



Manzanillo **SUN**

October 2017

coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine

Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare
work tirelessly for 'man's best friends'



- Good Deeds
- Mighty Nature
- Nature's Wonders
- Finance
- Culture
- Mexico Living
- Technology
- RV Travel
- Farewell to a Friend
- Recipe
- Path to Citizenship

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E-MAGAZINE

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To send submissions for possible inclusion in the magazine, please send to the editor by 15th of each month. We are always looking for writers or ideas on what you would like us to see as topics for the magazine.

Article submissions:

- Preferred subjects are Manzanillo and Mexico
- All articles should be 1000 words or less or may be serialized or 500-750 words if accompanied by photos
- Pictures are welcome
- Comments, letters to the editor, articles, photos and advertisements are always welcome

ADVERTISING

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Sample ads



Making Life in Manzanillo Better for Thousands of Animals and the Community

by Suzanne A. Marshall

Almost ten years ago, my husband and I were searching for property in what is now our home in Manzanillo. I can still remember seeing a terribly emaciated dog one day, curled up on the ground in front of one of the doorways. I wondered how this poor creature was still surviving and how this could happen in such a well-populated area. Could no one feed it and provide some water? I never saw him again and have wondered ever since about his fate. Unfortunately, a much bigger and sadder picture would unfold in the coming years.



“Silvita”, an abandoned and sick puppy rescued in June and a healthy, happy girl in August.



Fred with “Stan”, a street dog in Miramar

Even today, you can walk or drive through any of the Colonias in Manzanillo and see a lot of animal suffering; animals that are so thin all of their bones are showing; animals so sick with mange that they have no hair left and have open sores on their bodies; animals with large tumors, called TVT (transmissible venereal tumor) on their reproductive areas. It tugs at the heartstrings and makes one wonder how this much animal suffering is possible.

In the mid nineteen nineties, it was said that the stray animal population felt equal to the human population. It was not uncommon to see packs of 10-15 dogs roaming the street. Try to imagine the number of sick and starving animals all over the area. Something needed to be done to change this very sad scenario. Where to begin?

Thanks to the initiative of Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare (FOMAW), a US non-profit founded in 2009 by Stan Burnett and his wife MJ, the picture has improved little by little over time. But, there remains a challenging road ahead.

I recently had the privilege of meeting with key members of Animal Angels, a street animal outreach program of FOMAW. They are a small but dedicated group working tirelessly to improve the lives of local street animals while aiming to continue reducing the future numbers of local stray, orphaned and unwanted animals.

There is a solution! A solution that everyone who lives full or part time in Manzanillo can and should be a part of. “We believe the best antidote to animal suffering is sterilization” say Laurie and Fred Taylor. Since the last FOMAW fundraiser in January of this year, over 1000 animals have been sterilized.

What does this do and mean for the people of our community? First and foremost, it means fewer animals on the street. As depicted by the graphic, one mating pair of dogs can produce 67,000 in 6 years. One pair of cats can produce even more. Sterilization will eliminate thousands of animals from being born and continuing the cycle.

Animal population control and healthier animals have many benefits for the human residents of the community: fewer animals foraging in the garbage and creating an unsanitary mess; fewer dead animals in the street hit by cars; fewer sick and starving animals and less feces in the streets. More importantly, sick animals can and do spread contagious diseases to humans. Erlichia is a blood disease spread by ticks. Infected

...Making Life Better in Manzanillo for Animals



A street dog recovering after sterilization



Drs. Diana Morales and Michelle Rivera performing surgery

ticks can also spread this disease to humans much like Lyme disease. Dogs with mange can pass it to humans. Animal Angels was recently working with some dogs in Miramar that had contracted mange. The dogs' owners, a family of seven, was also infected with mange from their dogs. Healthy animals equal healthy humans!

What are the costs to operate these initiatives? The monthly operating overhead, including salaries for two full-time veterinarians, for both Animal Angels and Alianza is about \$56,000 pesos per month. Families bringing in their own pets are charged just \$350 pesos. This fee does not cover the actual cost of sterilization but is low enough that it is readily affordable to the community.

Over and above the huge amounts of volunteer time, consider what's involved:

- In the first 8 months of 2017, 1,038 surgeries have been performed (323 from Animal Angels).
- During the same time, 233 individual TVT treatments have been provided for 30 animals
- Since the clinic opening in June of 2015, total surgeries equal 2,222 animals.
- Veterinarian courses are provided 3 times per year for 7 veterinarians per event.
- It's also important to note the absolute necessity of generating funds through private donations.

Is it working? Yes indeed, though the numbers still need to come down and can continue to decrease with your help and cooperation.

Someone once said, "It takes a village" and indeed it does in

...Making Life Better in Manzanillo for Animals



An unspayed female dog, her mate and all of their offspring, plus the offspring's puppies, if none are neutered or spayed add up to:

- 1 year - 16
- 2 years - 128
- 3 years - 512
- 4 years - 2,048
- 5 years - 12,288
- 6 years - 67,000



An unspayed female cat, her mate and all of their offspring, producing 2 litters per year, with 2.8 surviving kittens can total:

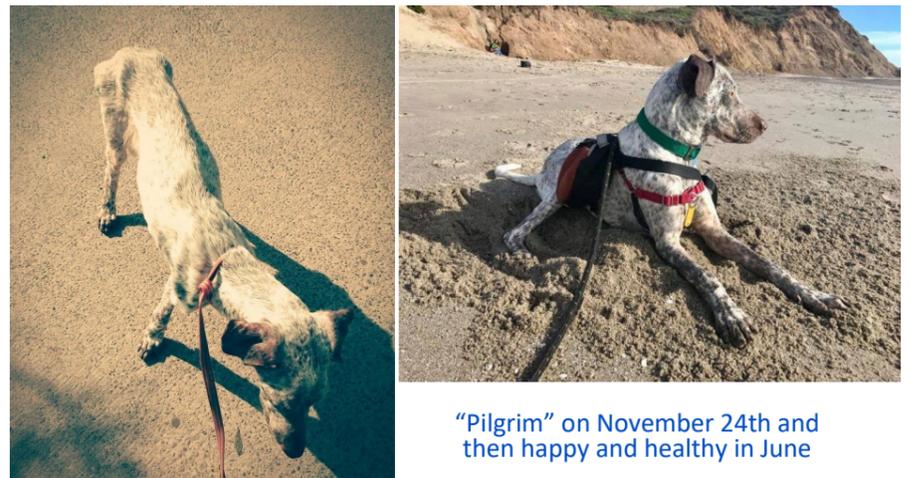
- 1 year - 12
- 2 years - 67
- 3 years - 376
- 4 years - 2,107
- 5 years - 11,801
- 6 years - 66,088
- 7 years - 370,092
- 8 years - 2,072,514
- 9 years - 11,606,077

© 2009 SpayUSA is a program of North Shore Animal League America

this case. Not only does it take a village but it takes money. How can we, as a community, help? Well of course volunteering time is an essential. Ongoing donations to FOMAW (fomaw.org.) are equally important to support operations. Monthly sponsorships of spay/neuter activities are encouraged and help to ensure a more stable flow of funding for their operations.

The photos shared here speak a thousand words and there are many more stories yet to unfold. Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare is dedicated to continuing the work of making life in Manzanillo better for thousands of animals and the communities in which they live.

For more information about this work and to donate, visit



"Pilgrim" on November 24th and then happy and healthy in June

Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare at www.fomaw.org or see them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fomaw).

Back by Popular Demand!

Bocce Ball Tournament /Silent Auction Fundraiser

Last year's Bocce Ball Fundraising event was attended by around 400 people having a great time playing bocce ball or just lounging on the beach listening to oldies or dancing. Everyone had a blast and over \$185,000 pesos were raised in the process.

This year's Bocce Ball fundraising event will be even bigger with more bocce teams, more and better Silent Auction items, raffles, booze basket, music and dancing.

Plus Oasis Ocean Club will be adding 2 x 1 well drinks along with the previous 2 x 1 margaritas and beer! A costume contest will be part of the fun....and surprises!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 22, 2018! Team sign up will start in January 2018.

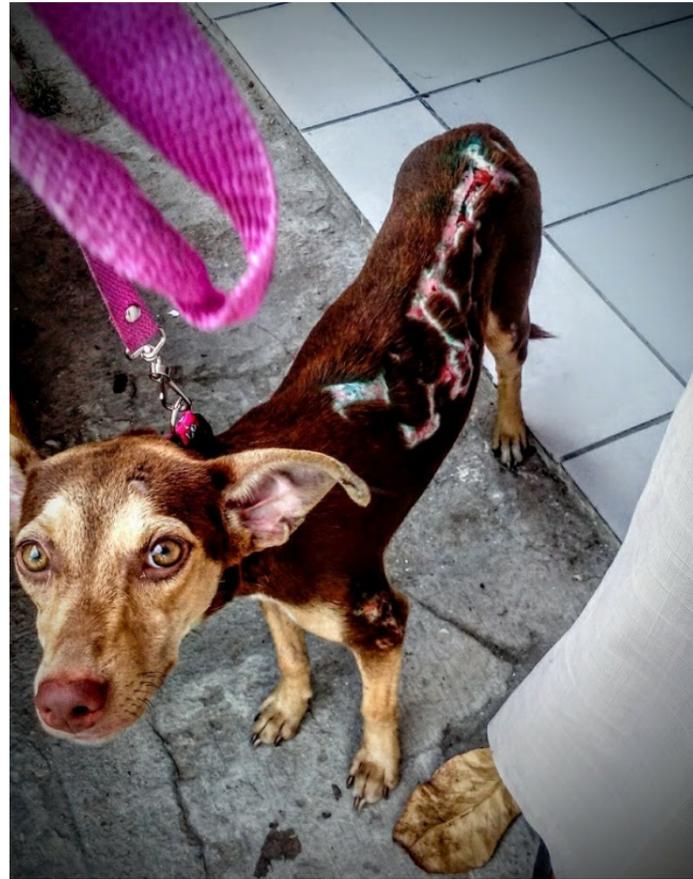
...more pictures follow



...Making Life Better in Manzanillo for Animals



Fred Taylor with "Pedro", animal number 1,000



A dog receives important medical care

TVT treatments in Miramar with Stan Burnett, Dra. Diana Morales and Laurie Taylor



