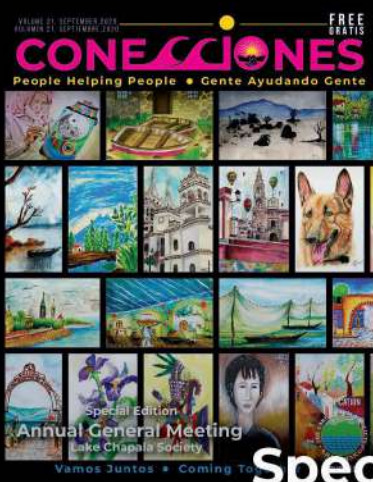
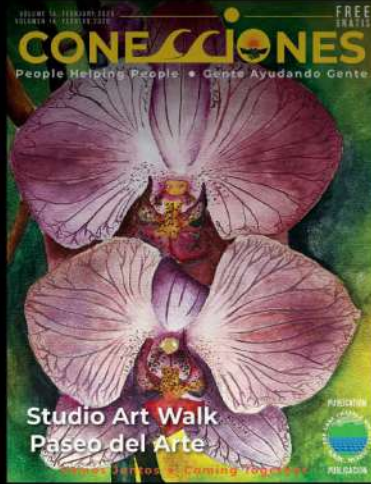


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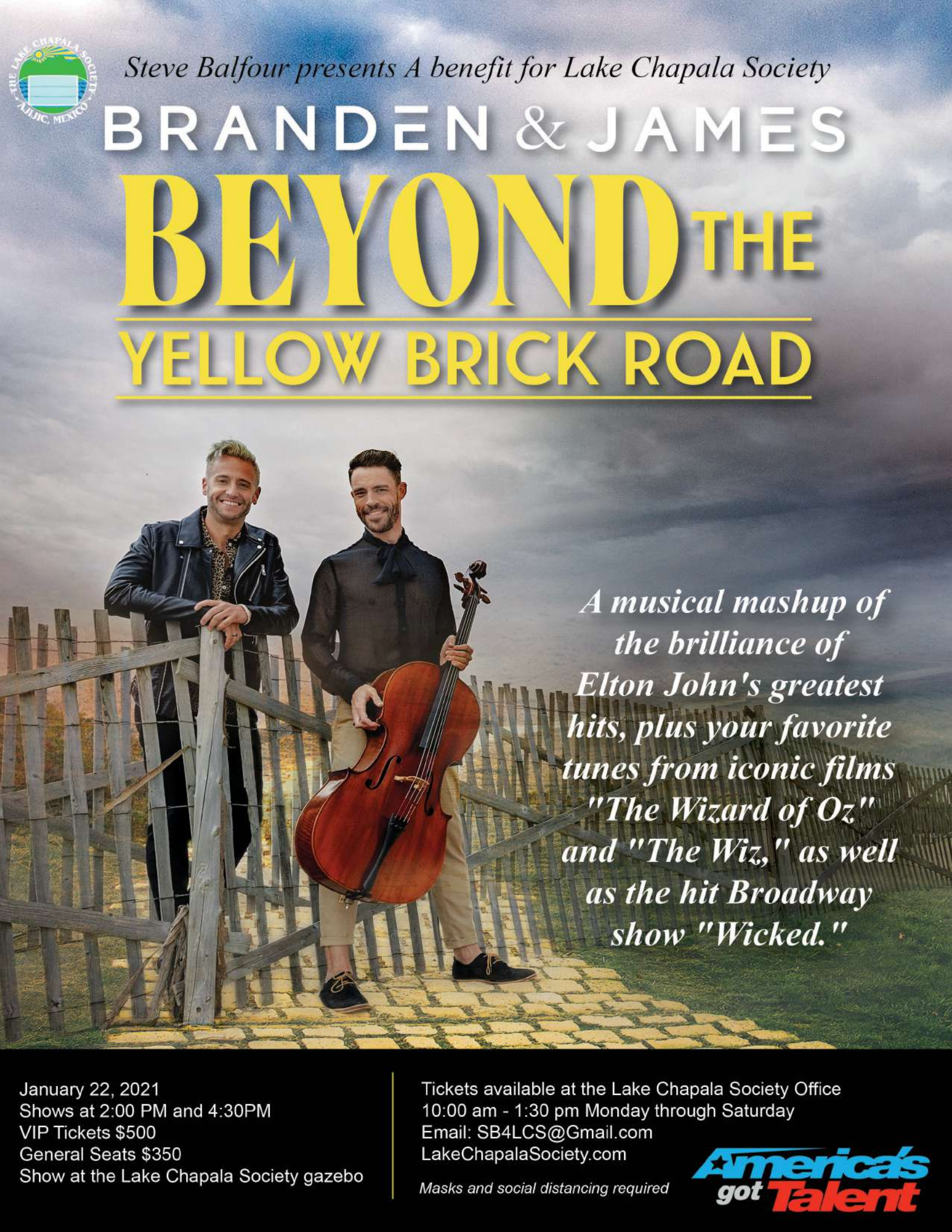
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The Lake Chapala Society

Mission & Vision

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

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

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

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

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

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Conecciones welcomes submissions of articles from Lakeside authors — we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Submissions should be in MS Word 600 words, and should be directed to : submissions@lakechapalasociety.com. Advertisement inquiries should be directed to ventas@lakechapalasociety.com.

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

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

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Lake Chapala Society

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, employees, and our strong group of volunteers, I want to thank you for being a part of the Lake Chapala Society.

The Lake Chapala Society has served the Lakeside community for 65 years. A key to our organization is that we have been flexible, willing to examine ourselves, solicit input from the community and work our way through tough times. We are a volunteer-based organization. 2020 may well have been one of our toughest years, but as a result of hard work, dedication, support from the community and the generosity of our wonderful donors, we made it through and are ready for a stronger future.

In 2020, we kicked off our LCS 2.0 long-range plan. Some think that LCS 2.0 is about building buildings and tearing things down. Actually, the overarching themes of LCS 2.0 are to establish a culture of continuous quality improvement, expand the use of information technology and create greater collaboration between and among the Mexican and foreign communities. In all, LCS 2.0 consists of 42 far-reaching goals clustered in five broad categories: Organizational Development, Community Engagement, Program Development, Campus Redevelopment and Fund Advancement. These goals have been assigned to appropriate individuals or standing committees to set annual priorities and develop a work plan to accomplish them. Each month, these standing committees and individuals report to the Board of Directors on the progress they are making.

LCS 2.0 is positioning the Lake Chapala Society to become the premier Lakeside organization to serve the growing needs of both the foreign and Mexican communities. Their hope is to take these best practices and transform the organization into something truly unique, unparalleled and

one that is respected and admired by all Lakeside residents.

In 2021, we look forward to restarting our English as a Second Language classes for the 500 students whose lives

are positively impacted by these classes. We have continued all along to provide Student Aid to those seeking to advance their career. We are anxious to get our Spanish language Book Library open where students can do their homework in a quiet setting. Our volunteers and talented local artists are also very much looking forward to restarting the Children's Art Program when it is safer to do so.

We are also working on a much-needed Emergency Preparedness Program that will help Expats organize their thoughts and documents for end-of-life planning or planning for unexpected emergencies. We anticipate that this will be in collaboration with the Cruz Roja Vial of Life program. We will

also be expanding our Intro to Lakeside class to include classes for those retiring in Mexico or trying to settle in.

As you can see, LCS is very much alive. But we need your support to help bring more of our programs back and to serve the community in a beneficial way. We are not moving away from being a membership organization, but we are expanding our offerings and developing a fundraising system that will help to insure our ongoing vital role.

As we begin a new year filled with hope, please consider a donation to LCS to get things off to a great start. Visit [lakechapalasociety.com](https://lakechapalasociety.com/public/donation_form_generic.php?donation=AG) to donate now. All donations are greatly appreciated. (https://lakechapalasociety.com/public/donation_form_generic.php?donation=AG)

Steve Balfour
President



Lake Chapala Society

Mensaje del Presidente

En nombre de la Mesa Directiva, los empleados y nuestro fuerte grupo de voluntarios, quiero agradecerles por ser parte de Lake Chapala Society.

Lake Chapala Society ha servido a la comunidad de la Ribera durante 65 años. Una clave de nuestra organización es que hemos sido flexibles, dispuestos a examinarnos, a solicitar aportes de la comunidad y a trabajar en tiempos difíciles. Somos una organización basada en el voluntariado. El año 2020 puede haber sido uno de nuestros años más difíciles, pero como resultado del trabajo duro, la dedicación, el apoyo de la comunidad y la generosidad de nuestros maravillosos donantes, logramos salir adelante y estamos listos para un futuro más sólido.

En 2020, iniciamos nuestro plan de largo plazo LCS 2.0. Algunos piensan que LCS 2.0 se trata de construir edificios y derribar cosas. En realidad, los temas principales de LCS 2.0 son establecer una cultura de mejora continua de la calidad, expandir el uso de la tecnología de la información y crear una mayor colaboración entre las comunidades mexicanas y extranjeras. En total, LCS 2.0 consiste en 42 objetivos de gran alcance agrupados en cinco grandes categorías: Desarrollo Organizacional, Participación Comunitaria, Desarrollo de Programas, Reurbanización de Campus y Avance de Fondos. Estas metas han sido asignadas a individuos apropiados o comités permanentes para establecer prioridades anuales y desarrollar un plan de trabajo para cumplirlas. Cada mes, estos comités permanentes e individuos informan a la Mesa Directiva sobre el progreso que están haciendo.

LCS 2.0 está posicionando a Lake Chapala Society para convertirse en la principal organización de la Ribera para servir las crecientes necesidades de las comunidades extranjeras y mexicanas. Su esperanza es tomar estas mejores prácticas y transformar la organización en algo verdadera-

mente único, sin paralelo y que sea respetado y admirado por todos los residentes de la Ribera.

En 2021 esperamos reiniciar nuestras clases de inglés como segundo idioma para los 500 estudiantes cuyas vidas son impactadas positivamente por esta clase. Seguimos proporcionando ayuda a los estudiantes que buscan avanzar en su carrera. Estamos ansiosos por abrir nuestra biblioteca de libros en español donde los estudiantes puedan hacer sus tareas en un ambiente tranquilo. Nuestros voluntarios y talentosos artistas locales están ansiosos por reiniciar el Programa de Arte Infantil cuando sea más seguro hacerlo.

También estamos trabajando en un muy necesario Programa de Preparación para Emergencias que ayudará a los expatriados a organizar sus pensamientos y documentos para la planificación del fin de la vida o la planificación de emergencias inesperadas. Anticipamos que esto será en colaboración con el programa de Cruz Roja. También ampliaremos nuestra clase de Introducción a la Ribera para incluir clases para los que se jubilan en



México o tratan de establecerse.

Como pueden ver, el LCS está muy vivo. Pero necesitamos su apoyo para ayudar a traer más de nuestros programas y para servir a la comunidad de una manera beneficiosa. No nos estamos alejando de ser una organización de miembros, pero estamos expandiendo nuestras ofertas y desarrollando un sistema de recaudación de fondos que ayudará a asegurar nuestro papel vital continuo.

Apreciaríamos enormemente cualquier donación para nuestros esfuerzos.

Steve Balfour
Presidente

Are you missing out on the fun too?

By Alfredo Pérez



If you decided to make this country your home, you will have already experienced that the need to know the language is great, because it makes you less dependent on others' interpretations.

It helps you understand the reason for many of the situations you find yourself in, that may seem strange without a good explanation. This brings you closer to your neighbors and opens your eyes to a world that can be fascinating and mysterious. It allows you to know another you.

