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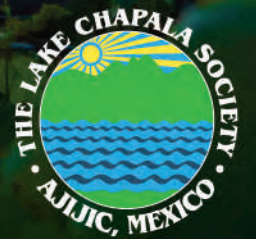
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Mission & Vision

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

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

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

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

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

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Translations/Traducciones: Diana Ayala

Proof-reader/Revisión final: Thomas Gay

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

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

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

Conecciones Advertising Prices Precios de los Anuncios 2023

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All prices include IVA. All ads must be submitted by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the next month’s magazine. Send to ventas@lakechapalasociety.com.

Todos los precios incluyen IVA. Todos los anuncios deben ser enviados antes del día 10 del mes para su inclusión en la revista del mes siguiente. Enviar a ventas@lakechapalasociety.com

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President's Message

We are officially into our busy season and it is so exciting to see the grounds of the Lake Chapala Society filled with activity. Few people realize that we offer over 100 activities, classes, events and programs at LCS. We worked hard during the previous months getting ready for this "busy" season. If you have not been to LCS in a while, come take another look. We would love to see you again. Our welcoming docents will greet you at the front gate and ALL are welcome - members and nonmembers alike to spend time in our lush gardens.

March is coming fast and that is the month for our Annual General Meeting. This year this event will be held on March 14 at 10:00 AM. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us. The AGM has always been open to members and to vote at the AGM you must be a member. However, for this year we are adding in a new element, we will have a guest seating section that will be open to past members and any guests who would like to learn more about all the things we have going on at LCS. We will also offer the AGM online through Zoom as we have for the past 3 years.

At last year's AGM, I challenged the Board of Directors, Staff, Lead Volunteers and all supporters to focus on 5 key top priorities.

- Customer Service
- Upgrade Technology - Point of Sale, Website & Computer systems
- Community Collaborations
- Community Visibility
- Taking Care of What We Have

We know that we still have a ways to go with these priorities and they will continue to be our priorities for 2023. At this year's AGM we look forward to sharing with you what progress is being made and what you will see as we travel through this year. Some of the steps include:

- Creating an ongoing committee of the board that is focused on Customer Service. They have created a training program that will start soon for our volunteers.

- There is progress also with our IT area, that will soon be rolled out. We are still looking for a Bilingual IT Manager with experience in cloud based programs. We are also looking for a Bilingual webmaster.

- There has been a lot of activity in the area of Community Collaborations and we will be sharing some great efforts on this front at the AGM. A major part of this is our Mexican Advisory Council.

- Community Visibility still needs more help. We want to develop a team of volunteers to help with community outreach. We do have a newly re-established Fund Advancement Committee that is also focusing on this area.

- We have shifted Board discussions from building new buildings to Taking Care of What We Have. A survey was recently sent out to over 8,000 constituents. The results and analysis from this survey will be presented

at the AGM. The Campus Committee is also aggressively working on buildings, infrastructure and landscaping assessments that will also be presented. We have also addressed some of the biggest liability issues on campus. The Neill James Plaza has been completely redone and is worth a trip to the campus. At a recent Open Circle, someone suggested we add in a Bike Rack and we have moved forward with that. Some of the pathways have been touched up after some damage, probably a result of the September earthquake.

There is also a long list of maintenance projects in the works. Unfortunately the campus has suffered from many years of deferred maintenance. In order to Take Care of What We Have, we need additional funding to keep the progress going. Consider starting the year off with a donation to The Lake Chapala Society to keep the progress moving forward. Donations can be made in our office, through our website lakechapalasociety.com or by contacting our Executive Director Luis Pacheco or myself. We offer our deepest thanks to those who have recently stepped up with generous donations.

In order to move the needle on Customer Service, we are also looking for more volunteers who have a background in Customer Service. Customer Service is a skill and an art. If you have what it takes, our Customer Service Committee would love your support.

Very best wishes for an amazing 2023. Thank you for your tremendous support!

Steve Balfour
President
The Lake Chapala Society

Mensaje del Presidente

Estamos oficialmente en nuestra temporada alta y es tan emocionante ver los espacios de Lake Chapala Society llenos de actividad. Pocas personas se dan cuenta de que ofrecemos más de 100 actividades, clases, eventos y programas en LCS. Hemos trabajado duro durante los meses previos preparándonos para esta, que es la temporada “más ocupada”. Si no has visitado últimamente LCS, ven a echar un vistazo. Nos encantará verte de nuevo. Nuestros voluntarios te darán la cordial bienvenida en la puerta principal y TODOS son bienvenidos, tanto los socios como los no socios, a pasar un rato en nuestros exuberantes jardines.

Marzo se acerca rápidamente y es el mes de nuestra Asamblea General Anual (AGM). Este año se celebrará el 14 de marzo a las 10 de la mañana. Esperamos que marque su calendario y nos acompañe. La AGM siempre ha estado abierta a los miembros y para votar en la AGM hay que ser miembro activo. Sin embargo, este año vamos a añadir un nuevo elemento, tendremos una sección de asientos para invitados que estará abierta a los antiguos miembros y a cualquier invitado que quiera aprender más sobre todas las cosas que tenemos en marcha en LCS. También ofreceremos la AGM en línea a través de Zoom como lo hemos hecho en los últimos 3 años.

En la AGM del año pasado desafié a la Junta Directiva, al Personal, a los Voluntarios Líderes y a todos los simpatizantes a centrarse en 5 prioridades clave.

- Atención al cliente
- Actualizar la tecnología: punto de venta, sitio web y sistemas informáticos.
- Colaboración con la comunidad
- Visibilidad de la comunidad
- Cuidar lo que tenemos

Sabemos que aún nos queda mucho camino por recorrer en este sentido, que serán nuestras prioridades para 2023. En la AGM de este año esperamos poder compartir con ustedes los progresos que se están realizando y lo que verán a medida que avancemos en el año. Algunos de los pasos incluyen:

- Creación de un comité permanente de la mesa directiva centrado en el servicio al cliente. Se ha creado un manual y capacitación que empezará pronto para nuestros voluntarios.

- Hay progreso también con nuestra área de IT, que pronto se pondrá en marcha. Todavía estamos buscando un Gerente de IT Bilingüe con experiencia en programas basados en la nube. También estamos buscando un webmaster bilingüe.

- Ha habido mucha actividad en el área de Colaboraciones Comunitarias y estaremos compartiendo algunos grandes esfuerzos en este frente en la AGM. Una parte importante de esto es nuestro Consejo Asesor Mexicano.

- La visibilidad comunitaria sigue necesitando más ayuda. Queremos crear un equipo de voluntarios que nos ayuden a llegar a la comunidad. Contamos con un Comité de Procuración de Fondos reestablecido recientemente que también se está centrando en esta área.

- Hemos migrado las discusiones sobre la construcción de nuevos edificios, enfocándonos ahora a cuidar lo que tenemos. Recientemente se envió una encuesta a más de 8,000 contactos. Los resultados y el análisis de esta encuesta se presentarán en la AGM. El Comité del Campus también está trabajando intensamente en evaluaciones de edificios, infraestructuras y paisajismo que también se presentarán. Hemos abordado algunos de

los mayores problemas de responsabilidad del campus. La plaza Neill James se ha remodelado por completo y merece la pena visitarla. En un reciente Open Circle, alguien sugirió que añadiéramos un espacio para bicicletas y hemos puesto uno. Algunos de los caminos han sido retocados, después de algunos daños, probablemente resultado del temblor de septiembre.

También hay una larga lista de proyectos de mantenimiento en marcha. Por desgracia, el campus ha sufrido muchos años de falta de mantenimiento. Para poder cuidar lo que tenemos, necesitamos financiación adicional para mantener el progreso. Considere la posibilidad de comenzar el año con una donación Lake Chapala Society para mantener el progreso hacia adelante. Las donaciones se pueden hacer en nuestra oficina, a través de nuestra página web lakechapalasociety.com o poniéndose en contacto con nuestro Director Ejecutivo Luis Pacheco o conmigo. Expresamos nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a quienes recientemente han dado un paso al frente con generosas donaciones.

Con el fin de mover la aguja en el Servicio al Cliente, también estamos buscando más voluntarios que tengan experiencia en Servicio al Cliente. La atención al cliente es una habilidad y un arte. Si usted tiene lo que se necesita, nuestro Comité de Servicio al Cliente le encantaría contar con su apoyo.

Nuestros mejores deseos para un increíble 2023. Gracias por su enorme apoyo.

Steve Balfour
Presidente
Lake Chapala Society

Celebrate Love Around the World

By Marianne Molinari

Valentine's Day has become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of love in 28 countries around the world.

In Mexico, Valentine's Day (el día del Amor y la Amistad) is an annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship and admiration, similar to countries such as the United States, the UK, Australia, Italy, Canada and Brazil. People express their affection to others with greeting cards, gifts, candy (usually chocolate) and flowers (often red roses).

Some countries, however, celebrate St. Valentine's Day in different and unique ways.

The Philippines make Valentine's Day a special day mostly for young people. Couples marry in a gala event sponsored by the government.

France observes "la Saint-Valentin" on the 14th of February. Like the rest of the world, it is all about love. However, it is reserved for adults and is not celebrated by children. A village named Saint Valentin is dedicated to love and has a "jardin des amoureux" (lover's garden) with a willow tree of hearts, a tree of vows and an eternal heart tree.

South Korea observes aspects of Valentine's Day on the 14th of each month. "Day of Roses" celebrated in May, "Day of Kisses" in June, "Day of Hugs" in December. April 14th, called "Black Day" is dedicated

to those who did not receive any gift or affection during the previous two months. Single people celebrate by eating noodles with a black sauce. Groups and/or singles take part in black noodle eating contests.

Bulgaria practices the well-known celebrations of St. Valentine's Day. Nevertheless, not everyone accepts the commercial atmosphere, especially if there is no one to share it with. Many people prefer to celebrate the Day of St. Trifon Zarezan, the patron of grape growing and wine producing with a feast celebrated by vine-growers, producers, tavern-keepers and all wine lovers. On this day "the king of the vines" is chosen, a great honor.

Spain also follows the customs of most countries. Some regions, however, have their own versions of the festivities. For example, Valencians believe that the most romantic day of the year is October 9th, when they celebrate both St. Valentine's Day as well as the Day of Saint Dionysius known locally as the patron saint of lovers. One distinctive tradition is the custom to offer ladies a gift of marzipan figurines, handmade and wrapped in an elegant piece of silk.

Romania is still quite attached to its old traditions. Some celebrate only Valentine's

Day, others only Dragobete and others a mix of both. Dragobete is believed to be the patron saint of birds, love and cheerfulness. The holiday being linked to fertility and the rebirth of nature. But unlike Valentine's Day, Dragobete is not about material objects, but showing tenderness, appreciation and love through one's attention and presence.

Japan traditionally practices Valentine's Day by encouraging young girls to give chocolates to the person that they love and appreciate. But men do not return gifts until March 14th which is called "White Day". On this day men give gifts back to women in appreciation of what they received on Valentine's Day.

Czech Republic sees St. Valentine's Day quite differently. On May 1st, young couples travel on a pilgrimage to honor the statue of the romantic poet Karol Hynek Macha by leaving flowers. Legend says kissing under a cherry or birch tree is for good luck and love.

Slovenia considers St. Valentine to be a patron saint of spring. People believe that on February 14th, plants start to regenerate. One popular belief is that birds propose to each other. To observe this event, a person must walk barefoot through fields that are sometimes still frozen.

No matter how you celebrate Valentine's Day, one thing is for sure: This is one totally aww-some holiday.

Celebrar el amor en todo el mundo

By Marianne Molinari

El Día de San Valentín se ha convertido en una importante celebración cultural, religiosa y comercial del amor en 28 países de todo el mundo.

En México, San Valentín (el día del Amor y la Amistad) es una fiesta anual para celebrar el amor romántico, la amistad y la admiración, similar a la de países como Estados Unidos, Reino Unido, Australia, Italia, Canadá y Brasil. La gente expresa su afecto a los demás con tarjetas de felicitación, regalos, dulces (normalmente chocolate) y flores (a menudo rosas rojas).

Algunos países, sin embargo, celebran San Valentín de formas diferentes y únicas.

En Filipinas, San Valentín es un día especial sobre todo para los jóvenes. Las parejas se casan en una gala patrocinada por el gobierno.

Francia celebra "la Saint-Valentin" el 14 de febrero. Como en el resto del mundo, gira en torno al amor. Sin embargo, está reservada a los adultos y no la celebran los niños. Un pueblo llamado Saint Valentin está dedicado al amor y tiene un "jardin des amoureux" (jardín de los enamorados) con un sauce de corazones, un árbol de votos y un árbol de corazones eternos.