...Making Life Better in Manzanillo for Animals



“Brigge” feeling much better in July after being rescued in November 2016



Laurie delivering dogs, post-surgery, in Miramar

2nd Annual Bocce Ball Benefit



February 22nd

*It's a Bocce Ball
Tournament, an awesome
Silent Auction, Raffles,
DJ Music by Randy Dean,
2 x 1 Margaritas, Cerveza
& well Drinks plus
lots of fun at the beach!*

OASIS
ocean club
restaurant • beach • bar

For more info contact Laurie (laurie.taylor88@gmail.com) or Marge (maggiet19@earthlink.net)



by Tommy Clarkson

Anahaw Palm *Livistona rotundifolia* var. '*luzonensis*'

Family: *Arecaceae*

Also known as: Round-Leaf Fountain Palm or Footstool Palm

Until recently, I thought ours was simply a *Livistona rotundifolia*. But my pal, Anders Lindstrom, of Nong Nooch Gardens near Pattaya in Thailand, patiently explained it to me thusly: "At the lower level taxonomical system is Genus and then species, but if someone sees additional differences [not distinct enough to separate it into a new species] however, nevertheless, distinct, then they can separate it into a subspecies. In *Livistona* [genus] *rotundifolia* [species] *luzonensis* [subspecies] the *luzonensis* is separated by several characteristics. The red [or purplish] trunk is one of them. Another is the fact that this subspecies only comes from the island of Luzon in the Philippines. All wild *rotundifolia*, coming from the rest of Southeast Asia, are not of this subspecies but, otherwise, conform to the normal *rotundifolia* characteristics."

He continued, "This lower level subspecies business is sometimes looked at as "bad" taxonomy and some researchers agree that it is part of the variation within a living organism. Others think that, if there is a distinct, differing characteristic, that we should separate it as a new species. That happened in this case and someone described this *luzonensis* as a new and distinct species of *Livistona robinsoniana*. But, that's the "old school" procedure, with botanists looking at morphological differences on the living plant. However, now with modern technology, we can compare the genes of these different subspecies or species. In this case, they decided that the genes are not distinct



None of these pictures do justice to this truly magnificent palm which can reach nearly one hundred and fifty feet tall.

enough to separate it to a new species, treating it as a variation of genes within a single species - *rotundifolia*. As the rule of taxonomical nomenclature dictates that the oldest [first described] name must be used, this means that *robinsoniana* and *luzonensis* will have to be synonyms of the oldest name which is *rotundifolia*."

It looks equally magnificent covered with frond stubs or sans "trunk attire"! With armed petioles, frond stubs trimmed to four to eight inches (10.16 - 20.31cm), its shaggy stateliness is without equal. Shorn of these stubs, the nicely proportioned, dark, purplish-brown trunk with light-colored frond rings, makes it one to receive double and triple visual takes.

Livistona rotundifolia requires ample moisture and semi-shade when young, but is quite happy in full sun when mature. Ours thrives in fertile, well-draining soil and is fertilized every six months. Although originally from the tropics, it does well in sub-tropical environs and warm temperate areas.

...Anahaw Palm



The dark purplish-brown coloration of the *Livistonia rotundifolia* 'luzonensis' sets this beauty off from others.

Its trunk may reach nearly one hundred and fifty feet (45.72 meters) tall and around six to ten inches (15.24 - 25.40 cm) in diameter. Its leaf scars range from obscure to prominent. The stubs of the formerly arching fronds are not persistent. It has twenty to fifty palmate leaves. Like its flowers, its ripe fruit are yellowish and, if you're endeavoring to grow them from seeds, they'll germinate within two to three months.

The *Livistona* genus is comprised of somewhere around twenty-eight to thirty-four species (depending upon which "authority" one believes and excluding localized hybrids/cultivars such as this palm). They are - to quote Riffle, "mostly large, palmate-leaved, bi-sexual or functionally dioecious [having male and female reproductive organs on separate plants] palms that are widespread in the Old World Tropics and subtropics."

Like the Anahaw Palm, all members of the *Livistona* genus are, by nature, solitary trunked. However, we might, occasionally, find one with stems that have branched as a result of an injury. The preponderance of the *Livistonas* are large to downright massive! One of the ways to help identify them is through their costapalmate (fan shaped palm leaf, with a shortened or extended mid rib) leaf segments. These are rigid when the palm is young, but pendulous when the palm is more mature.

Another constant unique characteristic to this genus is the lingual (a flap of fiber from the leaf sheath that will go away as the frond matures). Either clasping the trunk or free from it, these are wholly different in color, shape, size and texture for each species. And, lastly, all of these different species of *Livistona* sport a rather distinct hastula (an organ found on only

palmate species of palms) at the top of the juncture of the petiole (the frond stalk, primarily between the trunk and the leaf portion) and blade (the expanded part of the leaf).

Now you know more about the Anahaw Palm than many botanists, gardeners and that crotchety character down the street with the weedy lawn.



On strikingly attractive petioles, its costapalmate fronds bring the beauty.

Get your copy of *The Civilized Jungle: Tropical Plants Facts and Fun From Ola Brisa Gardens (Volume 1)* Paperback – December 2, 2016 on [Amazon!](https://www.amazon.com)

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

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Our Water Footprints

by Terry Sovil

There is a great deal of concern, discussion and, in some countries, denial on protecting our resources. One of our most crucial resources is water. If our oceans die, we will too. We all share a common resource so we need to work together! **What can regular citizens, divers, snorkelers, boaters and fishermen do?**

First, you have to admit that there is a problem. Capt. Charles Moore found the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (Pacific Gyre).

This is his description:

*"...on the way back to our home port in Long Beach, California, we decided to take a shortcut through the gyre...Fishermen shun it because its lacks nutrients to support fish. Sailors dodge it because it lacks the wind to propel their sailboats...as I gazed from the deck at the surface of what ought to have been a pristine ocean, I was confronted, as far as the eye could see, with the sight of plastic...I never found a clear spot. **In the week it took to cross...no matter what time of day I looked, plastic debris was floating everywhere: bottles, bottle caps, wrappers, fragments**".*



Breaks your heart

Two thirds of the Earth is covered by water with less than one third land. As populations grow, we put increasing pressure on our waters. This is a human problem because it is relatively

new. As industrialization and population grew, pollution spread. Some still think the oceans are too big to pollute but, with 7 billion people, it is obvious there are limits and pollution shows we have exceeded those limits.



Edible six-pack holders

The World Wildlife Fund: *"Pollution from toxic chemicals threatens life on this planet. Every ocean and every continent, from the tropics to the once-pristine polar regions, is contaminated."*

EVERYONE

Drinking water

- Invest in a portable glass or stainless-steel water bottle and stop using plastic bottles
- Buy a home water-filtration system - a modest \$20 carbon filter will help

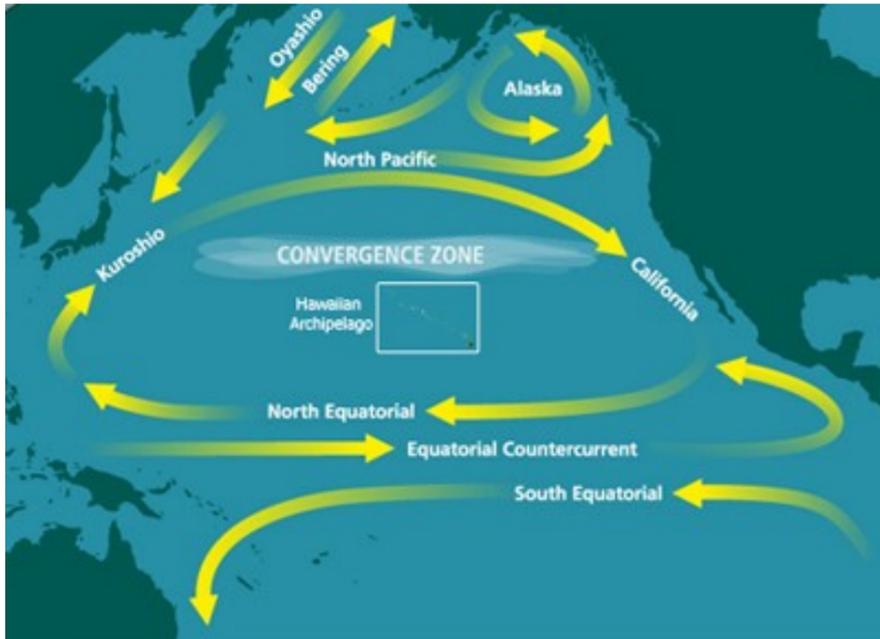
Reduce carbon (energy) consumption

- Carbon dioxide from fossil fuels; makes oceans more acidic
- Ride a bike, take a bus, walk
- Get high-efficiency appliances and light bulbs, then turn them off when not in use
- Turn the thermostat up a bit

Other ways

- Use reusable plastic products
- Properly dispose of hazardous materials
- Get a couple of tote bags or a plastic box and leave the plastic bags at the store
- Use less fertilizer

...Our Water Footprints



North Pacific sub-tropical convergence zone

- Pick up garbage and litter near beaches, especially six-pack holders and plastic bags
- Buy ocean-friendly products that don't exploit marine life

On a larger, community scale, there are things you can help **influence with your opinion and your votes.**

- Sewage treatment and disposal
- Nutrients, fertilizers and runoff from farms or industry
- Waste water – discharge from factories
- Chemical waste – highly toxic chemicals such as PCBs and heavy metals
- Radioactive waste – I look at Fukushima in Japan and shudder
- Oil pollution – increasing opposition to transport and pipelines

Alien, invasive species

- By way of the accidental introduction of the Lionfish into the Caribbean, where they have no natural enemies, they are taking over
- Zebra mussels in the Great Lakes
- Alien jellyfish and algae types
- If your locality has laws, follow them

Pets

- Read labels and choose sustainability
- Never flush cat litter
- Avoid wild-caught fish for your aquarium
- NEVER release, or flush, aquarium fish (potentially invasive)



Pacific Gyre

Laws

- Difficult because water does not have boundaries
- Oceans, rivers and lakes cross borders
- Cooperation is critical
- Educate yourself about water issues
- Support increased water regulations
- Vote responsibly, contact your representatives
- Influence change in your community

Scuba divers and snorkelers

- Use your buoyancy compensator and fins correctly; appropriate buoyancy control is essential – Learn! Take a Peak Performance Buoyancy Class
- Watch your fins and where you are kicking
- Don't touch the corals or the critters
- Corals have a thin, sensitive membrane, touching it can break it and cause an infection
- Touching it or kicking it can break it off
- Touch a critter and risk a defensive bite or sting
- Don't let your equipment hang loose! Secure it!

