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Welcome to the NEW BAJA CITIZEN!

Editor’s Letter

Your favorite local English-language news source has re-emerged, now with an exciting new magazine format. The new Baja Citizen will be published monthly, from October through May.

I hope the magazine will provide insight into what makes La Paz and its surrounding precincts ‘tick’ -- the news, the culture, the entertainment scene, real estate, and more! The magazine will be distributed in all your favorite places in La Paz, as well as in the communities of El Centenario, La Ventana/ El Sargento, Los Barriles, and Todos Santos.

I am still looking for writers! If you have a bit of free time and you like to write, we are looking for articles of 500 words or less that would be of interest to our readers. Also send me your photos. If I use one of your photos in the magazine, you will receive photo credit.

Additionally, I am looking for a sales person to help with advertising. If you are interested, please email me for details.

If you have an upcoming event, please submit a short paragraph or two with all the important information so we can get the word out. Information for events must be received before the 20th of each month for publication in the following month’s issue. Please send event details to me at gari-ellen@bajacitizen.com.

The Baja Citizen community magazine will continue with its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/thebajacitizen, and also with on-line news at www.bajacitizen.com. News and events from around the city will be uploaded daily, so please check frequently.

I look forward to publishing an attractive, informative, and useful magazine for people traveling to La Paz as well as for the English-speaking community now calling La Paz home. I always welcome feedback, so please feel free to send me an email at gari-ellen@bajacitizen.com.

Yours,
Gari-Ellen
Tom Ireton

After singlehandedly sailing his sailboat from Friday Harbor, Washington to La Paz in 1999, Tom has become an active member in the arts community. He helped form the La Paz Youth Symphony Orchestra. Just last year, he was invited to play with the newly formed professional symphony orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica de Baja California Sur. Tom has also opened eight photography exhibitions during his time living in Baja California Sur, including in La Paz, Mexico City and San Jose del Cabo.
Armando Martinez Vega was officially sworn in as mayor of La Paz at 7:00 pm on Sunday, September 27th. By 8:00 am the next morning, the new administration was already out filling potholes, and was also busy beginning the firing of 1,000 city workers in order to decrease the amount the municipality pays in salaries.

Martinez inherited a bankrupt municipality from Esthela Ponce Beltran and Francisco Monroy Sánchez. When Ponce Beltran took over in 2011 after the three-year term of Rosa Delia Cota Montaño, Ponce Beltran found the municipality to be a little more than $285,000 million pesos in debt. Far from reducing that debt, former-mayor Esthela Ponce Beltrán increased the debt to what some are suspecting to be close to $895,000 million pesos.

During the last few months of Monroy Sánchez’s term, the city was unable to pay the salaries of city workers. Garbage collection was intermittent, and the streets were left unattended after every rain. Monroy Sánchez had also been trying to work out a deal with CFE (Federal Electricity Commission) to pay the municipality’s past-due $35 million peso electric bill. City offices were running on gas generators over the summer.

The state government under Governor Carlos Mendoza has secured a deal with CFE to pay the municipality’s outstanding electricity debt. Even so, newly-appointed mayor Martinez Vega is still committed to decreasing the city’s payroll cost. Currently, the city isn’t generating enough income to pay all its staff. Not even close. In order to decrease payroll costs, Martinez Vega will need to reduce city staffing by 1,000 employees.

Painful and complicated measures will have to be taken in order to correct the problems inherited from previous administrations; nonetheless, Martinez Vega is committing his term as mayor to getting Baja California Sur’s capital back on track.

Martinez Vega’s term will run until 2018.
Ven y celebra con nosotros 13 y 14 de noviembre
Que mejor manera que capacitándonos y compartiendo temas en común

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Hola, qué gusto saludarte. A nombre del Consejo Directivo te doy la más cordial bienvenida a este PRIMER CONGRESO INMOBILIARIO LA PAZ 2015.

Éste es un evento de gran interés para quienes laboramos en el sector inmobiliario.

“NOROESTE PARAÍSO DE INVERSIÓN”

El cual se celebrará los días 13 y 14 de Noviembre del año en curso, teniendo como sede el Centro de Convenciones Costa Baja de La Paz, y organizado por La Asociación Sudcaliforniana de Profesionales Inmobiliarios.

En este Congreso tendrás la oportunidad de relacionarte con compañeros de toda la región donde podrás hacer más y nuevos negocios.

El congreso surge como respuesta a la necesidad de incrementar la Actividad, así como celebrar el día del Agente inmobiliario, y qué mejor forma de celebrarlo que capacitándonos y actualizándonos para lograr una mejor prestación de servicios, al mismo tiempo que analizamos y creamos nuevas estrategias para satisfacer las necesidades inmobiliarias en nuestra zona.

Hoy, el sector Inmobiliario aporta un porcentaje bastante considerable del PIB de esta parte del País.

Te esperamos para que juntos sigamos siendo la fuerza que mueve a nuestra Región.

ATENTAMENTE:

Carolina Almaguer Ibarra.

Presidenta
Day of the Dead in La Paz and all over Mexico is not only a day to remember the dearly-departed, it is a time to poke fun at death. Altars are set up around town and in homes honoring one person or many. The altars are laden with food and drink and redolent with the smells of cinnamon and chocolate.

By Susan Fogel

Not to be missed is the two day celebration on the grounds of the Teatro de La Ciudad. Music, food, entertainment, and symbolic graves are all part of the fun.

But the best part of it all is the strolling Catrinas. Children as young as three and adults dress up as a Catrina. Their faces are whitened and made to look like skulls. Ingenious skin painting makes it look as if the Catrinas are walking skeletons. In the past few years, some of the most glamorous and dramatic Catrinas have been men in drag. Each Catrina wears a number, and there is voting for the best. They will walk among you, and lay a bony hand on your shoulder, and let you snap a photo of their deathly faces.

A Catrina at the Day of the Dead celebration in La Paz.
Just how did this Diva of Death become so popular?

The original La Catrina was actually called La Calavera Garbancera. Lithographer and political cartoonist Jose Guadalupe Posada created a brochure with just the ghastly head wearing a giant and ornate hat. It was making fun of the rich Mexicans aping French dress and wearing so much makeup that they looked deathly white.

