

VOLUME 47, DECEMBER, 2022
VOLUMEN 47, DICIEMBRE, 2022

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or at LakeChapalaSociety.com



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

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

Conecciones Advertising Prices / Precios de los Anuncios 2022

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

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COVER: Fideicomiso ¡Ah Chihuahua!

President's Message

President's Message

It is hard to believe that this year is about to end. I am sure so many of us had things on our To Do list that have not yet been completed. As we think over that list and set priorities for 2023, let's focus on "what matters most". What can make a difference in our lives and what is the difference we can make in our community?

For me the biggest priorities have been to enhance the Lake Chapala Society grounds and programs in ways that allow us to better serve the community we are so fond of. My goals have always included bringing people together. There is so much more to be learned through collaboration than through negativity and divisiveness.

Some have suggested that as President, my job is to build bridges between the Expat and Mexican community. I have never subscribed to that concept. A bridge implies there is a permanent obstacle between the two points. I have not found such an obstacle.

Since my first contact with the Mexican culture in 1978, I have been much more focused on developing collaborations. Working to weave together our communities for the common good. We all want better quality of life for ourselves, our family, our friends and our greater community. There is a valuable role each of us can play if we commit to moving in a forward motion and share some common beliefs.

With the fast approaching new year also comes new opportunity. What are the biggest things we can set as our goals for enhancing the quality of life around us? How can we find our role? How do we reach beyond our comfort zone? How do we open our minds to embrace what is around us? How do we change "impossible" to "I'm Possible"? How do we share what we have, while accepting there is so much more for us to gain from one another?

Later in December I will be presenting at the Sunday morning Open Circle. There I will share some of my background as an understanding of what motivates me, but I am also looking forward to hearing positive thoughts and ideas of what we each can do to further enrich the community we all share. I hope you will join us and contribute positive thoughts, ideas and energy.

One more thing, as we wrap up this year, I would not be doing my job if I didn't make an appeal for a year end gift. Past recent gifts have allowed us to address serious deferred maintenance issues that have posed liabilities issues to our members, volunteers and guests. But there is more to do. We must address the issue of unsafe walkways and sidewalks. Our bathrooms were all designed for single family use, yet are used by thousands of people weekly. Two of our banos are among the most used in Ajijic. We also have sewer, electric and IT needs that demand immediate attention. Raising funds is not all we do, yet all we do depends on the funds we raise. Membership alone only covers our housekeepers, our campus workers and some bookkeeping costs. These deferred maintenance projects are imperative and need your support for the betterment of all. Gifts can be made by dropping off a donation in our office, on the donation page of our website, or get together with myself or our Director Luis to discuss how you can make a difference.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support. No matter what year end holidays you celebrate, I hope they are the best ones yet, you deserve it!

Abrazos,
Steve Balfour
Your LCS President.

Es difícil creer que este año está a punto de terminar. Estoy seguro, que muchos de nosotros teníamos cosas en nuestra lista de cosas por hacer que aún no se han completado. Mientras pensamos en esa lista y establecemos las prioridades para 2023, centrémonos en "lo que más importa". ¿Qué es lo que puede marcar la diferencia en nuestras vidas y qué es lo que podemos hacer en nuestra comunidad?

Para mí las mayores prioridades han sido mejorar los terrenos y programas de Lake Chapala Society de manera que nos permita servir mejor a la comunidad a la que tanto queremos. Mis objetivos siempre han sido unir a la gente. Hay mucho más que aprender a través de la colaboración que a través de la negatividad y la división. Algunos han sugerido que, como presidente, mi trabajo consiste en tender puentes entre la comunidad de expatriados y la mexicana. Nunca he suscrito ese concepto. Un puente implica que hay un obstáculo permanente entre los dos puntos. Yo no he encontrado tal obstáculo.

Desde mi primer contacto con la cultura mexicana en 1978, me he centrado mucho más en desarrollar colaboraciones. Trabajar para entrelazar nuestras comunidades por el bien común. Todos queremos una mejor calidad de vida para nosotros mismos, nuestra familia, nuestros amigos y nuestra comunidad en general. Cada uno de nosotros puede desempeñar un valioso papel si nos comprometemos a avanzar y compartimos algunas creencias comunes.

Con la llegada del nuevo año también llegan nuevas oportunidades. ¿Qué es lo más importante que podemos fijarnos como objetivo para mejorar la calidad de vida que nos rodea? ¿Cómo podemos encontrar nuestro papel? ¿Cómo podemos ir más allá de nuestra zona de confort? ¿Cómo abrimos nuestra mente para abrazar lo que nos rodea? ¿Cómo cambiamos el "imposible" por el "es posible"? ¿Cómo compartimos lo que tenemos, al tiempo que aceptamos que hay mucho más que podemos ganar los unos de los otros?

A finales de diciembre haré una presentación en Open Circle del domingo por la mañana. Allí compartiré algunos de mis antecedentes para entender lo que me motiva, pero también espero escuchar pensamientos e ideas positivas de lo que cada uno puede hacer para enriquecer aún más la comunidad que todos compartimos. Espero que se unan a nosotros y contribuyan con pensamientos positivos, ideas y energía.

Una cosa más, al terminar este año, no estaría haciendo mi trabajo si no hiciera un llamamiento para una donación de fin de año. Las últimas donaciones nos han permitido abordar graves problemas de mantenimiento diferido que han supuesto problemas de responsabilidad para nuestros miembros, voluntarios e invitados. Pero hay más cosas que hacer. Debemos resolver el problema de la inseguridad de los pasillos y las aceras. Nuestros baños fueron diseñados para el uso de las familias de los hijos, pero son utilizados por miles de personas cada semana. Dos de nuestros baños están entre los más utilizados en Ajijic. También tenemos necesidades de alcantarillado, electricidad e informática que exigen atención inmediata. Recaudar fondos no es todo lo que hacemos, pero todo lo que hacemos depende de los fondos que recaudamos. La membresía sólo cubre a nuestras amas de llaves, nuestros trabajadores del campus y algunos costos de contabilidad. Estos proyectos de mantenimiento diferido son imperativos y necesitan su apoyo para la mejora de todos. Las donaciones se pueden hacer dejando un donativo en nuestra oficina, en la página de donaciones de nuestro sitio web, o reuniéndose conmigo o con nuestro Director Luis para discutir cómo se puede hacer una diferencia.

Muchas gracias por su apoyo continuo. No importa qué fiestas de fin de año celebren, espero que sean las mejores, ¡se lo merecen!
Abrazos, Steve Balfour, Su Presidente de LCS.

U.S.-MEXICO RELATIONS – BICENTENNIAL –

On December 12, 2022, the United States and Mexico celebrate our Bicentennial and commemorate 200 years of diplomatic relations. We recognize and celebrate our shared history, culture and values, as well as the strong relationship between our two countries. Our countries share a 2,000-mile border with 47 active land ports of entry. Our economic, social and cultural ties impact the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in both nations. We collaborate closely on issues that affect us on both sides of the border, whether related to trade and economic development, education exchanges, citizen security, migration, human trafficking, entrepreneurship, innovation, environmental protection, climate change, or public health.

The U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara will celebrate the Bicentennial over the next year through a series of activities, programs, and workshops. In the Guadalajara consular district (which includes Jalisco, Aguascalientes, Colima, and

BICENTENARIO DE RELACIONES ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA Y MÉXICO

El 12 de diciembre de 2022, Estados Unidos y México celebran nuestro Bicentenario y conmemoran 200 años de relaciones diplomáticas. Reconocemos y celebramos nuestra historia, cultura y valores compartidos, así como la sólida relación entre nuestros dos países. Nuestros países comparten una frontera de 2,000 millas con 47 puertos de entrada terrestres activos. Nuestros lazos económicos, sociales y culturales impactan las vidas de millones de personas en ambas naciones. Colaboramos de cerca en los temas que nos afectan en ambos lados de la frontera, ya sea relacionados con el comercio y el desarrollo económico, los intercambios educativos, la seguridad ciudadana, la migración, la trata de personas, el emprendimiento, la innovación, la protección del medio ambiente, el cambio climático y la salud pública.

El Consulado de los Estados Unidos en Guadalajara celebrará el Bicentenario durante el próximo año a través de una serie de actividades, programas y talleres. En el distrito consular de Guadalajara (que incluye a Jalisco, Aguascalientes, Colima y Nayarit), los lazos y relaciones que existen entre México y Estados Unidos son tan profundos y fuertes como siempre. En nuestra región, las agencias gubernamentales, el sector privado y la sociedad civil de ambos países trabajan juntos para contribuir al desarrollo y bienestar de las familias y comunidades en los cuatro estados. Únase al Consulado de los Estados Unidos en Guadalajara mientras recordamos nuestra historia compartida en esta región y esperamos los próximos doscientos años en nuestra relación bilateral. Síguenos en Facebook ([facebook.com/USCGGuadalajara](https://www.facebook.com/USCGGuadalajara)) o Twitter (@USCGGuadalajara) para obtener más información.



Nayarit), the ties and relationships that exist between Mexico and the United States are as deep and as strong as ever. In our region, government agencies, the private sector and civil society from both countries work together to advance development and well-being for the families and communities in all four states. Join the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara as we look back on our shared history in this region and look forward to the next two hundred years in our bilateral relationship. Follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/USCGGuadalajara](https://www.facebook.com/USCGGuadalajara)) or Twitter (@USCGGuadalajara) for more information.



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Who is Lupita Reyes?

By Neri Navarro

It requires a lot of physical condition to keep up with a Mexican. Even with our busy lives, we save a little energy for the pachanga (slang for party). And since we always leave everything to the last minute, the best party season is the Guadalupe-Reyes marathon.

Guadalupe-Reyes may well be the name of some neighbor (la Lupita), but it is also the name of the Christmas holiday period that begins on December 12 and ends on January 6. That's right, Christmas festivities in Mexico can extend throughout the month, and in this time span we will find a whole variety of traditions that include events, food, drinks and lots of color.

December 12, on the Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe, marks the inauguration of this season. On this day, the apparition of the Virgin Mary to the Indian Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac is commemorated, as well as the manifestation of the miracle where her image was printed on Juan Diego's cloak, which is preserved in the basilica in Mexico City. The connection between Mexicans and the Brown-skinned Virgin is so strong and special that every year millions of people travel to the heart of the country to visit their Lady, to ask her for favors or to thank her for the blessings she has given them. It is also a symbol of identity for Mexicans in other countries.

Afterwards, the posadas follow. Nine days before Christmas, the children of the community participate in representations of the pilgrimage of Joseph and Mary in search of shelter for the night. A couple leads the way with a donkey and they are accompanied by songs and the joyful tinkling of the little shepherds. They will arrive at different houses in the neighborhood to ask for an overnight stay, and will end up at the host house with a musical, "Entren, santos peregrinos," where there will be sweets for the children and a dinner. As a child, I used to participate in the posadas because it was fun to walk through the streets with a decorated walking stick, singing and, at the end of the procession, breaking the piñatas.

Posadas are, in addition, the parties we throw during the Christmas season. In your workplace, in your school, in the swimming club—everyone plans ahead for this end of the year party. Here it doesn't matter which religion you practice, but rather that you give yourself the opportunity to get to know your colleagues and, why not, to not even recognize them when they start drinking a few tequila shots! On these holidays we also organize gift exchanges: days before, through a random raffle, you find out to whom you will have to give a surprise gift. Sometimes we give "gag" gifts, and witness the creativity and strange demonstrations of affection from our friends. You could even receive a brick with the Apple logo on it!

