

Manzanillo

Sun

March 2014

Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine

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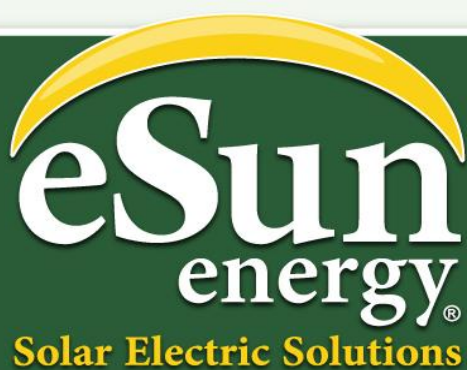
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Carnaval Manzanillo
2014

Photo by
Sr. Steve Carano



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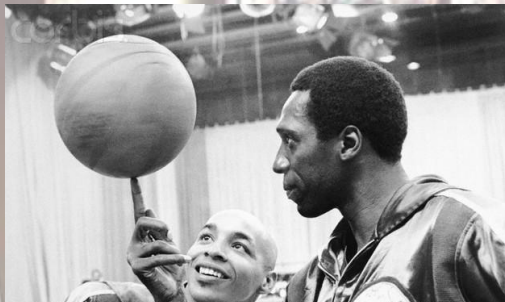
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Just for FUN!

Quizzes and Puzzles from the past.

WHO (or what) is THIS?

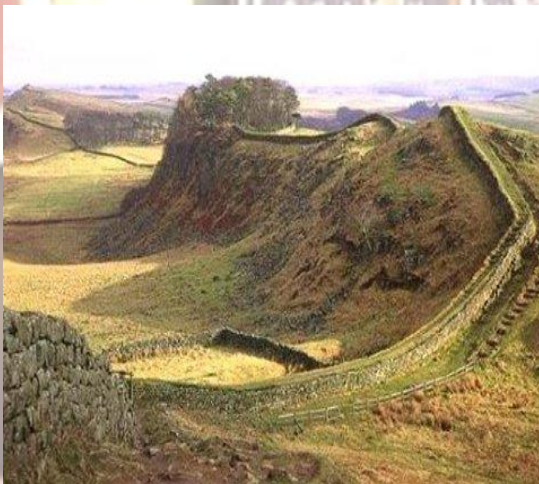
1.)



Need a hint?

Maybe more famous than Michael Jordan, started in 1955, and has played 17,000 games and still playing today. Played for kings, queens, popes, and presidents in over a hundred countries.

2.)



This World Heritage Site is 117.5 km (73.0 mi) long

3.)

4.)

5.)



Three parts: 3.) name the actress
4.) the guest stars as a group
5.) and the TV show.

1970's Trivia

1. What was the top grossing film of 1970?
2. What national environmental celebration was first held on March 21, 1970?
3. In April 1970, President Nixon signed a bill that banned advertising of this product on television.
4. This popular vacation destination opened in October 1971.
5. What James Bond movie made the top of the charts in 1971?
6. John Lennon had the top song of 1971. What was it?
7. This television show about a Depression-era farming family in Virginia debuted in September 1972.
8. This team trounced the Miami Dolphins in the 1972 Superbowl.
9. The 1972 Academy Award for Best Picture went to this American crime film.
10. What horse took the Triple Crown of horseracing in 1973?
11. The first American space station was launched in May 1973. What was it called?
12. The first punk rock single - Hey Joe - was released in 1974. Who was the artist?
13. This woman won Wimbledon in 1975
14. What late night comedy show premiered on NBC in 1975?
15. 1975's "Record of the Year" was this Olivia Newton-John hit.
16. This Georgia peanut farmer was elected president of the U.S. in Nov. 1976.
17. These two airlines scheduled the first commercial supersonic transport (SST) flights in 1976.
18. This American League team won the 1977 World Series, defeating the L.A. Dodgers.
19. Two of the most watched films of the century were released in 1977. What were they?
20. The first portable stereo is introduced by Sony in 1978. What was it called?
21. The Eagles had the "Record of the Year" in 1978. What was it?
22. In May 1979, this woman became the new Prime Minister of Great Britain.
23. What group released the first commercial hit of the Rap genre in 1979? What was the song?
24. This 1979 show about a NYC cab company launched Toni Danza's career and won the Emmy for Best Comedy.

Hope it wasn't too easy.... not much fun in that :-)

Next month...more quiz!



by Tommy Clarkson
*photos by Nathan Peach

Philodendron, *philodendros*

Family: Araceae

Also known as: (*Dependent upon species, a diverse array of names are used.*)

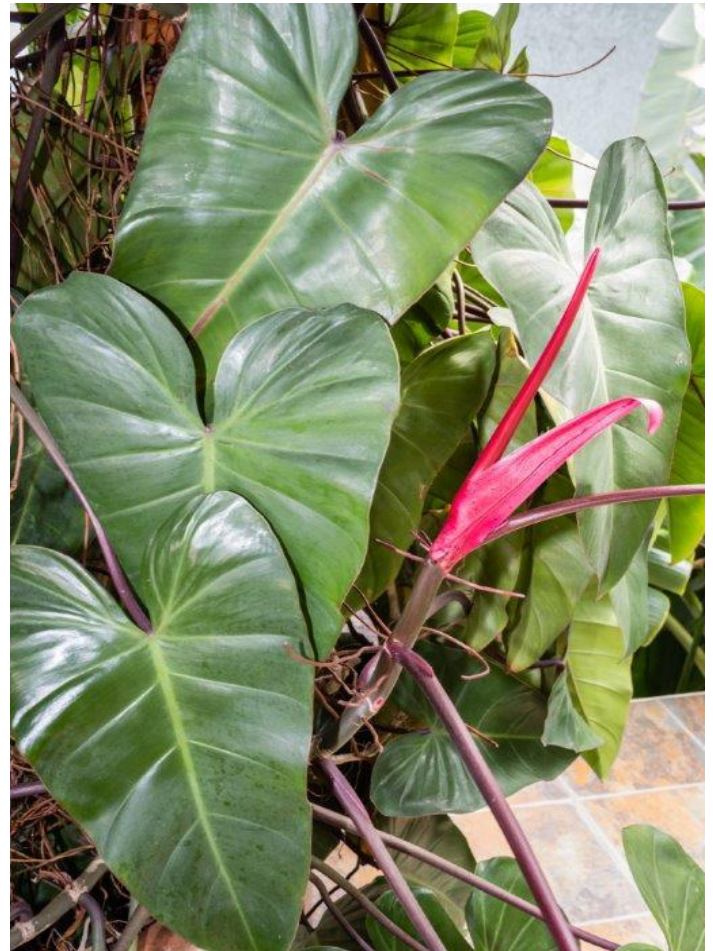
Native to the West Indies and the tropical rain forests of Central and South America, Philodendrons are a large family of approximately 900 species. As some of the most beautiful foliage plants in the plant kingdom, they are characterized by distinctive spathe-and-spadix blooms. Their botanical name comes from the Greek *philos* (loving) and *dendron* (tree).

In “the wild”, typically, they climb tree trunks, obtaining moisture and nutrients from the bark while “tamed” it is regularly used in landscape plantings. Ola Brisa Gardens has several varieties (three of which are shown here). In temperate regions, it is employed as a houseplant and often effectively used in interior office, lobby or shopping mall landscape plantings. However, Philodendrons rarely flower indoors.

There are two basic types of philodendrons: the climbing varieties and the self-heading (non-climbing). In their natural environment, some species grow into massive, “tree-swallowing” specimens. But rest assured, indoors they aren't so aggressive . . . though in New Jersey I might vaguely recall hearing of an apartment that mysteriously disappeared beneath a massive onslaught of greenery!!!!!!!

Let's discuss several key aspects of successfully growing these beauties:

- As to solar inclinations – keep them out of the direct sun as they prefer dappled, bright light, just as one might find under a tropical, lightly shaded, canopy. (Varieties with velvety leaves are even less tolerant of bright light, requiring both higher humidity and warmth.)



P. erubescens 'Red Emerald' – on our Sunrise Terrace - has red stems and dark green leaves with red veins below

- Philodendrons like loose, rich, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter that effectively uses compost. They will grow in 100% sphagnum peat moss and I am considering trying them in 100% ground coconut husk (coir).
- Moisture-wise, keep the soil in which they are growing moist at all times and if you've little natural humidity, mist frequently during the growing season. (If able to do so, push aerial roots into the soil on the climbing varieties.)
- Regarding temperature, they are rather flexible but, generally speaking, they do not wish to be below 60 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Fertilizer? Considered heavy feeders, a regular feeding program with a nitrogen fertilizer will produce a larger, healthier plant with increased leaf size. Slow-release pellets might be used in the beginning of the growing season or, as an option, weekly liquid fertilizer at half strength



P. bipinnatifidum 'Xanadu' – on our Double Terrace - is a lovely compact hybrid

rather than one strong dose. Plants growing in low-light conditions will require less fertilization. Remember that fertilizer should be applied to soil which is already moist in order to avoid injury to plant roots.