And it says, “… Those garbanceras who today are coated with makeup will end up as deformed skulls…”

Those were revolutionary times. This was 1910. And Jose Guadalupe Posada was protesting the Diaz regime and the unbalanced wealth of the few and searing poverty of many. Revolution followed.

La Calavera did not have a body or wear clothing until 1948, when Diego Rivera painted his epic Sunday Evening’s Dream. It depicts 400 years of Mexican history. In the center is La Calavera, whom he painted in ornate garb, and then dubbed her “La Catrina”, which is slang for well-dressed or overdressed. On the right is mustachioed Posada and to the left is Rivera and towering over him, Frida Kahlo. Rivera was influenced by and considered Posada to be his father in art.

La Catrina takes many forms and media, papier-mâché, clay, black clay, and ceramic. A revolutionary political symbol lithograph in 1910 gained a name and wardrobe in 1948. Then she became a hand-painted art piece in 1982. But clearly, the best examples of La Catrina, the Diva of Death, are the wonderful participants in La Paz’ own Day of the Dead Celebrations. This is an annual event that should not be missed.

Head to el Teatro de La Ciudad on Saturday and Sunday November 1st and 2nd and enjoy!

La Catrina had a fashion makeover in 1982, when Juan Torres, a sculptor from Morelia, made her in clay and painstakingly painted her in colorful detail; Torres’ signed work is collectible and beautiful.

Susan Fogel is an observer of life and writes to tell you what she sees. Visit her blog mexicomusings.com
Eighth Annual Festival of Velas in Uruapan, Michoacán

By John K. Glaab

Most people who live in Mexico are aware of the traditional Dia de los Muertos activities and traditions. What is less known is the Festival of Velas (candles) that takes place in Uruapan, Michoacán.

During the period of October 29th to November 2nd, special cultural events will be staged. The inauguration will include the unveiling of a large “ofrenda” (altar) in the main plaza. These ofrendas are not meant for worshipping but are reminders of those who have passed away. Many families build ofrendas, which are festively decorated with flowers, artwork, and votive candles, as a kind of visual reminder of their ancestors and departed loved ones.

Ofrendas often feature images of family members as well as those of the Virgin de Guadalupe or the Christian cross. It is common for people to leave gifts for the spirits of family members at graveside ofrendas. Often toys and candies will be left at the graves of children, while a bottle of tequila will be left for adults. Trinkets and other items which the person enjoyed in life are also common choices for ofrenda offerings, and pillows and blankets can be meant to help the spirits rest as they journey through the afterlife.

Ofrendas in Uruapan will also be erected on side streets at both ends of main streets in the town. Young people will explain the content of each ofrenda during the festivities to those who want to learn more.

More than 10,000 candles will also be lit each evening. Truly a festive environment will be created. On the streets, one can see Catrinas that have been constructed by students as well as “living” Catrinas. Some will don costumes and have faces hand painted to portray skeletons.

At 7 p.m. on the 2nd of November, the Festival will come to a close. At that time, 1,000 lit balloons will be sent skyward. It really is a beautiful festival to observe.

Photos courtesy of John Glaab.
John Glaab is a well-known member of Mexico’s real estate community. He lives six months each year in La Paz, B.C.S. and six months in Uruapan, Michoacán.
La Paz’s Annual Day of the Dead Festival will take place on Sunday, November 1st and Monday, November 2nd at the Teatro de la Ciudad. The Teatro is located on Navarro between Altamirano and Heroes de Independencia. The Festival starts at 6:00 pm both evenings.

This is an authentic celebration, a genuine community event. If you haven’t yet attended, do it this year. You will not be disappointed. Day of the Dead in Mexico is on November 1st, also known as All Souls Day. It is believed that the veil between the living and the dead is thinnest at this time. It is a time to pay homage to relatives and friends that have died. And to poke fun at death. And ghosts walk among us.

There will be ofrendas (alters) on display as well as a Catrina contest where each Catrina wears a number, and there is voting for the best one. They will walk among you and happily pose for pictures. But they won’t smile.

There will be traditional Mexican food available including tamales and atole as well as live entertainment on the main stage throughout the evening. It really is one of La Paz’s best festivals.
Bravo! Mercado Bravo

An Interview with Lila Magallón by TBC

Many of you have heard about Mercado Bravo (the Bravo Market), located at the corner of Bravo and Gmo. Prieto, but have never found the time to go see if for yourselves. If you are wondering if a trip to this market is worth it, take a gander at the following interview with local artist and activist Lila Magallón. In the interview, Lila beautifully describes Mercado Bravo.

Lila, whose father was paceño (a person from La Paz) and whose mother is from Minnesota, considers herself to be both Mexican and estadounidense (a person from the US). Actually, Lila considers herself to be a paceña-Minnesotan. “Very different worlds to say the least,” Lila tells us, “but they are both lands of sharp beauty and hard-working people.”

“When I think of Minnesota,” Lila says, “I think of beautiful green hills, loons, and lakes, lakes, lakes. My memory savors the most succulent sweet corn; I think of the mighty Mississippi and of my loving family, and I feel the excitement of my childhood adventures to the state fair.”

“These are just a few of the kinds of unique things that become engraved in our memories, our souls, and our hearts. We associate feelings with sights and smells, with the weather, or with a certain accent.”

“When I am away from my hometown of La Paz,” Lila says, “I become a little melancholy for a while. I daydream about the things that make my hometown of La Paz so very special: unequalled sunset strolls on the malecón, a cold beer at Pichilingue, fish tacos for breakfast, our distinctly simple sense of humor, the smell of the desert after a rainy day.”

“Among the places I yearn for most when I am away,” she continues, “is my favorite place to buy food (an important place in my dictionary!) – the fantastic Mercado Bravo. I have been fascinated with the market since my first visit there, and I have been visiting it for a long time now. Being an artist, I am drawn to color and rhythm, and – boy! – is there rhythm walking through this landmark. It’s the real McCoy, as my fellow Minnesotans would say.”