As Charles Schaefer said, "We are never more fully alive, more completely ourselves, or more deeply engrossed in anything, than when we are at play. Learning Spanish may not be so easy for some, but I assure you that it is not so difficult once you start. Like everything in life, it has its moments of frustration, but there are always triumphs.

One of its advantages is that you have to pronounce Spanish as it is written. Another, is that it is an international language that is spoken on four continents. Spanish is the second most spoken language globally. You can communicate with people from Patagonia, Europe, Morocco, the Caribbean, even the United States, etc. Of course, each region has a dialect that makes it particular to that area, but once you begin learning, it's easy to learn a few more expressions to understand another.

For native Spanish speakers, the fact that you speak to them in their language represents a great sense of respect for them and their culture, as well as a desire to be part of the community.

Spanish in Action is a custom program for LCS members

that is slowly growing. It is the key to entering the world of more than 400 million people. It is the key to enter the universe of the community in which you live. It's one of the best investments you can make at this point in your life.

On the other hand, if you prefer a relaxed and easy first encounter with Spanish, then we have for you our 'Introduction to Spanish' which is a three-session class to learn very basic, but fun and useful Spanish.

Now, if you are already on your way to learning/speaking the language, we have some online classes in our Spanish a la Carta program that can help you improve your pronunciation, learn/understand common phrases of everyday speech and understand practical grammar that you can use immediately.

Don't miss out on the fun. Don't get frustrated. Embrace the Spanish language and enjoy this new world you have at hand.

I invite you to email us if you have any questions about our Spanish language programs. We will gladly share information with you and answer your questions. directoreducacion@lakechapasociety.com.

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Oscar Orlando Ibarra López
Professional Artist & Architecture Student at
UTEG Centro Universitario.
Graduate of the LCS Children's Art Program

Oscar Orlando Ibarra López
Artista profesional y estudiante de arquitectura en
UTEG Centro Universitario.
Graduado del Programa de Arte Infantil del LCS

Oscar Orlando Ibarra López is the newest rising star in the Lakeside art scene. As a graduate of the LCS Children's Art Program, this Chapala native joins a long legacy of many renowned artists and graduates of the program, such as Javier Zaragoza and Jesus López Vega, whose paintings and murals hang in public buildings and villages throughout the region.

Accomplished beyond his 20 years, Orlando's watercolor and oil paintings have been featured in art exhibits throughout the area and he has won numerous awards. First place in all of Mexico in the *Pentel México* art contest. He was awarded a prize worth thousands of dollars in art supplies. His paintings placed first at the LCS Arts Fair for two years and graced the covers of the Annual Directory in 2014, 2016 and now in 2021, with a magnificent art piece.

This precocious artist and businessman got his start at age eight by selling pencil drawings to his classmates for one peso. Art classes at the Chapala Train Station fueled his interest, but Orlando credits enrolling in the LCS Children's Art Program for giving him the art training and discipline he needed to pursue his passion to become an artist.

"The Lake Chapala Society helped me discover my talent and taught me how to paint," said Orlando. They changed my mind and my heart. I want to thank Danielle Page, Javier Zaragoza, Éfren Gonzáles, Robina, Erin and so many more of the teachers and volunteers who worked with me."

Orlando said that he is drawn to and is inspired by surrealism, the art of Salvador Dali and the Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco. Orlando likes to express the richness and colors of Mexican culture while juxtaposing disparate images for surprising effects to make people think.

"The art that I express is to capture the colors that exist in Mexico and its culture. I also like to project two or more things that exist to create something unreal and make the viewer believe for a moment that this exists," he explained.

Orlando was commissioned for three murals, one for the government institution DIF and two for private clients. He is also a full-time student in the five-year Architecture and Design program at UTEG Centro Universitario in Guadalajara as well as a budding photographer.

Despite his busy schedule, Orlando is committed to making time to give back to LCS and the Children's Art Program. He enjoys helping at the classes as well as the Summer Art Camp to teach the young aspiring artists.

"When I teach the children there, I still learn very much. I remember what I learned at their age and I can help the young artists learn as I did," Orlando said.

Orlando is one of the thousands of community members who have benefited from the many LCS programs from Student Aid, the ESL classes to our highly regarded children's art program.

When you support LCS you help create success stories like this.

Oscar Orlando Ibarra López es la nueva estrella en ascenso en la escena artística de la zona. Como graduado del Programa de Arte Infantil de LCS, este nativo de Chapala se une a un largo legado de muchos artistas de renombre y graduados del programa, como Javier Zaragoza y Jesús López Vega, cuyas pinturas y murales adornan edificios públicos y pueblos de toda la región.

Cumplidos más allá de sus 20 años, las acuarelas y óleos de Orlando han sido presentados en exposiciones de arte en toda la zona y ganado numerosos premios. En el concurso de arte de Pentel México, ganó el primer lugar, se le otorgó un premio por valor de miles de dólares en materiales de arte. Sus pinturas ocuparon el primer lugar en la Feria de Arte de LCS durante dos años y aparecieron en las portadas del Directorio Anual en 2014, 2016 y ahora en 2021, con una magnífica pieza de arte.

Este precoz artista y hombre de negocios comenzó a los 8 años vendiendo dibujos a lápiz a sus compañeros de clase por un peso. Las clases de arte en la Antigua Estación de Trenes de Chapala alimentaron su interés, pero Orlando reconoce al Programa de Arte Infantil de LCS por darle el entrenamiento de arte y la disciplina que necesitaba para seguir su pasión de convertirse en un artista.

"Lake Chapala Society me ayudó a descubrir mi talento y me enseñó a pintar", dijo Orlando. "Cambiaron mi mente y mi corazón. Quiero agradecer a Danielle Page, Javier Zaragoza, Éfren Gonzáles, Robina, Erin y muchos más de los maestros y voluntarios que trabajaron conmigo".

Orlando dijo que se siente atraído e inspirado por el surrealismo de Salvador Dalí y el muralista mexicano José Clemente Orozco. A Orlando le gusta expresar la riqueza y los colores de la cultura mexicana mientras yuxtapone imágenes dispares para obtener efectos sorprendentes que hagan pensar a la gente.

"El arte que expreso es para capturar los colores que existen en México y su cultura. También me gusta proyectar dos o más cosas que existen para crear algo irreal y hacer que el espectador crea por un momento que esto existe", explicó.

Orlando fue comisionado para tres murales, uno para el DIF y dos para clientes privados. También es un estudiante de tiempo completo de Arquitectura y Diseño en el Centro Universitario UTEG en Guadalajara, así como un fotógrafo en ciernes.

A pesar de su apretada agenda, Orlando se compromete a hacer tiempo para devolver a LCS y al Programa de Arte Infantil. Disfruta ayudando en las clases y en el campamento de verano de arte para enseñar a los jóvenes aspirantes a artistas.

"Cuando enseñé a los niños allí, todavía aprendo mucho. Recuerdo lo que aprendí a su edad y puedo ayudar a los jóvenes artistas a aprender como yo lo hice", dijo Orlando.

Orlando es uno de los miles de miembros de la comunidad que se han beneficiado de los muchos programas de LCS, desde la Ayuda Estudiantil, las clases de ESL y hasta nuestro muy reconocido programa de arte infantil.

Cuando apoyas a LCS ayudas a crear historias de éxito como esta.



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PEP & PRUEBA: Your Gateway to Growing

By Alfredo Pérez **Conocimiento que enriquece.**

We are all prone to culture shock when we immerse ourselves in a different culture. Norms and customs change. They may not make any sense or justify themselves to us, but they certainly have a long history that has gained strength over time and are very familiar to those who live them almost from birth.

There is a lot of information out there about it, but it is not always real, and each person speaks, experiences, lives and expresses it with his or her own nuance. That is why some years ago the Prueba México Program was created for foreign members. So that they can enjoy learning/understanding flavors, sounds, smells, emotions, textures: the whys of what they see around them or in other confines of this country that welcomes them.

From something we can consider as simple as making a piñata the traditional way, its meanings, uses, and tradition, to why Mexicans don't say "no" directly (of course I'm generalizing). Or beyond that, our blessed word "ahorita" with its multiple, and sometimes even contradictory, meanings and uses.

As the year progresses, we bring different themes to enrich the life experience of our new and, of course, our regular residents from other lands.

And speaking of enrichment, the hunger to learn never ceases; it keeps our brains active and helps us better understand the world we live in. It opens our minds to new wonders. So, get involved with new knowledge, or share yours in our Personal Enrichment Program (PEP).

Topics vary throughout the year, from how the Mexican government works, to traditions, literature, how to write a book, gardening with endemic species, learning about history, legal situations, etc.

The goal here is to offer great options where you can continue learning and/or sharing with others the things you are expert at.

I invite you to send us an email to know about future courses, or check our website to know what's new month by month.

Let's keep our minds active. In the end, it is a good thing that will fill us with satisfaction.

Todos somos propensos a los choques culturales cuando nos sumergimos en una cultura diferente. Las normas y costumbres cambian. Pueden no tener ningún sentido ni justificación para nosotros, pero de seguro tienen una larga historia que ha adquirido fuerza a lo largo del tiempo y que resulta muy común para quienes lo viven casi desde que nacen.

Existe mucha información allá afuera al respecto, pero no siempre es real, además de que cada persona habla lo experimenta, vive y expresa con su propio matiz. De ahí que hace algunos años fue creado el Programa Prueba México (Try/taste México) para los miembros extranjeros. Para que disfruten de aprender/entender sabores, sonidos, olores, emociones, texturas, los porqués de lo que ven a su alrededor o en otros confines de este país que los acoge.

Desde algo que podemos considerar tan simple como elaborar una piñata de la manera tradicional, sus significados, usos, vaya, la tradición, hasta el porqué los mexicanos no dicen "no" directamente (claro que estoy generalizando). O más allá, nuestra bendita palabra "ahorita" con sus múltiples, y hasta a veces contradictorios significados y usos. Conforme avanza el año traemos diferentes temas para enriquecer la experiencia de vida de nuestros nuevos y, claro, también de nuestros habituales residentes venidos de otras tierras.

Y hablando de enriquecimiento, el hambre de aprender nunca cesa, mantiene nuestros cerebros activos y nos ayuda a entender mejor el mundo en el que vivimos. Abre nuestra mente a nuevas maravillas. Así que déjate envolver por nuevos conocimientos, o bien comparte los tuyos en nuestro Programa de Enriquecimiento Personal (PEP).

Los temas varían a lo largo del año. Desde cómo funciona el gobierno mexicano, las tradiciones, literatura, cómo escribir un libro, hacer jardinería con especies endémicas, conocer de historia, situaciones legales, etc.

La intención es ser una opción genial donde puedas seguir aprendiendo y/o compartiendo con otros sobre lo que eres experto.

Te invito a enviarnos un correo para conocer futuros cursos, o bien checar nuestra página web para saber qué hay mes a mes.

Mantengamos nuestra mente activa, al final es un bien que nos llenará de satisfacciones.

The Information Desk

Escritorio de Informes

By Harriet Hart

During my lengthy stint as a volunteer at the LCS Information Desk, my husband dubbed me Miss Information, a moniker I tried hard to live down. The fact is providing current and accurate information about the Lakeside community is a challenge, requiring commitment to keep abreast of a wide variety of topics including health, housing, transportation, financial, recreational, and legal matters.



Durante mi larga temporada como voluntaria en el escritorio de información de LCS, mi marido me llamó Miss Información, un apodo con el que me esforcé en vivir. El hecho de proporcionar información actual y precisa sobre la zona es un desafío, que requiere el compromiso de mantenerse al día en una amplia variedad de temas, incluyendo salud, vivienda, transporte, finanzas, recreación y asuntos legales.

