

HOW TO READ ATENAS TODAY

Many of the pages in Atenas Today are in two column format, and the default “view” in the *Adobe Reader* will present these pages in a large size that requires you to scroll up and down to read the whole page.

By changing the “view” to “**Full Screen**” you can fit the page to your screen and avoid the scrolling.

When in “Full Screen” view, left click to advance to the next page, or right click to go back a page.

If the text is too small for your taste, push the “escape” key to exit the “Full Screen” mode, and change the “zoom” level to get the size you want.

THE NEW YELLOW PAGES

Don't forget to download and save the latest version of the Yellow Pages. Many new businesses have been listed. This section will help you find the goods and services you need.

ATENAS TODAY

Issue No. 112

April 23, 2014



Modern and Traditional Transportation
Sesteo Hogar de Ancianos 2011
Photo: Dana Schlieman

ATENAS TODAY is a free English language newsletter for the residents and potential residents of Atenas, Costa Rica. It contains informative articles and creative compositions submitted by our readers, and is distributed via email approximately once a month to over 500 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Marietta Arce at atenastoday@gmail.com.

Compositions from back issues are archived on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, www.atenascatuca.com. Click on the English version and then Atenas Today on the business page.

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ATENAS TODAY

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"your seriously friendly news source"

DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE ATENAS AREA

New names and numbers have been added to the directory. With each issue Atenas Today subscribers will receive an updated file containing the names and contact information of people who have chosen to be listed. Simply download the PDF file attached to this Atenas Today email and print it or save it on your computer.

If your name is on the list without contact information, it is because you are a subscriber to the newsletter, but have **not authorized the publication of your email address or other information**. To add or correct data please send an email to atenastoday@gmail.com



Publisher's Note



April is one of my favorite months. Whether I am in Atenas or in New York, I always feel energized by the “spring” in the air!



We are transitioning into the rainy (“green”) season. Most of us are ecstatic that the dry spell will finally be over! The month of May will bring Costa Rica’s panorama many changes. One of the highlights in May will be the swearing in of Costa Rica’s President-elect Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera on May 8th. It is my fervent hope that the nation will face necessary and important changes with dignity, strength and true commitment.

By the end of 2014, every “baby boomer” will have celebrated that important mid-century birthday! As a generation, we are still vital, outgoing and optimistically avoiding mental decline by keeping ourselves as challenged as we are able to.

I am writing these lines a few days after my mother’s 85th birthday, an event that did not seem realistic just a few years ago. I feel blessed that I have been granted the opportunity to see both my parents reach this milestone and I look forward to celebrating at least as many birthdays myself!

Enjoy this issue of Atenas Today. It comes to you from the community of writers and artists in the spirit of goodwill and friendship that is defining Atenas today and every day.

Happy reading!

Marietta Arce
marietta.arce@gmail



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

This space is available for posting community activities for the following weeks. Please provide information about your activity or event to atenastoday@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.

April 25, 26 & 27th - Annual Climate Fair in Central Park (program follows)

April 27th - 11 a.m. Annual Oxcart Parade begins in Los Angeles

May 1st - International Labor Day, most businesses, banks closed.

May 4th - 3 - 5 p.m. Salsa n Salsa Party at Su Espacio to celebrate 10 years of community presence. Proceeds to Benefit Cherie's Childrens Home-

May 8th - Luis Guillermo Solis Rivera is sworn in as President of Costa Rica 2014-2018

May 11th - Happy U.S. Mother's Day!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Every Sunday: Buddhist Book Discussion at Roca Verde (See Flyer)

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Sunday Atenas New Community (See Flyer)

Second Monday of every month: 4 p.m. Abandoned Animals of Atenas Foundation meeting at Antaños Please contact Virginia 2446-5343 or Sylvia 8868-1386 for more information. Volunteers are needed and welcome.

Every Tuesday: Atenas Bridge Club meets at Don Yayo's Restaurant . 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. No partner required.