Boaters and fishermen

Boating goes with wildlife watching, photos, scuba, snorkeling and fishing. Clean water enhances these experiences. Mishandling a boat can cause much damage.

Oil and fuel

- Diesel fuel and motor oil are toxic to people, plants and fish
- They can block sunlight which gives life
- Fill your tank only 90% to prevent overflows

...Our Water Footprints



Better alternatives

- Use oil absorbent pads in bilges
- Inspect your thru-hull fittings
- DO NOT use soaps on spills

Sewage

- Install a toilet as specified by law
- Use pump-out services when available
- Bring portable toilets ashore for proper disposal

Vessel and maintenance repair

- Use nonhazardous materials
- Old batteries can leak, dispose of them properly
- When you paint your hull, choose products carefully
- Use non-toxic cleaning products
- Discard worn parts carefully, watch for oil
- Dispose of trash in the proper bins

Trash

- Bring food and beverage containers, cigarette butts back to shore
- Tell your marina if they need better waste collection

Anchoring

- Choose sites carefully and use proper techniques
- Do NOT anchor on coral, look for a sandy bottom
- Avoid boating in shallow water
- Know where to go slow to avoid wakes

Global fisheries are on the verge of collapse

- Eat sustainable seafood
- Using this as a Google search key: "Sustainable seafood wallet card", find the card(s) for your area(s)
- Print it or download it and secure a photo for your phone
- Three quarters of the world's fisheries are now overexploited

People have to be made aware which is the first step to solving the pollution problem. Surfers in Britain were getting sick from sewage-polluted water. They formed a group called "Surfers Against Sewage" to help force governments and water companies to clean up and stop dumping sewage. Sport fishermen have banded together to force change in industrial pollution to improve their catch.

I hate the 4-6 can plastic holders. Animals get caught in a "loop" and it can kill them. I cut every loop and then throw them away. I pick them up off the street and beach. We should switch to HEMP for making plastics! I found a live fish caught in a piece of lost, broken net and was not able to free it. I had no way to cut the net. I started wearing a dive knife again!

Remember that while the oceans are big and vast they have limits. When you throw something in the garbage or on the beach remember there is no "away".

you can reach Terry Sovil at terry@manzanillosun.com



by Tommy Clarkson



As a "good ol' boy" recently observed, "That's right purdy!"

Dendrobium Orchids

Family: *Orchidaceae*

The orchid genus is the second largest family of all the world's flowering plants. It has between 22,000 and 27,000 currently accepted species, in 880 genera - not counting more than 50,000 registered hybrids! The Dendrobium varieties, alone, have somewhere around 1,500 species in their genus. To be a good Dendrobium caretaker requires remembering no little detailed data!

That name stems from the Greek word *dendron* ("tree") and *bios* ("life") - thus, "one who lives on trees." (*No, Tarzan was not a Dendrobium!*)

Their origin is a diversity of habitats ranging from southern and eastern Asia, including the Philippines, Australia, Borneo, New Guinea, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. A well-adapted genus, they thrive in climates as diverse as the high altitudes of the Himalayan mountains to lowland tropical forests and even the dry climate of the Australian desert.

This genus was identified, around 1783, by the Swedish botanist Olof Peter Swartz. While the shape and form of Dendrobium stems and leaves vary greatly, the pattern of flowers is fairly constant, ranging from smaller than a tiny matchbox to large, specimens that measure more than three feet (.91 cm).

Let's zero in on the care and attention that should be given to one of the easier-to-grow varieties, the phalenopsis-type Dendrobiums which are evergreen with thin, pseudobulbs (storage organs at the thick stem part between leaf nodes). They are either epiphytic or lithophytic. The former means non-parasitically growing on other objects (such as a tree) and deriving their moisture and nutrients from the air and rain. The latter are plants that grow on rocks, feeding off moss and getting its nutrients from rain, litter, and its own dead tissue.

Water them in the morning to ensure that the leaves are dry before nightfall. The amount you give them will depend on the potting media in which they're growing, as well as the type and size of pot. Dendrobiums appreciate smaller pots - taller than they are wide. In that they are usually large plants in somewhat small pots, a twice-a-week watering regime is probably best - but ensure that they are almost dry before re-watering.

One of the best ways to give them a drink is to place them in the sink and use tepid water - not salt-softened or distilled water. Then allow the water to run through the plant for a minute or so before letting the plant drain completely. (This is a good time to inspect your plant for any sign of insects or disease.)

They need lots of indirect light. We have some growing - not in a potting medium, but directly on the shaded, southern trunk sides of African Oil Palm and a Mexican Fan Palm. They get sprayed bi-weekly. Inside, a lightly shaded south window is normally the best location.

...Dendrobium Orchids



One of ours happily lives as a pure epiphyte in the cut fronds of a Mexican Palmetto

Dendrobiums can withstand hot weather with the proviso that adequate ventilation and humidity are provided. The professionals point out that daytime temperatures between 65° to 75° F (18.33° - 23.89° C) and between 55° to 60° F (12.78° - 15.56° C) at night are best. Here in Ola Brisa Gardens we're a bit above that. But remember, if employed as an indoor plant, the temperature close to windows is colder or hotter than the general house temperature.

Food-wise, Dendrobiums like a balanced orchid fertilizer - such as 20-20-20 - used at about 1/4 strength once a week. If in a pot, they should be flushed with clear water once a month to remove any accumulated salts in the potting mix.

If you've time and inclination for more attentive care, here are

some appropriate tips: Use a shallow tray of pebbles filled with water to increase humidity around your potted specimens; ensure the pot does not sit in water as this will rot the roots; give your plants room for air to circulate around them because crowding of plants can lead to problems with insect infestations and fungus; and, a small fan helps provide good air circulation around your plants.

Following blooming, you can cut the flowering stem at the point where it came out of those pseudobulbs. (Do not cut off the entirety of this stalk as a new flower stem will grow from there.) Continue watering and fertilizing and, within a year, a new growth will spike to begin the blooming cycle again!

When re-potting, use a small pot; using a large pot will slow growth and reduces flowering significantly. Re-pot every two to three years.



Many first come in contact with these on vacations to Hawaii.

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

"R"-Rated Aztec Mythological Stories of Worse

by Kirby Vickery

Almost every people have, and then leave behind, their mythological stories. Some are fanciful, some are fun, and some are educational. Most tell a story of why something is the way it is or was in the time with those people that had the myth. To me, it's a little scary when there are similar myths from the New World and Mesoamerica, then jumping the mythological line into the historical one which is akin to the history of Western Man. Sometimes the characters change with time as did Beowulf from old English/Northern Celtic Mythology.

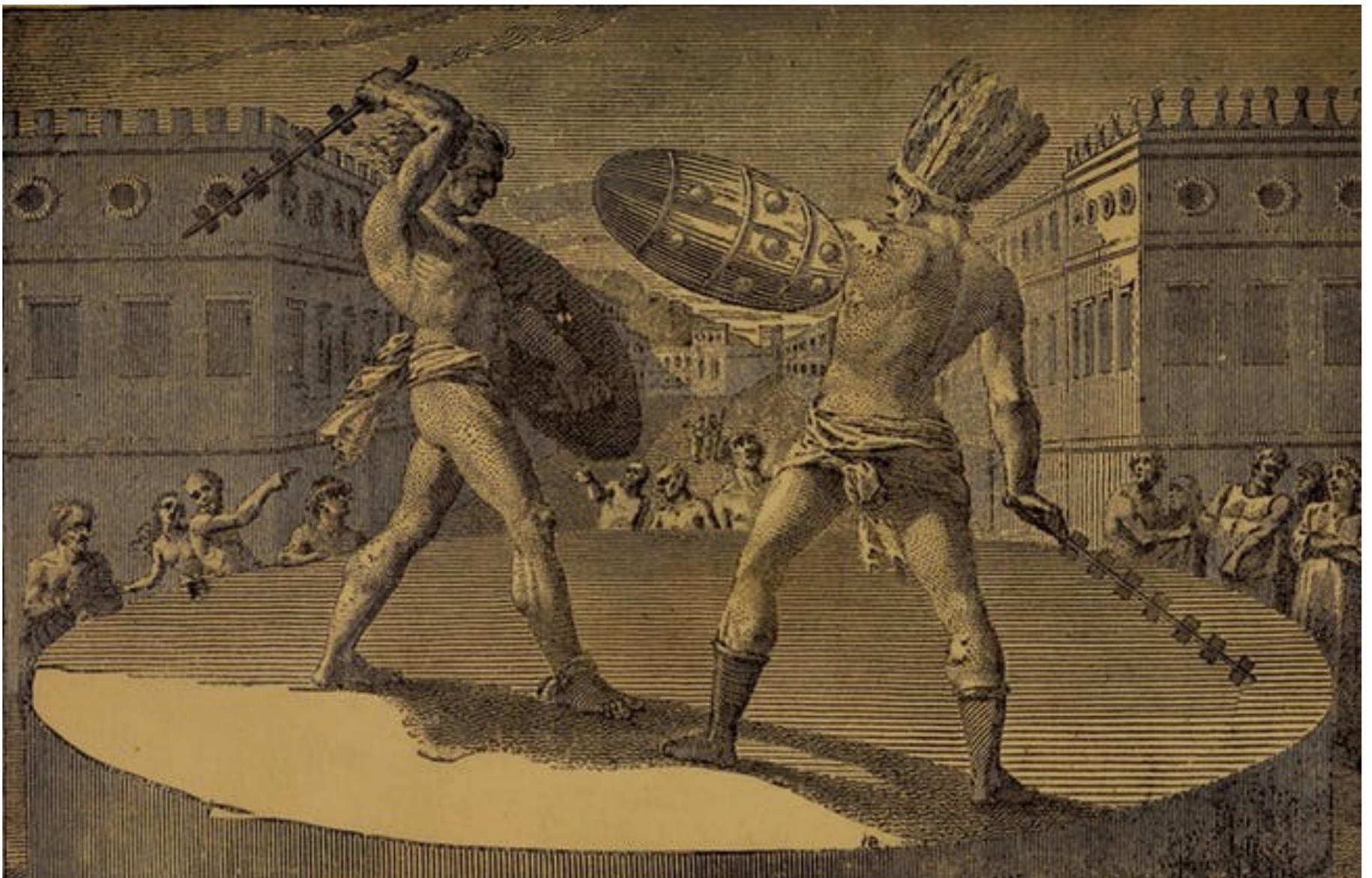
Original tales handed down from one generation to another before the arrival of the Holy Roman Empire have him eating people and butchering whole villages for the sheer love of doing so. After a few Catholic priests finished writing down these folk lore tales and "Preserving him in Literature" he developed a strong case of comitatus or early chivalry and lost half his blood-thirstiness. The Aztecs had a not-so-nice god who was and is not a nice individual but they still revered him. If you take all the myths from the Aztec, this group of stories about Huitzilopochtli is the "R" rated myths for violence.