- Pests/Diseases – infrequently mites or scale could be a problem but generally not so.
- And lastly, use some manner of stick, post or other support for the climbing varieties.

How about propagation? It is quite easy to do so with the climbing philodendrons from stem, tip and leaf bud cuttings, placed in a glass of water. Rooting stimulant/hormone will enhance your chances of success. The self-heading Philodendron species sometimes send out plantlets. These can be potted once they are larger.

And what of re-potting? Some varieties are extremely fast-growing – particularly the climbers. Simply, pinch off the new growth in order to keep the plant manageable, repotting as needed. Remember, some self-heading varieties – such as *P. selloum* and *P. bipinnatifidum* can grow quite large (8 feet tall, with 2-3 foot leaves) specimens, so be mindful of the fact that you will need an appropriate amount of room.

If you've got pets that tend to gnaw on things they should not, be aware that – like several tropical plants – Philodendrons have a moderate toxicity derived from insoluble crystals of calcium oxalate called raphites.



P. bipinnatifidum, The Tree Philodendron – on our Vista Terrace - has deeply cut, green to dark green leaves up to three feet in length

Chewing on any parts of these plants releases these crystals which penetrate tissue and may well result in injury.

In an article about growing Philodendrons, Jon VanZile cites six varieties he recommends, as follows:

- *P. scandens* - A popular climber called the sweetheart plant, having sometimes variegated heart-shaped leaves, it is one of the most dependable and toughest of all houseplants.
- *P. erubescens* - A vigorous climber with reddish stems and leaves.
- *P. melanochrysum* - A stunning climber with dark, velvety leaves powdered in bronze.
- *P. Rojo* - A self-heading hybrid that stays small and manageable but retains its vigor.
- *P. selloum* - Large, self-heading plant with deeply lobed leaves. Sometimes called Lacy Tree Philodendron
- *P. bipinnatifidum* - Large, self-heading plant with half-lobed leaves. Sometimes called Tree Philodendron.

(Oh, by the way, just to relieve the worriers, there really wasn't an apartment in New Jersey that vanished beneath the greenery of Philodendron leaves!)

For back issues of "Roots", gardening tips, tropical plant book reviews and videos of numerous, highly unique eco/adventure/nature tours, as well as memorable "Ultimate Experiences" such as Tropical Garden Brunches and Spa Services, visit www.olabrisagardens.com.

*photos taken by Nathan Peach



Local Flavor Tours

Suzanne A. Marshall

VIVEPLANTS – Orchids & Exotics

Another Manzanigos Local Flavor Tour was enjoyed by twenty plus people, deftly organized by Crystal and Doug Winger. Commencing at the 'Viveplants' location (a few kilometers north of Manzanillo) around 9:30 in the morning, we were all treated to an exceptionally informative tour of the entire operation and of course unending views of amazing orchids.

The tour was led by MSC. Fidel Maza Selvas, Director General/CEO and Dr./ PhD. Ernesto Aguirre Leon, Director de Investigacion y Desarrollo (R&D). We were all very impressed with the details and expertise that these two gentlemen walked us through. I will never view an orchid in the same way again since I now know how much time and care must be given to producing these amazing flowers



The tour group is flanked by Fidel on the right & Dr. Ernesto on the left. Apologies Dr. Ernesto, you didn't quite fit into the photo that was taken

It all began about 12 years ago, following a search up and down the Mexican east coast looking for the most perfect climate for producing orchids. Other important considerations also included water supply, property requirements and available personnel. Eventually the Manzanillo area was selected and the property (25 acres) was purchased and government funded donations were received to assist with the project and specifically for the needed greenhouses. With the expertise of Fidel being an agricultural engineer who has also studied in Japan, Hawaii, Mexico and the Netherlands, the business is now flourishing.



Beautiful 'JADE' orchids with a distinctly green tinge.

In the first of several huge greenhouses, Dr. Ernesto explained the germination process required for growing the orchids. The seeds shown to us were like individual spores (similar to dandelion fluff) and samples of germination taking place through various stages were demonstrated in sterile jars so that we could understand the delicate and sterile process required for germination and planting (see photo). This process takes between 1 to 1.5 years. The very first orchids ready for cutting will have been maturing for up to 4 years. Thus one begins to understand the higher prices paid for orchids. It is a long-term investment. Consider the fact that long-stem roses are ready for cutting and shipping in six weeks.

A few more interesting facts are:

- There are 1,200 orchid species growing in Mexico
- Brazil produces 5,000 species
- Worldwide there are estimates of 25,000 species and 70,000 hybrids.
- 1 hectare can produce 50,000 plants

The business of shipping and distributing orchids is no less interesting than the growing. Viveplants employs about 50 people. It is a very competitive business considering the Asian producers and the extremely cheap labor in Asian countries. Consistency of price, supply, and quality guarantee are critical for sustained growth. Part of this philosophy means that the best blooms/plants are shipped first. Other plants may be downgraded or composted.



The germinating orchids in the above jar were started eight months ago.

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Viveplants has demonstrated customer satisfaction with a growth rate of 40% in the past year or two. Employing both ground and air delivery they are responding to inquiries from Canada and U.S.A. which began in 2010 as well as the local market which ships all over Mexico.

Fidel then led us to the sorting and shipping areas which are very modern, clean and busy as many young women sort, snip and package the flowers for shipping.

For the better part of two and a half hours, the group of Manzanigos never lost interest and was greatly impressed by Fidel and Ernesto. The care and passion that must be necessary to produce these beautiful orchids became very obvious as the tour progressed. I think one could honestly label this a 'labor of love'. And how tranquil it was, touring the sunny acres of blooms in the countryside enjoying the fresh air, learning something new and once again struck by the marvel of nature and the world we all share.



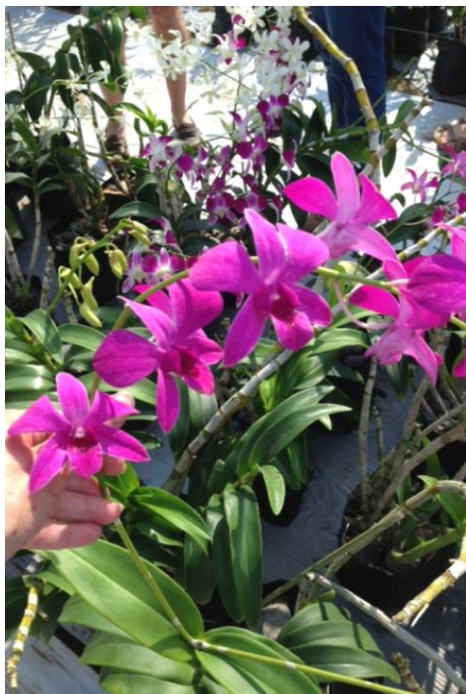
Sorting orchids for color and size



Once sized and sorted, orchids are packaged in small packets containing materials with nutrients and water for their journey. They can travel many days without problems.



Orchids in special containers designed for safe shipping to international destinations



The gorgeous Magenta orchid



Acres of greenhouse orchids flourish in a pristine environment

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ANCIENT AZTEC CELEBRATION OF THE AZTEC NEW YEAR

The Aztec New Year arrives in Springtime rather than the beginning of the Western Year and is determined each year by the ancient Aztec calendar. Generally, the New Year occurs at sunrise somewhere around the 12th March and is celebrated in outlying Nahuatl villages. At that time pine candles (ocote) are lit along with fireworks, accompanied by drums and the singing of songs in the Nahuatl language. This year there will be traditional Nahuatl festivities celebrated at the Cruise Terminal, downtown Manzanillo with traditional dancing by the young people of San Pedrito

Planned is a delicious pre-Hispanic four course menu with nonalcoholic beverages plus a spectacular show of the dances and rituals corresponding to each month of the year as depicted by all of the 18 month symbols of the Aztec Calendar.

Become acquainted with the ancient culture, the significance and importance of the Aztec Calendar in both a cultural and a social happy event.

Dates and times of events

Friday, March 14th at the Cruise Ship Terminal in Manzanillo Gala Dinner celebration. There will be a fashion show starting at 18.45 hs. Dinner served at 20.00 hs

Saturday, March 15th at 12.00 noon will see the ceremony of lighting the new fire in our ecological park in "Natura Camp" up in the mountains of Ejido Francisco Villa, on the road to Minatitlán at Km. 6.5

Sunday, March 16th at 18.30 , we will have a full moon ritual at the Lagoon Valle de las Garzas

Tickets are 500 pesos per person and may be obtained from Elizabeth Torres, (Anthropological Research Institute) at "Condominios Roca del Mar" in Las Brisas. (Elizabeth will deliver tickets) Tickets cover the holders for all events.