“’Empanada, tacos, tamales, pozole! Qué va a querer?’...” which loosely translates as What’re ya gonna have?, “women
in hairnets frying and steaming away; background sounds of customers ordering food and chatting away with friend and family…” Lila goes on to describe the market. “At any moment someone will rush up behind you with a trolley full of freshly-picked tomatoes, zucchini, onions — you name it! Everything is happening at light speed! Besides being able to have a traditional regional meal at an affordable price, in Mercado Bravo you can shop for ultra-fresh national and local produce!”

Maria Luisa owns one of the fruit and vegetable stalls in the market. She inherited her beloved spot in the market from her grandfather. Maria Luisa says that her grandfather was proud to leave her this legacy, knowing that he was leaving her security for life.

“Which brings me to the most important part of Mercado Bravo: the people,” says Lila. “Seeing them continue the tradition of respecting and caring for our beloved Mercado Bravo makes me proud, and happy. I go there for cheese fresh from the ranchos and for the machaca (shredded meat or fish). I go there for cuts of meat, the cuts I trust most in La Paz. I go for my green juice. And if I see a guy rushing in with a 40-kilo fresh yellowfin tuna, I rush right up behind him to get me some! I go for the satisfaction of it all.”

“Oh,” Lila adds as a final note, “my mom wanted me to mention the Chicken Man. He has the best hormone-free ranch chickens, and they fly off the shelves [pun intended, Ms. Magallón?], so you have to get there early.”

Does that answer your question about whether or not a trip to Mercado Bravo is worth it? Say hi to the Chicken Man for me!
ness, nausea, sweating, changes in mood and insomnia. Moderate poisoning can induce vomiting, coughing, abdominal cramps, trembling and mental confusion. Severe poisoning symptoms are inability to breathe, chemical burns on skin, unconsciousness, cancers, death. Some health effects from pesticide exposure can happen right away, several hours afterwards, or years ahead such as in the case of cancer.

A new evolving environmentally conscientious society is emerging, demanding safer more natural alternatives to gardening and farming. We want to take care of our planet. We want to take of ourselves. We want to ensure that our families are healthy and that our children grow up in a more organic and natural environment. Maybe the ‘quick fix’ is finally turning a corner towards more natural friendlier products in the quest to control the insect population. In today’s market more options are steadily becoming available.

Cultural and mechanical methods of controlling insect populations continue to be popular choices that include:

- Correct garden design selecting plants that are native to the area or resistant to certain insects and diseases.
- Companion planting - certain plants protecting and nurturing other plants.
- Good quality soil, good drainage, aeration, proper pH, natural hormone stimulated enhancers, fertilizers containing essential minerals for optimized growth. Animal manures, green manures, compost teas, fish and seaweed fertilizers.
- Hoeing, weeding, tilling.
- Permaculture and Sustainability practices.
- Old stand by environmentally friendly pesticide options are: yellow sticky traps, pheromone traps, boric acid powders and liquids, insecticidal soaps.

Some of the best-kept secrets are grown right here in the Baja and throughout Mexico. Native plants such as Barberry, Prickly Poppy, Castor Oil, Neem Tree, are but a few to name that have wonderful qualities to repel and control insects. Alkaloids and smothering agents control different pest stages giving us a natural/organic punch in the fight to stay on top of it all. Picaradins from botanical oils are also surging to the forefront as new super powers eager to rival Deet.

Our society is greatly questioning the safety and health concerns brought on by synthetic toxic chemicals. Thus forging on in the quest to find more natural organic options to use for pesticide control. In this need for more natural holistic insecticides, a new evolving business has found the courage to step forward, accepting the challenges of popular demand in the production of new 100% made in Mexico ready to use natural pesticide sprays and concentrates. Addressing the needs of the public that are asking for safer, more natural products that do not harm people, pets, or the environment is most important and at the top of the list for this new emerging business.
Baja Gardening Guru has introduced a new line of sanctioned 100% organic/natural insecticide blends that are amazing repellents, controllers, and destroyers. Products incorporate taste deterrents, smothering agents, residuals and natural growth inhibitors. Ingredients such as neem oil, orange oil, cinnamon, garlic, barberry, marigold and a host of other native ingredients work extremely well to combat most insect plagues. Guru mosquito repellents include Picaradins that rival Deet. Also in the repertoire is a soil bacteria that is targeted to control all larvae and caterpillar stage of loopers, spanworms, cankerworms, leaf rollers and more. Another fantastic blend making its way in to Veterinarian clinics and pet stores is Flea/Tick Pest Terminator. A proven product to control fleas, ticks, mites on dogs, cats, horses and chickens. It even soothes dry itchy skin.

So, are you ready to embark on a holistic, natural, synthetic chemical free environment? Can you do without the “quick fix”? Just say ‘Yes!’

Cathy Ann Hill is the Head Guru and Owner of the Baja Gardening Guru, an El Pescadero based company that specializes in Integrated Pest Management and Organic/Natural 100% made in Mexico Pesticide blends. You can find her on Facebook at The Gardening Guru or e-mail gardeningguruinc@gmail.com.

Making the World a Better Place Through Music

Project Blue - merge music, beauty and community

TBC

Not every day do you have the chance to help an old master regain his craft and share his special gift with a community in need of positive, cultural interaction. In this spirit, Project Blue was launched to bring beauty and music into the lives of the residents of La Paz, Mexico and to give the septuagenarian piano virtuoso Christian Schleifer the opportunity to regain and surpass his past achievements. To make this possible, Project Blue was launched to raise $6,000.00 US in funding to purchase the Baldwin Baby Grand piano.

Christian’s story

He was “discovered” as a child prodigy at four years old, and placed in the Cincinnati Music Conservatory, where he studied for the next 15 years. Playing professionally throughout his 20s, in an incredible story of an artist’s internal struggle with his craft, he later went on hiatus, ceasing to perform publicly for several decades. Years later, residing in Mexico, Christian stumbled upon a familiar Baldwin grand piano in the small town of El Triunfo. Reunited with the same model he had played professionally, and newly inspired, he returned to sharing his gift with the public.

