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DESTINO *Cabo*

DIEGO LUNA...Todos Santos Film Festival
Cabo Fashion
WOMEN FROM THE NORTH

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SPRING/SUMMER 2011

13TH ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE!

Photo: Cathy Buchanan



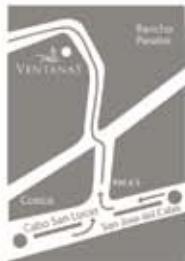
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INTIMATE WHALE WATCHING: “CELEBRATING A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY.” ESPIRITU SANTO ISLAND EXPEDITION: THE JEWEL OF CORTEZ.”

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

CHANGE...seems to be all the rage this year around the planet...rage having two meanings. The same is true all over Baja Sur. Our government leaders are all changing, after a lively political season, in an orderly democratic way; much different than we see in other parts of the world. 9000 people gathered recently on the beach - the largest ever for community activism - solidarity against mining production in the mountains north by La Paz.

There is also change at Destino magazines, and we will now create special products more than produce a regular free English magazine. Our distribution is expanding out-state, and across the country and further, and our business plan is adding some new dimensions. Every business I've spoken with this year is changing, and all, like me, are optimistic about the health and future of Baja Sur.

This issue marks the 13th year since Destino Los Cabos magazine entered the market. It's been fast and full! To mark this issue I finally allowed a friend to write a little story about me. Destino's personality represents my interest and view of things, so you and learn a bit about how that developed in my life. Destino was my vision, and I've appreciated the voice it has projected to the millions of readers over the years. I'm still very interested in Baja Sur and look forward to uncovering more stories to share! This huge, wild, lovely, spiritually stimulating State is such an inviting place to live, and I feel lucky daily to wake up here.

Our cover actor/director Diego Luna launched the Latin Film Festival, now an annual event in Todos Santos the first week of March. Well worth marking your calendar for next year. We enjoyed the time with him, appreciating his sincere energy.

The lucky number 13...a "4" numerology year...the Chinese year of the rabbit...change, movement. Can the Buddhist goal of quiet mind be achieved over the noise of the earth. This Pablo Neruda poem *Keeping Quiet* really says it all....

Spring into life!

Susan Carol

KEEPING QUIET

by Pablo Neruda

Now we will count to twelve
and we will all keep still
for once on the face of the
Earth,
let's not speak in any language
let's stop for a second,
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines;
We would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would not look at his hurt hands.

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victories with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

What I want should not be confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with
death.

Perhaps the earth can teach us
as when everything seems to be
dead in winter
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve
and you keep quiet and I will go.



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In this Issue

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FEATURES

Diego Luna

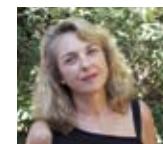
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PIONEER WOMEN FROM THE NORTH



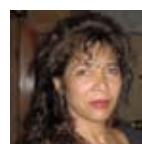
PAULA p.9

Launching Café Santa Fé set a high bar for food in Baja Sur and became a Todos Santos destination 21 years ago.



SUSAN p.25

A lack of practical information presented professionally sparked the start of her Destino Los Cabos lifestyle magazines 13 years ago.



NANETTE p.7

The 'elder' artist of Todos Santos helped spark this vibrant art community 20 years ago.



PEPITA p.21

Love and a new adventure inspired a fashion spark that 20 years later is a mainstay of local fashion.

Explore Los Bariles

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Changing East Cape

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A message consisting of a set of ten guidelines or principles is engraved on the Georgia Guidestones in eight different languages, [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Swahili](#), [Hindi](#), [Hebrew](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), and [Russian](#). There is no author, and the site is maintained. Google it!



- Maintain humanity under 500,000,000 in perpetual balance with nature.
- Guide reproduction wisely - improving fitness and diversity.
- Unite humanity with a living new language.
- Rule passion - faith - tradition - and all things with tempered reason.
- Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.
- Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.
- Avoid petty laws and useless officials.
- Balance personal rights with social duties.
- Prize truth - beauty - love - seeking harmony with the infinite.
- Be not a cancer on the earth - Leave room for nature - Leave room for nature

- • • • • • • • • •
• If today you seek
• to increase your net financial worth,
• you may or may not succeed.
• If today you seek
• to increase your serenity and wisdom,
• I guarantee you will succeed.
• Tao Te Ching Lao Tzu 500 BC
• • • • • • • • • •

DESTINO LOS CABOS

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BEACH MAP BAJA SUR



Destino Los Cabos S.A. de C.V. © 2010

DIVING DESTINATIONS

LAND'S END Intermediate-Advanced
50'-60' and just 5 minutes by boat you're swimming with sea lions and moray eels. Also a sunken boat can be seen in the Falls.

SAND FALLS Beginners - Advanced
30'-100' Steep sand banks go down sharply into a canyon filled with tropical fish. A short boat ride from shore, the canyon runs from the depths of Cabo San Lucas bay to within 30 feet of shore, making the Bay one of the deepest in the world.

PELICAN ROCK Beginners
25'-80' Just 5 minute boat trip to this large rock that attracts many tropical fish.

NEPTUNE'S FINGER Advanced
80'-100' Spectacular canyon wall dive.

CABEZA DE BALLENA Beginners
20'-40' 25 minute boat ride to dive through large boulders with lots of fish

SANTA MARIA CAVE Beginners
20'-40' 35 minutes by boat, or dive from the beach. The entrance to Santa Maria canyon has a huge variety of fish who feed right from your hand

CHILENO TWIN DOLPHIN Beginners
20'-40' 35 minutes boat ride and a sandy and rocky bottom. PARKING Lots of turtles sited here, tropical fish, night dives
DIVE CENTER • RENTALS • TRIPS

EL GAVILAN Intermediate - Advanced
70'-100' 35 minutes boat time. Rocky ledge leading into a canyon where groupers and larger fish are often sited.

BLOW HOLE Beginners – Advanced
30'-70' 35 minutes boat ride from San Lucas, or just 10 minutes from Chileno beach. Rocky valleys present a variety of fish.

LAS SALINAS Beginners
30'-45' 1.4 hours by boat from San Lucas, or 1 hour by boat from La Playita. A sunken Japanese fishing boat attracts a large assortment of fish.

GORDO BANKS Advanced
110'-120' 1 hour boat from La Playita, there is a seamount where you can see Marlin, Hammerheads, Skip Jacks and at times huge Manta.

CABO PULMO Beginner-Advanced
30'-100' 2 hour drive East of San José then 5 minutes by boat you'll find the only living coral reef in the Sea of Cortez.

Note: travel time is from Cabo San Lucas marina



Photo: Susan Carol

TODOS SANTOS

DIEGO LUNA OPENS TODOS SANTOS LATIN FILM FESTIVAL

CROSS CULTURE ACTOR DIRECTED THE AWARD WINNING FILM ABEL

By Nanette Hayles

Photos: Cathy Buchanan

Diego Luna, actor, writer, director; a talented young man crossing many borders, was born in Mexico City December 29, 1979. His mother was English, Fiona Alexander a costume designer and his father Mexican, one of Mexico's most acclaimed living theater, cinema and opera set designers. Unfortunately Diego's mother died when he was only two. He is now married to Camila

Sodi and has two young children.

As a child Diego was exposed to arts and entertainment, this would become the life he would know. Diego's first role was in a Mexican telenovela (soap opera) *El abuelo y yo* in 1992 he performed along side his life long best friend Gael Garcia Bernal. For the next decade or so, Diego's career would evolve and flourish; he had roles in TV, theater and cinema. In 2001 he was cast in the award winning film *Y tu Mama Tambien*, again playing opposite his

best friend, Gael Garcia. By the way this is Diego's favorite film where he got to work in the U.S and in Spain. It was a role that he put his "whole heart into" and it was also the film that officially launched his career internationally.

In 2002 he played opposite Bon Jovi in *Vampires: Los Muertos* and in *Frida* with Selma Hayek, Alfred Molina, Edward Norton and Antonio Banderas. Also in 2002 he was cast in the film *Havana Nights* (Dirty Dancing 2). Some of the scenes from this movie can be seen on YOU TUBE, with excerpts exceeding 3,000,000 views. I watched a couple and I have to say that Diego had some soulful sexy moves. Other films include *Milk* with Sean Penn, *Rudo y Cursi* (again with Gael Garcia) and *Before Night Falls*. Diego has also narrated National Geographic Channel's *Great Migrations*, in Spanish.

Diego has been nominated and won awards for his acting abilities. In 2009 he received the silver Ariel award (Mexico) for best actor in *Rudo y Cursi*. In 2009 he won Critics Choice for "best acting ensemble" for *Milk*, starring Sean Penn. Others awards include MTV awards, Goya, CEC (Spain) and Marcello Mastroianni Award (Venice Film Festival.)

In addition to Luna's acting abilities, Luna and Gael Garcia launched their own production company "Canana". They joined with Golden Phoenix Productions to produce a number of TV documentaries about the unsolved murders of more than 300 women in the border town of Ciudad Juarez. The company focuses on social justice issues that are Mexican-Latin American. In 2007 Diego directed his first film *J.C. Chavez*, a story about the life and career of Mexican

boxer Julio Cesar Chavez. The main characters played themselves: Julio Chavez, Oscar de la Hoya, Don King, Mike Tyson and Ana Guevara. In 2010 Diego directed his second film, *Abel*. Diego Luna presented this film at the Todos Santos film festival.

It is a "somewhat autobiographical" tale of a young boy Abel, whose family is abandoned by the father. The young Abel decides to fill that abandoned role and takes on the role of the father. The story deals with a dilemma that can be seen from the various perspectives of each family member. Every family has its own respective dramas and challenges, but usually the basic lesson is the same: when one is placed in a position of responsibility what choices are made? What ripple affects happens that may cause others, including the decision maker(s), suffering? And more importantly what are the consequences of that or those decisions? This is a story about Abel and his family and the choices they made.

Luna, himself worked directly with a group of children before making his final decision of who plays the main character, Abel. Christopher Ruiz Esparza was his choice and it is his first film; Christopher's younger brother also stars in the film as Abel's brother. Luna worked for over five months with the children to help build the characters. The film was produced by John Malkovich and Luna's long time friend actor Gael Garcia.

While visiting Todos Santos Diego held a press conference in the legendary Hotel California. Some of the questions asked were: Why Todos Santos? Diego replied that he knew Sylvia Perel, founder and

continued on page 8



Paper Tile Mosaic Artist

Nanette Hayles

Early Todos Santos Pioneer, Gifted Artist, Dedicated mother, Community Activist, Regular contributor to Destino magazine and Loving Friend.

by Susan Carol

Artist N.E. Hayles has resided in Todos Santos for over twenty years, making her now the longest resident artist in Todos Santos after famed artist Charles Stewart retired in the USA. She is mostly known for her

tivals, fire department fund raisers, Flying Doctors, Pueblo Magico, Rotary Club and works that include providing for the needy. Nanette has also been one of the principle writers for *Destino Los Cabos* magazine over ten years, contributing many articles about the environment, community projects, culture and sciences.



Photo: Judy West Photography

Baja Artists (from left to right) Ezra Katz, Nanette E. Hayles, John Comer and Derek Buckner, February 2011

paper tile mosaic portraits made from high-end magazines such as *Architectural Digest*, *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. N.E. Hayles was also one of the principle artists at the Galeria Todos Santos and she is currently exhibiting at Pez Gordo Gallery in the "Tiendas de Palmilla" in San Jose del Cabo. Her own gallery located in the oasis town of Todos Santos. is a hunt that is well worth the effort to understand what inspires the artist. Her gallery, studios and garden homes provide a lush and tranquil space to create and produce her various styles, including collage, oils on wood and paper, steel laminate, ink washes, mixed media and more. Her works can be found in private collections at the Hotel California, Café Santa Fe, Café El Triunfo, Café Todos Santos, Caprichos and Corazon Café in La Paz.

Nanette is also known for her dedication to community service. She worked for the first five years with Sylvia Perel and Linda Stobbe organizing and securing the Todos Santos Film Festival.

She has been active in many other community projects over the years including Red Cross, art fes-

Nanette is currently writing and illustrating a children's book. She is known for her Icon banner and 1000 Hearts series. If you visit Todos Santos, her gallery and grounds are a must see.

PROUST QUESTIONS:

BEST BOOK; *Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*, and *I Heard God Laughing* (Hafiz poems)

HARDEST THING TO DO; Always tell the truth

GREATEST JOY; Every time I see anyone BEING happy, especially doing something very simple.

Regrets: When my monk friend told me that he was going to "leave soon" and I wouldn't let myself "hear" him. I wanted to hug and hold him right then, but I didn't. He died four days later.

HARDEST LESSON; Learning to love myself.

BIGGEST ENEMY; EGO

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING EVER SEEN; My children years ago one late summer day were laughing and running naked through the huerta amongst the trees. They played and teased each other as they painted each other with mud and decorated themselves with leaves and flowers. I felt this is how all children should be. What freedom, what innocence!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIE?

With love in my heart, all in me and all around me, everywhere.