Elizabeth Torres email: tezcaxx1@yahoo.com

This is an excellent opportunity to see the ancient rites and celebrations of the Nahuatl people.



monkey's

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Begonias - Part I

(No Common Name) (*Begonia deliciosa* - Found in Borneo, named in 1851)

Kidney Begonia (*Begonia dichotoma* - Found in Venezuela/Colombia, named in 1790)

Family: *Begoniaceae*

These species are but two of 1,500, worldwide, which comprise the Begonia family but are a couple growing in Ola Brisa Gardens that I enjoy.

From the outset, allow me to observe that data on certain species of *Begonia* is scarce, sparse and scant. Of my scores of books on tropical plants, I have but one wholly dedicated to Begonias and neither of these species are included in it! Accordingly, the ensuing information is an amalgam of data, facts and information gleaned from an array of personal experiences and diversity of publications, periodicals and postings!

Civilization has been aware of the *Begonia* genus for some time. In the 14th century, Chinese writings described a plant which has since been identified as *B. grandis* Dryander. Prior to 1577, Father Francisco Hernandez discovered another species - *B. gracilis* - in Mexico; And, and in 1690 a Franciscan Monk, named Charles Plumier, discovered six different species in the West Indies. It was he who then named the genus after Michel Begon - the French governor of Haiti - who was a "patron of botany".

So . . . what of these two plants? Well, in a short article in the American Begonia Society newsletter, Tamsin Boardman noted that some "Begonias are edible, a fact that appalls some of us and appeals to others. (But) whether you want to munch on it or not, there are good reasons to grow *B. deliciosa* (as) it's a treat for the eyes, too."



With leaves of up to ten inches long and six inches across, spotted with silver and fragrant light pink flowers, *Begonia deliciosa* is a beauty.

I am not aware of any outright, poisonous Begonias. In fact during the Second World War the British ate their Begonias when food was scarce! But, before racing to your gardens with a fork and salad plant in hand, other secondary sources state that not all constitute fare for your table as, purportedly, only six or so out of 1,500 species are outright edible.

With all of this in mind, I undertook to personally "field examine" the *B. deliciosa* which was discovered by Jean Linden in the steamy environs of Borneo nearly a century and a half ago and has been said to be edible.

Now, prior to researching and writing this piece, I had not yet taken this particular culinary plunge. However, understanding that the leaves of the *deliciosa* were - supposedly - "Sweet, yet tart" or, as described by Patrick J. Worley in the American Begonia Newsletter, "(being) sweet sour in taste, very pleasant and refreshing (and) should be good with a vinaigrette dressing in a mixed salad bowl."

As those who know me are aware, I take my duties as a student of tropical plants somewhat seriously. Before stating or writing anything as fact, I strive to utilize primary data that I have personally observed and then support it through numerous secondary sources. Hence, I marched straight to my *deliciosa* plant, looked it straight in its – well, e’rrr – bushy face, as it were, plucked a leaf complete with stem, washed it and strove to verify its edibility.

Post mastication, this experience gives rise to citing the title lyrics of Gershwin’s great song from “Porgy and Bess” – “It ain’t necessarily so!” To my palate, the only word from Worley’s description that rang true was “sour”. So, I might recommend – as regards your next salad – that you not cancel the order for lettuce!

However, as noted earlier, if not to the sense of taste, at least to that of sight, this delightful, nearly four foot tall, Begonia is still a winner what with its cleft leaves – of up to ten inches long and six inches across - spotted with silver and fragrant light pink flowers.

What then of the *B. dichotoma*?

My neighbor and good friend John Cory – of Manzanillo’s Juanito’s Restaurant renown – had one growing behind his establishment that I have coveted every time Patty and I stopped by for one of his great breakfasts or lunches. Ultimately, I was able to secure a specimen without succumbing to purloining one of his!

Its rather leathery in texture, roundish leaves - seven inches wide by eight inches long - are of a color reminiscent of “military olive drab meets a light Kelly green”. They are perched atop twelve inch, rather stiff stems and seem to prefer an equal amalgam of sun and shade. Bottom line – it is an attractive plant!

I highly recommend either of these for inclusion in your gardens.

Tommy Clarkson - Ola Brisa Gardens

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I've read during the Second World War the British ate their begonias when food was scarce!



***Begonia dichotoma* with roundish leaves of a leathery texture are of a color reminiscent of “military olive drab meets a light Kelly green”**



Aztec Mythology?

By Kirby Vickery

On taking up the reins of government Montezuma had married this lady to one of his most illustrious servants, the governor of Tlatelulco, and after his death it would appear that she continued to exercise his almost vice regal functions and to reside in his palace. In course of time she died, and her obsequies were attended by the emperor in person, accompanied by the greatest personages of his court and kingdom. The body was interred in a subterranean vault of his own palace, in close proximity to the royal baths, which stood in a sequestered part of the extensive grounds surrounding the royal residence. The entrance to the vault was secured by a stone slab of moderate weight, and when the numerous ceremonies prescribed for the interment of a royal personage had been completed the emperor and his suite retired.

The following is taken from The Abbé Brasseur de Bourbourg as translated from the Codex Chimalpopoca, a work in Nahuatl dating from the latter part of the sixteenth century. One of the weirdest legends in Mexican tradition recounts how Papantzin, the sister of Montezuma II, returned from her tomb to prophesy to her royal brother concerning his doom and the fall of his empire at the hands of the Spaniards.

At daylight next morning one of the royal children, a little girl of some six years of age, having gone into the garden to seek her governess, espied the Princess Papan standing near the baths. The princess, who was her aunt, called to her, and requested her to bring her governess to her. The child did as she was bid, but her governess, thinking that imagination had played her a trick, paid little attention to what she said. As the child persisted in her statement, the governess at last followed her into the garden, where she saw Papan sitting on one of the steps of the baths. The sight of the supposed dead princess filled the woman with such terror that she fell down in a swoon. The child then went to her mother's apartment, and detailed to her what had happened. She at once proceeded to the baths with two of her attendants, and at sight of Papan was also seized with affright. But the princess reassured her, and asked to be allowed to accompany her to her apartments, and that the entire affair should for the present be kept absolutely secret. Later in the day she sent for Tīcōtzicatzin, her majordomo, and

requested him to inform the emperor that she desired to speak with him immediately on matters of the greatest importance. The man, terrified, begged to be excused from the mission, and Papan then gave orders that her uncle Nezahualpilli, King of Tezcuco, should be communicated with. That monarch, on receiving her request that he should come to her, hastened to the palace. The princess begged him to see the emperor without loss of time and to entreat him to come to her at once. Montezuma heard his story with surprise mingled with doubt. Hastening to his sister, he cried as he approached her: "Is it indeed you, my sister, or some evil demon who has taken your likeness?" "It is I indeed, your Majesty," she replied. Montezuma and the exalted personages who accompanied him then seated themselves, and a hush of expectation fell upon all as they were addressed by the princess in the following words:

"Listen attentively to what I am about to relate to you. You have seen me dead, buried, and now behold me alive again. By the authority of our ancestors, my brother, I am returned from the dwellings of the dead to prophesy to you certain things of prime importance.