Corea del Sur celebra aspectos del Día de San Valentín el 14 de cada mes. El "Día de las Rosas" se celebra en mayo, el "Día de los Besos" en junio y el "Día de los Abrazos" en diciembre. El 14 de abril, llamado "Día

Negro", se dedica a quienes no han recibido ningún regalo o afecto durante los dos meses anteriores. Los solteros lo celebran comiendo fideos con salsa negra. Grupos y/o solteros participan en concursos de comer fideos negros.

Bulgaria practica las conocidas celebraciones de San Valentín. Sin embargo, no todo el mundo acepta el ambiente comercial, sobre todo si no hay nadie con quien compartirlo. Mucha gente prefiere celebrar el Día de San Trifón Zarezan, patrón de la viticultura y la producción de vino. Esta fiesta la celebran viticultores, productores, taberneros y todos los amantes del vino. En este día se elige al "rey de las viñas", un gran honor.

España también sigue las costumbres de la mayoría de los países. Sin embargo, algunas regiones tienen sus propias versiones de las fiestas. Por ejemplo, los valencianos creen que el día más romántico del año es el 9 de octubre, cuando celebran tanto San Valentín como el día de San Dionisio, conocido localmente como el patrón de los enamorados. Una tradición distintiva es la costumbre de obsequiar a las damas con figuritas de mazapán, hechas a mano y envueltas en una elegante pieza de seda.

Rumanía sigue muy apegada a sus antiguas tradiciones. Algunos celebran sólo San Valentín, otros sólo Dragobete y otros una mezcla de ambos. Se cree que Dragobete es

el patrón de los pájaros, el amor y la alegría. La fiesta está relacionada con la fertilidad y el renacimiento de la naturaleza. Pero a diferencia del Día de San Valentín, Dragobete no trata de objetos materiales, sino de mostrar ternura, aprecio y amor a través de la atención y la presencia.

Japón practica tradicionalmente San Valentín animando a las jóvenes a regalar bombones a la persona que quieren y aprecian. Pero los hombres no devuelven los regalos hasta el 14 de marzo, que se llama el "Día Blanco". Este día los hombres devuelven los regalos a las mujeres en agradecimiento por lo que recibieron en San Valentín.

En la República Checa, San Valentín se celebra de forma muy diferente. El 1 de mayo, las parejas jóvenes peregrinan para honrar la estatua del poeta romántico Karol Hynek Macha dejando flores. La leyenda dice que besarse bajo un cerezo o un abedul trae buena suerte y amor.

Eslovenia considera a San Valentín patrón de la primavera. La gente cree que el 14 de febrero las plantas empiezan a regenerarse. Una creencia popular es que los pájaros se declaran. Para observar este acontecimiento, hay que caminar descalzo por campos que a veces aún están helados.

No importa cómo se celebre el Día de San Valentín, una cosa es segura: se trata de una fiesta muy especial.

History of Enchiladas

By Max Domínguez

Enchiladas are a traditional dish in Mexico and they have evolved to such a degree that many restaurants, chefs and experts in the culinary arts have developed their own recipes.

Their origin dates back to the Mayans. Corn was a staple crop at that time and corn tortillas were common. They were originally called tlaxcalli. The Spanish conquistadors changed the name from tlaxcalli to tortilla upon their arrival in the Aztec empire. The conquistadors documented a feast in which they were served a kind of enchilada. Later, the first Mexican cookbook, *El Cocinero Mexicano*, recorded accounts of this dish.

In the beginning, the dish was an unfilled corn tortilla dipped in hot sauce. Over time, people filled the tortillas with various meats and cheeses and the enchilada became what we know and love today.



Historia de las enchiladas

Max Domínguez

Las enchiladas es un platillo muy tradicional en México, el cual ha revolucionado mucho a tal grado que muchos restaurantes, chefs y expertos en el arte culinario han llevado a cabo sus propias recetas.

Su origen se remonta a los mayas. El maíz era un cultivo básico en ese momento y las tortillas de maíz eran comunes. Originalmente fueron llamados tlaxcalli. Los conquistadores españoles cambiaron el nombre de tlaxcalli a tortilla a su llegada al imperio azteca. Los conquistadores documentaron una fiesta en la que sirvieron una especie de enchilada. Luego, el primer libro de cocina mexicano, *El Cocinero Mexicano*, registró relatos de este platillo.

Al inicio, el plato era una tortilla de maíz sin relleno, bañada en salsa picante. Con el tiempo, la gente relleno las tortillas con diversas carnes y quesos y la enchilada hasta convertirse en lo que conocemos y amamos hoy.



ASA 1st Annual

20x20 Exhibition

"forever. love."

Opening Reception
Tuesday, February 14th
4pm - 6pm at La Galeria MC
San Antonio Plaza

All works created by our member artists will measure 20cm x 20cm and represent love in some way. All mediums. Lots of love.



ASA Art Market

Saturday, February 18th
10am - 4pm

Local Artists
Live Music
Food & Drinks
Garden Setting

Garden of Dreams
Boutique Hotel
Calle Constitución #105
in Ajijic



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Chocolac Axixic

By Harriet Hart

Cacao was first discovered in South America and then cultivated in ancient Mesoamerica, present day Mexico. Early civilizations consumed chocolate during rituals, as medicine, as an aphrodisiac and to prepare for war. Spanish conquerors returning home were responsible for bringing chocolate to Europe.

According to the National Association of Chocolate Manufacturers, chocolate is an essential product in Mexico on holidays such as Christmas and Valentine's Day. The market for Mexican chocolate is valued at \$26 billion pesos, and Mexico shipped 146,222 tons of it abroad in 2019. Closer to home, residents of Lakeside can proudly boast about a local company, Chocolac Axixic, where top quality chocolates are produced and sold.

The inspiration for Chocolac was born from a desire to share something that came from the heart. Through this search, founder Matthias Müller learned the art of handcrafting premium chocolate in his native country, Switzerland. He came to Mexico with a vision to creatively combine Swiss and Mexican traditions, making this company part of the extraordinary cross-cultural history of chocolate. Beginning with homemade chocolate productions shared with friends, and always using the best ingredients, Chocolac opened its doors in 2016 in Ajijic, Jalisco. Their intention is to provide unique flavors with a compelling design, while maintaining handmade quality.

The company is made up of a talented team of chocolatiers who lovingly craft the products and bring them to market one batch at a time. School friends Luis Ángel Ortega García and Israel Negrete are the two Chapala men who make those divine chocolates sold in stores like the Scandanavian Bakery, Super La Huerta, Superlake and El Torito and in high end hotels in nearby Guadalajara (like Hotel Riu and the Westin). "Matthias trained me," Luis says. The two men told me that these were their dream jobs and expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to learn chocolate making.

I asked Luis and Israel to show me what they do. Boxes of chocolate pellets that arrived from Monterrey were stacked in the corner. The two men melt these pellets in a microwave – very carefully – and then place the melted chocolate in a "temperadora," a warming pan where it must be stirred and heated until just right. "You need to be careful." Once the goop is perfect, they pour it into molds, shake these gently to remove any air bubbles, sprinkle them with sea salt (if that's the kind of chocolates they're currently making) and put them in the refrigerator to chill.

Chocolac makes four types of chocolate bars: milk, dark, extra dark and sugar free.

The bars are wrapped by two young women, first in foil and then in a special cardboard cover designed and printed here. The resulting boxes and bars are works of art.

Regarding the design, store manager Misty Yoakum told me: "Tanya Vargas is our designer and friend. She has done the boxes and wraps for the chocolate bars with input from my mother, Coral de Alba, who supervises color selection, combinations and designs. I'm Matthias's stepdaughter, and was mostly involved in helping him with sales and marketing ideas."

Misty continued, "After Matthias became sick, I took over management of production, sales and purchases. I thought my involvement was going to be brief, but when the prognosis was unfavorable, Matthias told me he wanted me to continue with his dream. He was very specific about not doing anything that did not produce great chocolate."

"Please do not do anything that is not special, delicious and of the best quality," he said.

Matthias Müller passed away in October 2022. "We are all deeply saddened by his passing" but as store manager Misty Yoakum promises: "We will keep Matthias's dream alive."

I for one plan on helping Misty keep her promise by buying a special box of Chocolac this February and presenting it to my visiting friends – a gift made in love and given with love.



Chocolac Axixic

Por Harriet Hart

El cacao se descubrió por primera vez en Sudamérica y luego se cultivó en la antigua Mesoamérica, actual México. Las primeras civilizaciones consumían chocolate durante los rituales, como medicina, afrodisíaco y para prepararse para la guerra. Los conquistadores españoles que volvían a casa fueron los responsables de traer el chocolate a Europa.

Según la Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Chocolate, el chocolate es un producto esencial en México en fiestas como Navidad y San Valentín. El mercado del chocolate mexicano está valuado en 26 mil millones de pesos, y México envió 146 mil 222 toneladas al extranjero en 2019. Más cerca de casa, los residentes de Lakeside pueden presumir con orgullo de una empresa local, Chocolac Axixic, donde se producen y venden chocolates de primera calidad.

La inspiración para Chocolac nació del deseo de compartir algo que saliera del corazón. A través de esta búsqueda, el fundador Matthias Müller aprendió el arte de la elaboración artesanal de chocolate de primera calidad en su país natal, Suiza. Llegó a México con la visión de combinar creativamente las tradiciones suizas y mexicanas, haciendo de esta empresa parte de la extraordinaria historia transcultural del chocolate. Comenzando con producciones caseras de chocolate compartidas con amigos, y siempre utilizando los mejores ingredientes, Chocolac abrió sus puertas en 2016 en Ajijic, Jalisco. Su intención es ofrecer sabores únicos con un diseño irresistible, manteniendo la calidad artesanal.

La empresa está conformada por un talentoso equipo de chocolateros que elaboran con amor los productos y los sacan al mercado lote por lote. Luis Ángel Ortega García e Israel Negrete, amigos de la escuela, son los dos hombres de Chapala que elaboran esos chocolates divinos que se venden en tiendas como Scandanavian Bakery, Super La Huerta, Superlake y El Torito y en hoteles de alta gama de la cercana Guadalajara (como el Hotel Riu y el Westin). “Me formó Matías”, dice Luis. Los dos hombres me dijeron que esos eran los trabajos de sus sueños y expresaron su gratitud por tener la oportunidad de aprender a hacer chocolate.

Les pedí a Luis e Israel que me enseñaran lo que hacían. En un rincón hay apiladas cajas de bolitas de chocolate llegadas de Monterrey. Los dos hombres funden estas bolitas en un microondas -con mucho cuidado- y luego colocan el chocolate fundido en una “temperadora”, una cacerola calentadora donde hay que removerlo y calentarlo hasta que esté en su punto. “Hay que tener cuidado”. Una vez que está perfecto, lo vierten en moldes, los agitan suavemente para eliminar las burbujas de aire, los espolvorean con sal marina (si es el tipo de bombones que están haciendo en ese momento) y los meten en la nevera para que se enfríen.

Chocolac fabrica cuatro tipos de tabletas de chocolate: con leche, negro, extra negro y sin azúcar. Las barras las



envuelven dos mujeres jóvenes, primero en papel de aluminio y luego en una funda de cartón especial diseñada e impresa aquí. Las cajas y las tabletas resultantes son obras de arte.

Respecto al diseño, la gerente de la tienda, Misty Yoakum, me dijo:

“Tanya Vargas es nuestra diseñadora y amiga. Ella ha hecho las cajas y envoltorios de las tabletas de chocolate con la aportación de mi madre, Coral de Alba, que supervisa la selección de colores, combinaciones y diseños. Soy la hijastra de Mathias, y me he dedicado sobre todo a ayudarlo con las ideas de ventas y marketing”.

Misty prosigue: “Cuando Mathias enfermó, me hice cargo de la gestión de la producción, las ventas y las compras. Pensé que mi participación iba a ser breve, pero cuando el pronóstico fue desfavorable, Matthias me dijo que quería que siguiera con su sueño. Fue muy específico sobre no hacer nada que no produjera un gran chocolate”.

“Por favor, no hagas nada que no sea especial, delicioso y de la mejor calidad”, me dijo.

Matthias Müller falleció en octubre de 2022. “Todos estamos profundamente tristes por su fallecimiento”, pero como promete la gerente de la tienda, Misty Yoakum: “Mantendremos vivo el sueño de Matthias”.

Por mi parte, pienso ayudar a Misty a cumplir su promesa comprando una caja especial de Chocolac este mes de febrero y regalándosela a mis amigos visitantes: un regalo hecho con amor y entregado con amor.

Jesus Lopez Vega

Visionary Artist and Mentor for Young Artists

by Barbara Hildt

The January 2023 *Connecciones* features an account of Neill James Artistic Legacy by Jesus López Vega, one of the great living artists of Ajijic, Jalisco and Mexico. In it he tells about many of the artists who came out of the Children's Art Program. At the end of the article he mentions that he is one of the volunteers for the program. But he doesn't say why he is so committed to this program.

