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VOL. 28 ED. 06 • NOVEMBER 7, 2022 NO BAD NEWS

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The San Jose Estuary is Full Again  
Photo By David Flores

## Cultural Pavilion Unsafe to Use

Forcing the Los Cabos International Film Fest to Move its Red Carpet

BY DAVID FLORES

Hit and damaged by Hurricane Odile in September 2014, the city's civil protection

agency stated the main theater of the Cultural Pavilion in the Cabo marina is unsafe to use.

The only usable and safe areas are the open-air theater and the parking lot for mass events. The upcoming Los Cabos International Film Festival will see its exhibits limited to the movie theaters at Cinemex in the Puerto Paraiso mall.

Speaking of the fest, its coordinator stated that international films are all taken by different film fests around the world and our festival will

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

## Fee to Access Balandra Beach Increased

BY MIKE PHELPS

The most beautiful beach in Mexico, Balandra in La Paz, will open again this Friday. Access will be free for La Paz residents, people over 60 years of age and children

under 12. However, non-La Paz residents, foreigners and Mexicans, will pay 54 pesos per person (about \$2.70 USD) to enter. On the first Sunday

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



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# Que Pasa in Cabo?

BY DAVID FLORES



**Los Cabos Leads The 20 Top Resorts in Mexico.** When it comes to golf, Los Cabos has placed 13 resorts in the Conde Nast Traveler's 35th Annual Readers' Choice Awards "Top 20 Resorts in Western Mexico" survey. The winner of the 1st place was the One & Only Palmilla, with the others being Chileno Bay, Four Seasons, Zadun, JW Marriott, Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach and Nobu at the Diamante development, followed by the Waldorf Astoria, Las Ventanas al Paraiso, The Cape, Viceroy, Esperanza and Grand Velas. Congrats!

**Breaking News! FedEx Cabo San Lucas is Closed!** This morning, the FedEx office

in Cabo San Lucas appeared boarded and with several signs on the boarding plywood sheets. The signs – in Spanish – read "Station closed permanently. Call Center 555-228-9904. When this reporter called, an answering machine service is limited to packaging deliveries only. An email to the headquarters in Mexico City has not been answered. Stay tuned, and go to DHL instead.

**Which is The Best Restaurant in Cabo?** The results of the Culinary Awards 2022, awarded "Carbon Cabrón" as The Best Restaurant of the Year. Carbon Cabrón cooks most of its menu on a large wood fire grill. The Judges of the contest

include several local foodies that go around tasting food at

in different categories. Carbon Cabrón's Chef Poncho Cadena was also the winner of the Chef of the Year Award. The restaurant is located in El Mercado, next to the H+ Hospital in the tourist corridor. Congrats Poncho!

**Prices of Basic Goods to be Increased.** Due to the high demand for ferry boat trans-

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portation and the fact that one side of the La Paz pier is blocked by a ship that broke down, the semis that bring basic goods to La Paz and Los Cabos are delayed up to 20 days. Some of the drivers are driving up north to Mexicali, to drive down the entire peninsula, which is increasing their cargo prices up to 80 percent. It could take a month for the broken down ship to be repaired but even then, we need more piers – and more ferry boats.

**Los Cabos Shines at International Meeting.** Our resort destination was the only special guest at the Routes World 2022 meeting, the most important reunion of international airlines held in Las Vegas, earlier this week. Rodrigo Esponda, director of the Los Cabos Tourism Fund was invited to give a speech, which he called "Partnerships that Work: Case Study of Los Cabos, Mexico," a vision of our present and the opportunities for airlines in our destination. Several airlines, including Virgin, TUI and Canadian Air Transat and Lynx showed

interest in flying to Cabo soon. Congrats!

**San Jose Main Plaza Will Get Reforestation.** Following several meetings with downtown San Jose del Cabo residents and business people, the city government has agreed to reforest its main downtown plaza. The new trees will be

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

# First Residency Program Brings World-Renowned Artist to Los Cabos

Plastic artist Luis Kerch will be in Los Cabos for a month and will present the work he creates during his stay on November 23

Mexican-Spanish artist Luis Kerch Flores arrived in Los Cabos for a month-long residency under the patronage of the Alfredo Ginocchio Los Cabos Gallery. After a month-long stay, the artist will show-

case his work under the name "Inner Landscapes: Painting the Lights & Colors of Los Cabos". Kerch holds a Master of Science in communication design from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Miami Florida, USA and has 35 years of experience, that have taken him to important art exhibits and fairs such as Basel Miami and Barcu in Colombia, among others, and individual and collective exhibitions in Mexico City, London, Madrid and Venezuela.

During his residency in Los Cabos Kerch is seeking to represent the experience of what he perceives under the light of Los Cabos, which he will capture in his work through the use of color. He will be creating his work in nature, where throughout his career he has found a connection with himself and the subtleties of form and how it plays with the light in various environments. His main medium is acrylic

on canvas, to which he usually also adds elements of the place where he is, such as sand, bringing nature as a guest actor in his works of art.

The artist, who arrived this week, will visit Los Cabos for a month and will produce a body of work In Situ. With this, our first residence, we seek to generate representative works of the various natural landscapes that Baja offers, as well as enrich the cultural and artistic scene of the destination and promote it as one of the tourist attractions that has been widely developed in recent years.

An important objective for this residency and the residency program that is being launched by the Alfredo Ginocchio Los Cabos Gallery is to promote collaboration

between local institutions and businesses, generating a circuit of cultural impulse. The residency program includes a series of actions in the community including the donation of a piece to the Los Cabos Children's Foundation for its auction in February 2023 in order to raise funds for the work they do to help improve the lives of the children that need it the most in our community. The Puerto Raíz - Semillon gastronomic venue is also contributing to making this residency possible by lending its space and all the comforts for the artist to paint outdoors. During this residency, there will be cocktails to bring the artist closer to the guests that visit Puerto Raíz and will be sponsoring the inaugural event

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

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# COVID-19 Brings Changes to the Local Charities

BY R. LEE SCHULTZ

There is no doubt that COVID-19 brought a great deal of change to everyone's life. We were restricted in our gathering, restricted in where we could go, restricted in what we could and could not do. Even restricted in our family holiday gatherings. One thing that has not changed, however, is that the **needy still are in need!** What has changed a great deal is the means by which our local charities have solicited funds. COVID-19 restrictions had prohibited us from attending those wonderful holiday fundraisers we all so much enjoyed for many years. These functions were for many years the mainstay for providing, what for many charities, was their entire annual budget.

I for one, have missed those charity events. They not only provided for the needy but were a great means of socializing, meeting new and old friends, as well as offering us an opportunity to give till it felt good! Our community still has those needs, in fact, the needs are even greater now than they have ever been. We cannot allow COVID to prevent us from still "giving till it feels good." In fact, why not give a little more, maybe give till it hurts a little?

There is some Good News! We are seeing some of the COVID restrictions going away... but many charities are well behind in the funds they need to provide the services our community so badly needs. The following is a short list of a few

of the local charities that are still providing much-needed assistance to the less fortunate in Cabo and the surrounding areas who desperately need our help both financially and by way of volunteering in person:

**Feeding Los Cabos Kids:** This project has been around for more than 17 years and is an Interdenominational Ministry that exists to share God's love and provide food to hungry children and now their families as well. They partner with local Mexican pastors to help them oversee and prepare healthy meals for the families in their local Colonia. Their goal is to feed the families both physically and spiritually. Presently, Cabo Church has 14 kitchens that are feeding the families 3-6 days a week. Through your donations, they are able to provide about 12,000 meals every month. Funding comes from folks like you & those that call Cabo Church home.

Donations can be made at their website: <http://www.feedingloscaboskids.org/donate/>

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**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**

# El Eponymous Guadalajara

BY BRAD FALKNER

I knew I liked living in Los Cabos and now I know why I love it. The lyrics of "Mexico" by James Taylor describe the illusion of enjoying the simplicity of everyday life in a Mexican dreamland. Since my early teens, Taylor's lyrics of wanderlust for this foreign land prevailed in my dreams. Near the end of the song, he reveals that he has never been to Mexico, seamlessly swinging the song into a fantasy about escaping to an exotic land south of the border. "Oh, Mexico. It sounds so sweet with the sun sinking low. The moon's so bright like to light up the night. Make everything alright."

For me to truly appreciate the gift of living in Los Cabos would require me to spread my not-so-supple wings. So, when I had the opportunity to travel to Guadalajara to cover the prestigious Women's Tennis Association (WTA) 1000 tournament under the name of the "Guadalajara Open Akron", it was time for me to fly.

Arriving in Guadalajara on the eve of the tournament felt like a geographical homecoming of sorts. After all, I'm an unabashed Angelino from Gringoland, where I took up residence for 20 unforgettable years from my early 30's culminating into my fifth decade on the globe. At first glance, Guadalajara appeared to me to be a sister city of Los Angeles, with its congestive traffic and expansive horizon blurred by an ominous Tequila Sunrise haze.

Showing up early for my first day of work felt familiar. The Panamerican Tennis Center (host site of the 2011 Pan American Games) in the middle-class neighborhood of Zapopan, Mexico presented

this world-class tennis event rather handsomely.

What was not pretty were the circumstances that brought this tournament to Guadalajara. That said, the following set of events revealed the exceptional common decency shown by the Santoscoy family to nobly clean up a terrible mess made by the repressive Chinese government. This prestigious tournament was in serious peril of losing its luster. The powers at be determined the solution was to relocate the event to Guadalajara.

This of course was due to the suspension of all WTA tournaments in China following retired WTA player Peng Shuai's sexual assault and disappearance controversy against the Chinese government.) My respect and admiration for this tournament and its organizers come from deep within my heart.

My gut told me that this would be a one-time shot for Guadalajara to step up to the plate and show the world that they had the best interests of female athletes and human rights in mind. It's also worth noting that beyond having a large heart, the Guadalajara organizers had finely crafted the art form of putting on a world-class tennis event, knowing that the eyes of the globe would be on them. After successfully staging the 2021 WTA Year-End Championships in Guadalajara, the tournament organizers were eagerly hoping to host yet another grand-scale event in 2022, for which they were wisely awarded by WTA tour top brass.

According to the exuberant former Mexican number one player and current ESPN com-

mentator, Leonardo Lavelle, the Guadalajara WTA 1000 Akron Open tournament was a great achievement. "I truly feel to have had an event of this stature in Guadalajara was unbelievable. The Santoscoy's-- father and son-- have handled all of the incredible challenges to bring a professional tennis tournament here of this size and stature that was not initially put on this year's tennis calendar. Due to the unfortunate situation with China and the difficult position they put the WTA in, the Santoscoys pulled off a miracle by being able to hold an event of this prominence without the proper amount of time to prepare, which says a lot about their professionalism and commitment to having professional tennis thrive here in Mexico." Lavelle shared.

Gustavo Santoscoy, tournament director of the event,

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echoed Lavelle's sentiments. "It was great to have the best players in the world in a tournament that is the first time they have been in Latin America. It really is the best tennis in the world."

And so it came to pass that a no-nonsense, hard-grinding, non-yielding, yet precocious American rising star named Jessica Pegula

reigned supreme in the garden of Guadalajara by capturing the inaugural Akron Open title with dignity and aplomb. The New York native placidly placed herself in the history books, setting a precedent as a first-time fearless champion who will be forever stationed in the minds of those who witnessed her cunning and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**





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**FEE TO ACCESS BALANDRA...**

continued from page 1

of the month, access will be exclusively for La Paz residents and the beach will be closed Mondays for clean up and maintenance. No beach vendors will be allowed. 🦅

**CULTURAL PAVILION...**

continued from page 1

include only Mexican movies and film stars. The fest, including the Red Carpet ceremony, will take place at the Cinemex movie theaters in Puerto Paraiso, opening November 9

with Disney's Marvel Studios "Black Panther-Wakanda Forever," featuring Mexican artist Tenoch Huerta and Angela Bassett. The fest will close on November 12. 🦅

**QUE PASA IN CABO?...**

continued from page 2

Ceibas, Flamboyán trees and Washingtonian palms which are being planted as we speak. The job will end of the year. Finally, we will have a shady plaza like before!