Then, on December 24, we have Noche Buena (Christmas Eve) and the long awaited Christmas dinner. There are many typical dishes for this day: pozole, tamales, pork loin, romeritos (edible herbs which are accompanied with mole, and sometimes with dried shrimp tortitas (cakes) or croquettes), apple salad, buñuelos (dessert made from fried dough covered in cinnamon sugar,) and the traditional fruit punch. There is always plenty of food: it doesn't matter if there are only 10 guests at the party, the pots will be overflowing and we will be eating the recalentado (re-heated left-overs) all week long. For many families, this day is to give thanks for what they have received during the year: health, work, children... It's like Thanksgiving, but with more music and a night of toasting and dancing. Except for the children, because they will go to bed early, waiting for the arrival of the "God Child" or Santa Claus.

On the morning of December 25, adults will be asleep, hungover or about to go to sleep. But, for the little ones, the excitement of finding their presents by the tree will have them up long before the rooster. All morning they will be showing off their new toys to the neighbors, and sharing the candy they won in the Christmas Eve piñatas.

December 28th commemorates the Holy Innocents, the babies that King Herod had murdered in an attempt to find the baby Jesus. Despite being a tragedy, for us Mexicans it is a day to make jokes (it is in our nature to laugh at misfortune).



It's like "The April's fools" in the United States. Also, it is said that you should not lend money to anyone, because they have the right not to give it back to you. If you are fooled, you will hear the saying "Innocent little dove, you let yourself be fooled, don't you know that on this day you should trust no one?"

On Nochevieja (New Year's Eve), another over-portioned feast is prepared, and the party tends to be bigger. Many neighbors gather to share dinner, and here in Ajijic we have the lumbradas, which are street bonfires, to keep each other company as we bid farewell to the year. Also, while the bells are ringing, we usually perform different rituals: twelve grapes for good fortune, wearing red underwear for love and yellow for money, walking around the block with a suitcase for travel, and desperate singles hide under the table to find a mate. These rituals (and perhaps others that I am missing) make us focus our best energies on the year that is just beginning.

Finally, we have Three Kings Day. On January 6, the Three Kings brought gifts to the baby Jesus to worship him, and in Mexico we celebrate by sharing the rosca de Reyes. It is a ring-shaped orange-colored bread, covered with dried fruits and buttered sugar, which hides several plastic figures representing the Baby Jesus. Although traditionally finding the "mono" (figure) was a blessing, nowadays everyone prays to choose a piece without this figure, because if you find it, you have to pay for tamales for the next celebration: February 2, Candelaria Day.

¿Quién es Lupita Reyes?

Por Neri Navarro



Hay que tener condición para seguirle el paso a un mexicano. Aún con nuestras vidas tan ajetreadas, guardamos un poco de energía para la “pachanga”. Y como siempre dejamos todo para el final, la mejor temporada de fiestas es el maratón Guadalupe-Reyes.

Guadalupe-Reyes bien podría ser el nombre de algún vecino (o vecina, la Lupita), pero es el periodo de fiestas navideñas que da inicio el 12 de diciembre y finaliza el 6 de enero. Así es, las fiestas navideñas en México pueden extenderse durante todo el mes, y en este lapso de tiempo encontraremos toda una variedad de tradiciones que incluyen eventos, comida, bebidas y mucho color.

El 12 de diciembre, en el Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe, se marca la inauguración de esta temporada. En este día, se conmemora la aparición de la Virgen María ante el indio Juan Diego en el cerro del Tepeyac, además de la manifestación del milagro donde su imagen quedó impregnada en la tilma de Juan Diego, misma que se conserva en la basílica de la Ciudad de México. La conexión entre los mexicanos y la Virgen Morena es tan fuerte y especial que cada año millones de personas viajan hasta el centro del país para visitar a su Señora, para pedirle favores o agradecerle las bendiciones que les ha dado. Además, es un símbolo de identidad para los mexicanos que se encuentran en otros países.

Después, siguen las posadas. Son nueve días antes de navidad donde los niños de la comunidad participan en representaciones del peregrinaje de José y María en busca de un refugio para pasar la noche. Una pequeña pareja va al frente con un burrito y son acompañados entre los cantos y alegres tintineos

de los pastorcitos. Llegarán a diferentes casas del barrio a pedir posada, y terminarán en la casa anfitriona con el musical “entren, santos peregrinos”, donde habrá dulces para los niños y una cena. De niña, solía participar en las posadas porque era divertido caminar por las calles con el báculo, cantando y, al final del recorrido, quebrar las piñatas.

Las posadas, además, suelen ser las fiestas que hacemos durante la temporada de navidad. En tu lugar de trabajo, en tu escuela, en el club de natación; todos se organizan con tiempo para esta fiesta de fin de año. Aquí no importa cuál religión practiques, sino que te des la oportunidad de convivir con tus compañeros y, por qué no, de desconocerlos cuando empiezan a echarse unos tequilitas. En estas fiestas también organizamos los intercambios de regalos: días antes, por medio de un sorteo, descubres a quién tendrás que hacerle un regalo sorpresa. A veces hacemos regalos “de broma”, y somos testigos de la creatividad y las demostraciones extrañas de cariño de nuestros amigos, ¡podrías recibir un ladrillo con el logo de Apple!

Luego, el 24 de diciembre tenemos la Noche Buena y la tan esperada cena de navidad. Hay muchos platillos típicos para este día: pozole, tamales, lomo de cerdo, romeritos, ensalada de manzana, buñuelos y el tradicional ponche de frutas. Siempre hay comida en abundancia: no importa que en la fiesta haya solo 10 invitados, las ollas van a estar rebosantes y vamos a comer el “recalentado” durante toda la semana. Para muchas familias, este día es para agradecer lo recibido durante el año: la salud, el trabajo, los hijos... Es como un día de acción de gracias, pero con más música y una noche de brindar y bailar. Excepto para los niños, porque ellos se irán a

dormir temprano, esperando la llegada del “Niño Dios” o de Santa Claus.

La mañana del 25 de diciembre, los adultos estarán dormidos, crudos o apenas yéndose a dormir. Pero, para los más pequeños, la emoción de encontrar sus regalos al pie del arbolito los hará levantarse mucho antes que el gallo. Toda la mañana estarán presumiendo sus nuevos juguetes con los vecinos, y compartiendo los dulces que se ganaron en las piñatas de la Noche Buena.

El 28 de diciembre se recuerda a los Santos Inocentes, los bebés que el rey Herodes mandó asesinar en un intento por encontrar al niño Jesús. A pesar de ser una tragedia, para nosotros los mexicanos es un día para hacer bromas (está en nuestra naturaleza burlarnos de la desgracia). Es como el “April fools” en Estados Unidos. Además, se dice que no deberías prestarle dinero a nadie, porque tienen el derecho a no regresártelo. Si caes en una de las bromitas, escucharás el dicho “Inocente palomita, te dejaste engañar. ¿Qué no sabes que en este día en nadie debes confiar?”.

Para la víspera del Año Nuevo, la Nochevieja, se prepara otro festín con exceso de porciones, y la fiesta suele ser más grande. Muchos vecinos se reúnen para compartir la cena, y aquí en Ajijic se hacen las “lumbradas”, que son fogatas en la calle para acompañarse mientras despiden el año. Además, mientras suenan las campanadas, solemos cumplir con diferentes rituales: doce uvas para la buena fortuna, usar ropa interior roja para el amor y amarilla para el dinero, dar la vuelta a la cuadra con una maleta para los viajes, y los solteros desesperados se esconden bajo la mesa para encontrar pareja. Estos rituales (y quizás otros que se me escapen) nos hacen enfocar nuestras mejores energías en el año que recién empieza.

Por último, tenemos el día de Reyes. El 6 de enero, los Reyes Magos llevaron regalos al niño Jesús para adorarlo, y en México celebramos compartiendo la rosca de Reyes. Es un pan de naranja en forma de anillo, cubierto de frutas secas y azúcar con mantequilla, que esconde varias figuras de plástico que representan al Niño Dios. Aunque tradicionalmente encontrar al “mono” era una bendición, en la actualidad todos rezan por elegir un pedazo sin esta figura, porque si lo encuentras, debes pagar los tamales para la siguiente celebración: el 2 de febrero, día de la Candelaria.

La Cochera Cultural ~ An Improvised Dream in Progress

Jennifer Faith Stanley
Co-founder La Cochera Cultural

La Cochera Cultural began in the summer of 2015, when a private garage (cochera) was converted into a production centre for its first children's summer cultural camp. The result that year was the inaugural presentation of *The Legend of La Michi-Cihualli, the Goddess of Lake Chapala and Ajijic* at the Lakeside Little Theatre in August. This well-received presentation was subsequently remounted at the Auditorium de la Riberas in October 2015 as a fundraiser for Ajijic's *Sangre Viva* pre-Hispanic Festival.



The collaboration with Lakeside Little Theatre saw their entire theatre board and a large group of volunteers get behind the project, with seed money gratefully received from the Lake Chapala Society. It may have been the first time these two long-established local groups had collaborated, as well as the first time Mexican artists and children had taken to the LLT stage, with their proud families in the audience.

The following year the children's summer cultural camp was welcomed back to LLT with *Midnight Travellers of the Universe*, a work that highlighted the children's travel stories and celebrated the New Year's Eve tradition of walking the streets of Ajijic with empty suitcases at midnight, with the dream of travelling in the coming year.



In 2017, the children's cultural camp was generously hosted by Centro Cultural in the Ajijic plaza. A six-day program focused on the children's dreams and culminated in a performance of dance, music, and readings, and an exhibition of their work.

In March 2018, La Cochera Cultural found a permanent home at 49 Javier Mina, where it immediately morphed into an artist residence, hosting artists from all over Mexico for the annual *Sangre Viva* Festival.

Also, in 2018 local artist, Maestro Antonio Lopez Vega, joined La Cochera Cultural as resident visual arts curator and he has expanded the children's program, which now provides a variety of weekly music and arts classes for the neighbouring children of San Sebastian in Upper Ajijic. His *Galeria la Michi-Cihualli* is open during events and by appointment.

In 2019, La Cochera Cultural was the home base for an international jazz festival, welcoming 200 patrons and artists from Mexico, France and the United States.

During the Covid pandemic, La Cochera Cultural scaled back some in-person programs and increased its focus on film and multimedia productions. A significant highlight of this period was the *Festival de la Michi-Cihualli*, which featured new works of film, dance and original music, and included a series of panel discussions about the future of Ajijic. After the festival, the *Michi-Cihualli* production returned to the stage of the Lakeside Little Theatre with two sold out performances in April of 2022.

Since its modest beginnings in 2015, La Cochera Cultural has been a not-for-profit nongovernmental residence and cultural centre, where its three resident artists and many visiting artists have drawn enthusiastic audiences for concerts, dance performances, exhibitions, classes, and fundraisers, and in the process, they have helped turn La Cochera Cultural into a local flamenco and jazz concert hotspot.

Looking to the future, La Cochera Cultural intends to continue doing what it does well while building more connections with its Mexican neighbours and new alliances and initiatives that will reflect the changing cultural needs of the community well into the future and beyond the life of its founders.

To learn more about La Cochera Cultural and our resident artists, or be added to our mailing list, visit: www.cocheracultural.org. We are also on Facebook.



La Cochera Cultural

~ Un Sueño Improvisado en Progreso ~

Por Jennifer Faith Stanley
Co~fundadora, La Cochera Cultural

La Cochera Cultural comenzó en el verano de 2015, cuando una cochera en una casa, se convirtió en un centro de producción para el primer campamento cultural de verano para niños. El resultado primero fue la presentación inaugural de La Leyenda de La Michi-Cihualli, la Diosa del Lago Chapala y Ajijic en el "Lakeside Little Theatre" en agosto de ese año. La presentación fue bien recibida, y se volvió a montar posteriormente en el Auditorio de la Ribera en octubre de 2015 para recaudar fondos para el Festival Prehispánico Sangre Viva de Ajijic.