Christian lives in the desert close to La Paz, Mexico and drives miles each day to practice and play concerts at the Museum of Music in El Triunfo. The Museum has suffered years of neglect, and over the past two decades, both the building and the instruments housed within have suffered the unfortunate consequences. The once great Baldwin grand piano is home to nesting wasps, the roof above leaks like a sieve, and needless to say, in an environment where temperatures regularly exceed 100, there is no climate control.

Christian, tireless and driven at 74 years young, requested help in coming up with a solution. He feels he still has a lot to contribute to this world and the community of La Paz, and refuses to let age or other difficulties get in his way.
Project Blue is excited to report that they have reached their goal of raising $6,000.00 US with the help of 48 supporters. Their vision of bringing the beauty of music into the lives of residents of La Paz has turned to a reality.

Project Blue will offer small piano concerts in the “El Angel Azul” Hotel for free groups of people in La Paz that have limited access to cultural events. These would include children, orphans, elderly people and economically disadvantaged residents of La Paz. They will also provide benefit concerts for local charities.

El Angel Azul Hotel, an iconic space in downtown La Paz, will cover the cost of housing the piano and providing a space for concerts. Christian is committed to playing free concerts starting in November for groups such as those mentioned above, and will play private concerts individuals with the economic means to support him with a nominal “ticket” fee.

If you are interested in helping to support the maintenance and tuning of the Baldwin Baby Grand piano or with the expense of free concerts for the community, please check out the Indiegogo page at life.indiegogo.com/fundraisers/project-blue—4 for more information.

The project is only beginning.

Ramblings:
People I’ve Met Around La Paz

By Judy Ristity

The La Paz fantasy: long lazy days, palm trees, cool tropical drinks, and the crystal clear sea, perhaps frolicking with dolphins. That was the image that compelled most of us to move here. But some people’s dream included more -- a job. These adventurers were usually young, single and adaptable. Sidne Byars fit that description.

Shortly after passing her State Boards as a licensed hairdresser in 1965, she landed a job in a top salon in Oakland, Van’s Hair Trap. She met the artist who was painting an Egyptian motif on the salon walls. He’d been to La Paz so he drew a map and handed it to her. That map sat in her drawer for seven years.

In 1968 Sidne traveled throughout mainland Mexico, but it wasn’t her first exposure to this culture. Her step-father was Mexican so she grew up surrounded by Mexican customs. “Papa Sal” was the leader of a Latin band. Also, he was the king pin of Sal’s Auto Body Shop in Berkeley where he painted and pin-striped cars.

In 1973 she opened a salon in North Oakland and six months later, a client said, “I’m going to Mexico tomorrow.” Sidne remembered the artist’s hand-drawn map of La Paz and decided to give La Paz a shot. “I cancelled clients’ appointments and packed a giant suitcase. I flew to San Diego, then to Mexicali and bussed to Mazatlan, a 24-hour bus trip. I was alone.”

She arrived in Mazatlan at midnight and carried her heavy bag to a hotel near the bus station, regretting the ten books she’d packed, but was unwilling to dump them. The next morning, “I was wearing Birkenstocks, tripped on a curb, and landed on my arm – hard. I was in a huge amount of pain. I searched for the bus that went to the ferry, carrying that damn suitcase with my good arm. It was Easter week. All the seats on the bus were filled so I stood.

At the ferry office, the lines were awful. My arm throbbed. Two kids and an old woman were in line behind me. She kept tapping my shoulder and talking but I didn’t understand. Finally, I realized she wanted us to share a cabin. They seemed nice and I was grateful, but since we couldn’t communicate, I headed to the bar where I met a football player from the San Diego Chargers and, after a couple of drinks, my arm felt better.”
The ferry docked in La Paz and Sidne cradled her arm and repeated, “hoos-pée-tal” to a taxi driver. He drove to Salvatierra where Doctor Rodrigues diagnosed a dislocated shoulder. Sidne refused surgery but left with her arm in a sling and muscle relaxers.

She stayed at The Hosteria del Convento, but hung out on the Malecon at La Perla restaurant, where she met expats including Anita Walker, a no-nonsense woman, who had simply walked into the Governor’s office, announced that she was a teacher from San Francisco, and requested a permit to teach English. He granted permission immediately.

Vacation over, Sidne returned home. But in 1986, when her daughter, Samantha was ten, Sidne was ready to relocate. “Things were getting weird in the States. Photos of missing kids were displayed on milk cartons – 50,000 children a year.” Sidne realized that, if she waited longer, it might be difficult for Sami to leave her friends.

They rented a casita in La Posada from Dr. Rodrigues, the doctor who’d treated her in 1973. She had a home, now she needed a job and believing that speaking Spanish would help, she took Spanish lessons from Raymundo, a well-known teacher. He quickly offered her a job teaching English. Samantha took Spanish lessons, also – for two weeks. Then she entered Colegio California, a private Mexican school. Her Spanish blossomed.

Sidne bought a fixer-upper in Jardines del Sur for $7,550 U.S. and lived there while she built a house in La Posada. Sami translated Sidne’s instructions but Sami was a creative interpreter, “Basically, my house was built by a twelve-year old.” In addition to acting as general contractor, Sami attended the neighborhood church and sang accompanied by the Pastor on guitar.

“She made a good decision moving to La Paz and doesn’t regret raising her daughter here. Sami studied opera at Belles Artes in Guanajuato for two years. She rose to #8 out of 64,000 entries in Latin American Idol and later landed a top position on The Voice in Mexico. She’s currently opening a concert bar in Tijuana.

“If you dream of living in La Paz, but need to earn a living, be flexible, ambitious and resourceful.” Sidne was and still is. She started La Paz Real Estate in 1996. She cuts hair, paints and sells her artwork. She opened her first art gallery in 1996 and her trips throughout Mexico have contributed to her success offering art furnishings and décor.