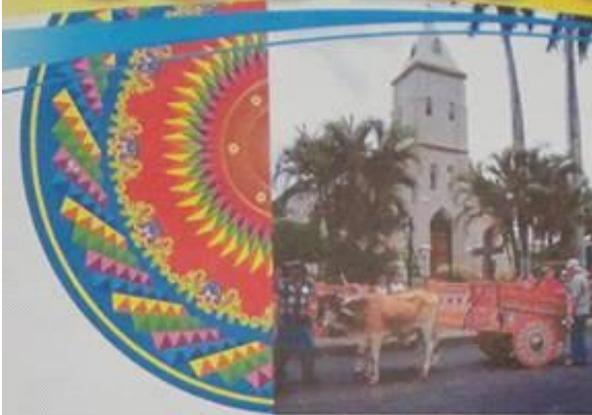
Third Tuesday of every month: PLEIN AIR ART GROUP. Art activities as varied as the members. Contact Jan Yatsko at 2446-0970 or janyatsko@gmail.com

Every Wednesday: (Please confirm with Sara or Kay 2446-0664)

Atenas Wednesday Women
informal get together at Kay's Gringo Postres
every Wednesday afternoon at 12:30 PM

REGULARLY SCHEDULED RECYCLING HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING. THE MUNICIPALITY EXPLORING OPTIONS AND FULL DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. IN THE MEATIME, TETRPAK (ONLY) ITEMS, WASHED, FLATTENED, ETC. CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE CENTRAL SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS (7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.) THANK YOU

Feria del Clima ATENAS



25, 26 y 27 de abril
Parque de Atenas

CAMARA DE TURISMO Y COMERCIO DE ATENAS

VIERNES 25 DE ABRIL 2014

12:00 md	Apertura de la Feria con la Bienvenida a los participantes
2:00 pm a 4:00 pm	Música de Marimba
4:00 pm a 6:00 pm	Presentación del Grupo Musical "Jorge Pérez"
7:00 pm a 9:00 pm	Concierto con el Grupo "Los Tropicalísimos"

SÁBADO 26 DE ABRIL DE 2014

9:00 am	Presentaciones varias, culturales, música, comida, artesanía
9:00 am a 11:00 am	Juegos infantiles - varios premios
11:00 am a 12:30 pm	Música de cabina
12:30 pm a 1:30 pm	Cuentacuentos
1:30 pm a 3:00 pm	Presentación "Su Espacio" Baile - Danza
3:00 pm a 6:00 pm	Presentación del Grupo Musical "Hermanos Ramírez"
6:00 pm a 7:00 pm	Misa (Silencio en el parque)
7:00 pm a 7:30 pm	Show del Hombre de Fuego
7:30 pm a 10:00 pm	Presentación del Grupo Musical "Los Sorpresivos"

DOMINGO 27 DE ABRIL DE 2014

10:00 am a 11:30 am	Cimarrona
11:00 am	Desfile de Boyeros por la Asociación de Boyeros de Atenas
11:30 am a 12:30 pm	Presentación de la Escuela de Música de la Municipalidad de Atenas
12:30 pm a 1:30 pm	Presentación del Grupo de Baile de la Escuela de Danza "Danzatenas" de Doña Cecilia Matamoros
2:00 pm a 3:30 pm	Concierto con el Cantautor "Dionisio Cabal Antillón"
3:30 pm a 4:30 pm	Presentación Musical del Cantautor "Oscar Espinoza"
4:30 pm a 5:30 pm	Presentación del "Cuarteto Alma Ateniense"
6:00 pm a 7:00 pm	Misa (Silencio en el parque)
7:00 pm a 9:00 pm	Concierto de cierre con Marvin Suarez



Invita a la comunidad Ateniense
a compartir un fin de semana en Ambiente Sano y Familiar
¡VENGAN A DISFRUTAR CON NOSOTROS!

COLABORACIÓN



INSTITUTO MUNICIPAL DE ATENAS



Buddhist Book Discussion

Every Sunday

Meditation (optional) 1:30pm

Book Discussion 2:00pm

218 Roca Verde, Atenas

A gathering for those interested
in Buddhism and Buddhist writings.

ALL ARE WELCOME,
from non-Buddhists to
experienced Buddhist practitioners

If you wish to know what book we're currently reading,
or if you need directions or any other information,
please feel free to telephone or email:

Adrienne and Richard Baksa
2446-8509
adriennebaksa@me.com
rbaksa@mac.com



ATENAS NEW COMMUNITY (associated with the Tico church, Iglesia Bíblica de Atenas)
[facebook.com/groups/145046998883605](https://www.facebook.com/groups/145046998883605)



DESCRIPTION: Atenas New Community is non-denominational with a diverse congregation - Messianic Jews, Presbyterians, Mennonites, Methodists, Catholics, Southern Baptists, etc. The focus is on Jesus Christ and the Bible, not on esoteric and divisive theological differences.