**Hundreds of Sea Turtle Eggs Protected.** Last Saturday was historic, said the Sea Turtle Protection Network. Around

170 turtles came to Medano beach to lay their eggs day and night. Some 30 nests of Olive Ridley eggs have been marked and protected. The Network pleads that nobody drives a vehicle on the beach and walks their dogs with a leash. Thank you!

**The Todos Santos Open Studio Tour is Back!** And artists' registration is open. After a forced Covid pause, The Palapa Society of Todos Santos, A.C., is gearing up for its 12th Annual Todos Santos Open Studio Tour. They have now officially opened registration to show your artwork and studio spaces. Their last tour attracted around 700 guests

who ventured through over 40 studios! The organization is aiming to have more artists and some fun and new special events and activities from February 3 to 6, 2023. If you have any questions, email [ts.studiotour@gmail.com](mailto:ts.studiotour@gmail.com)

**The Todos Santos Movie Festival Returns.** Opening on Thursday, November 3, the Festival is dedicated to independent Latin American and Mexican authors, with Cuba as the guest country. With programs like Women in Film, ECOfilms, Made in BCS, LGBTQ, CineART and Celebrations, the festival promises to be a unique one. Master Classes, prestigious interna-

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tional actors and directors. It will also feature a concert by the Baja California Sur Symphony at the Todos Santos Plaza on opening night. All the events from November 3 to 6 will take place at the Teatro Manuel Marquez de Leon in the main plaza. Tickets are on **CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

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# Cooking Like a Mexican

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA



No, there's no ashes involved. I get asked about that quite a lot. And, this is one of those recipes my friends would get angry at me for sharing with Gringos, but I would be so proud if foreigners tried to make a traditional recipe the right way.

A festivity for the dead might seem a little strange for some people but in Mexico, celebrating those who have left this world and remembering them in a happy way, celebrating, is part of the colorful culture and traditions of our people. During the Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico, there is one tasty star element that can be enjoyed for more days than just those of the festivity, and that is none other than pan de Muertos or bread of the dead.

Some folkloric legends

indicate that ancient civilizations carried human sacrifices to honor their deities. One of these rituals required taking the heart of a maiden and placing it in a pot with toasted and

grateful! The bread-making came in when the Spaniards came to ruin the fun and forbade any of these sacrificial rituals, so the pre-Hispanic



ground amaranth; the ritual leader would have to bite the heart as a sign of gratitude. How delicious and eternally

people started making bread in the shape of a heart and covered in red sugar to resemble the blood. Boo.

Another not-so-gory version of the story says that the bread was made to symbolize the heart of an idol. This was followed by a symbolic sacrifice, which consisted of removing the "heart" from the deity to be shared with the rest of the people.

No matter where the origin of pan de Muertos is, this treat represents the dead: its traditional round shape represents the body, the bone figures that decorate it all across the sides

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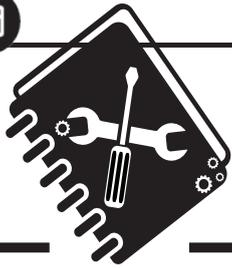
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represent the extremities and the round piece in the middle, on top, represents the skull. There are different shapes and presentations of this bread.

Some bread makers cover them in sesame seeds, colored sugar and regular sugar.

Pan de Muertos is eaten on Día de Muertos but available a month prior, and is deposited at the gravesite or in lieu, at a tribute called an ofrenda (offering). In some regions, it is eaten for months before the official celebration of Día de Muertos. As part of the festivity, loved ones enjoy pan de Muertos as well as their relative's favorite foods. The bones represent the deceased one (difuntos or difuntas) and there is normally a baked tear-drop on the bread to represent

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**



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**FIRST RESIDENCY PROGRAM...**  
continued from page 3

with drinks and canapés.

The series created by Kerch during his residency will be shown for the first time at an inaugural cocktail on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 pm and the gallery is pleased to invite all to the unveiling of the series "Inner Landscapes: Painting the lights & colors of Los Cabos" to enjoy the vision of their guest artist, Luis Kerch.

**Alfredo Ginocchio Los Cabos Gallery**, with more than 36 years of experience in Mexico City focuses on the promotion of Mexican and Latin American Artists internationally and encourages artistic production and consumption through the management of exhibitions in Their spaces in CDMX, Los Cabos, museums and with a presence in art fairs of the

stature of Art MIAMI, ArtBo or Zsona MACO, among others. ✍

**COVID-19 BRINGS CHANGES...**  
continued from page 4

cal consultations, organized clinics and assistance in setting up medical treatment for special cases of the severely ill or disabled. They provide, with the assistance of local medical personnel, special needs care in their Audiology Clinics, Cardiology Clinics, Corrective Eye Surgery Clinics, and dental clinics

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**Casa Hogar Cabo San Lucas**

They opened the doors of Casa Hogar on February 28th, 2008, thanks to their initial construction angels Bob and Donna Draney. They are a Mexican-registered non-profit

established as a Mexican Civil Association (a charity corporation). They are also registered 501c3 non-profit in the US "Friends of Casa Hogar" Casa Hogar is a Social Assistance Center (children's home). Casa Hogar is a comfortable, safe and happy home for kids and teens set in an attractive, camp-like environment providing physical and emotional care. Financial Contributions can be made in several different ways at their website: [www.casahogarcabo.com/](http://www.casahogarcabo.com/) If you wish to visit them in person, you can go to their website and schedule an in-person tour.

Blue Miracle is an exciting, family-friendly movie loosely based on a Casa Hogar story from 2014. While there is no financial benefit to Casa Hogar for this movie, we are hopeful that Blue Miracle will raise awareness and sensitivity for private Social Assistance Centers in Mexico, most of which,



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like theirs, operate as charities without government funding. Blue Miracle premiered on May 27, 2021, on Netflix.

**Los Cabos Humane Society**

Los Cabos Humane Society is committed to a safe, compassionate and prosperous Los Cabos. They offer accessible spay and neuter surgeries, adoption and foster care programs. Their **CONTINUED ON PAGE 19**



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# THE REAL ESTATE SECTION

## 7 Ways to Have an Enjoyable HOA Living Experience

With countless benefits, many homebuyers are attracted to neighborhoods with homeowners' associations (HOAs). A community with an HOA is likely to have desirable amenities, well-maintained homes, and strong neighborhood pride. However, not all residents are informed on how to best take advantage of these value-adds and create a more enjoyable HOA living experience. Read on to learn ways you can enhance community living and help your HOA be successful.

1. Learn the basic terminology.

One of the keys to having a successful living experience

in a managed community is understanding the role of the HOA and the part you play as a resident. Knowing the basic terminology used within an association will allow you to easily comprehend operations and processes. Here are some terms you should know:

**HOA** - Short for homeowners' association, it's an established non-profit organization that helps manage, run, and maintain a community.

**HOA Board** - The HOA board consists of volunteers elected to act and make decisions on behalf of the community. There are typically four officer positions, including the president, vice president,

secretary, and treasurer.

**Governing Documents** - A collection of rules, articles of incorporation, and guidelines by which the HOA operates.

**HOA Management Company** - A third-party company HOAs often contract to help professionally manage the community.

**Community Association Manager** - The designated person from the management company who works directly with your community and board.

**HOA Fines** - A fee residents must pay when they violate a community rule.

2. Volunteer and get involved.

When homeowners are involved in the community and engage with fellow members, they tend to have a more rewarding experience. As a homeowner, your opinions, participation, and input matter and can even affect board member decisions. If you're looking for ways to become

involved, here are some ideas:

**Attend board meetings**

Promote and participate in social events

Volunteer for committees

Voice your opinion when asked for feedback

Make suggestions on how to improve the community

Ask questions and hold board members accountable

3. Learn about fees and the association's finances.

Paying dues is part of living in a community with an HOA. These fees enable the association to support projects, make improvements, and maintain neighborhood amenities. However, it's essential that you understand how your money is being used. Attend board meetings, stay up to date with your community's newsletter, and ask questions. The more you know about the association's finances, the more you'll see how your dues impact the budget.

In addition to dues, other fees that may apply to HOA

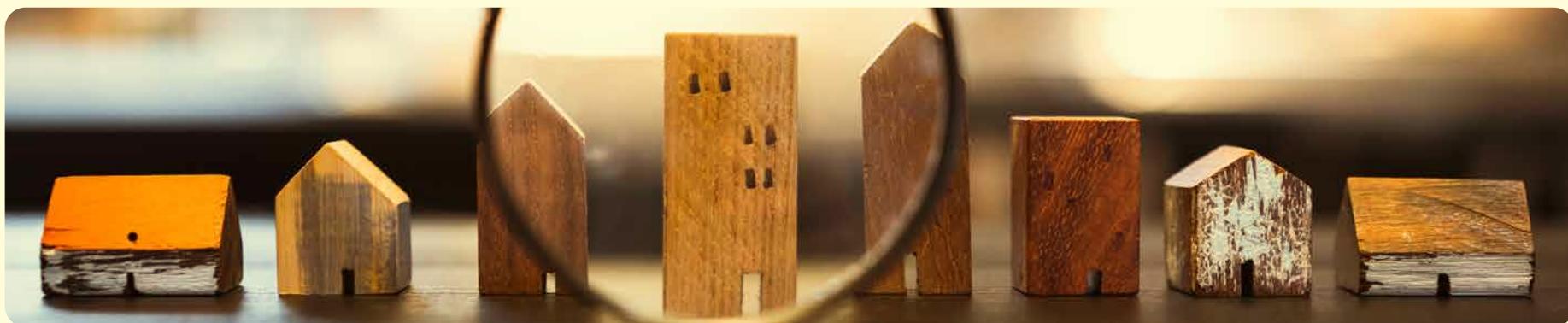
residents include special assessments. Special assessments are extra fees that may be charged to cover budgeting shortfalls or unexpected expenses, like an increase in insurance or a surprise repair bill for a pool or clubhouse. Understanding these fees and their purpose will help you recognize your HOA's needs and funding priorities and appreciate how your contributions support the community.

4. Understand rules and avoid violations.

To keep the community looking and functioning at its best, a community association usually has several regulations that residents must abide by. Typically, these rules are designed to support the neighborhood, increase home values, and make the community a safer, more enjoyable place to live.

As a member of the association, it's important to understand these rules and

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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# Condo Curveballs- Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me!

BY WILLY WISE

So you bought your condo in Paradise, threw out the snow shovel, checked your budget and headed to Mexico for the winter - happy days are here again!

My wife and I did just that after our first visit to Cabo. Not having owned a condo before we soon learned that communal living was not always what we had imagined. The insomniac living below us blaring the TV, short-term renters partying until the wee morning hours, screaming kids at the pool, dogs left alone in units barking for hours...was there no solitude to be had? Don't get me wrong, condos are a great option for the convenience of locking the door and coming back to the same when you return. With the right bunch of like-minded people, you will have good neighbors and at best a fun social group. Doing your homework on the front end is the key to avoiding unpleasant surprises to your serenity and your budget.

Let's start at the beginning

when you find a place you think you like.