La colaboración con Lakeside Little Theatre llenó el teatro, gracias a un gran grupo de voluntarios que respaldaron el proyecto, con capital inicial recibido de Lake Chapala Society. Tal vez esta puede haber sido la primera vez que estos dos grupos locales y bien establecidos desde hace mucho tiempo colaboraron, así como la primera vez que artistas y niños mexicanos subieron al escenario de LLT, con sus orgullosas familias en la audiencia.

Al año siguiente, el campamento cultural de verano para niños volvió a LLT con "Midnight Travelers of the Universe", una obra que resaltó las historias de viaje de los niños y celebró la tradición de Nochevieja de caminar por las calles de Ajijic con las maletas vacías a la medianoche, con el sueño de viajar el próximo año.

En 2017, el campamento cultural infantil fue generosamente organizado por el Centro Cultural en la plaza de Ajijic. Un programa de seis días se centró en los sueños de los niños y culminó con una presentación de danza, música y lecturas, y una exhibición de su trabajo.

En marzo de 2018, La Cochera Cultural encontró un hogar permanente en la calle Javier Mina #49, donde inmediatamente se transformó en una residencia de artistas, recibiendo artistas de todo México para el Festival anual Sangre Viva.

Además, en 2018 el artista local Maestro Antonio López Vega se unió a La Cochera Cultural como curador residente de artes visuales y ha ampliado el programa infantil, que ahora ofrece una variedad de clases semanales de música y arte para los niños vecinos de San Sebastián en la parte alta de Ajijic. Su Galería la Michi-Cihualli está abierta durante los eventos y con cita previa.

En 2019, La Cochera Cultural fue la sede de un festival internacional de jazz que recibió a 200 asistentes y artistas de México, Francia y Estados Unidos.

Durante la pandemia de Covid, La Cochera Cultural redujo algunos programas presenciales y aumentó su enfoque en producciones cinematográficas y multimedia. Un hito significativo de este período fue el Festival de la Michi-Cihualli, que presentó nuevas obras de cine, danza y música original, e incluyó una serie de paneles de discusión sobre el futuro de Ajijic. Después del festival, la producción de Michi-Cihualli volvió al escenario del Lakeside Little Theatre con dos funciones agotadas en abril de 2022.

Desde sus modestos comienzos en 2015, La Cochera Cultural ha sido un centro cultural y residencia no gubernamental



sin fines de lucro, donde sus tres artistas residentes, y mucho más visitando han atraído audiencias entusiastas para conciertos, espectáculos de danza, exhibiciones, clases y eventos para recaudar fondos, y en el proceso, han ayudado a convertir a La Cochera Cultural en un punto de encuentro local de conciertos de flamenco y jazz.

Mirando hacia el futuro, La Cochera Cultural tiene la intención de continuar haciendo lo que hace bien mientras construye más conexiones con sus vecinos mexicanos y nuevas alianzas e iniciativas que reflejarán las cambiantes necesidades culturales de la comunidad en el futuro y más allá de la vida de sus fundadores.

Para obtener más información sobre La Cochera Cultural y nuestros artistas residentes, o agregarse a nuestra lista de correo, visite: www.cocheracultural.org. También estamos en Facebook.

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You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”

~Winston Churchill

LCS Volunteer Appreciation Day

By Luis Pacheco



Without volunteers, most nonprofits and small membership organizations around the world would be unable to function.

Just look at the numbers: over 77 million Americans volunteered 6.9 billion hours in 2018 – a stunning 30% of the population and a record high for the country. And nearly 13 million Canadians, or 41% of the people, volunteer almost 2 billion hours yearly.

In Mexico, according to the Satellite Account of Nonprofit Institutions (CSISFLM), in 2020, these organizations were supported by 1,786,578 volunteers. The work contributed by volunteers in NPOs is equivalent to 126,203 million pesos.

From delivering critical services in the community to serving as board members, volunteers keep our nonprofit world going. And that was particularly true of Lakeside during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonprofits face unprecedented financial and logistical challenges; volunteers continue to provide essential support to vulnerable groups impacted by the crisis – delivering food, helping the homeless, offering help to isolated seniors, taking care of animals, defending the environment, and so much more.

The Lake Chapala Society is no exception, and it is what its members do



through their volunteer service. All our programs are based on the work and love that more than 250 people do. If it were not for their generous giving and financial support, our organization would not exist.

That is why at LCS, we want to recognize and celebrate our volunteers at least once a year. Not only because they are the heart and hands that carry out our mission but also because we are a community that is strengthened when we meet to celebrate life and recognize what we have accomplished.

Volunteering at LCS is both a privilege and a challenge. It is the realization of building community and the experience of commitment to transforming the world to its best possible version. As Oscar Wilde wrote “It has shown that the smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention”.

It is because we are grateful that this coming December 9th that the entire LCS team will gather to celebrate our volunteers, without whom nothing would be the same.

If our hopes of building a better and safer community by Lakeside are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever. Don't miss the opportunity of volunteering with us!



Día de agradecimiento a los voluntarios de LCS

By Luis Pacheco



Sin voluntarios, la mayoría de las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro y las pequeñas organizaciones de todo el mundo no podrían funcionar.

Basta con mirar las cifras: más de 77 millones de estadounidenses realizaron 6.900 millones de horas de voluntariado en 2018, un impresionante 30% de la población y un récord para

el país. Y casi 13 millones de canadienses, es decir, el 41% de la población, realizan casi 2.000 millones de horas de voluntariado al año.

En México, según la Cuenta Satélite de Instituciones sin Fines de Lucro (CSISFLM), en 2020, estas organizaciones fueron apoyadas por 1 millón 786 mil 578 voluntarios. El trabajo aportado por los voluntarios en las OSFL equivale a 126,203 millones de pesos.

Desde la prestación de servicios críticos en la comunidad hasta servir como miembros de la junta directiva, los voluntarios mantienen nuestro mundo en marcha. Y eso fue particularmente cierto en La Ribera durante la pandemia de COVID-19. Las organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro se enfrentaron a retos financieros y logísticos sin precedentes. Los voluntarios siguen siendo claves para prestar un apoyo esencial a los grupos vulnerables afectados por la crisis: entregando alimentos, ayudando a las personas sin hogar, ofreciendo ayuda a los ancianos aislados, cuidando de los animales, defendiendo el medio ambiente, los derechos humanos y mucho más.

The Lake Chapala Society no es una excepción y es simplemente la proyección de lo que sus miembros hacen a través de su servicio voluntario. Todos nuestros programas se basan en el trabajo y el amor que hacen más de 250 personas de manera voluntaria cotidianamente. Si no fuera por su generosa donación de trabajo y apoyo financiero, nuestra organización no existiría.

Por eso, en LCS queremos reconocer y celebrar a nuestros voluntarios al menos una vez al año. No sólo porque son el corazón y las manos que llevan a cabo nuestra misión, sino también porque somos una comunidad que se fortalece cuando nos reunimos para celebrar la vida y reconocer lo que hemos logrado.



Ser voluntario en LCS es tanto un privilegio como un desafío. Es la realización de la construcción de la comunidad y la experiencia del compromiso de transformar el mundo a su mejor versión posible. Como escribió Oscar Wilde "Se ha demostrado que el más pequeño acto de bondad vale más que la más grande intención".

Es por ello por lo que agradecemos que el próximo 9 de diciembre todo el equipo de LCS se reúna para celebrar a nuestros voluntarios, sin los cuales nada sería lo mismo.

Pero para que nuestras esperanzas de construir una comunidad mejor y más segura en La Ribera se conviertan en algo más que un deseo, necesitaremos más que nunca el compromiso de los voluntarios. ¡No pierdas la oportunidad de ser voluntario con nosotros!

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Extending the Legacy

Focus Groups

by Larry Barnhardt

For nearly 70 years, the Lake Chapala Society has been offering a mix of programs, activities, services, and events to meet the diverse and ever-changing needs of our local and international residents.

In 2019, LCS created a long-range plan called LCS 2.0, which outlined 42 far-reaching goals to extend our legacy as an oasis for personal enrichment, socialization, and collaboration throughout Lakesides.

Next year, LCS will celebrate its 40th year on this campus. Thanks to our patrons, Neill James and Ed Wilkes, and the generosity of the Friends of LCS, our programs are offered at two locations. The LCS Campus has expanded to include 1) the Neill James Estate and two adjacent properties we call the South and West campus and 2) the Wilkes Education Center, a short walk north and east of the LCS Campus.

Since COVID, LCS shifted its emphasis from planning new buildings to taking care of what we already have. We have been analyzing the condition of our buildings, infrastructure, landscaping, and hardscaping and will present the findings at our AGM next Spring.

In addition, LCS will be hosting a series of Extending the Legacy Focus Groups to seek input from our members, volunteers, staff, neighbors, and the community. We invite you to participate and share your thoughts on how to best use what we already have. These focus groups will be conducted in January of 2023 and advertised widely.

The University of Guadalajara-School of Architecture has agreed to work with LCS to create a Community Service Project to begin this spring semester. This agreement gives fourth-year architectural students the opportunity to work with LCS to incorporate the findings of the conditions assessment and the information we receive at these focus groups to update our Campus Master Plan.

In the meantime, LCS has and will continue to take on some improvement projects that cannot wait until our Campus Master Plan is completed. These projects include releveling the Neill James Patio, walkways, leaking ponds, bathrooms, sewers, and other critical repairs and improvements.

Lastly, we want to thank the many volunteers who have stepped up to give their talents to help us “take care of what we already have.” We look forward to their efforts and your participation in our upcoming Extending the Legacy Focus Groups.

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Grupos Focales para extender nuestro legado

por Larry Barnhardt

Durante casi 70 años, The Lake Chapala Society ha ofrecido una amplia gama de programas, actividades, servicios y eventos para satisfacer las diversas y siempre cambiantes necesidades de nuestras comunidades locales e internacionales.

En 2019, LCS creó un plan de largo alcance llamado LCS 2.0, que esbozó 42 objetivos para extender nuestro legado como un oasis para el enriquecimiento personal, la socialización y la colaboración en toda la Ribera.

El próximo año, LCS celebrará su 40º año en este campus. Gracias a nuestros patrocinadores, Neill James y Ed Wilkes, y a la generosidad de los Amigos de LCS, nuestros programas se ofrecen en sus dos locaciones. El campus de LCS se ha ampliado para incluir: 1) la finca de Neill James y dos propiedades adyacentes que llamamos campus Sur y Oeste; y 2) el Centro Educativo Wilkes, a un corto paseo al norte y al este del campus de LCS.

Desde el COVID, LCS cambió su énfasis de planear nuevos edificios a cuidar lo que ya tenemos. Hemos estado analizando la condición de nuestros edificios, su infraestructura, la jardinería y el paisajismo; y presentaremos los resultados en nuestra AGM la próxima primavera.

Además, LCS organizará una serie de Grupos de Enfoque para la Ampliación del Legado con el fin de recabar la opinión de nuestros miembros, voluntarios, personal, vecinos y la comunidad. Les invitaremos a participar y a compartir sus ideas sobre cómo utilizar mejor lo que ya tenemos. Estos grupos de enfoque se llevarán a cabo en enero de 2023 y se anunciarán ampliamente.

La Universidad de Guadalajara-Escuela de Arquitectura ha acordado trabajar con LCS para crear un Proyecto de Servicio Comunitario que comenzará este semestre de primavera. Este acuerdo da a los estudiantes de arquitectura de cuarto año la oportunidad de trabajar con LCS para incorporar los hallazgos de la evaluación de las condiciones y la información que recibimos en estos grupos de enfoque para actualizar nuestro Plan Maestro del Campus.



Mientras tanto, LCS tiene y continuará asumiendo algunos proyectos de mejora que no pueden esperar hasta que nuestro Plan Maestro del Campus sea completado. Estos proyectos incluyen la nivelación del Patio Neill James, las pasarelas, los estanques con fugas, los baños, las alcantarillas y otras reparaciones urgentes.