SERVICES:

Tuesday - 6pm - Bible study in English.

Wednesday - 6pm - English worship service

1st Sunday of each month - an English translator is provided for the 9:00am Spanish worship service (after 1st Sunday service many of the ex-pats gather at Don Yayo's to eat lunch together.)

ENGLISH PASTOR: Steve Lucas - <https://www.facebook.com/steve.lucas> • 8764-8960

TICO PASTOR: Oldemar Artavia - <https://www.facebook.com/oldemar.artavia>

ADDITIONAL CONTACT: Judy Hickman • 2446-4791 • judy@proslink.com

DIRECTIONS: On Highway 3 at the blinking light



La Floreria - Florist
50 meters North of Importadora Monge



Pino's Italian Restaurant
Across the Street from ICE (where
Naturas used to be)



Harold and Lisa Beasley are the new owners of Kay's Gringo Postres
They can be reached at 7179-1552 or email spccvp@yahoo.com



Making Arroz con Leche!



Jean-Marie and Iris
by *Atenas Today* Staff Writer

On a recent Saturday in February, a group of adventurous expats and ticas spent the afternoon at AMASIA's (Asociación de Mujeres Artesanas de San Isidro de Atenas!) nursery learning how to make traditional "arroz con leche", a popular Costa Rican dessert! That is what the workshop was supposed to be about.



Ana Lucía preparing piñones batter

One look at the kitchen table and the items on it, however, was enough to know that "arroz con leche" would be just one item on the menu. We couldn't wait to get started!

The few women who make up AMASIA have been toiling away in their nursery for many years for the sheer love of orchids and other ornamental plants that they sell in order to help themselves

meet their monthly expenses. In recent months, they have added occasional workshops that have ranged from making tamales to learning how to properly care for orchids. These workshops are very popular and welcome in the expat community as evidenced by the increase in attendance.



Iris, Dolores, Estrellita (teacher), Lucia (teacher), Marietta, Jean-Marie and Roxana,

Aside from the economical assistance the workshops provide, AMASIA is committed to sharing the traditions with which they have been surrounded all their lives and of which they are extremely proud. We applaud these efforts and invite everyone to suggest ideas for future learning experiences which they will be happy to provide.



Piñones (ripe plantain fritters)

February's workshop consisted of making piñones (those yummy ripe-plantain fritters), making candied toronja (grapefruit), and of course, the arroz con leche!



Checking the candied toronja

It was a delightful afternoon, full of laughter, learning and fun. After our instruction was over, we gathered around the table and enjoyed the fruits of our labor in the company of women with whom we had shared a wonderful bonding experience.



Roxana setting the table



Brewing Coffee the Old-fashioned way!



The 'fruits' of our labor!

I, for one, am eager to participate in another workshop and I know that the women of AMASIA are more than happy to share their know ledge!



Turning Away

Paul Furlong

I suppose there's a "running in period" for some of us; like putting time on a fresh engine before you trust it. And I suspect we learn more from our mistakes than from lucky guesses, like a great short term memory will allow an "A" student to look pretty good on paper, but a gal with the right tattoo just might be more useful when it comes to dealing with the heat. Nothing we can do about it, we are who we are; a chicken can't *be* a duck after all.

Ken Kesey once quizzed Sonny Barger, the Maximum Domo of the Hell's Angels on how exactly he selected Hell's Angel's. "We don't select them, we recognize them."

And so it is, birds of a feather, flock together. Flocking, in fact, was our *raison d'être* in the sixties. Out of the service, into a motorcycle shop, I drifted into the anti-war movement. We were witnesses of our time. Landfills overflowed with brassieres and underwear as we raced our bikes and grew our hair. Later, the war over, I realized that we'd lost more than a war. I too, was nowhere to be found. The seventies brought a long-overdue hangover that reached deep into my soul. I quit racing, spent a year on the road and still came back with no answers; my mirror was empty. My house rented, I moved into the coop. Wood heat, kerosene light and no running water; stark except for a wild Texas girl who played chess with me in the raw. We sold stuff we made at a local flea market in New Egypt and that was our life.

One day Uncle Lester, owner of the market, asked if I had any interest in politics.