One of the prime reasons Quetzalcoatl ran away from everything and disappeared was that he was so embarrassed by the

fact that he was duped into sleeping with his sister. The Aztec people believed he would come back to them one day and that's what led to the confusion when Hernán Cortés showed up. Apparently there was a physical similarity and his placement and timing fit right into the legend although some historians today will argue that the Aztec empire was just handed over to him.

My story today isn't about Quetzalcoatl but about the god that set that all up. He was the 401st child of earth goddess Coatlicue. It seems that mom had let it slip that she was fond of a ball of feathers and her pregnancy with Huitzilopochtli was a result. While in the womb, he learned of his brothers and sisters plot to do mom, the earth goddess, in and he just couldn't stand around and let that happen. I mean this boy came out of the womb all stressed out and ready for battle, armor, and all. He was even armed with 'The Flaming Snake-Sword of Death.' He beheaded his sister and held up her severed head just so she could watch him tear apart her bloody body. After that he went after his 400 brothers as they headed off into the heavens to hide. Afterward, he tossed his sister's head to the sky - a sister moon to all the stars in the sky.

Photo: [Frederick A. Ober, Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain](#)



...“R”-Rated Aztec Mythological Stories of Worse



Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Public Domain

From another reading/translation we learn that the Aztec people were being led by Huitzilopochtli in their attempt to find a home. Tensions within the wandering tribe rose to a breaking point, however, and when Huitzilopochtli's sister Malinalxochitl made things awkward by practicing witchcraft aimed at him and his followers, he started to give commands to eliminate the problem. Under Huitzilopochtli's direction, the Aztec tribe abandoned Malinalxochitl and her followers during the night. When they left, they were very careful to cover their trail so they couldn't be tracked, thus leaving Malinalxochitl and her followers lost and alone.

Years later, Malinalxochitl's son, Copil, went looking for Huitzilopochtli to avenge his mother's humiliation and grief for being abandoned all those years earlier. After he finally found them, he challenged Huitzilopochtli to a fight to the death. Copil should have taken a moment to think about fighting his uncle. Huitzilopochtli was a great warrior and could not be defeated. Thus, when he reached his nephew, he ripped the heart from him while it was still beating right out of his chest and threw it far out into a lake where it landed on an island. A cactus instantly grew up on the boy's pumped out-blood. On the same day, an eagle with a serpent in its mouth flew in and perched atop the cactus. The great Aztec city of Tenochtitlan was built on this, the site of Copil's spilled blood, the cactus, and the serpent-munching eagle.

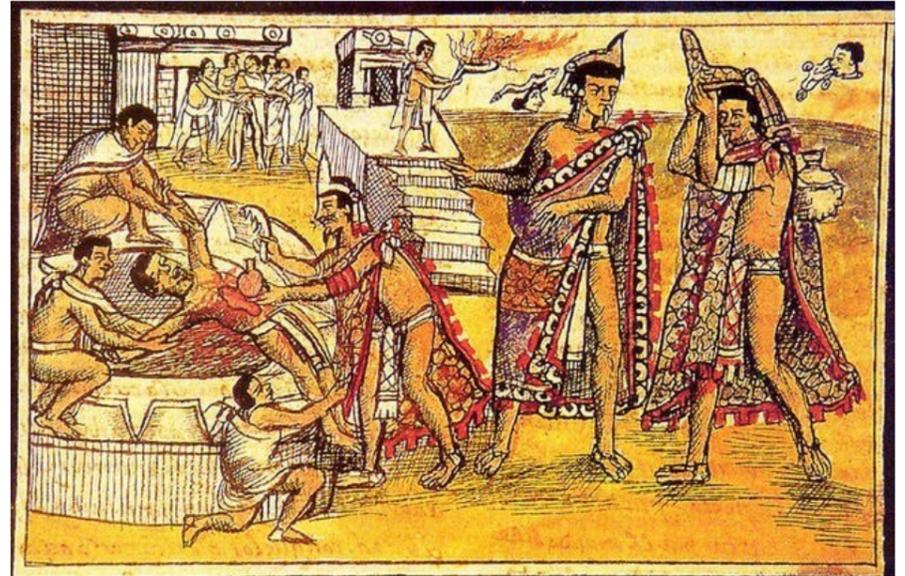


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[It isn't as though that Huitzilopochtli just had it in for his family. He, even in his all power, was not a nice god. He picked on everyone. Most bad or sad tales concerning this god or that from any number of mythologies would come into being and be repeated mostly to children for educational purposes. "Pay attention son! If you do what this god did, then you will suffer as this god did." (One could almost hope it applied in business or politics as well.) This Aztec god was a not very nice deity. I think the myth that really points that out is the deception he pulled on a neighboring king. I know I've told this story before. But it's appropriate that it is re-told here with the rest of the mythologies about Huitzilopochtli.]

At some time before Huitzilopochtli and the Aztec found their lake in the middle of their wanderings, Huitzilopochtli and his followers came upon the city of Culhuacan. The ruler, Achitometl was thrilled to have a god at his court. But Huitzilopochtli decided to play a cruel trick on the king.

He offered to marry the king's daughter so that she would become a goddess. Achitometl could not believe his good fortune and enthusiastically accepted. She and her entourage were immediately sent off into the Aztec camp where Huitzilopochtli sacrificed her and had her flayed so one of his priests could wear her skin.

Then the Aztecs invited Achitometl to what he thought was going to be a wedding. However, when he saw her skin draped over a priest he ran from the horrible scene in grief, and ordered his troops to attack the Aztecs. They, in turn, fled the city.

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Hello, My Name is Doris (Netflix)

by Suzanne A. Marshall

Starring: Sally Field, Max Greenfield, Tyne Daly

Director: Michael Showalter

"A self-help seminar inspires a sixty-something woman to romantically pursue her younger co-worker."

It is highly unlikely that the general public will buy into the plotline of this movie. But hey, many have probably dreamed about it. Here we have a unique and eccentric woman who is cute and adorable in her own way (as only Sally Field could be), pursuing a romantic fantasy and chasing down a dream of romance with an office coworker who must be 30 years her junior. She lives alone following the death of her mother and among the random collection of prized articles that only a hoarder could possibly care about.

Still Sally Field is just wonderful in this movie. She is delightful and funny yet you can't help but feel some compassion for her obvious loneliness. She missed the boat, so to speak, in order to take care of her ailing mother. The movie takes us to her daily work and nightlife and thoroughly engages you.

Sally Field received numerous best-actress nominations for her performance in this movie including: the AARP Movies for Grownups; Alliance of Women Film Journalists; Casting Society of America; Women Film Critics Circle Awards and more.

The IMDB rating is 6.7/10 based on about 13,846 viewers.



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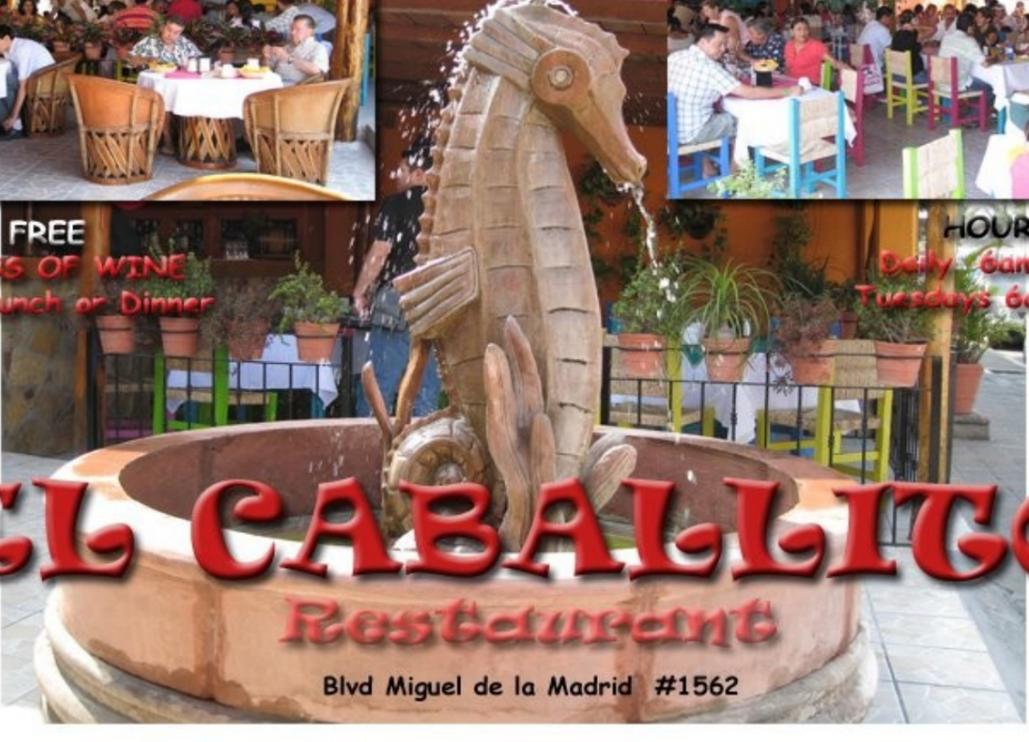
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Try These Three Tips for Retiring with Minimal or No Debt

by Yann Kostic and Tom Zachystal

Ideally, we would all retire debt-free, but we are a nation of borrowers. As of December 2016, the average American household debt totals more than \$135,000, according to a NerdWallet credit-card debt study. Credit card debt for the average household carrying a balance totals more than \$16,000.