Por último, queremos dar las gracias a los numerosos voluntarios que han ofrecido su talento para ayudarnos a “cuidar lo que ya tenemos”. Esperamos contar con sus esfuerzos y con su participación en nuestros próximos Grupos de Enfoque para la Ampliación del Legado.

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Cover Story: El Chepe



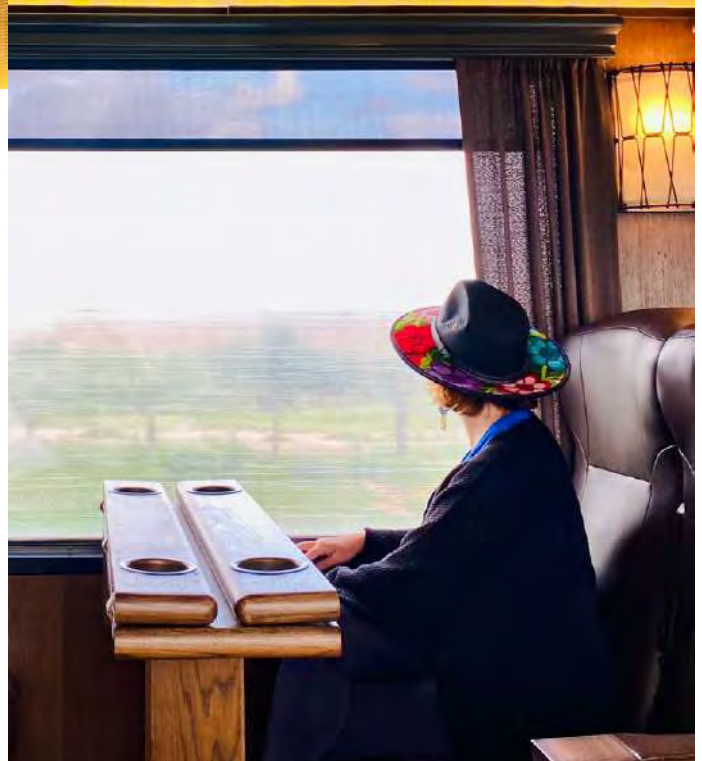
¡Ah Chihuahua!

México

By: Kimrey Anna Batts y Juan Romero Vinueza

El Ferrocarril Chihuahua-Pacífico—more popularly known as El Chepe—is Mexico’s only passenger rail line. It runs from Chihuahua City to Los Mochis (and its nearby port, Topolobampo), winding through the Copper Canyon in the Sierra Madre Range, a vertiginously deep system of four interlinked canyons that is four times larger than the Grand Canyon, before plunging down to the Pacific coast. This rail route passes over thirty-seven bridges and through eighty-six tunnels, and is often considered the most picturesque on the continent.

We rode El Chepe in August of this year, taking around two weeks for stops and exploration. While the route begins in Chihuahua City, it’s more common to board the train in Creel, a small mining village with an Old West feel located three hours from Chihuahua (home to the nearest airport). Creel is charming and worth spending a few days exploring, most notably to see the nearby “valleys” of peculiar natural stone formations: Valley of the Mushrooms, Valley of the Frogs, and by



far the most spectacular, Valley of the Monks. Other highlights include the Museum of Handicrafts, which is a great place to learn about the Rarámuri culture and purchase traditional handicrafts, and the jaw droppingly stunning Basaseachic Falls, located a few hours away in the Basaseachic Falls National Park.

When embarking in Creel and ending your journey in Los Mochis, there are three possible stops on El Chepe Express, which is the tourist train (another local train makes more stops, but lacks the panoramic views and amenities provided on the Express train): Divisadero, Bahuichivo and El Fuerte. While Divisadero is the more popular option, we chose to make Bahuichivo our first stop. The area is the heart of the Rarámuri culture, which is famous for its long-distance runners. The secluded lodge we stayed at in fact serves as base for one of the best-known annual ultramarathons—the Ultra Caballo Blanco, named after a gringo who moved to the area to learn how to run like the Rarámuri—and we had surefooted Rarámuri guides on our excursions to the nearby waterfalls and canyons. A harrowing drive down a one-lane gravel road took us to nearby Urique, which is located at the bottom of the canyon and next to the Urique river. The area is warm and fertile, and provides an amazing perspective on the canyon’s true depth.

The train ride from Bahuichivo to El Fuerte is by far the most spectacular of the journey. The train winds down from the Sierra Madre, along steep ravines and over rushing rivers. It’s an incredible feat



of engineering that is made even more impressive by the panoramic views from the open-air caboose. El Fuerte is an abrupt change from Bahuichivo: it's coastal, and at midday in August it felt like being in a steam room that was a few degrees too warm. The food morphed from the mix of meat, beans, tortillas and cheese found in the mountains to a variety of extremely fresh and creative seafood dishes. The main attractions in El Fuerte are the fort itself (built to protect against Yureme attacks in the 17th century) and a nearby site featuring ancient petroglyphs, called El Cerro de la Máscara. Access to the latter site was quite difficult—we called tourism agencies and asked at our hotel, but no one seemed terribly interested in taking us—and we may have ended up scaling a few fences to get in the area where the carvings are located. It's a real shame, as the petroglyphs are amazing, and with better infrastructure and more in-



formation, it could easily be a great tourist attraction.

Our final stop was the coastal city of Los Mochis., which we both immediately liked. It's modern and well-kept, and has an amazing English-style park, Parque Benjamin Francis, at its center, along with several interesting museums. On our second day, we visited To-

polobampo, which was one of the highlights of our trip. This seaside village-on-a-hill is painted in a rainbow of striking colors that contrast with the dark water and the lush green foliage. A short boat ride took us out to visit Pechocho, a wild dolphin who lives alone in a nearby bay and is unusually affectionate with humans. Few experiences will ever compare to petting a wild dolphin! Numerous other dolphins inhabit the area, though only Pechocho has the unique quality of seeking out human interaction. Afterwards, we visited Maviri, a gorgeous rock-strewn beach dotted with a few palapas selling fresh seafood and drinks, and not much else.

We've traveled throughout Mexico, but El Chepe was truly a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Part of being in Mexico is taking advantage of everything it has to offer, and this was, without a doubt, one of the best adventures you could chose to embark on. All aboard!

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ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Pull Out

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Main Gate: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

LESSONS (M)

Bordado Artístico (Spanish) M+W+F 4-6
 Children's Art - Open to all SAT 10-12
 Children 5 years & under must be accompanied by an adult
 Dance Fitness M 10-11
 Exercise M+W+F 9-9:50
 Gentle Yoga & Body Awareness W 10-10:50
 Hurachess Club T 4-6
 Intermediate Hatha Yoga T+TH 2-3:30
 Introduction to Lakeside 10-1, Dec 9 zoom, Dec 12 campus
 Introduction to Spanish T 12-1:30 Dec 6,13,20
 Line Dancing, gail@doughertynet.com T + TH 10-11:15
 Mudlarks Pottery Open Studios M+F 10-2
 Scottish Country Dancing T+TH 11:15-12:45
 Stretch & Balance, T+TH 8:45-9:45
harry_bertram@hotmail.com
 Spanish in Action classes (español en acción) See LCS website or in the office for more info
 Spanish a la carta Online program, See LCS website/more info
 Tech Help via Email lcs.tech.training@gmail.com
 Write to a Prompt Writers' Group TH 10-12

LIBRARIES (M)

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (M)

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

HEALTH INSURANCE*

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

Lakeside Insurance T+TH 11-2
 Shiatsu Chair Massage 1st & 3rd TH 10-12
 Appointment only, call 331-604-0971

HEALTH & LEGAL SERVICES*

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

SERVICE & SUPPORT GROUPS *

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

NEW ACTIVITIES:

- U.S Notarizations**
 Chuck Wilder, Civil-Law Notary, will be at the LCS on Monday, December 12, from 10-1:00, using the Blue Umbrella Patio, to assist members with notarizing documents for \$50 USD the first document and \$35 USD for each additional document. US currency or the equivalent cash in pesos will be accepted. Copies of each document must be copied, at the expense of the member, in the LCs office.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Life experiences



Getting your Jalisco driver's license without losing your mind

By **Alfredo Pérez**

Monday, December 5

2:00 to 3:45 pm

Location: SCBR

Thursday, December 13 visit to Secretaría de Transporte (test).

Tuesday, January 10

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

Regular price: \$780

LCS members: \$600

Introduction to Spanish

By **Inez Dayer**

Tuesday, December 6, 13 & 20

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Location: Wilkes

Tuesday, January 10, 17, 24

12:00 to 1:30 pm

Regular price: \$560

LCS members: \$430

Mexican Manners

By **Alfredo Pérez**

Wednesday, December 7

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: SCBR

Wednesday, January 11

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

Introduction to Lakeside Online

By **Barbara Harkness**

Friday, December 9

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Friday, January 13

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Regular price: \$850

LCS members: \$660

Introduction to Lakeside In Person

By **Barbara Harkness**

Monday, December 12

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, January 9

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Online Regular price: \$850

Online LCS members: \$660



Mexican Winter Fruits

By **Alfredo Pérez**

Thursday, January 19

10:00 - 11:30 am

Location: Veranda

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

Have you found yourself in any Mexican market or tianguis looking at fruits you did not know they existed... Well, let us introduce you to the Mexican winter fruits, how Mexicans eat them, recipes, flavors, aromas, etc.

Come and enjoy a trip to the warmest heart of Mexican winter and its flavors.



Get creative by creating your piñata in the traditional way

By **Patricia**

Wednesday and Friday

December 14 & 16, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Location: SCBR

Regular price: \$780

LCS members: \$500

Dale, Dale Dale!

We will have with us Patricia, a woman from Ajijic who makes beautiful creations with her hands.

We will use clay jars and paper to create with our hands our piñata and have it ready for the posadas.

Come and learn the process and join the behind-the-scene process of making a piñata. This is a 2-session class.

Includes material



Creative Writing Workshop In Comala town

By **Rachel McMillen**

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

January 24, 25 & 26

Location: Comala Town

Coming Very Soon

Stay in touch at facebook and lakechapalasociety.com for further details!

Enrollment at LCS Office

Monday through Saturday

from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

or send an email to:

directoreducacion@lakechapalasociety.com

or LakeChapalaSociety.com

Registration requires payment.

There is no refund.



Journey of a Traveler

By Betty Steinhauer

Tuesday and Thursday, Jan 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Sala

Regular price: \$715

LCS members: \$550

6 sessions to explore the regions of the world and its culture through the eyes of a traveler!

We will discuss what you will find when you visit, plus my own personal observations practical and some humorous!

I will discuss travel after covid in 2023! and cover all the aspects of travel, visas, baggage, traveling alone, food, health, etc.

Introduction to Telling Your Story, a Memoir- Writing Workshop

By Doris Gallan

Wednesday January 11

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Sala

Regular price: \$650

LCS members: \$500

You will start writing your memoir, learn discipline in writing to ensure you'll finish your book; and pick up many tips on finding inspiration, getting organized, and overcoming some of the challenges of writing. Author, teacher, and writing coach Doris Gallan provides a safe and creative space to write your stories through fun exercises completed during this two-hour workshop.

Attendees are asked to bring writing instruments: laptop computer or pen and paper.

Mexican independence from Spain

By Ted Rogers

Tuesday & Friday, January 17, 20, 24, 27 & 31

1:00-2:00 pm

Location: SCBR

Regular price: \$910

LCS members: \$700

Memoir Writing Classes

By Doris Gallan

Wednesday January 18, 25, February 01 & 08

1:30 - 3:30 pm

Location: Sala

Regular price: \$1,170

LCS members: \$900

Create your legacy through the story of your life through this series of four sessions that bring together a small group of new authors. You will learn in a fun, relaxed, and supportive atmosphere (no negative critiquing allowed); learn the discipline to write on a regular basis in order to finish your memoir, and discover tips professionals use to get started and keep writing in the face of writer's block or lack of inspiration.