“No,” I said. What was I gonna tell him? I’d sent telegrams to presidents, demonstrated both my socialist leanings and my shiny carcass in Lincoln’s Pool of Reflections; now all the sense I could make of it was none at all.

“Well,” says Lester with his usual aplomb, “if you’re curious you can buy a used copy of *The Freeman* at Bob’s, ten cents.” I took a copy home and put it next to the toilet, where it sat for months until one day it was the only thing I hadn’t read, so I picked it up. Old men in suits wrote in an old man style that was hard for me to read.

“Right wing nonsense,” I said to myself... but like I said, I’d read everything else, so it was right there in the crapper that I began to digest an old idea in a new way.

I was shocked to read these gray old men didn’t care if I smoked de boo, or in fact, *anything* I did if it didn’t interfere with someone *else’s* freedom to do what *they* wanted. Hmmm.... I wrote to the founder of FEE (Foundation of Economic Education), Leonard E. Read, and exchanged letters with him. He invited me to attend a three day seminar as his guest (normally expensive) and a fire was lit inside of me which left warm winking embers, still banked and ready for heated debate.

What’s this got to do with a gal with the right tattoo or the Hell’s Angles? Just this: at some point each of us had to make choices about who we are, and pay whatever dues that came with it. All of us turned off the TV, closed the door, and went for a walk.

A fowl flockier myself, I bedded down in a place I call “Freedomland” with a bunch of very strange birds indeed. For me it was FEE, Libertarian conventions, chairman for my county and state steering committee meetings. We flocked from the liberal left to the conservative right with a mixed bag of geeks and outlaws off the street. Somehow we’d heard the call, and I wondered how these people could be in the same room together much less recognize each other. But there we were: in empty halls littered with cups, campaign buttons and trampled “Ed Clark for President” flyers. A vague picture began to form in my mirror; I was part of a newly forming revolution.

Forty years later, I’ve begun to doubt myself. How can we have an enlightened government if the people who vote aren’t enlightened? How can we have an enlightened people if they’re taught in government schools? See what I mean? Sadly it’s easy for us to vote our freedoms away; and tragic that we can’t vote them back.

Take Costa Rica for instance: as newly elected Luis Guillermo Solis, center left takes the wheel as president. For economist Carlos Arguedas, fighting the fiscal deficit and *promoting a fair distribution of wealth* (italics added) will be the main challenges. “The most important issue is the inequality that generates social anger,” he said.

So impressed by this economic forecast, Bank of America is closing its doors to production (their words, not mine) and a call center here. Intel, who's been quietly sending machinery to China over the past few years, is just about done too. Is our work force here just too expensive; or is it the government that's too expensive? *Thousands* of high-paying jobs just went out the window with more to follow. Isn't this why those jobs left the States in the first place? Can Intel and Bank of America find people eager to work in other countries? You bet.

This morning, as Gaby watched me put the top to the sugar bowl on her coffee cup, our eyes met. Wise for my years, I didn't pour coffee into the sugar bowl. In these small ways, love blooms eternal in the house of Furlong. Indeed, mistakes abound in the world of gray haired old men. I took my coffee back to the office and pondered the importance of beating this equally old dead horse; how to govern ourselves without the bittersweet taste of govern-mint?

What if there was only one law? A law that superseded all other laws? Suppose we flew the coop and turned away from all authority, even the church with its own rules and childish interpretations of Scripture? What if we simply *recognized* each other...especially our enemies... as brothers and sisters? Karma is all too happy to sweep up after us. I mean, this is the Age of Aquarius, right? Take a look around; what conceivable use is a damn government anyway?

Fuzzlong@gmail.com

It's A Dogs Life...REALLY!!



Stories from Mr. BudBud, Primero Perro of Lighthouse Animal Rescue. They were written almost 10 years ago when he first came to Costa Rica for a house sitting job.

7/20/2004

Hola!!! All

This morning Enid came to the house really early!! She needed us to take her brother to the hospital. He had an allergic reaction to something and was all swollen up!! Mom does that when she eats sesame seeds and some other things so we knew it was anaphylaxis! We rushed him to the hospital and the doctors made him well!!

Then we rode around shopping for a car. That is NOT one of my favorite things to do because Mom usually makes me stay in our rental car while they look. She says it is too much trouble to drag out my stroller every time we stop. HARUMPH!!!! They NEVER get out of my sight though so it is not TOO bad....but the way I figure it, if they are going to leave me in the car they are GOING TO HEAR FROM ME!!!!!!