Rule #1 location, location, location: don't be writing an offer until you scope out the place with all of your senses. Go there at different times of the



day and listen to the sounds. Roosters and barking dogs in the early morning, squealing kids at the pool in the afternoon or rush hour road noise just when you'd be sitting down for a cocktail; what do you hear? Talk to people about the complex and listen to them. Real estate agents have the facts but owners, neighbours, property managers and on-site condo Administrators have the

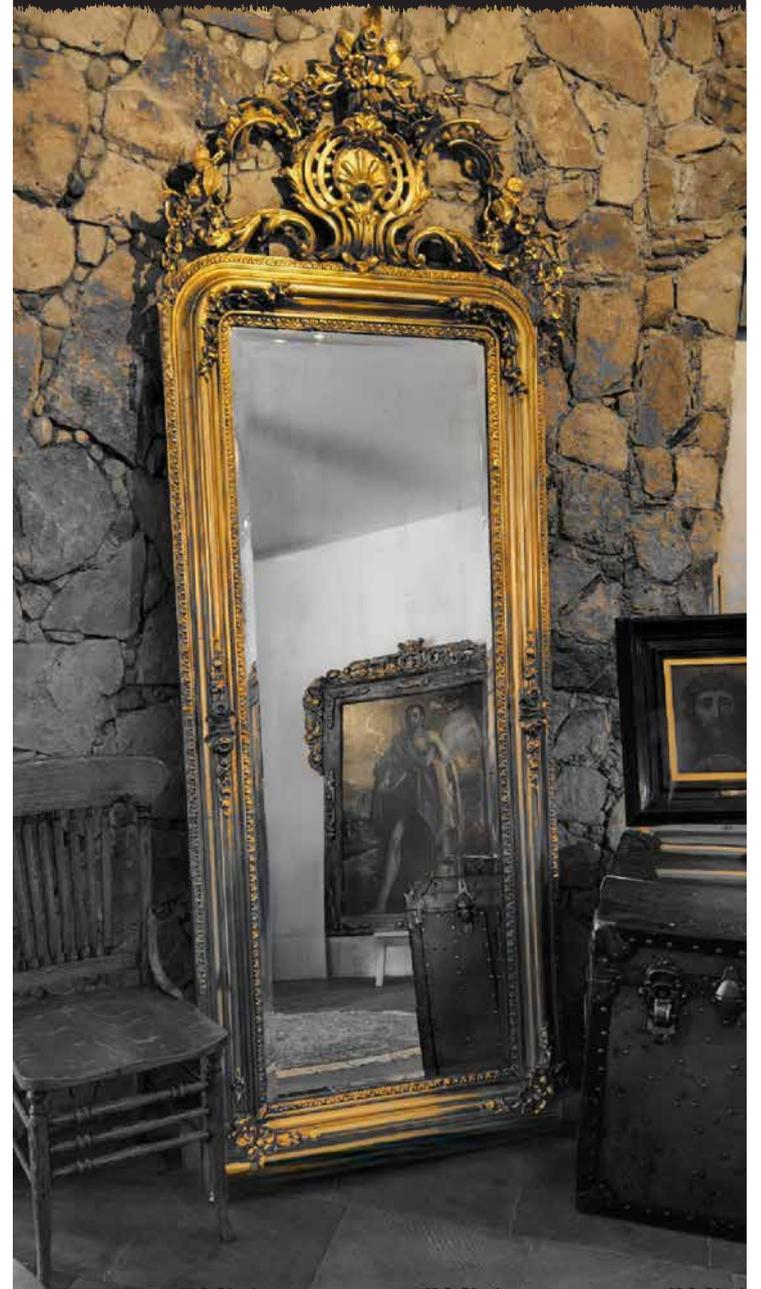
stories. Look around too and consider which direction the sun and breeze come from at the time of day you want to be enjoying your balcony or with blinds wide open for the view. Also remember breezes bring smells from nearby restaurants or worse yet sewage vents from holding tanks. Don't laugh – wafting sewage odour and using gray water for irrigation is a common occurrence here. And lastly when you do write the offer remember what you can't sense so make sure the offer is conditional on a building

inspection by a professional. Rule #2, Rules & Regulations: Los Cabos basic condo administrative guidelines are governed by Decree #1695, the 2007 Baja California Sur (BCS) state-legislated rules. The Homeowners Association (HOA) for each condo complex needs to be structured and operated in accordance with these rules. HOAs formed after 2007 will likely use these

rules but older complexes may not. Regardless don't assume the rules are as stringent as

they are north of the border – they aren't. Ask for a copy **CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**

*There are objects that fight a constant battle against time...*



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**7 WAYS TO HAVE AN...**  
continued from page 10

expect the board to enforce them equally. Revisit your governing documents, which you should have received upon buying a home, and familiarize yourself with your HOA's rules and community guidelines to avoid warnings, violations, and fines—and sustain a comfortable envi-

ronment. knit community, it leads to fewer conflicts and creates a positive environment, open communication, and a supportive culture. Here are some ways to connect with your neighbors:

- Welcome new homeowners—a simple hello can go a long way!
- Attend community events together
- Chat at the mailbox
- Ask about changes or ad-

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ronment.  
5. Use the amenities.  
Many residents agree that amenities are the most significant benefit of being a member of a homeowners' association. The features of a community are meant to promote ease and well-being, and amenities are designed to create a more relaxed lifestyle. Plus, your HOA dues are what funds and maintains them, so it's a good idea to make use of these offerings.  
Some common amenities include:  
Pool and jacuzzi  
Fitness center  
Business center  
Clubhouse  
Parks and walking trails  
Playgrounds  
Community-sponsored events  
6. Meet your neighbors.  
Connecting with your neighbors has never been more essential. Whether it's a warm smile or a friendly wave, these gestures are the catalyst for developing meaningful relationships.  
When you build a tight-

ditions to your neighbor's yard  
Share friendly seasonal gifts or goodies  
7. Get to know board members and communicate with them.  
Get to know the officers of the HOA board. Designated leaders of the community, reach out to them directly if you have questions, suggestions, or simply want to make the most of your HOA membership. Their names and contact information might be found in a welcome packet, on the HOA website, or community newsletter.  
Your HOA leaders work on your behalf and strive to improve the quality of living for all residents. They want to hear from you. Take the time to connect with them and offer insight that may help create a supportive homeowner-board relationship. When the board and membership work together, everyone wins.  
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**CONDO CURVEBALLS...**

continued from page 11

of the meeting minutes and the financial statements. The minutes will tell you about any issues you didn't hear about from others.

Rule #3 Look for Curveballs (the unexpected): Pay attention to the mention of the dreaded "Cash Call". Don't be fooled by low dues when comparing one complex to the next; this is one of the biggest and costliest mistakes. The dues are what you pay monthly but the HOA Board has the ability to make a call for extra cash from all owners whenever they see fit to make up budget shortfalls or for capital projects such as repairs after big storms. They can be hefty so think about your ability to cough up USD\$5,000 (MXP100,000) or more on short notice. It can be tougher in smaller complexes as larger complexes have more wallets to meet the call. Ask how many "calls" there have been in the past 5 years and how many owners didn't pay it.

Rule #4 Show me the money! The financials will also tell you how your HOA dues budget might be affected. Not good with numbers? Here are a few tips on what to look for:

Look at the Income State-

ment and calculate the percentage of specific expense categories to the total expenses (even better if you have multiple years to see trends). This is how your HOA dues are spent; what are the biggest categories of expense? Lots of repairs? - not necessarily good if it's a newer complex. Is one of the big expenses water? - ask if it's a collective expense or if individual units are metered for cost recovery. Legal expenses? - maybe something smells other than the sewage holding tank.

Look at the Balance Sheet for a large Accounts Receivable number - a.k.a. the Delinquent Owners List. Every complex has deadbeat owners who won't pay their dues or cash calls. The HOA can't cover expenses from recorded income if it's not collected income. More recently the Mexican legal system became sympathetic to HOAs vs the delinquent owner but it's a minimum 2-year legal fight by the HOA to recover outstanding dues from a forced sale of the unit. HOAs may have to increase dues or make cash calls to cover the deadbeats who don't pay.

Look at both the income statement for insurance expenses and the balance sheet equity category for Reserves which will help the HOA weather a catastrophic event.

You didn't have to be here to experience Hurricane Odile's financial impact. The BCS rules require each complex to set aside 5% of annual income for refurbishment Reserves but these Reserves are not restricted to catastrophic events and can be used for various purposes if the majority of owners agree. Reserve funds can be used for planned capital improvements or cover the insurance deductible for un-

predictable events. Most HOAs buy Hurricane and Earthquake insurance but it's not cheap.



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This can be the largest US dollar expense in the Income Statement but well worth it in my opinion. Insurance policies here are "co-insurance" with a deductible and coverage for 80% of the loss which means both the deductible and 20% of the loss is the owners' obligation. Some complexes choose to "self-insure" meaning instead of buying insurance they set aside a special reserve to accumulate the equivalent of the premium expense, betting that the reserve will be enough to cover the costs when the unexpected happens. In addition to bigger storms, this place is shaking all the time and you never know when a big one is coming. Just for fun go to [www.quakebulletin.com](http://www.quakebulletin.com) and look at the 100 largest earthquakes near Baja California Sur. A lot

of complexes in Cabo are built on packed sand versus bedrock meaning a big shake could crack foundations and result in a condemned building and you risk losing everything.

There isn't everything you need to know about condo ownership but the moral of the story is the importance of making an informed decision so you can enjoy your time in Mexico for years to come. 🗝

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# Entrepreneur of the Month

BY BRAD FALKNER

None of us are strangers to the benefits of massage therapy. It's one of the most wonderful things in life. I've yet to meet



Angie Garcia

anyone who does not enjoy massages. As far as health and wellness are concerned, I put it right up there with getting a good night's sleep, adhering to a nutritional diet, and a regular exercise regimen. Like sleep and meditation, it's the most passive health benefit known to humankind.

Since there are no drawbacks to massage therapy, the only challenge or issue is whom or where to go for services rendered. Obviously, we're all adults here and we know that there are many different massage therapies on the menu in Los Cabos. This article will not touch upon the massage that is commonly known for its mood-enhancing ending.

If you are like me, you may have a few strict and steadfast

specifications when it comes to who, what, when, where, why and how you prefer to receive your rubdown. I usually request that a woman perform my massages. However, when I was getting physical therapy for a sciatica condition, my therapist was a man, and he was exceptionally skilled in the realm of therapeutic massage.

When it comes to spending my own money on a massage, I'm a control freak. I like to give very specific detailed directions/ instructions to the therapist pre-massage and feedback during the massage. I prefer not to have a running conversation going unless it involves my feedback and/or questions the therapist may have regarding how the experience is going for me. This might sound rather curt, but my communication with the therapist is for the purpose of making their job easier and more efficient regarding appointment time management.

This is precisely why I give Angie Garcia, a licensed massage therapist, currently em-

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ployed at the Deep Blue Spa located inside the Hotel Barcelo in the San Jose del Cabo hotel corridor, my discerning stamp and glowing seal of approval.

I'm prone to back spasms due to not bending my knees when attempting to pick up items off the floor. I'm essentially as tight as a fiddle string. Perhaps it's my particular genetic make-up, as I stretch daily and do recommend Yoga exercises.

The majestic massage gods must have been smiling down upon us when the gifted Garcia

blessed me with a healing massage the likes of which only the messiah could have performed back in the day.

With no prior knowledge of my recurring back issues, Garcia was like a sleuth looking for clues at a messy crime scene. It was uncanny how in under three minutes the capable masseuse was able to correctly identify my area of concern and solve the crime. I've been to several massage therapists. What I encountered with the detective of pain was a first for me.

Garcia is a powerful woman and an exceptional athlete with formal training in Kung Fu. You need not worry--she is gentle as a summer breeze; but if required she has the strength of Paul Bunyan and can deliver the deepest of tissue massages. Moreover, she is committed to helping people heal and feel better.

"Working only for money is not my ethos; solving people's suffering and problems is my

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 21**

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**EI EPONYMOUS GDL...**  
continued from page 5

guile en route to claiming the coveted crown.

Professional tennis aside, Guadalajara is a cool cultural modern metropolis in western Mexico and the capital of the state of Jalisco. It lacks for nada, as an international center of business, finance, arts, and culture, as well as the economic center of the Bajío region, one of the most productive and developed regions in Latin America.

Alas. This is where my personal journey to this enchanted city took a nosedive. I cannot stress how critically important it is to prepare for the high altitude and omnipresent air pollution that besets this picturesque puebla. I've had occasion to visit high altitude cities like Denver and Madrid and suffered no ill effects. What I was not aware of is that air pollution is affected by change in altitude. I found out the hard way that Guadalajara has both in spades. Cur-

rent estimates conclude that close to 500 deaths a year are attributed to the air pollution that haunts this glorious city.

My ignorance cost me dearly as I was nary able to sleep more than a handful of hours per night and felt as if I was experiencing the all too real condition of chronic fatigue syndrome. To say that I had sneezing fits of up to a hundred times a day would not be an exaggeration.