The longest serving information desk volunteer is Norm Tihor, who has worked every Thursday for over 12 years. As a photographer, Norm loves spending hours at LCS, especially during the rainy season, when the gardens are so lush and beautiful. The people he meets rival the beauty of the surroundings at keeping him there, especially the “newcomers who express concerns over things like their personal safety, driving in Mexico, activities and immigration.”

El voluntario que más tiempo lleva en el mostrador de información es Norm Tihor, que ha trabajado todos los jueves durante más de doce años. Como fotógrafo, Norm ama pasar horas en LCS, especialmente durante la temporada de lluvias, cuando los jardines son tan exuberantes y hermosos. La gente que conoce queda fascinada con la belleza de los alrededores para mantenerlo allí, pero se cuestionan temas especialmente los “recién llegados que expresan su preocupación por cosas como su seguridad personal, la conducción en México, las actividades y la inmigración”.

Another long-hauler is Claudia Stevens, who staffs the Information Desk on Mondays. Claudia sees her role as giving suggestions rather than advice. “My favorite show-and-tell item to hand out to customers is Conexiones.” Claudia makes it a point to read all the local print magazines, cut out any relevant information, and keep it at the desk in a special folder as a resource guide. People arrive with lots of questions about where they should live, as well as banking, paying rent, and the cost of living. “It’s not that the volunteers at the Information Desk know everything,” she explained, “it’s that we can show people where to look for the right information.”

Otra viajera de larga distancia es Claudia Stevens, que trabaja en el mostrador de información los lunes. Claudia considera que su papel es dar sugerencias más que consejos. “Mi artículo favorito para mostrar y contar a los clientes es Conexiones”. Claudia se esfuerza por leer todas las revistas impresas locales, recortar cualquier información relevante, y mantenerla en el escritorio en una carpeta especial como guía de recursos. La gente llega con muchas preguntas acerca de dónde deben vivir, así como la banca, el pago de la renta, y el costo de la vida. “No es que los voluntarios del mostrador de información lo sepan todo”, explicó, “es que podemos mostrar a la gente dónde buscar la información correcta”.

The Information Desk is open six days a week, from 10 till 2, to provide information about living at Lakeside; for specific LCS information, class registrations or memberships, the Service Desk is there, and the docents act as informative guides to the grounds and services. Together the desks and docents offer a friendly guide to Lakeside living.

El mostrador de información está abierto seis días a la semana, de 10 a 2, para proporcionar información sobre la vida en la zona; para información específica de LCS, inscripciones de clases o membresías, el mostrador de servicio está allí, y los docents son guías informativos de los terrenos y servicios. Juntos, los escritorios y los docents ofrecen una guía amigable de la vida en la comunidad.



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

GATE OPENS AT 10AM

In accordance with the current guidelines from the Governor's office, we will be postponing the Open Circle presentation for January 3. We apologize for any inconvenience and we will work to reschedule these presenters for a future date. We are sure that the Governor is basing his decisions in part on concerns of people gathering for the holidays and we want to support his efforts to control the virus as best we can here in Jalisco.

POSTPONED

**JANUARY
3RD**

**JANUARY
10TH**



Why Do We Do That? Presented by Sandy Britton

We humans have a lot of strange behaviors—some that we share with other animals, some we don't; some that science can explain, some that it can't; some that are voluntary, some involuntary. For instance, why do we laugh? Gossip? Talk to ourselves? Why does every human culture have some form of music? Join Sandy at Open Circle to explore the quirkiest side of human behavior.

Inside Wood Presented by David Bryen

What is it that shines through wood and smites the heart? The beauty inside wood stays obscured until human activity releases it. This presentation reflects David's fall into wonder with wood's beauty. Not unlike with human life, it takes a wound to reveal the inner beauty of wood. A craftsman listens to the sawn tree as it sounds its message: "Stay awhile... you too have come into the world to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine" (Mary Oliver). To open wood is to discover the Beauty that feeds the soul and takes us back to the home inside ourselves.



**JANUARY
17TH**

**JANUARY
24TH**



Inside Out Aging Presented by Kat Miller

The truth is—if we are fortunate, we will have the opportunity to grow "old," experiencing along the way inevitable losses and increasing limitations as well as progressive refinement of what is essential. With aging we can see our life as from a great altitude as a sort of landscape with all its diverse parts connected. From here we can harvest wisdom, acknowledge resilience, and discover peace, compassion and gratitude at the heart of our lives. Join Kat for some ageist repudiation and to learn more about how we can cherish the beauty of life, not despite its perishability but precisely because of it.

This Is (was) 2020 Presented by Yann Kostic

With a global GDP 2020 forecast for the US economy to shrink by 3.6% and 7.4% in the Euro Zone, how can the stock market be sitting at all-time highs? For the recovery in 2021, the forecast is at 4% growth for the US, 5.6% for the euro Zone and close to 10% for China. What could go wrong? Well, the vaccination's real effectiveness, its production, distribution and acceptance are risks to consider. This presentation, Yann will connect the dots, explore recovery expectations and navigate the most plausible scenarios without forgetting the ever-deepening chasm between the US political parties.



**JANUARY
31ST**

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION AT WWW.OPENCIRCLEAJIJIC.ORG

Open Circle presentations begin each Sunday morning at 10:30 in the garden at Lake Chapala Society • In order to follow State of Jalisco safety precautions, attendance will be limited to 80 persons, reservations required, use of a mask is mandatory and temperature checks on entry • During this period, we recommend bringing your own coffee or bottled water, and please remove containers upon departure • Open Circle Video Consent • As a service to our audience and presenters, Open Circle will video-record presentations and upload them on the LCS YouTube channel.



WRITINGS FROM WILKES

Señor Francisco Aguirre

By Maria Dolores Reynoso Gutierrez

These writings are from the LCS Wilkes Center, or Biblioteca, a beehive of activity, Galeana 18 in Ajijic, two blocks from the LCS main campus. For 20 years, a cadre of volunteers have taught ESL to the Mexican Community, gratis. There are several levels of study. Volunteer teacher and author Carol Bowman recently asked her Level 4 students to try their hands at creative writing. We are proud to announce that Writings from the Wilkes will become a regular feature of this magazine. We will not edit these pieces as a way of demonstrating how much progress these talented, hard working students have made.

Last time I wrote for this column, I described several famous people from my home town, Jalostotitlan, but there is another personality who should be mentioned. I would like to talk a bit about Mr. Francisco Aguirre. He is a famous person, not only here where I grew up, but he is well known all over Mexico. Francisco does inlay in wood, considered as engraving. It is now the third generation of his family who did this incredible carving in wood. Mr. Lino Gutiérrez was the first guide to introduce this art work to the grandfather of Francisco Aguirre.

Originally, this kind of workmanship came from Morocco. Then it was passed onto craftsmen in Spain and finally carpenters brought it to Mexico. This type of art/wood inlay and engraving started over 3000 years before Christ.

When I was still living in Jalostotitlan, I knew Francisco's father. Recently, I met the son through a nephew who is living in my home town. Francisco mentioned to me that during 1930 and 1940, there were a lot of carpenters doing this intricate work here in Mexico. The basic wood is *mesquite*, which is a regional wood, and the inlay is a light-colored wood, usually from a citrus tree such as lime, lemon, orange or grapefruit.

Unfortunately, this kind of art is almost dying, because the young people would prefer to go to the United States or maybe relocate to another city in Mexico to look for other opportunities, rather than to stay in Jalostotitlan. This problem of the young people not carrying on artistic traditions of past generations has affected many of the incredible art forms that had been popular in Mexico.



In this photo, the walls, benches and altar of the Basilica of Jalostotitlan were crafted by the Aguirre family. The floor of inlaid wood had been made in 1800. The cost of this artwork is quite high because Francisco first has to make the furniture, then he must make a drawing on paper of the inlay design and then he must carefully take out the pieces of wood in the pattern which will be replaced with the different colored fruit wood. And so this process goes all around. It is very time consuming. Every piece is individually crafted and the design depends on the client's ideas or wishes.

Francisco Aguirre's workmanship is wonderful and his pieces are treasured. His specialty is wooden trunks called *petaquillas* which are used in the bedroom or dining room. The trunk pictured here belonged to my grandmother and is dated during the 1800s.



There are many people—scientists, philosophers, researchers — all much smarter than I am, who say reading and writing are what makes us human. They allow us to learn and share new things, things we would never know otherwise. They allow us to go to places we have never been. To learn new skills. To experience other cultures. To understand different points of view.

They teach us empathy and understanding.

Two years ago, when the Lake Chapala Society first created Conecciones magazine, communication and collaboration between the different cultures that exist side-by-side in this village so many of us call home was the driving force behind it.

Over the past two years, the editorial team at the magazine has kept that goal front and center with every edition. And not only that, but the team itself, reflects that same collaboration with members from both communities.

- » Not only have many of the articles been printed in both English and Spanish, but the authors of those articles have also come from both communities. And, they have focused on stories and events that either provide knowledge and background on things of importance and relevance to one or the other group (or both) or give information on issues that concern us all.
- » We have run informative articles on the history not only of Lakeside but of Guadalajara, neighboring cities like Zacatecas, and on Mexico itself, all written by wonderful writers such as Herbert Piekow, Alberto Paz Bustamante, and Jesús López Vega.
- » We have run articles on the lake and the local flora and fauna that inhabit its shores including the varied birdlife found here, as well as articles relating to our furry, four-footed friends.
- » We have written about the geography of the area: the mountains, the lakes, the valleys, the volcanoes.
- » There have been articles on all kinds of entertainment from *fiestas* to plays, from the globos to the “Thriller” performance, from parades to concerts.
- » There have been articles on local music and musicians, on local art and artists, on local dance and dancers.
- » There have been poems and stories written by local authors such as Armando García, Susa Silvermarie, and Judy Dykstra Brown.
- » There have been articles written to introduce you to some of the people who make life here special, and

some of the events that brighten our lives.

- » And, of course, there have been articles on the Lake Chapala Society, what it is, what it does, how it does it, what it hopes to do — and that’s what this issue is about.

The Lake Chapala Society has been around for more than 60 years serving the people of Lakeside in a multitude of ways. Much of the artwork you see around town, from the beautiful murals to the stunning paintings in galleries and homes, has been created by artists who started out with the LCS Children’s Art program.

The ability to communicate easily with your neighbors is largely due to the language programs LCS has instituted: ESL for the Mexican community and Spanish language classes for the expats.

More than a few of the excellent professional services available are thanks to the LCS scholarship program that sends talented and deserving young people to university.

And, then, of course, there is the facility itself which provides not only the largest English-language library in Latin America but also the Spanish library, an English Talking Books library for the visually impaired, a DVD library, exercise classes, games, movies, lectures and courses, but also a beautiful and relaxing space in which to enjoy them.

There are the fish ponds, the flowers, the trees, and lawns.

There are the health services and the various advisors for things like immigration and insurance.

There’s even a restaurant to fill your tummy and relax your spirits while you listen to excellent live music playing softly in the background.

The Lake Chapala Society is unique. It has provided a “landing pad” for many of us. It has given us a place to learn, laugh, enjoy, and celebrate life with friends. It has taken us on bus trips and tours, assisted us to obtain a driver’s licence and taught us Mexican Manners. It has helped us look after our health, both physically and mentally, has supported those who live alone, and has even taught us how to prepare for the end of our life.