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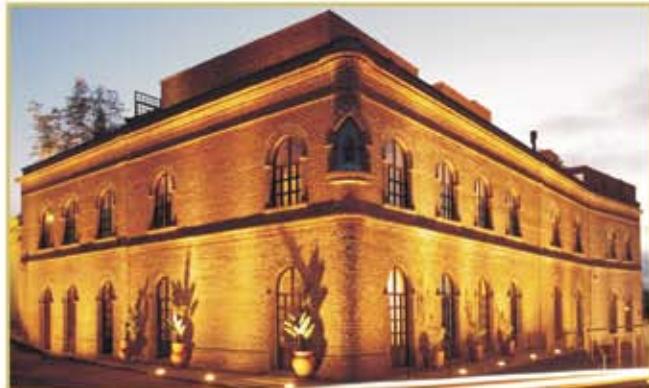
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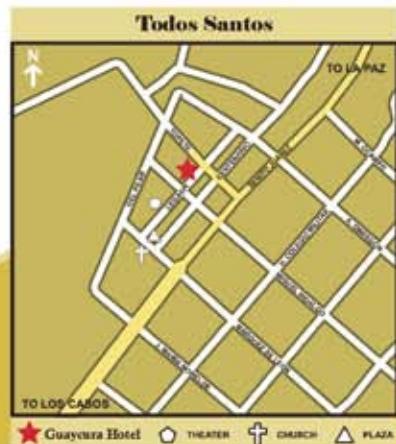
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DIEGO LUNA

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organizer of the Latino Film Festival in San Francisco. Sylvia is also the founder/organizer of Todos Santos Film Festival. He stated that this connection is why he chose to come to Sylvia's festival in Todos Santos. He added that he was also honored that he would be the first to introduce his new film in the newly restored town's theater, Marquez de Leon.

Other questions asked at the lively press conference centered around his career as actor and director. He said he plans on directing more films. In fact he is planning on co-writing a screenplay with the same writer as Abel. In addition, he shared his interest in the many documentaries made in Mexico and praised such dedication and determination to express the truth. He did express concern over the lack of exposure and availability of these films to the Mexican public in general and stated how wonderful Todos Santos is to have a festival where these documentaries could be viewed.

He also felt impressed by the program "Youth in Video" directed by Leonardo Perel and feels it's important for the communities everywhere to provide such creative outlets for their youth. He feels it is vital that we all share in the responsibility in caring for children and their future in all ways possible. Diego also shared his continuing concern over topics that range from taking care of the planet, to views on energy and violence.

Diego's confident and candid demeanor is one of his many strengths. His ability to look you in the eye and answer a question with intelligence, clarity, vision and insight is a welcome sight from a young actor exposed to Hollywood and its ways. The Todos Santos Latin film festival consistently attracts talents like Diego.

Diego's Luna's thoughts on Mexico and the world in general are; "in my generation we are people who are more awake....our generation watched an assassination and watched our parents vote and watched that the candidate that they didn't choose become President...with our generation we are not going to say oh its OK. We are waking up! Its an exciting time to be alive...we all know that there is something that is going to happen! We don't know what it is, but we know it and we feel it. Our generation talks about it...we know that



Mexico is going to be an important part of it and we will do somethingfilm can some how be a part of it, it is a necessity and a way to speak and get information out to the public. I am an optimistic man".

Trivia: YOU TUBE Statistics Havana Nights, Dirty Dancing 2 various segments as of 25/2/2011 3,042,344 views! You go Diego!

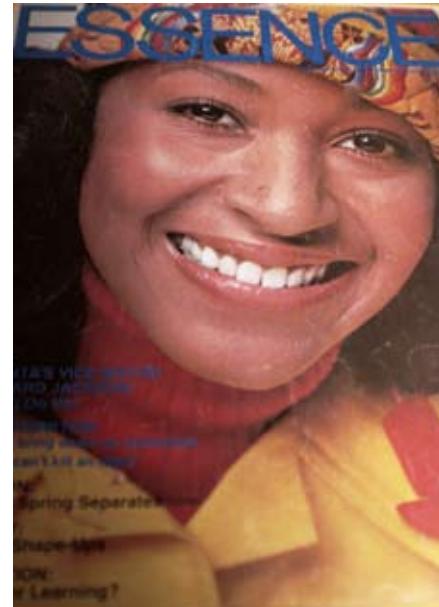
PAULA

By Nanette Hayles
Photos: Cathy Buchanan

Paula: mother, model, furniture/interior designer and Todos Santos restaurateur! Paula grew up in Harlem, a suburb of New York City during an exciting, hopeful but trying time. She is the contemporary of Sidney Portier, Harry Belafonte, Malcolm X, Cassius Clay (Mohammed Ali), The Apollo Theater, Nina Simon, Sugar Ray Robinson and many many more. Paula comes from a proud people, a people that have come from their own country, Jamaica. During her upbringing she was taught that she was a part of everyone and everything. She was also taught that there are no limits to anyone defining and reaching their own dreams.

Her efforts and those of her strong proud family, proved so. As a very young woman Paula's beautiful face would appear on the "in" magazines of the times; *McCall's*, *Mademoiselle*, *Seventeen Magazine* and others including the new black magazine, *Essence*. Paula would be one of the first to grace its cover. While Afro Americans were making progress in some respects, she witnessed the deterioration of her people on the other. With the Viet Nam war in full swing, she watched as her community witnessed, some of the young men in ROTC in respective colleges get recruited into the war. These young men, to their surprise, would be fighting the "enemy" on the front lines. Her neighborhood mourned as the coffins returned home. Paula wept along with her community for those promising souls that left way too soon.

Her own success was always

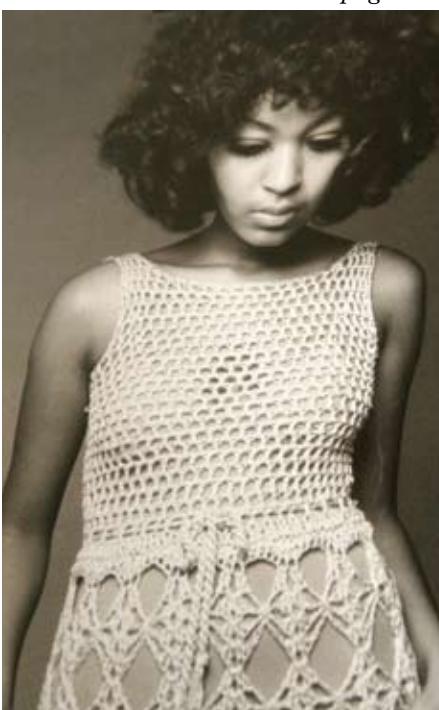


Paula on the cover of trendy
Essence magazine

mixed with emotions of sorrow and compassion and maybe even a little bitterness that left her wondering about the world she was living in. All the hopes of those young men, all that potential ruined and gone forever.

While whites and others flooded to Harlem to hear or see the latest in entertainment, the Black Muslims, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. who were offering another perspective of self defined pride and dignity. It was also the emerging times of Black power. The country was "on fire," when there were five assassinations in five short years: Medgar Evers 1963, President John Kennedy 1963, Malcolm X 1965, Bobby Kennedy 1968 and Martin Luther King 1968. This was a time

Continued on page 10



Café Santa-Fé



Proprietors
Ezio and Paula Colombo

21 years
Serving wonderful food
and memories. Join us.

Town Plaza
Todos Santos

Santa Fe is featured in 2007 *La Cuchara de Plata*,
the "bible" of Italian cooking

PAULA

continued from page 9

of growing unrest. At this same time, the whole nation seemed to be involved in peace marches against the Vietnam war. Riots also occurred in major U.S. cities and the last but not least, deadly blow... the purposeful



Paula Colombo, today, left, with her long term Café Santa Fé staff

flooding of lower income neighborhoods with crack cocaine. The horror of that time left an imprint on every Black American, including Paula, struggling with the continuing dilemma of gain and regression.

But the 1960's of love and peace would also leave its imprint. It would be this never-ending faith and belief of the "hippies 60's", along with her families stubborn determination, that Paula would choose to live her life her way.

In addition to her magazine modeling, Paula also modeled for trendy Macys Department Store in New York. She took her newly found expertise back to her community and volunteered in its centers. She encouraged others by helping with resumes, personal presentations and inspirational talks. Her modeling career also extended to the west coast where she met many influential and exciting people, who would later help her with her second career in furniture and interior design.

Times were changing and the black power movement not only extended throughout the Black population, but also among the general population. This phenomenon divided many with a new view and definition: "are you black enough?", and what that meant. The darker beautiful women with the latest "afro" styles would soon replace

Paula with her milk chocolate skin and soft springy curls. Often panels of Caucasians ironically determined what was black enough for the fashion scene. Paula graciously accepted the changing times and reinvented herself. She soon became the fun loving "hippie" mom, living in California, eating all the granola and organic foods she could, sup-

plying her child with great mothers' milk...a "trend" that the 60's moms brought back "in style".

It was during her years as a mom that she launched her second career. All the friends and contacts she met in her modeling career and those "making it" on their own in their respective careers would visit Paula and loved her style. It wasn't long before Paula found herself redesigning her friends and friend's of friends homes, including Brian Graizer (who did the movie *Mermaid*) and Hal Ashby (who did the movies *Harold and Maude* and *Coming Home*). This dream would then lead to the next, her Ezio and Café Santa Fe and Todos Santos.

On a decorating trip to San José for a client, Paula and Ezio met at a party. Artist and chef in the making Ezio had already migrated to the area from Milan, Italy. Relatively quickly Paula sold her home in LA and moved to her next incarnation with Ezio.

Paula Rafelson Colombo and Ezio Colombo's dream project and "child" was and is restaurant Café Santa Fe. The lush sub-tropical oasis town of beautiful Todos Santos was chosen as the home for this energetic and magical project. The five star restaurant would become one of the most important highlights of Paula and Ezio's life. Ezio

knows how to cook period! (this is an understatement). Café Santa Fe has been the main destination by first time and repeated visitors over its long 21-year history. Paula purchased the building and with their combined artists sensibilities and style, they restored the family home creating a simple elegance that reflects its delicious menu.

Paula and Ezio are well traveled and their European and Mexican cultural touches add to the ambiance where a meal can go on for wonderful hours. Everything, every ingredient is "the best, it's the best you can get" Ezio says in his heavy Italian accent. The hard work and high integrity of their project has become its own legend in lower Baja. Many famous and not so famous come from all over world to enjoy for themselves. Besides the inner sense of success of a job WELL DONE with the Café Santa Fe, the other light of Paula's eye has always been her beautiful green/blue eyed daughter Chia. Paula, being a single mom, raised Chia giving her the best of the best, inspiring her along the way as a conscious mother would. Today it gives Paula much joy and pride to see her daughter's own success. Chia is an inspirational and healing yoga teacher. Her classes are always full and motivating. Paula not only enjoys her classes with the love and the pride of a mother, but also enjoys the exceptional personal satisfaction that one experiences after taking a great class. What more could a mom ask for?

Paula's closing two thoughts:
1. When I speak. I'd like the words be from the heart to the mouth as opposed from the mind to the mouth.
2. Todos Santos reminds me of the children's book "The Little Engine"... that could. Yes you can, yes you can the little engine would say to itself as it tried and tried to pull the load up the hill.

Quick Proust questions:

If you could change one thing in the world? "Corruption"

The thing you like least about yourself. "I'm too emotional at times"

Favorite time in history... "well it certainly wasn't way back when"

Favorite moments "doing yoga with my daughter"

Two under rated virtues "forgiveness and loyalty"

8TH ANNUAL TODOS SANTOS FILM FESTIVAL

Inaugurated the newly renovated historic theatre

By Nanette Hayles
Photos Cathy Buchanan

Aргентинian born Sylvia Perel is the founder/organizer of the San Francisco Latino Film Festival and the Todos Santos Film



Diego Luna & Sylvia Perel enjoy a successful Todos Santos Latin Film Festival

Festival. Her efforts and dedication bringing film to the public in general is not her only goal. She also works at finding professional venues for amateur as well as established film artists. The Todos Santos Film Festival is held annually for four days, usually the first week of March. Go to: www.todossantoscinefest.com for more information about the next film festival, Youth in Video and other activities.



Ivan Trujillo long time director of the School of Cinematography in Mexico City's principle university (UNAM). All of his films are internationally acclaimed and have won many awards, including 12 Academy Awards nominations. Director/producer Guillermo del Toro, Pan's Labyrinth and Hellboy

MINING THREATENS PENINSULA

Be an AVATAR

By Nanette Hayles

ATTENTION Hotels, restaurants, real estate offices, golf course owners, property owners, commercial business owners, fishermen, water sports lovers, every man, woman and child who lives or visits the Baja Sur peninsula, your life is in danger!!!!

Your life is in danger in every aspect, from the value of your property to the quality of air, water and life you have NOW. The health of you, your family, employees and future generations are in danger. OUR entire life will change if new mines come to our state. Do not be fooled by the distance of a mine from your vicinity whether its 15km, 35 km or 75 km, this peninsula is too small for FIVE mines. What happens in one area will affect another.

Winds, hurricanes, earthquakes and water sources are common to all in this zone. "Proximity" has new meaning as is evident in world news (*nuclear threat in Japan, war and unrest in Africa, earthquakes: Chile, Japan, Haiti, Iceland*) Daily we encounter information that testifies to how much smaller and inter-connected our planet IS. Be smart; don't make the following mistakes:

1. Leave the responsibility up to others. Instead be creative, each of us can do something.
2. Be naïve and think you can escape the toxic affects of mines. Instead, research, study other areas that have mines and the affects
3. Stay in ignorance to the facts and implications of what a mine is and what it entails. Instead, talk to others, attend meetings, go to web sites.

