

ATENAS TODAY



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***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 350 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Fred Macdonald at fredmac222@yahoo.com.*

Compositions from back issues are archived by category 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.

Two Poems

Learning Spanish

By Diane Holman

Words fall about me, as incomprehensible as an early-morning shower falling from a blue sky. *Además. Afuera. Aunque.* Occasionally a word plops beside me, abiding. *Sabía. Bueno.*

Ella sabía, from my *telenovela*—the delight of realizing that the woman knew exactly what was going on.

Bueno—the word that trips off my tongue as I wander through the rooms of my house. It should be ¡*Qué bueno!*, I suppose, but it is *bueno* that I say, over and over again.

I am lost. I am lost in a world of not-knowing. Sentences swirl around my head and curl at my feet, pooling in unintelligibility. Sometimes I savor the torrent and sometimes it overwhelms me. But I am always, always aware of it—like being in the deep end of the ocean. I am in over my head.

Yet I find myself not afraid. Not afraid of failing and not anxious about succeeding. It's as though I've found my mother tongue, a language that tells me nothing but the one thing I need to hear: *La vida es pura vida.*

An Observation

by Diane Holman

Lizards and chickens bustle about my property. Children come to my kitchen window, asking for cookies or peanuts or fruit. I had always thought I would become an old lady who frightened children and other small things. How lovely that it is not so!

PORTRAIT BY HOPPER

by
John Barricks

At the next table,
the middle-aged man and woman had finished eating.
The slight remains of their meal lay between them.

In the nearly deserted restaurant,
they were a twosome, no longer a couple.
Not separated; no longer together.

Each was alone,
connected only by a table.

Glassy-eyed under an elaborate hairdo,
the woman stared straight ahead,
seeing nothing of the restaurant.
The puffy fingers of one hand
drummed silently on the table.

Circling her past. . .
her future passed.

The man sat at an angle,
one leg crossed over the other,
looking out the window,
Seeing nothing of the busy traffic.
Smoke wisped upward from a cigarette
dangling between two bony fingers.
He occasionally raised it, puffed,
sucked in, held it, exhaled.
He coughed a little.

With not a word, they spoke worlds,
like any Hopper painting.

At the next table,
the middle-aged man and woman had stopped living.
The slight remains of their relationship
lay between them.

Want to Play Golf?

by Atenas Today staff reporter

Retirement and golf seem to go together for many people. The mountains around Atenas have many delights, but so far no golf courses. However, the Central Valley Golf Association (CVGA) wants you to know that excellent golfing is an hour's drive away.

The CVGA is a group of some 150 golfers from over 20 different countries who play together on a semi-regular basis. Every Tuesday you will find 50 or so golfers, almost all of whom speak English, at the ParqueValle del Sol Golf Course in Santa Ana . They play a variety of different individual and team games, organized so that players are matched according to their abilities.

There is no membership fee to join this association. Non residents and visitors are welcome. Every time you play, you contribute \$10 to the association, which supports their activities, forms a pool for the day's winners, and enrolls you in the "hole in one" pool for that day. Green fees on Tuesdays at the Parque Valle course are about \$30 for association members.

The ParqueValle course is an 18 hole professional championship course located 1.7 meter west of the HSBC Bank in San Antonio de Belen, Santa Ana. This is just off the main road that runs from Panasonic to Santa Ana, near the hardware store El Lagar.

Complete information on the CVGA is available on their website, www.thecvga.com. If you wish to join, please email the association president, David Maddox, to register and get up to date information (maddox@racsa.co.cr). You can also reach him by phone at 892-8595.

San Isidro de Labrador, Fiesta de

by Martin Lively

Saint Isadore is the patron saint of farmers and so it is fitting that the chapel on San Isidro road bears his name. His feast day is May 15th and will be celebrated at the church there with a special Mass at 10:am followed at Noon by an auction.

The auction will include a wide variety of arts and crafts as well as plants and other donated items. Typical food and beverages will be available. Below is a translation of the flyer sent out by the community.

You are invited to celebrate

the fiestas in honor of

San Isidor Labrador

Del 14 al 18 del mayo

15 de mayo

10:00am Mass in honor of our patron

12:00 Noon Huge Auction

Dedicated to the gentlemen:

Wilberth Aguilar Sra. y Fam

Carlos Maria Rojas Sra. y Fam

We hope to count on your

valuable collaboration.

May God and St. Isadore bless you.