A large mural at the Lake Chapala Society depicts Neill James, Mildred Boyd, Javier Zaragoza, Angelita Aldana and Jesus López Vega teaching art to children. I wanted to know why the Children's Art Program is so important to him and how his life was influenced by Neil James. Here is what he told me:

In 1968, as a six year old, Jesus began attending the Children's Art Program that was started by Neill James in 1954. His grandmother had leased her house in Ajijic to James to create a library and art program for local children. Before the children were given materials to create art they were expected to do reading. Neill James taught them that becoming educated was very important for their future.

When Jesus was 14, his uncle persuaded him to come to live with his family in Los Angeles where he went to junior high school and took ESL, English as a Second Language. Soon the art teacher recognized Jesus as one of the most talented students. His self-esteem and self-confidence were greatly enhanced when he was asked to design the school year book and to paint the first mural in the school. "I was very successful in school. At my graduation, the principal named me to the honor roll and gave me certificates of merit in art," Jesus told me. He believes it was all because of the Children's Art Program in Ajijic.

Jesus did two years of high school in L.A. before he decided to return home to Ajijic to finish his secondary education at the preparatorio in Chapala where

he painted murals. He was 21 when he graduated in 1983. The next year he began volunteering at the Children's Art Program. He wanted to encourage the children and youth to be creative as he had been nurtured by the program.

The next few years were not easy for Jesus. He tried to stay focused on creating art, but, like many young men his age, he started drinking. Soon his addiction to alcohol pulled him down.

In 1991 his brother, Margarito, who was living in Oregon, convinced Jesus to come to Portland to get away from friends who were abusing drugs and alcohol. There Jesus got a job at a recycling center where he found discarded art supplies that he used to start painting again.

One day he spotted a notice in a newspaper inviting minority artists to submit sketches to the Metropolitan Art Commission. Jesus was inspired and his submission was chosen and commissioned. The painting he created was of "a man with five faces, each one focusing on a different culture," Jesus explained. This painting is still exhibited in Portland. He was also commissioned to do several murals in the city and sold many paintings to admirers of his creativity.



Unfortunately alcohol once again interfered with his creative life and Jesus realized he had to stop drinking. So he returned to Mexico where he spent the next year in AA overcoming his addiction to alcohol. Since then Jesus has lived a sober, meaningful life as an artist, teacher, husband and father.

"Creativity helps us to think in positive ways," Jesus says. "That is how the Ajijic Centro Cultural was created by a group of artists, not by the government." He is committed to nurturing creativity in children and youth and encourages them to be creative thinkers and problem solvers, as well as artists.

Jesus dreams of being able to do what Neill James did and send some of the advanced students to study art at an art school. Such a scholarship program would need the support of others who appreciate talented young creatives.

Jesus says there is a collection of hundreds of paintings by the former students of the Children's Art Program in storage at LCS. He and others believe this art should be brought out of the darkness to be exhibited and appreciated by the public. He hopes to inspire many people to support his vision of a Neill James Legacy art museum or gallery at LCS that would exhibit art by the students and the artists who participated in the Children's Art Program over the past 60 years.

With the support of LCS members and the community, he believes his dream will become a reality.

Jesús López Vega

Artista visionario y mentor de jóvenes artistas
por Barbara Hildt

La edición de enero de 2023 de Conexiones presenta un relato del Legado Artístico de Neill James por Jesús López Vega, uno de los grandes artistas vivos de Ajijic, Jalisco y México. En él habla de muchos de los artistas que salieron del Programa de Arte Infantil. Al final del artículo menciona que él es uno de los voluntarios del programa. Pero no dice por qué está tan comprometido con este programa.

Un gran mural en Lake Chapala Society muestra a Neill James, Mildred Boyd, Javier Zaragoza, Angelita Aldana y Jesús López Vega enseñando arte a los niños. Quería saber por qué el Programa de Arte Infantil es tan importante para él y cómo su vida fue influenciada por Neil James. Esto es lo que me contó.

En 1968, cuando tenía seis años, Jesús empezó a asistir al Programa de Arte Infantil iniciado por Neill James en 1954. Su abuela había alquilado su casa en Ajijic a James para crear una biblioteca y un programa de arte para los niños de la zona. Antes de darles materiales para crear arte, los niños debían leer. Neill James les enseñó que educarse era muy importante para su futuro.

Cuando Jesús tenía catorce años, su tío le convenció para que se fuera a vivir con su familia a Los Ángeles, donde estudió secundaria e inglés como segunda lengua. Pronto el profesor de arte reconoció a Jesús como uno de los alumnos con más talento. Su autoestima y confianza en sí mismo aumentaron considerablemente cuando le pidieron que diseñara el anuario escolar y pintara el primer mural de la escuela. "Tuve mucho éxito en la escuela. En mi graduación, el director me incluyó en el cuadro de honor y me dio certificados al mérito artístico", me dijo Jesús. Cree que todo se debió al Programa de Arte Infantil de Ajijic.

Jesús cursó dos años de bachillerato en Los Ángeles antes de decidir regresar a Ajijic para terminar su educación secundaria en la preparatoria de Chapala, donde pintó murales. Tenía 21 años cuando se graduó en 1983. Al año siguiente empezó a trabajar como voluntario en el Programa de Arte Infantil. Quería animar a los niños y jóvenes a ser creativos, como él se había nutrido del programa.

Los años siguientes no fueron fáciles para Jesús. Intentó concentrarse en crear arte, pero como muchos jóvenes de su edad, empezó a beber. Pronto su adicción al alcohol lo hundió. En 1991, su hermano Margarito, que vivía en Oregón, convenció a Jesús de que fuera a Portland para alejarse de sus amigos que abusaban de las drogas y el alcohol. Allí Jesús consiguió trabajo en un centro de reciclaje donde encontró material de arte desechado que utilizó para empezar a pintar de nuevo.

Un día vio un anuncio en un periódico en el que se invitaba a artistas de minorías a presentar bocetos a la Comisión Metropolitana de Arte. Jesús se sintió inspirado y su propuesta fue elegida y encargada. El cuadro que creó era el de "un hombre con cinco caras, cada una centrada en una cultura diferente", explica Jesús. Este cuadro sigue expuesto en Portland.

También le encargaron varios murales en la ciudad y vendió muchos cuadros a admiradores de su creatividad.

Por desgracia, el alcohol volvió a interferir en su vida creativa y Jesús se dio cuenta de que tenía que dejar de beber. Así que regresó a México, donde pasó el año siguiente en Alcohólicos Anónimos superando su adicción al alcohol. Desde entonces, Jesús ha vivido una vida sobria y llena de sentido como artista, profesor, marido y padre.

"La creatividad nos ayuda a pensar en positivo", dice Jesús. "Así es como el Centro Cultural de Ajijic fue creado por un grupo de artistas, no por el gobierno". Se ha comprometido a fomentar la creatividad en niños y jóvenes y les anima a ser pensadores creativos y a resolver problemas, además de artistas.

Jesús sueña con poder hacer lo que hizo Neill James y enviar a algunos de los alumnos aventajados a estudiar arte. Un programa de becas de este tipo necesitaría el apoyo de otras personas que aprecien a los jóvenes creativos con talento.

Jesús dice que hay una colección de cientos de pinturas de los antiguos alumnos del Programa de Arte Infantil almacenada en LCS. Él y otros creen que este arte debería salir de la oscuridad para ser expuesto y apreciado por el público. Espera inspirar a mucha gente para que apoye su visión de un museo o galería de arte Neill James Legacy en LCS que exponga arte de los alumnos y los artistas que salieron del Programa de Arte Infantil en los últimos 60 años.

Con el apoyo de los miembros de LCS y de la comunidad, cree que su sueño se hará realidad.

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COMALA, PUEBLO MAGICO

By Rachel McMillen

“I came to Comala because they told me that my father, Pedro Páramo, lived here.”

The opening sentence of Juan Rulfo’s novel, *Pedro Páramo*, has captured the imagination of millions of readers. It has made it one of the most widely read stories in Hispanic literature, and, later this month, LCS is going to be offering a three day tour to the Magic Town of Comala, just a short two-and-a-half hour drive from Lakeside. The tour will include visits to several nearby places of interest plus an introductory class on Creative Writing led by well-known author R.J. McMillen. So what, and where, is Comala?

Comala is a small town with a lot to offer visitors. It’s one of Mexico’s 132 Pueblos Mágicos and, like the rest, it was chosen for its important place in Mexican history and culture. Known as ‘The White Town’ since the residents responded to the town council’s request to paint their walls white in order to indicate their neutrality in Mexico’s Cristero Rebellion. Comala became known internationally in the late 1950’s when author Juan Rulfo published *Pedro Páramo*. A bronze statue of the writer sitting on a bench in the Jardín, reading a story to a child, is one of the most visited places in town and the ghost of his character is said to still haunt the cobblestone streets! You can sit on the bench beside him, look at the two volcanoes and drink a pomegranate and blackberry punch or a tejuino, a refreshing drink made from corn dough and sweetened with piloncillo.

Comala (its name means place of comales) has been occupied for at least 3,000 years and the Spanish conquistadors were met by Olmecs, Nahuatl, Toltecs, Chichimecs



and Tarascan inhabitants. Visitors today can tour two nearby archaeological sites, El Chanal and La Campana, which was the largest prehispanic population center in Western Mexico.

But that’s just a couple of the things this tiny town offers!

There is the Ex-Hacienda Nogueras, once a site of a sugar mill and now the home of the Museo Universitario Alejandro Rangel Hidalgo. Rangel was an artist, graphic designer and artisan known for his furniture designs and promotion of traditional crafts as well as for his series of Christmas cards produced for UNICEF in the 1960’s. The museum houses not only much of his work but also an exceptional collection of prehispanic pottery and figurines.

Then there’s the Juan Soriana Sculpture Garden, an amazing place where visitors can see a series of sculptures by important national and foreign artists.

Or perhaps a visit to nearby Suchitlán is more your style. There, among the coffee plantations and orchards, you will find a variety of artists making traditional baskets and magical wooden masks.

While there, you could walk along the Barranca de Suchitlan, a 4.5 kilometre ecotourism trail which begins next to the parish church. Lush trees, vast coffee plantations and wonderful vegetation will surround you while you listen to the birds singing and gaze at the Colima volcano.

La Nogalera, just past Suchitlan, is a Nahuatl indigenous community that owes its name to the existence of leafy walnut trees. It’s famous for having an Artisan Gastronomic ‘walk’ on the roadside, where on Saturdays and Sundays from very early in the morning the people of the community sell typical dishes prepared in open fires, ovens and comals. The community also has a Temazcal (steam bath).

If you decide to visit Laguna La María, one of several nearby lagoons, you can fish for bass, carp and tilapia, or you can hike through various trails leading deep into coffee plantations and into small tunnels in the hill. You could also rent a boat or go horseback riding. On the way you could stop at La Becerrera where you can see a house whose façade is built with hundreds of masks carved in volcanic stone.



Then there’s the Manantiales de Zacualpan, an ecotourism spa located on the slopes of Cerro Grande. Here you can swim in abundant clear water and enjoy a beautiful view with exuberant flora and fauna while you hear about the legend of Vicente ‘El Indio’ Alonso, said to have been a revolutionary bandit, a good thief, a sorcerer and a man who could not be hurt by bullets!

And if that isn’t enough, there’s the volcano itself with a protected area of over 22,000 hectares and the biosphere reserve of Manantlán, the most important natural protected area in the western part of the country due to its large size (139,000 hectares) and biodiversity.

I could go on and tell you about the Zona Mágica where things seem to roll uphill or the Laguna de Carrizalillo or El Remate or Hacienda San Antonio (one of the ten best hotels in the world) or the many great restaurants, or the many varieties of ponche . . . but I am running out of space. My recommendation would be to sign up for the tour and come see for yourself (and then make 2023 the year you finally write that memoir!)



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Finding the Perfect Pad

By Felipe González

I imagine, dear reader, that because you're reading this article, you're seriously thinking about relocating to our beloved Lakeside. One of the most important things to consider before you make the leap is about a place to live. My advice to you is simple - do your research. Look at the different types of accommodations out there. In this respect, that old saying "location, location, location" is a mantra worth bearing in mind. Do you want somewhere in the heart of town that's close to all the conveniences you might need (shops, medical centers, communal parks, etc.), or somewhere that's in a more rural, detached setting, away from the crowd - a place of pure tranquility? Perhaps somewhere with a lake view? Or maybe a house up on the hillside from which you can enjoy the spectacular local scenery? At the end of the day, however, it is vital that you choose a place that fits your needs the best. There is not a one size fits all solution. The opportunities are numerous, but in the final analysis it's important to know what you are looking for, what you need and, of course, how much you are prepared or able to spend renting or buying a place.