I howl REEEEAALLLLLLYY LOUD!!!!!!! People turn to look to see if I am being tortured.

When Mom turns around to give me the evil eye, I shut my mouth really quick and pretend it wasn't me!!!!

LOL!!!

I don't think I am fooling her though because when she gets back in the car she says "BudBud!!!! BEHAVE!!!!!!!!!"

We dropped by to see the vet today. Mom was buying some more worm medicine for the pups.

The vet came out to see her and wanted to take our picture for his album!! Dad and Mom and I posed for him just outside his office door.

Then Mom made HIM pose for us to take a picture!!!

He really liked me and said I was a very healthy looking boy!!! I like him a lot. I can tell by the way he pets me that he loves animals. Us dogs are pretty good at judging those things about humans.

He told Mom again how glad he is that she is going to be helping the street dogs if we move over here and that he wants to help her.

We tried going to Pops ice cream place again.

Mom thinks if she takes me there a few times and there are no loud noises maybe I will get over my fear of it. She calls it "conditioning."

I'm still really nervous there though so we had to leave and go to the park. We just waited there for Dad to bring the milk shakes.

OH!!!! Over here there are LOTS of mountains! People live up on really steep hills and sometimes they can't afford to have concrete steps put in.

Soooooooooooo....they just carve steps out of the mountain!! The steps don't wash away either!!! They will be there for MANY years!!!!

Neat huh???

Okay..gotta go.

Mom is getting sleepy and I have to help hold her pillow down.

BudBud the pillow holder



Now is the time for great Costa Rica travel deals!

By Shannon Farley

Starting in April and heading into the “green season” (as in rainy, or low season), now is the time for travel deals for Costa Rica residents and citizens. Hotels’ occupancy rates are dropping as foreign travelers head home after spring breaks and Costa Rica summer travel; and haven’t yet started to receive northern summer vacationers, which they will later in mid-June to mid-August.



If you have residency in Costa Rica (a cedula) or are a Costa Rica citizen, you can score great deals this time of year ... even if not advertised! When you go on hotels’ websites, check to see if they have a Spanish language version of the site. This is where they usually publish the residents’/nationals’ deals – since most English-speaking tourists are coming from out of the country. Look for “Special Offers” links or pages on the site. If the hotel has nothing advertised, when you contact them to ask about reservations, ask if they have any special offers or rates for Costa Rica residents. This time of year, you can usually negotiate from a 10% to 30% discount on room rates! Here are a few special offers I’ve found:

Hotel Cristal Ballena Resort & Spa, Uvita / <http://www.cristal-ballena.com/>

The special offer on now is **30% off all room rates through June 30, 2014. Breakfast is included.** This grand Mediterranean-style hotel is located on the south Pacific Coast, just past Uvita. Majestically set on a lushly forested coastal hillside above the deep blue Pacific Ocean, Hotel Cristal Ballena offers the best vantage point for visiting the renowned Ballena Marine National Park.



30% Descuento
Valido hasta 31/06/2014

Visita las Ballenas!

★★★★ HOTEL CRISTAL BALLENA | COSTA PACIFICO SUR | 7km SUR DE UVITA | PLAYA BALLENA




Venga y disfrute la magnifica vista al mar en la amplia piscina con pool-bar y restaurante, áreas de parqueo, nuestro spa, visitas a la playa o una de las opciones disponibles de nuestros emocionantes tours.

El Hotel Cristal Ballena esta localizado cerca de Uvita en el **Parque Nacional Marino Ballena**, en la costa del Pacifico Sur de Costa Rica, incrustado en la colina del Oceano Pacifico y la montaña cubierta de selva tropical.

