para comprar pequeños objetos, siempre a la búsqueda de cosas que le hablen: figuritas, muñecas, milagros, trozos de tela, postales, objetos que tengan un significado simbólico.

“Cada retablo es único y cada objeto está ahí por un motivo”, dice Judy. “Aunque cada pieza cuenta una historia particular, prefiero que los espectadores miren de cerca y traten de desarrollar sus propias historias. Los nombres proporcionan pistas. A menudo incluyo espejos que animan a los espectadores a ver sus propios reflejos en la caja, para introducirse ellos mismos en la historia.”

“Un retablo suele surgir a partir de un cuadro, una foto o quizás un muñeco”, explica Judy. Cada uno tiene un tema. Para Holanda, que se convertirá en un homenaje a sus abuelos, Judy ha reunido dijes de madera de zapatos, la tapa de una caja de bombones, un pequeño barco de vela, todo ello destinado a la caja. “A veces hago retablos para amigos o familiares que han fallecido, a veces para los que aún viven”.

Judy está encantada de explicar determinados retablos. Las Musas del Circo es un ejemplo:

“¿Alguna vez tuve la fantasía de escaparme para unirme al circo? La tuve. Los circos ambulantes de los pueblos pequeños de mi juventud americana de los años 50 siguen existiendo en México, así que quizás al huir a México, me he acercado de nuevo a esa infancia.

Durante trece años, viajé por los Estados Unidos haciendo espectáculos de arte y artesanía. Montando y desmontando las carpas, creando un nuevo mundo cada fin de semana, sentí que por fin me había unido al circo. Lo que aprendí fue que los circos son un trabajo duro, pero siguen teniendo magia.

El comienzo de esta pieza fue la imagen ensamblada de la mujer musa. Al principio, tenía la cara de mi madre, que copié en algodón blanco y pegué sobre la cara de la antigua muñeca de cerámica. Sé que gran parte de mi creatividad proviene de las primeras sesiones de escritura con mi madre. La creatividad, que ella decidió no perseguir, me fue transmitida, y quise honrarla. Sin embargo, mientras trabajaba en esta obra, Frida se colaba e intentaba tomar el control. Pegué su cara sobre la de mi madre, luego la despegué, luego pegué otra y la despegué. Al final, cubrí todas las capas con una máscara, pero más tarde opté por levantar la máscara que ahora reside sobre su cabeza. Lo que hacemos para ampliar los temas, las técnicas y las leyendas de los que nos preceden debe ir más allá de la imitación. Lo que podemos aportar que sea a la vez auténtico y nuevo es la tarea constante del artista.

Los retablos, la joyería y el arte encontrado de Judy (objetos arrastrados a la playa, recogidos y transformados con cariño) estarán expuestos durante todo el mes de marzo en la Galería de Jesús López Vega en Ajijic.

Les animo a que asistan a la inauguración, acertadamente titulada: El ojo del poeta, la lengua del artista, el sábado 26 de marzo desde las 15:00 hasta las 19:00. Se exhibirán retablos de técnica mixta, joyas y esculturas de suelo y pared de Judy Dykstra-Brown, y pinturas y grabados de Jesús López Vega.

La galería se encuentra en el número 1 de Río Zula, en la esquina de Ocampo (la misma calle del restaurante Casa Linda). En la carretera, Río Zula se llama Río Bravo y cambia de nombre en Ocampo. La galería está abierta de lunes a viernes, de 10 a 5, y los sábados y domingos con cita previa. (Llamar al 33 11 03 83 80). También estarán disponibles libros escritos por ambos artistas. Esta es su oportunidad de ver las historias contadas por dos talentosos artistas y escritores locales, viejos amigos que muestran su trabajo juntos por primera vez.

Jesús López Vega, nacido en Ajijic, desde muy temprana edad tuvo la inspiración para pintar y dibujar, atribuye a su participación en el programa de arte iniciado por Neill James el haberse convertido en el artista profesional que es hoy. Él retribuye a esta comunidad enseñando a los aspirantes a artistas de hoy en día en el Programa de Arte Infantil de LCS. Él y Javier Zaragoza coordinaron y pintaron el mural que representa su historia en el jardín trasero de Lake Chapala Society.