Of course, the best way to evaluate a place yourself is to get your boots on the ground and make an in-person visit. After all, this is almost certainly going to be a life-changing decision and you wouldn't want to make a mistake with your hard-earned money. If an in-person visit isn't a possibility, another good starting point for getting a feel of a place is to watch videos made by people who call that area their home (after all, a picture is worth a thousand words). One of the best platforms for doing this is YouTube (www.youtube.com). There are lots of different channels that cover life at Lakeside and the surrounding areas, some created by travel vloggers who look at Lakeside as a place to stay or visit during a vacation, some created by people who upped sticks and moved, and some by real estate companies promoting the properties they have for sale or rent (a useful source of information, and a way to get a clearer idea in your mind whether Lakeside is for you). Use keywords such as "living lake Chapala", "lake Chapala real estate", or "Ajijic Jalisco" and you'll turn up hours upon hours of video content for you to peruse.

If the written word is more to your taste, then the websites of local publications is the way to go, as well as blogs written by other expats living in the area (all English language, so no need to have an expert grasp of Spanish (yet!)). Examples of such site include the Guadalajara Reporter (theguadalajarareporter.net), Lakeside News (lakesidenewschapala.com), Ojo del Lago, which, despite the name, is an English language publication (ojo.chapala.com), and the Lake Chapala Society's own website (lakechapalasociety.com). Each one of these sites is packed full with up-to-date information that will really help you understand what life is like down by the Lake.

When you decide to take the leap, remember that the team at Felipe Gonzalez Attorney at Law is always available to provide any legal assistance you may need. With over 20 years' experience in the field of real estate law and property management, we are your one-stop shop to help you turn your Mexican dream into a reality and live your best life.

Wine in Mexico, Guanajuato

By Erika Díaz Mercado

Wine in Mexico has its origins in the conquest when Spanish navigators brought the first vines to the American continent. Mexico has the oldest winery in America: Vinícola San Lorenzo, today known as Casa Madero, however, per capita consumption in Mexico still is not high.



Wine is not considered a food and we still have only 37,314 hectares of planted surface which places us in 31st place worldwide, far from the top 10. However, in our country there are 220 wine producing companies, most of them concentrated in the Ensenada area of Baja Norte and its valleys. The other 13 wine producing regions are Baja California Sur, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Querétaro, Puebla, Jalisco, Durango, San Luis Potosí and Michoacán, and all of them together produce 4,000,000 cases of 12 bottles with a total of 36,000,000 liters per year.

There are still many areas of opportunity around Mexican wine. That is why Guanajuato, being a “Land of Wines,” launched the Wine Promotion Law in 2021, which aims to encourage, promote, disseminate and strengthen activities related to the wine, viticulture, viticulture and enotourism sector, encouraging the participation of both different levels of government and the private sector, and giving rise to more and more companies joining the production of wine in our country.

Guanajuato is currently ranked 4th wine production nationwide with a planted area of 450 hectares. It is also ranked 8th in industrial grape production at the national level with a production of more than 670,800 bottles per year with 138 labels of high quality wine.

The sandy-clay soils with good drainage and depth and the semi-warm and sub-humid climate of the area make Guanajuato an important reference for wine production in Mexico.

Wine tourism in Guanajuato is already one of the attractions that visitors choose to know and explore. There are currently 5 routes:

Route 1 León includes the following vineyards:

- Vinos Guanamá

- Octágono Winery
- Land of Light
- El Lobo Vineyards

Route 2 Guanajuato includes:

- Camino de Vinos

Route 3 Salvatierra includes:

- Dos Jacales Vineyards

Route 4 San Miguel de Allende - Dolores Hidalgo includes:

- Los Arcángeles
- Cuna de Tierra
- Vid Elena
- Santísima Trinidad
- Bernat
- Three Roots
- San Bernardino

Route 5 San Miguel de Allende – Querétaro includes:

- Josefa Bridge
- San Jose La Vista
- San Lucas
- Los Senderos
- Toyán
- Dos Búhos.
- San Miguel Vineyards
- Los Remedios

In order to promote these routes, the project “Viajes Di Vinos” was created by El Club de Vino (Wine Club) under the direction of Sommelier Erika Díaz Mercado in conjunction with the Secretary of Tourism of the state of Guanajuato. The project aims to offer visitors unique and inclusive Eno Gastronomic experiences around the world of wine.

With Viajes Di Vinos, you can go to the most romantic vineyards of Mexico in San Miguel de Allende and you will understand in a didactic and enjoyable way the “Terroir” of the state of Guanajuato. In addition, they have unique experiences such as:

- Learn how to make your own cheese board;
- Wine Pass (visit five vineyards in Guanajuato and discover them in one day);
- Visit a botanical garden and learn how wine is experienced in Guanajuato;
- Paint your glass with wine;
- Sensitive Tasting;
- Aroma Workshop;

All El Club del Vino experiences are accompanied by an expert Sommelier and Bilingual Wine Tourism Guide.



El Club del Vino can create a tour according to your needs, thanks to the connections and alliances they have.

At El Club del Vino, we care about you taking home a beautiful souvenir of our state, that is why the trip includes a Give-away (subject to availability, restrictions apply), such as an engraved wine glass or a cap, or a Wine lover t-shirt or an aroma kit of our wines.

In addition, you will have a membership when you book your trip with us. This membership gives you benefits such as free tastings, preferential prices on wines and no corkage fee for Guanajuato wine in restaurants affiliated to the Wine Club project.



We invite you to make Guanajuato wine an experience and get to know the surprises that Guanajuato has in terms of wine tourism.

Director of the Guanajuato Wine Club
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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Pull Out

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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)

Bordado Artístico (Spanish)	M+W+F 4-6
Children's Art - Open to all (Children 5 years & under must be accompanied by an adult)	Sat 10-12
Children's Chess Club	Sat 12-2
Exercise	M+W+F 9-9:50
Gentle Yoga & Body Awareness	W 10-10:50
Intermediate Hatha Yoga	T+TH 2-3:30
Introduction to Lakeside	10-1 Feb 13 campus, Feb 27 zoom
Introduction to Spanish	Th10-12, Feb 2,9,16
Line Dancing, gail@doughertynet.com	T + Th10-11:15
Move to the Beat	M 10-11
Scottish Country Dancing	T+Th11:15-12:45
Stretch & Balance	T+Th8:45-9:45
	<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
Tai Chi Chich	W+F 12-1
Tech Help via Email	<i>lcs.tech.training@gmail.com</i>
Write to a Prompt Writers' Group	Th10-12

LIBRARIES (M)

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (M)

American Mah Jongg	Th10-1
Bridge4Fun	T+Th1-4
Discussion Group	W 12-1:30
English/Spanish Conversation* (Open to public)	Sat 12-1:30*
Everyday Mindfulness	M 10:30-12
Game Group	Th1-4
HOT Science Zoom, hotsciencelcs@gmail.com	T1:45
Open Circle	S 10:30
Scrabble	F 11:30-1:30
Tournament Scrabble	T 12-1:50

HEALTH INSURANCE*

Hospital San Antonio	Th10-12
IMSS & Immigration Services	M+T 10-1 Call for Appointment 333-157-9472
Lakeside Insurance	T+Th11-2
Shiatsu Chair Massage	1st & 3rd Th10-12 By appointment only, call 331-604-0971

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

Becerra Immigration	Th10:30-12:30
Intercam Banking Services	M-F 10-1
Audiology- hearing care specialists (Consultation fee)	M+W+F 10-4 Call for appointment 332-945-3267
Optometrist Claravision	Th9-4; Call for appointment 331-411-1178
Skin Cancer Screening (S) (Consultation fee)	2+4 W 10-12; Call for appointment 333-408-0951
Solbes & Solbes	2nd Monday 10-12
SkyMed	1st F 10-12

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS *

AA Women's Meeting	T 4-5
Al-Anon (Spanish)	M 6-7:30, W 5:30-7:30
Caregivers of Spouses with Dementia (Support Group)	T 10:30-12:30
Diabetes Support Group	Zoom 1st F 1:00 contact welchk4diabetes@gmail.com
Information Desk	M-Sat 10-2
Lakeside AA	M+Th4-5
Needle Pushers	T 10-11:45
Toastmasters	M 7-9
Overeaters Anonymous	W 3-4



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Life

experiences

Mexican Manners

By Alfredo Pérez
Wednesday, February 1
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, March 1
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Regular price: \$650
LCS members: \$500

Introduction to Spanish

By Alfredo Pérez
Thursday, February 2, 9 & 16
10:00 - 12:00 pm

Tuesday, March 2, 9 & 16
10:00 - 12:00 pm

Regular price: \$560
LCS members: \$430

Advance Care Planning Workshop on Living Well and Dying Well in Lakeside

By Loretta S. Downs
Wednesday, February 15 & 22
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Regular price: \$650
LCS members: \$500

Wills and Testaments in Mexico

By Nieves and Diego Solbes
Friday, February 17 & 24
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Regular price: \$650
LCS members: \$500

The 2-session course is all about: Being prepared in the event of death is an important consideration, especially when living in a foreign country. If you are considering a will, this course will help you prepare one in time.

Aztec History and Culture up to the Invasion by Cortez

By Ted Rogers
Wednesday & Friday
Feb 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 & 28
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Regular price: \$1,200
Online LCS members: \$980

Getting your Jalisco driver's license without losing your mind

By Alfredo Pérez
Wednesday, February 8
9:30 am to 11:30 pm
Wednesday, February 15 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test).

Tuesday, March 8
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Wednesday, March 15 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test).
Regular price: \$780
LCS members: \$600

Introduction to Lakeside In Person

By Barbara Harkness
Monday, February 13
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, March 13
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Online Regular price: \$850
Online LCS members: \$660

Introduction to Lakeside Online

By Barbara Harkness
Monday, February 20
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, March 27
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Regular price: \$850
LCS members: \$660



Enchilada festival

By Hotsson Chef
Thursday, February 9
12:00 pm

Regular price: \$650
Online LCS members: \$500

The enchilada festival brings us a demonstration class on how to make authentic Mexican enchiladas. It will be a class on the history and preparation of 5 different enchilada recipes by executive chef Luis Morales at Hotsson Smart Chapala.

Car legalization Program and TIP

By Nieves and Diego Solbes
Monday, February 20
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Open to the public, free entrance
Register previously at:
directoreducacion@lakechapalasociety.com

How to set up an online account on CFE website

By Alfredo Pérez
Friday, March 21
10:00 - 11:00 am
Open to the public, free entrance
Register previously at:
directoreducacion@lakechapalasociety.com

Enrollment at LCS Office
Monday through Saturday
from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
or send an email to:
directoreducacion@lakechapalasociety.com
or LakeChapalaSociety.com
Registration requires payment.
There is no refund.



IMPROVE PRONUNCIATION: /S/, /K/

Feb 8 & 15, 10:00 to 11:20 am by Zoom

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

THE MAGIC AND MISTERY OF "AHORITA"

Feb 8 & 15, 12:00 to 1:20 pm by Zoom

If a Mexican tells you "ahorita vengo", you better find a comfortable seat and relax because it might take more than twenty minutes or, I might not come back. Time works differently in Mexico and this is because other matters such as politeness and, simply, customs are involved. There are many everyday expressions that refer to time and in this course, we will practice with them and review their uses.

IMPROVE PRONUNCIATION: /R/, SUAVE Y DOBLE

Feb 22 & Mar 01, 10:00 to 11:20 am by Zoom

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

THE (MANY) DIFFERENT USES OF "YA"

Feb 22 & Mar 01, 12:00 to 1:20 pm by Zoom

The most important thing to learn a language is to consider the context. Surely you have seen advertisements in the streets that contain this word and always in different contexts. In this course, we are going to study and practice these uses, because regardless of how we translate "ya", we should think about how Mexicans use it.

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.

Library Updates

Black History Month

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. The event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery in the United States. That September, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent.

Known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the group sponsored a national Negro History week in 1926, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The event inspired schools and communities nationwide to organize local celebrations, establish history clubs and host performances and lectures.

In the decades that followed, mayors of cities across the country began issuing yearly proclamations recognizing "Negro History Week." By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, "Negro History Week" had evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

This month our LCS library will feature books by and about the experience of being Black. Authors will include Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Paul Beatty, Octavia Butler, Ta-Nehisi Coates, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Antwone Fisher, Zora Neale Hurston, Alex Haley, MLK Jr., Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Colson Whitehead and many others.

MARCH 7 AT 10:00AM

SHOPPING TRIP

Costco, Sam's and Galerías 360 mall.

Major retailers including Liverpool, Sears and restaurants Cheesecake Factory, PF Chang and more, also shop Costco, Sams and Galerías 360 mall. Let's go shopping! We will be on a bus with plenty of room for your shopping and to travel in comfort.

MARCH 22 AT 10:00AM

GUADALAJARA'S ZOO

The price includes transportation and the entrance ticket to the zoo. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat or cap, and bring your camera for memories.

There are several places inside the zoo where you can buy food/snacks/beverages.

We'll give you a map of the zoo.



The Bus will depart promptly from the sculpture in La Floresta.