Debt is particularly dangerous for those heading into retirement, because it puts pressure on an already-limited budget. Yet the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reports that 30% of homeowners age 65 plus still have mortgage debt. According to consumer financial information source ValuePenguin, the average credit card balance of Americans 65 and older is \$6,351.

Here are some suggestions for paying down your debt before you retire:

Live below your means. Try creating a budget that represents only a portion of your income. If, for example, you earn \$6,000 a month, pretend 10% (\$600) of that amount does not exist by transferring it automatically into a savings account.

Get an affordable mortgage or, even better, get rid of the mortgage all together. The average American's highest monthly expense is housing; try to keep it low. Work to improve your credit score; it can make a big difference in your interest rate. Refinance when your score - and the economy - can offer you a better interest rate.

Most of the time, moving south of the border allows you to sell your expensive real estate up north and buy a very nice property for about half the price, allowing you to get rid of your mortgage completely. Just remember to always rent in the area you are considering moving to, before committing to purchase.

Avoid credit-card debt. Credit-card debt can be tough to pay, down due to its typically high interest rate. Pay it down as quickly as possible, and from then on, pay it off completely every month.

You will find it well worth it when you retire.

Note: This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide financial advice for your particular situation.

Yann Kostic, MBA and Tom Zachystal, CFP, are Presidents of their respective Assets Management firms, both US-Registered Investment Advisors (RIA). Tom is the San Francisco Financial Planners' Association President. Tom and Yann cater to US expats in Mexico and worldwide. Comments, questions or to request his newsletter, "News you can use" contact him at yannk@atlantisgrp.com, in the US at (321) 574-1 529 or in Mexico, (376) 106-1613.



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Kidnap

by Suzanne A. Marshall

"A mother stops at nothing to recover her kidnapped son."

This is not your typical kidnapping movie involving ransom notes and the police. In this film, a mom is standing nearby on the sidelines of an amusement park to take a cell phone call. In the blink of an eye, her son is gone and the panic ensues. Given the few moments for this caper to take place, she manages to scream and run around and finally spot her son being shoved into a nearby parked car. Close enough to grab the door handle of the kidnappers' vehicle; she is dragged along for a distance until she falls. In the process, her cell phone and purse are lost as they hit the pavement. Without time to rationalize, she now runs to her minivan and gives chase. She is unable to call the police while in pursuit. She has no choice but to follow them by any means necessary. And so it begins.....

The entire movie is about the chase. We are taken through a series of busy freeways, screaming tires, accidents left behind, smashed up vehicles and evasive moves and plot points that don't always add up. Still, Halle Berry brings her character as a desperate and emotionally distraught mom to the screen with great fervor. Complete with tears, anger and determination, she miraculously survives an incredible odyssey right to the bitter end. The woman can definitely act. Could a real life person survive all of this? That is the question. But it is fiction, after all, and quite riveting, I must say.

IMDB rating is 6.0/10 based on 12,424 viewers.



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Mexico Returns to Canada!

story and photos by John Chalmers

Having first performed in the Canadian province of Alberta in 2014, the talented and energetic dancers of Ballet Folklórico Los Angelitos returned in September for dazzling performances at five smaller cities. Based at the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos home for young people in Manzanillo, the dancers are involved in an impressive cultural program, in conjunction with their education at the home.

This year's tour included two-hour presentations of Mexican dance in smaller centres rather than big cities. Shows were given in this year's tour at Olds, Okotoks, High River, Sherwood Park and finally Leduc, where my wife, Linda, and I caught the show. Again, we marvel at the scope of the production and the high level of performance that is a credit to the 34 young people in the cast, and to their instructors as well.

Bringing the troupe to Alberta is done with sponsorship of various Rotary Clubs, who support Ballet Folklórico Los Angelitos, both financially and in encouraging the group to come to Alberta. Why Alberta? With many Snowbirds from Alberta from places such as the province's two biggest cities, Edmonton and Calgary, becoming familiar with the group while wintering in the Manzanillo area, visitors became aware of the work of Casa Hogar and encouraged travel north to Alberta.

"Youth and education are primary areas of focus for Rotary Clubs," says Gordon Lewis of the Leduc Rotary Club. "Rotary Clubs have been long-time supporters of the program at Casa

Hogar, and it fits so well with Rotary objectives, as does the model developed by the home's founder, Nancy Nystrom." Other sponsors assisting with the tour include individuals and various businesses.



This year's program, *Origins*, begins with dynamic percussion music to introduce the first performance of the show.

Trained by Gisela Marisol González, Director of Ballet Folklórico Los Angelitos, and Assistant Director Jorge Rodrigo Meza, the 2017 program was called *Origins – Mexico As You Never Imagined*. Members of the cast range from eight to 25 years old, from school children to university students and graduates.

Well deserving of the standing ovations the performances receive, the program brings to appreciative audiences a taste of Mexican history, music and dancing. The energetic and colorful displays include traditional dances from various Mexican states – Michoacán, Guerrero, Nayarit, Veracruz, Jalisco and Colima.

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...Mexico Returns to Canada!



"Prehistoric Fantasy," the show opener, brings in the performers with dramatic costumes.

opportunity to learn about and share priceless aspects of their Mexican heritage.



Popular singer Mariana Vargas performed several songs in the program.

"This tour was so much more than just the entertainment value," says Melanie Kolb, Project Development Coordinator for the parent organization, The Children's Foundation International. "It is the culmination of hours of hard work and dedication, as well as giving feet to dreams. Its impact goes far beyond just the dancers. It inspires the audience and motivates other youth to follow their dreams."

"Additionally, it is a beautiful cultural exchange. The audience sees the beauty of the Mexican culture and the children of the ballet are exposed to other cultures and people as they spend time away from their home."

Support for **Casa Hogar Los Angelitos** and **Ballet Folklórico Los Angelitos** is always welcome.

A visit to the web site of The Children's Foundation International, at www.tcfcares.org will provide the information and contact you need to donate to a most worthy cause.

The folklórico program at Casa Hogar Los Angelitos provides the young girls and boys with more than a chance to perform. They learn the skills needed for dancing, the value of teamwork and leadership, the importance of education, and the

...more pictures follow



...Mexico Returns to Canada!



The precision of dancing with lively footwork in perfect timing with the music is seen in every number.

Any fast-moving dance with machetes is always a hit with the audience.



...Mexico Returns to Canada!



Even the youngest in the cast carry out their assignments with professional aplomb in their stage presence.



Male and female dancers perform equally and with skill and talent that earns them admiration of the audience.

Costumes are an important aspect of every dance number and the dresses are spectacular.



...Mexico Returns to Canada!



Costumes, synchronization and grace are obvious in all the dances.

Fantastic dresses add much to the colour and movement of the lively dances.



Precise formations of the dancers result from many hours of training and practice.



...Mexico Returns to Canada!

Movement and grace are seen in traditional dances from various Mexican states.



Whirling skirts, precise footwork, flashing smiles and dancing in unison are among the delights of the program.

As the performance reaches a conclusion, music along with song and dance delivers a fitting end to the show.



...Mexico Returns to Canada!



With the hard and lively work in presenting the show now behind them, cast members salute the audience.



After an energetic and dynamic show, the entire cast of young people is well deserving of a curtain call.



Nancy Nystrom, at right, founder of Casa Hogar Los Angelitos and its folkloric program, salutes her young and talented performers.

...Mexico Returns to Canada!



Available for photos after the show, the dancers show their maturity in posing for the cameras.

An opportunity for audience members to meet the dancers, shake their hands and speak with them is much appreciated.



Beautiful young ladies, handsome young men and splendid costumes are part of the appeal of Ballet Folklórico Los Angelitos.

...Mexico Returns to Canada!



At the show's conclusion, cast members are on stage with Canadian and Mexican flags.

Writer/photographer John Chalmers claims that digital cameras were invented for taking selfies, so he shoots one with himself and Nancy Nystrom each time they meet!



Chichén Itzá, Yucatán

by Dan and Lisa Goy, exclusive to Manzanillo Sun

January 30, 31 and February 1, 2016 (Days 24, 25, 26)

Following our boat tour in Celestún, we headed out before 10 am, off to Chichén Itzá ruins and the village of Pisté. Our route included a backtrack to Mérida and onto the Anillo Periférico around the city and exited at Hwy 180 to Pisté. This was an easy drive and short, the best kind, only 212 km (132 miles) that took less than 3 hours.



Caravan makes it way thru Kinchil, Yucatán

Our destination was the "Pirámide Inn" owned by an American who has resided in Mexico for decades. This was basically Dry Camping on a patch of flat grass in front of the hotel. Our 250 pesos (\$13 USD) fee included a room (hot showers), access to some limited power, wifi which was good at the office, access to a large pool, a nice patio behind the hotel, a short drive to the Archeological Site, an easy walk to amenities in town and couple of good restaurants and shops within 2 blocks of our RVs. After settling in, we checked out the village and planned our visit to the famous archeological site the next day.



On the Mérida periferico



On the road to Chichén Itzá

Day 2 in Pisté and we headed out for a tour of the Chichén Itzá ruin that included hiring a guide, Ray. These are amazing ruins which have been restored over the past 200 years. Our guide, Ray, was very knowledgeable about the archeological site and Mayan culture and spoke excellent English. The personal tour took less than 3 hours and we spent another hour or so poking around the site. The exception, of course, was Bruce who caught up with the gang back at the RVs later. The afternoon saw some quality pool time and in the evening the boys headed out to the light show and gals went out for dinner. After the Uxmal light show experience, we were uncertain about what the experience would be at Chichén Itzá.