We see examples everywhere of irresponsible short termed deci-

sions and misplaced values. Does capital and money and the value given to money matter more than human life? Matter more than the quality of health? Matter more than the consideration for future generations? Matter more than one's environment? These are questions that each person and each business needs to address NOW before any damage is done to one of the most pristine areas on the planet. NO one can afford to sit and watch a foreign

day full of cyanide crossing on the transportador and passing through La Paz. Pretty heavy. The explosives are the equivalent of daily 4.1 earthquakes at the site. 24/7 for 10 years. Water will be contaminated, animals will die, and cancer victims will have increased medical costs. The oceans and marine life will die. Hurricanes and seasonal rains will send the arsenic and other contaminates deeper into our water sources which will destroy us. The destruction of fishing, agriculture, cattle, property investment and tourist industries will all be affected.



their "right" to the gold REGARDLESS of others and at the expense of LIFE, our work and way of living. So let us claim OUR right to our future and the future of our children and this precious part of the planet. WE must defend ourselves by defending the Sierra Laguna. Baja California Sur and the mountains of Sierra Laguna have given us a gift of pristine life and now they need us to protect this land by making our voices for life heard.

It's time! Be an AVATAR and stand up for yourself and our planet!
www.soscabo.org,
www.vistagoldno.com,
www.aquavalemasqueoro.com



SUPPORT THE EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE MINES with your donation to continue the legal path to save the Baja Sur environment. Deposit directly to:

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company TAKE our quality of life away from us!

The mining interests are still pursuing their plan. This is THE point and it is harsh, but if we do nothing then it is OUR fault! THEY came and TOOK what we didn't defend. WE must claim life for our own families and ourselves. Words like, forethought, acting on your beliefs, protecting your children and the environment, matter at this moment, more than ever. We can't let the teetering domino affects and consequences of irresponsibility and incoherence of every aspect of life, health and environment go unheeded, unprotected or ignorantly left to those of greed of "un-obtainium".

If we do not act, then the affects of none-action will preside: our businesses will fail, we will suffer from vomiting, diarrhea and cancer, all caused by arsenic open pit mines. The cyanide use is 35 to 80 tons a week with minimum of 4 trucks a

The gathering by 9000 residents on the beach in January to protest the mines was just a start. Claim what is yours! They are claiming

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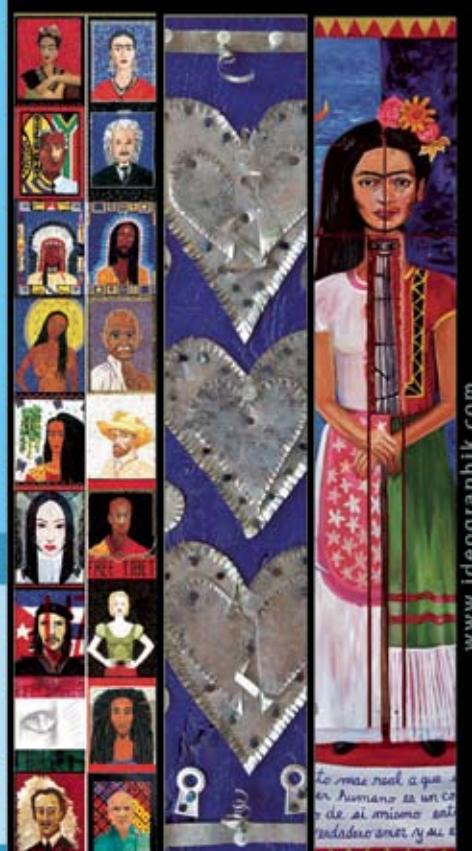


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Downtown Todos Santos Upscale Guyacura Hotel Opens



It looks historic on the outside but behind the walls it gets more modern the higher you go. The building restoration includes 14 luxury suites, an inviting Spa, a courtyard restaurant, the Don Guillermo Bar with hand painted Moorish ceiling and the rooftop bar, pool and restaurant making it hard to leave the hotel to visit the interesting art galleries, and fiestas in the surrounding town.,



EAST CAPE

KICKIN' AROUND THE EAST CAPE With Walter...

By Walter S. Zapotoczny Jr.

Mexican Retablos: 19 Century Devotional Art

As you travel around the East Cape visiting its many quaint shops, you are bound to come across Retablos, which means "Altarpieces" in Spanish. They are small oil paintings on tin, zinc, wood or copper. Used in home altars to venerate Catholic saints, Retablos are a type of folk art, which is deeply rooted in Spanish history. They represented the very foundations of religious beliefs in the 17th, 18th and 19th-century Mexican culture. These colorful and charming unique art forms are a mixture of century's-old Catholic iconography and indigenous art. The historical and cultural links between the "old" and the "new" worlds are reflected in this art. With the introduction of inexpensive mediums such as tin, Retablo as an art form flourished, reaching its pinnacle of popularity in the last quarter of the 19th century. With some exceptions, mostly untrained artists worked to produce and reproduce these sacred images. Some artists painted more prolifically than others painted, and

where known to have duplicated the same image hundreds, if not thousands of times in a career.

Black Pearls

When Herman Cortez visited Bahia de La Paz at the beginning of the 16th century, he and his soldiers encountered several hundred naked Indians fishing in the clear aquamarine water of the bay. Cortez was not looking for fish though. He had heard about the beautiful black pearls of La Paz from other Spanish adventurers. He was after the riches they would bring. He and his men rounded the tip of a large island on their way to the pearl grounds. He then gave Isla Espiritu Santo its first name - Isla de Perlas. To this day, some still call La Paz by its nickname - La Perla. From the time of their discovery, to the last half of the 19th century, black pearl beds were wide spread along the gulf shores of the Baja peninsula. From present day Los Barriles on the Bahia de Palmas a few miles north of the Tropic of Cancer, to beyond La Paz, pearl oysters were located at depths up to a hundred feet on rocky bottoms in almost any place protected from the violent actions of waves and currents.

bera was located on a flat shelf of land touching the beach. Over the years, hurricanes and monsoonal rains flooded the area, devastating the town. As a result, residents were forced to abandon the site and rebuild their homes and businesses on higher ground. The skeletons of two or three crumbling concrete and brick structures remain to mark the site.

Crossing the Sierras

Hiking the Sierra de la Laguna mountain range is a perfect way to enjoy the East Cape and Southern Baja. The mountains are southern Baja's only granitic range. The highest point is about 7,000 feet. The Sierra de la Laguna receive more rainfall than any other place in Baja and once hosted a series of lakes. The largest drained around 1870 when a rockslide opened a path on the east side for the water to pour down Cañon San Dionisio. This event left a flat, grassy depression near the top of the peak. Two small streams flow through the meadow, one toward the Sea of Cortez and the other toward the Pacific. The Sierra de la Laguna range is a protected biosphere reserve. Several rangers watch for fires and tend a weather station in the meadow. During your hike, you will enjoy the diversity of flora. At the beginning of the ascent, you will find barrel cactus, thorn shrub and palo verde. As you climb higher, you will encounter new and different species of shrub, trees and wildflowers. At the top, you are surrounded by madrone, oak and piñon.

East Cape Beaches

Generations of local residents have identified the East Cape beaches as the area along the western edge of the Sea of Cortez between Punta Pescadero on the north and Cabo Pulmo on the south. Los Barriles,

Buena Vista and La Ribera are located within the East Cape, on the shores of Bahia de Palmas. Visiting East Cape beaches is a seasonal experience. North winds between November and March make the beaches a perfect launching pad for wind surfers. The rest of the year, those who prefer less strenuous activities populate the beaches. Day access to most of the beaches in the East Cape is not restricted. A visit to East Cape beaches would not be complete without a trip to the Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park. One of the largest coral reefs in the world is located off the beach at Pulmo, within an underwater ecological reserve. Fishing, spear fishing and shell collecting are not permitted here. It is also one of the most famous diving locations in the Sea of Cortez.

Baja California Sur: Land of Big Horn Sheep

Big Horn Sheep have been part of Baja California Sur's landscape for many years. They arrived here after the ice age. They settled in the northern Mexican State of Sonora and the costal fringe of the peninsular mountain ranges of Baja California Sur. Big Horn Sheep are found as far north as the San Francisco mountain range between Guerrero Negro and San Ignacio and as far south to an area at the northern fringe of the East Cape near the Bay of La Paz. The sound of their large horns clashing during mating season echoes throughout the canyons and ravines of the rugged mountain ranges. Thanks to the structure of their hooves, Big Horn Sheep have a remarkable capacity for climbing and jumping. The halves of each hoof separate, so the feet can cling firmly to the rocky terrain. The soles are soft and like a cushion, allowing the Big Horn to keep its balance as it moves across uneven or slippery ground. Males have thick spiral horns, measuring up to four feet.

Los Barriles on the East Cape is like
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The East Cape Road LINKING THE INEVITABLE VISION

By Jim Hart

The word's out! Just about everyone is talking about the new South- East Cape highway, in regards to the road construction soon to commence. The subject is big news for those who live out there, and drive the bumpy dirt road every day. Contractors, for example, building homes out on the coast face challenges and complicated logistics, moving men and materials into the South East Cape's remote areas.

Specifically, we are referring to the partially paved, 15 mile stretch of road between the beach communities of La Playita, La Laguna, Los Zapatitos and Bahia Terranova, because this is the zone for the first phase of the new East Cape highway system.

The main purpose for building this new highway is to create a smooth and clean paved access for

the future development of several 5 star+ destination resorts which will rest on large chunks of ocean-front property located north-east of San Jose. The Mayan Palace property for example, is nestled a stone's throw away from the sleepy communities of Santa Cruz, Altos, Los Zapatitos, and Lomas del Mar, a new, soon-to-be -gated, 45 lot ocean view subdivision. Locally, the new highway will foment new movement in the way of commercial development and residential communities between the La Laguna traffic circle and the Los Zapatitos traffic circle.

The new East Cape highway will skirt the backside of Monte Mar, a larger partial of undeveloped land which is located within the boundaries of Los Zapatitos, and will someday be developed into an up-scale residential community, overlooking the Mayan Palace resort, and the Los Zapatitos coastline.



Santa Cruz de los Zapatitos in the foreground, with Altos behind it. The red line indicates the new East Cape Highway, heading east from San Jose, 6 miles to the west (to the right)..... The yellow line is the principle tributary from the East Cape Highway to Zapatitos, and its connection to the coast road, which is also in yellow. The blue line is the Mayan Palace property line and indicates its location to the north of Santa Cruz, and Monte Mar. The blue line also shows how the East Cape coast road will be blocked, right where the blue line crosses it

The traffic circle located about 6.5 miles east of San Jose, is where the tributary road turns right, down the hill, into the Rancho de los Zapatitos communities. The formal plan is to build an additional road from the traffic circle, veering off

to the left, and passing through the west side of the Mayan Palace property located a half a mile to the east.

The inevitable vision;

Just a mile up the road from the Los Zapatitos traffic circle, will be

continued on page 14

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It must be Love!

Linking the East Cape

continued from page 13

the extravagant main gates of a new Mayan Palace destination resort on the right, and to the left, a commercial plaza with movie theatres and shopping center. The master plan is to have this road, the new South - East Cape highway, follow an inland path, passing along the backside of other residential communities, including Playa Tortuga, Rancho Tortuga, Alacran, the Terranova II development, Santa Elena, Rancho los Amigos, Vinorama, Costa de Oro, Boca del Salado, La Linia, Los Frieles, Cabo Pulmo, Punta Colorado and re-connecting to the paved highway located 6 miles south of La Ribera. La Ribera is where you will find the new, grand-scale, marina development, Cabo Riviera.

The new highway is funded by the landowners who plan on building the 5 star resorts. Access is everything, and they are creating it. Tributary roads will connect the new highway with the coast road in strategic locations. From southwest to the north east; La Laguna, Los Zacaítos, Playa Tortuga, Bahia Terranova, Vinorama, Los Frieles and Cabo Pulmo.

The loop;

Driving further on, it will be your choice to turn right at the La Cuevas intersection where you can return to the International airport and San Jose, a 45 minute drive south. To the right, head north to Buena Vista, Los Barriles, San Bartolo, San Antonio, El Triunfo or La Paz, about 2 hours north of this intersection.

When the first phase of the new East Cape highway is completed, the Mayan's will take control of the coast road located to the north of Santa Cruz by the beach, and fence it, closing off road access from Santa Cruz's north property line. For example, Santa Cruz residents surfing the north coast will no longer drive the old coast road. They must drive back up the tributary road to the traffic circle, about 1.5 miles, turn right, go north about 3 miles, and intersect with the coast road about 1 mile south of Shipwrecks beach. 3.3 km. of coastal property will be in the landowners control and for this reason and camping will most likely be prohibited within this area, including the annual Pig Roast / Horseshoe Tournament, held at Km. 85 each February. This event is prepared each year by Jeff and Diane, and Pier Azcona, developer of Playa Tortuga, and supported by local residents.