Regular price: \$920 plp
Member price: \$715 plp



Regular price: Kids: \$940, Adults \$1010
Member price: Kids: \$760, Adults \$830

You can register at the LCS office or at www.LakeChapalaSociety.com | Limited seats.

www.lakechapalasociety.com

Art In The Garden
Valentine's Day at the LCS Garden Art Show!
Saturday Feb 11 • 10am to 3pm
Theme: "Valentine's Day"
Help support local art, children's art, and handicrafts – while enjoying a beautiful day in our famous gardens
You'll find art and Valentine's gifts from local artists, plus art and cards from the LCS Children's Art Program (yes – we have Valentine's cards!).
Free admission • Ample parking
Café for drinks & snacks • ATM
Lake Chapala Society
16 de septiembre #16A, Ajijic
LakeChapalaSociety.com

First Person Singular All about Kisses

by Chris Small



What is the proper way to kiss? When is kissing proper? How many kisses do you receive in a week? What does a kiss mean? What makes kisses different from one another and how many kinds of kisses are known to man? Do you kiss your sister the same way you kiss your dog? Have you any kissing cousins? What constitutes a good kiss? Do you return a kiss the way you received a kiss? Should you kiss a person you've just met? What feelings does a kiss evoke? Have you ever left a lipstick kiss on the bathroom mirror? Must we limit kissing to the lips—what about the kneecap? Can you remember where and when you had your first French kiss?

Under what circumstance is a kiss appropriate? Under what circumstance is a kiss inappropriate? How about kissing under water? What makes a kiss honest? Should lovers kiss in public and if not, why? What about men kissing men? Do you kiss inanimate objects like a book, for example, or a good bottle of wine? Have you ever said, "Let's kiss and make up"? Have you ever said, "Kiss my ___"? Have you ever been to a carnival where men line up for the kissing booth? Should a kiss in the morning differ from a kiss in the evening? Have you ever tried Eskimo kissing? Can celibates refrain from dreaming about exotic kissing? Does blowing a kiss mean that you can't reach the person? We're you ever tempted to kiss the mailman when he delivered that long-awaited love letter? Has Covid brought on a shocking decrease in kissing?

"Hope is the passion for the possible"

Soren Kierkegaard

*We all live with Hope in our lives, especially
as we live in this world today and its
challenges.*

Hope is like the air we breathe, necessary

*When our Volunteers sit with the
families of the Children we serve,
they come not for monetary reasons....*



*Hope that we will be able to help them
..Hope that their child might live without or less pain
...Hope that their child might hear or see better
....Hope that their child might be able to sit up or walk
.....Hope that their child might live a healthier life
.....Hope that their child will have a "Tomorrow"*

*You give Hope every time you donate.....
You show "your passion for the possible"*

Please Donate A little Hope Today!

Please donate

El vino en México, Guanajuato

Erika Díaz Mercado

El vino en México tiene sus orígenes en la conquista. Cuando los navegantes españoles traían las primeras vides al continente americano. En nuestro territorio tenemos la vinícola más antigua de América: Vinícola San Lorenzo hoy Casa Madero, sin embargo, el consumo per cápita en México aún tiene mucho de que hablar.

El vino no es considerado un alimento y aun contamos con escasas 37,314 hectáreas de superficie plantada, con el lugar 31 a nivel mundial, muy lejos del top 10. Sin embargo, en nuestro país existen 220 empresas productoras en su mayoría concentradas en la zona de Ensenada y sus valles.

En México tenemos 14 regiones vitivinícolas productoras de vino: Baja California Sur, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Querétaro, Puebla, Jalisco, Durango, Baja California Norte, San Luis Potosí y Michoacán, quienes en conjunto producen 4,000,000 de cajas de 12 botellas con un total de 36,000,000 de litros al año.

Aun hay muchas áreas de oportunidad alrededor del vino mexicano. Es por eso que Guanajuato siendo Tierra de Vinos, lanza en el 2021 la Ley al fomento vitivinícola que tiene por objeto fomentar, promover, difundir y fortalecer las actividades relacionadas al sector vinícola, vitícola, vitivinícola y de enoturismo, propiciando la participación de los distintos órdenes de gobierno y el sector privado, dando origen a que cada vez mas empresas se sumen a la proyección del vino en nuestro país.

Actualmente Guanajuato se encuentra en el 4° sitio de producción de vino a nivel nacional con una superficie plantada de 450 hectáreas. Es el 8° lugar en producción de uva industrial a nivel nacional, con una producción de más de 670,800 botellas al año, contando con 138 etiquetas de vino de alta calidad.

Los suelos arena – arcillosos con buen drenaje y profundidad y el clima semi cálido y sub húmedo convierten a Guanajuato en un referente importante para la producción de vino en México.

El Enoturismo en Guanajuato, ya forma parte de los atractivos que los visitantes eligen para conocer y explorar. Contando actualmente con 5 rutas:

Ruta 1 León

Comprenden los siguientes viñedos:

- Vinos Guanamé
- Vinícola Octágono
- Tierra de Luz
- Viñedos El Lobo

Ruta 2 Guanajuato

- Viñedos Camino de Vinos

Ruta 3 Salvatierra

- Viñedos Dos Jacales

Ruta 4 San Miguel de Allende – Dolores Hidalgo

Comprenden los siguientes viñedos

- Los Arcángeles
- Cuna de Tierra
- Vid Elena
- Santísima Trinidad
- Bernat
- Tres Raíces
- San Bernardino

Ruta 5 San Miguel de Allende – Querétaro

Comprenden los siguientes viñedos

- Puente Josefa
- San José La Vista
- San Lucas

- Los Senderos
- Toyán
- Dos Búhos.
- Viñedos San Miguel
- Los Remedios

Con la finalidad de promover estas rutas, se crea el proyecto “Viajes Dí Vinos” por parte del Club del Vino bajo la Dirección de la Sommelier Erika Díaz Mercado en mancuerna con la Secretaria de Turismo del estado de Guanajuato el proyecto pretende ofrecer al visitante experiencias Eno Gastronómicas únicas e incluyentes, en torno al mundo del vino.

Con Viajes Dí Vinos puedes ir a los viñedos más románticos de México en San Miguel de Allende y entenderás de forma didáctica y amena el “Terruno” del estado de Guanajuato.

Además, cuentan con experiencias únicas como:

- Aprende a elaborar tu propia tabla de Quesos,
- Wine Pass (descubre 5 viñedos de Guanajuato en 1 día)



- Visita un jardín botánico y conoce como se vive el vino en Guanajuato
- Pinta tu copa con Vino
- Cata Sensitiva
- Taller de Aromas

Todas las experiencias de El Club del Vino son acompañadas por un experto Sommelier y guía Enoturístico y Bilingüe.

En El Club del Vino puede crear un tour de acuerdo a tus necesidades, gracias a las conexiones y alianzas con las que cuentan.

En El Club del Vino nos preocupamos por que te lles un bello recuerdo de nuestro estado, es por eso que el viaje incluye un Giveaway (sujeto a disponibilidad, aplican restricciones), como una copa de vino grabada o una gorra, o una camiseta de Winelover o un kit de aromas de nuestros vinos.

Además, cuentas con una membresía al contratar tu viaje con nosotros. Esta membresía te da beneficios como catas gratuitas, precios preferenciales en vinos, y no pagas descorte de vino de Guanajuato en los restaurantes afiliados al proyecto de El Club del Vino.

Te invitamos a hacer del vino de Guanajuato una experiencia y que conozcas las sorpresas que Guanajuato tiene en temas de Enoturismo.

Directora de El Club del Vino de Guanajuato

www.elclubdelvino.net

Tel. 33 2066 6969

FB Elclubdelvinogtomx

IG Elclubdelvinogtomx

E mail elclubdelvinomx@gmail.com



The Heart of Ajijic, Magical Village

Ajijic was designated as a Pueblo Magico or magical town in December 2020, with the idea of boosting tourism development. In order to promote the Magical Towns of Jalisco, large heart-shaped sculptures were made, designed by local artists and in which the culture of each of the towns is reflected.

These hearts will be traveling through different municipalities. After the naming of Ajijic as a Magical Town the creation of a new heart began. However, due to the pandemic, it was not possible to integrate it into the collection, but the moment has arrived!

On February 2nd, the Heart of Ajijic will be unveiled, which shows the particularities, colors and representative elements of our town. This heart was made by the artist Antonio Lopez Vega, who has a great career and also won second place in the “Guitarras de Media Noche” contest that took place in the Magic Town of Dolores Hidalgo in Guanajuato where bottles inspired by the musical life of Jose Alfredo Jimenez were created and displayed.

On February 2nd, at 6 PM we will have the unveiling of the Heart of Ajijic in the Main Square along with the exhibition of the hearts of the Magical Towns of Jalisco and the inauguration of the exhibition “Guitarras de Media Noche” (Guitars of Midnight).



Develación del Corazón de Ajijic, Pueblo Mágico

Ajijic fue designado como pueblo mágico en diciembre 2020, y la idea es impulsar el desarrollo turístico, por lo que con la finalidad de promocionar los Pueblos Mágicos de Jalisco, se realizaron esculturas en forma de corazón en gran formato, intervenidas por artistas locales y en los cuales se refleja la cultura de cada uno de los pueblos.

Dichos corazones van de manera itinerante por diferentes municipios. Tras el nombramiento de Ajijic como Pueblo Mágico, se comenzó con la elaboración de un nuevo corazón, sin embargo, por la pandemia, no se había podido integrar a esta colección, ¡pero el momento llegó!

El próximo 2 de febrero se hará la Debelación del Corazón de Ajijic, que muestra las particularidades, colores y elementos representativos de nuestro pueblo. Este corazón fue realizado por el Artista Antonio López Vega, que cuenta con una gran trayectoria y además ganó el segundo lugar en el concurso “Guitarras de Media Noche” que se llevó a cabo en el Pueblo Mágico de Dolores Hidalgo en Guanajuato, donde se intervinieron botellas inspiradas en la vida musical de José Alfredo Jiménez.

El día 2 de febrero, a las 6pm haremos la debelación del Corazón de Ajijic en la Plaza Principal, junto con la exhibición de los corazones de Pueblos Mágicos de Jalisco, además se llevará a cabo la inauguración de la exposición “Guitarras de Media Noche”

Diane Pearl
Gallery
Art and Activities Center
☎ 376 766 5683 🌐 dianepearl.com
✉ dianepearlmexico@gmail.com
🌐 creativelyminfulart.com 🎁 Complimentary gift Wrapping

There Ain't No Cure for Love

By Harriet Hart

***“I loved you for a long, long time
I know this love is real
It don't matter how it all went wrong
That don't change the way I feel
And I can't believe that time's
Gonna heal this wound I'm speaking of
There ain't no cure,
There ain't no cure,
There ain't no cure for love”***

Leonard Cohen

Is lovesickness an actual condition? Leonard seemed to think so. I did a little research and found out it is. Falling for someone you can't have (like your boss or your best friend's partner) or being rejected by someone you still want to be with can lead to a variety of symptoms such as insomnia, loss of appetite and the inability to concentrate. In the song, Leonard “can't get nothing done, can't be with anyone...’

“Lovesickness,” writes Crystal Raypole in Good Therapy, “generally refers to the more unpleasant aspects of love. This ailment involves all those unwanted feelings you experience when your passion doesn't play out as planned.” In extreme cases, sufferers can develop what psychologist Dorothy Tennov calls limerence, defined as an involuntary fixation on another person.

In her 1979 book Love and Limerence – the Experience of Being in Love, she introduced the term "limerence." During her years of research into romantic experiences, she obtained thousands of personal testimonies from questionnaires, interviews and letters from readers of her writing, in an attempt to support her hypothesis that a distinct and involuntary psychological state occurs identically among otherwise normal persons across cultures, educational level, gender, and other traits. Tennov emphasized that her data consist entirely of verbal reports by volunteers who reported their love experiences. (Wikipedia) Key symptoms include intrusive, obsessive thoughts about the individual, sweating, dizziness, a pounding heart, insomnia and changes in appetite.

The word limerence may be new, but lovesickness is not. Descriptions of this condition can be found in ancient medical texts and classical literature. Hippocrates believed lovesickness resulted from an excess or imbalance of certain bodily humors. Today we believe hor-

monal fluctuations, cortisol in particular, are associated with heartbreak and can cause physical symptoms that adversely affect your physical well being.

Being lovesick can distract you from your responsibilities. You might forget appointments, chores and errands and feel anxiety, melancholy and even depression. In serious cases the sufferer might feel or be suicidal.

Is there a cure? Leonard got it right...there is not. In the absence of a vaccine or other quick fixes, you're left in the healing hands of time itself. But you can take charge of your condition and try some of the following strategies: Distract yourself in positive ways such as embracing your creativity and writing a poem or a song. Keep a journal. You can also listen to music, watch movies, and/or read books.

And most importantly, set boundaries for yourself and keep them. No texting, phoning or checking up on the object of your desire.