But it’s not all work for this energetic woman. Sidne acts at the Pelican Theater, a local theater group. She travels to the Mainland with friends, creates art, and of course she enjoys La Paz’s balmy nights, palm trees, the sea, and her life here.
Happy Birthday Rocio! Dortia, GE, Miroslava & Rocio

Hector and Elena

Immigna, Alejandra, Margie and Demian
On the night of September 14th, 2014, just a little over a year ago, Hurricane Odile made landfall near Cabo San Lucas, and wreaked havoc as it made its way up the peninsula. All told, the hurricane displaced over 15,000 people from high-risk areas; and it took weeks to restore electricity and clean water across the state.

The International Community Foundation (ICF), a San-Diego based organization that specializes in connecting donors to the causes and communities they care about on the Baja Peninsula, sprang into action immediately following the storm. ICF reached out to colleagues and grantees to assess needs on the ground, while simultaneously raising funds from individual and corporate donors and leveraging local and international philanthropic partners, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Solmar Foundation, and Inovaciones Alumbra, to encourage them to also support the relief effort.

Shortly after re-establishing contact, ICF began issuing grants to address immediate community needs (food, clean water, shelter, medication, clothing, and other basic supplies), to clear roads to ensure communities were accessible to medical and emergency teams, to help rebuild homes and nonprofits’ facilities serving the public, and to help local groups to plan and better prepare to handle future natural disaster. In total, the foundation granted over $400,000 to 19 organizations in 4 municipalities.

Additionally, ICF’s Baja California Sur Field Representative, Cynthia Wickerink, worked on behalf of the foundation to coordinate the on-the-ground relief effort and to build capacity to handle future emergencies. In October 2014, Wickerink organized a series of gatherings of nonprofits and individual volunteers, which, she explains, “served as an opportunity for open communication between groups providing immediate needs after Odile, and to help ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the disaster relief phases to follow.” In January 2015, Wickerink coordinated ICF’s partnership with Fundación Cántaro Azul and WATERKEEPERS Baja Californias to contract the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to educate local nonprofits on disaster preparedness at workshops in both La Paz and Los Cabos. Groups in attendance evaluated the response to Odile and discussed plans to improve future disaster response efforts, including better coordination and communication between key players.

When asked about the foundation’s response to the hurricane, Anne McEnany, ICF’s President and CEO, remarked,
“We are proud to have joined forces with so many of our Mexican and other international partners to ensure a swift and successful recovery from such a devastating natural disaster. We know the work is not done, and we are committed to supporting local efforts to continue to rebuild and to prepare for the future.”

This is why the foundation has begun offering disaster preparedness grants to nonprofits in the region, covering activities ranging from the purchase of a generator to keep health and human service facilities’ open to community outreach campaigns to educate the public on developing emergency plans.
Have you ever come across the need for a friendly face to help you with a charge on your water bill that you don’t recognize? Or for a doctor’s appointment with a specialist and you really want to understand every word of the conversation?

All you need is At Your Service to the rescue. Hector Ramirez, fluent in English, is the owner of Piedra Kilos on Isabel Catolica in La Paz. Piedra Kilos is a restaurant that promotes healthy food choices through their weight loss program. Consider it La Paz’s version to Weight Watchers.

Anyways, back to At Your Service. Hector has for many years been the neighbor of Elena and Fidel Herrera, long time residents of La Paz. He knows through first hand experience with the expat community that at times, we need a friend who speaks Spanish and knowledge of everyday life in La Paz to help us out.

So Hector has started At Your Service to help ex-pats and visitors to La Paz with everyday requests.

“I have had people ask me something simple like Hector, how do we get to Walmart? So I tell them to follow me and I show them. Or Hector, where can I buy chia seeds? These are just some simple requests that I love to help people out with. But sometimes people need more. Help filling out government forms, understanding a document, paying a traffic ticket.”

As Hector acknowledged, sometimes we have friends that can help in sticky situations but sometimes we don’t. That is where he comes in. He wants to be your best friend in La Paz. He can get what you need to get done DONE and if he can’t, he will steer you in the right direction so you don’t lose precious time.

And there are many things Hector can help with you. If you are needing a document to be translated to better understand something or you have friends coming in for a few days and you need to play tourist guide, Hector can help you out with his time and knowledge.

At Your Service includes help with:
- translations
- interpreting
- legal contracts
- medical visits
- transportation
- government forms
- business meetings
- tours
- event planning
- property management

Hector can also help out newcomers to La Paz. He just wants people to enjoy the city to the fullest. He realizes that sometimes people are just here for a short time and don’t have the opportunity to enjoy every minute because they can’t figure something out or don’t know where to go. “That is where I help and I am happy to do it. I can get them to Espiritu Island and swim with the sea lions or invite them to the beautiful beaches of La Ventana. There is so much to see and do here. We live in a paradise. I want to be able to open the door to English speakers to experience all that we have here!”

At Your Service: 612 16 1 29 69
hectorr2000@hotmail.com
Carlos Mendoza Davis, a lawyer by profession, has been officially sworn in as Governor of Baja California Sur on September 10th, 2015. His term will run until 2021.

His father, César Mendoza Arámburo Angel from La Paz, was the first elected governor of Baja California Sur and served from 1975 until 1981.

Mendoza Davis won 45.15 percent of the vote, while Ricardo Barroso, of the coalition formed by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and the Mexican Green Party, or PVEM and other smaller parties, garnered 35.06 percent of the vote, with 100 percent of the ballots counted, in the June 7th, 2015 election, the Preliminary Election Results Program, or PREP, announced.

Mendoza Davis has stated that his first priority as governor is to provide peace and security to the citizens of BCS as well as to increase economical development in the region.
By Gisela Talamantes Saenz

On October 30, 2014 the new immigration law was amended again introducing different proceedings and new requirements giving the authority to the Mexican Consulates abroad to be able to grant temporary and permanent resident status before the foreigner enters Mexico. If the foreigner decides to enter Mexico he may do so under the tourist visa for 180 days. Nevertheless, if he wishes to become a temporary or permanent resident once in Mexico he won’t be able to do it at the local immigration offices of INAMI as before. Now he must start the process at any Mexican Consulate abroad.

What does Tourist, Temporary or Permanent resident status mean?

