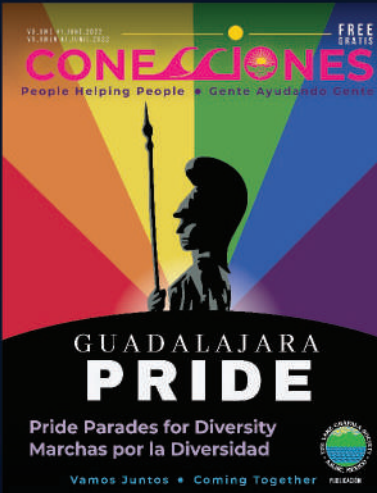


CONEXIONES

People Helping People • Gente Ayudando Gente

Thank you all!



The Role of LCS in the Lives of Expats
El papel de LCS en la vida de los expatriados





Concerts in the Park
Steve Balfour presents A benefit for LCS

ROCKET MAN

an Elton John tribute

STARRING DANIEL CELIS

JAN 2:30
17 5:30
SHOWS



Concerts in the Park
Steve Balfour presents A benefit for LCS

JAN 2:30
22 5:30
SHOWS

The Look of Love

"The Best Of Bacharach"

Christine Deaver

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2:30
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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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COVER: Conecciones Magazine

President's Message

To all our supporters:

As I enter my final year as President of The Lake Chapala Society, I reflect on the many accomplishments we have made together, especially during the COVID period, and focus on the possibilities for this final year in my role.

As you know The Lake Chapala Society is a volunteer driven organization. We have over 300 volunteers who give of their time, talents and passion with the desire to enhance the experience of the Lakeside region. Everything we do is dependent on volunteers who are committed to our society and our community. We also thank our members and our generous donors without whom we would not be here today! Your generosity kept our organization going during the years that Covid was putting so many organizations out of business. Twice we were within three months of closing our doors forever.

When I stepped up, less than a year before Covid, LCS was suffering severely from many years of neglected maintenance simply because the funds were not there. Bringing years of fundraising experience to the organization, we were able to raise the funds to do the following:

A couple of major repairs were undertaken outside the Neill James Home:

- The veranda had a roof that was within a few months of crashing down on top of people resulting in serious injury.
- The Neill James Plaza for years has had serious liability issues and we were finally able to install new pavers and open the space up as a more fitting tribute to Neill James.

- The bench around the Neill James tree suffered from major damage that was hazardous and not a fitting tribute to Neill. This is being reworked for something more appropriate.
- The exterior and awnings of the Neill James kitchen and the Sala were repaired and repainted along with the interior.
- Additional lighting was installed for evening activities throughout the garden.
- Extensive damage within the walls of many of our buildings including the Neill James house was repaired.
- The old swimming pool on the south building which had become a weed garden was filled in.
- Thousands of roaches that had taken over the grounds of the casita on the south campus were removed which made way for the premier Mudlarks ceramics class.
- New bilingual signs were installed throughout the campus.
- New bulletin boards were installed outside the library for public notices.
- The exterior overhang roofs of the DVD library and outside the library were rebuilt to help stop the moisture problems inside the buildings.
- The service office was totally remodeled to make it more service oriented and provide open spacing.
- The finance office was moved into a more secure and private space.
- Fresh paint was applied to most buildings on campus.
- The lake side of the south building had a new tile terrace created under the new tile roof.
- The driveway has just recently been torn out and new pavers recycled from the Neill James Plaza installed.
- An additional meeting room was established in the south building.
- Bodegas used for storage were cleaned out and new roofs installed on several of them to protect equipment.
- The lawns around the Gazebo were completely reworked with added paths that would allow for better passage.
- The Molinari house was purchased, which allowed for an expansion on the Blue Patio, greatly increasing its usage.
- There were many trees that were in very serious condition, some with a serious problems. This project was half way towards completion pre-Covid and now has come back into focus.
- The rainy season always posed challenges for us and work has been done to address serious drainage issues.
- The ponds had a great deal of work done to them along with landscape work around the upper pond.
- Old smoking areas were stripped out, cleaned up, redone and now offer additional seating and meeting areas.
- In addition to these items, we also took a leadership role in dealing with Covid in our community.
- We have and we continue to greatly expand our collaborations within the many communities that make up Lakeside.
- The most successful fundraisers for LCS have been my Concerts in the Park series. These concerts have raised over \$4 million pesos for LCS, providing funds for many of these projects including the building of a

concert stage used by many LCS programs and activities. They have also benefited a number of local charities. Every concert employs Latinos and helps teach them new skills.

- Post Covid, most annual events have come back to enthusiastic audiences, also generating operating funds.
- I still want to tear down the wall that only serves to separate the Molinari house - that will allow for much more needed and usable outdoor and meeting space.

There is still so much more that must be done before buildings collapse beyond repair, people are hurt seriously and our programs curtailed. Will you consider getting 2023 off to a good start by making a donation to show your support for these and other efforts we need to undertake? Some of our biggest needs now include replacing bathrooms that were intended for a single family use, but are amongst the most used baños in Ajijic. Half of these restrooms do not currently work correctly or at all. Most walkways are in desperate need of reworking as they have major cracks that pose a serious liability problem. The electrical and sewer system needs a great deal of attention as well.

At our 2022 Annual General Meeting, held yearly in March, I charged our Board of Directors and key folks with focusing like a laser on these five priorities:

- ◇ Customer service
- ◇ Upgraded technology
- ◇ Community collaborations - with the greater community
- ◇ Community visibility
- ◇ Taking care of what we have

For my final year as President, I want to greatly increase the focus on these pillars. We still have a lot of work to do in each of these areas and we need people who can rise to the occasion and help us meet these priorities. Roll up your sleeves or open your wallets - everyone can make a difference.

If you support the progress we are making in our beautiful gardens, and would like us to continue, please consider a generous gift to the **President's Fund** to keep us motivated and moving forward with supporting our community. Donations can be made in the LCS office or on our website and a note that this is to **keep the work going**. I will make sure your donation is properly used.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2023 and may this year open great possibilities for our organization, our community and for all of you.

Happy New Year

Steve Balfour
President
Lake Chapala Society



Mensaje del Presidente

A todos nuestros simpatizantes:

Al entrar en mi último año como Presidente de Lake Chapala Society, reflexiono sobre los muchos logros que hemos hecho juntos, especialmente durante el período COVID y me enfoco en las posibilidades de este último año en mi cargo.

Como ustedes saben Lake Chapala Society es una organización impulsada por voluntarios. Tenemos más de 300 voluntarios que dan de su tiempo, talento y pasión con el deseo de mejorar la experiencia de la región del Lago. Todo lo que hacemos depende de los voluntarios que están comprometidos con nuestra sociedad y nuestra comunidad. También damos las gracias a nuestros miembros y a nuestros generosos donantes, sin los cuales hoy no estaríamos aquí. Su generosidad hizo que nuestra organización siguiera adelante durante los años en que Covid estaba dejando fuera de juego a tantas organizaciones. En dos ocasiones estuvimos a tres meses de cerrar nuestras puertas para siempre.

Cuando me incorporé a LCS, poco menos de un año antes de Covid, LCS sufría las consecuencias de muchos años de falta de mantenimiento, simplemente porque no se disponían de recursos. Aportando a la organización años de experiencia en recaudación de fondos, conseguimos reunir los fondos necesarios para hacer lo siguiente, en el exterior del Hogar Neill James y así brindar un homenaje más adecuado a ella, se llevaron a cabo importantes trabajos:

- Se arregló el techo de la veranda, el cual estaba a pocos meses de caerle encima de la gente y provocar lesiones graves.
- El Patio Neill James, durante años ha tenido serios problemas de responsabilidad y finalmente hemos sido capaces de instalar nuevos adoquines.
- El banco alrededor del árbol de Neill James sufrió daños importantes que eran peligrosos y no un homenaje adecuado a Neill, esto está siendo reelaborado para algo más apropiado.
- El exterior y los toldos de la cocina y la Sala fueron reparados y repintados junto con el interior.
- Se instaló iluminación adicional para las actividades nocturnas en todo el jardín.
- Se repararon los grandes daños en el interior de los muros de muchos de nuestros edificios, incluida la sagrada casa Neill James.
- Se puso pasto en una antigua piscina en el edificio sur que se había convertido en un jardín de malas hierbas.
- Se logró eliminar a las miles de cucarachas que se habían apoderado del terreno de la casita del campus sur, lo que dio paso a la primera clase de cerámica de los Mudlarks.
- Se instalaron nuevas señales bilingües en todo el campus.
- Nuevos tabloneros de anuncios fuera de la biblioteca para avisos públicos
- Se reconstruyeron los tejados salientes exteriores de la biblioteca de DVD y del exterior de la biblioteca para ayudar a detener el problema de humedad en los edificios.
- Se ha remodelado totalmente la oficina de Servicios para que esté más orientada al servicio y tenga un espacio más abierto.
- La oficina de finanzas se trasladó a un espacio más seguro y privado.
- Se pintaron la mayoría de los edificios del campus.
- Se creó una nueva terraza de baldosas en el lado del lago del edificio sur, bajo el nuevo tejado de tejas.
- Recientemente se ha demolido el camino de entrada y se reciclaron los adoquines del Patio Neill James.
- Se ha creado una sala de reuniones adicional en el edificio sur.
- El mayor éxito de recaudación de fondos para LCS ha sido mi serie de Conciertos en el Parque. Estos conciertos han recaudado más de \$4 millones de pesos en beneficio de un número de organizaciones benéficas locales, así como LCS, y proporcionaron los fondos para muchos de estos proyectos, y la construcción de un escenario de conciertos que es utilizado por muchos de nuestros programas y actividades en LCS.
- Todos estos conciertos han empleado a latinos y han ayudado a enseñarles nuevas habilidades.
- La mayoría de los eventos anuales también han regresado post Covid a audiencias entusiastas, generando fondos operativos.
- Se limpiaron las bodegas utilizadas para almacenamiento, se instalaron nuevos techos en varias de ellas para proteger el equipo.

- Se renovó por completo el césped alrededor del Kisko y se añadieron caminos que permitieran un mejor paso.
- Se compró la casa Molinari, lo que permitió ampliar el Patio Azul, aumentando considerablemente su uso.
- Todavía quiero derribar ese muro que sólo sirve para separar la casa Molinari - que permitirá un mejor espacio al aire libre para reuniones.
- Había muchos árboles en muy mal estado, algunos muy enfermos. Este proyecto estaba a medio terminar antes de Covid y ahora se ha vuelto a centrar en él.
- La temporada de lluvias siempre nos planteaba problemas y se ha trabajado para solucionar graves problemas de drenaje.
- Se ha trabajado mucho en los estanques y en el paisaje que rodea el estanque superior.
- Se han desmontado, limpiado y renovado las antiguas zonas de fumadores, que ahora ofrecen más asientos y zonas de reunión.
- Además, hemos asumido un papel de liderazgo en la lucha contra Covid en nuestra comunidad.
- Hemos ampliado y seguimos ampliando enormemente nuestras colaboraciones con las numerosas comunidades que forman Lakeside.

Aún queda mucho por hacer antes de que los edificios se derrumben sin remedio, las personas resulten gravemente heridas y nuestros programas se vean reducidos. Considera la posibilidad de hacer que 2023 empiece con buen pie haciendo una donación para mostrar tu apoyo a estos y otros esfuerzos que tenemos que emprender. Algunas de nuestras mayores necesidades ahora incluyen el reemplazo de baños que fueron pensados para el uso de una sola familia, pero que están entre los baños más usados en Ajijic. La mitad de estos baños actualmente no funcionan en absoluto o correctamente. La mayoría de las aceras en LCS necesitan urgentemente mantenimiento, ya que tienen grietas importantes que suponen un grave riesgo. Los sistemas eléctrico y de alcantarillado también necesitan mucha atención.

En nuestra Junta General Anual de 2022, que se celebra anualmente en marzo, encargué a nuestro Consejo de Administración y a nuestro personal clave que se centraran como un láser en estas cinco prioridades.