Finally, this might be a good time to talk to a professional therapist. He or she will understand and help you understand your unhappiness better. Lovesickness is real, universal and anyone can fall victim – even celebrities like Leonard Cohen, who penned the song in 1986 and lived on for another thirty productive (and hopefully happy) years.

**LAKE SIDE
LITTLE THEATRE** SEASON 58 2022-2023

MAIN STAGE

SIDE BY SIDE BY LAKESIDE

DIRECTED BY ANN SWISTON
ASST. DIRECTOR: DAVE MCINTOSH
MUSIC DIRECTOR:
GARY WAYNE YOUNG
CHOREOGRAPHER:
ALEXIS HOFF

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376 766 0954

El amor no tiene cura

Por Harriet Hart

**“Te he amado durante mucho, mucho tiempo
Sé que este amor es real
No importa cómo todo salió mal
Eso no cambia lo que siento
Y no puedo creer que el tiempo
Que el tiempo va a curar esta herida de la que
hablo
No hay cura
No hay cura,
No hay cura para el amor”**

- Leonard Cohen

¿Es el mal de amores una enfermedad real? Leonard parecía pensar que sí. Investigué un poco y descubrí que sí existe. Enamorarse de alguien a quien no puedes tener (como tu jefe o la pareja de tu mejor amigo) o ser rechazado por alguien con quien todavía quieres estar puede provocar una serie de síntomas como insomnio, pérdida de apetito e incapacidad para concentrarse. En la canción, Leonard “no puede hacer nada, no puede estar con nadie...”

“El mal de amores,” escribe Crystal Raypole en Good Therapy, “suele referirse a los aspectos más desagradables del amor. Esta dolencia implica todos esos sentimientos no deseados que experimentas cuando tu pasión no se desarrolla según lo planeado.” En casos extremos, los afectados pueden desarrollar lo que la psicóloga Dorothy Tennov denomina limerencia, definida como una fijación involuntaria por otra persona.

En su libro de 1979 *Love and Limerence - the Experience of Being in Love* (Amor y limerencia: la experiencia de estar enamorado), introdujo el término “limerencia”. Durante sus años de investigación sobre las experiencias románticas, obtuvo miles de testimonios personales a partir de cuestionarios, entrevistas y cartas de los lectores de sus escritos, en un intento de respaldar su hipótesis de que un estado psicológico distinto e involuntario se produce de forma idéntica entre personas por lo demás normales, independientemente de su cultura, nivel educativo, sexo y otros rasgos. Tennov hizo hincapié en que sus datos consisten enteramente en informes verbales de voluntarios que informaron de sus experiencias amorosas. (Wikipedia) Los síntomas clave incluyen pensamientos intrusivos y obsesivos sobre el individuo, sudoración, mareos, palpitaciones, insomnio y cambios en el apetito.

La palabra limerencia puede ser nueva, pero el mal de amores no lo es. Se pueden encontrar descripciones de este trastorno en antiguos textos médicos y en la literatura clásica. Hipócrates creía que el mal de amores se debía a un exceso

o desequilibrio de ciertos humores corporales. Hoy en día creemos que las fluctuaciones hormonales, en particular el cortisol, están asociadas al mal de amores y pueden causar síntomas físicos que afectan negativamente al bienestar físico.

El mal de amores puede distraerte de tus responsabilidades. Puedes olvidar citas, tareas y recados y sentir ansiedad, melancolía e incluso depresión. En casos graves, la persona que lo padece puede sentir o tener tendencias suicidas.


¿Tiene cura? Leonard tiene razón... no la hay. A falta de una vacuna u otras soluciones rápidas, queda en manos del tiempo. Pero puedes tomar las riendas de tu enfermedad y probar algunas de las siguientes estrategias: Distráete de forma positiva, por ejemplo, haciendo uso de tu creatividad y escribiendo un poema o una canción. Lleve un diario. También puedes escuchar música, ver películas y/o leer libros.

Y lo más importante, ponte límites y mantenlos. Nada de enviar mensajes de texto, llamar por teléfono o comprobar cómo está el objeto de tu deseo.

Por último, si este puede ser un buen momento para hablar con un terapeuta profesional. Él o ella te entenderá y te ayudará a comprender mejor tu infelicidad. El mal de amores es real, universal y cualquiera puede ser víctima de él, incluso celebridades como Leonard Cohen, que escribió la canción en 1986 y vivió otros treinta productivos (y esperamos que felices) años.


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Love and friendship in times of pandemic

By Peral Noemí Aguayo “Mimi”

I am Perla Noemí, but everyone knows me as “Mimi”. I live in San Antonio Tlayacapan. In 2020 I began studying law at the University of Guadalajara. Almost at the same time I found out about the Student Aid Program at LCS, I applied and was accepted. Since I only had classes 4 days a week, instead of living there, I decided to come and go to Guadalajara every day. The hard part was getting to class on time at 7:00 AM, because it took me almost 1 hour to get to the city and another 30 minutes to get to school. Fortunately, I found out that there was a free transportation for students in Chapala that we all called “urban,” this left earlier so we could get to class on time and also waited for the return trip to Chapala but the return trip was even longer, taking one hour and a half hours because of the traffic.

I tried to arrive early to the “urban” back to Chapala to get seats where the sun was not shining. One day a girl and a boy who apparently were friends got on, they sat next to me. I thought it was because of the sun, but they started talking to me. The first to introduce himself was Fer and then Evelyn. They told me that they were both studying Civil Engineering and were in the same classroom in the 4th semester and, like me, they were going from Chapala to Guadalajara every day. I told them that it was my first semester and that I was getting familiar with everything. That is how my friendship with them began and day after day we would see each other in the “urban” and talk about our college days all the way back. We were good friends but soon I realized that Fer and I had many things in common such as friends because we had attended the same high school in Chapala in the same morning shift. we shared the joy of hiking and seeing new places plus other things that only made me think, why hadn't I met him before? The talks in the “urban” never ended, he always found a way to start a good conversation. Everything would have continued like that if it hadn't been for the pandemic. In less than a month we all had to go back home to take virtual classes.



But Fer was able to get my phone number early. Since it was my first semester in college, unlike him, I barely knew the routes in the city. He explained to me which one was the fastest and that, in case I got lost, I could call him. And that's how he managed to exchange numbers.

Although we didn't see each other anymore, Fer and I didn't stop talking every day, especially about how we missed talking in to the “urban.” One day he asked me out and I said no because of the pandemic. He insisted on only going to my house, to bring me an ice cream and to see me. After a while, when the pandemic allowed us to go out, I accepted our first date. It was very nice to see each other again and especially to resume the endless talks. After several months, we realized that we enjoyed each other's company and that it was more than just a friendship. We had fallen completely in love. And on November 11th we became sweethearts. Now, after a little more than two years, there is still not enough time for our talks, but we are sure we will have plenty of time, as well as many adventures.

Eventually, the Student Aid Program at LCS also resumed its activities after the pandemic and since I was part of it, I had to participate as a volunteer in activities or events that they developed. One day at LCS I ran into Evelyn who was also part of the Student Aid Program and I had not seen her since the pandemic. We immediately resumed the friendship we had in the “urban” and the first thing I told her was that Fer and I were boyfriend and girlfriend. She confessed that she liked me from the first moment she saw me and always waited excitedly for the time to get out of class to go see me in the “urban.” From then on Evelyn and I kept seeing each other at LCS and now we are very good friends.



El amor y la amistad en tiempos de pandemia

Por Peral Noemí Aguayo "Mimí"

Soy Perla Noemí, pero todos me conocen como "Mimí." Vivo en San Antonio Tlayacapan. En 2020 comencé a estudiar la carrera de Derecho en la Universidad de Guadalajara. Casi al mismo tiempo me enteré del programa de apoyo económico LCS para estudiantes, apliqué y fui aceptada. Ya que sólo tenía clases 4 días a la semana, en lugar de quedarme a vivir allá, decidí ir y venir todos los días a Guadalajara. Lo difícil era llegar a tiempo a clase de 7:00 AM, porque el transcurso era casi 1 hora en llegar a la ciudad y otros 30 minutos hasta la escuela. Afortunadamente me enteré que existía en Chapala un transporte gratuito para estudiantes al que todos llamábamos "urban," este salía más temprano para que pudiéramos llegar a tiempo a clases, además también esperaba para el regreso a Chapala, pero el traslado de regreso era aún más tardado, haciendo 1 hora y media por el tráfico.

Procuraba llegar temprano a la "urban" de regreso a Chapala para alcanzar asientos donde no diera el sol. Un día subieron una muchacha y un muchacho que aparentemente eran amigos, se sentaron a mi lado, pensé que era por el sol, pero empezaron a platicar conmigo, el primero en presentarse fue Fer y después Evelyn. Me comentaron que estudiaban ambos la carrera de Ingeniería Civil e iban en el mismo salón cursando el 4° semestre, y al igual que yo iban de Chapala a Guadalajara todos los días. Les comenté que era mi primer semestre y que me estaba familiarizando con todo. Así comenzó mi amistad con ellos y día con día nos veíamos en la "urban" y platicábamos de nuestros días en la universidad todo el camino de regreso. Éramos buenos amigos, pero pronto me di cuenta que Fer y yo teníamos muchas cosas en común, entre ellas amigos, porque habíamos asistido a la misma preparatoria en Chapala, en el mismo turno por la mañana, compartíamos el gusto de ir a las montañas y conocer nuevos lugares, además de otras cosas que solo me hacían pensar, ¿por qué no lo había conocido antes? Las pláticas en la "urban" nunca terminaban, él siempre encontraba la manera de iniciar una buena conversación. Todo hubiera continuado así de no haber sido por la pandemia, en menos de un mes todos tuvimos que regresar a nuestras casas para tomar clases virtuales.

Pero Fer pudo obtener mi número de teléfono antes. Ya que era mi primer semestre en la universidad, a diferencia de él, yo apenas conocía las rutas de la ciudad. Él me explicó cuál era la más rápida, y que en caso de perderme podía llamarlo, y así fue como se las ingenió para intercambiar números.

Aunque ya no nos veíamos, Fer y yo no dejamos de hablar todos los días y sobre todo de como extrañábamos platicar en la "urban." Un día me invitó a salir, yo dije que no, por la pandemia. Él insistió en solo ir a mi casa, para llevarme un helado y para poder verme. Después de un tiempo, cuando la pandemia ya nos permitía salir, acepté nuestra primera cita. Fue muy agradable vernos de nuevo y sobre todo volver a retomar las interminables pláticas. Después de varios meses, nos dimos cuenta de que disfrutábamos nuestra compañía y que era algo más que una amistad. Nos habíamos enamorado completamente. Y el 11 de noviembre nos hicimos novios. Ahora después de poco más de 2 años, el tiempo sigue sin alcanzar para nuestras pláticas, pero tenemos por seguro que tendremos de sobra, así como para muchas aventuras.




Con el tiempo, el programa de apoyo económico de LCS también retomó sus actividades después de pandemia y como yo era parte, tenía que participar como voluntaria en actividades o eventos que desarrollaban. Un día en LCS me encontré con Evelyn quien también era parte del programa de apoyo económico y no la había visto desde la pandemia. Enseguida retomamos la amistad que teníamos en la "urban" y lo primero que le dije fue que Fer y yo éramos novios, me confesó que le gusté desde el primer momento en que me vio y siempre esperaba muy emocionado la hora de salir de clases para ir a verme en la "urban". A partir de aquí Evelyn y yo nos seguimos viendo en LCS y ahora somos muy buenas amigas.






Candlemas Day


By Francisco Galindo Rizo




Initially the feast of Candlemas or of the Light was believed to have its origin in the East with the name of the Encounter, and later it spread to the West in the VI century, being celebrated in Rome with a penitential character. In Jerusalem it was celebrated with a procession where the participants carried lighted candles to the Basilica of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher), which the Emperor Constantine ordered to be built. According to other researchers, this feast had its origin in ancient Rome, where the procession of the candles was part of the feast of the Lupercalia.




Centuries later, around the year 1392, an image of the Virgin Mary representing this devotion was found on the seashore by two Guanche shepherds from the Canary Island of Tenerife, Spain. After the discovery of the image and its iconographic identification with the biblical event of the Presentation of the Child Jesus and the Purification of Mary, the feast began to be celebrated with a Marian character. In the year 1497, the Adelantado of the Canary Islands, Alonso Fernandez de Lugo, celebrated the first Feast of Las Candelas (already as Virgin Mary of La Candelaria), to coincide with the Feast of the Purification, on February 2.




Later this Marian Advocacy and its feast would be taken to several American nations by way of migrants from the Canary Islands.



In Mexico this celebration comes from a syncretism between the Catholic religion and the pre-Hispanic culture. According to the Catholic saints' calendar, it is the memory of the biblical passage of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, which according to tradition marks 40 days after the Nativity, i.e. February 2.