Entry and residency of foreigners in Mexico. In general terms, the new law makes two distinctions:

a.) Foreigners residing in Mexico for NO LONGER than 180 days

b.) Foreigners residing in Mexico for MORE THAN 180 days

a.) Residency for no longer than 180 days. When a foreigner wishes to stay in Mexico for no more than 180 days, performing an economic or non-economic activity, he or she may be able to request the status of “estancia”. For example tourists, business people and temporary travelers may apply for this status. The foreigners under this condition of “estancia” shall request at their entrance into Mexico a Migratory form denominated “Forma Migratoria Múltiple” (“FMM”). This form is generally delivered to the foreigner on airplanes or other types of transportation. Except for foreigners that are related to Mexicans, the foreigners holding an (FMM) will not be able to change his or her status for another that will allow him to stay longer than 180 days. Therefore he will have to exit the country once the 180 days are up.

b.) Residency for more than 180 days. When a foreigner plans to stay in Mexico for more than 180 days, performing an economic or non-economic activity, he or she shall apply for the following migratory status: (i) Temporary Resident; or (ii) Permanent Resident.

i) Temporary Residency (“Residencia Temporal”). This status will allow the foreigner to remain in Mexico for a period no longer than four years, allowing them to enter and exit México as he wishes. The foreigner will have to apply for this status before the Mexican Consulate abroad and obtain a visa stamp on his passport stating Temporary Resident (“Residente Temporal”). This visa will have an expiration date of approximately 180 days. Within this time, the foreigner must come to Mexico and present themselves before the Immigration offices of INAMI and obtain the corresponding card that reads (“Residente Temporal”).

ii) Permanent Resident (“Residente Permanente”). This status allows the foreigner to remain in México indefinitely with a working permit, allowing them to entry and exit México as he wishes. Not all the foreigners will be able obtain this status. Only those that comply with the requirements of the new law. For example, relatives of permanent residents or Mexicans, foreigners with more than four years under the temporary residency status, among others) will be able to apply for this status. The foreigners that qualify to obtain this status shall request it to the migratory authorities and will obtain a card that reads Permanent Resident (“Residente Permanente”).

With the Permanent Resident status being the most coveted within the foreign community, we provide a guide of documents and requirements being asked by most of the Mexican Consulates abroad. However, you must check with your local Mexican Consulate to confirm requirements.

MANDATORY:
Original Passport
Photo (32mm x 26 mm) - frontal view, in color, white background
Proof of legal residence in the USA (non US Citizens)
Fee (36.00dls)
*we recommend you also show copies of your property titles in Mexico (Fideicomisos)
IF YOU ARE RETIRED, CHOOSE ONE OPTION

1. Proof of investment or bank accounts with an average monthly balance equivalent to $129,500.00 USD (show 12 months of statements)
2. Proof of monthly income from pensions of at least $2,600.00 USD (show 6 Months of statements)

If the foreigner is related to a Mexican or to a foreigner with permanent resident status he or she may apply for permanent resident status providing proof of their relationship with documents such as birth and marriage certificates, card or document proving Mexican citizenship. Proof of economic solvency to support the family: investment receipts or bank statements showing an average monthly balance $1,554.00USD or employment or a pension with monthly income greater than $520.00 USD (6 months)

The above is just a guideline given by one of the Mexican Consulates in the United States. If you are from Canada or another country please contact your local Mexican Consulate in order to be able to meet their specific requirements. Required minimum retirement income and bank investments amounts may vary with the fluctuation of the exchange rate.

For more information please contact Gisela Talamantes Saenz at gisela@bajalegals.com or via cell phone 612.136.4598. FIRST CONSULTATION IS FREE.
By Judy Peterson

It’s that time of year again! Soon our friends will begin their migration back to La Paz and environs for the winter/spring season. While you’re packing your cars or boats for the trip south, please remember Fundacion Ayuda Niños la Paz, A.C. (FANLAP) and our annual Subasta (auction) to raise money for our programs.

The Subasta was begun in 1988, at the time of the formation of Club Cruceros. Money raised was used to purchase toys and other Christmas presents for the impoverished children who lived on the outskirts of La Paz. Beginning in the year 2000, all proceeds were used by FANLAP in their dining room located in Colonia Laguna Azul and to purchase uniforms, school shoes, backpacks and school supplies for children who lived in these neighborhoods so they could attend junior and senior high school. After celebrating the 25th anniversary of Subasta, Club Cruceros turned the reins over to FANLAP.

This year the auction will take place on Sunday, December 6, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. As we did for Subasta 2014, the location will be El Mangle, at the foot of Sinaloa Street and the playa.

Carol Dyer, who has volunteered to head up the silent auction this year, is asking for donations of a little some-
thing (big is okay, too) to donate to the auction. New or gently used, please. Those who have friends with local businesses may consider asking for donations to the silent auction, also.

We will again have a used clothing and treasures table. If you have anything to donate such as clothing (clean and in good condition, please), items for the home or boat, electronics (also in good condition), or whatever you have that you don’t need any longer, please take them to the office at Marina de La Paz. Be sure and tell them it is for the Subasta so they can put the items in Mary Shroyer’s office.

In the next issue of the Baja Citizen we’ll tell you how you may help in other ways.

Meanwhile, for further information you may email Judy at jupete49@hotmail.com or Veronica at fanlap@hotmail.com or Mary Shroyer at mary@marinalapaz.com.

We thank you for whatever you are able to donate or for whatever help you are able to give.

The profits from this Subasta will be used to pay expenses for the dining room, library, for scholarships school year 2014-2015 or operating expenses.
I guess most of you have noticed that solid waste is not disposed of properly in La Paz, and that even less is recycled. In order to raise awareness on the importance of recycling but also as a way to collect funds, Ecology Project International (EPI) in collaboration with local high school Juan Pablo II and Ponguinguiola will be leading a plastic and aluminum recollection campaign this fall.

Funds will go to the reconstruction of the EPI campus palapa destroyed during last year’s Hurricane Odile. The palapa had served, over the 10 years that EPI has been working in the peninsula, to host events, talks and workshops for the community. It’s a place where kids have celebrated their accomplishments and formed friendships; teachers have seen them grow and cheered them; families have bonded. The outdoor palapa was a public space that created a sense of community and planted seeds of hope and awareness in youth.