Library Updates

December is the month when our thoughts turn to visions of sugarplums, cozy winter evenings curled up with a book and sharing the holidays with friends and family.

This month's selection of recommended books focuses on celebrating the magic of the season. For those of us nostalgic for snow and frosty weather we recommend *Winter Stroll* by Elin Hilderbrand; *Winter's Tales* by Izak Dinesen; *The Edge of Winter* by Luanne Rice; or *Midwinter Murder* by Agatha Christie.

We have several other titles which specifically reference the holidays. These include *Holidays on Ice* by humorist David Sedaris; *The Holiday Season* by Michael Knight; *A Deadly Vineyard Holiday* by Philip Craig and *A Holiday for Murder* by Agatha Christie.

If Christmas is your favorite celebration consider these titles by several bestselling authors: *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg; *A Christmas Blizzard* by Garrison Keillor; the perennial classic *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens; *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham, *The Christmas Train* by David Baldacci; *Merry Christmas Alex Cross* by James Patterson; or *The Christmas List* by Richard Paul Evans.

And if you have friends and family planning to visit you Lakeside, you can get some great day-trip or overnight ideas from Tony Burton's *Western Mexico: A Traveller's Treasury* or John and Susy Pint's *Outdoors in Western Mexico*. Or if you want to stay closer to home, consider throwing a Mexican Fiesta and check out one of our many Mexican cookbooks. Treat the family to a glass of Rompopo (Mexican Eggnog) or Café de Olla. Then wow them with some homemade Empanadas chicken with mole. We have several Mexican cookbooks including *Traditional Mexican Cooking* (in English and Spanish) and *Retro Fiesta: A Gringo's Guide to Mexican Party Planning*.

And finally, if the grandkids are visiting, bring them to the library to pick some excellent books to read together. We have classic stories like *Anne of Green Gables*, *White Fang*, The Boxcar Children series and so many others. We also have a large selection of picture books for the younger kids. My favorite include *Danny and the Dinosaur*; *No, David*; *The Rescue Party*; and *Moongame*.

From the volunteers at the LCS library, we wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with family, friends and great books!

DECEMBER 15 AT 10:00 AM

SHOPPING TRIP

Costco, Sam's and Galerías 360 mall.

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

DECEMBER 19 AT 2:00 PM

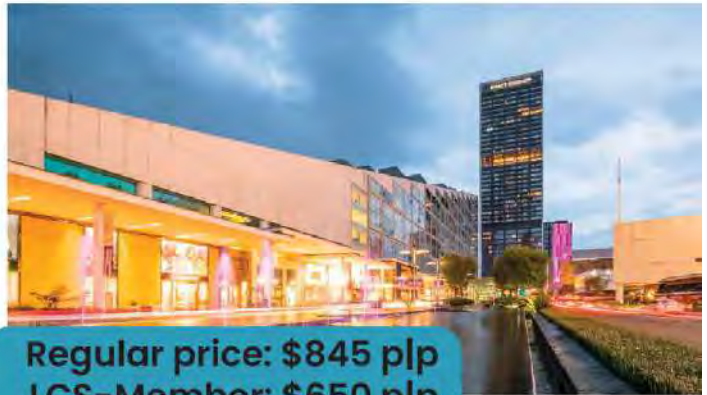
ANDARES MALL

During the month of December, Andares dresses up for Christmas. It offers beautiful views to enjoy while strolling in its surroundings.

There is a wide variety of restaurants, specialty stores, designer stores, high-end department stores, and a long etcetera. You are going to have a great time on your visit to Andares.



Regular price: \$845 plp
LCS-Member: \$650 plp



Regular price: \$845 plp
LCS-Member: \$650 plp



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

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



ESPAÑOL EN ACCIÓN

Por la Profa. Dolores Alicia Ordóñez Pinter

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

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

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

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

www.lakechapalasociety.com



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



DEC 4TH

Our First Step in Mexican Music
By Mariachi School Beginners



DEC 11TH

Roland Palencia

UNIDAD: Gay & Lesbian Latinos Unidos
documentary film screening; and Q & A with
Executive Producer and GLLU co-founder.



DEC 18TH

Steve Balfour

Looking forward over time



DEC 25TH & JAN 1ST
No Presentation

Enjoy the Holidays
& Happy New Year

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



Niños Incapacitados would like to extend a holiday greeting full of good wishes to you and your family. The holiday season is always a wonderful place of colorful decorations, food, and joy in Mexico. At the same moment, there are many children living around Lake Chapala who are in dire need of medical care.

This need never stops.

Niños Incapacitados is meeting the challenge of providing medical care to these children throughout the year.

Niños Incapacitados is currently serving 145 critically ill children in three locations around Lake Chapala that include Chapala, Jocotepec, and San Pedro Itzican.

Just over a third of the children who make-up our caseload have neurological problems.....

Cerebral palsy, Epilepsy, and General Neurological Conditions

Anticonvulsant drugs are very expensive and represent the largest percentage of our medication costs.

We also serve.....

- *11 children with Down's Syndrome*
- *7 children with kidney ailments*
- *5 children with cardiac problems*
- *5 children with orthopedic problems*

There are a host of other diseases including

- *birth defects*
- *profound vision and hearing problems*
- *hydrocephalia*
- *other life threatening syndromes and diseases*

Medicine costs for all diseases keep pace with high inflation and in some instances are at a higher rate than inflation.

- *We provide for the cost of transportation. The cost of transportation has increased.*
- *Our children have limited access to specialists, and we pay for the medical practitioners to give this essential care. This comes at a premium cost.*
- *Finally, and sadly, the cost of burial has risen exponentially. We are committed to standing with parents in their darkest hour upon the loss of their child and we believe that this is part of our continuum of care.*



*The bottom line is that we are committed to providing quality medical services to profoundly ill children. We are hoping that you will join us this holiday season in providing this life saving care that we provide through making a donation during this season of giving. **Please support our worthy cause!***

US, CDN & MXN Tax Receipts Available through our WEBSITE www.programaninos.com

Historia de Portada: El Chepe

Por Kimrey Anna Batts y Juan Romero Vinueza



El Ferrocarril Chihuahua Pacífico –más conocido como El Chepe– es la única línea ferroviaria para pasajeros de México. Recorre desde la ciudad de Chihuahua hasta Los Mochis (y su puerto cercano, Topolobampo), atravesando las Barrancas del Cobre en la cordillera de la Sierra Madre –un sistema vertiginosamente profundo de cuatro cañones interconectados, cuatro veces más grande que el Gran Cañón–, antes de sumergirse en la costa del Pacífico. La ruta pasa sobre treinta y siete puentes y a través de ochenta y seis túneles y, a menudo, es considerada la más pintoresca del continente.

Subimos al Chepe en agosto de este año y tomamos alrededor de dos semanas para hacer paradas y explorar. Si bien la ruta inicia en la ciudad de Chihuahua, es más común abordar el tren en Creel, un pequeño pueblo minero con alma del Medio Oeste, ubicado a tres horas de la ciudad de Chihuahua (donde está el aeropuerto más próximo). Creel es un sitio encantador y vale la pena pasar unos días, particularmente para visitar los “valles” de peculiares formaciones rocosas: el Valle de los Hongos, el Valle de las Ranas y, de lejos, el más espectacular de todos, el Valle de los Monjes. Otros sitios que no te puedes perder son el Museo de Artesanías, un gran lugar para aprender sobre la cultura rarámuri y comprar artesanías tradicionales, así como la increíble cascada de Basaseachi, ubicada dentro del Parque Nacional Cascada de Basaseachi.

Al embarcarte en Creel y terminar tu viaje en Los Mochis, tienes tres posibles paradas en El Chepe Express, que es el tren turístico (otro tren local hace más paradas, pero no posee las vistas panorámicas y las amenidades que of-

rece el Express): Divisadero, Bahuichivo y El Fuerte. Si bien Divisadero es la opción más popular, nosotros escogimos Bahuichivo como primera parada. Esta zona es el corazón de la cultura rarámuri, famosa por sus corredores de largas distancias. El apartado logde donde nos quedamos, de hecho, funge de base para uno de los maratones anuales más conocidos –El Ultra Caballo Blanco, llamado así por un gringo que se mudó al lugar para aprender a correr como los rarámuris–, y tuvimos guías rarámuris en nuestras excursiones por las cascadas y barrancas cercanas. Un angustioso carretero de arcilla de una sola vía nos llevó hacia Urique, ubicado al fondo de la barranca y al lado del río Urique. Esta zona es cálida y fértil, y te ofrece una magnífica perspectiva de la profundidad de la barranca.

El tramo de Bahuichivo a El Fuerte es, de largo, el más espectacular del recorrido. El tren serpentea desde la Sierra Madre, pasando por pendientes y sobre turbulentos ríos. Es una increíble obra de ingeniería que se hace aún más impresionante con las vistas panorámicas desde la cabina al aire libre.

En comparación con Bahuichivo, hay un cambio abrupto con El Fuerte: es



¡Ah Chihuahua!

MÉXICO

costero y en agosto el mediodía se siente como un sauna con unos grados de más. La comida pasó de una mezcla de carne, frijoles, tortillas y queso de rancho a una variedad de pescado y creativos platos de mariscos extremadamente frescos. La mayor atracción en El Fuerte es el mismo fuerte (construido para protegerse de los ataques de los indígenas yoremes en el siglo XVII) y la zona arqueológica con antiguos petroglifos, El Cerro de la Máscara. Acceder al sitio fue difícil –llamamos a una agencia de turismo y preguntamos en el hotel donde nos

hospedamos, pero nadie parecía muy interesado en llevarnos–, y acabamos escalando un par de cercas para ingresar al lugar donde estaban los grabados. Es una vergüenza porque los petroglifos son increíbles y, con mejor infraestructura y más información, podría fácilmente ser una gran atracción turística.

Nuestra parada final fue la ciudad costera de Los Mochis. Inmediatamente nos gustó a ambos: moderna y bien cuidada, tiene un parque inglés bellissimo, Parque Benjamín Francis,

y en el centro de la ciudad cuenta con varios museos interesantes. En nuestro segundo día, visitamos Topolobampo, uno de nuestros sitios favoritos del viaje. Es un pueblo ubicado en un cerro al lado del mar, con un arcoíris de casitas en sus laderas que contrastan con la oscura agua marina y el exuberante follaje verde. Un corto paseo en bote nos llevó a visitar a Pechocho, un delfín salvaje y muy amigable con los humanos, que vive solo en una bahía cercana. Después, visitamos Maviri, una hermosa playa de superficie rocosa dotada de unas pocas palapas donde se venden mariscos y bebidas, y no mucho más.

Hemos viajado a lo largo y ancho de México, pero El Chepe fue una experiencia de una vez en la vida. Parte de estar en México es aprovechar todo lo que tiene para ofrecerte y esta fue, sin duda, una de las mejores aventuras en la que podrías embarcarte. ¡Todos a bordo!



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OÍR BIEN

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Cuidado Auditivo – Audiología



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Dr. Blanca M. Gómez Ochoa
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Ced. Prof. 1042142

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- **Hearing Aids** - Auxiliares Auditivos
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- **Repairs** - Reparaciones
- **Clean & Care Service** - Servicio y mantenimiento
- **Supplies: batteries, ear molds, ear domes, earwax guards, etc** - Insumos: baterías, moldes, olivas, filtros, etc.