7 km al sur de Uvita, Playa Ballena
Tel: (506) 2786-5354 | info@cristal-ballena.com | www.cristal-ballena.com | [f](#) CristalBallena

¡LLÁMANOS!
2786-5354

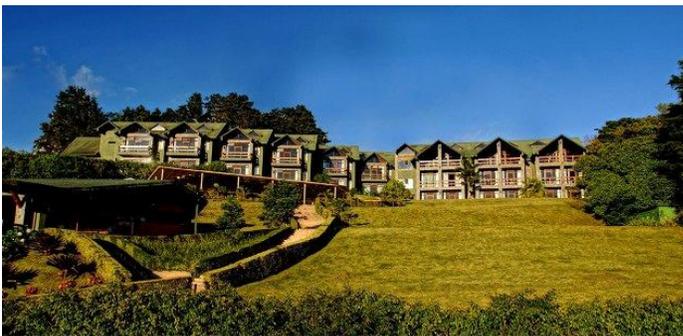
Cristal Ballena
★★★★ HOTEL RESORT & SPA
www.cristal-ballena.com

El Establo Mountain Hotel, Monteverde

<http://www.elestablo.com/>

The special offer now is \$150 per night for a Deluxe Room, double occupancy, with breakfast and taxes included; valid from May 1 to Dec. 15, 2014.

El Establo Mountain Hotel is one of the most luxurious hotels in Monteverde. All of their elegantly appointed rooms have either a private balcony or patio with magnificent views across the Monteverde forest and out to the Nicoya Gulf. They have two restaurants, two heated covered pools, a Spa, tennis courts, basketball court, gym, internet room, and their own canopy tour and mountain biking trails.



Hotel Le Caméléon, Puerto Viejo / <http://www.lecameleonhotel.com/>



The special offer is either a 20% discount off room rates, or 3 nights for the price of 2 with 1 dinner included. Offers are for 2 persons sharing 1 room, and are valid through June 30, 2014. Check their “Offers” page on their website for up-to-date information.

This is the place to stay when visiting Puerto Viejo, on the southern Caribbean Coast. The vibrant boutique hotel fronts the turquoise Caribbean Sea and golden sand of Playa Cocles – one of the area’s most beautiful beaches. Hip, modern and upscale, Le Caméléon features ultra-chic rooms and lush jungle gardens that create an ambience of intimate privacy. The elegant Le Numu Restaurant & Bar is one of the area’s top restaurants, and the new La Sula Sea Lounge beach club is the place to hang out by the shore, meet friends for a cool drink or a light meal.

Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin, Rincón de la Vieja / <http://www.guachipelin.com/>

The special offer is 20% off tours and room rates, with breakfast included. Valid from May 1 to Dec. 15, 2014.

Hotel Hacienda Guachipelin is based at the foot of the Rincon de la Vieja Volcano, bordering the popular Rincon de la Vieja National Park, in northern Guanacaste. The Hacienda is a working horse and cattle ranch. Natural hot springs, dry tropical forest, pristine waterfalls, bubbling volcanic mud pools, and some of the best adventure tours (zip-lines, canyoning, waterfall rappelling, river tubing, horse riding), are the things to enjoy.



Fun After Fifty



By Carole Connolly-Shaw
caroleconnolly@gmail.com

When I moved to Atenas, I never dreamed I would meet so many interesting, well-educated, sophisticated expats from all over the world. Although there is a mixture of retired folks and younger people, many with young children who have chosen to live life abroad and home-school, I would say the majority are between 50 and 70. *These people know how to have fun!*

When I received the invitation to a "Masquerade Party", I had visions of ladies in ball gown and ornate feathered masks, men in velvet cutaways, big brass buckled boots, and elaborate hats. I was panicking about the costume. I started researching online to find photos that I could show our local seamstress to copy, wondering if I could find the fabric here in Costa Rica.

Then I re-read the invitation: "That is a costume party to those from the U.S. though your version sounds less mysterious, exotic and decadent." Our lovely hostess, Ivy Penman, is from the United Kingdom as is her talented husband, Aaron Aalborg; she from Scotland, he from England. What a relief! We surely could come up with a costume of some sort!



We had so much fun putting it together; it became a scavenger hunt finding all the parts, especially the footwear. Don was happy with flip-flops, but I, of course, wanted the proper swashbuckler boots. I found them in my favorite shoe store, in the Escazu Multi- Plaza. I will have many more occasions to use them here in Atenas; I'm sure of it!



will have occasions to use them here in Atenas; I'm sure of it!

We had no idea how much fun was in store for us on that Saturday afternoon! We followed the detailed driving instructions, found every landmark as we wound our way up the mountain road leading us to the stunning property with the forever views. My favorite was: "Go past the football pitch on the right." Football pitch? I love learning new expressions from fellow expats. Now every time I see a soccer field, I think *football pitch!* I feel so international living here!

Even the parking guard had a costume of sorts (a fake beard where you could see the elastic going around his ears), and I was already in a festive spirit as we walked through the front door. We were greeted by a very tall, gregarious man who I barely recognized as our host.