- ◇ Atención al cliente
- ◇ Mejora de la tecnología
- ◇ Colaboración con la comunidad en general
- ◇ Visibilidad de la comunidad
- ◇ Cuidar lo que tenemos

En mi último año como Presidente, quiero centrarme más en estos pilares. Aún nos queda mucho trabajo por hacer en cada una de estas áreas y necesitamos personas que estén a la altura de las circunstancias y nos ayuden a cumplir estas prioridades. Arremánguense o abran sus carteras: todos podemos marcar la diferencia.

Si usted apoya el progreso que estamos haciendo en nuestros hermosos jardines, y le gustaría que continuemos, por favor considere una generosa donación al Fondo del Presidente para mantenernos motivados y seguir adelante con el apoyo a nuestra comunidad. Las donaciones se pueden hacer en la oficina de LCS o en nuestro sitio web, añadir una nota que esto es para mantener el trabajo en marcha. Me aseguraré de que su donación se utilice correctamente.

Mis mejores deseos para un maravilloso 2023 y que este año abra grandes posibilidades para nuestra organización, nuestra comunidad y todos ustedes.

Feliz Año Nuevo

Steve Balfour
Presidente
Lake Chapala Society

Art In the Garden
Bring in the New Year with the LCS Garden Art Show!

Saturday Jan 14 • 10am to 3pm
Theme: "Inspire Your Heart With Art Day (Jan 31)"

Help support local art, children's art, and handicrafts – while enjoying a beautiful day in our famous gardens

You'll find art from local artists, plus art and cards from the LCS Children's Art Program – if you missed our famous Christmas Cards, here's another chance!

Free admission • Ample parking
Café for drinks & snacks • ATM

Lake Chapala Society
16 de septiembre #16A, Ajijic
LakeChapalaSociety.com

THE LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY
MEXICO

Rosca de Reyes (Three Kings Cake)

a tradition of European origin
that endures in Mexico

By Francisco Galindo Rizo



Although today the tradition of the Rosca de Reyes is deeply rooted in Mexico, where it has become a reason for coexistence and family union, its origin is European and is fundamentally religious. According to available information, the rosca symbolizes the biblical passage between the encounter of the Three Kings with the child Jesus and is known as the Epiphany.

Its oval or circular shape, they say, has to do with the infinite circle of love for God, since it has no beginning or end. It also evokes the crowns of the Three Kings, the multi-colored fruit echoing the colorful jewels and symbolizing a message of peace, love and hope.

The Rosca de Reyes has behind it a beautiful story of faith and sacrifice of three men who followed a luminous star to Bethlehem to adore the Child God, a tradition that has its beginnings in the Middle Ages and arrived in Mexico during the Viceroyalty.

The Catholic Church celebrates "The Epiphany" a Greek word that means manifestation or appearance, to remember the revelation of Jesus to the Magi or Holy Kings.

The story goes that the three Wise Men came out of Persia to worship the baby Jesus and according to tradition in Mexico, they are the ones who bring gifts to children, as they once did with the baby Jesus by bringing him three gifts that included gold, incense and myrrh. This is how today in the early morning of January 6, children receive gifts, which the kings leave in their homes, representing the gifts that the Three Wise Men brought to the baby Jesus.

Marco Polo in his book "The Travels of Marco Polo", or "The Book of the Million", details that the three kings of the region undertook their journey to worship a newborn prophet and bring him three offerings: gold, incense and myrrh, "if the prophet took the gold, he was an earthly king; if he took the incense he was a God, and if he took the myrrh, he was a doctor".

After a long walk in which the star of Bethlehem disappeared at times, the Magi found the Child, who was three days old, prostrated themselves before him and gave him the three offerings, the Child took all three gifts and in return gave them a chest which contained a stone whose message was that they should be firm and constant in their faith. When the kings saw the stone, they did not understand its meaning, so they threw it into a well and then watched as a flame descended from the clouds and sank to the stone. In this way they understood that it was a talisman. They each captured part of the fire and took it to their respective countries to keep it burning and to use it in all catastrophes.

The little doll hidden inside the Rosca de Reyes symbolizes the baby Jesus that the kings could not find because the star disappeared.

According to a codex from the library of Paris, during the 7th century these magi were called Melchior, represented by an old man with a white beard; Gaspar, with the appearance of a blond young man; and Balthazar, with a black complexion and wavy beard. The diversity of races of the magi alludes to the range of peoples existing in the world, who as a sign of adoration brought gold, a gift worthy of kings; incense, indispensable for the worship of gods, and myrrh, symbol of the mortality of the Messiah.

The Holy Kings appeared for the first time in the sixth century, in a mosaic of the church of San Apolinar Nuovo, in Italy, and later, in the sixteenth century, their races were diversified, one coming from Europe, another from Asia and the third from Africa. This context explains the assignment of the horse, the camel and the elephant as transportation.

In Mexico, the Three Wise Men were known by the Catholic missionaries who, since the sixteenth century, spread the story of these wise men and later introduced the habit of giving gifts to the little ones, as the Magi did with Jesus.

The Mexican tradition that marks the end of the so-called Guadalupe-Reyes cycle (December 12-January 6) remains, so in some homes children continue to leave their shoes near the Christmas tree, hoping to find the desired gift at dawn on Three Kings Day.

The "Rosca de Reyes" (Three Kings Cake) originated in the Middle Ages in France when, in an effort to christianize the pagan custom of "choosing a king of the feasts" inspired by Ecclesiastes, a bean was hidden in a sweet bread roll decorated with sugar and fruits.

The hidden bean symbolized the flight of Joseph and Mary to hide the Child Jesus and make him safe from King Herod's persecution while the crystallized sweets or fruits are the distractions of the world that prevent us from finding Jesus.

Today, the broad bean has been replaced by a plastic figurine hidden in the bread, which each person cuts with a knife, an instrument that symbolizes the danger in which the baby Jesus finds himself.

It is not known when a porcelain baby Jesus began to be hidden inside the bread, but the person who finds the figurine when cutting the bread becomes the host of a subsequent celebration, since he or she is considered the godfather of the child.

When we eat the bread, it is related to the communion with God, with the sacredness of the newborn character, the size of the rosca depends on the amount of dolls that are inserted in it and it is cut on January 6 in the afternoon or evening in the company of the family.

The oral tradition points to some people who have been able to swallow the figurine to avoid the commitment dictated by tradition and that gives way to the celebration of Candlemas Day, where the godparents make a "ropón" to the baby Jesus, dress him up and give the diners atole and tamales on February 2.

Rosca de Reyes,

tradición de origen europeo que perdura en México

Por Lic. Francisco Galindo Rizo



Aunque hoy la tradición de la Rosca de Reyes está profundamente arraigada en México, donde se ha convertido en motivo de convivencia y unión familiar, su origen es europeo y es fundamentalmente religioso.

De acuerdo con información disponible, la rosca simboliza el pasaje bíblico entre el encuentro de los Reyes Magos con el niño Dios y se le conoce como la Epifanía.

Su forma ovalada o circular, relatan, tiene que ver con el círculo infinito del amor a Dios, ya que no tiene principio o fin.

También evoca las coronas de los Reyes Magos, cuya fruta de múltiples colores simboliza un mensaje de paz, amor y esperanza.

La Rosca de Reyes tiene tras sí una bella historia de fe y sacrificio de tres hombres que siguieron una estrella luminosa hasta Belén para adorar al Niño Dios, tradición que tiene sus comienzos en la Edad Media y llegó a México durante el Virreinato.

La Iglesia Católica celebra “La Epifanía”, vocablo griego que significa manifestación, aparición, para recordar la revelación de Jesús ante los Reyes Magos o Santos Reyes.

La historia cuenta que de Persia salieron los tres Reyes Magos para ir a adorar al Niño Jesús y según la tradición en México, son ellos quienes traen los regalos a los menores, como alguna vez lo hicieron con el Niño Jesús al llevarle tres dones que incluían oro, incienso y mirra.

Es así que hoy en día en la madrugada del día 6 de enero, los niños reciben regalos, que los reyes les dejan en sus casas, en representación de los obsequios que los Reyes Magos le llevaron al Niño Jesús.

Marco Polo en su libro “Los viajes de Marco Polo” o “El Libro del Millón”, detalla que los tres reyes de la comarca emprendieron su viaje para adorar a un profeta recién nacido y llevarle tres ofrendas: oro, incienso y mirra, “si el profeta tomaba el oro, era rey terreno; si tomaba el incienso era un Dios, y si tomaba la mirra, era un médico”.

Después de un largo caminar en la que la estrella de Belén desaparecía en algunos momentos los Reyes Magos encontraron al Niño, quien tenía tres días de nacido, se postraron ante él y le dieron las tres ofrendas, el Niño tomó los tres presentes y a cambio les dio un cofrecillo, el cual contenía una piedra cuyo mensaje era que debían ser firmes y constantes en su fe.

Los Reyes, al ver la piedra no comprendieron el significado, por lo que la arrojaron a un pozo y vieron que de las nubes descendió una llamarada que se hundió hasta la piedra.

De esta forma comprendieron que se trataba de un talismán, tomaron parte del fuego y lo llevaron a sus respectivos países para mantenerlo ardiendo y utilizarlo en todas las catástrofes.

El muñequito escondido dentro de la Rosca de Reyes simboliza al Niño Jesús que los reyes no encontraban porque la estrella desaparecía.

Según un códice de la biblioteca de París, durante el Siglo VII, estos magos se llamaban Melchor, representado por un hombre anciano de barbas blancas; Gaspar, con apariencia de un joven rubio, y Baltasar, de tez negra y barbas onduladas.

La diversidad de razas de los magos hace alusión a la gama de pueblos existentes en el mundo, quienes en signo de adoración llevaron oro, regalo digno de reyes; incienso, indispensable para la adoración de dioses, y mirra, símbolo de la mortalidad del Mesías.

Los Santos Reyes aparecieron por primera vez en el siglo VI, en un mosaico de la iglesia de San Apolinar Nuovo, en Italia, y más tarde, en el siglo XVI, por cuestiones incluyentes, se diversificaron sus razas, uno provenía de Europa, otro de Asia y el tercero de África.

Este contexto se explica la asignación del caballo, el camello y el elefante como transporte.

En México, los Reyes Magos fueron conocidos por los misioneros católicos,

quienes difundieron desde el Siglo XVI, el episodio protagonizado por estos sabios e introdujeron más tarde el hábito de dar obsequios a los pequeños, como lo hicieron los Magos con Jesús.

La tradición mexicana que pone fin al denominado ciclo Guadalupe-Reyes (12 de diciembre-6 de enero) permanece, así que en algunos hogares los niños siguen dejando sus zapatos cerca del árbol de Navidad, esperanzados en encontrar el obsequio deseado al amanecer el Día de Reyes.

Partir la Rosca de Reyes se origina en la Edad Media en Francia en la que cristianizando la costumbre pagana de “elegir un rey de las fiestas” inspirado en el Eclesiastés, se escondía un haba, en una rosca de pan dulce adornada con azúcar y frutas.

Dicha haba oculta simbolizaba la huida de José y María para esconder al Niño Jesús y ponerlo a salvo de la persecución del rey Herodes; los dulces o frutos cristalizados son las distracciones del mundo que nos impiden encontrar a Jesús.

Hoy en día, el haba ha sido sustituida por una figurilla de plástico escondida en el pan, al que cada persona corta con un cuchillo, instrumento que simboliza el peligro en el que se halla el Niño Jesús.

Se desconoce a partir de cuándo se empezó a esconder dentro de la rosca un niño Dios de porcelana, pero la persona que encuentra la figurilla al cortar el pan, se convierte en anfitrión de otra celebración posterior, ya que se considera el padrino del mismo.

Cuando comemos el pan, se relaciona con la comunión con Dios, con lo sagrado del personaje recién nacido, el tamaño de la rosca depende de la cantidad de muñecos que se insertan en la misma, se parte el día 6 de enero por la tarde o noche en compañía de la familia.

La tradición oral señala a algunas personas que han sido capaces de tragarse la figurilla para eludir el compromiso que dicta la tradición y que da paso a la celebración del Día de la Candelaria, donde los padrinos confeccionan un “ropón” al niño Jesús, lo visten de gala y regalan a los comensales atole y tamales el 2 de febrero.