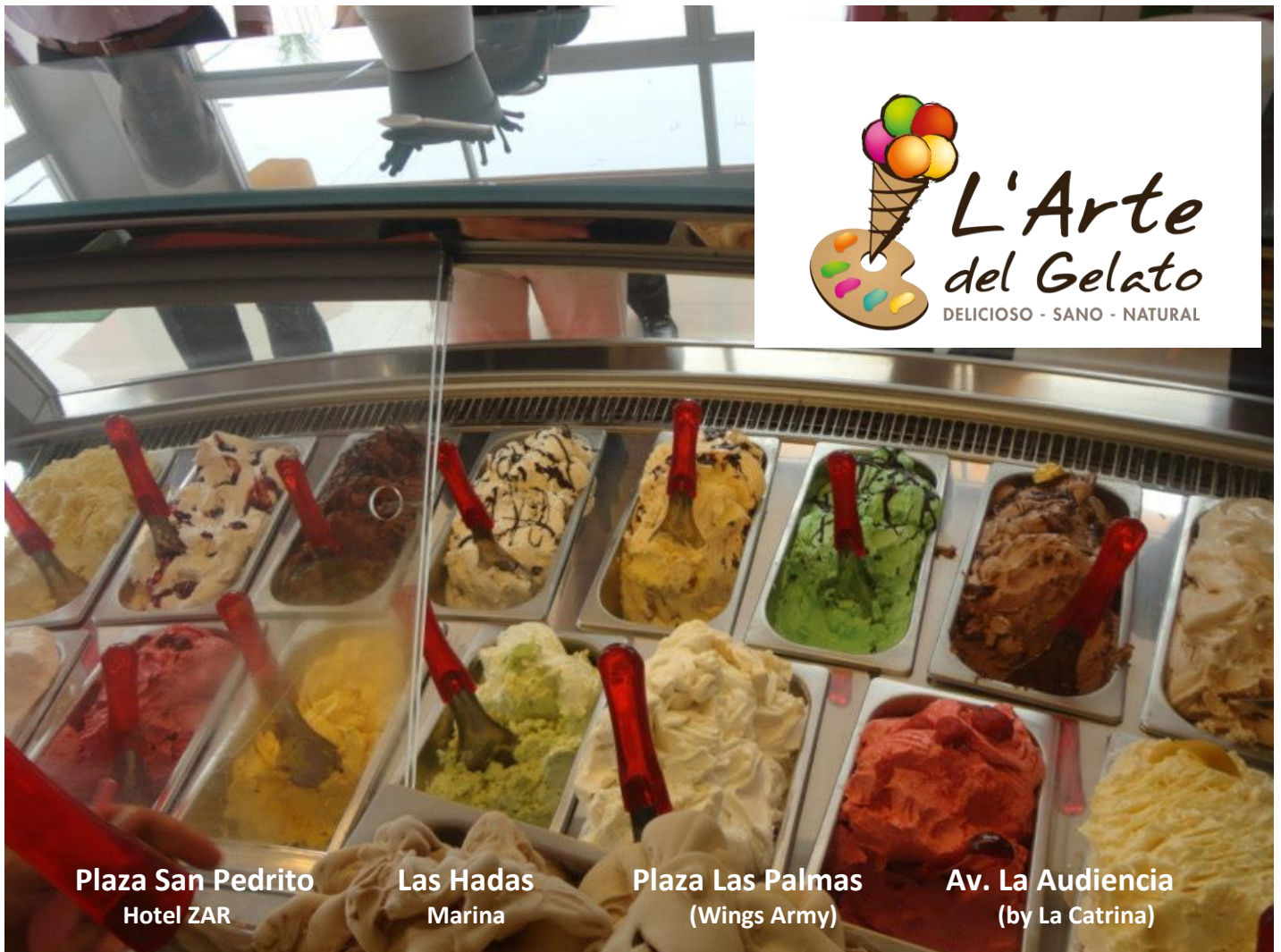
"At the moment after death I found myself in a spacious valley, which appeared to have neither commencement nor end, and was surrounded by lofty mountains. Near the middle I came upon a road with many branching paths. By the side of the valley there flowed a river of considerable size, the waters of which ran with a loud noise. By the borders of this I saw a young man clothed in a long robe, fastened with a diamond, and shining like the sun, his visage bright as a star. On his forehead was a sign in the figure of a cross. He had wings, the feathers of which gave forth the most wonderful and glowing reflections and colours. His eyes were as emeralds, and his glance was modest. He was fair, of beautiful aspect and imposing presence. He took me by the hand and said: 'Come hither. It is not yet time for you to cross the river. You possess the love of God, which is greater than you know or can comprehend.' He then conducted me through the valley, where I espied many heads and bones of dead men. I then beheld a number of black folk, horned, and with the feet of deer. They were engaged in building a house, which was nearly completed

Turning toward the east for a space, I beheld on the waters of the river a vast number of ships manned by a great host of men dressed differently from ourselves. Their eyes were of a clear grey, their complexions ruddy, they carried banners and ensigns in their hands and wore helmets on their heads. They called themselves 'Sons of the Sun.' The youth who conducted me and caused me to see all these things said that it was not yet the will of the gods that I should cross the river, but that I was to be reserved to behold the future with my own eyes, and to enjoy the benefits of the faith which these strangers brought with them; that the bones I beheld on the plain were those of my countrymen who had died in ignorance of that faith, and had consequently suffered great torments; that the house being built by the black folk

was an edifice prepared for those who would fall in battle with the seafaring strangers whom I had seen; and that I was destined to return to my compatriots to tell them of the true faith, and to announce to them what I had seen that they might profit thereby."

Montezuma hearkened to these matters in silence, and felt greatly troubled. He left his sister's presence without a word, and, regaining his own apartments, plunged into melancholy thoughts.

Papantzin's resurrection is one of the best authenticated incidents in Mexican history, and it is a curious fact that on the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadores one of the first persons to embrace Christianity and receive baptism at their hands was the Princess Papan.



Plaza San Pedrito
Hotel ZAR

Las Hadas
Marina

Plaza Las Palmas
(Wings Army)

Av. La Audiencia
(by La Catrina)

Mujeres Amigas Newsletter

Happy March, Ladies,

The winter season is quickly flying by and many of our friends are planning to leave for their northern homes. Our luncheon this month will be held on Wednesday, March 5th. Be at Oasis at 12:30 to socialize and pay for your lunch. The luncheon will begin at 1:00. Your lunch is 100 pesos and includes the tip. Your drinks are extra and do not include a tip. Your choices for lunch are -
Chicken Piccata - chicken breast with a lemon and caper sauce, served with pasta
Coconut Fish - coconut and panko crusted fish, mashed potatoes, coconut and cilantro sauce.

Please respond by Tuesday at 2:00, March 4th, **ONLY TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

mujeresamigaslunches@gmail.com.

This address will be used only for the lunch choice and count. Please list your choice(s) of food and number attending. All other information for the newsletter will continue to go to mujeresamigaszo@yahoo.com.

If you want something else to eat, please contact Oasis at 334-8822 or oasisoceanclub@yahoo.com

Canela Michelle Meyers will be the speaker at the luncheon and will talk on contentment. Canela will have a few of her books available for purchase at 240 pesos or \$20 Canadian.

Please remember if you are going to sell tickets for an event at the luncheon, contact Oasis so they can have a table set up for your use.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Word has been received that the Friends of PATA will now be called Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare. The name was changed to accurately reflect what the organization does in assisting animal welfare programs in Mexico. Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare will continue to be a 501(c)3 organization. A new website is coming soon.

Last month there was a request for a hot/cold water dispenser for the Ancianos. I am happy to report that a hot/cold water dispenser is now up and running in their home.

A big thank you to the donor.

A request was received to ask if someone would be willing to teach a group of beginners Mahjong. It may be a little late in the season to start the lessons but if anyone is willing to take on the task now or next season, please respond to mujeresamigaszo@yahoo.com

PATA will be holding its March sterilization clinic the end of the month. If you want to volunteer or donate old towels and sheets for the clinic contact Stan at stan@patamanzanillo.org or any PATA member.

A message has been received from Nancy Nystrom to pass the word that the "Up With People" or Viva La Gente" group will be in Manzanillo the end of March. The group will arrive March 23rd and will be in Manzanillo for one week doing service work in the community, working with young people in the Universities. The group will also perform two shows later in the month. (See below)

Three members of the advance team have arrived to work with Casa Hogar Angelitos, the city of Manzanillo and state youth directors to make the event a success. There is one young man and two girls (from the US, Belgium and Mexico) in the advance group. A safe place with internet access is needed for them to stay. Either together or separate. If anyone has a room, apartment or other accommodations to donate for one, two or all three, please contact Nancy at nysfeed@comcast.net If you would like to know more about Up With People/Viva La Gente you can go to www.upwithpeople.org or www.vivalagente.org

MARCH HAPPENINGS

Saturday, March 1st – The Tall Boys will be performing at Oasis. If you haven't made your reservation, call now to see if there is space.

Tuesday, March 4th – PATA Poker Tournament/Art Show/Silent Auction will be held at Oasis Beach Club. Be there at 7:00 p.m. for the 500 peso registration/buy in. For further information contact Chantel Oleksin at chanteloleksin@yahoo.ca or June Silva at suntangram@gmail.com There is still time to register.

Mujeres Amigas Newsletter cont..

Monday, March 10th – The Rainbow Boutique will host their last event of the season from 3:00p.m. - 7:00p.m. Come join Fran Morfin and Cathy for cocktails and fun. A 20% discount will be given on purchases. Directions to Rainbow Boutique: Take the road directly across from the Vida del Mar office. Go up the hill to the cupola. Park in the back driveway and enter by the black gate. RSVP 136-1216 or 917-612-2894

Cultural Activities to celebrate the Mexican New Year are the following three activities.

The cost for the any or all of the activities is \$500 pesos

Friday, March 14th – Gala Dinner celebration will be held at the Cruise Terminal in centro Manzanillo with parking at the Dancing Fountains. Be there at 6:45p.m. for a fashion show with prehispanic symbols from Codex Borgia Vatican Museum and enjoy a four course dinner at 8:00p.m.; An orchestra will be available for dancing until 11:00p.m. Cost 500 pesos Non alcoholic beverages will be provided. Tickets will be for sale at the luncheon.