In 2021, there will be new additions to the offerings: concerts on the lawn, new PEP and PRUEBA programs, new online and in-person courses, all created in response to the demands of the community. And of course Conecciones, now heading into its third year, will be here to keep you informed.



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 CHAPALA - MÉXICO

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Discover the options in guest rooms that we have reserved for you. With your family or with your partner, enjoy rest that is unsurpassed.

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24 - Available 24 hours. / \$ - With extra charge.


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 Room service (\$)


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 Free Wi-Fi connection


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 Spa (\$)


 Reception (24)


 Salons (\$)

A BANK THAT ADJUSTS **TO** **YOUR NEEDS**



We are at the **LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY** in Ajijic.
Come Visit Us!

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Contact our offices:

Ajijic
Carr. Chapala Jocotepec 19A, Centro Ajijic Jalisco 45920
Phone **376 766 5978**

NEW: Taak Ajijic Center
Zaragoza 23, Centro Ajijic Jalisco 45920
Phone **376 766 4055**



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Review terms, conditions, fees and account opening requirements at intercam.com.mx

INTERCAM
Banco



Activities & Events

**Pull
Out**

***Open to the Public ** US Citizens (S) Sign in (C) Member card
(M) LCS members only (s) sign-up group limited to 15 or less**

LESSONS (M)

- Basic Principles of Drawing/Painting T 10-11 Email
jorge.garcia003@gmail.com
- Bordados Artístico M+W+V+F 4-6
- Español en Acción (Spanish in Action) (S) Check office for times,
Cost
- Exercise M+W+V+F 9-9:50
- Exploring Spanish Zoom, T+TH+SAT 12-1:30,
Email sambrit10@gmail.com
- How to Draw Almost Anything (S) TH 12-1:30
Email zoearmiger@gmail.com to register
- Intermediate Hatha Yoga Zoom, T+TH 2:00
Email knightsinajjic@gmail.com
- Introduction to Lakeside (S) Zoom 1-2:30+ on campus
10:30-12, Jan 11 +15, Cost
- Introduction to Spanish (S) 2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays, Cost
- Line Dancing T + TH 10-11:15 Email Vt2mx@yahoo.com
- Mudlarks Pottery Introduction to Ceramics (S) M+F 11-1
Cost + Registration
- Mudlarks Pottery Open Studios (S) M+F 10-2,
Cost + Registration
- PEP & Prueba Mexico Series (S) See the LCS website + Cost
- Stretch & Balance T+TH 8:45-9:45
Email harry_bertram@hotmail.com.
- Tech Class Basics TH 10:00 Zoom,
Email lcs.tech.training@gmail.com
- Spanish in Action classes Jan 11 to Mar 1. Check online
or in office for more info
- Spanish a la carta Online program See LCS website
for more info.
- Tai Chi Chih M+W+V+F 9-10
- Warren Hardy Spanish Series (S) + Cost
- Write to a Prompt Writers' Group TH 10-12

LIBRARIES (M)

- Book Library M-Sat 10-1:30
- DVD, Books on Tape & Library of Congress Talking Books Library.
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)

- Conversaciones en español M 10-12
Email dm.209742khh@gmail.com
- Discussion Group W 12-1:30
- Everyday Mindfulness Zoom, M 10:00
Email barbarahildt@gmail.com

- HOT Science Zoom, T 1:45 Email hotsciencelcs@gmail.com
- Scrabble F 11:30-1:30
- Tournament Scrabble T 12-1:50

HEALTH INSURANCE*

- Amexcare Last F 10-12
- Hospital San Antonio TH 10-12
- IMSS & Immigration Services M+T 10-1 Call for
appointment., No sign up
- Lakeside Insurance T+TH 11-2

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

- Becerra Immigration TH 10:30-12:30
- Gonzalez Attorney at Law 3rd W 10-1
- Hearing Aid Services (S) M+ 2nd+4th SAT 10:30-4
Call for appointment. Dr. Polo
- Intercam Banking Services M-F 10-1
- La Pueblita 2nd + 4th T 10-12
- Optometrist Claravision (S) TH 9-4 Call for appointment
- Skin Cancer Screening (S) 2nd+4th W 10-12:30
No walk-ins, Sign up
- Sky Med Jan 8, 10-1

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES *

- Spanish/English Conversation Sat 12-1:30

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS *

- Al-Anon (Spanish) M 6-7:30, W 5:30-7:30
- ASA Board Meeting Jan. 27, 10:30-12
- Diabetes Support Group Zoom, 1st F 11:00
Email welchkdidiabetes@gmail.com
- Information Desk M-Sat 10-1:30
- Lakeside AA M+TH 4:30-5:30
- Needle Pushers 1st +3rd T 10-11:45
- Open Circle Sun 10:30-11:30
- Toastmasters M 7-9

HOURS

**Office & Libraries
Mon -Saturday 10-1:30
Grounds Monday-Friday 8:30- 2:50
Saturday 9-1:50**

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
See Page LCS-3**

Lake Chapala Society



US CONSULATE



EXACT STEPS FOR SUBMITTING ADULT PASSPORTS FOR RENEWAL

1. Drop off Saturdays ONLY at LCS office 10:30 am-1 pm
2. Use form DS-82 for renewal — fee \$110 USD
See item 5 for paying with pesos
3. When dropping off at Lake Chapala Society bring the following:
 - Completed form using black ink
 - Proper 2”X2” color passport photos (NO GLASSES)
 - Your current passport & a photo copy of the page with your photo on it
4. A pre-paid FedEx envelope purchased at iShop in San Antonio (short block from SuperLake) addressed to you locally with proper zip code. Originating address: U.S. Consulate Calle Progreso 175, Col Americana, 44100 Guadalajara, Jal.
5. Payment in CASH ONLY either U.S. dollars or Mexican pesos at the current monthly rate. EXACT CHANGE ONLY.
6. If you are paying with pesos, the adult renewal amount is \$2,475.
7. Here is what happens when you turn in completed items above:
 - All your paperwork and a copy of receipt will be placed in an individual envelope with your name on it.
 - You will receive a receipt for the paperwork and cash received
 - Twice a month the applications will be taken to the consulate and processed (approximately 4 weeks) then returned to you in your prepaid envelope
8. Questions: pifernr@gmail.com



LCS REACHING OUT PROGRAM

We have recruited over 80 volunteers who are mobilized and ready to reach out to members, especially those who live alone, have no family in the area and want to be contacted on a daily basis.

This service has now been extended to the community at large.

For more information, see our website.

INTRODUCTION TO LAKESIDE

Instructor: **Rachel McMillen**

Online Class (zoom)
\$400 pesos

Session 1:
Monday, Jan 11 - 1:00 to 2:30 pm
Session 2:
Friday, Jan 15 - 1:00 to 2:30 pm

In-person class (LCS Gazebo)
\$600 pesos

Session 1:
Monday, Jan 11 - 10:30 to 12:00 pm
Session 2:
Friday, Jan 15 - 10:30 to 12:00 pm

To sign up, make sure your membership is current and covers the duration of this course. Registration requires payment. There is no refund. We will follow COVID protocols with no exception.



PRUEBA MEXICO SERIES

MEXICAN MANNERS THURSDAY, JANUARY 14
\$350 with Alfredo Pérez 1 - 3:30 PM

Cultural shock is a normal part of life when you move to another country. Learn why the behaviour of your new neighbors differs from your own. Our intention is to help you understand cultural differences and promote real and positive coexistence.

CACAO & TABLE CHOCOLATE FRIDAY
\$650 with Nora Maldonado **JANUARY 29**
From Luna Cacao 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Savor the experience of what this wonderful seed shares and gives to us to enjoy! This is a hands-on class. It includes material.

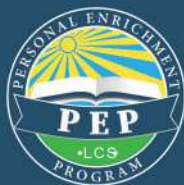
Enrollment at LCS Office or LakeChapalaSociety.com
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT DURING THE COURSE
Registration requires payment. There is no refund.
We will follow COVID protocols with no exception.

Lake Chapala Society

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- All activities listed as Zoom require those interested to contact the email to obtain an invitation, day and time.
- **Basic Principles Drawing/Painting: Beginning** 12 January, Tuesdays, 10-11 Ken Gosh Pavilion. Learn basic principles of drawing & painting: perspectives, proportion & composition. Students must bring their own art supplies. Email instructor for registration & details. Jorge García, jorge.garcia003@gmail.com, 552 674 5672. LCS members only.
- **Conversaciones en español** limited to less than 10 people. Email for registration.
- **Diabetes Support Group** Monthly Zoom meeting. Email: Kim Welch, MS,RD,CDE for information
- **Gonzalez Attorney at Law** at LCS the 3rd Wed. 10-1 in hearing Aid/Insurance room — legal advice for rental disputes & mediator service. Felipe González, info@felipejgonzalez.com, 331-862-6230
- **Hearing Aid Services** appointments made by phone to Dr. Polo 331-511-4088
- **How to Draw Almost Anything** limited to 5 participants. Email for registration.
- **IMSS** appointments made by phone to Veronica at 333-157-9472
- **LCS DVD library** will open on January 4. Covid-19 precautions taken for your safety. Members asked to use LCS website (www.lakechapalasociety.com/Libraries/DVD) to pre-order DVDs for 6 days) & pick them up in 2-5 days. No late fees will be charged. Used books will also be for sale, & talking books available for check out —only one person browsing at a time.
- **Line Dancing**: Email to attend.
- **Mudlarks Pottery Introduction to Ceramics**:. Open to members, covers basic hand building techniques, glazing & finishing. Meets Monday & Friday, 11am to 1pm. Fee: Per calendar month: \$500 MN, plus \$500 MN for 12 pounds of clay. Registration limited to 6 participants, register after the 25th of the previous month.
- **Mudlarks Pottery Open Studio**: Open to members who have completed one month Introduction to Ceramics — chance to work independently. Meets Monday & Friday, 10am-2pm. Fee: Per calendar month: \$500 MN. Clay may be purchased as needed, \$500 MN for 12 pounds. Registration for Open Studios is any time.
- **Optometrist** appointments made by phone to Dra. Luz at 331-411-1178.
- **Skin Cancer Screenings**. Call LCS office for appointments. NO walk-ins. Screening is free, there is a charge for treatment. Other dermatological concerns, contact Riberas Medical Group Dra. Martha Ballesteros. 376-688-1244
- **Stretch & Balance** limited attendees. Email to register
- **Tai Chi Chih** January 11, 9-10 on back lawn. Email Carol Wong carolwong190@gmail.com
- **Zoom Tech Class Basics** Email lcs.tech.training@gmail.com for schedule.



PERSONAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM SERIES

DRIVER'S LICENSE Instructor: Alfredo Pérez

Fee: \$400
3 to 4:30 pm

We will provide you with the necessary knowledge to obtain a new license or to renew it.
Material will be sent over email previous to the class.

JAN 11 | FEB 8 | MARCH 8
Art Mural Patio
Monday, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm

CREATIVE WRITING

Rachel Mc Millen
Fee: \$800

Wednesdays, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24
Mar 3, 10, 17, 24,
from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Series of 8 sessions. 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.

HOW THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WORKS AT ITS THREE LEVELS AND WHAT TO DO IF BEING INTIMIDATED BY THE AUTHORITIES

María de las Nieves Solbes & Diego Solbes
Fee: \$400

Friday, January 22 & 29
from 12 to 1:30 pm

Moving to another country might be a very confusing experience when it comes about how the law works there. So the experts will give us clarity and mind and power of decision.

Enrollment at LCS Office or LakeChapalaSociety.com
YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT DURING THE COURSE
Registration requires payment. There is no refund.
We will follow COVID protocols with no exception.