Putting Dreams Into Words *By Loretta Downs*



How divine that I am here to mark the turn of another year, the 74th time a year has changed for me. More than a few of my friends cannot say the same.

For many years, those same friends and I would ponder resolutions as one lived year faded and another shined brightly with promise. It seems that lose weight, stop smoking, go to Europe, change jobs, find a partner, exercise more, write a book, be nicer to my sister, buy a house, stop drinking, get divorced, rotated on the lists year after year until finally they were all accomplished—or abandoned.

As 2023 approached, I began to think about what I wanted to resolve to change in my life, but I couldn't think of what that might be. Then I remembered the

wall full of dreams that recently stood on the Lake Chapala Society campus for a month. Large, bold letters Before I Die and Antes de Morir were stenciled across the tops of three blackboard panels 10 feet long and almost 8 feet high, hinged into a triangle that stood like a mountain inside the entrance.

Painted lines of Before I die I want to _____ ran down the panels, thanks to stencils designed by artist Shelly Stokes, creator of Cedar Canyon Textiles. A box of colored chalk sat nearby inviting everyone to think about our fragile mortality, about what really matters most and to put that dream into words.

Alongside the chalk was a laminated piece of paper revealing how this powerful public art project was created by artist Candy Chang in 2011 as a response to the death of someone close to her when she painted the side of an abandoned building with chalkboard. Since that first wall appeared in her New Orleans neighborhood, more than 5,000 walls have been constructed in over 78 countries. The wall at LCS, painstakingly built by the talented students at Escuela des Artes Industriales in Riberas, was only the tenth one ever seen in Mexico.

This massive wall quickly became a public display of the deepest hopes and desires of our community. It served to remind us not only that we are all mortal, but also that we all want the same things. Whether slowly pondering what to write or swiftly writing down a dream or simply reading what others wrote was spiritually transformational.

Some of us dreamed of travel: Egypt, the Azores Islands, all of Mexico, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Europe, Africa, all 7 continents, the northern lights, Rio de Janeiro, Petra in Jordan, even take a shuttle to space.

Many of us manifested dreams for living with a positive state of being: “Say, ‘Delicious!!,’” “Find Peace on earth,” “Be a blessing to all,” “Merge deeply into love,” “Know the deepest happiness,” “Live every day like it could be your last,” “Live in a world of peace, love, equality and justice,” “Experience complete inner peace,” “Spread compassion,” “To know the deepest happiness,” “Raise my consciousness,” “Feel deeply connected to God every day,” “I just want every day to have been enough to be happy.”

Some were playful, “Have Carlos pay me back,” “I want to get laid!!” “Have the best hot fudge sundae,” “Don’t die.”



Some promised action: “Stop eating animals,” “Learn Spanish,” “Learn to paint,” “Build a house from scratch,” “Have peace with finances,” “Breathe my last breath in Ajijic.”

Others were brave: “Take risks carefully and fearlessly,” “Write a book,” “Play music in the square,” “Forgive others,” “Write an ethical will,” “Pray for departed loved ones and give care to all the living,” “Be myself consistently,” “Become a citizen of the country,” “To succeed in life,” “To have my daughters express love for each other,” “End racism,” “Watch my child grow.”

At the end of its tenure, I walked around the wall feasting on the hundreds of dreams thoughtfully scrawled across every inch of each panel in English or Spanish. One sentence stopped me. It had been carefully printed by someone unwisely standing on a chair to reach the only empty space left, high across the top of a panel next to the largest one-foot tall letters Before I Die. The simple dream shouted at me: Before I die “I want to be a good memory.”

Those few, small words, that hopeful and achievable dream, contained all the other dreams that were colorfully and courageously given life on the quiet campus of our incredible Lake Chapala Society. If every action we do, every word we speak, every attitude we express leaves someone somewhere—whether in Egypt or on a spaceship or at the dinner table—feeling better than they did before our encounter, we are truly living all those outstanding dreams. That’s a resolution worth keeping. And that is how to live forever.

Poner los sueños en palabras

Por Loretta Downs

Qué divino que esté aquí para marcar el cambio de otro año, la 74ª vez que un año cambia para mí. Muchos de mis amigos no pueden decir lo mismo.

Durante muchos años, esas mismas amigas y yo nos planteábamos propósitos cuando un año se desvanecía y otro brillaba con promesas. Parece que perder peso, dejar de fumar, ir a Europa, cambiar de trabajo, encontrar pareja, hacer más ejercicio, escribir un libro, ser más amable con mi hermana, comprar una casa, dejar de beber, divorciarme, rotaban en las listas año tras año hasta que finalmente todos se cumplían... o se abandonaban.

A medida que se acercaba el año 2023, empecé a pensar en lo que quería cambiar en mi vida, pero no se me ocurría qué podía ser. Entonces recordé la pared llena de sueños que hace poco estuvo durante un mes en el campus de Lake Chapala Society. Grandes y audaces letras Before I died y Antes de Morir estaban escritas en la parte superior de tres paneles de pizarrón de 3mts de largo y casi 1.8mts de alto, articulados en un triángulo que se erguía como una montaña dentro de la entrada.

Las líneas pintadas de Antes de morir quiero _____ recorrían los paneles, gracias a las plantillas diseñadas por la artista Shelly Stokes, creadora de Cedar Canyon Textiles. Una caja de gises de colores invitaba a todos a reflexionar sobre nuestra frágil mortalidad, sobre lo que realmente importa y a expresar ese sueño con palabras.

Junto a los gises había un papel enmicado que revelaba cómo este impactante proyecto de arte público fue creado por la artista Candy Chang en 2011 como respuesta a la muerte de alguien cercano a ella, cuando pintó con gis el lateral de un edificio abandonado. Desde que apareció ese primer muro en su barrio de Nueva Orleans, se han construido más de 5,000 muros en más de 78 países. El muro de LCS, minuciosamente construido por los talentosos alumnos de la Escuela de Artes Industriales de Riberas, era sólo el décimo que se había visto en México.

Este enorme muro se convirtió rápidamente en una muestra pública de las esperanzas y deseos más profundos de nuestra comunidad. Sirvió para recordarnos no sólo que todos somos mortales, sino también que todos queremos las mismas cosas. Ya fuera reflexionando lentamente sobre qué escribir o escribiendo rápidamente un sueño, el simple hecho de leer lo que otros escribían nos transformaba espiritualmente.

Algunos soñábamos con viajar: Egipto, las Islas Azores, todo México, Nueva Zelanda, Nueva Escocia, Europa, África, los 7 continentes, la aurora boreal, Río de Janeiro, Petra en Jordania, incluso llevar un transbordador al espacio.

Muchos de nosotros manifestamos sueños para vivir con un estado de ser positivo: "Decir ¡¡¡Delicioso!!!", "Encontrar la



Paz en la Tierra", "Ser una bendición para todos", "Fundirme profundamente en el amor", "Conocer la felicidad más profunda", "Vivir cada día como si pudiera ser el último", "Vivir en un mundo de paz, amor, igualdad y justicia", "Experimentar una paz interior completa", "Difundir la compasión", "Conocer la felicidad más profunda", "Elevar mi conciencia", "Sentirme profundamente conectado con Dios cada día", "Sólo quiero que cada día haya sido suficiente para ser feliz".

Algunos eran juguetones, "Haz que Carlos me pague", "¡Quiero echar un polvo!" "Toma el mejor helado de chocolate caliente", "No te mueras".

Algunos prometían acción: "Dejar de comer animales", "Aprender español", "Aprender a pintar", "Construir una casa desde cero", "Tener paz con las finanzas", "Respirar mi último aliento en Ajijic".

Otros eran valientes: "Asumir riesgos con cuidado y sin miedo", "Escribir un libro", "Tocar música en la plaza", "Perdonar a los demás", "Escribir un testamento ético", "Rezar por los seres queridos difuntos y cuidar a todos los vivos", "Ser yo mismo con coherencia", "Convertirme en ciudadano del país", "Tener éxito en la vida", "Que mis hijas se expresen amor mutuo", "Acabar con el racismo", "Ver crecer a mi hijo".

Al final de su mandato, caminé alrededor del muro deleitándome con los cientos de sueños garabateados cuidadosamente en cada centímetro de cada panel en inglés o español. Una frase me detuvo. Había sido cuidadosamente impresa por alguien imprudentemente subido a una silla para alcanzar el único espacio vacío que quedaba, en lo alto de la parte superior de un panel junto a la frase más grandes de 30cm de altura: Antes de morir. El simple sueño me gritaba Antes de morir "Quiero ser un buen recuerdo".

Esas pocas y pequeñas palabras, ese sueño esperanzador y alcanzable, contenían todos los demás sueños a los que colorida y valientemente se daba vida en el tranquilo recinto de nuestra increíble Lake Chapala Society. Si cada acción que realizamos, cada palabra que pronunciamos, cada actitud que expresamos deja a alguien en algún lugar -ya sea en Egipto, en una nave espacial o en la mesa- sintiéndose mejor que antes de nuestro encuentro, estamos viviendo realmente todos esos sueños pendientes. Es un propósito que merece la pena cumplir.

Y así es como se vive para siempre.

NEILL JAMES ARTISTIC LEGACY

"Once the ashes of Mexico settle in your heart you can never escape them."

(passage from the book "Dust In My Heart" by Neill James Campbell)

By Legado Artístico Neill James

Twenty-eight years after the passing of our Ajijic community benefactor, Neill James in 1994, the Legacy Artist Program she founded in 1954 is still going strong, after 68 years of existence.

Background:

"During World War II, Ajijic was a peaceful town where it seemed that time stood still and the people enjoyed peace and abundance and experienced the Fountain of Life of Eternal Youth." These are some words from Neill James' literary work, "Dust In My Heart", written in the 1940's by the famous writer upon her arrival in Ajijic. She became one of the most important and influential residents of the community of Ajijic.

Before her arrival in Ajijic, she had traveled to many different parts of the world, and in Japan she had learned the cultivation of silkworms. She used this knowledge to introduce the art and trade of yarn and fabric in our community. She had also spent time with the Otomi people in the State of Guerrero, Mexico, and experienced the nationalist movement in Mexico City, where the influence of Mexican muralism brought the first cultural centers, known as public libraries.

In Ajijic, under the National Plan Vasconcelista, James introduced reading programs and promoted painting workshops for children under the tutelage of Angelita Aldana Padilla. As artistically talented children developed and flourished, she provided scholarships for their professional training in visual arts.

Never one to sit on her laurels, James also collaborated in the provision of free school breakfasts in primary schools as well as the installation of electricity in the town, and the integration of the Health Center in conjunction with "Las Juntas de Mejoras de Ajijic".

In 1959, Javier Zaragoza, one of the student's in James's Children's Art Program, painted a series of evangelical passages inside the Temple of Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos. Florentino Padilla then painted some murals in San Francisco, California. Other contemporaries were Juan Olivares, Antonio Cárdenas and Santos Romero. They were the first generation of young creators at the end of the '50s and beginning of the '60s.

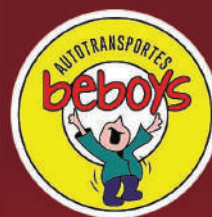
The second generation of the late 60's included José Manuel Castañeda and Antonio López Vega who painted a mural in the hallway of the Ajijic Health Center related to medicine. Antonio López Vega also participated in the national project "Solaridad" with another great mural about the foundation and history of Cuernavaca Morelos, while Dionicio Morales created a mural in the esplanade of the School of Arts and Crafts with the theme of the Looms in Ajijic, Julian Pulido painted a mural in the Union of Mexican Workers CTM, and Victor Romero became a great costumbrista painter.

Other creators are the sculptors, Jesús Higuera "Katuza" who creates carvings on wood and stone, Daniel Palma with his fantastic surrealism in stone and wrought iron, Victoria Corona Vega who employs a costumbrista style, Juan Navarro, an excellent engraver on metal plates, Javier Ramos, a great painter of hyperrealist dye, Jaime Vega, a landscape painter and Jesús López Vega, author of the mural Centro Cultural Ajijic.