Saturday March 15th - at 12.00 will be the lighting ceremony of the new fire in Natura Camp up in the mountains of Ejido Francisco Villa on the road to Minatitlan Km. 6.5 (temazcal sweat lodge optional)

Sunday March 16th – at 6:30 p.m. will be a full moon ritual at the Laguna Valle de la Garzas. .

For more information on the above three dates contact Dra. Elizabeth Torres at 335-4719 or e-mail at tezcaxx1@yahoo.com

Monday, March 17th – Benito Juarez's birthday, Natalicio de Benito Juarez commemorates President Benito Juarez's birthday on March 21, 1806. This is a Statutory Holiday.

Tuesday, March 18th – Anniversary of the Oil Expropriation, Aniversario de la Expropiacion petrolera celebrates the Oil Expropriation by President Gral. Lazaro Cardenas in 1938.

Thursday, March 27th – Bellas Artes del Pacifico will present "Gypsy Extravaganza de Budapest" at the Salon Marbella at 8:00p.m. Come enjoy the music, dancing and

singing of Hungary with world great violinist Gyula Horvath. Tickets are 300 pesos each and will be sold at the luncheon. You can also purchase tickets at Juanitos or Salon Marbella.

Thursday to Monday, March 27th -31st the PATA Manzanillo Sterilization Clinic will be held at the Casa Ejidal Salagua. Contact Stan at stan@patamanzanillo.org to volunteer or to donate sheets and towels.

Friday, March 28th – Up With People/Viva La Gente concert will be held at the Auditorium Bonilla Valle. VIP tickets are 350 pesos each. These are prime viewing chair seats. There will only by 350 VIP tickets available. Contact Nancy Nystrom for tickets and more information nysfeed@comcast.net There may be tickets for sale at the luncheon.

Saturday, March 29th - Up With People/Viva La Gente concert will be held at the Auditorium Bonilla Valle. VIP tickets are 350 pesos each. These are prime viewing chair seats. There will only by 350 VIP tickets available. Contact Nancy Nystrom for tickets and more information nysfeed@comcast.net There may be tickets for sale at the luncheon.



Returning from Mexico with a Mexican Cat

Freda Vickery

A couple or so years ago I remember there being pandemonium amongst the foreign population as all of a sudden without any prior notification as is their wont, the Mexican Government decided that no more pets could be flown in Mexican airspace. Many visitors who had been bringing their pet with them when coming to Manzanillo for several months were caught completely unawares. They were horrified to find that at the beginning or even middle of the journey (for either direction), their pet was not allowed to be taken on board their flight as expected. Although paid for travel either in cabin or in the pressurized hold, the airline could no longer transport them.

Some people in midst of their flight had to reroute or make other plans on the spot. Many pets then became "Service" animals, regardless of size or type. Even a Chihuahua or cat, all of a sudden, was promoted to being 'necessary' for the mental health of their human! That was the only leeway available.

This was a matter of extreme urgency and airlines were forced to make immediate steps to rectify this situation with the Mexican government. Already in a state of flux because of enormous rises in the price of gas, the airlines were suffering desperately. If all of the pet owners decided to either not visit Mexico, or to drive instead, that could mean major losses in revenue. The pet owners had been paying \$100 for each pet and now that service was not available to them!

Several years have now passed and I was requested this past February by my son, Ian, who had been babysitting my Siamese cat for over a year, to please claim him and take him back to Canada or the USA with me. Remembering the difficulties of pet owners and not being cognizant of the eventual outcome, I went into a state of mental shock as I worried as to what on earth I was going to have to go through to affect this transference of a native Mexican cat to the harsh rigors of the Pacific North West. Let alone have him in a cage in an unfriendly and noisy hold with no sun basking for more than a day! With Ian, he had been allowed to come and go at will with a door open at all times. Cuddling up to his "Mummy", a male golden retriever named Jasper, at night or siesta time, he hardly even knew the humans who were about to claim him as theirs.



Previously, having mentioned plaintively that I would really love to have a little dog, I was delighted when my husband agreed that a small dog, which did not have tendency to yap, would be perfectly alright. I should perhaps mention that he was already owned by a Tuxedo feline by the name of Blossom. She is queen of cats.

Down to WAIF on Whidbey Island we went to see what little dogs were requiring a home. They did not have any dogs that were suitable although we both were very drawn to a Rottweiler-Pit-bull cross who just knew that we had come for him. Heavy hearted we turned away and were then directed to the "cattery" where many cats mewed instantly upon seeing their perhaps "forever people".



Again we were drawn to the most unsuitable animal for people who lived in the confines of an RV, a three legged cat. I have related this story previously and readers by now know that we ended up with a different Tuxedo cat, an unfriendly young miss whom we named "Sunny". That is definitely not her nature however and we had been seriously considering returning her as she was not happy in her existence with us.

Now we were being asked to add Ming to the family. We really already knew about this but had hoped it would not happen. We would be living in the near future in a capsule, approximately 12 feet wide by 33 feet long. Two people and three cats!!!! Help! There is absolutely no possibility of swinging even the smallest of the cats.

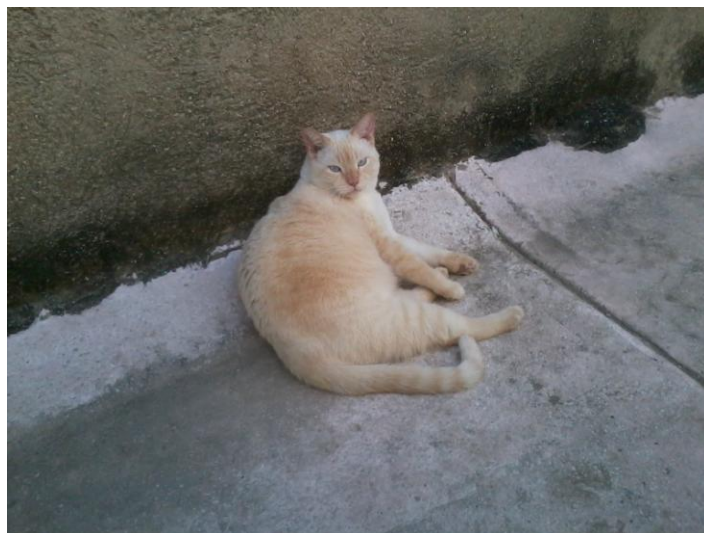
But to get back to the problem closest at hand which was to bring the 'moggy' (*British slang: Cat*) back to the United States. Firstly, we had to buy a specified size crate and then arrange to have the medical files to prove all vaccinations and health were copasetic. Naturally the day we chose to do all of this was one of Mexico's holidays.

No vets were available but fortunately we managed to halt Dr. Alexander in his tracks. He could do the examination, but the letter concerning vaccinations had to be given by Dr. Gaby, tomorrow!! In the mean time I bought and paid for Ming's transportation via Alaska Airlines, deciding that as he most definitely would not fit into a 7" high crate he had to go below!!

Hooray – he passed the test. He was fit and able to travel. Did he like his temporary home? No! He talked to us incessantly complaining that he could not get out and just what was this?

On Wednesday we left for the airport. Ming still yelling and us relieved that he was going in the hold where our neighboring passengers would not be assailed by his constant wails! He has always been the most talkative cat. We had to be there a little earlier as was stated by Alaska Airlines but in Manzanillo it was really not necessary so long as all papers were in order.

Now you may ask. What about all of the problems with the transporting part? Worry no more! All has been rescinded and pets have been relieved of being service animals, they can now travel. What I did not mention earlier and should have done, is to tell you of the wonderful advice given me by June Evans. She travels all






the time with her little companion, "Buddy". As we had to go back to Seattle via LAX airport, she said I should request wheelchair service. I have come to bless that advice heartily. It was absolutely incredible. The young man fairly galloped down passages and back ways through the airport avoiding crowds and endless queues everywhere, with my husband desperately trying and managing somehow to keep up. I would never have made the flight if I had had to walk that distance. In case you are wondering, I am in somewhat delicate health and although I will never admit it to anyone, would probably have collapsed en route to the required terminal. This young man was worth penny of the \$18 (all that we had) that we tipped him.

However, we all made it through the long flight. Ming is now residing on Whidbey Island and his first day out of the RV was last week when the sun peeked out of the clouds for a few minutes. He didn't find his way back that night and I was almost panic stricken that he would freeze to death. However after nearly 36 hours he showed back up at the door asking to come in and apart from wanting to sleep almost instantly, seemed none the worse for wear.