ESPAÑOL EN ACCIÓN

Por la Profa. Dolores Alicia Ordóñez Pinter

With this course we want to support you in learning to speak the language so that you can communicate with the Spanish-speaking community in an adequate and relaxed way.

1A JAN 11ST TO MARCH 1ST
Monday and Thursday - 9:15 to 11:15 am. Gazebo

1B JAN 11ST TO MARCH 1ST
Monday and Thursday - 11:45 to 1:45 pm. Gazebo

2A JAN 12ND TO FEB 26TH
Tuesday and Friday - 9:15 to 11:15 am. Gazebo



We will follow Covid protocols. It is mandatory to properly wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose the whole time you are in campus.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

January 12, 19 & 26
From 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Gazebo
\$350 MXN (includes IVA) per month
Register and pay on-line or in the LCS Service Office

Introductory Spanish classes are open to all current LCS members. Membership must be active to enroll and must remain active for the duration of each class. Classes are designed for individuals without any Spanish language background. The instructor will introduce learners to Spanish pronunciation, some vocabulary and social protocols.

We will follow Covid protocols. It is mandatory to properly wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose the whole time you are in campus.

EUPHEMISMS

(word games of daily speech)

PACKAGE 3

2-session class
Wednesday, Feb 10 & 17
From 10:00 to 11:30 am

\$200

In these two sessions you will be able to learn about different euphemisms frequently used in Mexican speech; some of them use word games and others are created from sentences that offer new meanings. These classes are aimed at advanced students.



FEBRUARY & MARCH

LCS online program for learners and practitioners of Spanish

The sessions are online. (we use Zoom)
Each session lasts 70 minutes.
Registration is online through PayPal or in the LCS Service Office, at least 3 days previous to the class. Sessions are limited to 9 participants.
No refunds.
To participate you must be an active member and your membership must cover the duration of the classes.

EVERYDAY SITUATIONS

A doctor's appointment

PACKAGE 4

2-session class.
Wednesday, Feb 24 & March 03
From 10:00 to 11:30 am

We will study what it takes to make an appointment with the doctor and start a conversation about our health: the symptoms of our discomfort, diagnosis, prescription and treatment. In addition we will mention requirements and information related to the Mexican Public Health.

Happy New Year 2021!!

Niños Incapacitados thanks all the generous supporters from this past year. Your kindness has allowed us to continue to provide for the children we serve, as well as adding more children in need. A difficult year, indeed, however the compassion you have shown has been appreciated so deeply by the families of our children.

Thank you again!!

We want to show our appreciation to other Lakeside Charities that we rely on to assist in the care of our children.

The School for Special Children and The Shriners.

Our Upcoming "At Home" Events

Thursday
January 21, 2021



"Meet The Children" Virtual Meeting

This year's "Meet the Children" event will be held through Zoom.

Our approach for this event is to present a video interview with the children and their families that tells their story. This event is very compelling, and gives you an insight to what your support means to these children.

Please click on the following link:

Register Here

www.programaninos.com
Events page

Tuesday
February 09, 2021



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ARTÍCULO DE PORTADA

CONECCIONES: Conectando Culturas y Comunidades.

Por Rachel McMillen

Hay muchas personas -científicos, filósofos, investigadores- mucho más inteligentes que yo, que dicen que leer y escribir es lo que nos hace humanos. Nos permiten aprender y compartir, conocimiento que de otra manera nunca tendríamos. Nos permiten ir a lugares en los que nunca hemos estado. Para aprender nuevas habilidades. Para experimentar otras culturas. Para entender diferentes puntos de vista.

Nos enseñan empatía y comprensión.

Hace dos años, cuando Lake Chapala Society creó por primera vez la revista Conecciones, la comunicación y la colaboración entre las diferentes culturas que coexisten en esta zona que muchos llamamos hogar fue la fuerza impulsora.

En los últimos dos años el equipo editorial de la revista ha mantenido ese objetivo al frente y en el centro con cada edición. Y no sólo eso, sino que el equipo mismo refleja esa misma colaboración con miembros de ambas comunidades.

No sólo muchos de los artículos han sido impresos tanto en inglés como en español, sino que los autores de esos artículos también han venido de ambas comunidades. Y se han centrado en historias y eventos que, o bien proporcionan conocimientos y antecedentes sobre cosas de importancia y relevancia para uno u otro grupo (o ambos), o dan información sobre temas que nos conciernen a todos.

Hemos publicado artículos informativos sobre la historia no sólo de la Ribera, sino también de Guadalajara, de ciudades vecinas como Zacatecas y del propio México, todos escritos por maravillosos escritores como Herbert Piekow, Alberto Paz Bustamante y Jesús López Vega.

Hemos publicado artículos sobre el lago y la flora y fauna local que habitan sus orillas, incluyendo la variada avifauna que se encuentra aquí, así como artículos relacionados con nuestros amigos peludos y cuadrúpedos.

Hemos escrito sobre la geografía de la zona: las montañas, los lagos, los valles, los volcanes.

Ha habido artículos sobre todo tipo de entretenimiento, desde fiestas a obras de teatro, desde los globos a la actuación de Thriller, desde desfiles a conciertos.

Ha habido artículos sobre música y músicos locales, sobre arte y artistas locales, sobre danza y bailarines locales.

Ha habido poemas e historias escritas por autores locales como Armando García, Susa Silvermarie y Judy Dykstra Brown.

Se han escrito artículos para presentarles a algunas de

las personas que hacen que la vida aquí sea especial, y algunos de los eventos que iluminan nuestras vidas.

Y, por supuesto, ha habido artículos sobre Lake Chapala Society, lo que es, lo que hace, cómo lo hace, lo que espera hacer - y de eso se trata este número.

Lake Chapala Society ha existido por más de sesenta años sirviendo a la gente de la Ribera en una multitud de formas. Muchas de las obras de arte que se ven en la zona, desde los hermosos murales hasta las impresionantes pinturas en galerías y hogares han sido creadas por artistas que comenzaron con el programa de arte infantil de LCS.

La capacidad de comunicarse fácilmente con sus vecinos se debe en gran parte a los programas de lenguaje que LCS ha instituido: ESL para la comunidad mexicana y clases de español para los extranjeros.

Más de uno de los excelentes servicios profesionales disponibles en la zona, son gracias al programa de becas de LCS que apoya a jóvenes talentosos y merecedores que van a la universidad.

Y, por supuesto, está la propia instalación que proporciona no sólo la mayor biblioteca en inglés de América Latina, sino también la biblioteca en español, una biblioteca de libros hablados en inglés para los discapacitados visuales, una biblioteca de DVD, clases de ejercicios, juegos, películas, conferencias y cursos, pero también un hermoso y relajante espacio en el que disfrutar de ellos.

Están los estanques de peces, las flores, los árboles y el césped.

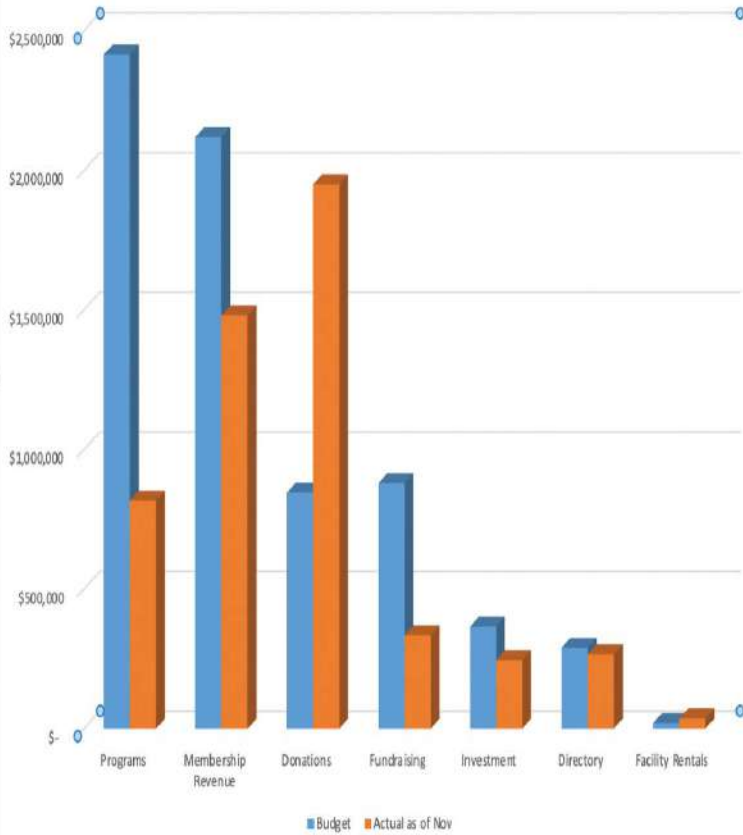
Están los servicios de salud, y los diversos asesores para cosas como la inmigración y los seguros.

Incluso hay un restaurante para llenar la barriga y relajar el espíritu mientras se escucha una excelente música en vivo que suena suavemente de fondo.

Lake Chapala Society es única. Ha proporcionado una "plataforma de aterrizaje" para muchos de nosotros. Nos ha dado un lugar para aprender, reír, disfrutar y celebrar la vida con los amigos. Nos ha llevado en viajes en autobús y en excursiones, nos ha ayudado a obtener una licencia de conducir. Nos ha ayudado a cuidar nuestra salud, tanto física como mental, ha apoyado a los que viven solos e incluso nos ha enseñado a prepararnos para el final de nuestra vida.

En 2021 habrá nuevas adiciones a la oferta: conciertos en el jardín, nuevos programas de PEP y PRUEBA, nuevos cursos en línea, todos creados en respuesta a las demandas de la comunidad y, por supuesto, Conecciones, que ya va por su tercer año, estará aquí para mantenerlos informados.

2020 Budget vs Actual (as of Nov.)



AJIJIC SOCIETY OF THE ARTS

Virtual Art Show

Our annual Garden Art Shows are being replaced this season by a Virtual Art Show!

Works by ASA Artists are displayed in our easy-to-use online store. Please use the link below to browse and purchase art to beautify your home...

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While it may not be raining dogs and cats — or even raining — the Lake Chapala Society has a problem with too many of them. The cats that make their way

there are multiplying in number, and unleashed dogs are causing havoc. Not only are the attacking, and even killed one cat, they create problems for some members who for one reason or another may not be as steady on their feet as they once were.

As so often happens in this wonderful community, a group has come together to help out. They will be putting up signs about the need to leash dogs, as well as sterilizing and vaccinating the cats, rehoming a few, and building a shelter for the rest.

Meanwhile, it is important that anyone taking a dog to the LCS campus is aware that there is a ZERO tolerance policy for unleashed dogs, and should you choose to bring an unleashed animal, a representative from Ecologia will be informed and civil penalties may ensue.

Please be respectful of both other people, other (leashed) dogs, and the cats!

Happy New Year! May this be the year you find your bliss. I envy animals their ability to be so present to life, reveling in the warmth of the sun, the pleasure of a good stretch, the comfort of a full belly and the presence of their person. If you need a mentor in these skills, may I suggest a cat, specifically an LCS cat. A select few of the LCS cats would very much enjoy having a human and a home of their own.

Many of these cats had a home once, but when their families moved back north or to a house that didn't allow pets, the cats were abandoned at LCS. Two factors allowed the cats to survive. One is the lush, tropical gardens, an absolute cat paradise. The second is the kindness of cat loving strangers, many of whom can't have a pet but miss the companionship. LCS, Mark and Alejandra of Corazón Café, and donations from the community kept the cats fed.