It is worth mentioning that Isidro Xilonsochitl, a figurative painter from San Juan Cosalá, joined this movement in the mid 80s. Subsequently in later decades, other new talents of the Children's Program in the 90's have come to the forefront including Federico Enciso, Bruno Mariscal and Lucia Padilla among other more recent ones. Others include Jesús Eduardo López G. Orlando Ibarra López, Karina Gutiérrez and Rosario López G.

This program has continued today, thanks to the unconditional support of current LCS President Steve Balfour and Executive Director C. Luis F. Pacheco. Luis F. Pacheco has initiated Art Camps with multiple artistic workshops, all held in the facilities of the Lake Chapala Society thanks to the volunteers of the Children's Program led by Danielle Page, Javier Zaragoza and yours truly, Jesus Lopez Vega among others.

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, there will be an inauguration "RETROSPECTIVA 1954-2023" from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm in the facilities of the LCS, the former home of Neill James, at the corner of 16 de Septiembre and Ramón Corona. It will be a collective exhibition by local members of the Neill James Artistic Legacy Program marking seven decades of its existence and it will mark an important historical stage in the cultural development of our community. Free admission to the general public.



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LEGADO ARTISTICO NEILL JAMES

“Una vez que las cenizas de México se asientan en tu corazón jamás podrás escapar de ellas”

(pasaje revelado en el libro “Dust in my heart” de Neill James Campbell)

Por Legado Artístico Neill James

A 28 años del fallecimiento de la benefactora de nuestra comunidad de Ajijic Neill James (1994-2022), este movimiento se encuentra latente, después de 68 años de existencia desde 1954.

Antecedentes:

“Durante la segunda guerra mundial, Ajijic era un pueblo pacífico donde pareciera que el tiempo no pasaba, y la gente gozaba de paz y abundancia y Fuente de Vida de la Eterna Juventud”.

Estas son algunas palabras de un pasaje escrito por la afamada escritora a su llegada a Ajijic, por la década de los años 40 en su obra literaria “Dust in my heart”. Quien se convirtiera en una de las residentes más importantes e influyentes de la comunidad de Ajijic. Pues la ola de la Revolución Cristera había terminado.

Antes de su llegada a Ajijic, viajó por diferentes partes del mundo, vivió en Japón donde aprendió el cultivo de gusanos de seda aplicando ésta técnica e iniciando el comercio de hilados y tejidos en nuestra comunidad. Convivió con el pueblo Otomí en el Estado de Guerrero México. Conoció el movimiento nacionalista en la ciudad de México, donde la influencia del muralismo mexicano despertara la iniciación de los primeros centros culturales, conocidos como Bibliotecas públicas de Ajijic, bajo el Plan nacional vasconcelista, induciendo la lectura y promoviendo talleres de pintura a la niñez, con la tutela de Angelita Aldana Padilla, iniciándose los primeros niños con talento artístico, brindando becas para su formación profesional en Artes Plásticas, Colaboró en los desayunos escolares gratuitos de las escuelas primarias. La instalación de luz eléctrica del poblado, la integración del Centro de Salud en conjunción con “Las Juntas de Mejoras de Ajijic” entre otras actividades.

En 1959 Javier Zaragoza pinta una serie de pasajes evangélicos en el interior del Templo de Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos, Florentino Padilla (+) realizo algunos en San Francisco California. Sus contemporáneos fueron; Juan Olivares (+), Antonio Cárdenas, Santos Romero fueron la primera generación de jóvenes creadores de finales de la década de los 50 e inicio de los 60.

La segunda generación de finales de los 60; José Manuel Castañeda y Antonio López Vega quienes pintaron un mural en el pasillo del Centro de Salud de Ajijic relacionado a la medicina, otro gran mural sobre la fundación e historia de Cuernavaca Morelos donde participó Antonio López Vega en el proyecto nacional “Solaridad”, Dionicio Morales realizó un mural en la explanada de la escuela de Artes y Oficios, tema los Telares en Ajijic, Julián Pulido (+) realizó un mural en el Sindicato de Trabajadores Mexicanos CTM y Víctor Romero gran pintor costumbrista.

Otros creadores los escultores Jesús Higuera (+) “Katuza” tallas sobre madera y piedra, Daniel Palma a mi ver con un surrealismo fantástico en piedra y hierro forjado, Victoria Corona Vega de estilo costumbrista, Juan Navarro excelente grabador sobre placas en metal, Javier Ramos gran pintor de tinte hiperrealista, Jaime Vega paisajista. Su servidor Jesús López Vega mural Centro Cultural Ajijic, Cabe mencionar que Isidro Xilonsochitl pintor de tinte figurativo de San Juan Cozalá se unió a este movimiento a mediados de la década de los 80. Sucesivamente en décadas posteriores, otros nuevos talentos del Programa Infantil década de los 90: Federico Enciso, Bruno Mariscal, Lucía Padilla entre otros más recientes: Jesús Eduardo López G. Orlando Ibarra López, Karina Gutiérrez, Rosario López G. entre otros.

Este programa ha continuado hasta la actualidad, gracias al apoyo incondicional del presidente en turno LCS Steve Balfour y Dir. Ejecutivo C. Luis F Pacheco se han realizado Campamentos con múltiples talleres artísticos, en las instalaciones de esta “Sociedad del Lago de Chapala” gracias a los voluntarios del Programa Infantil con la encargada Danielle Page, Javier Zaragoza, su servidor Jesús López Vega entre otros.

El sábado 7 de enero del 2023, habrá una inauguración “RETROSPECTIVA 1954-2023” a las 10 de la mañana, el evento termina a las 5 pm. En las instalaciones del LCS antigua casa de Neill James, en 16 de septiembre y esquina Ramón Corona, es una exposición colectiva por miembros locales de Ajijic iniciados en este Legado Artístico, marcando 7 décadas de su existencia, como una etapa histórica en el desarrollo cultural de nuestra comunidad. entrada libre al público en general.

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The Role of LCS in the Lives of Expats

By Harriet Hart



When I arrived at Lakeside back in 2001, I was newly retired and, like many snowbirds, eager to begin a new stage of life in Mexico. LCS was the key to unlocking the door to retirement for me. I could walk there from my village home in ten minutes and I visited often. First I borrowed books from the library, and then I attended Open Circle (and other group meetings) held on the grounds. Soon I began to volunteer at the Information Desk. Now, two decades later, I look back astonished at the important role LCS has played in making retirement the rich experience it has been for me.

I studied Spanish at the Wilkes Center, I volunteered at the Information Desk for five years, I coordinated the Oral History Project and most recently helped start and continue to be involved as Associate Editor in the publication of this magazine. Volunteering allowed me to do things I'd always been curious about doing.

When the PEP program began, I studied creative writing with Rachel McMillen and learned about Mexican history through the lens of the historical novel with Judy King. All this cerebral stuff was balanced by exercise, enrolling in yoga and later line dancing...all at LCS. I have attended concerts and fashion shows and fiestas and gone on bus trips. I look back and realize that LCS has been a community center in my expat life.



LCS plays a crucial role in the lives of newcomers. They frequently arrived at the Information Desk, sat down and asked: "What is there to do here?" Retirement can be a scary time, as is making a new life in a different country. An hour later, they left, armed with information – organizations to join, classes to take and ideas to pursue. My answer always began with "what is it you've always dreamt of doing? Because, you can do it here – play tennis or pickleball, sing in a choir, act in a play, learn to play bridge, kayak on the lake..."

Curious to learn the role LCS plays in the lives of other old timers, I cornered Fred Harland and asked him. Fred has been a member for over twenty years. His first encounter with LCS came when he decided he wanted to organize a discussion group. At the time Fred was a snowbird, so he partnered up with full time resident, Marshall Krantz, to start one called Great Books. "I felt it belonged at LCS."

Soon Fred discovered that there was a lecture series being held and offered to give some. They turned into TED talks, which have been held for years. "In the beginning, I arranged the TED talks by myself but lately there are four of us taking turns choosing the topic and facilitating the discussion." This continued weekly until COVID interfered; TED talks will resume this January 10th. Fred and his TED partners are expecting a good turnout; before the pandemic, about seventy people participated every week.

Fred said originally, "way back when," the Neill James lectures, films, TED talks and the Wednesday discussion group were all run at LCS by volunteer members. Over time, LCS has hired staff who have taken over the responsibilities of many of the educationally oriented activities. Open Circle is a good example. It was original started by volunteers and run by a board with LCS acting as landlord. Recently they approached LCS, requesting that it become an LCS program. LCS staff member Alfredo Pérez is in charge of educational programming, PEP, which offers regular classes in topics such as Getting Your Driver's License and Mexican Manners. LCS could be likened to a Life Long Learning Center, similar to Creative Retirement up north. Of course, volunteers continue to provide programming as well. Diana Ayala joined the staff as Director of Development and is also an associate editor of *Conexiones*.

Fred served on the LCS Board as Vice President for two terms under Howard Feldstein's Presidency. During their tenure, LCS moved from a volunteer run organization to a more professional model with the hiring of the first Executive Director, Terry Vidal, and an



Operations Manager, Adela Alcaraz (both Spanish speakers who, along with additional office staff, maids and gardeners, keep LCS running). The organization operates using a combination of volunteers and paid staff under the management of an elected Board and Executive Director, Luis Pacheco, offering a veritable smorgasbord of services, classes and events.

Service Desk volunteer Concha Gurski told me that the biggest change she has seen in over a dozen years of volunteering in the front office is the hiring of Spanish speaking staff. "More and more Mexican people started arriving in the office and joining LCS." Concha's word for the role LCS has played in her life is a place to "network." She has made friendships

through it and uses LCS to keep abreast of what is going on at Lakeside. She says: "Membership in the Lake Chapala Society is a way of giving and receiving, both at the same time."

In recent years, LCS has offered concerts and events that have attracted the wider community such as the Concerts in the Park series presented by President Steve Balfour and the publication of this magazine, Conecciones, which is free to members and non-members alike. The docents are another relatively recent initiative and compliment the services offered by the Information Desk volunteers.

LCS began in the late 1950's as a society of expats, a social club with a community conscience. It continues to be a gathering place for expats and so much more. It's a hub of activity, a venue for events, an educational and community center, a place to socialize, network, volunteer to explore Mexican culture and a place to give and to receive.



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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Pull Out

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

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

LESSONS (M)

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
Dance Fitness	M 10-11
Exercise	M+W+F 9-9:50
Gentle Yoga & Body Awareness	W 10-10:50
Hurachess Club	T 4-6
Intermediate Hatha Yoga	T+TH 2-3:30
Introduction to Lakeside	10-1, Jan 13 zoom, Jan 9 campus
Introduction to Spanish	T 10,17,24 Jan 12-1:30
Line Dancing, gail@doughertynet.com	T + TH 10-11:15
Scottish Country Dancing	T+TH 11:15-12:45
Stretch & Balance	T+TH 8:45-9:45 harry_bertram@hotmail.com
Spanish in Action classes (español en acción)	See LCS website or in the office for more info
Spanish A La Carta Online Program	See LCS website/more info
Tech Help via Email	lcs.tech.training@gmail.com
Write to a Prompt Writers' Group	TH 10-12

LIBRARIES (M)

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (M)

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

HEALTH INSURANCE*

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

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

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

Becerra Immigration	TH 10:30-12:30
Intercam Banking Services	M-F 10-1
Audiology- hearing care specialists (Consultation fee)	M+W+F 10-4 Call for appointment 332-945-3267
Optometrist Claravision	TH 9-4; 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
ASA Board Meeting	Last W, 10:30-12
Caregivers of Spouses with Dementia (Support Group)	T 11:30-1:30
Diabetes Support Group	Zoom 1st F 1:00 contact welchk4diabetes@gmail.com
Information Desk	M-Sat 10-2
Lakeside AA	M+TH 4-5
Needle Pushers	T 10-11:45
Open Circle	Sun 10:30-11:30
Toastmasters	M 7-9
Overeaters Anonymous	W 3-4

NEW ACTIVITIES:

- **TED TALKS are starting up again.**
On Tuesday Jan 10, at noon, in the LCS patio. Here are the topics for January:
Jan 10- 4 Kinds of Regret - and what they teach you about yourself by Dan Pink facilitated by Fred Harland
Jan 16- In Praise of Slowness- by journalist Carl Honoré facilitated by Ron Mullenau
Jan 24- How Social Media Drives Polarization- by Jonathan Haidt facilitated by Rick Rhoda
Jan 31-The Actual Cost of Preventing Climate Breakdown-by Yuval Harari facilitated by Clive Overton

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Life experiences

Introduction to Lakeside In Person

By Barbara Harkness

Monday, January 9

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, February 27

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Online Regular price: \$850

Online LCS members: \$660

Getting your Jalisco driver's license without losing your mind

By Alfredo Pérez

Tuesday, January 10

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Wednesday, January 18 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test).