Book your appointment:



332 945 3267

www.clinicasob.com
chapala@clinicasob.com

Vehicle Regularization Program “Chocolate Car”

By Diego Solbes

In this article we will learn about the reasoning, definition and why of the program which focuses on registering vehicles of foreign origin or “Chocolate Cars” as they are commonly called in Mexico, in a specific context.

The current president of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, through a presidential decree published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on January 19, 2022, opened the doors to allow anyone who has a car of foreign origin and who meets certain requirements to process both their legal registration in the country, and the plates and circulation card corresponding to the state where the registry is carried on.

The objectives of the program include the following:

1. **To give legal and patrimonial certainty to families in the ownership of their vehicles.**
2. **To remove from anonymity foreign vehicles that are used in the commission of a felony.**

Initially, the states that were part of this program from the beginning of the decree, were Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Michoacán de Ocampo, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Puebla, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas.

Due to the high demand for registration and the attractiveness of the program (later we will go into detail on costs and the process in general) again by presidential decree, the registration term initially stipulated on July 20, 2022 was extended until December 31 of the same year, incorporating Jalisco to the list of states that can carry out the program.

Now, the program makes things much easier, but it still has its limitations and requirements, which we will address below:

First and most importantly we have the Vehicle Identification Number or NIV (known as VIN in the United States of America and Canada for its acronym in English “Vehicle Identification Number”). This number is composed of 17 numbers and letters, each with a meaning:

1. **The first digit corresponds to the country of origin where the vehicle was manufactured.**
2. **The next two letters indicate the manufacturer (first letter) and manufacturing division (second letter).**
3. **The next four characters indicate the model, body type, fastening system, transmission and engine.**
4. **The next letter or number is a check digit, which is used to detect fraudulent NIVs. This digit varies based on a mathematical formula developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation.**

5. **The tenth digit indicates the year, applying to vehicles made from the year 1981, since previously this digit did not exist.**
6. **The eleventh refers to the plant in which the car was assembled.**
7. **Finally, the last six digits determine the unique production serial number that a vehicle receives on the corresponding assembly line.**

It is important to note that only one digit is relevant in the program that concerns us today, and that is the first digit.

This digit has to be from 1 to 5. If the first digit begins with a letter, the vehicle will not qualify to the program. This is because only cars manufactured in the United States of America and Canada can be registered.

On the other hand, it is important to note that the car had to have entered Mexico no later than October 19, 2021. Otherwise, it will not apply to the program either.

It is of utmost importance the Model Year (MY) of the vehicle that is intended to be registered. This is because only cars that were manufactured in the year 2016 and prior will apply. If the vehicle is 2017 and later it will not apply to the program.

Now that we mentioned the most important filters for applying to the regularization program, it is important to mention that cars that are considered:

- **Luxury vehicles (there’s a list in the REPUVE website specifying what they consider luxury; this includes brands like Audi, Mercedes-Benz, Bentley, Lamborghini, etc).**

- Sports vehicles (again, there's a list on the REPUVE website specifying which are considered sports cars).
- Vehicles that were used in a commission of a felony.

Will not apply to the regularization program.

Once the beforementioned requirements have been fulfilled and assuming that none of the beforementioned limitations apply to your vehicle, now we will be able to discuss the next steps in order to request your appointment online through the REPUVE website, with the following documentation:

- CURP
- VIN number
- Selection of two main REPUVE offices, one in Tonalá and the other one on the Tesistan's highway.

Once the date of the appointment

has been selected, complying with the above, you must go to the appointment with the following documentation:

- Invoice or title proving ownership of the vehicle.
- Official identification (can be passport or VISA).
- CURP printed.
- Proof of address (no more than three months)
- Payment for rights.
- NIV of the printed vehicle.

It is very important to mention that you will need to assist to your appointment with the vehicle you intend to register. This is mainly because a mechanical inspection will be done as well as a general check of the aesthetics of your vehicle for safety purposes.

The program is attractive because it makes registration much easier. With a cost of \$2,500 Mexican pesos and the completion of the pro-

cess in its entirety until its completion the same day.

In conclusion, this is a very good opportunity to legalize your vehicle. The government fees being very reasonable at \$2,500 MXN and having your registration done in a single day beats any other process that we used to have when attempting to legalize a vehicle.





ASA Art Market

Saturday, December 10th
from 10am – 3pm

Local Artists
Live Music
Food & Drinks
Garden Setting

Garden of Dreams
Boutique Hotel
Calle Constitución #105
in Ajijic



www.ajjicsocietyofhearts.com

ASA

"Guiding Words" Exhibition

Fundraiser for the Peter Shandera
Art Scholarship

Thursday, December 29 -
Wednesday, January 11

Opening Reception:
Thursday, December 29
from 4-6pm

Galería Sol y Luna
Río Bravo #10A





[@ajjicsocietyofhearts](https://www.facebook.com/ajjicsocietyofhearts)

Programa de regularización vehicular “Autos Chocolate”

Por Diego Solbes



En este artículo podremos conocer en un contexto específico el razonamiento, definición y el por qué de este programa el cual se enfoca en registrar vehículos de procedencia extranjera o “Autos Chocolate” como comúnmente se les llama en México.

El actual presidente de México, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, mediante decreto presidencial publicado en el Diario Oficial de la Federación el 19 de Enero del año 2022, abre las puertas para efecto de que todo aquel que cuente con un auto de procedencia extranjera y que cumpla con ciertos requisitos podrá tramitar tanto su legal registro en el país como las placas y tarjeta de circulación correspondientes al estado en donde se lleve a cabo el registro.

Como objetivos del programa existen los siguientes:

1. **Dar certeza jurídica y patrimonial a las familias en la propiedad de sus vehículos**
1. **Sacar del anonimato a los vehículos extranjeros que son usados en la comisión del algún delito.**

Inicialmente, los estados que formaban parte de este programa, desde el inicio del anteriormente mencionado decreto, eran Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Michoacán de Ocampo, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Puebla, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas y Zacatecas.

Debido a la alta demanda del registro y lo atractivo del programa (más adelante entraremos a detalle en costos y el proceso en general) nuevamente por decreto presidencial, se extendió el término de registro estipulado inicialmente el 20 de Julio del año 2022 hasta el 31 de Diciembre del mismo año, incorporándose Jalisco a la lista de estados que pueden llevar a cabo el programa.

Ahora bien, el programa facilita mucho las cosas, pero aún así tiene sus limitantes y requisitos, los cuales abordaremos a continuación:

Primeramente y como requisito más importante tenemos el Número de Identificación Vehicular o NIV (conocido como VIN en Estados Unidos de América y Canadá por sus siglas en inglés “Vehicle Identification Number”). Este número está compuesto por 17 números y letras, cada uno con un significado:

1. **El primer dígito corresponde al país de origen en donde se fabricó el vehículo.**
2. **Las siguientes dos letras indica el fabricante (primera letra) y división de fabricación (segunda letra).**

3. **Los siguientes cuatro caracteres indican el modelo, tipo de cuerpo, sistema de sujeción, transmisión y motor.**
4. **La siguiente letra o número es un dígito de control, el cual se utiliza para detectar NIVs fraudulentos. Dicho dígito varía basándose en una fórmula matemática desarrollada por el departamento de transporte de Estados Unidos.**
5. **El décimo dígito indica el año, aplicando para vehículos hechos a partir del año 1981, ya que anteriormente no existía este dígito.**
6. **El onceavo hace referencia a la planta en el que el auto fue ensamblado.**
7. **Para finalizar, los últimos seis dígitos determinan el número de serie de producción único que un vehículo recibe en la línea de ensamblaje correspondiente.**

Ahora que entramos a detalle en lo que respecta al NIV, es importante resaltar que sólo un dígito será relevante para aplicar en el programa que hoy nos ocupa, y ese es el primer dígito.

Este dígito tiene que ser del 1 al 5. En caso de que el primer dígito empiece con letra, no aplicará dicho vehículo al programa. Esto es debido a que únicamente autos fabricados en Estados Unidos de América y Canadá podrán ser registrados.

Por otro lado, es importante señalar que el auto tuvo que haber ingresado a México con fecha no posterior al 19 de Octubre del año 2021. En caso contrario, tampoco aplicará al programa. Continuando bajo esta tesis, resulta de suma relevancia el modelo (año de fabricación) del vehículo; ya que únicamente podrán registrarse vehículos fabricados en el año 2016 y antes. Si el vehículo es 2017 o posterior no aplicará en el programa.

Ahora que mencionamos los filtros más importantes para los registros vehiculares, es importante mencionar que los vehículos considerados:

- De lujo (existe una lista en la página de REPUVE especificando lo que ellos consideran como vehículos lujosos, entre ellos están marcas como Audi, Mercedes Benz, Bentley, Lamborghini, etc).
- Vehículos deportivos (como lo mencionamos anteriormente, existe una lista en la página de REPUVE con una lista de autos considerados como deportivos).
- Vehículos que fueron utilizados en la comisión de un delito.

Estos vehículos no podrán aplicar al programa de regularización vehicular.

Una vez cumplidos los anteriormente mencionados requisitos y suponiendo que el vehículo a registrar no entra dentro de las limitantes anteriormente mencionadas, ahora si abordaremos los subsecuentes requisitos para llevar a cabo la solicitud de la cita en línea en la página de REPUVE y contar con la siguiente documentación:

- CURP del interesado
- Número NIV a la mano
- Seleccionar una de las dos oficinas de REPUVE

para llevar a cabo el trámite (Tonalá o Carretera a Tesistán)

Una vez seleccionada la fecha de la cita cumpliendo que lo anterior, se deberá acudir a la cita con la siguiente documentación:

- Factura o título que acredite la propiedad del vehículo.
- Identificación oficial (puede ser pasaporte o VISA).
- CURP impreso.
- Comprobante de domicilio (no mayor a tres meses)
- Pago por derechos.
- NIV del vehículo impreso.

Al acudir a la cita, es de suma importancia mencionar que se tiene que asistir con el vehículo a registrar. Ya que en dicha cita se llevará a cabo una inspección mecánica del mismo así como una revisión general estética por temas de seguridad.

En conclusion, es importante hacer énfasis en lo mucho que vale la pena aplicar para el programa de regularización vehicular. Con un costo de impuestos de \$2,500 MXN y tener el registro listo con tu documentación el mismo día es mucho más práctico que cualquier otro proceso que se llevaba a cabo con la misma finalidad de regularización vehicular.



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- Equitable Division of Property

• Criminal:

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• Civil:

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

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Mx 45906



José Ángel Martínez Velázquez
Criminal attorney



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



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



Anayely Cornejo Rodríguez
Immigration specialized attorney



Enrique Ruiz Peña
Criminal attorney

Lakeside News:

a multicultural community and
Lakeside's English News source

By Patrick O'Heffernan

Lakeside News is now official!

At some time around 8 am Friday morning, Oct. 28, 2022 Lakeside News was born. Actually, it had been functioning for about 2 months in a soft launch, but Google had not registered it so it did not exist for all intents and purposes.

After 18 months of the work by over 20 people - both Mexican and Expat - and no small amount of money, the joint LCS-Semanario Laguna project came into being at lakesidenewschapala.com

Lakeside News began in 2019 with Semanario Laguna, the largest newspaper in Lakeside which has been the main source of news for the Mexican community for the past decade, publishing in Spanish. But being in Spanish, it was almost invisible to the Expat community.

So the Publisher, Domingo Flores, asked me to translate and rewrite 6 or 7 stories into English every week to make the paper bilingual. I did, but after a few months we did a media-use survey of Expats and we found that 67% of the respondents said they would like more news in English about the Mexican community. So, we had to figure out how to meet that need.

Doing so was no small challenge. Semanario Laguna has 7 reporters, 4 columnists, four photographers, three editors, a Digital Content Manager and a Chief Information Officer who put out 40 -50 stories and 50 photographs and videos a week, plus dozens of news alerts, all in Spanish. Turning that firehose of information into well-written AP-Style, English every week would be a big job. How to do that job came from a meeting between myself and LCS Executive Director Luis Pacheco. We envisioned an all-volunteer translation team that would work with the news staff at Semanario Laguna to do just that.