On the other hand, during the Conquest in Mexico, many indigenous peoples worshipped their own deities. One of their rituals was the celebration of the beginning of Atlacahualo, the time when the fields are irrigated and tribute is paid with corn cobs to the gods Tlaloc and Chalchiuhtlicue in order to have good harvests throughout the year.



The date of the beginning of Atlacahualo and the Purification of the Virgin Mary with the Child God coincided and the Spaniards took advantage of that fact in order to continue with the evangelization of the indigenous peoples and used it to transform their rituals into customs that would help the process. With the passing of time, the Catholic-pre-Hispanic celebration evolved and transformed into what we now know as Candlemas Day.

Tradition dictates that whoever has been given the figure of the Child God in the Rosca de Reyes on January 6th, the Day of the Three Kings, agrees to be the godfather or godmother and to celebrate Candlemas on February 2. This sponsorship entails lifting the Child from the Nativity Scene and dressing it for its presentation in the church in order to be blessed, and to share tamales with the guests upon returning home from the celebration.


According to writings of the Franciscan missionary Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, in pre-Hispanic Mexico there was a great variety of tamales prepared with different ingredients, among them: chili, tomato, pumpkin, pheasant meat, turkey or quail. This delicious dish has also evolved and now we can enjoy delicious and even exotic varieties of tamales.

Currently the names of tamales are assigned according to their content: rajas with cheese, pumpkin, broad bean, potato, bean, mole, chili, sweet or by their color: green and red, where the sauce is already implicit in the filling. There are also fruit tamales: pineapple, capulin, strawberry, plum, apricot, tejocote, pitahaya, etc. that are a delight.


Let's continue with this beautiful tradition of sharing with family and friends the delicious tamales for Candlemas Day.

El Día de la Candelaria

Por Lic. Francisco Galindo Rizo




Inicialmente la fiesta de la Candelaria o de la Luz tuvo su origen en el Oriente con el nombre del Encuentro, posteriormente se extendió al Occidente en el siglo VI, llegando a celebrarse en Roma con un carácter penitencial. En Jerusalén se celebraba con una procesión donde los participantes llevaban velas encendidas hasta la Basilica de la Resurrección (Santo Sepulcro), la cual había sido mandada construir por órdenes del Emperador Constantino. Aunque según otros investigadores, esta fiesta tuvo su origen en la antigua Roma, donde la procesión de las candelas formaba parte de la fiesta de las Lupercalia.




Siglos después, en torno al año 1392, una imagen de la Virgen María que representaba esta advocación, fue encontrada a la orilla del mar por dos pastores guanches de la isla canaria de Tenerife, España. Tras el hallazgo de la imagen y su identificación iconográfica con el acontecimiento bíblico de la Presentación del Niño Jesús y la Purificación de María, la fiesta empezó a celebrarse con un carácter Mariano en el año de 1497, el Adelantado de las Islas Canarias Alonso Fernández de Lugo, celebró la primera Fiesta de Las Candelas (ya como Virgen María de La Candelaria), coincidiendo con la Fiesta de la Purificación, el 2 de febrero.




Más tarde esta Advocación Mariana y su fiesta serían llevadas a varias naciones americanas de mano de los Migrantes Canarios.



En México esta celebración proviene de un sincretismo entre la religión católica y la cultura prehispánica. Según el santoral católico es el recuerdo del pasaje bíblico de la Presentación del Niño Jesús en el Templo de Jerusalén, que de acuerdo a la tradición marca 40 días después de la Natividad, siendo el 2 de febrero dicha celebración.




Por otra parte, durante la Conquista en México, muchos pueblos indígenas rendían culto a sus propias deidades. Uno de sus rituales era la celebración del inicio del Atlacahualo, fecha en la que se riegan los campos y se rinde tributo con mazorcas de maíz a los dioses Tlaloc y Chalchiuhtlicue para tener buenas cosechas durante todo el año.




La fecha del inicio del Atlacahualo y la Purificación de la Virgen María con el Niño Dios coincidieron entonces, lo que los españoles aprovecharon para continuar con la evangelización de los pueblos indígenas y transformar sus rituales en costumbres que ayudaran al proceso. Con el paso del tiempo, la celebración católico-prehispánica fue evolucionando y transformándose en lo que ahora conocemos como Día de la Candelaria.

Marca la tradición que a quien le hubiese tocado la figura del Niño Dios en la Rosca de Reyes, se compromete a ser el padrino o madrina y a celebrar el 2 de febrero la Candelaria; este apadrinamiento conlleva levantar al Niño del Nacimiento y vestirlo para su presentación en la iglesia y ser bendecido; de regreso a casa para la fiesta se comparten a los invitados los tradicionales tamales.



De acuerdo con escritos del misionero franciscano Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, en el México prehispánico existía gran variedad de tamales preparados con diversos ingredientes, entre ellos: el chile, jitomate, calabaza, carne de faisán, pavo o codorniz. Este rico platillo también ha ido evolucionando y ahora podemos disfrutar de riquísimas y hasta exóticas variedades de tamales.



Actualmente los nombres de los tamales son asignados según su contenido: de rajas con queso, de calabaza, de haba, de papa, de frijol, de mole, de chile, de dulce. Por su color: verdes y rojos, donde ya está implícita la salsa que lleva el relleno. Hay tamales de frutas: piña, capulín, fresa, ciruela, chabacano, tejocote, pitahaya, etc. que constituyen una delicia.



Continuemos con esta bella tradición de compartir con familia y los amigos los ricos tamales por el Día de la Candelaria



Asking Meaningful Questions

By Nancy Hill

Sitting with others as they explore how to create a meaningful life is a privilege. That has been my work as a therapist. This is never answered quickly. In fact, humans have been puzzling over this for thousands of years.

Poets and philosophers offer clues. Yet, each of us must discover our own response. Living from our heart means our gifts, skills and talents are put to good use. Predictably, obstacles appear. We must move out of our comfort zone to address them. It is always part of the process.

My personal quest for meaning has taken me in several different directions.

In 2013 my book, *Unfolding: Slow Down, Drop In, Dare More*, examined these ideas through writing. Now, I have turned to film by using the book's central themes. *Showing Up: Dare to Live from Your Heart* is a documentary. It combines the wisdom of experts with stories of everyday people who face their fear and keep going.

The film's title, *Showing Up*, means revealing who we truly are. At our core there is something we long to express. That requires we answer tough questions that can leave us shaken. For example, "Am I living the way I really want to live?" A truthful examination of this can lead to difficult decisions. Having a meaningful life requires that we show up.

Here are a couple of story snippets from the film:

- Sue and Roy Quiriconi longed for adventure. What would it mean to leave friends and family and live in another country? Both elders, they wondered if that was even possible.
- Kellie O'Brien wandered into her dream of educating the Masai in Tanzania. Her obstacle? As she says in the film "I haven't even been to college." Could she make this happen without the proper training?
- Nancy Gelband, an accomplished artist, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Would this mean she could no longer paint?

These stories, along with others demonstrate how obstacles can become doorways to self-expression.

Meaning is created by day to day choices. Not all of us long to write books, start schools or paint. Yet, living with meaningful questions helps us make daily choices about how we spend our time and with whom. Here's a favorite quote by Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

That is an excellent formula for living life from our heart.

On February 27, 2023 *Showing Up* will premiere at Cine + lago theater. Theater doors open at 12:30 with a celebratory Mariachi band. The film begins at 1:30. Stay for in a lively discussion after the film. Keith Kelly, the Director, and I will be there to guide the discussion.

One showing only with limited seating. Tickets are available at the theater box office daily from 3 till 8 PM. Invite your friends and join us for an inspiring afternoon.

ONE SHOWING ONLY

SHOWING UP

DARE TO LIVE FROM YOUR HEART

MONDAY
2/27/23

12:30PM
DOORS OPEN
MARIACHIS PERFORM

1:30PM
FILM BEGINS

3:00PM
Q & A

PRODUCED BY
NANCY HILL

DIRECTED BY
KEITH KELLY



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Time & Location

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GUADALAJARA EVENT



MUSICAL UNA VELADA INTIMA

ROMEO Y JULIETA

EL PALACIO DE LAS VACAS

A comparative study of international communities in the areas of Puerto Vallarta and Ajijic (Lakeside), Jalisco

By: Marco Antonio Cortés Guardado
Cecilia Soraya Shibya Soto

Obviously Mexico is one of the most attractive destinations for the international population as can be seen in the lists of suggested countries to live in the world. According to various sources, one million foreigners reside in Mexico, mainly from the United States of America. Within the country, Jalisco is one of the entities with the highest rate of foreign population, established mostly in Guadalajara and the areas of Puerto Vallarta and Ajijic.

The international residents in our country are individuals with similar traits, but not identical. Due to their sociodemographic characteristics, they can be ordered into profiles, however they have finer and more structural qualities, which determine their patterns of action and behavior. The dimensions of the impact produced by the foreign population residing in Guadalajara are different from those residing in both the areas of Puerto Vallarta and Ajijic. In these last two cases, older adults and retirees predominate, which determines that, unlike Guadalajara, the foreign community is more homogeneous, with greater coinciding interests, while the economic, social and cultural impact is also different from that of foreigners in the state capital, that is, it is broader and deeper in all these dimensions.

If we consider the age of international migration to Puerto Vallarta and Ajijic (dating back more or less 70 years in the first case, and almost 100 years in the second), the explosive growth of international immigrants, and distinctive economic, social and cultural profile, it is not difficult to estimate the magnitude of the impact it has had on the evolution of both tourist destinations, in the period indicated.

Most studies of these communities tend to focus on their traits (demographic and economic spillover), observed in isolation from each other. In the case of Lakeside, fortunately, there are authors with important contributions, it is worth mentioning Tony Burton with a socio-historical approach and the David Truly study on the impacts on this community since 1997.

It is essential to study two interconnected processes:

- a) The social, economic, recreational and cultural practices of the foreign population, together with the main features of their socio-moral and civic identity.
- b) How the interaction of this foreign community with the host community and the local space has contributed to imposing a type of economic development, but also particular forms of construction of space and urban identity; and how this interaction has redesigned the cultural identity of the local population and influenced the patterns of social coexistence in general.

To carry out this study, we have proceeded in two ways:

A survey of demographic and social characteristics, attitudes and values, which includes variables: Type of residence, nationality, characteristics of housing, identification of destination, employment status, source and amount of personal income, amount of monthly expenditure, health status and opinion on health services, reasons for destination, usual recreational activities, relations with the expatriate population and with the local population, religion and religiosity, feeling of happiness and satisfaction with life, habitual sources of information, opinion on abortion, same-sex marriage and the decriminalization of drugs, interpersonal trust, political identity and party identification, democratic identity, participation in civil associations and philanthropic activities, musical and cinematographic tastes, and level of schooling.

We thank all the expats who answered the survey, the public and private spaces where we presented the questionnaire, and particularly, the Lake Chapala Society for its invaluable support.

We will present the preliminary report of this Survey with facts, figures and interpretations at Open Circle on February 26.

Estudio comparativo de las comunidades internacionales en las áreas de Puerto Vallarta y Ajijic (Lakeside), Jalisco

Por: Marco Antonio Cortés Guardado
Cecilia Soraya Shibya Soto

Evidentemente México es uno de los destinos más atractivos para la población internacional y puede advertirse en los listados de países sugeridos para vivir en el mundo. Según diversas fuentes residen, temporal o permanentemente, en México un millón de extranjeros provenientes principalmente los Estados Unidos de América. Dentro del país, Jalisco es una de las entidades con mayor índice de población extranjera, establecida mayoritariamente en Guadalajara y las áreas de Puerto Vallarta y Ajijic.

Los avelinados internacionales en nuestro país, son individuos con rasgos similares, pero no idénticos. Por sus características sociodemográficas pueden ordenarse en perfiles, sin embargo, poseen cualidades más finas y estructurales, las que determinan sus pautas de acción y comportamiento. Las dimensiones del impacto que produce la población extranjera que reside en Guadalajara, son diferentes al de las que residen tanto en las áreas de Puerto Vallarta y Ajijic. En estos dos últimos casos predominan los adultos mayores y los jubilados, lo que determina que, a diferencia de Guadalajara, la comunidad extranjera sea más homogénea, con mayores intereses coincidentes, al tiempo que el impacto económico, social y cultural también es distinto al de los extranjeros en la capital del estado, es decir, es más amplio y profundo en todas estas dimensiones.

Si se consideran la antigüedad de la migración internacional a Puerto Vallarta y Ajijic (que data de más o menos 70 años en el primer caso, y de casi 100 años en el segundo), el crecimiento explosivo de inmigrantes internacionales, y perfil económico, social y cultural distintivo, no es difícil estimar la magnitud del impacto que ella ha tenido en la evolución de ambos destinos turísticos, en el lapso señalado.