Dogs & Cats

But maybe the time is ripe to up our game. With Ray's new café opening, we can tempt the cats away to a feeding area farther from people who prefer to eat without pleading eyes following every forkful. Many of the cats are spayed or neutered, but the ones who aren't are happily producing litter after litter of kittens. In a quieter spot away from the café we can tame these party animals and then get them sterilized because, between births and the continuing abandonment of pet cats, the population continues to grow.

You have probably heard that cats are solitary animals. Well, the colony at LCS gets along remarkably well together so we want to preserve the hierarchy that keeps fighting to a minimum and keep a core population of healthy, personable cats. But as population density increases, so does the spread of contagious diseases so, for the health of LCS's cats and the neighbors' cats, it would be good to vaccinate against FVRCP and FeLV. We also don't know if the cats are carrying the FeLV or FIV viruses so testing a small cross section of cats would give us some data.

But it all comes down to what you, our LCS community, wants. I hope some of you will find your bliss by:

1. Helping these cats learn to trust people again. Maybe buy lunch at Ray's café, take it to the cat feeding area SE of the café and share with the cats. Talk to them. Pet them.
2. Adopt a cat. Let's meet and talk about the various personalities. NOTE: Not all the cats at LCS are adoptable — some belong to the neighbors!
3. Contribute, if you can. Lakeside Friends of the Animals is doing the surgeries FREE. But in Mexico, import duties raise the price of vaccines to just over \$400 pesos per cat and the test for FeLV/FIV is over \$300 pesos per cat. Plus, we are buying cat food and the "taming treats" of chicken, sardines, etc.
4. Maybe most important, jump on the bandwagon.

For this to be a sustainable project we need a dedicated group of volunteers so there is continuity whether or not any particular individual is involved. Let's do this!

IMPACT

The impact of LCS on the Mexican community

By/Por Alfredo Pérez
Director de Educación LCS

El impacto de LCS en la comunidad mexicana.

From its inception, LCS has aimed to support both the foreign and Mexican communities. One of its first achievements was the children's reading room which evolved into a library with Spanish collections located on Galeana Street, the only one in the Ajijic area, where it continues the tradition of the children's reading club, as well as summer school regularization courses and homework club.

In those days, university level education could only be carried out in Guadalajara. Among the youth of the Lakeside there were those who wanted to continue their professional studies. This implied regular travel to the city, and they did not have the resources to do so.

Neill James supported some to study art. With that idea in mind, in 1992 the creation of the Student Aid Program was formalized. To date, this program has supported nearly 300 young people who receive a sum of money at the beginning of each semester. At the end of their degree, they are given extra support to complete their degree process.

For LCS, education is very important, so we have made agreements with TecMM, Conalep and CETAC to continue supporting young people from the Lakeside to do their professional practices, learn English, develop projects that help the community etc., and several are part of the Student Aid Program.

In addition, LCS has different programs to encourage the learning of English, such as the 'Difficult Journey', a dynamic that serves to practice English in everyday situations, or the 'Rally', where students are faced with questions and activities to complete the Journey. Also the English conversation clubs, where students can practice what they have learned each week.

Career day is an event that takes place at the high school and at Conalep, where various professionals are invited to share a talk about their life and professional development with the students. We present various current options for professional development.

Every time you support LCS, you help to keep these and other programs going.

Desde sus inicios, LCS tuvo como objetivo apoyar tanto a la comunidad extranjera como a la mexicana. Uno de sus primeros logros fue la sala de lectura infantil que evolucionó hasta convertirse en una biblioteca con acervo en español ubicada en la calle de Galeana, es la única en el área de Ajijic, en ella sigue la tradición del club de lectura para niños, además de cursos de regularización escolar durante el verano y club de tareas.

En aquellos tiempos, la educación de nivel universitario solo podía llevarse a cabo en Guadalajara. Entre la juventud de la ribera había quienes deseaban continuar sus estudios profesionales. Lo que implicaba viajar de manera regular a la ciudad, y no contaban con los recursos para ello.

Neill James apoyó a algunos para que estudiaran arte. Con esa idea en mente, en 1992 se formalizó la creación del Programa de Ayuda Estudiantil. A la fecha, dicho programa ha apoyado a cerca de 300 jóvenes quienes reciben una cantidad de dinero al inicio de cada semestre. Al finalizar su licenciatura se les otorga un apoyo extra para que realicen su trámite de titulación.

Para LCS la educación es muy importante, por eso hemos llevado a cabo convenios con el TecMM, el Conalep y el CETAC para seguir apoyando a los jóvenes de la ribera para que hagan sus prácticas profesionales, aprendan inglés, desarrollen proyectos que ayuden a la comunidad y varios forman parte del programa de apoyo económico.

Además, LCS cuenta con distintos programas para fomentar el aprendizaje del inglés, como el difficult journey, dinámica que sirve para que practiquen inglés en situaciones de la vida diaria o el rally, donde los alumnos se enfrentan a preguntas y actividades a realizar para completar el recorrido. Y los clubes de conversación en inglés, donde los alumnos pueden practicar cada semana lo aprendido.

Career day es un evento que se lleva a cabo en la preparatoria y en el Conalep, donde se invita a diversos profesionales a compartir una charla sobre su vida y desarrollo profesional a los alumnos. Es un evento de tipo vocacional. Damos a conocer diferentes opciones actuales para desarrollarse profesionalmente.

Cada vez que apoyas a LCS, ayudas a que estos y otros programas sigan adelante.

CHILDREN'S ART PROGRAM

PROGRAMA DE ARTE INFANTIL

Por Harriet Hart

Started by Neill James, the Children's Art Program has helped thousands of Mexican children explore their creative talents. For more than six decades, the program has produced well-known local artists and has helped position Ajijic as a center for art. The legacy of this program can be seen in the lives and paintings of its many famous graduates whose murals now adorn public buildings and beautify villages in the area.

Today, the program continues to flourish through the support of the Lake Chapala Society (LCS) and many dedicated volunteers. The Ajijic Society of the Arts (ASA) donates a portion of the proceeds from its annual Art Walk (formerly Open Studio) event to support the Children's Art Program. The program is free of charge, and all children are welcome.

The Children's Art Program is looking forward to displaying and selling the children's art in the near future. The intent is to educate the children in the business of art. Following the Neill James tradition, a large portion of the sale of each piece of artwork is given to the child artist. The balance pays for the cost of producing the art, as well as buying art supplies for the program.

Some of the children from the program have pursued formal art education through the LCS Financial Aid Program, while others have been commissioned to paint murals and unique pieces of artwork and illustrate books. The Ojo del Lago selected two Christmas drawings for the December 2020 issue (cover and insert) and the 2021 LCS Directory will display a piece of children's art on its cover. In 2011, LCS renovated a portion of the Children's Art Patio and dedicated a wall to inspire future generations of young artists through a unique mural. Together, Javier Zaragoza and Jesus Lopez Vega, both graduates of the program, collaborated to produce the mural. The styles of at least four Neill James legacy artists can be seen in this unique work honoring six decades of Children's Art as well as future decades of young Ajijic artists. The public unveiling of the mural took place on March 3, 2012.

In 2013, with the help of ASA, the Children's Art Program held its first Summer Art Camp at LCS. Over 70 children attended workshops in different art mediums such as papier maché, jewelry, printmaking, oil painting, watercolors, and T-shirt making. This pilot project was so successful it was repeated in 2014 attracting 125 children each day for its five-day run! The Summer Art Camp is now firmly established on the annual LCS event calendar, although due to COVID 19 restrictions it was not held in 2020. Instead, ASA generously donated funds to purchase art supplies for the kids. As a result, Program Director Danielle Pagé says "donations have gone to some 170 children and young artists in December 2020."

In late 2012, the Legacy Art Collection was placed in the care of LCS. This extensive collection dates back to the 1950's when Neill James started the Children's Art Program. Work is under way to organize and catalogue the art. All of the almost 400 framed pieces have been organized and catalogued in an online database. Work continues to sort and catalogue the thousands more unframed pieces.

If you would like to help with any of the above email

Iniciado por Neill James, el Programa de Arte Infantil ha ayudado a miles de niñas y niños mexicanos a explorar sus talentos creativos. Por más de seis décadas, el programa ha producido conocidos artistas locales y ha ayudado a posicionar a Ajijic como un centro de arte. El legado de este programa se puede ver en las vidas y pinturas de sus muchos graduados famosos cuyos murales ahora adornan edificios públicos y embellecen pueblos de la zona.

Hoy en día, el programa continúa floreciendo gracias al apoyo de Lake Chapala Society (LCS) y muchos voluntarios dedicados. La Sociedad de Artes de Ajijic (ASA) dona una parte de las ganancias de su Art Walk (antes Open Studio) para apoyar el Programa de Arte Infantil. El programa es gratuito y todas las niñas y niños son bienvenidos.

El Programa espera exhibir y vender el arte en un futuro cercano. La intención es educar a los menores en el negocio del arte. Siguiendo la tradición de Neill James, una gran parte de la venta de cada obra de arte se entrega al artista. El saldo paga el costo de producción del arte, así como la compra de materiales para el programa.

Algunos integrantes del programa han seguido una educación artística formal a través del Programa de apoyo económico LCS, mientras que a otros se les ha encargado pintar murales y piezas de arte únicas e ilustrar libros. El Ojo del Lago seleccionó dos dibujos navideños para la edición de diciembre de 2020 (portada e inserto) y el Directorio 2021 de la LCS mostrará una pieza de arte infantil en su portada.

En 2011, LCS renovó una parte del Patio de Arte Infantil y dedicó una pared para inspirar a las futuras generaciones de jóvenes artistas a través de un mural único. Juntos, Javier Zaragoza y Jesús López Vega, ambos graduados del programa, colaboraron para producir el mural. Los estilos de al menos cuatro artistas del legado de Neill James pueden verse en esta obra única que honra seis décadas de Arte Infantil, así como futuras décadas de jóvenes artistas de Ajijic. La inauguración pública del mural tuvo lugar el 3 de marzo de 2012.

En 2013, con la ayuda de ASA, el Programa de Arte Infantil realizó su primer Campamento de Verano de Arte en LCS. Más de 70 niños y niñas asistieron a talleres en diferentes medios de arte como papel maché, joyería, grabado, pintura al óleo, acuarelas e impresión de camisetas. ¡Este proyecto piloto tuvo tanto éxito que se repitió en 2014, atrayendo a 125 participantes cada día por los cinco días que dura! El Campamento de Verano de Arte está ahora firmemente establecido en el calendario anual de eventos de LCS, aunque debido a las restricciones de COVID 19 no se celebró en 2020. En su lugar, la ASA donó generosamente fondos para comprar suministros de arte. Como resultado, la directora del programa Danielle Pagé dice que "las donaciones han ido a unos 170 niños y jóvenes artistas en diciembre de 2020".

A finales de 2012, el Legado Colección de Arte fue puesta al cuidado de LCS. Esta extensa colección se remonta a los años 50 cuando Neill James comenzó el Programa de Arte Infantil. Se está trabajando para organizar y catalogarla. Todas las casi 400 piezas enmarcadas han sido organizadas y catalogadas en una base de datos en línea. El trabajo continúa clasificando y catalogando las miles de piezas no enmarcadas.

Si desea ayudar con cualquiera de las anteriores, envíe un correo electrónico a childrensart@lakechapalasociety.com.

We all take for granted some major assets in our lives. For us, the Lake Chapala Society (LCS) is a major asset to our lives that we should never take for granted.

After checking out a number of places to retire, my husband and I came to Chapala and visited the LCS, where we saw the great library, video library and the broad array of amenities and services, and immediately knew this was where we wanted to spend our retirement. One of the first things we did when we moved here, was to become LCS members.