Permits;

The easement rights through the long stretch of desert between La Laguna turn off and Los Zacaítos turn off was granted, and paid for. The construction company is gearing up and preparing the equipment and supplies to get started. The allocated funds wait patiently in the bank, ready for disbursement. The Governor and Municipal President, we believe, have given the approval to proceed.

The changes are radical, and will become a reality very soon.

New Corridor;

The Vision begins in San Jose by crossing the newly constructed bridge to Puerto Los Cabos is 1.2 km. in length. Traversing the San Jose arroyo, passenger and driver are greeted by the 50 ft. high-bronze figure symbolizing the East Cape's fishing prosperity, with a posture promising a positive future through planned development and controlled growth. From this point you know you are entering the gateway to Tomorrowland, the new domain of mega yachts, luxury homes and 36 holes of world-class golf.

History;

Originally, a formal plan to build the marina was in an altogether

different location. 24 years ago, one man's dream was to build a grand scale marina 6.5 miles east of San Jose, in the La Laguna estuary. This area is a delicate zone; a natural aquifer, and sanctuary for sea life, and birds. Mr. Curt Lorenz, an ex-US Air Force pilot and developer of the Marina Sol condominiums in Cabo San Lucas had a deposit in escrow to purchase the estuary property. Curt was establishing partnerships to fund and build the project and created an exciting concept, that was ahead of its time. An unfortunate turn of events stopped this plan abruptly. While flying through the mountains near Bishop California, he crashed his Cessna Turbo-prop and did not survive. With him, in his brief case, were all the documents, plans and details. If Curt was still with us, the marina would have been built in the La Laguna estuary.

Mankind does not stand still.

The list of today's big players is a heavy one. In their hands lay the East Capes' master plan; Paved highways and tributary roads will connect us to the destination resorts...a golden chain. The International airport is theoretically, the hub of a wheel.

Coming soon

TODAY, experience the East Cape in its natural state. Hopefully, the essence of the natural beauty will not be taken away. Coming soon, the inevitable vision will be reality.

Questions: contact Jim at

ICS Vantage Realty

cel 044 624 147-0352

jimhartec@yahoo.com

EAST CAPE ON THE MOVE!

Now is the best time we will probably ever see in our lifetime to buy a home on or by the beach! Pam pipes up. Carlene quickly tells you the reasons why: "we have an incredible beach-front home for \$850,000 that would have sold for \$1.4 million two years ago". These two are the energetic sales force that drives the business of *Homes and Land of Baja* in Los Barriles on the East Cape.



Pam & Carlene

Carlene Lokey is a member of Rotary, plus kite boards in her spare time and Pam Gray hikes the Sierra de Laguna mountains as well as works with an animal rescue group. "Lately we have been getting more people from Cabo and San Jose looking at property here. People who have decided to live in a smaller town with a more tranquil lifestyle" says Carlene. Pam adds "People who want to be in a town with world class fishing, kiteboarding, mountain biking as well as a great place to just mellow out and walk on the white sand beaches. "We are also the "official" Information Center in Los Barriles. Come on in, we'll share more" she says. "It's free!"

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NEW REHABILITATION CENTER IN LA PAZ

QUESTRO FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S PROJECT

by Cathy Buchanan

Since the very early days, Mexican Developer Grupo Questro's commitment to giving back to the Los Cabos community has been unwavering. Toward this end, the established developer launched The Questro Foundation, as it's charitable



The staff and supporters of the new Children's Rehabilitation Center

branch and forged a strong alliance with TELETON, one of Mexico's most respected non-profit organizations.

One of TELETON's goals, to build a rehabilitation center for children with disabilities, in every

state in Mexico, is well under way thanks in part to the generous spirit of The Questro Foundation and the people of Baja California Sur. This year, our State received its very own CRIT, the 17th built in Mexico.

Inaugurated last month, Baja California Sur's CRIT in La Paz is

a colorful, state of the art facility designed by acclaimed Mexican architect Javier Sordo Madaleno. Symbolic of a state almost entirely sur-

rounded by the sea, the BCS CRIT is built in the shape of a starfish. The reception desk is designed to look like a boat and it is here, that children are launched on their journey of rehabilitation. Immacu-

lately clean and filled with friendly and loving staff and volunteers, the facility, equipped to provide outpatient care for 600 children annually, is already buzzing with grateful families, who now have the means to see their children fulfill their potential by receiving the therapies they require.

"The Questro Foundation really took the initiative to raise funds to build this facility and it is largely through their efforts that it has been built so quickly," said Mercedes de Teresa, VIP Director for TELETON who recently toured members of the Questro Foundation through the Baja California Sur facility. "This facility is very important for the people of the Baja Peninsula," she continued, "because before it existed families had to travel to the mainland to receive therapy. The journeys were time consuming and often prohibitively expensive for families with limited resources. Now, though there is still only one facility on the Baja Peninsula, these much needed therapies are more accessible to everyone."

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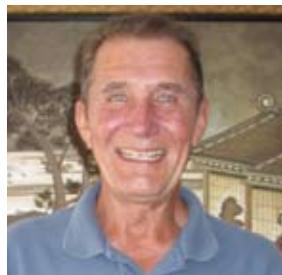
LONGEVITY POWER

by Dr. Bill Sniechowski DC

Because I live in Baja California Sur just south of the Tropic of Cancer where the sun shines 350 days a year, I have developed an interest in Solar Power. Every book I have read says the same thing: Before you spend one penny on solar equipment, make your house energy efficient – upgrade appliances to energy efficient models, change the light bulbs, install double pane windows, unplug the computer, TV, microwave when not in use, etc. I have done so and reduced my electric bill by 300%. The first step in living a long and productive life -Longevity Power - is making your house – YOU – energy efficient. Two phrases I use often when consulting with patients are: "It all starts with digestion," and "All paths lead to the liver."

Efficient digestion means absorbing and utilizing every bit of the energy available in your food. Stress impairs digestion. Emotional stress. Mental stress. Mechanical stress. Physical stress. Environmental stress. When you are inundated with stressors, you are unable to derive adequate energy from your food and you use what meager energy stores you have left inefficiently to power an already ailing physiology. It's a vicious downward spiral.

If you want to be a long liver of life, you need a healthy liver. Your liver performs over 500 functions and filters one liter of blood per hour. How important is your liver? Well,



you can remove 70% of it and it will grow back. Try that with any other organ in your body. When your liver is compromised by stress (anger, worry, poor food and lifestyle choices), every cell, nerve, tissue, organ and system in your body is adversely affected. Hippocrates said, "Diseases don't suddenly fall from the sky. They are caused by daily sins against Nature." Chronic, degenerative diseases (High blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease, diabetes, obesity) are slow and relentless and not only cut your life short but also make the life you're living miserable.

The best way to live long is to not kill yourself early.

A group of Italian researchers recently coined the term, "Inflamm-aging." They determined that the inflammatory process causes premature aging. Right on. Unfortunately, the general public has been led to believe that inflammation is a disease condition unto itself. The inflammatory process is the natural repair and regenerate mechanism of normal physiology. It is only when this normal regulatory system is knocked out of balance (too many omega 6's and not enough omega 3's, not enough rest, inadequate exercise, dehydration, excess refined and processed sugars and oils) that your body responds with compensatory physiology and unchecked, rampant inflammation destroys your arteries, colon,

kidneys, brain and on and on.

So, how do you make yourself energy efficient and maximize your Longevity Power? Use common sense and listen, really listen to what your body is telling you. How do your knees feel with that extra 10 lbs. you're carrying? What do you think your bloated and cramped stomach is saying about that double fudge brownie ala mode? Where's your brain the morning after the cigars, tequila and poker 'til 3am? Is it really saying that washing down a handful of antioxidants with a can of Red Bull and a B12 shot will take care of business? A Sufi master once told me that if you take one step toward God, God will come running toward you. Take the step toward energy efficiency and you'll keep running a long, long time.

I could give you an extensive list of grizzly diseases with even grizzlier outcomes to scare you into action but, to me, that's unethical. Anyway, the medical and pharmaceutical industries make up a lot of those names just to sell you another drug. Use common sense. Your body is the best pharmacy on Earth. Treat it well and let it do its job.

I could write pages on diets, supplements, exercise, lifestyle and tell you that's the answer but, because every one of you is as unique and complex and beautiful as a snowflake, that, too, would be unethical. What's good for the goose may not necessarily be good for the gander. And, indeed, may even be harmful. When you want to take the step, I can help you decide the proper action for your specific needs and goals.

Speaking of wanting to take the step, my wife says that change occurs when you know what you want so deeply you begin to act in your own best self-interest. That can be a mine

field because the mind is pretty tricky but, if you listen, really listen, you will know what to do. The Common Sense deep inside you is vast and eternal. You have the opportunity to live a long, very long and fruitful life. Make yourself energy efficient and amp up your Longevity Power.

You have two choices. You can heed the call of Jack Kerouac and "Live fast and die young," or embrace the salute of Mr. Spock and, "Live long and prosper."

Beam me up Scotty,
Dr. Bill

P.S. As the risk of global radioactive contamination increases with the deteriorating disaster in Japan, iodine supplementation becomes a factor with thyroid cancer the issue. Your thyroid needs iodine and gets it from whatever source it can. Saturating your thyroid with iodine supplements prevents radioactive iodine from being absorbed and it gets flushed out in the urine via the liver and kidneys. The optimal iodine supplement contains a 50/50 ratio of iodine/iodide. Call me at 624-118-1603 or email: drbill.baja@yahoo.com if you have questions.

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The octgon roof of the new Cultural center peaks over the Marina roof tops in downtown Cabo



Transformation: Strip Club, to Classy Topless Sports Bar & Showgirls

Many long time Cabo visitors will remember the old 20/20 Strip Club, barely visible from the street and located across from McDonalds long before the burger place was built. This was one of the closest strip clubs to the Marina providing entertainment for locals and visiting fishermen, usually in town with just their buddies...no women. It was part of the "color" of this part of town, where small "girly" clubs dot the streets behind. When the economic downturn hit Cabo particularly hard in 2009, the American owner closed the club, leaving a very attractive low cost lease behind. Local

sound with High Definition TV makes you feel like you are at the game or event. There are private suites and VIP rooms for bachelor or birthday parties upstairs with inside and outside seating. The downstairs also features an outside patio and the restaurant can easily handle groups up to 300 and the food is very reasonably priced and fresh.

Yes, ladies often join their men at the club, because it feels more like a Cabaret club than a topless bar. The staff uniforms are tasteful, and the décor so nice inside it's just a nice place to enjoy sports events, which women enjoy as much as



investors saw an opportunity for this locale, and today there is a very classy Topless Sports Bar that is fast becoming THE place to be for all sporting events from Super Bowl parties to NBA and NHL Playoffs and also UFC and Boxing events.

The club which has No Cover Charge is divided into many sections, offering a variety of entertainment. The main floor comfortably seats 100's of people, this where the showgirls perform table dances and on game days the big movie theatre screen comes down and surround

men these days.

When the new boulevard into Cabo was completed last year, the sidewalk in front of Cabaret was transformed with trees, curbs, garbage cans and a bus stop right in front. If you have a group they'll even send a car to pick you up for free! This is not your ordinary strip club, Cabaret was designed to keep up with the new modern times and lifestyles and offers to clients a one-of-a-kind experience, within walking distance from most Cabo hotels and condos!

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Dry Treat Stone Sealers offer protection for up to 15 years

by Cathy Buchanan

Construction on your brand new Los Cabos home has just been completed. It's everything you imagined and more. The travertine floors are fresh and clean, the granite countertops glisten and the cantera patios are perfect. You are ready to move in. Or are you?

Many people are not aware that their fine stone finishes such as granite, travertine and cantera require sealing, yet this final step is every bit as important as is cutting and laying the stone. Dry Treat commercial and residential sealers, represented locally by Stone Sealers Mexico in San Jose del Cabo is the most technologically advanced option for sealing natural stone, and is the world's leading sealer.

Just like your skin, natural stone has pores, breathes and will absorb stains and bacteria. Exposure to the elements can cause your stone building materials to deteriorate prematurely through weathering, unsightly staining and biological and chemical attack. Sealing your natural stone finishes can eliminate or significantly reduce these problems and cut down on maintenance expenses of costly and aggravating resealing. Your stone finishes will resist dust and film accumulation. Additionally, surfaces can be cleaned with any product without harm to the seal.

Specifically engineered to penetrate porous materials and bond the pores without blocking them, Dry Treat creates a barrier of protection

within the materials that is backed up by a written 15 year performance warranty.

Johni Orr, a residential real estate agent in Los Cabos for the past twelve years brought Dry Treat Penetrating Sealer to Los Cabos after realizing there was a real need for it.

"Unfortunately, in years past, this market didn't provide the most technologically advanced sealers to protect the homeowners investment," says Orr. I went in search of the best product I could find to fill this void and after much research I found that this product is Dry Treat. The formula for Dry Treat was engineered in Australia specifically to protect stone finishes in marine climates such as we have here. It really does the job of protecting stone detailing from man and the elements.