Aaron came as the 17th Century Italian Cardinal Archbishop of Milan from his novel, "They Deserved It". This is available from Amazon.com with other books in the works. Note the red fishnets! When the living room was cleared after a scrumptious lunch of poached salmon, barbecued chicken, and a huge host of side dishes, the talent portion of the party began. Aaron's skit imitating Monty Python had me laughing so hard, I was falling off my chair and snorting chardonnay!

I have been to many house parties in my fifty-plus years. I do not recall ever being at one where there was a talent portion. The talent here was worthy of the stage! There was a couple dressed as Sandy and Danny who performed "Greased Lightnin'" as though they were on Broadway. They looked the part perfectly, dressed all in black and looking waaaaay younger than their fifty-plus number!

Watching our beautiful hostess, Ivy, dressed as a flapper, perform a medley of Latin dances with a group filled me with joy and peace. Her elegance in performing the steps lent a certain grace to the choreographed moves and made me want to dance, which we were all invited to do after the performances!



Little by little, pieces of costumes came off (Don's pirate eye patch lasted about five seconds), and I saw the people behind the facades. We turned back into ourselves: fun-loving expats over fifty having a blast!



There was a very pregnant nun dressed in a traditional black habit with a saying on her headpiece: "Nun of your business". I rather like that! As the saying goes (or is it a book title): "What you think of me is none of my business!"

A roomful of retired doctors, lawyers and Indian chiefs running around in funny costumes makes me happy and is a ton 'o fun.

Choose fun today! And if you are past the fifty mark, add a little extra spice!

Why come to Costa Rica?



*by Marietta Arce
marietta.arce@gmail.com*

As I write my column this month, I am filled with the scattered emotions that come whenever I am getting ready to travel to New York. This visit to our children will have a college graduation as a highlight and I confess I am extremely proud of our kids at this time.

New York is a wonderful place. Its unique energy grabs me immediately upon arrival. It is almost impossible to describe but easy to experience and I usually urge people to visit at least once if they have the opportunity.

One evening on a previous trip to New York an acquaintance asked me to give her a 'two-word commercial' to convince her to visit Costa Rica. If you know me, you know that a two-word description for anything is an almost impossible challenge for me to meet but that day, I found myself replying "the people" in less than ten seconds!

When my friend pressed me for details, I found myself remembering all the wonderful experiences that I have had in Costa Rica and in Atenas since I returned in 1999; the ones that make dealing with rude drivers, broken sidewalks, and lengthy bureaucratic processes bearable.

I was able to proudly tell her that we still live in a little place where a greeting rarely goes unacknowledged; where senior citizens are still respected for the wisdom their wrinkles confer on them; and where despite everything bad going on around us, we still smile and say (and perhaps really believe) that everything is Pura Vida!

I am really looking forward to my trip to New York but even as I pack to go away, I am filled with happiness knowing that I will soon witness the amazing green plots of land that bring tears to my eyes upon my return home. And who knows, maybe my wonderful neighbor will send me a loaf of homemade bread like she has in the past!



The Atenas Today Art Gallery

The Art Gallery is a regular feature of Atenas Today. Local artists are encouraged to submit photographs of their works to be included in the gallery, and to send a new picture each month. The artists may be contacted via the email addresses shown.



Grand Central Terminal
24" x 24"
Oil on Canvas

Al Alexander
jeanandal@gmail.com

Artist's Statement: I always admired the sculpture and clock over the entrance of Grand Central Station in NYC. I tried to capture some of the elegance of its neoclassic style. I added an intense yellow orange evening sky to try to bring a natural kind of drama to the painting.



Easter Bird

Jocelyn Farquhar
Jocelyn@squibblesdesigns.com



Map Series 5
40" x 48"
Oil and acrylic on board

Harriet Sheppard
hweyman@gmail.com



Pete's Garden
Mixed Media

Peter Snyder

About the Artist: Peter Snyder is a resident of Atenas with training and experience in both painting and fine carpentry. Peter maintains an inventory of paintings and, art furniture specializing in Costa Rican hardwoods. Both Peter's paintings and furniture are done to represent the natural environment of Costa Rica.

Contact info for Peters works: 8803- 7167 and Email glbalter@gmail.com

For the bloggers...