Chichén Itzá is popular

...Chichén Itzá



Busy place, Chichén Itzá

Although the light show was free, we had no tickets, which seemed very elusive. However, I was able to rely on my experience as Political Staffer in a former life to finesse our way in with the INAH Site Administrator who was very happy to accommodate our group. This was a fabulous laser light show, very similar to what we experienced in Campeche. Victoria and Vancouver would be well served to host such a summer event for free as an attraction for tourists. Afterwards, we went for a bite to eat and met the gals heading back to the RVs. This was

lots of fun and a Sunday night to remember. The next day was February 1st, Constitution Day in Mexico. Many just walked into town, hung out at pool, and later went out for BBQ Chicken with the gang and shopping.

We enjoyed our stop here, certainly a big draw with tourists from Cancun, Playa del Carmen and the Mayan Rivera.

About Chichén Itzá

Chichén Itzá (Spanish: Chichén Itzá - Yucatec Maya: Chi'ch'èen ìitsha') was a large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya people of the Terminal Classic period (c. AD 800-900). Chichén Itzá was one of the largest Maya cities and it was likely to have been one of the mythical great cities, or Tollans, referred to in later Mesoamerican literature. The city may have had the most diverse population in the Maya world, a factor that could have contributed to the variety of architectural styles at the site.

The Maya name "Chichén Itzá" means "At the mouth of the well of the Itzá." This derives from chi', meaning "mouth" or "edge," and ch'en or ch'e'en, meaning "well." Itzá is the name of an ethnic-lineage group that gained political and economic



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...Chichén Itzá

dominance of the northern peninsula. One possible translation for Itzá is "enchanter (or enchantment) of the water," from its, "sorcerer," and ha, "water." The name is spelled Chichén Itzá in Spanish, and the accents are sometimes maintained in other languages to show that both parts of the name are stressed on their final syllable.



Chichén Itzá main pyramid, El Castillo

Chichén Itzá Rules

Chichén Itzá rose to regional prominence towards the end of the Early Classic period (roughly 600 AD). It was, however, towards the end of the Late Classic and into the early part of the Terminal Classic that the site became a major regional capital, centralizing and dominating political, sociocultural, economic and ideological life in the northern Maya lowlands. The ascension of Chichén Itzá roughly correlates with the decline and fragmentation of the major centers of the southern Maya lowlands. As Chichén Itzá rose to prominence, the cities of Yaxuna (to the south) and Coba (to the east) were suffering decline. These two cities had been mutual allies, with Yaxuna dependent upon Cobá. **At some point in the 10th century Cobá lost a significant portion of its territory, isolating Yaxuna, and Chichén Itzá may have directly contributed to the collapse of both cities.**

Chichén Itzá Conquered

According to Maya chronicles, Hunac Ceel, ruler of Mayapan, conquered Chichén Itzá in the 13th century. Hunac Ceel supposedly prophesied his own rise to power. According to custom at the time, individuals thrown into the Cenote Sagrado were believed to have the power of prophecy if they survived. During one such ceremony, the chronicles state, there were no survivors, so Hunac Ceel leaped into the Cenote Sagrado, and when removed, prophesied his own ascension.

While there is some archaeological evidence that indicates Chichén Itzá was at one time looted and sacked, there appears to be greater evidence that it could not have been by Mayapan, at least not when Chichén Itzá was an active urban center. Archaeological data now indicates that Chichén Itzá declined as a regional center by 1250 CE, before the rise of Mayapan. Ongoing research at the site of Mayapan may help resolve this chronological conundrum.

While Chichén Itzá "collapsed" or fell (meaning elite activities ceased) it may not have been abandoned. When the Spanish arrived, they found a thriving local population, although it is not clear from Spanish sources if Maya were living in Chichén Itzá or nearby. The relatively high density of population in the region was one of the factors behind the conquistadors' decision to locate a capital there. According to post-Conquest sources, both Spanish and Maya, the Cenote Sagrado remained a place of pilgrimage.



Lisa with the columns

Spanish conquest

In 1526 Spanish Conquistador Francisco de Montejo (a veteran of the Grijalva and Cortés expeditions) successfully petitioned the King of Spain for a charter to conquer Yucatán. His first campaign in 1527, which covered much of the Yucatán peninsula, decimated his forces but ended with the establishment of a small fort at Xaman Ha', south of what is today Cancún. Montejo returned to Yucatán in 1531 with reinforcements and established his main base at Campeche on the west coast. He sent his son, Francisco Montejo the Younger, in late 1532, to conquer the interior of the Yucatán Peninsula from the north. The objective from the beginning was to go to Chichén Itzá and establish a capital.

...Chichén Itzá

Montejo Jr. eventually arrived at Chichén Itzá, which he renamed Ciudad Real. At first he encountered no resistance, and set about dividing the lands around the city and awarding them to his soldiers. The Maya became more hostile over time, and eventually they laid siege to the Spanish, cutting off their supply line to the coast, and forcing them to barricade themselves among the ruins of the ancient city. Months passed, but no reinforcements arrived. Montejo Jr. attempted an all-out assault against the Maya and lost 150 of his remaining troops. He was forced to abandon Chichén Itzá in 1534 under cover of darkness. **By 1535, all Spanish had been driven from the Yucatán Peninsula.** Montejo eventually returned to Yucatán and, by recruiting Maya from Campeche and Champotón, built a large Indio-Spanish army and conquered the peninsula. The Spanish crown later issued a land grant that included Chichén Itzá and by 1588 it was a working cattle ranch.

Modern History

Chichén Itzá entered the popular imagination in 1843 with the book *Incidents of Travel in Yucatán* by John Lloyd Stephens (with illustrations by Frederick Catherwood). The book recounted Stephens' visit to Yucatán and his tour of Maya cities, including Chichén Itzá. The book prompted other explorations of the city. In 1860, Desire Charnay surveyed Chichén Itzá and took numerous photographs that he published in *Cités et ruines américaines* (1863).

In 1875, Augustus Le Plongeon and his wife Alice Dixon Le Plongeon visited Chichén, and excavated a statue of a figure on its back, knees drawn up, and upper torso raised on its elbows with a plate on its stomach. Augustus Le Plongeon called it "Chaacmol" (later renamed "Chac Mool", which has been the term to describe all types of this statuary found in Mesoamerica). Teobert Maler and Alfred Maudslay explored Chichén in the 1880s and both spent several weeks at the site and took extensive photographs. Maudslay published the first long-form description of Chichén Itzá in his book, *Biologia Centrali-Americana*.

In 1894, the United States Consul to Yucatán, Edward Herbert Thompson purchased the Hacienda Chichén, which included the ruins of Chichén Itzá. For 30 years, Thompson explored the ancient city. His discoveries included the earliest dated carving upon a lintel in the Temple of the Initial Series and the excavation of several graves in the Osario (High Priest's Temple). Thompson is most famous for dredging the Cenote Sagrado (Sacred Cenote) from 1904 to 1910, where he recovered artifacts of gold, copper and carved jade, as well as the first-ever examples of what were believed to be pre-Columbian Maya cloth and wooden weapons. Thompson shipped the bulk of the artifacts to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

[Chichén Itzá light show](#)



...Chichén Itzá



Chichén Itzá tzompantli or skull platform

In 1913, the Carnegie Institution accepted the proposal of archaeologist Sylvanus G. Morley and committed to conduct long-term archaeological research at Chichén Itzá. The Mexican Revolution and the following government instability, as well as World War I, delayed the project by a decade. In 1923, the Mexican government awarded the Carnegie Institution a 10-year permit (later extended another 10 years) to allow U.S. archaeologists to conduct extensive excavation and restoration of Chichén Itzá. Carnegie researchers excavated and restored the Temple of Warriors and the Caracol, among other major buildings. At the same time, the Mexican government excavated and restored El Castillo and the Great Ball Court.

In 1926, the Mexican government charged Edward Thompson with theft, claiming he stole the artifacts from the Cenote Sagrado and smuggled them out of the country. The government seized the Hacienda Chichén. Thompson, who was in the United States at the time, never returned to Yucatán. He wrote about his research and investigations of the Maya culture in a book *People of the Serpent* published in 1932. He died in New Jersey in 1935. In 1944, the Mexican Supreme Court ruled that Thompson had broken no laws and returned Chichén Itzá to his heirs. The Thompsons sold the hacienda to tourism pioneer Fernando Barbachano Peon.

There have been two later expeditions to recover artifacts from the Cenote Sagrado, in 1961 and 1967. The first was sponsored by National Geographic, and the second by private interests. Both projects were supervised by Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). INAH has conducted an ongoing effort to excavate and restore other monuments in the archaeological zone, including the Osario, Akab D'zib, and several buildings in Chichén Viejo (Old Chichén).

Since 2009, Yucatec archaeologists began excavations adjacent to El Castillo under the direction of Rafael (Rach) Cobos. This investigation of the construction, that predates El Castillo, continues today.



Chichén Itzá columns

Site Layout

Chichén Itzá was one of the largest Maya cities, with the relatively densely clustered architecture of the site core covering an area of at least 5 square kilometres (1.9 sq mi). Smaller-scale residential architecture extends for an unknown distance beyond this. The city was built upon broken terrain, which was artificially levelled in order to build the major architectural groups, with the greatest effort being expended in the levelling of the areas for the Castillo pyramid, and the Las Monjas, Osario and Main Southwest groups. The site contains many fine stone buildings in various states of preservation, and many have been restored. The buildings were connected by a dense network of paved causeways, called *sacbeob*. Archaeologists have identified over 80 *sacbeob* criss-crossing the site, and extending in all directions from the city.

The architecture encompasses a number of styles, including the Puuc and Chenes styles of the northern Yucatán Peninsula. The buildings of Chichén Itzá are grouped in a series of architectural sets, and each set was at one time separated from the other by a series of low walls. The three best-known of these complexes are the Great North Platform, which includes the monuments of El Castillo, Temple of Warriors and the Great Ball Court; The Osario Group, which includes the pyramid of the same name as well as the Temple of Xtoloc; and the Central Group, which includes the Caracol, Las Monjas, and Akab Dzib.

...Chichén Itzá

South of Las Monjas, in an area known as Chichén Viejo (Old Chichén) and only open to archaeologists, are several other complexes, such as the Group of the Initial Series, Group of the Lintels, and Group of the Old Castle.