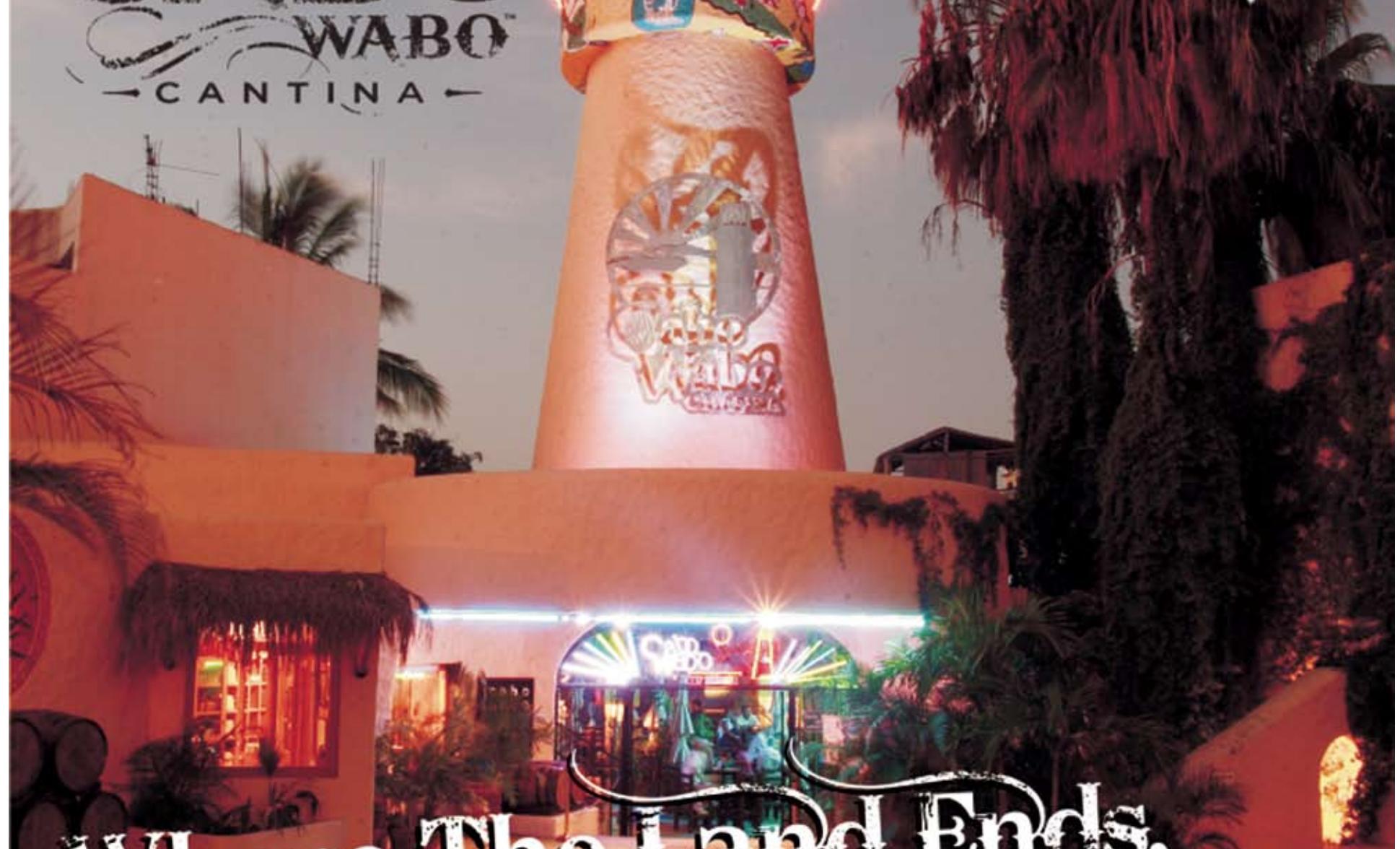
Owners Maria & Armando

The complete Dry Treat product line is distributed in Los Cabos by Stone Sealers Mexico, the most experienced stone sealant dealer in the area. Their representatives are completely bi-lingual and have applied Dry Treat products locally in the Villas Del Mar, El Dorado and Querencia residential neighborhoods among many others and in numerous commercial establishments.

Stone Sealers Mexico, can not only provide you with the complete Dry Treat product line, but are certified to apply it as well. Its recommended that a certified sealer is used, as the right application is critical. This small investment in the maintenance and preservation of all stone will be of value for years.



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Favorite Mexican "Diner"

VIPS (rhymes with whips) Restaurants are famous throughout Mexico. Opening in the Wal Mart Plaza in Cabo a couple of years ago, the familiar logo offers comfort and convenience to diners, morning, noon and night. The menu is standard "diner" fare, which means big breakfasts with pancakes, waffles, omelettes, tortillas. Choose from a variety of Mexican standbys, like molletes, enchiladas and carne asadas; plus offerings like burgers, club sandwiches and an uncommon selection of pies and soda fountain treats. This is the only place I order a milk shake in Mexico, and their fresh baked donuts are addictive.

Feeling familiar, like a North American chain, the bright, cheery interior is staffed by people eager to please, and managed by young executives, trained with parent company Wal Mart standards with a rapid career path to

follow. With over 200 VIPS around Mexico, upward mobility means just that, being mobile to move around the country.

The basic mission of VIPS is to provide quality food at a good price. They are always running specials and currently offer a frequency card where you receive increasing discounts during one month up to 50%. This brings customers back to the easy-to-park restaurant with a big view over Cabo Bay. Serving thousands of meals per week there is a tight system everyone follows, developed over decades of practice. This projects reliability and confidence that the weary traveler finds comfortable.

English menus are provided for the Cabo visitors discovering VIPS. They pride themselves in the variety of foods offered, including low calorie and vegetarian dishes., so the northern palette can always be satisfied.

Spa Cielo Mobile Physicians

Team up with Costco, local Schools and Businesses to Offer Free Health Screenings

The new Mobile Physicians Division of Spa Cielo is offering two greatly needed services, mobile physicians to homes or hotels and preventive health screenings at reasonable prices. The average cost of a mobile house call is less than \$100 USD. Moreover, the new Laboratory Division is offering a complete, fast, affordable, quality blood and bacterial analysis.

Dr. Odette Avalos Zúñiga has been serving the local Los Cabos communities for the past 10 years. She has degrees and certifications in General, Naturopathic and Emergency medicine. She has worked extensively providing emergency and urgent care medical services to the local community in the General Hospital provided by the Mexican

Government. Many gringos are familiar with Dr. Odette from Médica Los Cabos or North American Hospitals and Clinics located in San José del Cabo where she has served the community with primary, urgent and emergency care for the past three years.

Luis Escobar is another familiar face from the Los Cabos area. Serving the community as a chemist for the past 24 years, Luis has degrees in Hematology and Bacteriology, as well as a post graduate degree in Leukemia.

"We are so fortunate to have Laboratorio Cielo providing fast, quality, affordable services within Spa Cielo", states Dr. Odette. "This allows me to get my patient's test results back quickly".



Dr. Odette Avalos Zúñiga



Luis Escobar

Restaurant

VIPS

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Making Beautiful Dresses By The Beach

Haute couture resort wear by Staci Snider

Story & Photos by Cathy Buchanan

At the brand new Staci Snider atelier Fashion Boutique at the corner of Emiliano Zapata and Hidalgo Streets in Cabo San Lucas, buyers can shop and witness the process of clothing creation at the same time. In the boutique, where small runs of Snider's custom tailored clothing are available for sale, designs are chic, eclectic and there are garments suitable for women of all ages. Custom orders are available, and the proprietress takes special pride in designing and hand crafting bridal and special occasion garments tailored to the client's body type and personality.

Snider is engaging and earnest when she speaks. Jet-black hair, vibrant blue eyes, a healthy curiosity and an easy open honesty are apparent in her conversation. "The most rewarding thing about being a fashion designer," she says, "is seeing a woman feel really good and special because she is wearing one of my garments."

Snider knew from a young age that she wanted to design clothing but she took a circuitous route to arrive at her destiny. After completing an undergraduate program earning degrees in both journalism and political science, Snider ran track professionally before entering the Master's fashion design program at the University of San Francisco. In a super competitive high fashion environment European teachers strongly influenced her design motif, and Snider's Senior collection, inspired by Ernest Hemingway's final novel, 'Garden of Eden' was voted top collection of the graduating class, earning her a coveted spot on the runway at Bryant Park during New York City's internationally acclaimed fashion week. After viewing the show, Suzy Menkes, fashion writer



Staci

for the International Herald Tribune compared Snider to John Galliano, for her ability to conceptualize from the source of inspiration, to the runway.

Armed with a Master's Degree in Fine Art/Fashion Design, Snider moved to Europe where she lived and worked in Paris, Majorca and Milan and interned with some of the finest design houses in Europe including Prada. The work experience in Europe added conceptual depth, tailoring and finishing technique to her work making it even more European in style. "I credit my success in Europe to my willingness to take risks; to open doors and walk through them," Snider says. "I pull things out of the depths and push my limits to maximize creativity throughout the design process." After leaving Europe, Snider returned to New York where she started her own label and held her debut solo runway show at Fashion week.

Snider left New York and moved to Cabo in 2008. "There were too many rules in New York," she says. "The industry there is too regimented and formulaic for me. In Cabo, there are no external limitations. I can design and do whatever I want. Also, I need to be near water, so Cabo is perfect for me."

In order to remain on the cutting edge of fashion, she says she pays close

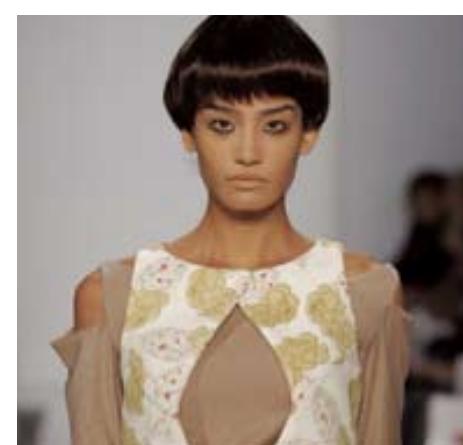
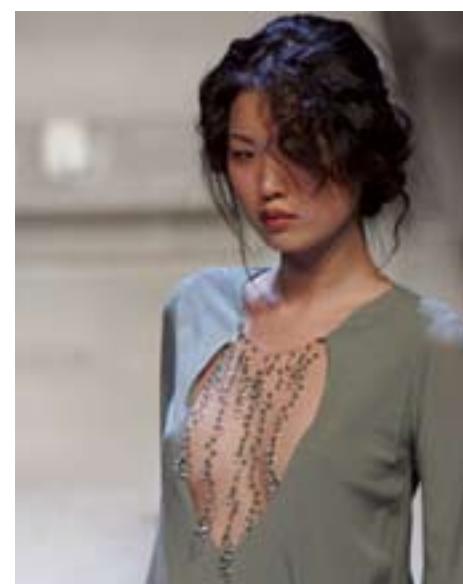
attention to what is going on in the world around her, politically and socially, and to what is influencing people's decisions. Snider says that her sources of inspiration depend on where she is mentally and that they

are never static. "I notice and pursue repeated symbolism, especially at the beginning of the design process," Snider says. "When I begin to see patterns, I research the origins of the symbols. I find that I end up studying historical periods from the beginning of time to the 21st centuries, and you will see references to many different periods in my designs.

"When looking at the design boards in her studio, the depth and breadth of both inspiration and creativity are apparent and the boards provide an important window to understanding her design process. Photographs of shells and rocks and ocean spray transform into drawings of blouses, skirts and evening gowns before your eyes. Her designs have an organic nature and her garments, in many cases, are an extension of the natural beauty we see all around us in Los Cabos. Leather and silk are recurrent themes. "I love them even though they are difficult to work with," Snider says.

A meticulous perfectionist, Snider is involved personally in every step of the process. I draw the designs, create the patterns and sew the garments," she says. "When I am in production, an 18 hour work day is not uncommon. Every piece tells a story, and there is a reason for every design detail. I love every step of the clothing design process, but conceptualizing and drawing are what I enjoy the most," she says. Traditionally, Snider has designed two collections per year, one for the Spring/summer and one for the Fall/Winter. In Cabo however, where we enjoy endless summer, she plans to continue pushing herself to produce two collections per year, but sees them shifting to one Resort collection, and one Special Occasion Collection. Collections are introduced in fashion shows, and Snider says she has been very fortunate in receiving sponsorships in Los Cabos, and overwhelmingly generous support from the community.

Snider's collections will be shown in Cabo, Mexico City and Europe, but she wants her work to be associated with Cabo and plans to preview every collection in her adopted hometown of Cabo San Lucas. "I love this town, and I want this town to be proud of me," Snider says. "Eventually, I would love to have the Staci Snider Boutique draw positive international attention to Los Cabos and be able to give back to the people who have helped me along the way. In the meantime, until that happens, I just want to make beautiful



Evolve Or Vanish

Exploring Fashion in Los Cabos

with Pepita Nelson

Story & photos by Cathy Buchanan

It happens to all of us. The special event you've been looking forward to is coming up. You go to your closet, overflowing with clothing and low and behold, you find nothing to wear. When that happens, local fashion designer Pepita Nelson is Cabo's "go to" person, and has been for 20 years. At Pepita's "Magic of the Moon" boutique in Cabo, or "Pepita's" at The Shoppes at Palmilla in San Jose del Cabo, Pepita will size up your body with a glance. She will have you dressed and accessorized to the nines before you know it. Your body will look ten pounds thinner, and you will attend your event with all the confidence of a red carpet celebrity.