In order to support the campaign, during the months of September, October and November, EPI will be receiving plastics and aluminum from Monday to Thursday from 10am to 4pm. Materials can also be taken directly to Ponguinguiola located at the end of Nayarit St. in the Mangle. Just make sure to mention it’s for EPI!

The EPI campus is located on Guillermo Prieto 1038, between Encinas and Návarro. Telephone: 165 65 61 Ext 3.
The Baja Ha-Ha 2015 Welcome Party Welcomes Cruisers to La Paz

TBC

La Costa Restaurant, located on Navarro and Topete, just off the malecon, will have the honor of hosting the Baja Ha-Ha Welcome to La Paz party on Thursday, November 19th, 2015 starting at 4:00pm. Hundreds of Baja Ha-Ha cruisers, who have made the journey along the Baja from the U.S. will be attending this special event to welcome them to La Paz, along with others living in the marinas and even a few landlubbers.

The Baja Ha-Ha is a safe and entertaining way for hundreds of cruisers to head down to the warmer climates in Baja California Sur while at the same time making new friends. The cruising event, on its 22nd anniversary, left San Diego on October 26th and will arrive in Cabo San Lucas on November 5th. It is an approximately 750-mile rally.

This year, close to 171 boats are set to arrive in Cabo San Lucas and about 135 of those boats will make the journey to La Paz over the course of the winter.

8 years ago, Dennis and Susan started meeting the fleet in Cabo San Lucas to invite them to come to La Paz on behalf of the local tourism community. The State and City Tourism departments, Emprhotur, and the local marinas now sponsor the annual event in La Paz. Once again, Dennis and Susan Ross of Ross Marine Services and Consulting will be acting as MCs for the event.

There will be free entry tickets for the captain and one crew member from the first 25 boats that are in line before the event. The general public is invited as well to enjoy folkloric dancing and music from a local mariachi band sponsored by the State tourism department and the rock n roll band Plan B sponsored by La Costa. Menu is a Mexican Buffet with all the trimmings! Tickets are $10 USD or 170 pesos.

Shuttle buses will be available to take people to and from Marina Costa Baja and Marina Palmira. Please contact Susan and Dennis at yachtmanagement@bluewaterketch.com for more information.
The Pelican Theatre Returns

Following last year’s successful performance, “Let’s Make a Scene: Three Short Comedies,” the Pelican Theatre will be returning for the upcoming season. During the last two weeks of January, 2016, the Pelican Theatre will be presenting Love, Loss, and What I Wore at the Teatro de la Ciudad.

TBC

This smash-hit play was written by sisters Nora and Delia Ephron. Nora Ephron, who passed away in 2012, was a writer, director, and producer. She is best known for her screenplays for romantic comedy films. She received three Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay: Silkwood (1983); When Harry Met Sally (1989); and Sleepless in Seattle (1993).

Nora wrote five best-selling books, and she also authored the 2002 play Imaginary Friends. On occasion, she co-wrote screenplays with her sister, writer-producer Delia Ephron, including You’ve Got Mail (1998), Hanging Up (2000), and Bewitched (2005).

Delia Ephron’s movie credits include the screenplays for The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants and Michael. She has written novels for both adults (Hanging Up and The Lion is In) and young adults (Frannie in Pieces and The Girl with the Mermaid Hair), humor books (How to Eat Like a Child), and essays. Her journalism has appeared in the New York Times, O the Oprah Magazine, Vogue, the Wall Street Journal, and the Huffington Post.

Mark your calendars for January, and join the Pelican Theatre for what promises to be another night of wonderful comedy! Dates and times are still to be announced.

When details are available, they will be posted on the Pelican Theatre’s Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PelicanTheatreCoLP and blog https://pelicantheatreoflapaz.wordpress.com/, as well as on Allende Books’ Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AllendeBooks. Tickets, when they go on sale, will be available at Allende Books in La Paz.

Cultural

Presentations at Se Habla...La Paz

Se Habla La Paz invites you to their Tuesday afternoon cultural presentations in easy to understand Spanish.

The following topics will be covered:

13 de Octubre
Día de la Raza (Nuevo)

20 de Octubre
Frida y Diego y sus Amigos

27 de Octubre
Día de Muertos

3 de Noviembre
Dulces Sabor de México (Nuevo)

10 de Noviembre
Pancho Villa y Emiliano Zapata (Nuevo)

17 de Noviembre
La Revolución Mexicana

24 de Noviembre
Lucha Libre en México (Nuevo)

1 de Diciembre
Aves de B.C.S.

8 de Diciembre
La Virgen de Guadalupe

15 de Diciembre
Las Posadas

All of the presentations start at 1:15 and last 45-60 minutes. The presentations are given in simple Spanish and there are handouts for each presentation available. Unless stated, all presentations are in La Biblioteca of the school on Francisco I. Madero #540 between Guerrero and Republica.

For questions or more information, call 122-7763 or e-mail info@sehablalapaz.com. Presentations are FREE, walk-ins welcome.

Please join us, bring a friend and enjoy learning about this amazing country and its traditions.

¡Bienvenidos todos!
The Fight Against Dengue and Chikungunya is a Permanent Task

**TBC**

With the objective to control the outbreak against Dengue and Chikungunya virus and mitigate its negative impact on Baja California Sur, the Secretary of Health (SSA) has said that they will continue to commit to strengthening actions that will eliminate the mosquito that transmits the virus. The SSA also noted that all levels of government must come together in hopes of educating the public on both diseases and to reduce the population densities of the aedes aegypti mosquito – the transmitter of these diseases.

As hurricane season is still upon us and continual rains have been occurring, the SSA calls on the population to eliminate any objects in their home or out on the patio such as old tires, empty bottles, cans, egg cartons or empty flower pots that can hold standing water and become a breeding ground for the mosquito.

Dengue fever is a tropical disease caused by the dengue virus. Some symptoms include fever, headache, muscle and joint pains, and skin rash. Dengue is transmitted by several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally A. aegypti.