We are providing a list of *blogs* that might be of interest to our readers. By providing this information, we are not endorsing or accepting responsibility for any content found therein. Please contact us if you have any other blogs of interest that you would like to share. These are alphabetized for your easy reference. **Please advise if you find that some blogs no longer exist.**

Biolley Buzz Bunky Bartlett	brccoffee.com http://www.bestofcostarica.org
Carole Connolly Claudia Leon	http://carolejeanscostaricacapers.com http://photoleraclaudinha.smugmug.com/ http://straightline-cmkl.blogspot.com/
Costa Rica: Sisters in Transition (Judy & Roxi)	http://costaricasistersinttransition.blogspot.com
De La Pura Vida Costa Rica Dennis Easters/Pure Life Development Diane Miskell	delapuravida.com http://www.atenasrealestate.cr/index.php/blog http://dianascostaricablog.blogspot.com
Fred Ball	http://natureboy70.blogspot.com/
Going Like Sixty	http://goinglikesixty.com
Julie and Rick in Costa Rica	http://julieandrickincostarica.blogspot.com/
Marietta Arce Mi Chunche	http://marisundays.wordpress.com michunche.com
Nadine Hays Pisani New Life in Costa Rica	happierthanabillionaire.com http://www.anewlifeincostarica.com/nuevo_vida/
Paul Furlong Paul Furlong motorcycle blog	http://shootingcr.wordpress.com/ http://eyeneo.com/
Pura Vida Mommy	puravidamommy.blogspot.com
Rubiatica	rubiatica.blogspot.com
Shannon Farley Somewhere In Costa Rica Su Espacio	http://enchanting-costarica.com/ http://somewhereincostarica.com http://www.suespacioatenas.blogspot.com/
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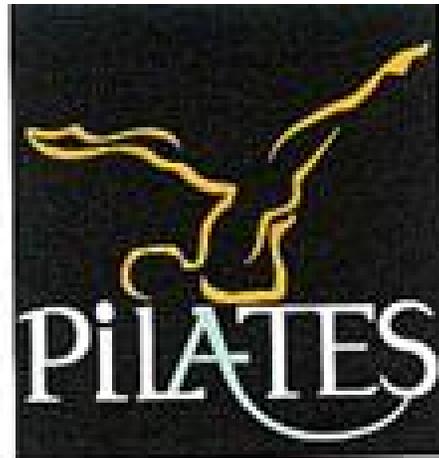
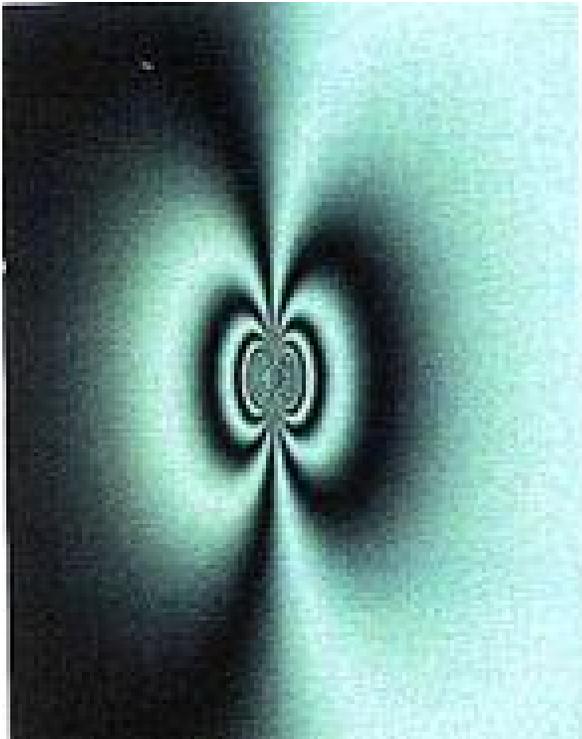
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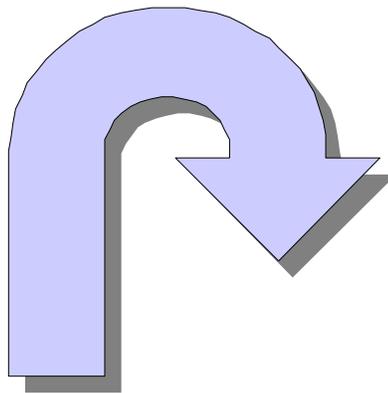
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