Wednesday, February 8

9:30 am to 11:30 pm

Wednesday, February 15 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test).

Regular price: \$780

LCS members: \$600

Introduction to Spanish

By Inez Dayer

Tuesday, January 10, 17, & 24

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Thursday, February 2, 9 & 16

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Location: Wilkes

Regular price: \$560

LCS members: \$430

Journey of a Traveler

By Betty Steinhauer

Tuesday and Thursday, Jan 10,

12, 17, 19, 24 & 26

1:00 - 3:00 pm Location: Sala

Regular price: \$715

LCS members: \$550

Introduction to Telling Your Story, a Memoir- Writing Workshop

By Doris Gallan

Wednesday January 11

1:00 - 3:00 pm Location: Sala

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

Mexican Manners

By Alfredo Pérez

Wednesday, January 11

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, February 1

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: SCBR

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

Introduction to Lakeside Online

By Barbara Harkness

Monday, January 16

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, February 13

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Regular price: \$850

LCS members: \$660



Mexican Winter Fruits

By Alfredo Pérez

Thursday, January 19

10:00 - 11:30 am

Location: Veranda

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

Mexican independence from Spain

By Ted Rogers

Tuesday & Friday, January 17,

20, 24, 27 & 31

1:00-2:00 pm Location: SCBR

Regular price: \$910

LCS members: \$700

Memoir Writing Classes

By Doris Gallan

Wednesday January 18 & 25,

February 01 & 08

1:30 - 3:30 pm Location: Sala

Regular price: \$1,170

LCS members: \$900



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

8-session class. We will look at the cultures that predated the Aztecs, then the unification process by both conquest and commerce that brought the Aztec empire into existence as a society encompassing over five million people. Included in this, Aztec art, mythology, cosmology, and social life. We will finish with the Aztec Empire just before the arrival of Cortez.

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

When Truth is Stranger Than Fiction

True crime (364.15) is a nonfiction genre in which the author examines an actual crime and details the actions of real people associated with and affected by criminal events. If you are a murder/suspense reader, you may have a hard time believing that the non-fiction form may truly be more intriguing than the fiction you are familiar with.

The crimes most commonly include murder; about 40 percent focus on tales of serial killers. Many works in this genre recount high-profile, sensational crimes such as the JonBenét Ramsey killing, the O. J. Simpson murder case and the Scott Peterson murder, while others are devoted to more obscure slayings.

True crime books often center on sensational, shocking or strange events. Even though murder makes up less than 20% of reported crime, it is present in most true crime stories. Typically, these books report on a crime from the beginning of its investigation to its legal proceedings. An informal survey conducted by *Publishers Weekly* in 1993 concluded that the more popular true crime books focus on serial killers with the more gruesome and grotesque content performing even better.

Some true crime works are "instant books" produced quickly to capitalize on popular demand; these have been described as "more than formulaic" and hyper-conventional. Others may reflect years of thoughtful research and inquiry and may have considerable literary merit. *Associated Content* stated in 2006 that since the start of the 21st century, this has been the genre growing the quickest – and that the majority of readers are women.

A milestone of the genre was Norman Mailer's *The Executioner's Song* (1979), which was the first book in the genre to win a Pulitzer Prize. Ann Rule is regarded by many as the foremost true crime writer in America and the author responsible for the genre as it exists today. She came to her career with a solid background in law enforcement and the criminal justice system; the LCS Library has over 20 of her titles.

Other prominent true crime accounts include Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*; the best-selling true crime book of all time, *Helter Skelter*, by the lead Manson family prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi and Curt Gentry; Erik Larson's *The Devil in the White City* which gives a novelistic account of serial killer H. H. Holmes' operations during the 1893 World's Fair; John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* offering a window into the alternative and traditional Southern culture of Savannah, Georgia.

JANUARY 19 AT 10AM

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.

Regular price: \$845 p/p
LCS Member: \$650 p/p

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



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



ESPAÑOL EN ACCIÓN

Por la Profa. Dolores Alicia Ordóñez Pinter

1A JAN 16TH TO MAR 27TH
Monday and Thursday - 10:00 to 12:00 pm

1B JAN 17TH TO MAR 24TH
Tuesday and Friday - 10:00 to 12:00 pm.

2A JAN 16TH TO MAR 27TH
Monday and Thursday - 12:30 to 2:30 pm

2B JAN 17TH TO MAR 24TH
Tuesday and Friday - 12:30 to 2:30 pm.

www.lakechapalasociety.com

LCS-4



SUNDAY MORNING
10:30 AM
IN THE GARDEN AT
LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY

JAN 8TH
David Bryen
The Four Desires?



JAN 15TH
Steve Nousen
Dr. Benjamin Franklin
Returns to 1785



JAN 22ND
Yann Kostic
Lights out in... the City of Lights



JAN 29TH
Patrick O'Heffernan
and **Domingo Flores**
Journalism and Democracy



CHECK THE SCHEDULE AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION
WWW.OPENCIRCLEAJIJIC.ORG

Life

experiences

Creative Writing Workshop In Comala town

By Rachel McMillen

**January, Tuesday 24,
Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26**

Price \$ \$6,500 pesos per person

Includes hotel for 2 nights, transportation, tour guide, tours, class and entrance to two of the places.

It does not include meals or beverages.

Creative writing is considered an art, a door to express thoughts and emotions with imagination. We'll learn how to use language and 'voice', character development, dialogue, narration, backstory, theme, point-of-view, plotting, how to create the story Arc and, of course, editing and critiquing.

Enrollment at LCS Office

Monday through Saturday from 10 am - 2 pm
or send an email to:

directoreducacion@lakechapalasociety.com
or LakeChapalaSociety.com

Registration requires payment.

There is no refund.



Jan 24 - Day one

8:00 am- Departure Ajijic

- Arrival at Comala and check-in at Hotel Posada Comala.
- Brief welcome walk and guided tour to the main square of Comala (discover main features of Comala).
- Visit Suchitlán (a small indigenous community) and lunch at "Portales de Suchitlán" (regional cuisine).
- Visit mask making studio (a fourth generation tradition recognized as one of the Masters of Popular Art in Mexico).
- Visit the Alejandro Rangel Museum in the small and quaint town of Nogueras.
- Visit a 19th-century Hacienda/Sugarcane factory in Nogueras.
- 5:30 pm- Return to the hotel and free time in the evening.

Jan 25 - Day two

Up close with the Volcano

- AM- Creative Writing with Rachel MacMillan at Las Jaranas.
- Lunch "San Martin de Los Pinos" (outdoors).
- Visit and taste of regional coffee producer- Discover the independent community of La Yerbabuena (the closest town to the volcano)- Walk and enjoy nature by the crater lake "La María".
- Then return to the hotel and free time in the evening.

Jan 26 - Day three

Return day

- AM- Creative Writing with Rachel MacMillan at Las Jaranas.
- Farewell lunch at "Cuaxiote" gourmet regional cuisine.
- 3:00 pm- Return to Ajijic.

El papel de LCS en la vida de los expatriados

Por Harriet Hart

Cuando llegué a la Rivera de Chapala en 2001, estaba recién jubilada y, como muchos snowbirds, ansiosa por comenzar una nueva etapa de mi vida en México. LCS fue la llave que me abrió la puerta a la jubilación. Podía llegar andando desde mi casa en el pueblo en diez minutos, y la visitaba a menudo. Primero tomé prestados libros de la biblioteca, y luego asistí a Open Circle (y a otras reuniones de grupo) que se celebraban en el recinto. Pronto empecé a trabajar como voluntaria en el mostrador de información. Ahora, dos décadas más tarde, miro hacia atrás asombrada por el importante papel que LCS ha jugado en hacer de la jubilación la rica experiencia que ha sido para mí.

Estudí español en el Wilkes Center, fui voluntaria en el mostrador de información durante cinco años, coordiné el proyecto de historia oral y, más recientemente, ayudé a empezar y sigo participando como editora asociada en la publicación de esta revista. El voluntariado me permitió hacer cosas que siempre había sentido curiosidad por hacer.



Cuando comenzó el programa PEP (Personal Enrichment Program), estudié escritura creativa con Rachel McMillen; aprendí sobre la historia de México a través de la lente de la novela histórica con Judy King. Todo este material cerebral se equilibró con ejercicio, inscribiéndome en yoga y más tarde en baile en línea... ambos en LCS. He asistido a conciertos, desfiles de moda, ferias y viajes en autobús. Miro hacia atrás y me doy cuenta de que LCS ha sido un centro comunitario en mi vida de expatriada.

LCS desempeña un papel crucial en la vida de los recién llegados. Con frecuencia llegaban al mostrador de información, se sentaban y preguntaban: "¿Qué se puede hacer aquí?". La jubilación puede dar miedo, al igual que hacer una nueva vida en un país diferente. Una hora más tarde, se marchaban llenos de información: organizaciones a las que unirse, clases a las que asistir e ideas a las que dedicarse. Mi respuesta siempre empezaba con "¿qué es lo que siempre has soñado hacer? Porque aquí puedes hacerlo: jugar al tenis o al pickle ball, cantar en un coro, actuar en una obra de teatro, aprender a jugar al bridge, navegar en kayak por el lago....".



Curioso por saber qué papel desempeña LCS en la vida de otros veteranos, acorralé a Fred Harland y le pregunté. Fred es socio desde hace más de veinte años. Su primer encuentro con LCS fue cuando decidió organizar un grupo de discusión. Por aquel entonces, Fred era un snowbird, así que se asoció con Marshall Krantz, residente a tiempo completo, para crear uno llamado Great Books. "Sentí que pertenecía a LCS."

Pronto Fred descubrió que se celebraba un ciclo de conferencias y se ofreció a dar algunas. Se convirtieron en charlas TED, que se celebran desde hace años. "Al principio, yo solo organizaba las charlas TED, pero últimamente somos cuatro los que nos turnamos para elegir el tema y facilitar el debate." Esto continuó semanalmente hasta que COVID interfirió; las charlas TED se reanudarán este 10 de enero. Fred y sus socios de TED esperan una buena asistencia; antes de la pandemia, participaban unas setenta personas cada semana.

Fred dijo que originalmente, "hace mucho tiempo," las conferencias de Neill James, las películas, las charlas TED y el grupo de debate de los miércoles eran dirigidos en LCS por miembros voluntarios. Con el tiempo, LCS ha contratado personal que ha asumido la responsabilidad de muchas de las actividades orientadas a la educación. Open Circle es un buen ejemplo. Fue creado por voluntarios y dirigido por una junta, con LCS actuando como propietario. Recientemente se acercaron a LCS, solicitando que se convirtiera en un programa de LCS. Alfredo Pérez, miembro del personal de LCS, está a cargo de la programación educativa, PEP, que ofrece clases regulares en

temas como Cómo Obtener la Licencia de Conducir y Modales Mexicanos. LCS podría compararse con un Centro de Aprendizaje Permanente, similar a Creative Retirement en el norte. Por supuesto, los voluntarios también siguen ofreciendo programas. Diana Ayala se unió al Staff de LCS como Directora de Desarrollo y es la editora asociada de la revista Conexiones.