And thus, Todos English was born - a group of Volunteer Translator/Editors and a second team of Proof-Reader/Fact checkers who spend every weekend converting Mexican Spanish news into American-style English.

LCS helped me recruit the Todos English team with people volunteering who had past journalistic, writ-



Todos English volunteer translator/editors hamming it up at the front gate of the Lake Chapala Society.

From left, back: Domingo Flores, *publisher Semanario Laguna*. Nita Rudy, Tamaras Mitchell, Bruce Bernhart, Rebecca Zittle, Arturo Ortega, *Semanario Laguna Founder and CIO*. **Lower, from left:** Kathleen Chaffin, Mary Woods, Amy Esperanto, Mike Rogers, Alan Ferguson, Patrick O'Heffernan, *Executive Editor, Lakeside News*.

No present: Sidney Metrick, Maryanne Marble, Kerry Watson, Margaret Petela, Rose Avila, Tiffany Berkovitz, Greg Custer, Craig Walker.

Photo: Mary Ana Princess Palindrome

ing, and research experience. It has taken on a life of its own, creating WhatsApp groups to help each other, a stylebook to standardized the translations, a dynamic Q&A page to deal with questions like how to handle Mexican names and titles and local colloquialisms and punctuation. Their skill and dedication have blown me away. They are the heart and soul of Lakeside News.

The names and bios and photos of the Volunteers are on the Lakeside News website and you probably know some of them.

But more than a website, Lakeside News is a unique hybrid community. We are Mexican and Expat, young and old, volunteers and a business. I don't think there is another organization like Lakeside News in Mexico. It is a living, breathing bi-cultural community, complete with staff-volunteer dinners and lunches, in-office training, annual retreats, and much mutual help. In the process, all those involved have learned a lot about other communities and cultures. We have found friends and built a family - La Familia LakesideNews-Semanario Laguna.

Every day we put new stories up at lakesidenewschapala.com written by our Mexican journalists and translated by our Volunteers. Plus, we post articles written in English, like our Flash Reviews of local theater and my column, "Looking at Lakeside". We are currently free of charge, but around mid-November will charge a small subscription to cover costs. So, log on, read, learn and enjoy.

Dr. Patrick O'Heffernan is the Executive Editor of
Lakeside News



Lakeside News:

una comunidad multicultural y la fuente de noticias en inglés de Lakeside

Por Patrick O’Heffernan

¡Lakeside News ya es oficial!

En algún momento alrededor de las 8 de la mañana del viernes 28 de octubre de 2022 nació Lakeside News. En realidad, había estado funcionando durante unos 2 meses en un lanzamiento suave, pero Google no lo había registrado por lo que no existía a todos los efectos.

Tras 18 meses de trabajo de más de 20 personas –tanto mexicanas como expatriadas– y una cantidad no menor de dinero, el proyecto conjunto LCS-Semanario Laguna vio la luz en lakesidenewschapala.com.

Lakeside News comenzó en 2019 con el Semanario Laguna, el mayor periódico de Lakeside que ha sido la principal fuente de noticias para la comunidad mexicana durante la última década, publicando en español. Pero al estar en español, era casi invisible para la comunidad de expatriados.

Así que el editor, Domingo Flores, me pidió que tradujera y reescribiera 6 o 7 artículos al inglés cada semana para que el periódico fuera bilingüe. Así lo hice, pero al cabo de unos meses hicimos una encuesta sobre el uso de los medios de comunicación entre los expatriados y descubrimos que el 67% de los encuestados decía que les gustaría tener más noticias en inglés sobre la comunidad mexicana. Así que tuvimos que averiguar cómo satisfacer esa necesidad.

Hacerlo no fue un reto menor. Semanario Laguna cuenta con 7 reporteros, 4 columnistas, 4 fotógrafos, 3 editores, un director de contenidos digitales y un jefe de información que publican entre 40 y 50 historias y 50 fotografías y vídeos a la semana, además de docenas de alertas de noticias, todo en español. Convertir esa avalancha de información en un inglés bien redactado al estilo AP cada semana sería un gran trabajo. La forma de hacer ese trabajo surgió de una reunión entre el director ejecutivo de LCS, Luis Pacheco, y yo. Imaginamos un equipo de traducción totalmente voluntario que trabajaría con el personal de noticias del Semanario Laguna para hacer precisamente eso.

Y así nació Todos English – un grupo de traductores/editores voluntarios y un segundo equipo de correctores/verificadores de hechos que pasan cada fin de semana convirtiendo las noticias en español mexicano a un inglés de estilo americano.



Traductores/editores voluntarios de Todos English en la plaza del Lake Chapala Society.

De izquierda, atrás: Domingo Flores, editor Semanario Laguna. Nita Rudy, Tamaras Mitchell, Greg Custer, Bruce Bernhart, Rebecca Zittle, Arturo Ortega, fundador y CIO de Semanario Laguna. Abajo, de izquierda a derecha: Mary Woods, Amy Esperanto, Kathleen Chaffin, Mike Rogers, Alan Ferguson, Patrick O’Heffernan, Editor Ejecutivo de Lakeside News.

No aparecen en la foto: Sidney Metrick, Maryanne Marble, Kerry Watson, Margaret Petela, Rose Avila, Tiffany Berkovitz, Craig Walker.

Foto: Mary Ana Princess Palindrome

LCS me ayudó a reclutar al equipo de Todos English con gente voluntaria que tenía experiencia periodística, de escritura y de investigación. Ha cobrado vida propia, creando grupos de WhatsApp para ayudarse mutuamente, un libro de estilo para estandarizar las traducciones, una página dinámica de preguntas y respuestas para tratar cuestiones como el manejo de nombres y títulos mexicanos y coloquialismos y puntuación locales. Su habilidad y dedicación me han dejado boquiabierto. Son el corazón y el alma de Lakeside News.

Los nombres, las biografías y las fotos de los voluntarios están en el sitio web de Lakeside News y probablemente conozcas a algunos de ellos.

Pero más que un sitio web, Lakeside News es una comunidad híbrida única. Somos mexicanos y expatriados, jóvenes y mayores, voluntarios y una empresa. No creo que haya otra organización como Lakeside News en México. Es una comunidad bicultural que vive y respira, con cenas y almuerzos entre el personal y los voluntarios, formación en la oficina, retiros anuales y mucha ayuda mutua. En el proceso, todos los implicados han aprendido mucho sobre otras comunidades y culturas. Hemos encontrado amigos y construido una familia –La Familia LakesideNews–Semanario Laguna.

Todos los días publicamos nuevas historias en lakesidenewschapala.com escritas por nuestros periodistas mexicanos y traducidas por nuestros voluntarios. Además, publicamos artículos escritos en inglés, como nuestros Flash Reviews de teatro local y mi columna, “Looking at Lakeside”. Actualmente somos gratuitos, pero a mediados de noviembre cobraremos una pequeña suscripción para cubrir los costes. Así que conéctese, lea, aprenda y disfrute.

Dr. Patrick O’Heffernan es el editor ejecutivo de Lakeside News

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Supporting Self Acceptance

By Harriet Hart

When my husband recently fell ill, overnight I became Caregiver in Chief. Like most women, I thought I should be able to handle everything, his personal care, household management, and our financial matters. A friend kept saying: "Join Valerie Rhoda's caregiver support group." Now twice a month I participate in a Zoom call with a dozen other spouses caring for very sick partners, and it's been extremely helpful.

Valerie Rhoda runs four support groups. The one that started it all fourteen years ago was a women's cancer support group. Some members of it were caregivers and wanted their own group. Next, some of the partners (the ones requiring the care) died, and their widows felt they needed a separate support group for grieving. And then Valerie realized there were divorced women who didn't really have all that much in common with the widows, but who were actively grieving the loss of their marriage.

For many people the pain of loss is so profoundly intense it actually hurts physically and emotionally. For others the journey is easier. If the person died after a long illness there is huge relief that they and the deceased are released from the agony. With grief often come feelings of anxiety, fear, guilt, being overwhelmed, and denial. For some there is a sense of euphoria that they are no longer exhausted by caregiving. The "gifts" of loss are the freedom to pursue one's own interests, choose a lifestyle, and create your own life.

"Grief is not linear," says Valerie, "Everyone's grieving style is unique." There can be secondary losses, the supports of daily life are permanently changed without that partner, people pull away, and they may stop including the grieved in social activities.

Life is a series of losses; how you walk through them will determine the outcome. There is the loss of youth, health, jobs, friends, and family. The pain can be intense. Cherishing the now and deciding what is really important helps.

Valerie chooses topics for the groups to discuss such as survivor guilt (did I do enough for my partner while he was alive?) and how grieving changes your personality. Another is what she calls "the tsunami of grief", when you're somewhere like the grocery store line up and a wave of sorrow wallops you and you burst into tears. Nothing triggers this common occurrence – it just happens. People can feel as if they're going mad.

For Valerie, a qualified and experienced counselor, the joy of running groups is watching the participants help one another. She believes peer support is better than professional help. "My groups are based on the peer support model with professional guidance." Members encourage one another; they normalize the feelings newcomers are going through. It's like getting a giant hug."

My philosophy of counseling is to help people learn to accept themselves. We were all raised to think we can cope with anything that hits us and we can't. We need to accept our qualities the way we accept those of our friends. Tell ourselves: "That's just me. That's how I am."

There is a complicating factor for the expat community at Lakeside. We are all far away from our families, which makes loss more challenging. Support groups can become the family we need to help us through the rough spots. Valerie has a unique perspective on the expat experience. Her husband Rick's job took them to many third world countries: Ghana, Somalia, Honduras, the Philippines and Egypt. "I got accustomed to the foreign experience; I know the issues." Whenever she and her husband moved, she had to re-invent herself, and did so by running support groups for wives who found themselves alone in foreign lands.

I asked Valerie if she agreed with the popular belief that Mexicans experience death (and grieving) differently than Americans and Canadians. "Yes, death is more hidden and anti-septic" north of the border.

If you are someone currently dealing with grieving, there is no need to suffer alone. The following groups are free, confidential & run by Valerie Rhoda, a professional counselor with extensive group experience. For more information contact vhrhoda@gmail.com, 766-4522, 331-328-3145.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Being a caregiver can be an overwhelming responsibility. Managing all the day-to-day chores & caring for the ill person gives little time to meet your own needs. This group serves to help relieve some of the stress, provide ways of coping & taking care of yourself. This group meets on the first and third Mondays from 11-1:00 pm on zoom.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This group is for people who have lost a life partner or a parent or child. Through a circle of support we will focus on the roller coaster of emotions experienced and ways to positively harness those emotions towards creating a new life. This group meets on the second & fourth Wednesdays at 2:30 on zoom.

SEPARATED/DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP has formed to assist in the process of reclaiming oneself. Meetings are on the second & fourth Fridays of the month from 11:15-1:15pm on zoom.

WOMENS' CANCER & LIFE THREATENING DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP

Here's a place to get comfort & info from people who really understand what you're experiencing. It's open to people in treatment, & recent survivors. Meetings are on the last Monday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Pet Primer

Chihuahua: Dog or Mexican State?

By Diana Hunt



Paco is a typical Chihuahua. Nippy, aggressive to dogs and people other than his family, he is also cuddly and irrepressibly adorable. With his round, soulful eyes and large pointed ears, he plays up his looks. Fortunately, his "parents" have given him the necessary socialization. Too many people with Chihuahuas allow them to become little tyrants, displaying manners that would not be acceptable in a larger dog.