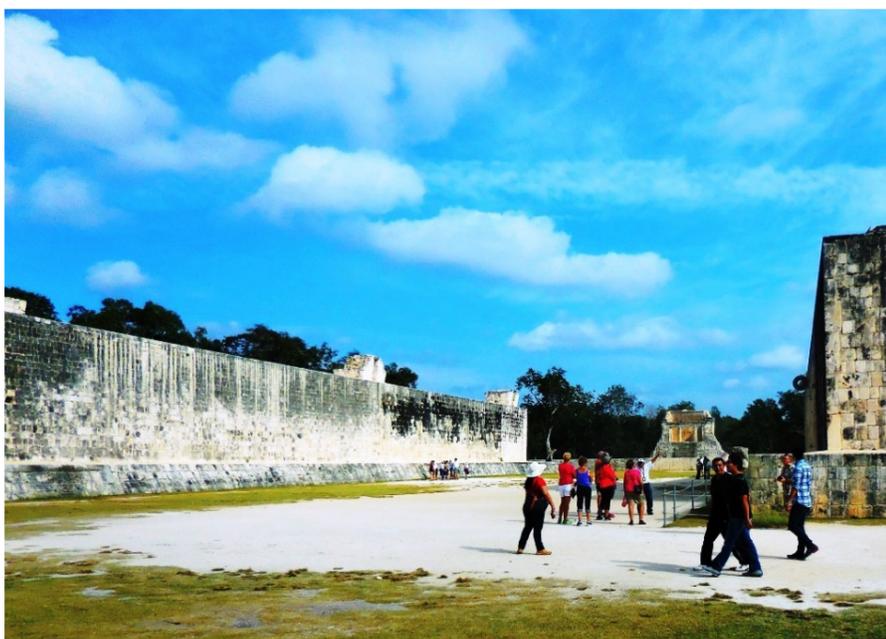
Prominent Structures at Chichén Itzá

Great Ball Court

Archaeologists have identified thirteen ballcourts for playing the Mesoamerican ballgame in Chichén Itzá, but the Great Ball Court about 150 metres (490 ft) to the north-west of the Castillo is by far the most impressive. It is the largest and best preserved ball court in ancient Mesoamerica. It measures 168 by 70 metres (551 by 230 ft). The parallel platforms flanking the main playing area are each 95 metres (312 ft) long. The walls of these platforms stand 8 metres (26 ft) high; set high up in the centre of each of these walls are rings carved with intertwined feathered serpents. At the base of the high interior walls are slanted benches with sculpted panels of teams of ball players. In one panel, one of the players has been decapitated; the wound emits streams of blood in the form of wriggling snakes.

At one end of the Great Ball Court is the North Temple, also known as the Temple of the Bearded Man (Templo del Hombre Barbado). This small masonry building has detailed bas relief carving on the inner walls, including a center figure that has carving under his chin that resembles facial hair. At the south end is another, much bigger temple, but in ruins. Built into the east wall are the Temples of the Jaguar.

The Upper Temple of the Jaguar overlooks the ball court and has an entrance guarded by two, large columns carved in the familiar feathered serpent motif. Inside there is a large mural,



Chichén Itzá ball court

much destroyed, which depicts a battle scene. In the entrance to the Lower Temple of the Jaguar, which opens behind the ball court, is another Jaguar throne, similar to the one in the inner temple of El Castillo, except that it is well worn and missing paint or other decoration. The outer columns and the walls inside the temple are covered with elaborate bas-relief carvings.

Cenote Sagrado

The Yucatán Peninsula is a limestone plain, with no rivers or streams. The region is pockmarked with natural sinkholes, called cenotes, which expose the water table to the surface. One of the most impressive of these is the Cenote Sagrado, which is 60 metres (200 ft) in diameter, and sheer cliffs that drop to the water table some 27 metres (89 ft) below. The Cenote Sagrado was a place of pilgrimage for ancient Maya people who, according to ethnohistoric sources, would conduct sacrifices during times of drought. Archaeological investigations support this as thousands of objects have been removed from the bottom of the cenote, including material such as gold, carved jade, copal, pottery, flint, obsidian, shell, wood, rubber, cloth, as well as skeletons of children and men.



Sacred cenote

Temple of the Warriors

The Temple of the Warriors complex consists of a large, stepped pyramid fronted and flanked by rows of carved columns depicting warriors. This complex is analogous to Temple B at the Toltec capital of Tula, and indicates some form of cultural contact between the two regions. The one at Chichén Itzá, however, was constructed on a larger scale. At the top of the stairway on the pyramid's summit (and leading towards the entrance of the pyramid's temple) is a Chac Mool. This temple encases or entombs a former structure called The Temple of

...Chichén Itzá

the Chac Mool. The archeological expedition and restoration of this building was done by the Carnegie Institution of Washington from 1925 to 1928. A key member of this restoration was Earl H. Morris who published the work from this expedition in two volumes entitled Temple of the Warriors.

Group of a Thousand Columns

Along the south wall of the Temple of Warriors are a series of what are today exposed columns although, when the city was inhabited, these would have supported an extensive roof system. The columns are in three distinct sections: a west group, that extends the lines of the front of the Temple of Warriors; a north group, which runs along the south wall of the Temple of Warriors and contains pillars with carvings of soldiers in bas-relief; and a northeast group, which apparently formed a small temple at the southeast corner of the Temple of Warriors, which contains a rectangular decorated with carvings of people or gods, as well as animals and serpents. The northeast column temple also covers a small marvel of engineering, a channel that funnels all the rainwater from the complex some 40 metres (130 ft) away to a rejollada, a former cenote.



Dan and Lisa touring columns in the temple

To the south of the Group of a Thousand Columns is a group of three, smaller, interconnected buildings. The Temple of the Carved Columns is a small elegant building that consists of a front gallery with an inner corridor that leads to an altar with a Chac Mool. There are also numerous columns with rich, bas-relief carvings of some 40 personages. A section of the upper façade with a motif of x's and o's is displayed in front of the

structure. The Temple of the Small Tables is an unrestored mound. And the Thompson's Temple (referred to in some sources as Palace of Ahau Balam Kauil) is a small building with two levels that has friezes depicting Jaguars (balam in Maya) as well as glyphs of the Maya god Kahuil.



Chichén Itzá group

"El Caracol" – The Observatory

El Caracol ("The Snail") is located to the north of Las Monjas. The structure is dated to around AD 906, the Late Classic period of Mesoamerican chronology, by the stele on the Upper Platform. It is suggested that the El Caracol was an ancient Mayan observatory building and provided a way for the Mayan people to observe changes in the sky due to the flattened landscape of the Yucatán with no natural markers for this function around Chichén Itzá. The observers could view the sky above the vegetation on the Yucatán Peninsula without any obstruction. It is a round building on a large square platform. It gets its name from the stone spiral staircase inside. The structure, with its unusual placement on the platform and its round shape (the others are rectangular, in keeping with Maya practice), is theorized to have been a proto-observatory with doors and windows aligned to astronomical events, specifically around the path of Venus as it traverses the heavens.

Mayan astronomers knew, from naked-eye observations, that Venus appeared on the western and disappeared on the eastern horizons at different times in the year, and that it took 584 days to complete one cycle. They also knew that five of these Venus cycles equaled eight solar years. Venus would therefore make an appearance at the northerly and southerly extremes at eight-year intervals. Of 29 possible astronomical events (eclipses, equinoxes, solstices, etc.) believed to be of interest to the Mesoamerican residents of Chichén Itzá, sight lines for 20 can be found in the structure. Since a portion of the tower resting on El Caracol has been lost, it is possible that other observations will never be ascertained.

...Chichén Itzá



Tourism

Tourism has been a factor at Chichén Itzá for more than a century. John Lloyd Stephens, who popularized the Maya Yucatán in the public's imagination with his book *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*, inspired many to make a pilgrimage to Chichén Itzá. Even before the book was published, Benjamin Norman and Baron Emanuel von Friedrichsthal traveled to Chichén after meeting Stephens, and both published the results of what they found. Friedrichsthal was the first to photograph Chichén Itzá, using the recently invented daguerreotype.

After Edward Thompson in 1894 purchased the Hacienda Chichén, which included Chichén Itzá, he received a constant stream of visitors. In 1910, he announced his intention to construct a hotel on his property, but abandoned those plans, probably because of the Mexican Revolution.

In the early 1920s, a group of Yucatecans, led by writer/photographer Francisco Gómez Rul, began working toward expanding tourism to Yucatán. They urged Governor Felipe Carrillo Puerto to build roads to the more famous monuments, including Chichén Itzá. In 1923, Governor Carrillo Puerto officially opened the highway to Chichén Itzá. Gómez Rul published one of the first guidebooks to Yucatán and the ruins.

Gómez Rul's son-in-law, Fernando Barbachano Peon (a grandnephew of former Yucatán Governor Miguel Barbachano), started Yucatán's first official tourism business in the early 1920s. He began by meeting passengers who arrived by steamship at Progreso, the port north of Mérida, and persuading them to spend a week in Yucatán, after which they would catch the next steamship to their next destination. In his first year, Barbachano Peon reportedly was only able to convince seven passengers to leave the ship and join him on a tour. In the mid

-1920s Barbachano Peon persuaded Edward Thompson to sell 5 acres (20,000 m²) next to Chichén for a hotel. In 1930, the Mayaland Hotel opened, just north of the Hacienda Chichén, which had been taken over by the Carnegie Institution.

In 1944, Barbachano Peon purchased all of the Hacienda Chichén, including Chichén Itzá, from the heirs of Edward Thompson. Around that same time the Carnegie Institution completed its work at Chichén Itzá and abandoned the Hacienda Chichén, which Barbachano turned into another seasonal hotel.

In 1972, Mexico enacted the Ley Federal Sobre Monumentos y Zonas Arqueológicas, Artísticas e Históricas (Federal Law over Monuments and Archeological, Artistic and Historic Sites) that put all the nation's pre-Columbian monuments, including those at Chichén Itzá, under federal ownership. There were now hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors every year to Chichén Itzá, and more were expected with the development of the Cancún resort area to the east.