He has mixed in well with the neighboring cats. Blossom mostly ignores him and Sunny, our problem child, has almost turned over a new leaf in her insistence that she was here first and should be petted and given treats when she returns from her own outings. I have to add here that we had been afraid to let her out for over six months, fearing that she would take off and not find her way home. Ming has changed all that. All three sleep on the bed with us. We now have the three of them sitting on the bed waiting for one or other of us to make the fifth member of the party before we all settle down and cuddle up for the night.

Will I ever get my little dog? It seems most unlikely as our feline population does seem to fit in very well with our current mode of living. In the future? Who knows! But he or she will most certainly be put in their place by the pussy cats.



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Leave home without it.... Senior Techie

This month I had some interesting events occur on the internet. First I tried to pay our impuesto predial (property taxes on our Manzanillo Condo) online at <http://www.manzanillo.gob.mx>. I put in all the information from the assessment sheet and sure enough, there was my condo and taxes owing. I went to the pay page, chose Mastercard as the method of payment and entered the information requested and clicked on the submit payment button. The message on the next page informed me that my bank had refused the transaction. I should have stopped here. I re-entered the information and tried again.

Same response. I printed the different pages out and called MasterCard. I was informed that the transactions were there and they obviously had not been refused. I asked the service agent to cancel the transactions because I had proof that the charges should not have occurred because the site still showed my owing the full amount. She told me to call back after the weekend when the transactions were posted to my account.

On the Monday I called and was told that since I actually did not pay the taxes, I would have to go to a payment centre and pay the full amount so that I have a proof of payment. Which I did. When I called back, I was now told that I could dispute the charges. They would email me the forms, but I would have to return the forms by mail. Once they received the documentation the merchant (in this case The City of Manzanillo) had 45 days to respond to the dispute. If the merchant disagrees, then the process starts all over. I am thinking to myself, this is a pretty good scam considering the credit card company whose business is based on charging interest for purchases is charging interest on these bogus transactions for the waiting period.

The documentation I sent clearly shows that the charges showed were refused and did not go to the City of Manzanillo. I told the service representative that this should be treated as fraudulent charges, but he insisted that they had to follow procedure. In the interim I am out two years of taxes.

The other issue I experienced was with ETN, the bus company. Señorantotechie and I were planning a trip to Guadalajara to attend our annual Condo meeting.



The busses are clean and very comfortable and have in seat entertainment and Wi-Fi service while on the bus. And the senior (60+) cost for two return tickets is 920 pesos which is just about 200 pesos more than just the tolls. But I digress, every time I tried to complete the online transactions with Visa, MasterCard, and Señorantotechie's Visa card. The message came back that our banks had rejected the charges, even after we verified our identities with the bank anti-fraud protection. I called both Visa and MasterCard and they confirmed there were no charges or rejection notifications. However when we were at the bus depot, the credit card charges went through without any problem.

At this time, I think that the Mexican Banks are refusing to accept foreign credit cards as a means to curtail fraudulent internet charges. So my recommendation is to avoid the hassles and get a Mexican Credit Card if you want to be sure that you can pay online, or pay in person.

We have friends that are still out over \$1,200.00, dollars not pesos. They tried to pay their impuesto predial last year. They had to pay the full amount again and are still waiting for a resolution.

Next month I promise to write a positive article and tech tips.

(Graphics courtesy "Credit Card Padlock" by vectorolie. <http://www.freedigitalphotos.net>)

AT THE MOVIES

by Suzanne A. Marshall

THE BOOK THIEF (LADRONA DE LIBROS)

Director: Brian Percival

Starring: Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson


“While subject to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. Under the stairs in her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents.”

This was a lovely movie. Though the story takes place towards the end of WWII, it’s not about the battle. It allows us into the daily lives of every day Germans trying to cope with with the choices and consequences of it’s leadership while the allied forces creep ever closer to end the war. The art direction is fabulous as is the sound track. The actors are no less accomplished but I found myself quite spellbound by the natural beauty of the young actress Sophie Nelisse and her ability to draw you into her world through her eyes.

It has been nominated for an Oscar for the original music score by John Williams (also nominated for a Golden Globe) as well as numerous other international award entities for Sophie Nelisse as a break-through performance and Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson for their supporting roles.

IMDB is rating this film at 7.7/10 based on 18,000 votes. I easily agree with this.



<p>B&B Between Books</p>  <p>Libros / Internet / Cultura / Arte / Cafe</p>	<p>Cappuccinos Espresso Cafe Americano Pastries Used Books-(English & Spanish)</p>
<p>Avenida Independencia 27, Col. Santiago 314-336-9263 (across from Saturday Market)</p>	

THE WOLF OF WALL STREET

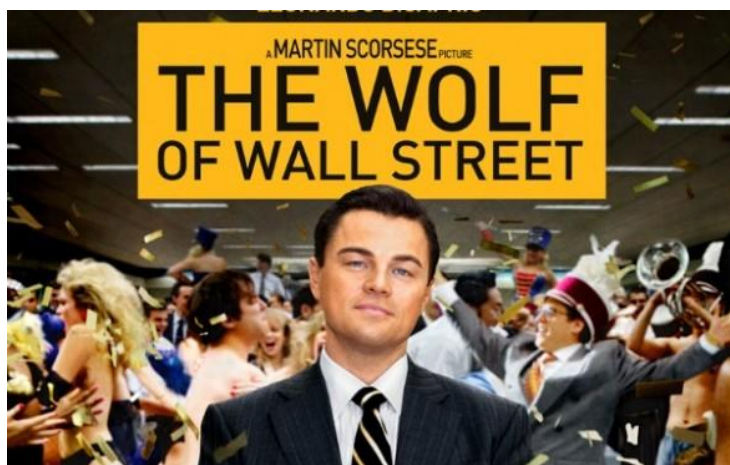
Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Leonardo DeCaprio, Jonah Hill, Margot Robbie, Matthew McConaughey

“In the Wolf of Wallstreet, DiCaprio plays Belfort, a Long Island penny stockbroker who served 36 months in prison for defrauding investors in a massive 1990s security scam that involved widespread corruption on Wall Street and in the corporate banking world, including shoe designer Steve Madden.”

A battle rages on about this movie regarding its content and how much filth and bad behaviour an audience can accept be it a true story or not. Is there a lesson to be learned by it? Some believe that it is the best ‘anti-Wall Street’ movie ever made. I say who cares! While all of the artistic, production and acting skills are undoubtedly the best (an expectation from Scorsese) I had trouble staying in my seat until the end of the movie caused by the abusive barrage of bad language, immoral messaging, behaviour, nudity, sexual conduct and pure unadulterated disregard for any kind of human decency. Its all about making money no matter the cost on any level. When I left the theatre I felt emotionally raped and disappointed that such trash could be up on the screen. Believe me, I’m no prude and I’m no saint but this is just the opinion of a retired senior who likes to go to the movies to be entertained, not made nauseous.

IMDB rates this movie at 8.5/10 based on 233,000 votes. So you be the judge. But be warned it’s pretty nasty and you’ll need a shower asap when you leave. Sorry, I can’t walk the middle on this one. I’d never watch it again.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS MANZANILLO

MARCH

Regular monthly events

MUJERES AMIGAS LUNCHEONS

1st Wednesday of each month

Contact: Candy King candyking7@gmail.com

BRING TICKETS TO SELL FOR VARIOUS EVENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

MANZAMIGOS – THIRSTY THURSDAYS

Each Thursday - 6:00pm – New Each Week!

Contact: Linda Breun at manzamigos@gmail.com

AA MEETINGS

Twice a week in Santiago

Calle Reforma #14 Altos, Santiago

10:00 am Tuesdays & Fridays

Contact Benny 333-3043 bennymcc05@gmail.com

Gil 334-7936

CHURCH SERVICES IN ENGLISH (NON-
DENOMINATIONAL)

Church of Hope

English service 10:30 a.m.. - Spanish 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Lee Gonzales for both.

Located next to Juanitos in Santiago.

Contact: lee@hopefan.net 314-336-4627

or cell 044-314-102-5293

warrenjean_scheifele@yahoo.com

English Ecumenical Worship Service

Starting January 5, 2014 10:00 a.m.

Vida del Mar – adjacent to L'Recife pool

Contact: Don & Peg Carstensen dpcarst@msn.com

314-335-0109

March 4 – Tuesday

PATA POKER TOURNAMENT / ART SHOW / SILENT
AUCTION

Where: Oasis Beach Club

Time: 7:00 pm

Cost: 500 pesos registration/buy in

Contact: Chantel Oleksin chanteloleksin@yahoo.ca

June Silva suntangram@gmail.com

Silent auction, art exhibit, raffle – custom designed quilt
made by Chris Newbold

March 14 to 16 inclusive

Celebration of the Mexican New Year will take place at the
Cruise Terminal downtown Manzanillo. parking at the
Dancing Fountains.