For us, LCS is the heart and soul of the community we call home. Whenever I step onto the campus it always feels like a homecoming. I sincerely hope most people who live here, or who are visitors, feel welcome and comfortable spending time at LCS. Whether walking through the beautiful gardens, making inquiries at the information desk, seeking health services offered free to all, attending a class, or special event, everyone should know they are welcome.

Like most expats who have lived in the Lakeside area for a few years, we have lived in more than one house and have seen restaurants, businesses and friends come and go. We accept changes and loss. But one main feature of our lives at Lakeside that I can't begin to imagine living without, is the Lake Chapala Society.

When we first arrived, we were thinking about all the ways LCS would enrich our lives. We were not yet aware that by being LCS members we would also be supporting some important services to improve the lives of our Mexican neighbors. Besides the Children's Art Program, LCS offers Mexicans student aid for higher education, free English-language classes, and the only Spanish-language library in the area is at the LCS Wilkes Center.

I sometimes assume that all my Lakeside expat friends are members of LCS. How could they not be, when I see them in activities and events at LCS? But too often, when I look for people in the LCS directory, I'm surprised and disappointed that there is no listing because the individuals or couples are not members.

What a difference it would make if all who appreciate the gardens, services, programs, facilities maintained by a few employees and dozens of volunteers, would value LCS enough to give \$790 pesos annually, or less than US\$4 a month, for a membership.

The website, www.lakechapalasociety.com, lists all the resources, programs, services and special events that you may or may not be aware are happening at LCS. More offerings are planned for the future depending on the financial health of the organization.

This letter is an appeal to everyone who may have taken for granted the existence of one of our greatest assets. If you let your membership lapse, please consider re-joining. It's easy online. You'll be glad you're doing your part to ensure LCS will be here for us all in the future.

Todos damos por sentado algunos de los principales activos de nuestras vidas. Para nosotros, Lake Chapala Society (LCS) es un activo importante en nuestras vidas que nunca debemos dar por sentado.

Después de revisar varios lugares para retirarnos, mi esposo y yo vinimos a Chapala y visitamos LCS, donde vimos la gran biblioteca, videoteca, una amplia gama de servicios y comodidades e inmediatamente supimos que aquí era donde queríamos pasar nuestro retiro. Una de las primeras cosas que hicimos cuando nos mudamos aquí fue convertirnos en socios de LCS.

Para nosotros, LCS es el corazón y alma de la comunidad que llamamos hogar. Cada vez que entro al campus siempre se siente como un regreso a casa. Sinceramente espero que la mayoría de la gente que vive aquí, o que son visitantes se sientan bienvenidos y cómodos pasando tiempo en LCS. Ya sea caminando por los hermosos jardines, haciendo preguntas en el escritorio de información, buscando servicios de salud ofrecidos gratuitamente a todos, asistiendo a una clase o a un evento especial, todos deben saber que son bienvenidos.

Como la mayoría de los extranjeros que han vivido en la zona del lago durante unos años, hemos vivido en más de una casa y hemos visto restaurantes, negocios y amigos ir y venir. Aceptamos los cambios y las pérdidas. Pero un rasgo principal de nuestras vidas en la Ribera sin el cual no puedo imaginarme vivir es Lake Chapala Society.

Cuando llegamos por primera vez pensamos en todas las formas en que la LCS enriquecería nuestras vidas. No éramos conscientes de que al ser miembros de LCS también estaríamos apoyando algunos servicios importantes para mejorar las vidas de nuestros vecinos mexicanos. Además del Programa de Arte Infantil, LCS ofrece a los mexicanos ayuda para la educación superior, clases gratuitas de inglés y la única biblioteca en español en el Wilkes Center de LCS.

A veces asumo que todos mis amigos extranjeros de la zona son miembros de LCS. ¿Cómo no podrían serlo cuando los veo en actividades y eventos en LCS? Pero muy a menudo cuando busco gente en el directorio de LCS, me sorprende y me decepciono al no verlos, porque no son miembros.

Qué diferencia habría si todos los que aprecian los jardines, servicios, programas e instalaciones mantenidas por unos pocos empleados y docenas de voluntarios, valoraran a LCS lo suficiente como para dar \$790 pesos anuales, o menos de US\$4 al mes, por una membresía.

El sitio web, www.lakechapalasociety.com, lista todos los recursos, programas, servicios y eventos especiales que suceden en LCS. Se planean más ofertas para el futuro dependiendo de la salud financiera de la organización.

Esta carta es una petición a todos los que pueden haber dado por sentada la existencia de uno de los mayores activos para todos los que viven en la zona de la ribera del lago de Chapala. Si nunca se han unido a LCS o han dejado que su membresía expire, por favor consideren unirse. Puedes hacerlo fácilmente en línea. Te alegrarás de hacer tu parte para asegurar que LCS esté aquí para todos nosotros en el futuro.

A Seat at the Table

LCS A Seat At The Table

LCS Un asiento en la mesa.



LCS serves as an interlocutor with the government, both in Mexico and abroad, building collaborations beneficial to all at Lakeside. We use this role to spread important messages, strengthen ties or provide services. We have a close working relationship with the municipal government of Chapala and the local Delegado. We support the diffusion of relevant information to the community, as in the case of the 2020 census, and we participate in organized talks on security issues. In addition, we have supported the Secretary of Tourism of Jalisco and Zacatecas for the promotion of Mexico to our members. Together with the tourism representatives we are working on future tours to places of interest to our members.

We provide services with the United States government through the consulate in Guadalajara, the most used being the renewal of passports. In addition, we jointly organize the ExPat Info Fair that promotes services for the foreign community and attracts high ranking government officials. We also work with the Canadian Consulate in Guadalajara to promote its services and to orient its citizens about procedures. They also participate in the ExPat Info Fair.

A very important but little known service is the communication that is established with government entities in the event of a person facing an emergency or end of life situation while here in Mexico; we have had cases in which, thanks to the LCS Post Life program, we can provide support in locating relatives of a seriously ill or deceased person.

Every time you support LCS, you help keep these and other programs going.

LCS sirve de interlocutor con el gobierno, tanto en México como en el extranjero, creando colaboraciones beneficiosas para todos en Riviera de Chapala. Utilizamos esta función para difundir mensajes importantes, fortalecer los vínculos o prestar servicios. Tenemos una estrecha relación de trabajo con el gobierno municipal de Chapala y el Delegado de Ajjic. Apoyamos la difusión de información relevante a la comunidad, como en el caso del censo de 2020, y participamos en charlas organizadas sobre temas de seguridad. Además, hemos apoyado a la Secretaria de Turismo de Jalisco y Zacatecas para la promoción de México entre nuestros socios. Con los representantes de turismo estamos trabajando en futuros viajes a lugares de interés.

Con el gobierno de los Estados Unidos a través del consulado en Guadalajara, prestamos servicios, siendo el más utilizado la renovación de pasaportes. Además, organizamos conjuntamente la ExPat Info Fair que promueve servicios para la comunidad extranjera y atrae a altos funcionarios del gobierno. También trabajamos con el consulado canadiense en Guadalajara para promover sus servicios y orientar a sus ciudadanos sobre los procedimientos. También participan en la ExPat Info Fair.

Un tema muy importante y poco tomado en cuenta es la comunicación que se establece con las entidades gubernamentales en caso de que una persona enfrente una situación de emergencia o de fin de vida mientras está aquí en México; hemos tenido casos en los que, gracias al programa LCS Post Life, podemos dar apoyo para localizar a los familiares de una persona gravemente enferma o que ha fallecido.

Cada vez que apoyas a LCS, ayudas a que estos y otros programas sigan adelante.





The LCS English Language Library

The LCS English language library is happy to be open and once again providing reading material to many of our members. While browsing through the stacks is not yet allowed, many members are selecting the books they want to read from the LCS website and placing orders to be picked up 2 days later.

Books can be selected by title, by author, or by genre, or another option is to browse through multiple pages of books from the comfort of your own home. We have an excellent selection of both fiction and non-fiction, a Children/Young Adult's collection, many books about Mexico, more books by local authors, and a comprehensive biography collection. It's easy to find a book that will give you reading pleasure, and possibly even educate you on something you know little about !

To try this for yourself, go to the Lake Chapala Society website.

- » move your cursor to Library
- » move it down to English
- » move it across to either Select or Browse
- » when you have selected 6 titles, go back to either Select or Browse
- » drop to the bottom of the page and click on the Shopping Cart
- » complete your own personal information including your LCS member number, and click submit at the bottom of the page
- » remember that if you need to renew your membership, that must be done before you can borrow from the library.

We have wonderful volunteers who are waiting and happy to help you find something good to read! Until we can all come back and browse in person in the library, we can still keep our minds and imaginations active. Hope to see you soon!

Cate Howell
Library Manager

What Do We Docents Do?



The dictionary defines docent (*a noun from the Latin 'docere' meaning to teach*) as a person who acts as a guide, typically on a volunteer basis in a museum, art gallery, etc. or a member of a teaching staff immediately below professional rank.

The LCS Docent Volunteers are fun, friendly and outgoing individuals acting as merger/greeters at the front and rear gates of the campus. We are committed to creating a welcoming atmosphere and providing a positive experience to all guests and members. We are easily identifiable by our white docent shirts.

We are knowledgeable of the on-campus daily activities scheduled. We can answer related questions, direct visitors to their meetings, and give 'newbies' a campus tour. We are also available to help out with special events and Open Circle.

The Docent Program is an independent but mobile arm of the Information Desk and Service Office, and in the spirit of joint team work will provide assistance and support when needed.

As the first point of contact, we are in a unique position to actively seek out new volunteers and invite non-members to join LCS. The free services and activities offered provide plenty of value!

We are currently in need of a few more docent volunteers to round out our schedule. As a docent, we volunteer one day a week for four hours. You will find the Volunteer Application on the LCS web site if you are interested. You may also contact me directly, or our Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Merchant.



The Dancing Saints of Saint Andrew's

By Harriet Hart

"Many years ago Saint Andrew's Anglican Church was a dance studio," explained the Rev. Robbin Moore, "and the north wall over there was all mirrors. I think it sent the wrong message." Today, instead of the ghosts of aspiring dancers admiring their own reflections in mirrors, the congregation admires a wall depicting historical figures dancing to reflect their joy at being alive. The rector laughs, her delight in the new mural obvious.

Robbin first saw a mural of dancing saints years ago, when she was a doctoral student in San Francisco. The mural fills the rotunda of St. Gregory of Nyssa's Episcopal Church on *De Haro* Street. The church website explains, it is "a monumental, surprising, and powerful statement of faith . . . created by artist Mark Dukes with the people of St. Gregory's. Completed in 2009, it wraps around the entire church rotunda, showing ninety larger-than-life saints, four animals, stars, moons, suns, and a twelve-foot-tall dancing Christ. The saints — ranging from traditional figures like King David, Teresa of Avila, and Francis of Assisi to unorthodox and non-Christian people like Malcolm X, Anne Frank, and Margaret Mead — represent musicians, artists, mathematicians, martyrs, scholars, mystics, lovers, prophets, and sinners from all times, from many faiths and backgrounds . . . proclaiming a sweeping, universal vision of God shining through human life."

When Robbin was called to be permanent priest of St. Andrew's Anglican Church here at Lakeside this last February, she remembered that mural and decided to create something similar, on a more modest scale, here.