For those of us who live in Los Cabos, our bodies and internal systems may not be accustomed to higher altitudes, therefore we are at a greater risk for previously said symptoms, which quite frankly run the gauntlet of every imaginable form of discomfort from head to toe.

The sweet irony is that I can't wait to get back to Guadalajara and be able to smell the roses. To be able to see the forest for the trees. Nothing will please me more than to describe in lucid detail what secret pleasures Guadalajara has to offer any and every enchanted visitor. 🌿

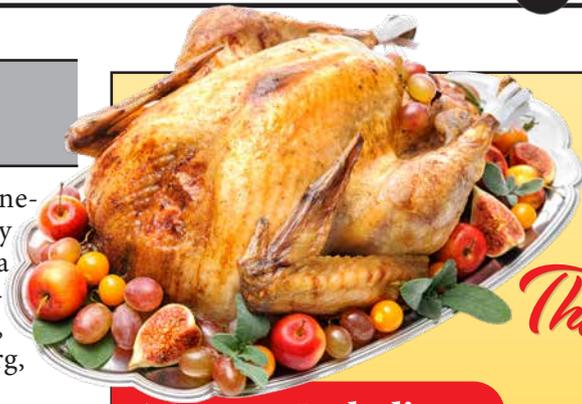
**QUE PASA IN CABO?...**  
continued from page 6

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**Funding to Build a Dam Approved.** Mexico's National Water Commission approved the funding to build a new dam at the Salto Seco arroyo – the one that ends between Club Cascadas and Villa del Palmar – as soon as possible. The city government will begin the project, which also includes the construction of at least five new water wells along the arroyo. Stay tuned.

**Where Do Americans Go When They Move Abroad?** Mexico. This country is Americans' favorite when they decide to relocate. HireAHelper, a moving service provider, recorded 38% more people relocating to Mexico compared to 2019. The reasons cited are recent high-profile Supreme Court Decisions, a hike in the cost of living and unaffordable housing. Last year, 16,022 U.S. citizens moved to Mexico as temporary or permanent residents.

**Six Hotels in Los Cabos Obtain Top Recognition.** The prestigious AAA Five Dia-



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mond Award has been obtained by only 6 hotels in Los Cabos so far, out of 26 in Mexico. These are Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Waldorf Astoria, One & Only Palmilla, Grand Velas,

Esperanza, and Montage. Congratulations!

**Whale Population Diminishing Abruptly.** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has reported a significant decline in whale populations. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 20**

**COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...**

continued from page 7

goddess Chimalma's tears for the living. The bones are represented in a circle to portray the circle of life. The bread is topped with sugar. Lately, this bread can be found in Mexican

grocery stores in the U.S.

The most popular recipe for pan de Muertos is a simple sweet bread recipe, often with the addition of anise seeds, and traditionally flavored with orange flower water or orange zest. Other variations are made depending on the region or the baker. Typically, the baker

would usually wear decorated wristbands, a tradition which was originally practiced to protect them from burns on the stove or oven; but I've never seen that personally. It's not as ceremonial now.

Bread of the dead usually has skulls or crossbones representations on it. It is

believed the spirits do not eat, but absorb its essence, along with water at their ofrenda, after their long journey back to Earth to visit their loved ones who made an altar for them. There are many different types of pan de Muertos across the country. Here's a short list of some of them:

**Pan de ánimas:**

Ánimas translates to souls. This bread is typical in the Mixtec region south of Puebla and is made with the same dough as bolillo but dressed with cinnamon and piloncillo. The dough is formed into human shapes and sprinkled with white sugar for children and red sugar for adults.

**Pan de Sirena:**

This bread is originally from the Papaloapan region which circles around Puebla, Oaxaca and Veracruz. It was created from the union of Spanish and chinatenco beliefs. It is dedicated to the lords of the water which is why it's shaped like a mermaid and decorated with crosses and other religious shapes. It is very common to appear in altars to guarantee a good fishing season.

**Marquesote:**

A very traditional bread from the Tehuantepec area and not exclusively prepared for the day of the dead, but also for weddings and big religious celebrations. Marquesote is usually a soft crumb bread, square with white frosting which is also used to pipe on the name of the deceased and sprinkled with red sugar. It is said to be named in honor of Hernan Cortés, who was the "Marqués" of the Oaxaca Valley.

**Pan de ofrenda:**

Traditional pan de Muertos from Michoacán, especially from the Santa Fe de la Laguna area. It is made with wheat flour, salt and sugar and also shaped like humans but also animals like bunnies, donkeys and even sombreros, virgins, flowers, skulls... you name it. In some cases, it can be colored pink but it's not a rule.

**Golletes:**

Another typical bread from Mexico City and Puebla, made from egg yolks and shaped like a bagel; it is usually sprinkled with red sugar. According to the people from indigenous villages, they symbolize the skulls placed on the Tzom-

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 20**

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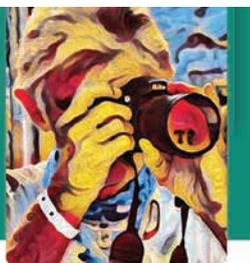
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# Fish Report

BY GARY GRAHAM  
THAT BAJA GUY



## Cabo

Although billfishing has been slow, gamefish action has been decent recently. For example, some tournament boats fishing for bait around Lands' End reported that they caught small dorado and even a wahoo.

Farther Offshore, there were reports of yellowfin tuna which should be good news for those fishing the Million Dollar Tournament in Cabo late next week.

Inshore roosterfish, jack crevalle, and skipjack seem to be the catch of the day, and they are just an example of how good or bad it can be if you try a half day in the morning. You might still have time to check

out activities available in the afternoon here in Cabo.

If you would prefer to remain on solid ground, there have been some reports of good surf fishing from shore, particularly on the Pacific coast side.

## Puerto Los Cabos

These are busy times in Southern Baja, especially in Cabo San Lucas, with the largest tournament of the year finishing this week. I believe 218 teams were battling for a record payout of \$11.6 Million. Only three qualifying marlin were brought to the scales weighing over 300 pounds. Enough to keep the event going – and each year becoming more popular.

The next big tournament will be the WON Tuna Jackpot, with the two fishing days being Nov. 3 and 4, slated to have record payouts up for grabs.

Weather patterns have been typical for the fall season, with winds out of the north, blowing in cycles, and increasing later in the morning, although they are a bit unpredictable. However, this coming week is forecast to be much calmer. The days have been clear and sunny, 80 degrees, though early morning temperatures have dipped to 65 degrees. However, it is starting to be chilly enough that you need a windbreaker to ride out. Ocean swells are minimal, though there has been high wind chop farther offshore, and the water temperature averages 80 to 83 degrees.

While tournament boats target the larger billfish offshore, the local sportfishing charters are closer to shore, working areas from La Fortuna, Iman, San Luis, and Vinorama for yellowfin tuna, dorado, and wahoo. Although the first part of the wind was a negative factor on the grounds further to the north, conditions settled over the weekend.

Bait sources always become scarcer during these periods of heavy boat pressure, and while there are no sardina now, there have been some caballito, ballyhoo, and slabs of squid. Wahoo activity has increased, and every day we are seeing more of these prized gamefish. Some charters are landing two or three per morning, but of course, many others are lost. Sizes ranged up to 40 pounds. These speedsters have been striking on high-speed trolled Rapalas, ballyhoo, and trap-hooked live bait. Most productive grounds have been to the

## Fish Killer Of The Week



Our long-time client with Tailhunter Sportfishing is in La Paz from Kansas. Adam Florence made it back to visit and was out with Captain Pancho when he hooked this pretty sailfish on a light-tackle spinning rod! He was using a live sardine while fishing for dorado. Even better, Adam released the great fish to fight another day!

north of Punta Gorda.

Dorado were found scattered about in small numbers on these same grounds. Most of the dorado found were under ten pounds – and far fewer now than in previous weeks. We anticipate a new wave of fish to show before long since the fish that had migrated into So Cal waters should be heading back south by now.

After a flurry of quality tuna action the previous week, this week was much more challenging. A few scattered fish were found, some on the grounds from Iman to Vinorama and others associated with porpoise. The tuna are definitely in the area, as conditions

are favorable, but fish are also becoming increasingly weary of boat traffic each season. The fish we did see ranged from 10 to 70 pounds. Nevertheless, we are optimistic the yellowfin action will improve before long.

Still not much bottom or inshore action to report, mainly triggerfish, a few small snapper, and bonito. ... **Eric Bric-ton, Gordo Banks Pangas**

## East Cape

Still plenty of offshore action for the few that arrive itching to catch some dorado and striped marlin. It should be great to get November started if the weather holds up.

Inshore same thing, few **CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

## Don't feed the fish!



The act of disrupting the natural marine environment should be discouraged, not encouraged. There are many studies that discuss the impact on wildlife by humans doing simple self-indulgent acts like feeding them because they get pleasure / entertainment from it. Feeding fish and aquatic life can lead to the animal having behavioral changes, like aggression, as well as, causing them to become ill from a foreign food source. Simple acts, like feeding wild animals can have long term consequences and detrimental impacts. The Baja needs to be protected.

(Suggested by Ted Miller, Cabo. Illustration by www.greenfins.net)



# Together Because Cancer Does Not Wait

The Third Meeting of the Alliance of Organizations in Support of Children and Adolescents with Cancer in Mexico was held from October 3 to 6 and Los Cabos Children's Foundation was the host organization in La Paz and Los Cabos.

Baja California Sur was placed on the national map with this event. This alliance of 66 nonprofit organizations

does everything it can to ensure children living with cancer in Mexico have a timely diagnosis and comprehensive treatment that favors their survival.

Despite being a young Alliance, 40 organizations - more than 60% of the childhood cancer organizations in our country seeking this collaborative work - met in Los Cabos and La Paz and reported hav-

ing invested over \$70 million of dollars in benefiting 26,000 children and adolescents with cancer in Mexico, through more than 310,000 services, in 2021.

100 people from organizations from all over Mexico came together with experts from Mexico and Chile, as the guest country at this meeting, to discuss human rights, play, rehabilitation and psychoeducation, among other important topics for the comprehensive care of childhood cancer and the support that organizations give to hospitals, health professionals, patients and families. The Alliance is supported by Childhood Cancer International Latam and seeks to strengthen ties and promote teamwork to better serve families and doctors and improve the quality of life of children with cancer in Mexico.

On Monday, October 3, participants, exhibitors, authorities and personalities from the private, public and civil society sectors of our state gathered at the Hotel Riu Palace Los Cabos, a company of Riu Hotels & Resorts that is committed to the health of children in the destinations of our country and the world where they develop their business. It's the second year that Riu is the main sponsor of this meeting; in 2021, the Alliance held the second meeting in Cancun.

At the opening ceremony, the Alliance organizations, represented by Marisa Comella, Executive Director of the host organization, Los Cabos Children's Foundation, were joined by Gay Thatcher, Director of Amigos de Los Niños, who spoke about the early years of childhood cancer in Los Cabos and how civil society achieved access to health services that Baja California Sur lacked prior to 2013. Oswald Ponette, Delegate of Riu Hotels & Resorts in Los Cabos, highlighted the importance of the tourism industry's support of social causes in our community. Dr. Marcela Zubieta, head of the Latin American region of the Cancer Childhood International Latam confederation spoke



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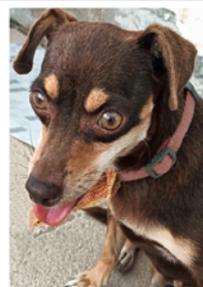
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about hard data on childhood cancer in Latin America and the importance of teamwork to save lives. Representing our state congress, congresswoman Mapy Moreno attended with great interest because the health commission that she presides has a citizen initiative in review to legislate childhood cancer attention in Baja California Sur. Furthermore, on behalf of the Government of Baja California Sur, Prof. Patricia Lopez Navarro, First Lady of Baja California Sur and Honorary President of the State Family System, commented on the collaboration between the Government of Baja California Sur and civil society to achieve comprehensive care for children with cancer in the state. Finally, Prof. Oscar Leggs Castro, Mayor of Los Cabos, whose administration collaborates with nonprofit organizations in a project that brings health services closer to children with cancer in Los Cabos, inaugurated the Third Meeting of the Alliance of Organizations in Support of Children and Adolescents with Cancer

in Mexico.