Fred sirvió en el Consejo de LCS como Vicepresidente durante dos períodos bajo la Presidencia de Howard Feldstein. Durante su mandato, LCS pasó de ser una organización dirigida por voluntarios a un modelo más profesional con la contratación del primer Director Ejecutivo, Terry Vidal, y una Gerente de Operaciones, Adela Alcaraz (ambos hispanohablantes que junto con personal adicional de oficina, mucamas y jardineros, mantienen a LCS en funcionamiento). La organización funciona con una combinación de voluntarios y personal remunerado, bajo la dirección de una Junta Directiva elegida y un Director Ejecutivo, Luis Pacheco, y ofrece una verdadera mezcla de servicios, clases y eventos.



Concha Gurski, voluntaria del mostrador de servicios, me dijo que el mayor cambio que ha visto en más de una docena de años de voluntariado en la oficina principal es la contratación de personal hispanohablante. "Cada vez más mexicanos empezaron a llegar a la oficina y a unirse a LCS." La palabra de Concha para el papel que LCS ha jugado en su vida es un lugar para "hacer contactos".

Ha hecho amistades a través de ella, y utiliza LCS para mantenerse al tanto de lo que sucede en Lakeside. Ella dice: "Ser miembro de la Lake Chapala Society es una forma de dar y recibir, ambas cosas al mismo tiempo."

En los últimos años, la LCS ha ofrecido conciertos y eventos que han atraído a la comunidad en general, como la serie Conciertos en el Parque, presentada por el presidente Steve Balfour, y la publicación de esta revista, Conexiones, que es gratuita para socios y no socios. Los guías son otra iniciativa relativamente reciente y complementan los servicios ofrecidos por los voluntarios del mostrador de información.

El LCS nació a finales de los años cincuenta como una sociedad de expatriados, un club social con conciencia comunitaria. Sigue siendo un lugar de encuentro para expatriados y mucho más. Es un centro de actividad, una sede para eventos, un centro educativo y comunitario, un lugar para socializar, establecer contactos, hacer voluntariado y explorar la cultura mexicana, un lugar para dar y recibir.

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How do investment taxes work in Mexico?

Por José Carlos Guerrero, Consultor Financiero en Inversión.

Surely we have all heard about taxes, and to be honest it might seem like a scary movie when we try to understand what they are all about. But what are taxes really? Taxes are nothing but contributions to the public administration to strengthen the economy and development of the country.

In Mexico, there are different types of taxes that are incurred within the country; one of the most common is the Impuesto al Valor Agregado (IVA), which is what we know mainly for the consumption of goods and services. For example, if you buy a car, this is the tax you pay for the item you bought.

But what happens when we combine the financial world with taxes? It might sound complex or confusing, specially when we're not a Mexican resident or have the nationality. Even so, it is easier than it seems since financial institutions work to make it easier for us to pay our contributions.

The main objective of investments is to generate a return, and thus, obtain a profit (an income that was not previously had). Therefore, a tax must be paid on that profit.

The Mexican Secretary of Economy considers that a foreign investment is any investment made by non-residents in Mexico, either directly or indirectly. This means that there are two kinds of foreign investment in Mexico:

- a) Foreign direct investment
- b) Indirect foreign investment (known as portfolio investment)

Foreign direct investment is defined by the Mexican Secretary of Economy as "an investment that has the purpose of creating a lasting interest and for long-term economic or business purposes by a foreign investor in the host country" (which in this case is Mexico).

On the other hand, an indirect foreign investment is the one made on securities

and it refers mainly to investment in dividends, brokerage houses, government securities, loans from States or international organizations to the Mexican State.

In both cases, regardless of your residence or nationality, taxes must be paid on income generated in Mexican territory. However, there is an exception for income from interest, capital gains and the temporary use or enjoyment of land or construction attached to the ground in Mexico held as investments by pension and retirement funds that are duly regulated by the host country.

You must keep in mind that establishing a permanent residence within the national territory or abroad is irrelevant since any foreigner, regardless of his residence, will be obliged to pay the tax if he has an income within the country. It is really important to establish the distinction between foreign direct investment and a domestic investment to encourage the investment process.



SOLBES & SOLBES

ABOGADOS/ATTORNEYS

- **Legal Practices:**
 - Commercial
 - Corporate Litigation
 - Real Estate
 - Financial (tax, bankruptcy, Etc)
 - Criminal
- **Family:**
 - Divorces
 - Wills
 - Child Custody
 - Domestic Violence
 - Equitable Division of Property
- **Criminal:**
 - Squatter removal
 - Fraud
 - Property recovery
- **Civil:**
 - Immigration
 - Leases
 - Mortgages
 - Recovery of property
 - Rescinding or Execution of Contracts

Come to a FREE consultation for LCS members every second Monday of each month.

Av. Hidalgo #44 Suite 104
Riberas del Pilar
Chapala Jalisco
Mx 45906



José Ángel Martínez Velázquez
Criminal attorney



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



Anayely Cornejo Rodríguez
Immigration specialized attorney



Enrique Ruiz Peña
Criminal attorney

¿Cómo funcionan los impuestos de inversiones en México?

Por José Carlos Guerrero, Consultor Financiero en Inversión.

Seguramente todos hemos escuchado acerca de los impuestos, y a decir verdad pareciera una película de miedo cuando tratamos de entender de que se tratan. Pero ¿Qué son los impuestos realmente? Los impuestos no son nada más que contribuciones a la administración pública para fortalecer la economía y el desarrollo del país.

En México, existen diferentes tipos de impuestos que incurren dentro del país; uno de los más comunes es el Impuesto al Valor Agregado (IVA), que es el que conocemos por el consumo de bienes y servicios. Por ejemplo, si compras un carro, este es el impuesto que pagas por el bien que adquiriste.

Ahora bien, la situación se puede complicar cuando mezclamos el mundo de los impuestos con el mundo financiero. ¿Qué pasa si no soy residente en México o si no tengo la nacionalidad mexicana? Puede crear confusión, pero es más sencillo de lo que parece, ya que las instituciones financieras trabajan para facilitarnos el pago de nuestras contribuciones.

El objetivo principal de las inversiones es generar un rendimiento, y así, obtener un beneficio (ingreso que antes no se tenía), por consiguiente, se debe pagar un impuesto sobre esa ganancia.

La Secretaría de Economía de México considera que, una inversión extranjera es toda inversión que realizan los no residentes en México ya sea de manera directa o indirecta. Esto quiere decir que existen dos ramas o especies de inversión extranjera en México:

- La inversión extranjera directa
- La inversión extranjera indirecta (conocida como de portafolio o de cartera)

La inversión extranjera directa la define la Secretaría de Economía como "la inversión que tiene el propósito de crear un interés duradero y con fines económicos o empresariales a largo plazo por parte de un inversionista extranjero en el país receptor" (que en este caso es México).

Por otro lado, la inversión extranjera indirecta es la que se hace sobre valores, y se refiere principalmente a la inversión en dividendos, casa de bolsa, valores gubernamentales, préstamos de Estados u organismos internacionales al Estado Mexicano.

En ambos casos, independientemente de la residencia o nacionalidad; se deberán pagar impuestos sobre los ingresos generados en el territorio mexicano.

Solamente con excepción de que el ingreso por intereses, ganancias de capital y el uso o goce temporal de terrenos o construcciones adheridas al suelo en México, tengan por origen inversiones de fondos de pensiones y jubilaciones que estén debidamente regulados por el país de origen.

Resumiendo, establecer una residencia permanente dentro del territorio nacional o en el extranjero es redundante pues cualquier extranjero sea cual sea su residencia, siempre que tenga ingresos dentro del país se verá obligado a pagar el impuesto. Es de suma importancia establecer la distinción entre la inversión extranjera directa y la nacional para poder fomentar el proceso de inversión.



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* Your discount is equal to 5% or \$500 USD, whichever is less. To receive the discount and have us make the donation to LCS, use discount code: LCS. Expires December 31, 2023



What is the IJA?

The Institute of Alternative Justice of the State of Jalisco (IJA) is a public organization in charge of promoting Alternative Methods of Conflict Resolution such as mediation, conciliation and peace circles. This is done in a peaceful, voluntary manner through dialogue, where everyone's participation is valued, and there is the possibility of reaching agreements that are fully valid.

Prevent violence

The main objective of the IJA is to prevent violence and defuse or lessen the problems that exist in our community.

What problems can be solved through an agreement?

CIVIL LAW

- Leasing
- Breach of contracts
- Acknowledgment of debt
- Loans
- Etc.

FAMILY LAW

- Administrative divorce
- Divorce by mutual consent
- Alimony (child support), custody and cohabitation

COMMERCIAL LAW

- Promissory notes
- Checks
- Credit contracts

COMMUNITY MEDIATION

- Conflicts between people

SCHOOL MEDIATION

- School conflicts within educational institutions

What do I need to start my process?

1. Valid official ID
2. Full name and address of the persons involved
3. Request the service at IJA

Benefits

The Alternate Method process is faster and totally free at IJA.

For more information on procedures and services:

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Telephone: 331-380-0000

CHAPALA OFFICE

49 Pedro Moreno St, Centro, Fracc. Las Redes, Chapala, Jalisco.

Telephone: 376-765-2432 Ext. 930/931

¿Qué es el IJA?

El Instituto de Justicia Alternativa del Estado de Jalisco (IJA) es un organismo público encargado de promover los Métodos Alternos de Solución de Conflictos, como la mediación, conciliación y círculos de paz, esto de manera pacífica, voluntaria y por medio del diálogo, valorando la participación de todos, y con la posibilidad de llegar acuerdos que tienen plena validez.

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- Arrendamiento.
- Incumplimiento de contratos.
- Reconocimiento de adeudo.
- Préstamos.
- Etc.

FAMILIAR

- Divorcio administrativo.
- Divorcio por mutuo.
- Alimentos, custodia y convivencia.

MERCANTIL

- Pagaré.
- Cheques.
- Contratos de crédito.

MEDIACIÓN COMUNITARIA

- Conflictos entre personas

MEDIACIÓN ESCOLAR

- Conflictos escolares dentro de las instituciones educativas.

¿Qué necesito para iniciar mi trámite?

1. Identificación oficial vigente.
2. Nombre completo y domicilio de las personas involucradas.
3. Solicitar el servicio ante el IJA.

Beneficios

El trámite de Método Alternativo es más rápido y totalmente gratuito en el IJA.

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@Mtro. Felipe González

Monday to Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

info@felipejgonzalez.com

Ajijic is a great place to live!

By Felipe González

Ajijic is a great place to live. The town is beautiful, the weather is perfect, Guadalajara International Airport is less than 45 minutes away, and there is a whole host of places to eat that serve both Mexican and international dishes. What's more, you don't need to break the bank to live there. If you're thinking about relocating to Ajijic, or just weighing up the lifestyle you could enjoy should you decide to take the plunge, here are a few tips that I'd like to share with you.

1.- Define your monthly budget. Ajijic boasts a wide variety of housing types and places to visit, so it's vital that you plan a budget that will enable you to live comfortably.

2.- When thinking about places to live, do your research. Look at the different types of house/apartment available. That old saying "location, location, location" is perhaps a mantra worth bearing in mind. Do you want somewhere in the heart of town, or somewhere a little outside? Perhaps somewhere with a lake view? Or maybe a house up on the hillside from which you can enjoy the spectacular local scenery? The key thing is to choose the place that fits your needs the best. There are a lot of real estate opportunities, but it's important to know what you are looking for, what you need and, of course, how much you are prepared/able to spend renting or buying a house.

3.- Ask people who actually live there. Gaining insight from other people who have already taken the plunge and moved to Ajijic will help you get things clear in your mind and enable you to make the best decision. It's important to have as much information as possible so that you make the decision that's right for you. Ask about the lifestyle, what sort of facilities are available (water, heating, internet, phone, etc.), how to get temporary or permanent residence, and the practicalities of living in a small Mexican town. Facebook groups focusing on foreigners are good sources for this sort of information.

4. - Don't restrict yourself to Ajijic. There are several towns dotted around Lakeside that could fit the bill if you can't find exactly what you're looking for. If you have a young family, Chapala itself might be a good choice as it offers a bigger town feel with more going on. On the other hand, the bustling town of Jocotepec is also a popular destination for relocators and has a real "Mexican" flavor. There are simply loads of places to choose from all around the lake. One of them is bound to float your boat.