"I love playing dress up when women come into the store," Pepita says. "I love to make women look thinner, which is all about balancing the shoulders and hips. I love seeing a woman's face light up when I help her find the best color for her skin and hair, and I love it when a woman walks out of my store saying she had a great time and that she will be back to play dress up again."

Pepita opened the doors of 'Magic of the Moon' Boutique in Cabo San Lucas in 1991 with the intent of manufacturing and selling lingerie. A line of panties and bras



Pepita

a conscious decision to avoid mass production, over the years, her business has expanded into children's, bridal and special occasion lines and a second store in San Jose del Cabo.

With a thick mop of red curls and boundless energy, when you walk into one of her Boutiques, Pepita makes you feel more than welcome; she makes you feel like a friend. As she hustles about the store, she sizes up your body and selects garments off racks. She asks question after question, which you feel perfectly comfortable answering. She whisk

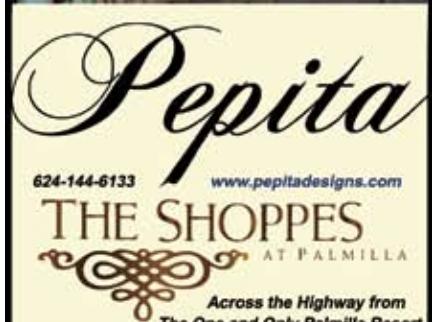
you into a dressing room with a first batch of garments to try on. Your answers to her questions will help her select the second lot of clothing. Pepita will not be satisfied until she is sure that



your clothing is a true extension of who you are as a woman and that you feel completely comfortable in whatever you have selected.

While it may look like a one-woman show, the unseen backbone and unsung hero behind the red headed dynamo is Ron, her husband of 20 years. Ron handles administrative, technical, marketing and home maintenance details leaving Pepita free to focus on creativity and improving the Los Cabos aesthetic by dressing the population in clothes they look good in. Pepita claims that one of the secrets of her success is that she can dress any body and make it look good. She designs and manufactures sizes extra small to 4 XL. If you find a dress you like but are not 100% satisfied with the fit, or if Pepita isn't, it will go to her shop for alteration. Pepita's designs are lush, feminine and romantic and she says that because she is living her passion, she finds sources of inspiration everywhere every day. "I am inspired by dreams, butterflies, fairies, my granddaughters, Cabo San Lucas, driving the Baja peninsula, pieces of fabric and anything Bohemian or hippie chic," Pepita says, never once stopping to sit still as she talks. My fall of 2010 collection is called 'Evolve or Vanish'.

This collection is about personal reinvention which is fun to do and helps us grow." Pepita actually pauses, a dozen hangers and garments balance in one hand. She pushes her glasses to the top of her head with the other as she stares into space looking for words to define her collection. "To evolve is to come out of your cocoon and become a beautiful butterfly. If we don't take time to make these changes, to do something different then we vanish into blahsville and wear the same thing and remain the same person forever." Pepita flashes a fun-loving smile, places the hangers on the rack and slides her glasses down off her head. "That would be no fun at all," she says with a laugh before moving to the door to attend the next customer and find out if she is ready to evolve.



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THE MOST
TYPICAL
FACE ON
THE PLANET



National Geographic Magazine released a video clip, showing the most "typical" human face on the planet as part of its series on the human race called "Population 7 billion." The researchers conclude that a male, 28-year-old Han Chinese man is the most typical person on the planet. There are 9 million of them in China and across the planet. The image is a computer composite of nearly 200,000 photos of men who fit that description. Don't get used to the results, however. Within 20 years, the most typical person will reside in India.

NEW SHIPPERS FOR BAJA PENINSULA

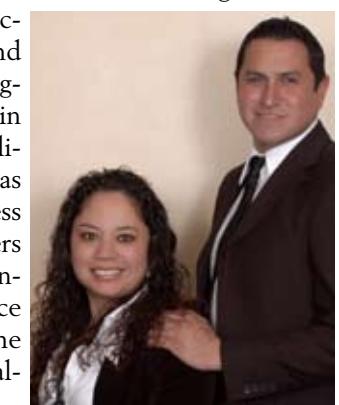
Cristian Deniz Ceja and Jose Luis Rivas, started their small trucking company only a few years ago as a way to earn some part-time money. With turnover, and changes that have happened over the past few difficult economic years, the truck traffic from the USA to Cabo slowed significantly. Due to fallout, they found a niche and launched regular service from Tijuana to Baja California called Servicios Aduanales y Logísticos Rivas y Asociados. They do admit, that not once did they think that it was going to be the biggest hassle as well as expensive to start a company.

Jose Luis having an educational background in Aduanas (import duties) started to do research on how to obtain every permission required in order to import and export all types of merchandise from and into Mexico. With money and struggle he was able to obtain close to everything and is still looking for ways to make their crossings as smooth as possible.

In 2010 they expanded the US side of the business and registered their company in the USA called, International Trade and Custom Services. Jose Luis with his Masters in Business Administration and License in International Business and his partner Cristian Aguilar and her Bachelor degree in International Logistics, they finally made it to where they have a office and warehouse space in Tijuana Baja California, San Diego California and a small warehouse space in both La Paz and Los Cabos.

Cristian shares "Our Mission today is to offer the best service of logistics, with the most accessible price in the market. We wish to grow our client accounts and be recognized in both California as a business that offers professional service with the best quality.

-Cristian Deniz Ceja Aguilar
-Jose Luis Rivas Castro



Marina Sol Condos Save Big!

by Susan Carol

Water is the most precious resource in Baja Sur, because it is relatively scarce. There are some major aquifers in the southern part of the State, and a desalination plant in Cabo was built a few years ago to handle the needs of the growing population. The price of water has gone up steadily over the years to fund the needs for new infrastructure.



Clint Suveges on site Realtor at Marina Sol since 1997

Marina Sol Condominium in Cabo San Lucas, built over 20 years ago, was the first full ownership condo development in Cabo. The early owners from Canada and USA were the pioneer travelers to this tiny town, with the fabulous sport fishing being the draw for many. Boasting the first elevator in Cabo and a huge pool and lush surrounding grounds, the owners enjoyed their lifestyle for many years with little care about where the water came from and how much it cost. Starting in mid- 2000 it became clear the water bill was going up and up for the development. The water pilas had never been checked for leaking, and water leaks in the condos were not addressed on a regular basis. The water used for the acre of grass and hundreds of plants had never been measured so the owners who like their lawns did not know what it cost for this landscaping choice.

The monthly water bills kept rising.....80,000 pesos a month average for a 126 unit development. The first thing the homeowners started was leak repair in the con-

dos. This was an easy program to implement and regular attention is now always given to internal leaks. It was assumed there were leaks in the pool, but when do you drain the pool and fix it? The downturn in the economy presented this opportunity for Marina Sol as fewer owners and guests were visiting, especially in the summer of 2009, and the water costs were ridiculously high, affecting HOA dues. It also became apparent with cur-

rent waste water cleaning technology, that a simple waste filtering plant to capture the water from one building, and treat it to use for the landscaping would pay for itself in just two years.

The grounds were torn up, tanks and pipes placed below. They also found that all the pila water tanks had leaks, so they were all drained and fixed as well. The pool had leaks so they were all repaired. With nutrient rich grey water, the grass grew back quickly and Marina Sol today has monthly water bills of about 17,000 pesos today or a 63% water cost decrease!

The water department praised Marina Sol for this action, saying that most condo developments need water awareness like this, and hope this clear cost in savings will motivate other HOA groups to treat water as precious as gold, and fix leaks, pools, tanks, and install a simple waste water plant. This preserves the value of the complex, allows for lush gardens and helps the town of Cabo.

An advertisement for Cabaret Topless Sports Bar. It features a large red sign with the word "CABARET" in white lights, followed by "Topless Sports Bar" and "Beautiful Show Girls". Below the text is a silhouette of a woman dancing on a pole against a purple background with yellow stars. To the right of the image is a list of amenities: "8 Full High definition TVs", "No Cover Charge", "Great Food", "Free Pick up Cabo Hotels", "VIP Rooms: Birthdays & Bachelor Parties", and "Valet Parking available". At the bottom is the website "www.cabaretloscabos.com".

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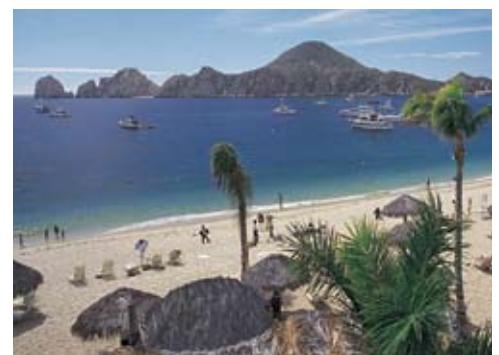


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HELPING ONE AT A TIME

by Gay Thatcher

Amigos de los Niños (ADLN) has been hard at work in 2011 for the children in need of medical attention in our community and state.



Two weeks ago we found a seven year old girl who had been in a tragic car accident where she had lost her Mother and Aunt. Irlanda's leg was broken and unfortunately healed badly in the local General Hospital where she was taken for medical care. Irlanda's Grandparents brought her to the ADLN office to see if we could help. They too were at wits end after losing their Daughter and Daughter-in-Law in the accident, and now worrying with their Granddaughters medical needs.

Amigos de los Niños knew just the Doctor who could help Irlanda. Dr. Escamilla has already preformed the needed surgery and placed an external extending device to her leg so it will heal and not be shorter than her good leg. We were so happy to be able to help this family who have suffered so much.

In May will be a Free Pediatric Dental Clinic and Bi-Annual ENT and Audiology Clinic, where hearing aids are given to children. If you know of any sources where ADLN might be able to obtain more hearing aids please notify ADLN. There are more children with hearing problems every day!

Visit Facebook page Amigos de los Niños de Cabo San Lucas, A.C. for all the latest news from the children or www.adlncabo.com. email: amigospresident@yahoo.com, Ph (624) 144-3195

Please donate to the great work for the children that Amigos de los Niños has been doing for the last twenty years, we need your help no matter the amount! You may



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SAN JOSE DEL CABO

PLAZA PAULINA CELEBRATES 5 YEARS!



Paulina, Julian and their daughters

This past March 16th, Plaza Paulina, located in the historic district of San José, celebrated its 5th anniversary, with a fabulous party that most of Los Cabos VIPs joined. The founder Paulina Gutierrez attracted many friends and clients, making the atmosphere eclectic and inspiring; this is one of those places where creativity flows. Plaza Paulina Is the home of Casa Paulina interior design and store, ARTE gallery showing the works of artist Julian Garcia and Voila restaurant serving tasteful works of art with music Friday nights. In Plaza Paulina you can indulge all of your senses.

"Feast your eyes and tickle your taste buds where art, high-end interior design, shopping and fine dining meet".

The Plaza is an inviting place to relax and get immersed in Garcia's sculpture along with a stimulating and original selection found in Paulina's design store. The variety of accessories and furniture from all over Mexico are eye candy that stimulates ideas and concepts for your home. It's like going through a treasure chest to find jewels of arts and craft, not only from México but from all around the world that Paulina finds in her travels. She has gathered an amazing selection of rare and unique antique doors, which are an example of the unique style and impeccable design sensibilities found throughout Plaza Paulina.

The interior design firm has a selection of over 10,000 designer fabrics and an incredible team of experts to comply with the most demanding needs. The 5 year Plaza celebration was a success, but the big celebration will be 2010, when the 20th Anniversary of Casa Paulina design and furnishings will loudly celebrate "the art of living".

DESTINO PUBLISHER

"FOR HER LOVE OF THE AREA" - MEET SUSAN

by Pamela Konyar

I met Susan in college. We pledged the same sorority at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. I remember, Susan had an interest in Journalism...something about being the sports editor of Minnetonka High school outside of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Drake had a strong J school, which is why she chose it. I grew up outside of Chicago, and I wanted to be a school teacher. Way over half of our sorority were on a teaching career path, but not Susan. She always wanted to travel and work in some form of journalism or advertising.

Back then Smitty as we called her, as there were so many Susans in our sorority we called everyone by their last names, and hers was Schmitt, was pretty shy. She would say she is still shy, and enjoys one-on-one conversations versus big parties. Though she certainly rises to any occasion and has a perspective and joy of living that gets her through challenging times, she is generally pretty private. The boys loved her. We were only pledge sisters for one month when she was lavaliered (going steady in greek world), then by the next year another fraternity chose her as a "little sister". Then by the next year another fraternity chose her for their calendar...Miss November...stylishly dressed. Curiously she didn't date anybody from those fraternities, they just liked her, and she is a beauty of course. She was always surprised by these things.

I met her Dad once at father's weekend, but only met the rest of her family at her two weddings. I was a bridesmaid at

Susan won a contest and investment \$ for the best business plan for her Planna Technology business and this cover story!



the first one, which was a traditional church wedding and pretty big party after. She always said, "it was her mother's wedding and she was just the one in white". The 2nd wedding was more



Susan in Los Cabos 1998, The first year she launches Destino.

intimate, with just their close friends and family. Amazingly she grew up with four brothers and her cutie sister was only two at her first wedding and about 16 at the second. Her first husband was a nice man, from a good suburban Minnesota family. He had a good job at Cargill grain company and she had just graduated college and had a starter job in marketing. The perfect 70's yuppie couple. They lived in Minnesota for about seven years and were ski instructors in the winter and did boating and tennis in the summers. Susan always wanted to leave Minnesota, so after a successful sales career, where she even won some big awards she convinced her husband to move to San Francisco.