The origin of the Chihuahua dog is clouded in mystery. DNA studies suggest that dogs entered North America from Siberia roughly 10,000 years ago, and were then isolated for some 9,000 years until the arrival of the first Europeans. These pre-contact dogs exhibited a unique genetic signature that is now almost gone. A study based on sequencing of ancient dog genomes, published in 2020, suggests that this pre-colonial ancestry survives in two Mexican breeds -- about four percent in Chihuahuas and some three percent in the Xoloitzcuintli.

Another line of thought suggests that the breed was brought to Mexico by Chinese merchants. But archaeological finds indicate the Chihuahua is a descendant of the Techichi,

an ancient breed dating back to the Toltec civilization, whose trading influence went as far north as Chihuahua state. More likely, present day Chihuahuas are a cross between the Chinese Hairless dog brought to Mexico and the Techichi.

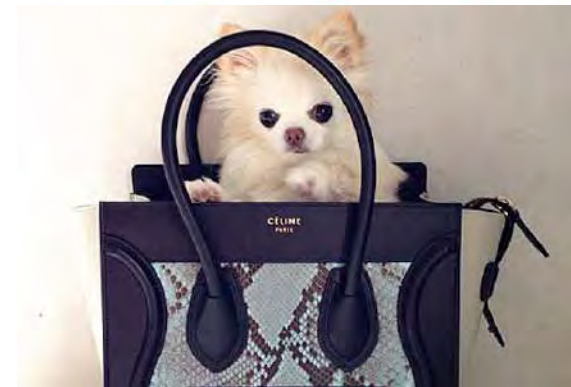
Some experts think the Aztecs, successors to the earlier Toltec, developed the dog; others say the breed can be traced to Spanish dogs as far back as the 1500s. Colonial records refer to small, nearly hairless dogs at the beginning of the 19th century; one record claims that 16th century Conquistadores found them plentiful in the region later known as Chihuahua. In a letter written in 1520, Hernán Cortés wrote that the Aztecs raised and sold little dogs as food.

We do know they were venerated by the Aztecs. Yellow dogs were sacrificed when their owners died so they could be of service to them in the afterlife, while red dogs were used in burials and funerals to relive the owners' sins.

Nevertheless, the dog is named after the Mexican state of Chihuahua, where the dog was "discovered" about 1850. The Chihuahua remained a rarity until the early 20th century, when they became commonplace throughout Mexico. Today the Chihuahua has become so popular, it's widely thought of as "the" Mexican dog breed and remains one of the most in-demand dogs.

The American Kennel Club registered its first Chihuahua, Midget, in 1904. Chihuahuas are the smallest breed recognized by kennel clubs and are among the smallest of all dog breeds. Many breeders try to breed Chihuahuas to be as small as possible, because those marketed as "teacup" or "tiny teacup" demand higher prices. They can weigh as little as two pounds and seldom are more than six pounds (1 to 3 kilograms). They stand only about five inches high.

Current breed standards defined by registries specify an "apple-head" or "apple-dome" skull conformation. Apple-dome Chihuahuas have large,



round eyes and large, erect ears set in a high, dramatically rounded skull. Where the muzzle meets the skull forms a near-90-degree angle. Dogs of the older "deer" type, with a flat-topped head, more widely set eyes, larger ears and longer, more slender legs may still be registered but are considered digression from the breed standard.

Chihuahuas occur in virtually any color combination, from solid to marked or splashed, with short or long hair. The first Chihuahuas are thought to have come to the United States in the early 19th century. The introduction of the dog to the public first came in 1890 when Opera singer Adelina Patti was given a Chihuahua concealed in a floral bouquet presented by the President of Mexico. In the 1940s, bandleader Xavier Cugat was known for conducting with a Chihuahua under his arm. Recently, recognition and appreciation of the breed has increased due to the dapper little Chihuahua, Gidget, featured in Taco Bell commercials in the 1990s.

Chihuahuas make great companions for first-time or experienced pet parents alike. They are good family pets when treated with respect. They can get all the exercise needed in a house or apartment. They are best for households with no small children or other dominant pets, and for retirees or work-from-home parents who can provide lots of attention. They should not be left outside unsupervised where they could be prey for hawks, coyotes or larger dogs. They do bark, so think twice if you live in a place with close neighbors. Because of their intelligence, they can make great agility dogs and good additions to K9 units as drug sniffers.

Manual de Mascotas

Chihuahua: ¿Perro o un estado mexicano?

por Diana Hunt

Paco es el típico chihuahua. Un perro agresivo con los perros y las personas que no son de su familia, pero también es mimoso e inconteniblemente adorable. Con sus ojos redondos y conmovedores y sus grandes orejas puntiagudas, hacen juego con su aspecto. Afortunadamente, sus "padres" le han dado la socialización necesaria. Demasiadas personas con chihuahuas permiten que se conviertan en pequeños tiranos, mostrando modales que no serían aceptables en un perro más grande.



El origen del perro chihuahua está envuelto en el misterio. Los estudios de ADN sugieren que los perros entraron en América del Norte desde Siberia hace aproximadamente 10,000 años, y que luego quedaron aislados durante unos 9,000 años hasta la llegada de los primeros europeos. Estos perros anteriores al contacto presentaban una firma genética única que ahora casi ha desaparecido. Un estudio basado en la secuenciación de genomas de perros antiguos, publicado en 2020, sugiere que esta ascendencia precolonial sobrevive en dos razas mexicanas: alrededor del cuatro por ciento en los chihuahuas y alrededor del tres por ciento en los xoloitzcuintles.

Otra línea de pensamiento sugiere que la raza fue traída a México por comerciantes chinos. Pero los hallazgos arqueológicos indican que el chihuahua es descendiente del techichi, una raza antigua que se remonta a la civilización tolteca, cuya influencia comercial llegó hasta el norte del estado de Chihuahua. Lo más probable es que los chihuahuas actuales sean un cruce entre el perro sin pelo chino traído a México y el Techichi.

Algunos expertos creen que los aztecas, sucesores de los anteriores toltecas, desarrollaron el perro; otros afirman que



la raza se remonta a los perros españoles desde el siglo XVI. Los registros coloniales hacen referencia a perros pequeños y casi sin pelo a principios del siglo XIX; un registro afirma que los conquistadores del siglo XVI los encontraron en abundancia en la región que luego se conoce como Chihuahua. En una carta escrita en 1520, Hernán Cortés escribió que los aztecas criaban y vendían perritos como alimento.

Sabemos que eran venerados por los aztecas. Los perros amarillos eran sacrificados cuando sus dueños morían para que les sirvieran en la otra vida, mientras que los rojos se utilizaban en los entierros y funerales para revivir los pecados de sus dueños.

Sin embargo, el perro lleva el nombre del estado mexicano de Chihuahua, donde fue "descubierto" hacia 1850. El chihuahua siguió siendo una rareza hasta principios del siglo XX, cuando se hizo común en todo México. En la actualidad, el chihuahua se ha hecho tan popular que se considera "la" raza canina mexicana y sigue siendo uno de los perros más demandados.

El American Kennel Club registró el primer chihuahua, Midget, en 1904. Los chihuahuas son la raza más pequeña reconocida por los clubes caninos y se encuentran entre las más pequeñas de todas las razas de perros. Muchos criadores intentan criar chihuahuas para que sean lo más pequeños posible, porque los que se comercializan como "teacup" o "tiny teacup" exigen precios más altos. Pueden pesar tan sólo dos libras y rara vez superan las seis libras (1 a 3 kilogramos). Sólo miden unos cinco centímetros de altura.

Los estándares actuales de la raza definidos por los registros especifican una conformación craneal de "cabeza de manzana" o "cúpula de manzana". Los chihuahuas

con forma de cúpula de manzana tienen ojos grandes y redondos y orejas grandes y erectas en un cráneo alto y dramáticamente redondeado. La unión del hocico con el cráneo forma un ángulo de casi 90 grados. Los perros del tipo "ciervo" más antiguo, con la cabeza plana, los ojos más abiertos, las orejas más grandes y las patas más largas y delgadas, todavía pueden registrarse, pero se consideran una desviación del estándar de la raza.

Los chihuahuas se presentan en prácticamente cualquier combinación de colores, desde los sólidos hasta los marcados o salpicado, con pelo corto o largo. Se cree que los primeros chihuahuas llegaron a Estados Unidos a principios del siglo XIX. La introducción del perro al público se produjo por primera vez en 1890, cuando la cantante de ópera Adelina Patti recibió un chihuahua oculto en un ramo de flores presentado por el Presidente de México. En los años 40, el director de orquesta Xavier Cugat era conocido por dirigir con un chihuahua bajo el brazo. Recientemente, el reconocimiento y la apreciación de la raza han aumentado gracias al elegante chihuahua Gidget, que apareció en los anuncios de Taco Bell en la década de 1990.

Los chihuahuas son grandes compañeros tanto para los dueños primerizos como para los experimentados. Son buenos animales de compañía cuando se les trata con respeto. Pueden hacer todo el ejercicio necesario en una casa o apartamento. Son ideales para hogares sin niños pequeños ni otras mascotas dominantes, y para jubilados o personas que trabajen desde casa y puedan prestarles mucha atención. No deben dejarse fuera sin supervisión, ya que podrían ser presa de halcones, coyotes o perros más grandes. Ladran, así que piénselo dos veces si vive en un lugar con vecinos cercanos. Debido a su inteligencia, pueden ser excelentes perros de agilidad y buenas adiciones a las unidades K9 como rastreadores de drogas.



First Person Singular

Ode to Ajijic

By Jenny Thietz

I have arrived in a place that uses soft words like montaña and lago that slip off the lip, and the air is gentle with the fragrance of flowers seeping out of broken brick walls or wafting on the sugar air of gardens resting beneath the breath of ancient trees.

I have arrived in a place that bursts out of itself at dawn in the exuberance of bird song it simply cannot contain, and everywhere pink air is dripping and exploding with ballads and jingles from soft, trembling throats.

And the expectation of each new day is palpable here, spilling into the soul listening along in the electric fluorescence of the new day.

I have arrived in a place where dark eyed people, complete strangers, smile at me with real smiles that glint and crinkle the eye and I am confused.

What is this grace painted on their souls, and where has it gone to in the place I am from?

I have arrived in a place where danger, cartels, and sickness exist like everywhere else in the world despite the

honeymoon and rainbow lenses I wear.

But here the lazy sawing of the rain birds soothes me somehow, the wind frosting the lake invigorates me, and the rain avalanche tumbling from the sky ignites a wonder that is new.

Here there is an acceptance of the duality of life I do not know, a submission to the journey of being that is ancient and utterly beautiful, and so different from the hard setting and business of getting ahead of your brother in the place I am from.

Back there I measured my time in useful and waste, because I was sick you see, and I forgot that time is fragile and runs out like rain drops at the end of a storm just at the time you are truly ready to experience it.

I had lost myself focusing on the trivial and haste, and believed the lie that I needed to be useful while I forgot that life is about the being, and not the doing,

I have arrived in a place that illuminated what I had done, and my heart was uncaged at last.

And in my grief, I tasted the beginning of a hope and a faith that although I have been absent from myself for so long, I can be healed here.

And I am humbled into the depths of my frantic soul because where I come from, we are so sure we are the best and the brightest and we know it all, but we do not.

I have arrived in a place where the truth of being present on all fronts is unashamedly the extravaganza on display.

Personal agendas may fight for a place, but they don't really matter here because truth is glaring and cannot be denied despite those who would try to manipulate it for their own ends.

And along with truth like one heartbeat to the next, are principles, pure and brave that matter here; those cherished beliefs that illuminate our way and blaze to the world who we really are and what is genuinely important to us.

I have arrived in a place where I am invited to celebrate the beauty and existence of this most tender of worlds with all men and women who have found so-lace here.

And in this priceless invitation Mexico has extended to me, my soul is unbarred, and I am at last able to surrender completely to what is, and just be.



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