On October 4, several activities were carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Health of Baja California Sur and Mark Foundation at Salvatierra General Hospital, with the State DIF System at Casa Valentina, with Teleton Foundation at CRIT BCS and with the Cancer Registry of Baja California Sur, all institutions with which LCCF works as a team on the issue of childhood cancer in Baja California Sur throughout the year. Also, a play called "Catasterismo", written and acted by childhood cancer survivors who are now young adults, was presented at the Hotel Marea in the city of La Paz, with the presence of several families of childhood cancer survivors from Baja California Sur.

There were 18 learning opportunities, including conferences, panels, workshops and round tables, with the participation of members of the alliance and invited experts. Special thanks to the following

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 23**

**COVID-19 BRINGS CHANGES...**  
continued from page 9

goal is to promote the humane treatment of domestic animals through community education and active lobbying of our elected government officials. In 2019 they performed over 4,458 spay and neuter surgeries and facilitated over 400 adoptions. 2020 was a very difficult year as many families were unable to care for their pets and had to ask the humane society for assistance. 2021 will likely prove to be an even greater challenge. Help them to continue providing these essential services to our community by making charitable donations. **Contact Information is done entirely Facebook messenger or by e-mail at direccion@loscaboshumanesociety.org**

**Bomberos Voluntarios – Volunteer Fire Department**

How about a donation that keeps on giving (back)? 'Tis the season to call upon a water truck. If you need a water truck rather than calling one of the local water services, call the Bomberos. For a “donation” they will deliver a truckload of water right to your house. Because they get the water for free, your entire donation goes to support them with their needs. If you want to help our volunteer fire department with equipment, or any other donation, call 143-9000, 143-3577. Camino Viejo a San José in front of McDonald's, CSL; 24-hour emergency calls; Phone: 143-9000, 143-3577. They also

have a “Retail Store” where you can purchase many SWAG articles to take back home as gifts.

**Los Cabos Children's Foundation, A.C.**

The Los Cabos Children's Foundation provides medical, educational, and humanitarian assistance to the children, their families, and the supportive organizations of the Los Cabos area. Los Cabos Children's Foundation (LCCF)'s mission is to promote, fund, monitor and strengthen programs that have a focus on health for children in Baja California Sur. After 15 years of service, they are convinced that the best way to achieve a greater impact in the community is through collaboration. By way of collaboration, they seek to boost the work of organizations by way of transparency and open and constant communication, their main tool to achieve the fulfillment of their common goals.

Every March, LCCF gives all non-profit organizations in the community the opportunity to participate in the process of selecting projects to be supported during the next fiscal period. Cancer, Congenital Heart Defects, and critical health needs of children in the state, from physical and intellectual disability to mental health and prevention are the main areas of the non-profits they select.

Their office is located at Koral Center next to the H+ Hospital in Cerro Colorado, San Jose del Cabo, Baja California Sur, Mexico 23405

LCCF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the health of the children of Los Cabos and all Southern Baja.; Mex. Ph. (624) 144-3195. U.S. Ph. (605) 275-6305. info@loscaboschildren.org; www.loscaboschildren.org

**Boys and Girls Clubs (Formally Gente Joven Por Un Cambio)**

The story of Gente Joven Por Un Cambio begins with Onagh and Bill Ash more than 20 years ago. The beginning of 2020 saw a major change

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 25**



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## QUE PASA IN CABO?...

continued from page 15

Administration (NOAA) is reporting a decrease in whale populations of about 38 percent, the highest number since 2015 and 2016. The reason in most cases is an "Unusual Mortality Event," or UMA, as most have been beach-

ins or natural deaths. But in some cases, dozens and even hundreds of whales have been found laying on beaches around the world. Whale-watching season in Southern Baja goes from January 1 to the end of April.

**Popular Canyon Will Re-open Soon.** The Fox Canyon, or Cañón de la Zorra in Spanish, is a popular site for locals

and tourists alike. Located near the town of Santiago, between San Jose and the East Cape, it has a beautiful lagoon and waterfall and a pretty good Mexican restaurant. It was closed last August when a tourist was hit by a rock that fell and caused him severe injuries and the loss of his arm. Federal authorities have been inspecting the zone and

deemed it safe early this week.

**Southern Baja Leads Export of Seafood.** China has been buying oysters and green ormers (abalene) from our Southern Baja state farms to the tune of 20 metric tons of ormers and several more tonnes of oysters. We produce 2,000 metric tons a year and the farms support 400 families throughout the state.

**Six More Hotels to Open in 2023.** Opening the door for 3,000 new jobs. The hotels will be The Soho & Vidanta East Cape, which has already blocked access to the beach. The St. Regis Los Cabos & Residences, part of luxurious Marriott hotels. The Amanvari Hotel north of Puerto Los Cabos, part of the Swiss Aman Hotels brand. The Park Hyatt resort in Cabo del Sol. A luxury Four Seasons, kind of small with only 96 rooms and 17 suites. Last but not least, the Grand Solmar at Rancho San Lucas. Stay tuned.

**Looking for Shade? It's Coming Soon!** Reforestation of San Jose's main plaza has begun, after several meetings between the Los Cabos Mayor and San Jose downtown residents and business people. The job should be completely finished before the end of the year. Phew!

**International Film Fest Goes All Mexican.** Stating that international films are all taken by different film fests around the world, our festival will include only Mexican movies

and film stars. The fest, including the Red Carpet ceremony, will take place at the Cinemex movie theaters in Puerto Paraiso, opening November 9 with Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale," featuring Brendan Fraser. The fest will close on November 12. 🍷

## COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...

continued from page 16

panthli (traditional skull altar from our ancestors) which were to be skewered on canes.

Christ's knee:

A very traditional bread from the state of Michoacán and other southern regions across Mexico, and some places in South America. It's a round bread made of wheat flour, yeast, salt and cheese. The cheese is usually placed on top of the bread and painted yellow with red sugar sprinkled on top to represent Christ's wounds.

After knowing some of the different types of pan de Muertos, I will share a recipe of the one you have probably seen the most:

Ingredients

115 ml milk

1 tbsp orange blossom water or agua de azahar (see Note)

60 gr raw sugar

1 ¼ tsp dried yeast

465 gr plain flour

½ tsp salt

1 tsp ground anise

2 eggs at room temperature, lightly beaten

1 egg yolk

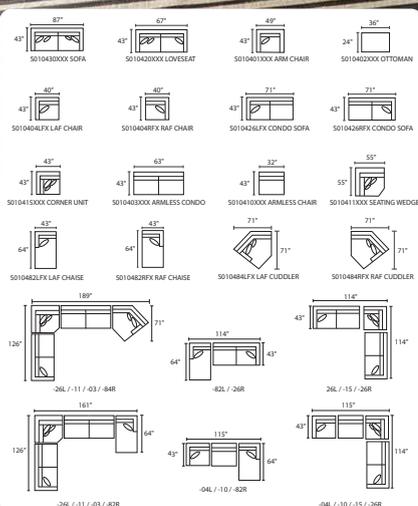
110 gr unsalted butter, softened and at room temperature

Mexican hot chocolate to serve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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# Ask a Mexican

Do you celebrate Day of the Dead or Halloween? Or both? How do you celebrate?



Illustration by danjazia

**1. Tomás Hernandez, 46, driver.**

I celebrate none, really. I just like the food that my wife makes around Día de Muertos. Back when my kids were younger, we would take them for their “calaveritas” (trick or treating) but even then, I feel like we were doing it the Mexican way. During that time, the costumes were not as fancy as they are today, and imported costumes were just too expensive so my wife had to make whatever costumes they chose. I think we celebrate a mix of both.

**2. Javier Diaz, 29, service provider.**

My whole family celebrates Día de Muertos, we get together and make an altar for our grandparents, and the house is rotated every year. We make sure our altar is exactly how it should be, with all 7 levels, the salt and spices drawing on the ground and everything. The women of the house cook a feast, with my grandfather’s favorite dishes and follow my grandmother’s recipes. We do let the kids ask for candy if they want to, but we make sure they understand that’s not our

tradition and try to have candy there to stop them from going out. We also don’t cook those recipes I mentioned at other times of the year, which makes us crave them even more.

**3. Adriana González, 23, nurse.**

I celebrate Halloween at work, all the nurses get dressed up as something not too scary for the kids and we go reverse trick or treating to their rooms and beds. At home, we don’t celebrate much, as I have no kids yet and my nephews are too old and think they’re too cool. I don’t even decorate my house as haloweenish or anything and don’t put an altar because it’s a lot of work. I do enjoy Halloween parties, though, and dress up a little bit.

**4. Silvia Loyola, 27, dentist assistant.**

I hate Halloween. I definitely think it’s more of a marketing strategy than a tradition and find it quite horrible to celebrate a thing that’s not even ours. I love Día de Muertos, the handicrafts, the traditions and the food. I love going to a special market that happens in my hometown, where everything is about Día de Muertos and the food is as good as on Independence Day. I don’t teach my daughter about Halloween and when at school they ask her to dress up I have to let her so she won’t feel excluded, but she doesn’t love getting her face painted or anything.

**5. Mariana Barraza, 52, caregiver.**

My family celebrates Halloween pretty big because most of my uncles and brothers have lived in the U.S., they even make snacks that look gross and everything. I personally don’t think much of it but I like the snacks and drinks, I think they’re fun. As far as Día de Muertos, we go to where our family is buried, take food and some beer and eat with them as if they were there. It’s also fun, but it’s a lot of hassle taking a tarp, food, beer, ice, kids, etcetera. Still, we only do it on Día de Muertos and that makes



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it not so bad. My kids are now young adults and they go out now, but when they were little, I used to take them trick-or-treating with their cousins.

**6. José Claro, 46 years old, driver.**

I come from a very small town where Día de Muertos is a big deal, so I don’t like Halloween very much. In my town, Guanajuato, we go to the local cemetery at midnight carrying candles and flowers and mariachi or guitars. We sing sad songs and drink tequila and cry over the graves until someone decides to sing a happier song and it slowly turns into a celebration of life rather than crying for death. I think it’s kind of beautiful because everyone is allowed to cry and no one will look down on anyone and we end up laughing and telling anecdotes about those who are no longer with us. 🌿

her own spa. The concept is a one-stop shop that will offer a range of services from haircuts, massage therapy, facials - you name it. Garcia’s training in cosmetology started over twenty years ago. Not only did she master the art of hairstyling, multiple makeup techniques, facials and waxing. She took it a step further by learning how to give the highly sought-after manicure and pedicure.

To be sure, Angie Garcia is a woman driven by excellence and a work ethic that can’t be taught. Garcia’s plan is to provide free training for her employees by passing on her knowledge and experience to ensure a cohesive and consistent staff.

“I firmly believe that providing training to those with the desire to boost their knowledge in this field of work is paramount in order to thrive  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 26**



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**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE...**  
continued from page 14

main focus. It’s not uncommon for guests at our hotel to tell me that they’ve just had one of the best massages of their lives. These are guests who have a regular massage therapist at home that they greatly adore but that my technique was something different and it was beneficial,” Garcia shares.

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# Altar de Muertos Symbols and Catrina

BY ALEJANDRA BORBOLLA

Day of the Dead is one of Mexico's most iconic holidays and is now known throughout the world thanks to that magic mouse who, by the way, did a beautiful job portraying most of it. Named as Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 2008, Día de Muertos is when we remember and honor our deceased loved ones with the hope that they will travel back from the underworld to visit us for the night.

This holiday is syncretism at its best. Today's Day of the Dead rituals is the combination of beliefs and traditions that have merged into what is

now one of Mexico's most diverse holidays. Its origins date back to prehispanic times; the central and southern regions of the Mexican territory, once known as Mesoamerica, were inhabited by many different indigenous groups and this months-long celebration was integral to their yearly religious rituals.