5. - Try to learn the language. One of the most challenging aspects of living in a country where your native language is not their native language of the local people is being able to communicate. Before you come, it might be a good idea to at least learn some basic phrases in that local language (in the case of Ajijic, of course, this is Spanish). The locals will really appreciate it if you at least try to communicate with them in their first language; if you're interested, Lake Chapala Society (LCS) offers Spanish lessons to their members. Don't worry if you make mistakes (you will at first!) but making the effort will go a long way and help establish a rapport. If you struggle, try combining your linguistic efforts with gestures to get your message across. Don't get frustrated if your efforts don't seem to be bearing fruit, keep trying. But perhaps the most important thing to remember, not everyone in Mexico can speak or understand English, so shouting at someone or speaking slowly in the vain hope that your message will get across is somewhat self-defeating. However, many locals at Lakeside are fluent in English and more than willing to help non Spanish speakers.

If you'd like more information about moving to Ajijic for you, your family, or your friends, please get in touch, I'd be delighted to help you out.

Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera

Diana Ayala

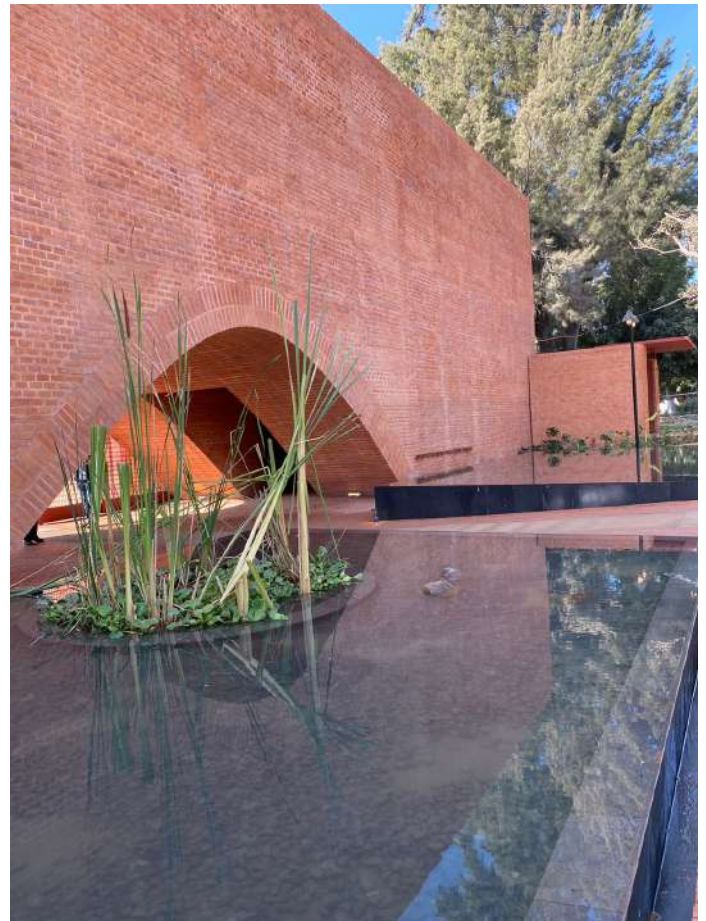
On Saturday, December 17, 2022, the inauguration of what used to be the Auditorium and has now been transformed into the Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera took place. The remodeling began in April 2020 and I remember writing an article at that time, where I mentioned that a reading room, bookstore, adequate administrative offices, improvement of services, indoor and outdoor cafeteria, as well as areas for aerial acrobatics and improvement to the dance and music rooms were being considered. I confess that at the time I thought it was too ambitious a project, but now I see it has become a reality.


The intent of the Secretariat of Culture is to decentralize the spaces dedicated to the Arts, strengthen municipalities, and enhance the exchange of experiences, adding to the community and ensuring this space serves as a reference for leisure, dialogue and coexistence in the region.



On the day of the inauguration I was very happy to meet with friends, to see how the different groups responded to, and supported, this inauguration. There was a group from CETAC with fresh water and fruit, Nora from Casa Cacau, Panchos Deli, as well as volunteers from the Lake Chapala Society.

It was definitely a great change. With an investment of more than 67 million pesos the new Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera is a reality, the billboard of events can be consulted on the website: espaciosescenicos.jalisco.gob.mx and also on social media as: Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera.





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LITTLE THEATRE**

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2022-2023

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by Jane Anderson

directed by
Collette Clavadetscher

January 13 - 22, 2023

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THE QUALITY OF LIFE is presented by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Evenings 7:30 pm / Matinees 4:00 pm
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350 pesos
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Note: This play contains strong language

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Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera

Diana Ayala

El sábado 17 de diciembre 2022 se llevó a cabo la inauguración de lo que era antes el Auditorio y ahora se transformó en el Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera; la remodelación empezó en abril 2020 y recuerdo haber escrito un artículo en ese momento, donde mencionaba que se estaba considerando una sala de lectura, librería, la adecuación de las oficinas administrativas, mejoramiento de servicios, cafetería cubierta y al aire libre; así como áreas para la realización de acrobacia aérea, mejoramiento de los salones de danza y música. Y confieso que en su momento pensé que era un proyecto demasiado ambicioso, pero ahora lo veo hecho una realidad.



La idea de la Secretaría de Cultura es la descentralizar los espacios, fortalecer a los municipios y que este espacio sirva para fomentar el intercambio de experiencias, sumando a la comunidad y que este espacio sirva como un referente de esparcimiento diálogo y convivencia en la región.



El día de la inauguración me dio mucho gusto encontrarme con amigos, ver como diversos grupos acudimos al llamado y apoyamos para esta inauguración, así había un grupo por parte del CETAC con agua fresca y fruta; Nora de Casa Cacau; Panchos Deli; y por parte de Lake Chapala Society voluntarios apoyando.

Definitivamente fue un gran cambio, con una inversión de más de 67 millones pesos el nuevo Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera es una realidad, la cartelera se puede consultar en: espaciosescenicos.jalisco.gob.mx; en sus redes sociales como Centro para la Cultura y las Artes de la Ribera.

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LCS'S REACHING OUT PROGRAM

by Glorine Barnhardt



LCS's Reaching Out Program was created in March 2020 in response to COVID-19 isolation. When COVID first consumed us, I realized that there were those who did not have the support system that most of us have and that is why the Reaching Out Program was created with the support of LCS.

The purpose of the program is for Reaching Out Volunteers to contact Reaching Out Companions who live alone, are sick or homebound to make

sure they are okay. The Companions are contacted daily by email, messenger, WhatsApp, or a phone call and asked to respond back to let the Volunteer know that they are okay. Each Companion has an emergency contact person who the Volunteer can contact in case the Companion does not respond by a set time each day.

The Reaching Out Program is available to anyone living at Lakeside, as far away as Jocotepec to San Nicolas de Ibarra and is a free service provided by LCS.

The program has reached out to 61 Companions since its inception and fourteen have been with the program since its beginning. Frank Watson, a Companion who has been in the program since it started said "I was introduced as part of the Reaching Out program to Barbara Harkness, a fellow Canadian. Besides checking up that I was not in any health danger due to Covid, our morning email exchanges became very enjoyable, and continues that way. Each fall when I am about to return to Lakeside, I contact Barbara to find out if she is still on the program and willing to continue staying in touch with me. Every time she has said

yes, and she looks forward to my return. I cannot ask for more than that. And that is a sign of a very successful program."

If you want to become a Companion, go to Lake Chapala Society's website; click on the Activities tab; click on the Reaching Out Program; and finally click on "I want to be a Reaching Out Companion" and complete the form.

Most of the Volunteers have been with the program since it started and continue to contact the same Companion(s) they were given. Lydia Bodin, who has been a volunteer since the program was created, has this comment about the program. "I think this is a well-run program that is simple for a volunteer to easily do. It is not much work to reach out once a day. And the benefits are immense. I have gotten to know my Companions and they have contacted me to meet their daughter and for help when one of them broke their arm. It is just a single contact a day that could save a life. LCS should be so proud of this program."

If you wish to become a Volunteer or have any questions contact Glorine Barnhardt at reachingoutprogram2020@gmail.com

PROGRAMA "REACHING OUT" DE LCS

por Glorine Barnhardt

El Programa Reaching Out de LCS fue creado en marzo de 2020 en respuesta al aislamiento COVID-19. Cuando COVID nos encerró por primera vez, me di cuenta de que había quienes no tenían el sistema de apoyo que la mayoría de nosotros tenemos y por eso se creó el Programa Reaching Out con el apoyo de LCS.

El propósito del programa es que los Voluntarios Reaching Out se pongan en contacto con los Compañeros Reaching Out que viven solos, están enfermos o confinados en casa para asegurarse de que están bien. Los Compañeros son contactados diariamente por correo electrónico, mensajería, WhatsApp, o una llamada telefónica y se les pide que respondan para hacerle saber al Voluntario que están bien. Cada compañero tiene una persona de contacto de emergencia con la que el Voluntario puede ponerse

en contacto en caso de que el compañero no responda a una hora determinada cada día.

El Programa Reaching Out está disponible para cualquier persona que vive en Lakeside, tan lejos como Jocotepec a San Nicolás de Ibarra y es un servicio gratuito proporcionado por LCS.

El programa ha llegado a 61 Compañeros desde su creación y catorce han estado con el programa desde su inicio. Frank Watson, un Compañero que ha estado en el programa desde su inicio dijo "Me fue presentado el programa Reaching Out por Barbara Harkness, una compañera canadiense. Además de comprobar que no corría ningún peligro de salud debido al Covid, nuestros intercambios matutinos de correos electrónicos se hicieron muy amenos, y así continúan. Cada otoño, cuando estoy a punto de volver a Lakeside, me pongo en contacto con Barbara para saber si sigue en el programa y está dispuesta a seguir en contacto conmigo. Siempre me ha dicho que sí, y espera con impaciencia mi regreso. No puedo pedir más. Y eso es señal de un programa muy exitoso".

Si quieres convertirte en compañero, entra en la página web de Lake Chapala Society; haz clic en la pestaña Actividades; haz clic en el Programa Reaching Out; y, por último, haz clic en "Quiero ser compañero Reaching Out" y rellena el formulario.

La mayoría de los Voluntarios han estado con el programa desde que comenzó y continúan en contacto con el mismo Compañero(s) que se les dio. Lydia Bodin, que ha sido voluntaria desde que se creó el programa, tiene este comentario sobre el programa. "Creo que es un programa bien gestionado y fácil de llevar a cabo para un voluntario. No es mucho trabajo tender la mano una vez al día. Y los beneficios son inmensos. He llegado a conocer a mis compañeros y se han puesto en contacto conmigo para presentarme a su hija o para pedirme ayuda cuando uno de ellos se rompió un brazo. Un solo contacto al día puede salvar una vida. LCS debería estar muy orgulloso de este programa".

Si desea convertirse en Voluntario o tiene alguna pregunta, póngase en contacto con Glorine Barnhardt en reachingoutprogram2020@gmail.com.

"Get Back" Rooftop Concert

Saturday January 28,
2023 3:00PM
for a commemorative Rooftop
concert at El Bar Co

"GET BACK.. to January 1969" when THE BEATLES performed their final concert. After weeks of debate, they decided to hold their now iconic concert on the ROOFTOP of their Apple Corp. business offices at #3 Seville Row, London, England. Recall, they sang "Get Back" in public, for the first time that day.



One of Lakeside's most popular bands, THE "Rooftop" ROMEO'S will perform a number of Beatles songs, along with their own repertoire of popular rock and roll classics.



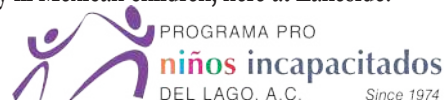
- Seating is limited to 100, on the ROOFTOP, at El Bar Co
- Donation will be \$250 pesos per person.
- Each ticket includes a glass of wine or beer or margarita (compliments of El Bar Co)
- Full bar and menu will be available.
- Doors open at 2:00pm
- Concert begins at 3:00pm.
- Purchase your ticket(s) in advance.
- The Romeo's shows always sell out.