I visited her a few times in San Francisco. She loved it there, and quickly embraced a fast rising sales career with large corporations in the scientific and manufacturing arenas. She liked the dynamics and education she received in a big company. Always the first woman to reach her heights, she was pretty humble about her achievements and carved her own path. It was overall quite impressive and she kept her perspective of corporate life by searching out spiritual teachers and reading psychology books.

After awhile, as she often said, "her head got sore banging on the glass ceiling", so started her own

Continued on page 28

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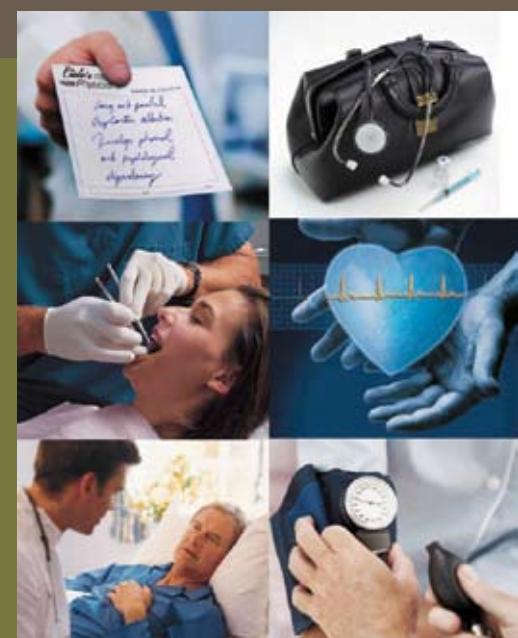
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Espiritu Santo Island

Cabo Expeditions offers ultimate nature experiences



By Seth Romans

In March, my wife and I planned a vacation down to Los Cabos, Mexico because we felt an urgent need to get away from the "hustle and bustle" of Southern California, at least for one week. We decided to go to Los Cabos again this year due to incredible weather and unique activities.

After seeing an amazing poster flyer about a tour to Espiritu Santo Island with our concierge, our first priority was to make a reservation. We had never been to the capital city of La Paz before nor had we seen the islands personally. Cabo Expeditions has fourteen years of experience in this area, so we booked a reservation.

At 7:15AM we were picked up by luxury transportation, checked in at the main office at the Cabo San Lucas Marina and introduced to our marine life guide who is also federally licensed and certified. During the 2 hour drive to La Paz we were offered an "energy breakfast." Once at Tecolote beach in La Paz and within a mere 20 minutes or so by boat, we arrived at the face of Espiritu Santo Island.

Our guide began to tell amazing details about the island such as having the most intact ecosystem in the Sea of Cortez, 12 pristine bays; it is home to various coral reefs and acts as a residency colony for sea lions, dolphins, whale and over 500 species of fish! Apparently, it is also a protected World Heritage site by UNESCO. We found all of this to be fascinating.

Caverns peeked out and inwards but it was as if they were watching us, ever so carefully. Nooks of rocky inlets glittered against the aqua-blue, shallow sea reflecting our boat against the water's surface. Even small tunnel-like passages made themselves available for us to pass

through with deafening silence. At the peaks of the mountainous terrain, indigenous bird species sung their melodic songs or gawked, creating echoes within the silent, landscapes.

Off in the distance, we heard the loud barking of sea lions! We knew that we were getting closer to the pinnacle of our expedition. Called, "Los Islotes" we literally felt the vibrations of hundreds baby pup sea lions and larger-than-life adults perched upon little cliffs of rocky beds! At first sight of the tiny island and home to the sea lions, we couldn't believe our own eyes! It seemed surreal and indescribable.

We put on our snorkeling gear, eased ourselves down the step-ladder from our boat and into the surprisingly warm water. We followed our guide over to the rock formation where the sea lions swirled around us in the shallow water. A huge sea lion male swam directly under me! I was shocked, excited and most of all, exhilarated! I was told by our guide that he weighed approximately 600 pounds and was about 7 feet in length. Adult sea lions are much bigger and more agile than we had ever anticipated!

It was almost as if we worked for National Geographic or the Discovery Channel when swimming in such a magical environment. It seemed so surreal and still, hard to explain the gamut of emotions we were experiencing. What's more, we saw dozens upon dozens of tropical schools of fish; some of which were massive, others as colorful as a kaleidoscope.

Maybe we were overcome with emotion at the time but to this day, the experience was one of which we will never forget. Without a doubt, we were touched, just for a moment in time, by nature.

Mortgages in Mexico

Steps to getting pre-qualified

By Ryland Apsey

The first thing to be done is to contact a trusted mortgage professional who specializes in US Dollar loans for US and Canadian citizens. The mortgage product that actually collateralizes Mexico real estate is a niche product and thus only select mortgage professionals carry these products. Do a thorough online search of the individual you have chosen to work with and ensure they are well associated with many Mexico based real estate companies and developments as the good mortgage brokers always are.

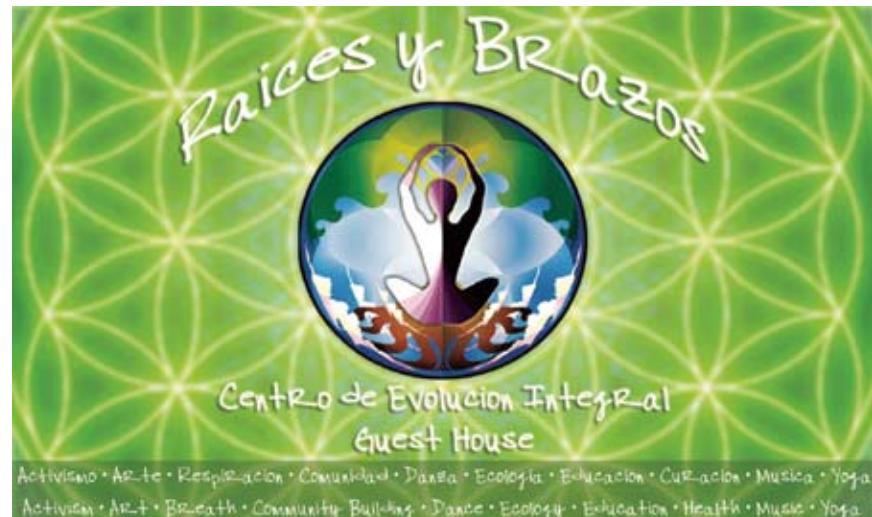
You will be required to fill out an application form as the first step of the qualification process. This will give your mortgage broker the information to determine if you qualify for the mortgage product. Usually a pre-qualification is completed in 24 hrs for US citizens and 48 hrs for Canadian citizens. It is always best to wait for full financ-

ing approval from the Bank before having any terms in the contract become due. Your mortgage broker will be able to assist with ensuring your interests are always protected in the contract.

Once you have been pre-qualified, you need to submit full income and asset verification and a variety of other documents that constitute the full loan application submitted to the Bank. It takes 1-2 weeks to issue a full approval, but in all cases the full approval on loan amount is subject to the property appraising for the purchase price.

Once the loan has been fully approved the closing begins. This takes place anywhere between 45-60 days after approval has been received from the Bank. During this process, you are required to pay certain up front closing fees. These are for items such as appraisals, notario fees, trust fees and a variety of other 3rd party fees required for all legal transfer of titles in Mexico and are disbursed through escrow.

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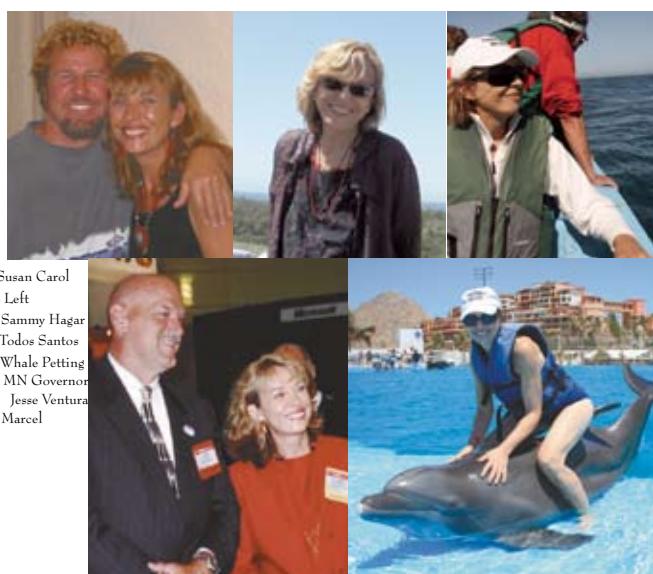
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Owner, english speaking Laura Arreola has 23 years experience with four years at the 6 Star exclusive One & Only Palmilla Resort.

SUSAN, DESTINO PUBLISHER *continued from page 25*



Susan Carol
Top Left
'03 Sammy Hagar
'11 Todos Santos
'10 Whale Watching
'00 MN Governor
Jesse Ventura
'08 Marcel

business. She did this in New York calling it Planna Technology. You'll have to ask her about the story of that name. She actually invented products of cleaning computers and other office equipment, and figured out how to make them, even building automated equipment. It was all way beyond me, but she was enthused, and traveled all over the world. It was also her public phase as she appeared in many magazines,

even some covers, and TV shows. She worked with this Company over 20 years until one day she went to Cabo on vacation.

Baja Sur became Susan's love. She called me the day she returned from her first trip and said she has found the best place on earth! This was 1990. She traveled there for vacation every year after with husband #2 who introduced her to the area, and loved it equally. By 1998, when

traveling there with her post-divorce romantic interest, the idea for the magazine **Destino Los Cabos** was born. Okay, we her friends, thought she was officially crazy to start up a company in Mexico, not speaking Spanish and never working in Publishing before! She just shrugged us off and said she wanted the challenge, plus Mexico is fun! By the time issue one reached distribution, Susan was solo, but received enough positive

support she kept going. She said it "felt right" and jumped into the decision to create a real business and tell the stories of Baja Sur, and move there.

Its been amazing watching her over the years, dealing with language barriers, maintaining her enthusiasm issue after issue, now starting it's 13th year! She laughs with tears in her eyes about the escapades of daily life living and doing business in Mexico. She seems to have enjoyed the experience and always says she is glad to have developed patience...something not exactly revered in the US culture. Her spirit is so young, and her favorite New Years party is Cabo Wabo! Rock 'n Roll has always been her music of choice, and what gets her up on the dance floor.

I've read Destino magazine, and others that she has created over the years, and am impressed at the stories and experience she shares. Plus the magazine always looks so colorful! She feels good helping businesses and charities with publicity. She meets such interesting people and loves the Baja adventures and sharing them with her readers. She calls herself a reporter not a writer.

She often is stopped by people locally who express how much they enjoy the magazine and the interesting stories. She is pretty moved by those comments and appreciates the impact Destino makes. I know she really feels blessed to know the joy of the fantastic land in Baja Sur and would not move away. She's often talked about various nature and event encounters there that have moved her soul to experience great joy. She has land in Todos Santos that she's always dreamed of building on, so expect her to spend time on that project soon.

It seems that China has caught Susan's attention the past couple of years. Finding a master that inspires you is good luck, and she has found one is Master Al Huang. She taken two trips to China with him to study the ancient Chinese way of living, learning poetry and calligraphy, studying Lao Tsu and practicing Taiji daily. I know she's committed to this study, and hopes to spend more time in China in the future. She even spoke of creating a University class on Publishing to share with the Chinese. She's always been a pretty big thinker who is so curious!

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New State Leaders

by Susan Carol

The political campaign ending Feb 6, was by far the most lively ever in Baja Sur. There were eager, well supported members of eight political parties actively engaging the people in one-on-one meetings. A campaign by civic and business leaders to increase the voter turn-



New Governor of Baja Sur, Marcos Covarrubias Villaseñor National Action Party (PAN) was Mayor of Comondu in the north part of the State before his big win.



Alberto Trevino Angulo, newly elected State Representative for most of the Los Cabos area, is excited about the prospect of the mixture of parties in the new congress. Trevino comes from the hotel industry, and 2005 - 2010 was Tourism Secretary of State, and is clear that tourism drives the State's economy.

out, succeeded with over 61% of eligible voters turning out, versus just 50% the last election. The winners were split across the three major parties, the PRD-PT coalition of workers, the PAN-PRS leaning toward the right and the PRI-VEM centrist group. The previous six years the State was PRD, so the change reflects the new young business people who have migrated for the opportunities in Baja Sur as well as the lowest crime in all of Mexico.

The average age of the people of Baja Sur is 26, and the new generation of leaders are educated, more worldly and passionate about their new home in this State, and spoke with their votes.