The vestry, which is the governing body of the church, agreed and together they drew up a list of possible candidates for the mural, which the congregation voted on. The successful candidates are: *Tekakwitha*, a Mohawk healer; Charles Wesley, composer of hymns; Mahatma Gandhi, father of an independent India; Mary Magdalene, an early Christian devotee of Jesus; St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Chapala; Mary, mother of Jesus; St. Andrew, the first disciple and patron saint of Ajijic; Mother Teresa, founder of a religious order; Bishop Mel Saucedo, founder of St. Andrew's and 12 other Anglican churches in Mexico;

the Rev. Iris Slocombe, first rector of St. Andrew's and first female priest in the Anglican Diocese of Western Mexico and Sojourner Truth, abolitionist.

Robbin explains the vestry wanted a depiction of diversity of race and gender, and individuals who are the embodiment of Christian values. She explained that Anglican theology teaches that we are all saints of God. The eleven chosen ones are dancing on the shore of Lake Chapala. Robbin's only directive to the artist was "they have to be smiling; I want their joy as depicted on the mural to be contagious."

Who was the man who painted this? Robbin interviewed several potential local artists, before choosing Javier Zaragoza. "Javier impressed me with his deep spirituality and reverence for churches," she said. He is well known locally as a master muralist who studied with Neill James in Ajijic before attending the Art Academy in San Miguel de Allende as a teenager. When he was only 16 years old, he painted his first major church mural in *Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos*. Robbin paid his first mural a visit and



liked what she saw.

Javier spent most of his working life painting billboards in Los Angeles, but returned to Ajijic when the film studio he worked for went digital. Lakeside is his childhood home, so he returned to his roots by painting village scenes, opening his own gallery and art school, and volunteering as an instructor for the Lake Chapala Society Children's Art Program. One of his best-known works is at the western entrance to Chapala, where a series of panels shows the history of Lakeside. Other murals grace Ajijic's municipal building and the art patio at LCS. Robbin believes St. Andrew's is blessed to have his newest work on the north wall of their sanctuary.

The official unveiling of the mural was held in a special church service on All Saints' Day, November 2nd, with the artist in attendance. Once COVID restrictions are lifted, sometime in 2021, there will be opportunities for the public to see this work of art. The Rev. Moore says they will be part of a series of new events planned at St. Andrew's, including a labyrinth walk and Taize services. Watch local papers for advertisements.

Los santos danzantes

Por Harriet Hart

“Hace muchos años la Iglesia Anglicana de San Andrés era un estudio de danza”, explicó la reverenda Robbin Moore, “y la pared norte de allí era todo espejos. Creo que enviaba el mensaje equivocado.” Hoy, en lugar de los fantasmas de los aspirantes a bailarines que admiran sus propios reflejos en los espejos, la congregación admira un muro que representa figuras históricas que bailan para reflejar su alegría de estar vivos. Ella se ríe, su deleite en el nuevo mural es obvio.

Robbin vio por primera vez un mural de santos danzantes hace años, cuando era estudiante de doctorado en San Francisco. El mural llena la rotonda de la Iglesia Episcopal de San Gregorio

de Nyssa en la calle De Haro. El sitio web de la iglesia explica que es “una monumental, sorprendente y poderosa declaración de fe . . . creada por el artista Mark Dukes con la gente de San Gregorio”. Terminada en 2009, envuelve toda la rotonda de la iglesia, mostrando noventa santos más grandes que en la vida real, cuatro animales, estrellas, lunas, soles, y un Cristo danzante de 3.5mts de altura. Los santos desde figuras tradicionales como el Rey David, Teresa de Ávila y Francisco de Asís hasta personas no ortodoxas y no cristianas como Malcolm X, Ana Frank y Margaret Mead representan a músicos, artistas, matemáticos, mártires, eruditos, místicos, amantes, profetas y pecadores de todos los tiempos, de muchos credos y orígenes . . . proclamando una visión amplia y universal de Dios que brilla a través de la vida humana”.

Cuando Robbin fue llamada a ser sacerdote permanente de la Iglesia Anglicana de San Andrés aquí en la Riviera de Chapala último febrero, recordó ese mural y decidió crear algo similar, a una escala más modesta, aquí.

La sacristía, que es el órgano de gobierno de la iglesia, estuvo de acuerdo y juntos elaboraron una lista de posibles candidatos para el mural, que la congregación votó. Los candidatos seleccionados son: Tekakwitha, un curandero Mohawk; Charles Wesley, compositor de himnos; Mahatma Gandhi, padre de una India independiente; María Magdalena, una de las primeras devotas cristianas de Jesús; San Francisco de Asís, el santo patrono de Chapala; María, madre de Jesús; San Andrés, primer discípulo y patrono de Ajijic; la Madre Teresa, fundadora de una orden religiosa; el obispo Mel Saucedo, fundador de la iglesia de San Andrés y otras 12 iglesias anglicanas de México; la reverenda Iris

Slocombe, primera rectora de San Andrés y primera mujer sacerdote de la diócesis anglicana de México occidental y Sojourner Truth, abolicionista.

Robbin explica que la sacristía quería una representación de la diversidad de raza y género, y de los individuos que son la encarnación de los valores cristianos. Explicó que la teología anglicana enseña que todos somos santos de Dios. Los once elegidos están bailando en la orilla del lago de Chapala. La única directiva de Robbin al artista fue “tienen que estar sonriendo; quiero que su alegría, tal como está representada en el mural, sea contagiosa”.



¿Quién fue el hombre que pintó esto? Robbin entrevistó a varios potenciales artistas locales, antes de elegir a Javier Zaragoza. “Javier me impresionó con su profunda espiritualidad y reverencia por las iglesias”, dijo. Es muy conocido localmente como un maestro muralista que estudió con Neill James en Ajijic antes

de asistir a la Academia de Arte en San Miguel de Allende cuando era adolescente. Cuando tenía sólo 16 años, pintó su primer gran mural de iglesia en Ixtlahuacán de los Membrillos. Robbin visitó su primer mural y le gustó lo que vio.

Javier pasó la mayor parte de su vida laboral pintando vallas publicitarias en Los Ángeles, pero regresó a Ajijic cuando el estudio de cine para el que trabajaba se convirtió en digital. Ajijic es el hogar de su infancia, así que volvió a sus raíces pintando escenas del pueblo, abriendo su propia galería y escuela de arte, y siendo voluntario como instructor del Programa de Arte Infantil de Lake Chapala Society. Una de sus obras más conocidas está en la entrada oeste de Chapala, donde una serie de paneles muestra la historia de la Ribera. Otros murales adornan el edificio municipal de Ajijic y el patio de arte de LCS. Robbin cree que San Andrés tiene la bendición de tener su más reciente trabajo en el muro norte de su santuario.

La inauguración oficial del mural tuvo lugar en un servicio especial de la iglesia el día de todos los santos, el 2 de noviembre, con la presencia del artista. Una vez que se levanten las restricciones de COVID, en algún momento del 2021, habrá oportunidades para que el público vea esta obra de arte. La reverenda Moore dice que serán parte de una serie de nuevos eventos planeados en St. Andrew’s, incluyendo un paseo por el laberinto y servicios de Taize. Habrá que estar atentos a los periódicos locales para ver los anuncios.

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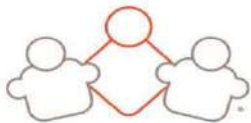
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Jennifer founded Mudlarks in cooperation with LCS after moving to Lakeside several years ago when she realized that, despite Mexico's rich ceramic traditions, there was no local studio where someone could learn the basics or work with a community of creative colleagues to make pots, tiles, or sculptures.

Before coming to Ajijic, Jennifer had a long career as a ceramic artist and mosaicist, creating both useful and beautiful objects from clay and designing and implementing significant public art installations across California. Her ceramic sculptures and one-of-a-kind tableware pieces are in public and private collections in the US, Europe, and Mexico. She is particularly proud of a commission to create a set of dinnerware for Ambassador and Mrs Walter Annenberg that is on display in Southern California's Sunnyslands Center. Another signature project is the 20,000 square foot Fountain of Life, the centerpiece of the Cathedral City Downtown Plaza; its major elements are carved from Cantera stone from Jalisco and covered with Mexican mosaics. Several visits to the quarry and stoneyard in Tonalá to select the stone led to her first trip to Ajijic 20 years ago.

Early in her career, while creating her own work, Jennifer began teaching pottery and mosaics, both in her studio and in workshops in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and Urbino, Italy. Now, she offers the same quality of instruction and support to anyone who wants to learn a new skill or join the growing community of artists and artisans growing in Ajijic.

INTRODUCTION TO CERAMICS: No previous experience necessary and required for all new participants. You will leave the class with finished pieces fired and glazed. Monday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$500 pesos for class and \$500 pesos for initial supply of clay.

OPEN STUDIO: Open upon completion of introduction and provides ongoing opportunities to hone your skills in a warm and supportive environment. Monday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$500 pesos plus \$500 pesos per bag of additional clay as needed.

Note: Prices and times can change during the year, please check before enrollment.

Ven a Mudlarks Pottery en LCS todos los lunes y viernes y aprende todo sobre la cerámica básica trabajada a mano. Tenemos todo lo que necesitas para crear en cerámica, desde una vajilla hasta una escultura. Nuestro estudio está situado en la Casita en el Campus Sur y esperamos darle la bienvenida. Las clases y el Estudio Abierto funcionan en base a un mes calendario y está bajo la dirección de Jennifer Johnson.

Jennifer fundó Mudlarks en cooperación con LCS después de mudarse a Ajijic hace varios años cuando se dio cuenta de que, a pesar de las ricas tradiciones cerámicas de México, no había un estudio local donde alguien pudiera aprender lo básico o trabajar con una comunidad de colegas creativos para hacer ollas, azulejos o esculturas.

Antes de llegar a Ajijic, Jennifer tuvo una larga carrera como ceramista y mosaicista, creando tanto bellos objetos útiles de arcilla y diseñando e implementando importantes instalaciones de arte público en toda California. Sus esculturas de cerámica y piezas únicas de vajilla están en colecciones públicas y privadas en los EE.UU., Europa y México. Está particularmente orgullosa de un encargo para crear un juego de vajilla para el embajador y la Sra. Walter Annenberg que se exhibe en el Sunnyslands Center del sur de California. Otro proyecto emblemático es la Fuente de la Vida de 6,000 mts cuadrados, la pieza central de la Plaza del Centro de la Ciudad de la Catedral; sus elementos principales están tallados en piedra de Cantera de Jalisco y cubiertos con mosaicos mexicanos. Varias visitas a la cantera y al patio de piedra en Tonalá para seleccionar la piedra la llevaron a Jennifer a su primer viaje a Ajijic hace 20 años.

Al principio de su carrera, mientras creaba su propia obra, Jennifer comenzó a enseñar cerámica y mosaicos, tanto en su estudio como en talleres de Cuernavaca (México) y Urbino (Italia). Ahora, ofrece la misma calidad de instrucción y apoyo a cualquiera que quiera aprender una nueva habilidad o unirse a la creciente comunidad de artistas y artesanos que crece en Ajijic.

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA CERÁMICA: No se necesita ni se requiere experiencia previa para todos los nuevos participantes. Saldrán de la clase con las piezas terminadas cocidas y esmaltadas. Lunes y viernes, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. El costo es de \$500 pesos por clase y \$500 pesos por el suministro inicial de arcilla

ESTUDIO ABIERTO: Abierto al terminar la introducción y proporciona oportunidades continuas para perfeccionar sus habilidades en un ambiente cálido y de apoyo. Lunes y viernes, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. El costo es de \$500 pesos más \$500 pesos por bolsa de arcilla adicional según sea necesario.

Nota: Los precios y horarios pueden cambiar durante el año, por favor revisar antes de inscribirse.

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