PLEASE PURCHASE your seat
BEFORE January 24, 2023.

Contact Carlos at El Bar Co
376-766-0452, or on
FaceBook El Bar Co Ajijic



All proceeds support the on-going work of Niños Incapacitados. Since 1974, this charity has been helping to provide medical care for very ill Mexican children, here at Lakeside.



www.programaninos.com

Pet Primer

AZTEC MEXICAN HAIRLESS AND OTHER HAIRLESS CATS

by Diana Hunt



MEXICAN HAIRLESS—"JESUIT."
(Believed to be the only specimen ever exhibited in England.)
Owner, Hon. Mrs McLaren Morrison.

Hairlessness in cats, like in dogs, is a naturally occurring genetic mutation that affects the hair follicle.

Hairless cats have been reported throughout history. It is alleged that the Aztecs bred the now-extinct Mexican Hairless. However, the earliest actual report of hairless cats is from 1878 when two hairless kittens were born to a Maltese cat in Massachusetts. They were disowned and neglected from birth, perhaps because they looked and acted more like dogs than cats.

In 1902, a couple from New Mexico received two hairless cats from local Pueblo Indians. It was claimed that these were the last survivors of the ancient Aztec breed. The cats were litter-mates and noted to be 25 percent smaller than shorthair cats. They were normally whiskered and grew a ridge of fur down the mid-back and tail during winter. Sadly, the Mexican Hairless was lost through lack of a breeding program.

Since the early 1960s, breeders in Europe have been developing what they called the Sphynx breed -- honoring the mysterious Sphinx at Giza in Egypt which represents Ra-Horakhty, a powerful sun god and is the incarnation of royal power and protector of the temple doors and protective spirit of the ancient Egyptians.

The current American and European Sphynx breed is descended from two lines of natural mutations: Dermis and Epidermis (1975), barn cats from Wadena, Minnesota who were crossed with a Cornish Rex; in Toronto, Elizabeth -- a black & white shorthair -- gave birth to a hairless kitten, Prune, in 1978. The owner fell in love with his appearance and decided to mate him with his mother. A bit later, a breeder also from Toronto, found Bambi, Punkie and Paloma, three stray hairless kittens and sold them to a Devon Rex breeder in The Netherlands.

Both American and Canadian breeders continued to develop the new breed, cross-breeding Sphynx cats with Devon Rex cats, another breed that has little hair, or the Cornish Rex. Over time, the Sphynx cat was established as a new



breed with its own breed standards. The Sphynx breed was recognized by The International Cat Association in 2005, the Cat Fanciers Association in 2002 and several independent cat clubs in Europe, though standards for the breed all differ slightly.

Petting a Sphynx cat is often compared to stroking a purring piece of warm suede. Hair can actually form on their bodies but it easily falls off, sometimes leaving short, fuzzy hair. They are extremely affectionate and devoted, loving nothing more than a cuddle in your lap or a nap under the covers in your bed, preferably with you beside them. They are extroverts, energetic, highly intelligent, curious and talkative. The Sphynx is described as being almost dog-like in their friendliness to both family and strangers. They are outgoing, crave attention and will want to be involved in everything you do, including your paperwork, DIY projects, cooking and taking a bath. They can be taught to walk with a harness, to use the toilet and chase balls.

The skin of a Sphynx should have some wrinkles, especially around its shoulders and between its ears. The ears themselves are large, giving the cat an "elf-like" expression. The eyes are also large and set fairly far apart on the animal's head. A Sphynx cat's eyes can be any color genetically possible in felines. Lack of fur doesn't mean lack of color. The skin of a Sphynx is pigmented with any color that fur would have, including black, white, gray, brown, cream, red, lilac, tabby, tortoiseshell, pointed, calico, or tuxedo patterns. They have muscular bodies with powerful necks and paw pads that are super thick so that it looks like they are walking on cushions.

But being without fur doesn't make them maintenance free. On the contrary, weekly baths are a must to avoid the oils building up on their skin. Because they don't have protective fur, the Sphynx can get sunburned or blistered so care should be taken in sunlight. They have limited means to regulate body temperature and never should be allowed outdoors unattended. In colder climates, owners provide coats or other clothing in the winter to help them conserve body heat.

Because they are so smart, you have to keep them busy with toys or visual stimulation or they can become destructive, because they search out things to see and do. If you have windows with a view of trees or even just a garden, show them the scenery and help them notice birds or squirrels.

If you are looking for a super intelligent, attention seeking, loving, active and funny best friend, these little "aliens" would make a great addition to your family.

Gato azteca y otros Gatos sin pelo por Diana Hunt

La ausencia de pelo en los gatos, al igual que en los perros, es una mutación genética natural que afecta al folículo piloso.

A lo largo de la historia se han descrito casos de gatos sin pelo. Se afirma que los aztecas criaban el ahora extinto gato sin pelo mexicano. Sin embargo, el primer informe real de gatos sin pelo data de 1878, cuando nacieron dos gatitos sin pelo de una gata maltesa en Massachusetts. Fueron repudiados y desatendidos desde su nacimiento, quizá porque parecían y actuaban más como perros que como gatos.

En 1902, una pareja de Nuevo México recibió dos gatos sin pelo del Pueblo indio local. Se afirmaba que eran los últimos supervivientes de la antigua raza azteca. Los gatos eran compañeros de camada y se observó que eran un 25% más pequeños que los gatos de pelo corto.

Normalmente tenían bigotes y durante el invierno les crecía una cresta de pelo por la parte media de la espalda y la cola. Lamentablemente, el sin pelo mexicano se perdió por falta de un programa de cría.

Desde principios de la década de 1960, los criadores de Europa han estado desarrollando lo que llamaron la raza Sphynx -- en honor a la misteriosa Esfinge de Giza en Egipto que representa a Ra-Horakhty, un poderoso dios del sol, y es la encarnación del poder real y protector de las puertas del templo y espíritu protector de los antiguos egipcios. La actual raza Sphynx americana y europea descende de dos líneas de mutaciones naturales: Dermis y Epidermis (1975), gatos de granero de Wadena, Minnesota, que se cruzaron con un Cornish Rex; en Toronto, Elizabeth -- una gata de pelo corto blanca y negra -- dio a luz a un gatito sin pelo, Prune, en 1978. Su dueño se enamoró de su aspecto y decidió cruzarlo con su madre. Poco después, un criador también de Toronto encontró a Bambi, Punkie y Paloma, tres gatitos sin pelo callejeros, y los vendió a un criador de Devon Rex de los Países Bajos.

Tanto los criadores americanos como los canadienses siguieron desarrollando la nueva raza, cruzando gatos Sphynx con gatos Devon Rex, otra raza que tiene poco pelo, o el Cornish Rex. Con el tiempo, el gato Sphynx se estableció como una nueva raza con sus propios estándares. La raza Sphynx fue reconocida por The International Cat Association en 2005, la Cat Fanciers Association en 2002 y varios clubes felinos independientes de Europa, aunque los estándares de la raza difieren ligeramente.

Acariciar a un gato Sphynx suele compararse con acariciar un trozo de ante cálido que ronronea. Se les puede formar pelo en el cuerpo, pero se les cae con facilidad y a veces les queda un vello corto. Son extremadamente cariñosos y devotos, y nada les gusta más que acurrucarse en su regazo o echarse una siesta bajo las sábanas de su cama, preferiblemente con usted a su lado. Son extrovertidos, enérgicos, muy inteligentes, curiosos y habladores. El Sphynx se describe como un perro casi amistoso, tanto con la familia como con los extraños. Son extrovertidos, ansían que les presten atención y querrán participar en todo lo que haga, incluido el papeleo, los proyectos de bricolaje, la cocina y el baño. Se les puede enseñar a caminar con arnés, a ir al baño y a perseguir pelotas.

La piel de un Sphynx debe tener algunas arrugas, especialmente alrededor de los hombros y entre las orejas. Las orejas son grandes y dan al gato una expresión de "duende". Los ojos también son grandes y están bastante separados en la cabeza del animal. Los ojos de un gato Sphynx pueden ser de cualquier color genéticamente posible en los felinos. La falta de pelaje no significa falta de color. La piel de un Sphynx está pigmentada con cualquier color que tendría el pelaje, incluidos los patrones negro, blanco, gris, marrón, crema, rojo, lila, atigrado, carey, pointed, calicó o esmoquin. Tienen cuerpos musculosos con cuellos poderosos y almohadillas de las patas supergruesas, de modo que parece que caminan sobre cojines.

Pero el hecho de no tener pelo no significa que no necesiten mantenimiento. Al contrario, hay que bañarlos semanalmente para evitar que la grasa se acumule en su piel. Al no tener pelaje protector, los Sphynx pueden sufrir quemaduras solares o ampollas, por lo que hay que tener cuidado con la luz solar. Tienen medios limitados para regular la temperatura corporal y nunca deben salir al exterior sin vigilancia. En los climas más fríos, los propietarios les proporcionan abrigo u otras prendas en invierno para ayudarles a conservar el calor corporal.

Como son tan inteligentes, hay que mantenerlos ocupados con juguetes o estímulos visuales o pueden volverse destructivos, porque buscan cosas que ver y hacer. Si tiene ventanas con vistas a los árboles o incluso a un jardín, enséñeles el paisaje y ayúdeles a fijarse en los pájaros o las ardillas.

Si busca un mejor amigo superinteligente, atento, cariñoso, activo y divertido, estos pequeños "alienígenas" serán un gran miembro de su familia.



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of the Arts**

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First Person Singular

GARBAGE MEN TO THE RESCUE

By Larry Kolczak

I don't remember anybody in my high-school graduating class ever saying he hoped to become a garbage man. It is, arguably, the least prestigious occupation in the world. In some cultures, it is reserved for people who, by misfortune of their birth, are considered untouchable.

In Mexico, they appear to be held in somewhat higher regard. This may be because anybody with a full-time job and a regular paycheck is at least one step above the unemployed. But, I suspect there is more to the story. The garbage men in my neighborhood seem to take pride in their work. They have a certain spring in their step. They often run from house to house so the truck driver does not have to come to a complete stop.

Perhaps even more ironic is the fact that as Christmas approaches, Santa Claus makes the rounds of all the barrios riding on top of a garbage truck. Parents in our village don't have to drag their kids to the shopping mall to see Santa. For one thing, there are no shopping malls here. So Santa makes house calls. Kids don't have to strain to hear sleigh bells to know that Santa's coming to town. Down here, Santa's ride arrives escorted by a fire truck, with red lights flashing and siren blaring.

When you think about it, having Santa ride atop a garbage truck is not so ironic. First of all, the garbage truck driver knows the exact location of every house in town without having to rely on an out-of-date version of Googlemaps. And second, who better than the garbage men to know if the neighborhood kids have been eating all their vegetables.

Setting aside the Santa connection, I recently had an experience that greatly increased my appreciation for this humble profession. A few weeks ago, while having breakfast at my favorite sidewalk café, I saw a police car race around the corner and screech to a halt near the side entrance of the restaurant.

It turns out, an armed man had tried to hold up the driver of a milk truck that had just made a delivery to the restaurant. It had never occurred to me that many delivery truck drivers down here wind up carrying considerable amounts of cash they collect from their customers.

Apparently, this robber hadn't noticed that the driver's assistant was large enough to have been nick-named "Andre the Giant." He managed to knock the gun out of the robber's hand and was struggling to subdue him. Fortunately, there were three garbage men working just up the street. They rushed over to help, and quicker than a calf-roping competition, they had the robber face down on the ground and hog-tied, ready for pickup when the police arrived.

I have to admit, I'm not so sure I could count on any good Samaritans rushing to my aid back in my home town of Chicago. Especially if the robber was carrying a large-caliber pistol. But, down here, there seem to be good Samaritans everywhere. More than once, I've had strangers come to help me when my car broke down. One not only changed my tire, he even provided his own jack and lug wrench because I had stupidly left mine at home to make room for more luggage.

So, I now have new-found respect for my courageous garbage men. If you're ever in trouble, of course, call the police. But you might also consider putting your neighborhood garbage men on speed-dial.

Happy New Year



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