Festivities as follows:

March 14 – Friday Gala Ball, Dinner and Fashion Show
for Aztec New Year

March 15 – Saturday at 12.30 p.m. ceremony of lighting
the new fire in our ecological park in new Natura Camp at
Ejifdo Franciso Villa on road to Minatitlan. KM 6.5

March 16 – Sunday 6.30 we will have a full moon ritual
at the Lagoon Valle de las Garzas

Tickets are 350 pesos per person and cover the holder
for all events.

Call Elizabeth Torres at Roca del Mar or through email:

tezcaxx1@yahoo.com

(ED: See article this magazine)

March 27-31 – Thursday to Monday

PATA MANZANILLO STERILIZATION CLINIC

Where: Casa Ejidal Salagua

Time:

Contact: Stan stan@patamanzanillo.org

Volunteers needed.

Notice on event in stage of finalization:

The International group "UP WITH PEOPLE" in Mexico
called "VIVA LA GENTE!"

This group of dynamic young people coming from over
20 nations will consist of a cast of 100. They will arrive the
23rd of March and be in Manzanillo for one week doing
service work in the community, working with young
people in the Universities, and throughout Manzanillo.
On Friday March 28th and Saturday March 29th they will
perform a spectacular show at the big auditorium Bonilla
Valle. This group has performed at super bowls, at the
Vatican in Rome and throughout the world...they are
a world class group! .

VIP tickets are \$350 pesos each and they will be in a prime
position for view with chairs for more comfort rather
than the concrete bleachers. There will only be 350 VIP
tickets available for each night. The proceeds from these
tickets will be a benefit for Casa Hogar Los Angelitos. But,
the greatest benefit will be for the youth and community of
Manzanillo and for those people who are part of the audience!

For tickets: Nancy Nystrom nysfeed@comcast.net



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Walmart • Blvd. Miguel de la Madrid km 11.5 | Local 10

Soriana • Blvd. Miguel de la Madrid esquina Gaviotas

Central Camionera • Calle Océano Pacífico s/n | Local 10

Las Conchas - Restaurant Beach Club:

Malecón Playa Miramar 16

Viernes y Sábado

28 y 29 de Marzo, 2014 • 8pm

Auditorio Manuel Bonilla Valle

Blvd. Miguel de la Madrid 550

Col. Valle de las Garzas

Manzanillo, Colima

MEXICO CP 28200

Para más información, envíe un correo a
Giselle Kuri: gkuri@upwithpeople.org

www.vivalagente.org



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EDITORIAL
EL NOTICERO



VIAJES INTEGRALES



Avoid the Probate Process With a Living Trust

by Yann Kostic

Your will is one way to plan for the distribution of your assets on your death. But it's only one tool in your estate-planning kit, and many people establish a revocable living trust as well as a will.

A revocable living trust establishes a legal entity with the power to hold title to assets. The trust agreement lists the assets held in the trust, the individual with the power to manage and distribute those assets (the trustee), and the individuals entitled to benefit from those assets (the beneficiaries).

It allows you the flexibility of making changes during your life as circumstances change. And, depending on state or province law, you may be able to act as trustee and receive income from the trust as a beneficiary during your life.

The advantage of a revocable living trust is that whereas a will must go through the probate process, a revocable living trust typically avoids this and the pitfalls usually associated with it.

Because the trust is unlikely to be subject to the probate process, distributions in accordance with the terms of the trust will not be delayed and can occur as soon as practicable after your death.

As well, relatives unhappy with the situation will find it difficult to challenge the provisions of the trust and will be forced to bring litigation against the trustee.

Furthermore, since it will pass outside the probate process, the trust agreement is more likely to remain confidential and will not be subject to public scrutiny.

A revocable living trust is not for everyone, however. Establishing one requires the services of an estate planning professional. There can be federal and state tax or provincial fees implications, depending on how the trust is structured.

As a result, individuals considering using a revocable living trust as part of their estate plan should consult their advisor and an attorney specializing in estate planning for advice and assistance.

Yann Kostic is a Financial Advisor (RIA) and Money Manager with Atlantis Wealth Management, specializing in retirees (or soon to be), self-reliant women and Expats in Mexico. Yann works with TD Ameritrade Institutional (the custodian). He splits his time between Florida and Jalisco & Colima in Mexico. Comments, questions or to request his Newsletter "News You Can Use". Contact him at Yannk@AtlantisWealth.com, in Mexico: (376) 106-1613 or in the US: (321) 574-1529.

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(Wing's Army)

AV. LA AUDIENCIA
by La Catrina



NEWS from other sources

The Fideicomiso will continue. An amendment to Article 27 of the Mexican Constitution has been Rejected

By John K. Glaab, CIPS

In May of 2013, the Mexican Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) approved legislation which would have amended the Mexican Constitution to permit foreigners to purchase property outright in Mexico's Restricted Zone which is 100 kilometers from the borders of the United States, Belize and Guatemala and 50 kilometers from the coastlines of Mexico. Effectively this would have meant doing away with the Mexican bank trust, known as the *fideicomiso*.

This initiative has been rejected, according to a report from the Secretary of Government. (SEGOB) Rejection of the proposed amendment is the result of not continuing with the amendment procedure within the time frame permitted under Article 89 number 2. Section III of the Rules of the Chamber of Deputies.

The result is that foreigners purchasing property in the Restricted Zone must continue to obtain titles using the bank trust system, the *fideicomiso*, initiated in 1972.

About the author:

John Glaab is Vice President of International Marketing at Mexico's The Settlement Company® A Certified International Property Specialist (CIPS) he was named International Member of the year, 2012 by the National Association of Realtors® (NAR)

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Making Sense of Life

By: Tommy Clarkson

These days, it often seems difficult to make sense of life, with much of what comprises it almost overwhelming us.. But, perhaps, we are remiss in failing to focus on the basic beauties of our existence – all the simple things on which we should more often ably apply and employ our human senses.

With that in mind, let's pause to briefly ponder what our lives would be if we could no longer experience such as these and from such consideration take a greater appreciation of our every breath and moment of being.

Imagine if no more we could savor . . .

SMELLS, like the . . .

- . . . sweet, heady and near intoxicating scent of lilacs on a spring morning.
- . . . salt musky, damp and slightly dank of an ocean waterfront.
- . . . amalgam of mouth watering scents filling a east coast deli.
- . . . acrid, pungency of a Buddhist incense smoke filled shrine.
- . . . bacon frying and mingling with the wafting aroma of freshly ground and brewed coffee.
- . . . well worked and worn horse's leather saddle and tack.
- . . . fresh from the oven, home-made, apple pie.
- . . . *(My Love's short, still naturally, dark hair at 67.)*

SOUNDS, like the . . .

- . . . relaxing, rushing splash of a mountain stream or cadenced crashing ocean waves on an open, pristine and unfettered beach.
- . . . chattering chirps of a Sparrow, a Robin's song at dawn, melodic whistle of an Oriole, jeering complaint of a perturbed Blue Jay or coarse cry of a common, country Crow.
- . . . burbling delight of a baby's first chortle.
- . . . rustling rhythm of palm fronds brushed by a gentle tropical breeze.
- . . . silence of a rural Kansas pasture broken only by a mournful moo of a cow and distant call of a Meadow Lark.
- . . . *(hearty laugh, from deep within, of my love, sharing mirth with me.)*



TASTES, like a . . .

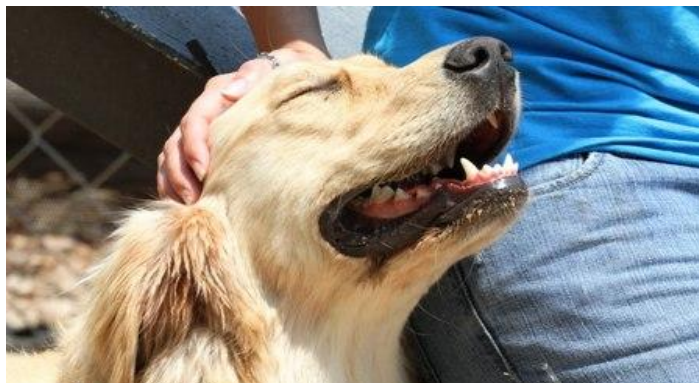
- . . . pumpkin pie with real, fresh whipped cream.
- . . . hot chestnuts from a street vendor on the streets of New York City in the depths of winter.
- . . . country meal of home grown, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and corn on the cob.
- . . . freshly picked pineapple, jackfruit, apple, watermelon or strawberries.
- . . . the tangy spices of Thai Hot Shrimp Soup.
- . . . bowl of chilled gazpacho
- . . . "from our youth" church dinner with every woman's proudly prepared, special dish.
- . . . *(unexpected kiss from My Love.)*

SIGHTS, like the . . .