The 3,000-year-old celebration was originally held during the summer months of July and August, with a single month for honoring deceased children, and one for adults. Rites and rituals were dedicated to the goddess of the underworld

Mictecacihuatl (a distant echo of which you can see in today's Catrina skeletons). It was common for indigenous practitioners to keep the skulls of the dead and include them as part of their altars.

The Spanish colonizers were offended by many of the pagan traditions of Mexico's original inhabitants. The Catholic Church, which as you know played an incredible role in the colonization of Mexico, would eventually enforce a change to the dates of the celebration so that it coincided with the Catholic festival of All Saints Day at the end of October. More than simply a day of remembrance, the Day of the Dead is an invitation for those that have gone before to come back for a night and visit the living left behind.

Nowadays, people still welcome their relatives by visiting their gravesites and bringing

along goodies such as food, candles and even mariachi bands! They go to simply be with them. Others set up altars in their houses and wait for the spirits to visit.

The levels used to build the ofrenda represent different stages of human existence. A two-level ofrenda represents earth and heaven. A three-level ofrenda includes purgatory. A seven-level ofrenda is the most traditional; it represents the necessary steps to rest in peace.

The altar, also known as an ofrenda, consists of a table (or a combination of tables or boxes in different levels) filled with food and various other offerings to the souls of the departed. They can vary from state to state but always consist of the following basics:

- A picture of the departed. For the spirits to recognize who the altar is dedicated to, a picture of the person to be re-

membered is set in the middle of the table or in the wall right behind it.

- Flowers, candles and incense. A flower, similar to marigold, called Cempazúchitl or the Aztec marigold, is used throughout the country during this festivity. Their smell and yellow petals are thought to guide souls home along with the light of candles and the scent of incense.

- The deceased favorite's food and objects. Dishes and foods the deceased enjoyed in life, such as enchiladas, mole or rice, are provided for them to feast on during their visit. According to legend, after the night has passed, the dishes have lost their "essence" and are therefore inedible for anyone else and have to be thrown out. Objects like cigarettes, books and toys are also offered for the enjoyment of the return-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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**FISH REPORT...**

continued from page 17

roosterfish and jacks, plus it's a good time to stash a little wire in the tackle box in case a school of sierra shows up.

With any luck, the fishing fun might get you all to Turkey Day, just around the corner.

**La Paz**

Straight up...fishing was pretty good...when we could go out.

About half the day this week was bumpy and rough and windy, and it probably would have been best to not fish, but folks still wanted to get out. One day the wind forecasts were so strong the La Paz port captain shut down all boat traffic, preventing anyone from going out.

One day, our boats got blown off the water after a brave effort to catch fish. I think we had 8 pangas out that day. They returned with 4 fish total for all those fishermen – not 4 limits – 4 fish for over 20 anglers.

It rarely happens because, typically, it's so calm during this season, but we had some folks get seasick, which is unfortunate.

But with growing frequency, the winds will be increasing, and that is why we consider November to April to be our off-season and why so few fishermen are out. (It's why all the windsurfers and kiteboarders descend on our area in the winter). Plus, it's getting cooler, and our captains and I wear sweatshirts in the mornings.

However, the dorado are still biting on the days we do fish. Decent-sized 5 to 20-pound fish are the average, with limits or near-limits most days. The fish eat live bait, dead bait, chunked bonito strips, and trolled feathers. They can be found in numerous places, not that far from the beach or shoreline or as close as the rocks and cliffs.

We still have a few billfish hooked and plenty of bonito,

some jack crevalle, snapper, and cabrilla. However, cooler water fish like sierra, pompano, trevally, and rainbow runners are starting to show up in the counts with more frequency. I have even heard that some commercial pangeros hung yellowtail off the south end of Cerralvo Island.

So, warmer-water fishing is transitioning to cooler-water fishing and cooler-water species. We are seeing the last of our fishing groups for the year now that the season is changing, and the holidays are approaching. More snowbirds are coming to town looking for sunshine and not so much interested in being on the water. ... **Jonathan Roldan, Tailhunter International.** 🦋

**TOGETHER BECAUSE...**

continued from page 18

institutions for their support, inspiration and contribution to this 3rd Meeting to strengthen the work of each organization and our collaboration in the Alliance:

- Childhood Cancer International Latam
- Fundación Nuestros Hijos, Chile
- Network for the Rights of Childhood in Mexico RE-DIM
- Center for Psychosocial Studies Applied to Health CENEPAS

We thank the companies that, in addition to RIU, joined the childhood cancer team in Mexico to make this event possible: AMI Los Cabos, National Car Rental, Enterprise Rental Car, Interproteccion, Wild Cabo Tours, and Ola de Ayuda, among other local tourism service providers.

The event concluded on October 6 by announcing Fundacion Castro Limon will host the 4th Encounter to be held in Tijuana in 2023 and agreements were made to strengthen the structure of the Alliance and continue working as a network for the welfare of children with cancer in Mexico. 🦋



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# Michael Movie Moments

BY MICHAEL YOUNG



Parallel Mothers is a terrific film, right up to the last 20 minutes. (2.5 \*)

Oscar Nominations: Leading Actress (Penelope Cruz)

Music – Original Score (Alberto Iglesias)

Parallel Mothers tells the story of two women who give birth on the same day at a hospital in Madrid. Written and directed by Spain’s premier filmmaker, Pedro Almodovar (Talk to Her, Pain and Glory), it contains many of his signature traits including a script full of twists and turns, the color red, and, of course, Penelope Cruz. The story of how the lives of these two mothers come

together are torn apart and then reunite again as changed people, is told with tension and plot twists that turn the film almost into a thriller.

Cruz, one of the world’s most gorgeous women and an accomplished actress, receives her fourth Oscar nomination for her performance as the older of the two mothers. (Nine, Vicky Cristina Barcelona, and Volver were her previous Oscar vehicles). Now in her late 40s Cruz delivers a confident performance that is one of her best yet. Her reactions when she learns shocking information is tightly contained but with displays of powerfully felt emo-

tion. Although presented with unimaginable realizations, her reactions all seem perfect to the situation. Her nomination was well deserved.

The other mother is played by a newcomer to the movie world, Milena Smit. Just 25 years old when the movie was released, she doesn’t have much of a resume yet, but will likely grow into future roles. Playing the younger mother, she is clearly learning much from her older partner, both in the story and on the set.

And so the movie is about these two mothers, their baby daughters, and, to some degree, their own mothers. It is an inter-

esting story that, unfortunately, I can’t tell much of without spoiling some of its pleasures. Let us just say Almodovar weaves a script that has many of the same kinds of twists that we saw in last year’s Pain and Glory. Of that film I wrote “the movie’s dramatic success is found in this text of weaving back and forth between all these different threads...”. His team includes many people who have worked on his films before, including the composer Alberto Iglesias whose nominated score registers the surprises and twists of the plot while remaining politely in the background.

As much as I liked the story of the two mothers and what happens to them, and despite all the good things I said above, I really can’t give this film a positive review. And that’s because Almodovar has chosen to actually do two movies here and they just don’t come together.

One movie is pretty good right up until the last twenty minutes. But the last section of the film properly belongs to an entirely different movie, probably a documentary.

Francisco Franco ruled Spain with an iron fist from 1939 til his death in 1975. He secured his dictatorship ruthlessly by executing and killing as many as 200,000 Spaniards who espoused “Republican values such as regional autonomy, free elections, socialist leanings, and women’s rights.” (Source: Wikipedia). Although he didn’t align directly with Hitler and Mussolini during World War II, he provided indirect support and his fascist leanings were pretty clear. It was only towards the end of his life that he relaxed his hold on the country, reinstating the monarchy and naming Juan Carlos I king. (It was Carlos that moved Spain more into the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**



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**COVID-19 BRINGS CHANGES...**

continued from page 19

as Baja Sur welcomed the first Boys and Girls Club of BCS. BGCBCS continues the important programs and work started by GJC. The after-school programs they offer will grow to reach children from the ages of 6-18. Boys and Girls Clubs of BCS will be only the 12th Mexico location for this international foundation.

The programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club of Baja California Sur are taught by more than 40 active coaches and volunteers. In addition to the programs, that teach nutrition, human development, after-school education, art and sports, these coaches and volunteers also help children improve their social skills, encourage collaboration as a team, offer school advice, teach and guide children and youth through social change projects and much more.

During the closure of schools, they altered their ef-

forts by way of their “Virtual Clubhouse” programming. Starting just a day after the Ministry of Education announced the closing of schools one and a half years ago, the Club promptly redesigned programs, transitioning from face-to-face to online activities. English classes, reading and writing, human development, home gardening, and homework help and tutoring are now offered online.

With your help, they are now providing programs and services in a welcoming, safe and strategically designed new location, the new San Jose del Cabo Youth Center. Virtual programs are still available, but for those many boys and girls who can now actually come to the Center, it is quickly becoming their second home.

A new Board of Directors was recently formed and headed by Renato Mendonca as President. Renato has extensive experience in the hotel industry in different countries, including Chile, Brazil, Australia and Mexico. He has always been

very involved in social projects and has now enthusiastically accepted the challenge of leading the governing body of the Los Cabos Boys and Girls Club of B.C.S.

One of the first actions announced by the new Board was to form an alliance with Casa Hogar Cabo San Lucas. This alliance will be by way of a shared location site within the Los Cabos Community directly adjoining the current Casa Hogar facility. The Boys and Girls Club currently has two active locations in San Jose, and with this new alliance, a third location dedicated to the children of Cabo San Lucas will be built.

Your donation can help BGCBCS and its 40 active volunteers deliver a helping hand to children from ages 8-18 to achieve their dreams, by empowering them with a voice, life skills and the freedom to explore.

U.S., Canadian as well as Mexican TAX DEDUCTIBLE Donations can be made at their website: <https://cnynbcs.org/donate/>.

**Red Autismo**

Red Autismo is a non-profit organization located in Los Cabos, that aims to provide specialized care for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) seeking the development of skills to improve their quality of life and that of their families. Their vision is to become a first-class therapy center providing full intervention to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) forging a culture of awareness and an example of an inclusive society.

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cupational therapy, sensory integration, speech and communication therapy, and cognitive and learning skills therapy. They also offer ongoing training to their therapists to ensure that every child receives the best possible treatments.

INEVI (For its acronym in Spanish, Educational inclusion with a comprehensive vision) began in February of 2015 as an educational project whose objective is to promote a personalized academic program based on an evaluation of the child's development that allows

identifying his or her strengths and weaknesses. Workshops for parents, school counseling and training courses are also offered to improve awareness in the family, school and society.

With your valuable donation, you are giving the children of Los Cabos with ASD a better quality of life! Secure Online Donations can be made at their website: <https://redautismo.org/en/donate/>

Additional contact information: Nicolás Tamaral, 111 Col. Mauricio Castro, San José del **CONTINUED ON PAGE 30**

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**COOKING LIKE A MEXICAN...**

continued from page 20

Glaze  
2 egg yolks  
1 tbsp water  
¼ cup raw sugar  
Instructions

Warm the milk in a small saucepan to around 50°C, add the orange blossom water and sugar and stir until dissolved. Pour the milk into a large bowl, add the yeast and ½ cup of flour. Mix until combined, then set aside in a warm place until the mixture begins to bubble (about 20 minutes).

Add the remaining flour, salt and anise and knead until a dough forms (mix on a medium speed if using an electric mixer). Gradually add the eggs and continue to knead for 5 minutes until smooth. Add the softened butter, a few pieces at a time and knead until fully incorporated. Place the dough into a clean bowl and cover with cling film. Set aside for 11½ hours until doubled in size.

Knock back the dough and

knead for 30 seconds. Pinch off a ball of dough about the size of a tennis ball to use for the decoration. Form the remaining dough into a ball and place on a baking paper lined oven tray. Roll three-quarters of the reserved dough into a long bone shape about 1 cm thick (we do this by separating our fingers while rolling the dough on a counter into a long shape). Cut in half and drape over the dough in a cross pattern. Form the remaining dough into a ball and place in the center of the cross. Cover with a tea towel and set aside in a warm place to proof for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 180°C. For the glaze, combine the egg yolks and water. Brush the glaze all over the dough. Transfer to the oven and bake for 20 minutes until golden and the bread sounds hollow when tapped on the bottom. Remove from the oven and cool on a wire rack. Once cooled, melt some butter and brush your bread, then sprinkle with sugar.