# OPEN CIRCLE: A Place for the Curious

By Diana Hunt

Open Circle has been around for 27 years. First organized as New Dimensions in 1995, people met in the founders' home on Sunday mornings to discuss spirituality and various aspects of Buddhism, Sufism and Christianity. In 2001, the name was changed to Open Circle. Shortly thereafter, two of the members approached LCS to see if the patio area could be rented for meetings. Ever since, the weekly Sunday morning meetings have been held on the patio and lately on the grassy area next to the Gazebo.

The current Open Circle format involves co-moderators: Kat Miller, who has been moderating for many years, and Phil Rylett, who used to fill in when Kat was not available. Each brings their own strength to the task. Kat is more spiritual while Phil is pragmatic. Their different approaches play well together. There is an obvious friendly affection between them.

"It's no coincidence that it started on a Sunday morning," explains Phil. "It is really a fellowship. It is a way to get together. The first organizers didn't belong to a church or a particular religion. We want to take advantage of that idea of fellowship."

In 2015, the then-coordinators, David Bryen and Margaret Van Every, wanted to broaden the scope of Open Circle. They established an advisory board which asked for input from their audience. The result was expanding the programs to include art, music, science, psychology, health, Mexican history and more. The size of the audiences increased over the years. Coffee, sandwiches and snacks were served. (Remember those nice touches?) Then came the biggest change of all - pandemic lockdown. In March of 2019 everything closed.

Phil describes the feeling of loss. "I originally attended the Open Circle meetings because my friends were there. We had breakfast together, it was a great meeting place. That social aspect was hit hard by Covid."

Kat agrees. "Being part of community and being engaged

in ideas is so important no matter your age, so not being able to socialize during Covid was a loss. But you see with the folks who are coming back now how happy they are to be together, even at a distance."

During the Covid lull, the decision of the advisory board was to find a new organization to continue Open Circle when programs could resume. Steve Balfour, then Executive Director, and former President, Carole Wolff, were invited to meet with members of the advisory board and wholeheartedly agreed that LCS would take Open Circle under its wing. In January 2021 Open Circle programs resumed.

Current LCS president Steve Balfour told me: "We want to keep what was sacred about Open Circle. That means keeping the same presenters who make it all happen. Open Circle gives something of value to the community. Shutting things down was difficult. People are coming back because this is what they want."

To find out what people did want, a survey was conducted. When it came to the question of keeping The Centering Moment — a two to three minute meditation led by several people from the community who take turns -- people either loved it or hated it.

"It was about 50/50, there was no one in the middle," Phil laughs. "Ultimately, we decided to keep it because it was an Open Circle tradition."

Kat chimes in: "Part of what I would like to keep is the community involvement. But now everything is down to the moderator, including taking the questions. If we can open it up again, that would be wonderful. But if things stay like it is, well, that is wonderful too!

"When you are curious, you are going to come and learn about different things," Kat continues. "I really love the diversity. This is the legacy that Open Circle has, and that is why we have the disclaimer."

"Of course," Phil adds, "We love all the presentations. "The disclaimer only says we might not agree with them. Everyone is advised to listen at his or her own risk."

There are no specific plans on how Open Circle will evolve once some stability is re-established in regards to Covid , but there are ideas floating around for the future.

"We've talked a lot about having breakfast here by reservation," Steve says, "in or around the gazebo. We would also like to open up the programs to more people by having large screens on the side with the Spanish translation of the presentations. That way the local Mexicans could come. But the technology is not there yet. We also want to improve the quality of the video."

Kat agrees. "These programs are of value to everybody."

"In the future," Phil concludes, "I would love to return to more involvement with the audience. And better jokes," he jokes.

It takes an LCS team to put Open Circle together. This team includes, Diana Ayala, Development Director and in charge of sending the info for the upcoming presentations, Salomón Castellanos and Fernanda López, both Mexican Students from the Tech school, doing their internship and helping with the sound system and video.

**\* WANTED \***

**Call for Submissions and Volunteers**

Since January 2019, LCS has published a magazine titled *Conexiones*, to reflect the ongoing positive cultural exchange between the foreign and Mexican communities living at lakeside and to highlight the contributions and efforts of the Lake Chapala Society to the quality of life of our residents.

*Conexiones* showcases the writing, artwork and photography of the talented and creative people in our community. We publish feature articles, short fiction, poetry and personal essays and strive for the highest literary standards. Our aim is to be informative and pertinent.

If you are interested in helping LCS publish this quality magazine, let Managing Editor Rachel McMillen know by contacting [editor@lakechapasociety.com](mailto:editor@lakechapasociety.com).



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