Chikungunya, a virus transmitted by the same daytime-biting aedes aegypti mosquito that causes the more deadly dengue fever, is typically not fatal but can cause debilitating symptoms including fever, headache and severe joint pain that can last for several months. There is no commercial vaccine for the virus, which was reported in Mexico for the first time (in the southwestern State of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala) late last year.

Cases of both Dengue and Chikungunya have been reported in La Paz.

When possible, remain in well screened or completely enclosed, air-conditioned areas. When outdoors, wear light-colored clothing with full-length pant legs and sleeves and use repellents on exposed skin.

The fight against Dengue and Chikungunya is an ongoing task as both viruses are already circulating in the state and therefore, it will be difficult to eradicate. However, with the participation of all, it is possible to contain its growth and offer greater protection to the population.

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Time change in Mexico

**TBC**

Daylight Savings Time will end October 25th, 2015 at 2:00 am here in Mexico (exceptions below). It will time to move the clocks back one hour!

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Oct 25, 2015 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.

Previously all of Mexico, with the exception of the state of Sonora, which does not observe daylight saving time, began and ended daylight saving time at the same time. The Congress of Mexico passed legislation in December 2009 that allowed ten border cities to adopt a daylight saving time pattern consistent with the United States. The municipalities will set their clocks back the first Sunday of November.

**City, State**

- Acuna, Coahuila
- Anahua, Nuevo Leon
- Juarza, Chihuahua
- Matamoros, Tamaulipas
- Mexicali, Baja California
- Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
- Ojinaga, Chihuahua
- Piedras Negras, Coahuila
- Reynosa, Tamaulipas
- Tijuana, Baja California

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Single Minimum Salary throughout the Country

**TBC**

As of October 1, 2015, the minimum wage will be the same in all of Mexico.

To close the gap between the two geographic minimum wage areas into which the country is divided, it was agreed to increase the minimum wage in the “B” geographic area by $1.83 pesos from $68.28 to $70.10.

As a result, workers in Mexico will receive the same salary throughout the country, regardless of where they live or work.

The 5 municipalities in Baja California Sur are in the “A” geographic region.

This measure will immediately benefit approximately 751,915 salaried workers who receive a minimum wage and are employed in the 341 municipalities that were classified in the “B” geographic area, which, together with the 4.2% nominal increase in the minimum salary implemented in January 2015, means that by the end of 2015, the overall minimum salary increase will be 4.1%, the largest minimum wage increase in real terms since 1976.
Sunset Condo
MLS # 15-2222
$195,000 US
Spectacular views from this condo. 2 bed, 2 bath fully furnished, a turnkey investment. Rarely used.

Colinas del Sol Penthouse
MLS # 15-869
$238,000 US
5th floor penthouse with unbelievable views. 2 bed and 2.5 bath. Fully furnished. Gated and guarded. Community pool, jacuzzi, gym, outdoor BBQ area and parking carport.

CostaBaja Villa #8
MLS # 13-1004
$699,000 US
A spectacular ocean view villa. The condo has 3116 total sq. ft. with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Common amenities include: Beach Club, Gym, Pool, Spa and Tennis. Partially furnished, one row back from beach.

Casa Chametla
MLS # 14-1634
$59,900 US
2 bed and 1.5 bath brand new 2 story home. Large Patio. Gated and secure with one parking spot. 4 minutes from the airport.

Casa EL Centenario
MLS # 15-1229
$74,900 US
Brand new home in El Centenario. Large backyard. Ocean view from roof top. Priced really well.

Casa Calle 6
MLS # 15-1141
$129,000 US
3 bed and 2.5 bath. Excellent location near shopping, banks, movie theatre and minutes from the malecon. Unfurnished 2 storey home. Roomy. Great price.

Casa Vista – Colina del Sol
MLS # 15-1208
$135,000 US
1 bed, 1.5 bath. Spectacular views and plenty of potential. Full kitchen and two-car garage. Second floor is ready to finish.

Commercial Building
MLS # 15-1844
$332,750 US
Great location. Building can go up to 3 floors. It is now 2 floors. 3206 sq ft. Seller has been operating an electronics business.
Colinas del Sol  
MLS #202  
$129,000 US  
1.5 bed, 1.5 bath, fully furnished condo with all appliances. Gated and guarded community pool, jacuzzi, gym, outdoor BBQ area and parking carport.

Villa La Posada V 106, V 108 and T 301 (3 available)  
MLS #13-2069  
$155,000 US  
Condos in La Paz, only steps from strolling on a sandy beach of the beautiful Bay of La Paz. 2 bed, 2 bath fully furnished in gated community with 24-hour security. Jacuzzi, lap pool and rooftop palapa with amazing views. Take your choice of condo.

CostaBaja Pueblo Marinero 205  
MLS# 14-1609  
$399,000 US  
This spectacular condo has 2 bed and 2 bath. Private Terraces, one with a Jacuzzi and the other with a small cooking area. Fully Furnished. Lowest priced condo available.

Beachfront Home  
MLS # 14-1637  
$495,000.00 US  
Beautiful beachfront property located in El Centenario. Large property with 2 bedroom main house, 2 bedroom guesthouse plus large bodega. Beautiful pool and outdoor BBQ.

Casa Parente  
MLS# 14-336  
$399,000 US  
Spectacular home located in downtown La Paz. This architecturally designed home by famous Architect Pino Parente is incredible. 4 bed and 3.5 bath. City and ocean views. Ready to move in. Will consider all offers.

Club Marlin  
MLS# 14-1601  
$599,000 US  
Terms available. Perfect investment opportunity. El Centenario beachfront property. 40m x 100m with electricity and water. Ideal development site. Now with restaurant, bar, 2 casitas, 4 apartments and a swimming pool. A must see to believe.

Casa Encinas  
MLS #12-1030  
$179,000.00 US  
Single family home located in a prime residential area close to shopping, schools, etc. Beautiful back patio complete with stainless steel BBQ, completely fenced property.

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and Heroes de Independencia.
La Paz, BCS

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