Serve with Mexican hot chocolate.

Note:

Orange blossom water (agua de azahar) is available at some Mexican baker stores, from Middle Eastern food stores and some international delicatessens. If unavailable you can swap it for a little bit of orange zest, very fine and very little making sure you don't get to the white part of the orange peel. Worst case scenario is to simply omit. The bread will still be delicious!

Some modern bakeries put delicious fillings in the bread, such as pastry cream or hazelnut-chocolate cream. Other people prefer to eat this bread just with a hot cup of coffee or chocolate. But it doesn't matter how you like your pan de Muertos as long as you share it with your loved ones, dead or alive.

I am always available and happy to hear from you at [ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com](mailto:ale.borbolla@gringogazette.com)! ✍

**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE...**

continued from page 21

because that is the only way in which we can provide the highest quality services to our customers," Garcia says with pride.

Angie Garcia is available for in-home massages when she is not on the clock at the



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**ALTAR DE MUERTOS...**

continued from page 22

ing spirit.

- Pan de Muerto. Starting in the middle of October, bakeries start to make a very special pastry just for this celebration. Its presentation varies a lot, but in the central parts of Mexico, it's a round bun made with orange blossom-perfumed dough and topped with a crust made with stripes of dough and dough balls that represent a cadaver's skull and limbs. The bun is dusted with white sugar or smeared with butter and sugar. Definitely my favorite element in the altar, I really wait all year round just to get a hold of the delicious pastry

all over the city. Check out the recipe in the Cooking like a Mexican section!

- Water, salt and a spirit. Since the souls make a very long and tiresome journey, they are offered water to quench their thirst and even a shot of Tequila or rum to make their stay more enjoyable. A plate of pure salt is set out to purify the spirit.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 30**



**Los Cabos  
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# Los Cabos Name is Now a Registered Trademark

BY FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ

It was announced late last month by The Los Cabos Tourism Fund, that the words "Los Cabos" are now a registered trademark that cannot be used in advertising and all other mediums and online platforms without permission. With this unprecedented legal maneuver, the LCTF hopes it will help give our Southern Baja California city a better position within the national and international tourism market.

According to information shared by the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI), which is the public body that has the legal authority to administer the industrial property system in our country and protects trademark or patent rights, the name Los Cabos has become a registered trademark, which prevents any and all television, film productions or various other products from using or attaching the Los Cabos name without obtaining permission from the LC Tourism Fund.

Records show that the Los Cabos Hotel Association (AHLC) and the Santander Bank Mexico Group, in their capacity as trustees of the Ir-

revocable Investment, Administration and Payment Source Fund, better known as the Tourism Fund (FITURCA) of Los Cabos, are the two legal representatives that can use the brand as they please.

Rodrigo Esponda, Director of Fiturca, in his explanation as to what benefits The Trust will gain from being a registered trademark, was blurry at best. "Los Cabos is a world tourist reference that has also managed to have more and more international positioning. We see them in European markets, Australia, and South America; every day there is more reference to what the tourist destination can have as an inspirational place to which all experiences can be combined. There is no place like Los Cabos that has sea, desert and mountains."

According to Esponda, turning the name of a tourist center into a registered trademark is a very common practice. "It is a very common practice worldwide that tourist destinations as a brand are registered and that limits many marketing and communication strategies to be carried out by random users."

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A few weeks ago, a Mexican soap opera aroused outrage in the Southern Californian public for not using the name of the tourist destination correctly since it only used the word "Cabo" generating a debate about the correct way to name Los Cabos. Likewise, La Paz citizens were upset that the same soap opera mentioned Baja California and didn't add the word "South" (Baja California Sur), which forced the Ministry of Tourism and Economy (SETUE) to ask the film production to correct the names used on the show.

It almost sounds absurd, demanding a soap opera company correct how they address Cabo/Los Cabos/Cabo San Lucas/Baja California Sur when generations of visitors to our spectacular vacation paradise refer to this place as Cabo. In a 2003 episode of the comedy TV sitcom, "Two and a Half Men," Charlie Harper, played by actor Charlie Sheen, refers to a much-needed getaway to Cabo. The Tourism Trust would possibly demand a correction there too, was it 19 years ago.

"I have been wanting to print and produce a new comic book in Spanish called "El Bombero" (The Fireman) A Los Cabos Superhero," said Aztec of the City comic book

publisher Luis Rodriguez, of San Jose, California. But now, in order to avoid having to get this new "Los Cabos" trademark permission, I think I would just call him a Cabo San Lucas superhero."

And it's my guess that the now defunct Los Cabos Magazine would have to jump through the same trademark permission hoop in order to do the tourist publication business they enjoyed for 25 years. And anyone who isn't aware of this new Los Cabos trademark occurrence will certainly be notified they need to ask permission to use the Los Cabos name in any business venture, marketing, or media campaign by the Los Cabos Tourism Trust. ✍

### ALTAR DE MUERTOS...

continued from page 24

democratic column of national political systems.)

That was a jarring paragraph, right? And you should honestly ask me why I put in a miserable history lesson into a review of a movie about motherhood. That is the same question you're going to ask about this movie. Almodovar didn't just develop a movie about Parallel Mothers. He also had a political axe to grind. Janis, Cruz's character, becomes pregnant after hooking up with a "forensic archeologist" whose work is to uncover the graves of some of those 200,000 disappeared Spaniards so they can be properly memorialized.

I suppose all of that is well and good – people have to work and using jobs to have people meet works pretty well in movies. But the last part of any film is supposed to wrap up the story and give some closure to the tensions developed. In Parallel Mothers, though, the ending becomes the beginning of an entirely different film. From what I've read, Almodovar's intent was that the destruction of so many families during Franco's rise to power was to explain the complex family situation of the two mothers' families. But,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**



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# Skydiving an Extreme Sport? Yes indeed

BY LISSETTE VALENTIN



A Frenchman, Andre Garnerin, jumped from a hot air balloon at the end of the 18th century and that is how skydiving was born. Skydiving became important for armies and air forces around the world. Pilots would jump out of a plane and land safely if something went wrong, and soldiers were dropped off in war zones, often behind enemy lines. Skydivers are also used to fight disasters like bushfires.

On the more fun side of the sport, competitions are held regularly. Events include

landing close to a target and performing acrobatic movements in the air, as well as flying in formation which requires a group of parachutists to perform figures while in free fall.

A skydiver must always check their gear to see if everything is in order. They always carry a backup parachute just in case the main chute does not open. Steering lines are attached to a backpack so parachutists can control their direction.

Before you jump alone you

normally do tandem jumps with an instructor or an experienced jumper. Through such jumps, you get used to free fall, wind directions and how to steer. Skydivers must also learn a lot of theory. Wind speed and other weather elements are important.

Airplanes climb to an altitude of 7,000 to 15,000 feet (2000 to 4,600 meters) before the jumpers exit. Skydiving requires excellent weather. Jumping in rainy weather or during strong winds can be very dangerous.

About two decades ago or so skydiving became mainstream and everyone started trying it out as a hobby or to become a tandem master or instructor.

Our little town wasn't going to be the exception. Fourteen years ago, we welcomed the first skydiving company called Skydive El Sol operated by a Mexican guy from the mainland and a couple of gringos as tandem masters. Five years ago, it changed ownership and was renamed Cabo Skydive. It is now run by three guys, a Mexican owner Julio and former pilot of Aeromexico Airlines, an Italian named Lucas and an Argentinian named Emiliano as tandem masters.

Lucas told me: "No one should miss the opportunity to skydive over one of the most beautiful drop zones in the



## How To Dial Toll Free #'s

Mexico blocks toll free calls to the United States, which is frustrating to us, as most of our banks, credit card companies, and large businesses only provide us with toll free numbers. But we have a work around.

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Best to talk fast because these numbers are not toll free. And yeah, we know any business that deals in toll frees doesn't have a live person answering the phone, so good luck with making it a speedy call.

world." He was referring to the famous Baja's Land's End.

Cabo Skydive uses a little Cessna 182 plane that flies over the super scenic CSL bay up to 12000 ft. It depends on the desired free fall duration which can last anywhere between 35 to 40 seconds for the first and 20 to 25 for the second. Once you book your appointment, they will meet you at their office, drive you to the private airport, take off and after a few minutes reach the desired altitude. You will be attached to your tandem master and make your exit over the iconic Arch usually landing on Medano beach next to Tabasco Restaurant between the Villa group complex and Club Cascadas. Landing over Lovers Beach is another option and can be requested.

Their prices range from 260 USD to 190 USD. All gear is included. Be aware that there are some restrictions such as weight and health conditions and a release waiver must be signed. Skydiving is still considered an extreme sport and it takes a lot of courage but in return, you get an unforgettable adrenaline kick. That was my experience after each jump. Nothing compares to the thrill of speeding up to 130 miles or 210 km per hour. Free falling is extremely exhilarating. The sensation of feeling like a bird for a few seconds is just sublime but let me tell you. The

hardest part is always exiting the plane. After that everything is amazing.

If you are the brave and adventurous type, please visit <http://caboskydive.com.mx> or their FB Page to find out more details about this unique activity. I promise you won't regret it. Wishing you all clear skies! 🌩

## ALTAR DE MUERTOS...

continued from page 27

maybe it takes being a Spaniard to get the connection, but I don't see it. The last 20 minutes of the film concentrate on digging up ten skeletons of men who were killed by Franco from Janis's home village. While interesting, it has nothing to do with the story of the two mothers, and its inclusion is just as jarring as my paragraph about Franco.

I understand that there is a tragic, and mostly untold, history left behind by Franco's regime. But it isn't the tale being told in this film. Parallel Mothers is, mostly, a terrific story and told well, but Almodovar took the beginning of an entirely different movie and tacked it on to the end of this one, ruining the movie and adding an unnecessary twenty minutes. While I really liked his Pain and Glory, I can only give this film 2.5\*.

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# The World's Aquarium

BY PEDRO BENITEZ

The Gulf of California is considered one of the most diverse seas on the planet. Jacques Cousteau once called it the world's aquarium and it is home to endangered and protected species such as a variety of whales, rays and sharks. Also referred to as the Sea of Cortez, this area is famous for having some of the highest surface nutrient concentrations of any ocean in the world and it is known to provide asylum to several creatures who use its waters for migration, foraging, reproduction and pupping.

One of the many organisms found in this generous body of water is the shark which has been around since the early Jurassic period – some 425 million years ago! While these animals still inspire fear in

many people due to their bad representation in literature and movies, sharks get to move nutrients in the oceans and stop diseases from spreading. Sadly, they are the ones being preyed on. It is estimated that the total population of oceanic sharks (and rays) has dropped by 70% over the past half-century.

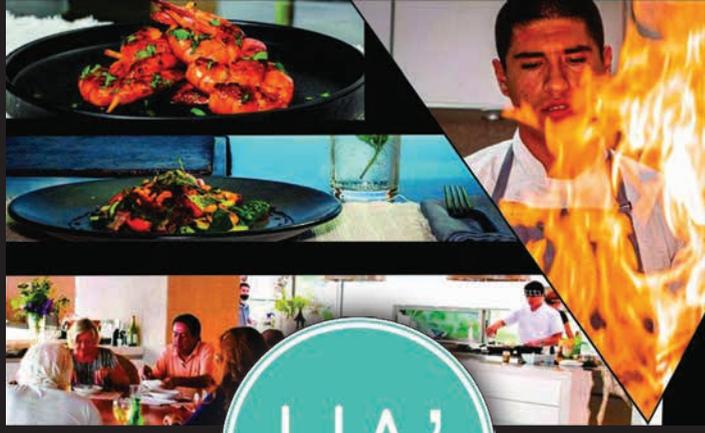
In 1991, South Africa was the first country ever to protect a shark species. Other nations followed in subsequent years, including the United States in 2000 and the European Union in 2003.