- . . . bumbling tumbling mass of a litter of puppies.
- . . . unspeakable beauty of a double rainbow following a summer storm.
- . . . indescribably, brilliant, multi-colored sunrise painted in an array of tints, colors and hues non-replicable by man.
- . . . unceasing undulations of the ocean spreading 360 degrees around one in all its magnificence and might.
- . . . night-time sky, away from the lights of civilization, displaying the enormity of "the beyond".
- . . . *(My Love's penetrating, caring and full of love dark, blue eyes.)*

TOUCH, of a . . .

- . . . well worked, carefully sanded, properly smoothed, hand crafted hard wood creation.
- . . . patted head of a devoted dog long loved. .
- . . . quilt, hand made by a grandmother.
- . . . tactile, almost sensual summer evening breeze.
- . . . horse's muzzle, kitten's whiskers or breast of a dove.
- . . . *(smile creased crinkle of My Patty's soft cheek)*



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Not the friend it purports! (Walmart is a 250 pound playground bully)

By: Tommy Clarkson

Mr. Bauer and Mr. Hampton's small, locally owned, grocery stores, Knupp's pharmacy, Doerr's Mercantile, Lischewsky's Dry Goods and the ladies clothing store called The Toggery couldn't do it. Row's bakery, Estes Dairy, Western Auto, the Palace Clothier, Standish Men's Clothes, Mullin's Furniture Store and neither Wiggon's or Lynch's Drug stores could have stood up to it. On fact, virtually none of the family owned businesses of my youth - in the epitome of small town America (Larned, Kansas) - could survive the onslaught of such as Wal-Mart.

Simply stated, the knuckle dragging bully that we know as Wal-Mart, uses his size and muscle to have the playground all to himself. He did first in "*Gringolandia*" and now has commenced to do so here in Mexico! The "Reality Check Bottom Line: Wal-Mart is bad for communities, jobs, family businesses and ultimately the economy whole!

For a remarkably revealing look "behind the curtain" - and a veritable tome of relevant data - I refer you to this web site: <http://www2.econ.iastate.edu/faculty/stone/>. Personally familiar with Dr. Kenneth Stone for many years I know him to be a man of the highest scholarly credentials and personal credibility.

Starting in 1988, through extensive research and evaluation, he carefully observed and noted the effects of Wal-Mart on the smaller towns and cities in which it was located. As stated in one of his studies, "communities in the United States have been more adversely impacted by ...Wal-Mart.. than by any other factors in recent times. Studies .. have shown that some towns lose up to 47 percent of their retail trade after 10 years of Wal-Mart stores nearby."

I remember reading, three years ago, that - in spending nearly \$308 billion dollars - Americans bought nearly the same amount of merchandise from Wal-Mart as the next five largest US retailers combined: Kroger, Target, Walgreen, Home Depot and Costco. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club sales (if cars were excluded) constituted 8.5% of all retail sales in the United States. That's a behemoth of a bully beast in our retail play yard!

In his article, "Walmart and the Economics of Reality" - published in the August 27, 2013 edition of Trumpet.com - Sam Livingston stated that "If Walmart were a country,

it would have the 25th largest economy in the world! By economic activity, it would be the biggest country in all of Africa (with), worldwide, the company employ(ing) a whopping 2.1 million people (which) in dollar terms, brings in over \$1 billion a day in revenue and more than \$400 billion annually."



He went on to state that "In America, Walmart employs a little over one percent of the entire workforce. It is the country's largest retailer and grocery store, with grocery sales accounting for over half of the company's revenue. More than \$1 out of every \$45 spent in the country is spent at Walmart—that is more than two percent of America's total gross domestic product."

Not a fan of Socialism, I am the quintessential believer in laissez-faire capitalism as it is clearly the individual/family driving force that once brought the United States to world economic prominence. (Just as a refresher, that would be "an economic environment in which transactions between private parties are free from government restrictions, tariffs, and subsidies, with only enough regulations to protect property rights.") But, some assert, that such allows monopolies and big businesses to oppress competitors.

Well, the Walmart organization of today makes the early (19th century) "Robber Barons" such as Astor, Carnegie, Morgan, Vanderbilt, Mellon and Rockefeller, as well as the more recent sorts such as Bill Gates, Larry Ellison, Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdoch and Donald Trump look to be absolute pre-school pikers at tromping the opposition and sucking up much more than lunch money from the masses!



And what of Wal-Mart's employees? An ITVS story entitled "When Wal-Mart comes to town", that while employing more people than any other company in the United States outside of the Federal government, the majority of its employees with children live below the poverty line. On the average these employees' take home pay is under \$250 a week. The salary for their employees (called "associates") is \$6 to \$7.50 an hour for 28-39 hours a week.

Relative to this, a Huffington Post article of December 18, 2013, cited that a Wal-Mart "store decided to hold a food drive for needy local families for the holidays. What made this a PR nightmare was that the needy families were full time Wal-Mart employees who were working in the store holding a food drive."

What of their "Buy American" assertions prominently placed throughout their stores? The same article states that "85 percent of the stores' items are made overseas" and "after Wal-Mart's "Buy American" ad campaign was in full swing, the company became the country's largest importer of Chinese goods." If that's not a business biting the hand of the families that feed it I am hard pressed to know what to call it!

So in reflection, let's think this over. Wal-Mart effectively thwarts (read "destroys") "Mom and Pop" businesses – the very life blood of many smaller communities. Wal-Mart takes advantage of local bad economies by paying low wages to folks who need jobs. Wal-Mart doesn't support the U.S economy by buying "American Made" products. And, Wal-Mart, in spite of its claims, doesn't have all around the lowest prices.

Now, other than simple laziness, abject apathy and/or ignorance in the recognition of the fact that we are actually a part of the problem by going to there, why again is it that one should shop at Wal-Mart?

THE GIANT RETAILER

Wal Mart in Latin America

Country	# Stores
Argentina	64
Brasil	480
Chile	285
Costa Rica	182
El Salvador	78
Guatemala	176
Honduras	55
México	1,767
Nicaragua	61
TOTAL	3,148

Note: Stores as of April 2011

Source: WalMart



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ANSWERS TO QUIZ PAGE

Who or What is it?

- 1.) **Meadow Lark Lemon** from the famous Harlem Globetrotters'
- 2.) **Hadrians Wall** in Northern England
- 3.) **Goldie Hawn**
- 4.) **The Monkees**
- 5.) **Rowan and Martins Laugh In**

1970's Quiz

1. **Love Story** – Most memorable quote? "Love means never having to say you're sorry."
2. **Earth Day** – The mayor of San Francisco presented the proclamation.
3. **Cigarettes** – The bill went into effect on Jan. 1, 1971
4. **Walt Disney World** – Disney's Orlando theme park originally contained just the Magic Kingdom, 2 hotels, and a campground.
5. **Diamonds are forever** – This one starred Sean Connery as the famous womanizing spy.
6. **Imagine** – The song combined a strong political message with beautiful words and melody.
7. **The Waltons** – It ran for 9 seasons, ending in 1981, but the show had suffered a setback in 1976 when Richard Thomas left his role as oldest son John Boy.
8. **The Dallas Cowboys** – The final score was 24-3.
9. **The French Connection** – Directed by William Friedkin, the movie starred Gene Hackman as Det. "Popeye" Doyle.
10. **Secretariat** – He won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes

11. **Skylab** – This 77-ton space outpost was in orbit around the Earth from 1973 through 1979.
12. **Patti Smith** – Chicago-born Smith would go on to produce many influential punk rock albums.
13. **Billie Jean King**
14. **Saturday Night Live** – Comedian George Carlin was the first host.
15. **I Honestly Love You** – This song made the singer from Australia a household name for years to come.
16. **Jimmy Carter**
17. **British Airways and Air France**
18. **The New York Yankees** – They Yanks took the series 4-2.
19. **Star Wars and Saturday Night Fever** – One catapulted the fantasy/science fiction genre to new heights and the other demonstrated just how much of an influence disco had on the culture of the decade.
20. **The Walkman** – This handy little device originally accommodated an audio cassette but was later modified to play CDs.
21. **Hotel California** – This mega hit is said to be an allegory concerning the hedonistic, self-destructive atmosphere of the California music industry during the late 70s.
22. **Margaret Thatcher**
23. **Rapper's Delight by the Sugar Hill Gang** – The record took Rap from the streets of New York and brought it to millions. Many critics declared it to be "garbage."
24. **Taxi** – The show also launched the careers of a number of other stars including Danny DeVito, Marilu Henner, Christopher Lloyd, and Andy Kaufman

Too tough? Too Easy...let us know we would be happy to baffle you some more! Thanks to www.theclassic70s.com