La mayoría de los estudios sobre estas comunidades, suelen enfocarse en sus rasgos (demográficos y de derrama económica), observados aisladamente unos de otros. En el caso del Lakeside, afortunadamente, existen autores con importantes contribuciones, cabe mencionarse a Tony Burton con enfoque socio-histórico y David Truly que estudia los impactos de esta comunidad, desde 1997.

Es imprescindible estudiar dos procesos interconectados:

- a) Las prácticas sociales, económicas, recreativas y culturales de la población extranjera, junto con los principales rasgos de su identidad socio moral, cívica.
- b) Cómo la interacción de esta comunidad foránea con la comunidad receptora y el espacio local, han contribuido a imponer un tipo de desarrollo económico, pero también formas particulares de construcción del espacio y la identidad urbana; y cómo esa interacción ha resignificado la identidad cultural de la población local e influido en las pautas de la convivencia social en general.

Para realizar este Estudio se ha procedido por dos caminos;

Una encuesta de características demográficas y sociales, actitudes y valores, que incluye variables: Tipo de residencia, nacionalidad, características de la vivienda, Identificación del destino, situación laboral, fuente y monto del ingreso personal, monto de gasto mensual, estado de salud y opinión sobre servicios sanitarios, razones para el destino, actividades recreativas habituales, relaciones con la población de expatriados y con la población local, Religión y religiosidad, sentimiento de felicidad y satisfacción con la vida, fuentes habituales de información, opinión sobre el aborto, el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo y la despenalización de las drogas, confianza interpersonal, identidad política e identificación partidaria, identidad democrática, participación en asociaciones civiles y actividades filantrópicas, gustos musicales y cinematográficos, y nivel de escolaridad.

Por último, agradecemos a todos expats que contestaron la Encuesta, a espacios públicos y privados donde accedimos para levantar el cuestionario, y particularmente, al Lake Chapala Society por su invaluable apoyo.

Pet Primer

Pac-Man to Leo: A Love Story

by Diana Hunt

The photographs of a raggedy, diseased, skin-and-bones Chihuahua mix who was brought to The Ranch dog shelter by a Good Samaritan were indeed pathetic. Against all odds, “Pac-Man” was immediately adopted. Who was this guardian angel?

Enter Dorothy deMartin, a 22-year resident of San Antonio Tlayacapan.

“I never really saw his picture,” Dorothy said. “It was Corinne, a volunteer at The Ranch, who told me about him. I had just lost my dog of 12 years and decided I wanted a senior dog that needed help. Pac-Man fit the bill. The Ranch estimated he was around six years old, but when I recently had him examined because of his hind legs, he turned out to be closer to 10, which makes him an even more senior dog, which is what I wanted. His back leg has been fractured and he started favoring it a couple of weeks ago and I wanted to see what happened. The x-rays showed the fracture moved a bit -- with age and with jumping off the bed, up and down the stairs four times a day -- that’s lot of pressure on a fracture that was never treated. He is better now and seems to be in no pain.

“The reason I wanted an older dog is I would not want to pass away and leave the dog behind. Besides, this boy acts like a perennial puppy, as Chihuahuas tend to do,” she laughed. “End of life planning, let’s put it that way, for both of us. Leo is my fifth and final dog. We are pretty well matched as far as age and life expectancy goes.”

Dorothy feels because he had been on the street for a while, it could have shortened his life. She knows nothing about his history (the Ranch had no information on the little guy either) but guesses he had been a pet at one time. She says that because he knows how to take food gently from her hand, knows



how to walk on a leash, allows a sweater to be put on him and he understands going outside to potty.

“He has a little bit of a biting issue and I suspect that is why he ended up on the street,” she explained. “He has such a great personality, I can’t imagine why anybody would just toss him away.”

Dorothy was always a cat person before she moved to Mexico to take care of her mother.

“I was here maybe a month when the street dogs just touched my heart,” she explained, “I became a dog person.”

“Her new pet is named Leo after Leonardo da Vinci because he is an unfinished work. I get annoyed when people ask me if he is named for Leo the Lion: NO! I don’t do Disney characters. Art is my passion, so he is named Leo-nardo,” she stretched out the word in an exaggerated Italian accent.

Indeed, da Vinci left many unfinished works. From Encyclopedia Britannica: As he would throughout his life, Leonardo set boundless goals for himself. If one traces the outlines of his work for this period, or for his life as a whole, one is tempted to call it a huge “unfinished symphony.” Leonardo conceived the staggering plan of observing all objects in the visible world, recognizing their form and structure, and pictorially describing them exactly as they are.

In fact, Dorothy has a trip planned this summer to Florence, Italy to do research for her fictional book that takes place during the Renaissance. Her interest in that period dates back to her time living in New York City. She first saw and fell in love with Renaissance art when visiting The Cloisters. Later, in retirement, she began studying ancient history and happened upon Florence again, but focused more on the society. She felt the early Medici rulers were unlike any others and it gave her hope for the future.

“My obsession has only grown over the years,” she stated. “The book is about the City of Florence with Florence as the primary character, so there will be da Vinci, the Medici’s, Michelangelo all running around. It is a bit complex, but why not? It was a complex time.”

Dorothy and Leo’s routine is a long walk in the mornings, then three or four shorter walks in the afternoons to the malecon. He explores every nook and cranny, and then comes running back for treats.

“I love this little guy to pieces,” she stated, “but he is not a particularly affectionate dog. It may be because of his years on the street, just surviving. His way of showing affection, I think, is curling around my leg or cuddling with me while we watch TV.”

Who can ask for more?



Manual para mascotas De Pac-Man a Leo: Una historia de amor

Por Diana Hunt

Las fotografías de una mezcla de chihuahua harapiento, enfermo y en los huesos que un buen samaritano llevó al refugio canino The Ranch eran realmente patéticas. Contra todo pronóstico, “Pac-Man” fue adoptado inmediatamente. ¿Quién era este ángel de la guarda?

Dorothy deMartin, residente de San Antonio Tlayacapan desde hace 22 años.

“La verdad es que nunca vi su foto”, dice Dorothy. “Fue Corinne, una voluntaria del Rancho, quien me habló de él. Acababa de perder a mi perro de 12 años y decidí que quería un perro mayor que necesitara ayuda. Pac-Man encajaba a la perfección. En el Rancho calcularon que tenía unos seis años, pero cuando hace poco lo examinaron por sus patas traseras, resultó tener unos 10, lo que lo convierte en un perro aún más mayor, que es lo que yo quería. Se fracturó la pata trasera y empezó a arrastrarla hace un par de semanas y quería ver qué pasaba. Las radiografías mostraron que la fractura se había movido un poco - con la edad y saltando de la cama, subiendo y bajando las escaleras cuatro veces al día - eso es mucha presión en una fractura que nunca fue tratada. Ahora está mejor y no parece tener dolor.

“La razón por la que quería un perro mayor es que no me gustaría fallecer y dejar al perro atrás. Además, este chico se comporta como un cachorro perenne, como suelen hacer los chihuahuas”, se ríe. “Planificación del final de la vida, digámoslo así, para los dos. Leo es mi quinto y último perro. Estamos bastante emparejados en cuanto a edad y esperanza de vida”.



Dorothy cree que el hecho de que llevara un tiempo en la calle podría haber acortado su vida. No sabe nada de su historia (el Rancho tampoco tenía información sobre el pequeño), pero supone que había sido una mascota en algún momento. Lo dice porque sabe coger la comida suavemente de la mano, sabe andar con correa, permite que le pongan un jersey y entiende lo de salir fuera a hacer sus necesidades.

“Tiene un pequeño problema con los mordiscos y sospecho que por eso acabó en la calle”, explica. “Tiene una personalidad tan grande que no entiendo por qué alguien se desharía de él”.

A Dorothy siempre le gustaron los gatos antes de mudarse a México para cuidar de su madre.

“Llevaba aquí quizá un mes cuando los perros de la calle me llegaron al corazón”, explicó, “me convertí en una persona de perros”.

“Su nueva mascota se llama Leo en honor a Leonardo da Vinci porque es una obra inacabada. Me molesta cuando la gente me pregunta si se llama así por Leo el León: ¡NO! No hago personajes de Disney. El arte es mi pasión, así que se llama Leo-nardo”, alargó la palabra con un exagerado acento italiano.

De hecho, da Vinci dejó muchas obras inacabadas. De la Enciclopedia Británica:

Como haría a lo largo de toda su vida, Leonardo se fijó metas ilimitadas. Si uno traza los contornos de su obra para este periodo, o para el conjunto de su vida, se siente tentado a llamarla una enorme “sinfonía inacabada”. Leonardo concibió el asombroso plan de observar todos los objetos del mundo visible, reconocer su forma y estructura y describirlos pictóricamente tal como son.

De hecho, Dorothy tiene previsto viajar este verano a Florencia (Italia) para documentarse sobre su libro de ficción que transcurre durante el Renacimiento. Su interés por esta época se remonta a su estancia en Nueva York. La primera vez que vio arte renacentista y se enamoró de él fue cuando visitó Los Claustros. Más tarde, ya jubilada, empezó a estudiar historia antigua y volvió a Florencia, pero se centró más en la sociedad. Sentía que los primeros Medici no eran como los demás y eso le daba esperanzas para el futuro.

“Mi obsesión no ha hecho más que crecer con los años”, afirma. “El libro trata de la ciudad de Florencia, con Florencia como personaje principal, así que habla de Da Vinci, los Médicis y Miguel Ángel dando vueltas por ahí. Es un poco complejo, pero ¿por qué no? Era una época compleja”.

La rutina de Dorothy y Leo es un largo paseo por las mañanas, y luego tres o cuatro paseos más cortos por las tardes hasta el malecón. Explora todos los rincones y luego vuelve corriendo a por golosinas.

“Quiero muchísimo a este pequeño”, afirma, “pero no es un perro especialmente cariñoso. Puede que se deba a sus años en la calle, sobreviviendo. Su forma de demostrar afecto, creo, es enroscarse alrededor de mi pierna o acurrucarse conmigo mientras vemos la tele”.

¿Quién puede pedir más?

\$#!& happens!

Are you 'dressed' for the unexpected?

As with every other new year, we start 2023 off with fresh (or revisited) goals, intentions for our lives; evaluating the last 12 months and making resolutions – promises we likely broke sometime mid-January, postponed for 2024. This, and our love of Mexico, is a common thread among us.

Now more than ever, people are leaving the US and Canada, either to travel, retire altogether or to work remotely, many of which are arriving lakeside.

For me, I didn't actually intend to stay here. At a friend's urging, I came down to recuperate from a catastrophic wildfire in the Pacific NW that destroyed my home and everything I owned; what started out as a 3-month reprieve has turned into 2+ years! The sabbatical over and the heartache dealt with, it was time to get serious again. Residency status, √. Permanent housing, √. Then what? At first, thinking about what I would do if something happened to me wasn't on my mind – honestly, it was more a matter of piecing things back together; healing, making new friends, replacing clothing, shoes and dog toys! I admit it wasn't the most responsible phase of my life. In time though, normalcy came back around, and I realized I was running 'naked' and without a safety net.

How 'bout you?

What is your protocol if/when life goes sideways?

Some have chosen to keep medical insurance in the state or province you lived/worked in, with the idea that should something happen, you'll fly or drive back 'home' for care. That's smart and ideal if you're not too ill or injured to make the trip. Others have extended their provincial health coverage, knowing they can return to Canada in the event of a medical emergency, and buying them time to sort out local options for healthcare once the two years is up. Also a good choice if you're able to travel by normal means. Lastly, but more common than you'd think are those who have no plan, figuring they'll simply pay out of pocket for anything that comes up, and if they should die then 'Que Sera, Sera'. Like Swiss cheese, there are many holes in this "no plan" plan; primarily, what if you don't die and need extended care, treatment, etc.?! There's nothing simple about that!

The most comprehensive way to ensure you have the maximum protection should a sudden medical event occur is to:

- Maintain medical insurance, whether it's provincial, from an employer, Medicare, VA or a Mexican health insurance policy that can be bought for catastrophic events (premiums for seniors and co-pays/deductibles for pre-existing conditions are very high)
- Buy an emergency evacuation membership such as SkyMed® to fly you NOB after a major accident or serious illness when you need or want to be treated in your home hospital of choice
- Add travel insurance but most policies are only good for trips up to 90 days. Do your homework and read the fine print

LCS offers Post Life Emergency Planning services and the Reaching Out program for those who are isolated, ill and/or home-bound. Cruz Roja (Red Cross) provides Emergency Medical Kits should you need assistance from an EMT at home. It's very important to make a list of your medical conditions and contact numbers for your loved ones; increase your credit card limits to pay upfront fees for sudden incidents; entrust your house key to someone (especially if you have pets) and have the name and number of a local ambulance service written down and placed in your wallet and on your fridge. Knowing you're prepared beforehand gives you and your family back home, peace of mind. So, Carpe Diem! Seize the day! Enjoy all the beautiful sights, sounds and culture that the Lake Chapala area has to offer. Cheer's to a wonderfully 'clothed' 2023!



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