Osario pyramid—Chichén Itzá

In the 1980s, Chichén Itzá began to receive an influx of visitors on the day of the spring equinox. Today several thousand show up to see the light-and-shadow effect on the Tem-

...Chichén Itzá



La Iglesia de Las Monjas complex

ple of Kukulcán in which the feathered serpent god appears be seen to crawl down the side of the pyramid. Tourists are also amazed by the acoustics at Chichén Itzá. For instance a hand-clap in front of the staircase of the El Castillo pyramid is followed by an echo that resembles the chirp of a quetzal as investigated by Declercq.

Over the past several years, INAH, which manages the site, has been closing monuments to public access. While visitors can walk around them, they can no longer climb them or go inside their chambers. The most recent was El Castillo, which was closed after a San Diego, California, woman fell to her death in 2006.



Tour guide

Chichén Itzá was one of the most-visited archaeological sites in Mexico; in 2007 it was estimated to receive an average of 1.2 million visitors every year and Chichén Itzá's El Castillo was named one of the New Seven Wonders of the World after a worldwide vote. Despite the fact that the vote was sponsored by a commercial enterprise, and that its methodology was criticized, the vote was embraced by government and tourism officials in Mexico who projected that, as a result of the publicity, the number of tourists expected to visit Chichén Itzá would double by 2012.

We can say without question that Chichén Itzá continues to be a huge draw with tourists given the buses and visitors we experienced during our visit in 2016.

Chichén Itzá, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the second-most visited of Mexico's archaeological sites. The archaeological site continues to draw visitors from several popular tourist resorts and Mérida, who make a day trip on tour buses.

Submitted by Dan and Lisa Goy
 Owners of Baja Amigos RV Caravan Tours
 Experiences from our 90-day Mexico RV Tour: January 7-April 5, 2016
www.BajaAmigos.net

... more pics follow

you can reach Dan and Lisa Goy at thegoys@manzanillosun.com

...Chichén Itzá



Boys out for a beer in Pisté, Yucatán

Gang very keen about Chichén Itzá



Chichén Itzá tour

...Chichén Itzá



Easy to follow road signs

Great light show at Chichén Itzá



Kelly, Lisa and Janice at Chichén Itzá sacred cenote

...Chichén Itzá

Lots of tour buses at Chichén Itzá



Marion, Anita and Lisa at the sacred cenote

Our guide explains La Iglesia in the Las Monjas complex



...Chichén Itzá



The Pirámide Inn pool

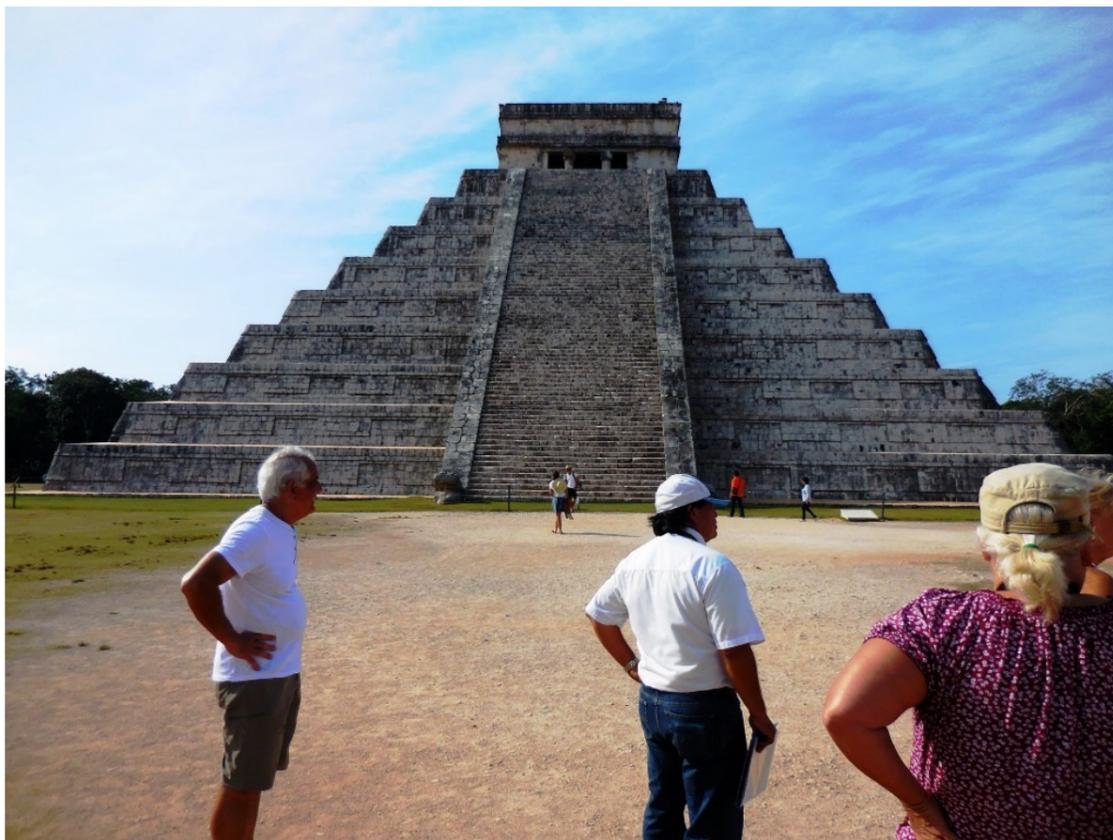
The Pirámide Inn parking was tight



The Zócalo at Pisté

...Chichén Itzá

Sales are brisk at Chichén Itzá



The Castillo temple

El Caracol observatory temple



Jim Evans



Jim Evans passed away on August 23rd, 2017, listening to the sounds of the ocean in his Santiago home, after courageous battle with lung cancer that he almost won. Jim moved to Manzanillo ten years ago. He had many friends in Manzanillo and was active in his condo association and wrote articles for the Manzanillo Sun e-magazine.

Jim enjoyed spending time at the beach and at local restaurants. He is survived by six children, nine grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and his former wife June.

Jim was a pilot for World Airways and Pan Am as well as an entrepreneur who owned several businesses before making Manzanillo his home. Our deepest condolences go to his family.

Santiago Bay



DEAD BREAD (PAN DE MUERTOS)


Photo source: [Bluffton Today](#), Recipe source: [allrecipes.com](#)

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup margarine
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons anise seed
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 teaspoons orange zest
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 2 tablespoons white sugar

Directions

1. Heat the milk and the butter together in a medium saucepan, until the butter melts. Remove from the heat and add them warm water. The mixture should be around 110 degrees F (43 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl combine 1 cup of the flour, yeast, salt, anise seed and 1/4 cup of the sugar. Beat in the warm milk mixture then add the eggs and orange zest and beat until well combined. Stir in 1/2 cup of flour and continue adding more flour until the dough is soft.
3. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic.
4. Place the dough into a lightly greased bowl cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size. This will take about 1 to 2 hours. Punch the dough down and shape it into a large round loaf with a round knob on top. Place dough onto a baking sheet, loosely cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place for about 1 hour or until just about doubled in size.
5. Bake in a preheated 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven for about 35 to 45 minutes. Remove from oven let cool slightly then brush with glaze.
6. To make glaze: In a small saucepan combine the 1/4 cup sugar, orange juice and orange zest. Bring to a boil over medium heat and boil for 2 minutes. Brush over top of bread while still warm. Sprinkle glazed bread with white sugar.

Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition

1		2			3	4		5
				6				
7					8			
	9	10						
11								12
13				14		15		
16					17			

Across

- 1 (you/usted) look at, watch, purpose, object
- 3 theme
- 7 laws
- 8 thousand
- 9 to marry, get married
- 13 use
- 14 sweet candy
- 16 wings
- 17 yesterday, day's gone by, yesteryear, the past

Last month's crossword solution:

1	v	i	2	v	e		3	a	4	p	i	5	e
	a		e		6	a		a				r	
7	s	o	n		8	n	u	n	c	a			
	o		í		c							n	
		9	c	a	p	i	t	10	á	n			
11	p				a			n			12	h	
13	a	l	14	f	i	n		15	i	r	a		
	í		i		o			m			c		
16	s	i	n	o		17	p	o	n	e			

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Day of the Dead

Día de Muertos

from the Path to Citizenship series

Day of the Dead (Spanish: Día de Muertos) is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican ancestry living in other places, especially the United States. It is acknowledged internationally in many other cultures. The multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and help support their spiritual journey. In 2008, the tradition was inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

The holiday is sometimes called Día de los Muertos in Anglophone countries, a back-translation of its original name, Día de Muertos. It is particularly celebrated in Mexico where the day is a public holiday. Prior to Spanish colonization in the 16th century, the celebration took place at the beginning of summer.



Gradually, it was associated with October 31, November 1 and November 2 to coincide with the Western Christian triduum of Allhallowtide: All Saints' Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day. Traditions connected with the holiday include building private altars called ofrendas, honoring the deceased using calaveras, aztec marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these as gifts. Visitors also leave possessions of the deceased at the graves.

Scholars trace the origins of the modern Mexican holiday to indigenous observances dating back hundreds of years and to an Aztec festival dedicated to the goddess Mictecacihuatl. The holiday has spread throughout the world, being absorbed within other deep traditions for honoring the dead. It has become a national symbol and as such is taught (for educational purposes) in the nation's schools. Many families celebrate a traditional "All Saints' Day" associated with the Catholic Church.

Originally, the Day of the Dead as such was not celebrated in northern Mexico, where it was unknown until the 20th century because its indigenous people had different traditions. The people and the church rejected it as a day related to syncretizing pagan elements with Catholic Christianity. They held the traditional 'All Saints' Day' in the same way as other Christians in the world. There was limited Mesoamerican influence in this region, and relatively few indigenous inhabitants from the regions of Southern Mexico, where the holiday was celebrated. In the early 21st century in northern Mexico, Día de Muertos is observed because the Mexican government made it a national holiday based on educational policies from the 1960s; it has introduced this holiday as a unifying national tradition based on indigenous traditions.

The Mexican Day of the Dead celebration is similar to other societies' observances of a time to honor the dead. The Spanish tradition, for instance, includes festivals and parades, as well as gatherings of families at cemeteries to pray for their deceased loved ones at the end of the day.

Source: photo and article, Wikipedia

To see more about this article series, visit us at [Path to Citizenship \(P2C\) online](http://manzanillosun.com)



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Horario: Lunes a Sábado, 17:00 - 00:30 hrs.