Today, a non-profit organization dedicated to the research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Gulf of California, "Shark Research Mexico" is doing its part in this country. The project is led

by Dr. Darren Whitehead, a Ph.D. in Marine Biology from the "Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas", affiliated with the "Instituto Politécnico Nacional". He has been working for the past 15 years in the field, monitoring whale shark populations in more than seven countries, forging links between the scientific community and tourism providers to promote sustainable practices for whale shark-related tourism. Darren has also been directly involved in mediating between management authorities and the local community who now depend on these species as an economic alternative.

Dr. Whitehead shares all of this knowledge with his students and volunteers from around the globe through his Internship Program, which helps support the dreams and goals of younger biologists trying to pave their own way in the world of shark research. During the apprenticeship,

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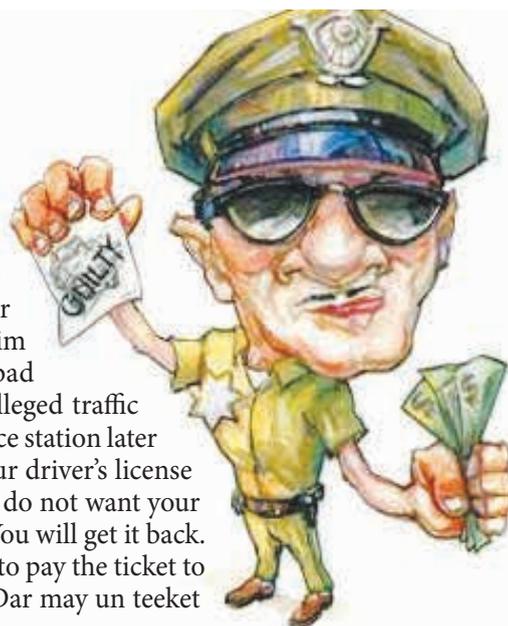
## What To Do If You're Stopped By The Police

We recently got a report from a local Gringo who was walking back home and a police cruiser stopped him and took money from him to let him go. That's extortion anywhere, and there are bad hombres anywhere. If you are stopped for an alleged traffic violation, ask for a ticket and go down to the police station later on or the next day, and pay it. They will take your driver's license to ensure that you show up, and that's OK. They do not want your license, and there's nothing they can do with it. You will get it back. And no, do not give them money if they ask you to pay the ticket to them right there. Just keep asking for a ticket, "Dar may un teeket por favor." Be polite and firm.

If they get nasty, write down their last name from their name badge, or pull out your cell phone and take a photo of him, her, or them. That's like holding a mirror up to a vampire, and they will jump in their vehicle and scurry away like cockroaches when you turn on the light.

It's extremely rare for them to write a ticket, and for sure they will not cite you when you haven't done anything wrong. And, if you have broken a law, the ticket is ridiculously small. Man up and fo down and pay it.

This police extortion would stop in a week if everyone would grow a back bone and stand up to them. 🦅



students have the opportunity to take part in various projects where they learn to track sharks, do diet and nutritional analyses to understand their health, habitat sampling, photo identification techniques, monitor and tagging of sharks, biopsy and blood sampling techniques and many other activities.

In an interview with Darren, he said that they believe constant scientific research, paired with education, is the key driver to inspire long-term change and commitment to sustain an abundant and vibrant marine environment.

*"Through these tools, we strive to inspire, engage and empower future marine and environmental biologists, as well as the community, to make positive steps to generate healthier oceans now, and in the future. The vision of the organization is to preserve sharks through science, education, and conservation action and to inspire people to value nature and our world's oceans."*

If you want to help this

true whale shark specialist and enthusiast, please visit their website at [www.sharkresearch-mexico.com](http://www.sharkresearch-mexico.com) and click on the "Support Us" button. There are multiple ways we can all get involved with this outstanding project. Donations are the typical request, yet not the only option out there. Logistical support – lending a boat, gasoline, paying for flights -- is one alternative. Outreach and public awareness – helping them spread their message by gaining more followers on social media, and writing blogs and articles about their work, is also a very helpful choice. Additionally, having experience writing grants or raising funds through *Kickstarter* and/or *Gofundme*, is another important way in which "Shark Research Mexico" can continue to do this magnificent job. Every little donation goes a long way!

We wish Dr. Whitehead success in educating as well as protecting these astonishing yet defenseless sea creatures. 🦅



COVID-19 BRINGS CHANGES... continued from page 25

Cabo, BCS, México, or info@redautismo.org. Their phone number is. (624) 120 6328

Sarahuaro

What began in 2005 as simple classes in life skills and artisanal work grew into a life-changing program for women impacted by poverty. Sarahuaro programs have brought a new sense of self-worth to hundreds of women. Families, and thus the entire community, have benefited from the mother's heightened awareness of her own capabilities, preparation for meeting the extreme challenges of poverty and exposure to opportunities never before recognized.

The 2013 edition of La Cocina De Los Niños (The Children's Kitchen) expanded its reach by feeding children while they were in school. Hungry kids simply don't do well in school. Sarahuaro has provided hundreds of thousands of meals to children who would otherwise go hungry. It is their highest and utmost priority to feed impoverished children of the barrios. But Sarahuaro also recognizes that a mother has a lasting effect on her child and believes that educating a

woman will change her, thus breaking the extreme cultural norms binding mother and child to poverty.

There are many ways to help and they would welcome a visit so that you can see, first-hand, the difference your donation is making. Some of their current needs and ways to donate can be found on their website: https://sarahuaro.org/

Additional Contact information:

Fundación Sarahuaro Nuestra Señora de Chiriyáqui Mza. 10W - Lote 1 Col. Progreso, Mesa Colorado

Cabo san Lucas, B.C.S. 23477

director@sarahuaro.org +52 624 124 6313

These are just a few of the many great worthwhile organizations in need of our help both by way of volunteering and/or donations, financial or in kind. If you don't see one that fits your needs, ask a friend. We are sure you will find one that fits your desires. Whichever Charity you choose, being socially responsible is not only the right thing to do, but it also has a great impact on your own life, along with the lives of others who are less fortunate.

When a community comes together, great things can and



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do happen! Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. Life is like a boomerang... Givers get! Be your donation financial or your time. As Robert Ingersoll said: "We rise by lifting others." Let's all work together to raise our community to new heights and make this the biggest and best "giving" season ever. "Give until it feels good!" Don't allow the COVID-19 Grinch to steal your Christmas spirit. My advice is to give more than you think you should. ✍

ALTAR DE MUERTOS... continued from page 26

- Sugar skulls and papel picado. A splash of color is added to the altar with sugar skulls and papel picado — tissue paper flags with intricate designs cut into them. Although nowadays the skulls can be made of amaranth or chocolate, the traditional ones are made of white sugar, decorated with tinted frosting, and have a name written on their

forehead. The tissue paper flags come in many different colors and the carved-out images of skeletons are present on every altar.

A few traditional things to keep in mind are that The Day of the Dead altars for the children are set on the eve of October 31st with hoary stock and baby's breath flowers; their white color symbolizes the purity of the children's souls. Children's souls are treated with sweet tamales, hot choco-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

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**ALTAR DE MUERTOS...**

continued from page 30

late, atole (corn based hot drink), fruits, candies and toys. Every element in the altar must be suitable for children. On the eve of November first, the children elements on the altar are removed; it is time to honor the adults. Cempasuchil and other Day of the Dead flowers are added to the altar together with spicy tamales, alcoholic drinks and cigarettes.

Arches represent the passage between the underworld and the living world, usually decorated with flowers, sometimes fruit.

Some other elements:

Wind -- represented with chiseled paper, very thin and

colorful paper with designs cut into it, which flows freely when the wind blows.

Water -- to quench the thirst after the spirit's long trip.

Fire -- represented with candles, to illuminate the deceased's way, arranged in the shape of a cross representing the cardinal points for orientation, and for religious imagery purposes.

Earth -- represented with seeds and fruits.

Scents -- Copal was considered a sacred essence in pre-hispanic culture. It's a must in altars. Other scents come from cempasúchil flowers and herb infusions like laurel, thyme and rosemary.

Religious symbols -- These must be on the top levels, which are crosses, saint figu-

rines, virgins and angels.

Ash cross -- This is for when the spirit arrives, where he or she can throw pending guilt.

Dyed Sawdust Carpets -- Elaborate, hand-designed patterns of colorful sawdust will sometimes line the entryway of the altar, serving as a path for the dead. These colorful, patterned carpets of dyed wood shavings called tapetes de aserín (sawdust carpets) can span the length of a block in some elaborate cases and take a dedicated team of a dozen or more people the afternoon to create. The tradition arrived in the New World with the Spanish conquistadors, and today is still upheld in Mexico and Central America, especially for the Day of the Dead celebrations in Central Mexico.

Salt -- This is in case the person never got baptized. It is to purify the soul.

Dog -- Aztecs believe that a small dog serves as a guide and companion for the dead.

Some kind of dish with water and a towel must be placed so the deceased can wash up for the party, and some chairs and a petate (Mexican bedroll made from palm leaves) must be placed for the soul to rest a little bit!

An honorific mention to the Catrina, she was not Latin America's first grand lady of the afterlife. This honor belongs to Mictecacíhuatl – the queen of the Aztec underworld of Chicunamictlan. Her role was to watch over the bones of the dead, and her presence was front and center during any recognition of those who had passed on. And where had those souls passed to? The belief amongst the Mesoamericans was that the dead makes a journey that descends nine levels to the depths of Chicunamictlan. The ancients' view of death was not a mournful one. They saw it as a part of the cycle of life and celebrated the departed by leaving offerings on makeshift altars, or ofrendas, that would assist them in their onward trials. Which is why we still make them today!

The ingredients of the modern image of La Catrina were drawn together as recently as 1910 by the Mexican illustrator Jose Guadalupe Posada. Posada, who was born in Mexico in 1852, would create cartoonish lithographs and engravings to satirically illustrate political and societal issues; his work was frequently published in the Mexican press.

What drew these illustrations together and made Posada's fame particularly distinctive was the sketches' central motif: Posada's figures, regardless of occupation, class or status, were represented with skulls for faces. These skull caricatures, or calaveras, would depict anything from national tragedies to current events and figures, to historical inci-

dents and literary characters. Posada's sketches were sometimes prophetic-apocalyptic, such as that published in 1899 depicting a volcanic eruption. The foreground was scattered with a chaotic funerary scene of calaveras – including one rising from a grave. The reduction of every person to bones, no matter of time, place, class or deed gave Posada's images a homogenizing quality, the apparent message being 'underneath, we are all the same.'

Posada's original sketch of La Calavera Catrina was made around 1910. It was designed to be a satire referencing the high-society European obsessions of leader Porfirio Diaz, whose corruption led to the Mexican Revolution of 1911, and the toppling of his regime. The original name of the sketch reflected this cultural appropriation adopted by certain members of Mexican society: La Calavera Garbancera, with some sources referring to the latter word as slang for a woman who renounces her Mexican culture and adopts European aesthetics. The later christening would also come from slang, with the word 'catrin' or 'catrina' often used to refer to a well-dressed man or woman, or 'dandy'.

The image was later turned into a mural in Mexico City by Diego Rivera, which pictured a central La Catrina in an ostentatious full-length gown linking arms with Posada himself – and also Rivera's wife, the artist Frida Kahlo. The mural – Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda Central – became a cultural treasure and further amplified La Catrina's image in the national consciousness. ✍

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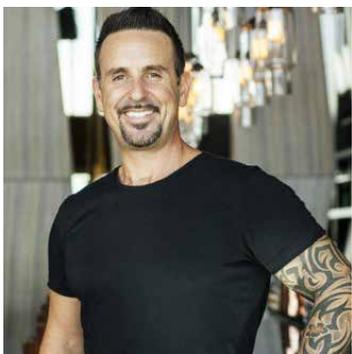
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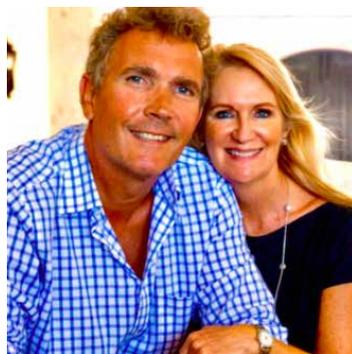
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