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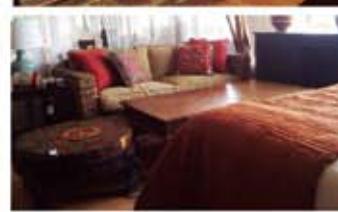
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RE NEWS MARKET CONDITIONS

by Terry Curtis, Century 21

So far this year, 2011 has proven a true rebounding of the real estate market. It is still a buyer's market and the prices are still attractive. We are all finding more and more Canadians entering into the property ownership club for two primary reasons. First, the Canadian dollar has a higher value than seen in a long time and second, as you may remember from the last issue, I mentioned the baby boomers are a coming from North America desiring our fantastic weather. Oddly we have also seen more properties purchased through loans this year. These loans are for both American and Canadian buyers which are based on their respective credit histories in their home country. Most of these buyers are buying income producing properties with intentions to retire after using it periodically over their last few years working. There has to be a down payment, usually 25%-30% to generate this loan.

There is another key factor proving we are in a recovering market here in the Los Cabos area. The average price of sale, is rising! With the addition of the higher than normal cruise ship traffic we have also seen an increase in tours as cruise passengers seem to be willing to take the time to look at property on their normally short land visit. So if you have any interest or consideration of buying in the Los Cabos area, right now is an excellent time. Prices are stabilizing with more action than we have seen in years.

Here in Los Cabos we have an unlimited amount of various developments available to invest in. **Cumbres De Tezal** is where we will begin. This gated community offers unattached 2 story, 2 and 3 bedroom homes around 2000 square feet, some with views of the bay. This community and HOA includes a gym, 2 gorgeous parks with pools, kid's playgrounds, 24hr security.

The developer also has a condominium project next door called **Luna Del Tezal**. This community is also gated and the primary difference is a series of 3 story condo towers with a beautiful view of the



Bay. Finishes are the same and the community has 2 incredible parks with pools for these 1050 square feet, 2 bedroom condos. Prices for these two communities range from \$120,000-\$200,000.

Next on our Development list is: **Residences at Ventanas**. This developer has a formula for quality construction, design, and a very well planned community that cannot be beat in its price point. The homes are on wide clean streets with sidewalks very similar to what is available in the USA or Canada. The community park/pool are absolutely fantastic and meticulously maintained. It seems that someone is almost always having some type of pool party or kid's birthday party most weekends. This is a family oriented gated community with beautiful 3 bedroom homes up to 3600 square feet and 2 bedroom 1100 square feet condominiums. This development is by far one of our best buys and most popular among full and part time owner occupants. Prices for these properties range from \$150,000-\$450,000.

On the drawing board, soon to be released is an all new type of development just 10 minutes north of Cabo San Lucas. It is referred to as **Club Polo**. This high end community is scheduled to have 3 grass polo fields available for daily use and lessons with invite only International Polo Tournaments. The facility will have personnel and boarding for your animals available.

The fabulous Palmilla Community has to be one of the most luxurious Golf Course Ocean Front Developments built in Baja. There are Single Family Homes from 3-7 bedrooms, Condominiums from 2-3 bedrooms as well as Ocean View and Fairway View Home Sites available. Prices for these properties range from \$625,000-\$9,000,000 +

The developments mentioned are but just a few of what is available. Obviously there are properties well below and well above the prices mentioned above however this is an example of the spectrum. You can be sure there is a whole lot, in between. Los Cabos has strong growth plans, and a good investment market for the future.

Hacienda Campestre

A Creative Response to Today's Real Estate Market

by Cathy Buchanan

Club Campestre San Jose, renowned locally for its superlative amenities including an 18-hole Nicklaus Design championship Golf Course, full service clubhouse with tennis courts and expansive private beach club, recently announced the release of a new product within the gated, master planned resort community. In a sluggish real estate market, the 23 ocean view *Hacienda Campestre* homes, nestled in a fairway front enclave with all the bells and whistles of spacious luxury homes and pric-

sop. "Hacienda Campestre represents the first developer built product in this community and we are proud that our model home includes all the quality in construction and finish detailing that you see in gated developments with much larger homes. Size and price tag are the only differences."

Among the first purchasers, Heather and Gord Lange of Edmonton, Canada broke ground on their Hacienda Campestre home in January and plan to move in this fall. "When we found Hacienda Campestre, it didn't take long to know that this was where we wanted to be," say the Langes. "We are builders



ing from the mid \$300s, have been selling briskly. Full family Nicklaus Design golf club memberships and private Beach Club memberships are included in this introductory pricing for select homes only.

"While Club Campestre San Jose is a gated, master planned community with an 18-hole Nicklaus Design championship golf course and a private 32,000 sq. ft. Beach Club, we felt strongly that today's market demands a down-sizing of both size and price tag for new product," says Club Campestre Director of Sales Shayne Jes-

back home, and we are very aware of quality and high end specifications. This product offers great value at an excellent price." The ability to add their own touches to the home played an important role in their decision to purchase at Hacienda Campestre as well. "We chose the lot and floor plan we wanted, then added optional upgrades. The sales team's openness and ability to listen to our needs made all the difference. They took a keen interest in making us happy and were very fair in pricing for options and upgrades."

www.clubcampestresanjose.com.

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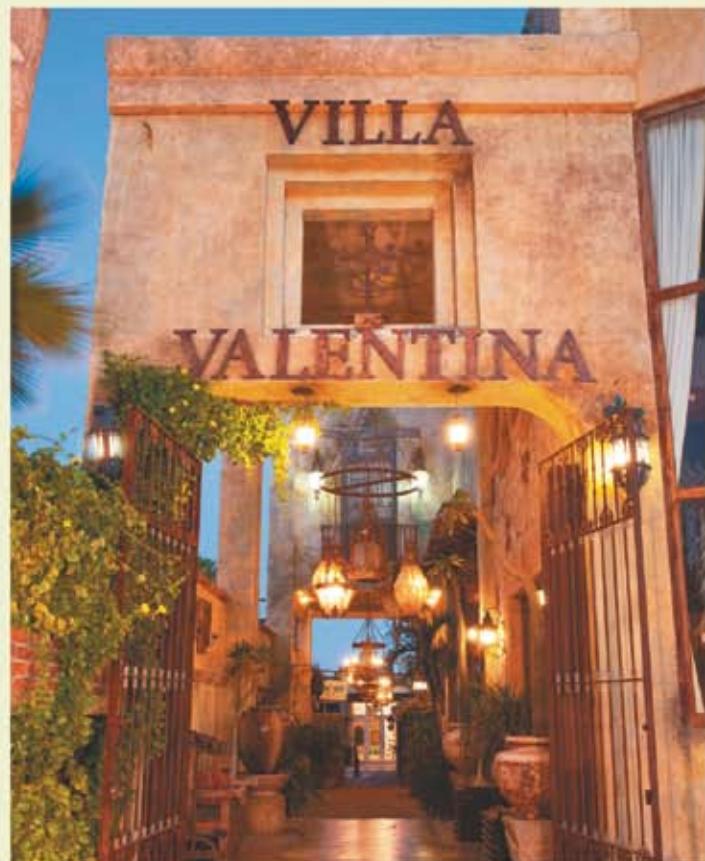
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The views from Ventanas residential community include cruise ships!

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Ventanas (Windows) residential community offers a full package of values

Besides the huge vistas from this property rolling up the mountain from the center of the Bay of Cabo, the Ventanas community offers a lifestyle with amenities rarely found in other developments. In the mid 2000's there was an explosion of building on this mountain, as the need for family homes evolved from the rapid tourism growth. Plus the incredible views of Land's End are so attractive for living. Many developers from mainland Mexico expanded to Los Cabos buying up land and adding their products. They all offer different amenities, home designs and packages for their homeowners, but Ventanas stands out with its abundance of owner perks.

Currently there are two phases of Ventanas comprising hundreds of properties in a gated community. There are single family homes, some with their own pools and condominiums of various sizes, all with ocean and Cabo Arch views. The 115 houses and 43 condos in phase 1 range from 1300 – 1700 sq ft. and are available through re-sales. Phase 2

is over 80% sold. There are a variety of construction designs that provide high ceilings, and well-proportioned rooms. Quality woodwork is used throughout, and there is creative use of windows to optimize lighting. Each phase has it's own clubhouse positioned for maximum views, with deli/restaurant, gym, business center, swimming pool, spa and chapel. Yes, that is chapel like in Sunday community services, weddings and baptisms. The restaurant even offers "room service" just like the resorts.

They also offer short and long term rentals, property management and even RCI villa exchange program rentals for their owners. Ventanas was named 2010 Expedia Insider's Select List of hotels based on comments by their clients.

Their philosophy is not only to build houses, but also to build community. They organize fiestas for the kids, christmas dinners, halloween, and all the important parties for the residents. The goal of Ventanas is to make this community a good place to raise a family.

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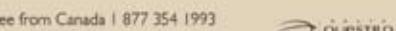
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Choosing...

Hi! I'm Sharley Azen Fisher. I opened my shop, DecorAmerica in Cabo San Lucas almost 20 years ago, and have been designing in Mexico for almost 30 years. Ever since my youth I have been passionate about design, whether in buildings, clothing, furnishings, landscape or generally, everything. Design involves the intricate relationship of the weaving together of the way we live with the physical objects of our lives. In my projects I aspire to understand how my clients live and tailor their home to their lifestyle.

It is easy to find inspiration for an interior in fabrics or an object of art, a rug or a chandelier. Starting there, a room should really feel that it is your room, an extension of your style. Like your favorite jeans, it should feel comfortable and be a reflection of your personality, the way you like to live.

Every year the color industry including paint, textiles, and carpet companies present the colors of the year. The Pantone Institute, who created standardized colors for the graphic arts community worldwide, shares its expertise in color with professionals in interiors, fashion, architecture, and basically every field involving color choices. They study how color influences our emotions and thoughts and even our physical

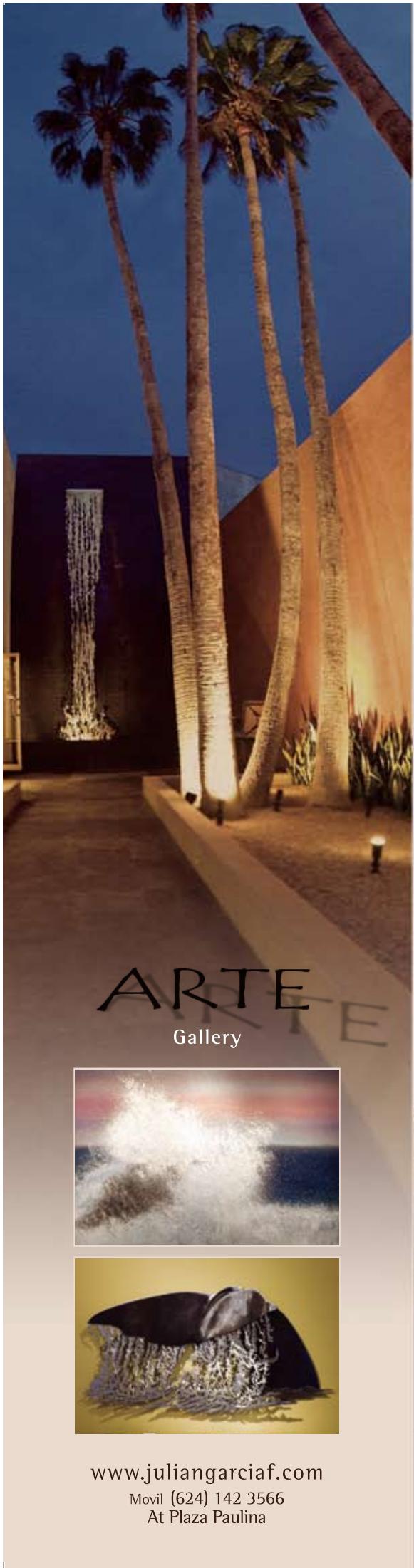
beings. The state of the world influences color choices. For instance, right now with all of the stress on the planet, the Pantone color of the year is a pink which is a feel-good color, hence the expression "in the pink".

If we are to furnish our house with the latest color of the year, we could end up later on not feeling great in it. Trends in interiors, as well as other areas, come and go, and it's important to choose colors and pieces which really feel comfortable for us, rather than because it's "in" this year. Ask yourself whether that pink is what you really like before you upholster your chair!

Fashion which constantly changes, reflects the collective social mood of the population. Style, on the other hand, is a form of expression, it is personal and individual. Many times the difference between a stylish dresser and a fashion follower is the way in which the person puts their pieces together. The fashionista tries to wear what the fashion industry wants to sell, and the stylish dresser uses clothing to express their own personality. Coco Chanel had not much use for the fashion of the day, but her style is still chic and functional today. Interior furnishings are much the same in that an old room can feel incredibly dated, and a room with similar types of pieces can feel very stylish through the mix of other fabrics or accessories.

It's easier to express your individuality in home furnishings here in Mexico than in many other countries. Mexican artisans and crafts people are very skilled, and we design and make many custom pieces at surprisingly reasonable cost. We also import many items like mattresses and sofas and fabric, where the quality and/or price advantage warrants it.

I am constantly on the lookout for items which are unique and interesting. I find that with the mechanization of the world and so much of our products mass-produced, it is refreshing and nourishes our souls to have in our homes handmade objects. These things, including textiles, ceramics, iron and wood pieces, candles and glass, rugs and paintings are things that make us happy to look at and use and only become more precious to us as they age, like that old pair of jeans.



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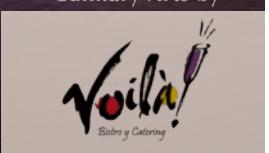
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- ANTIQUE DOORS
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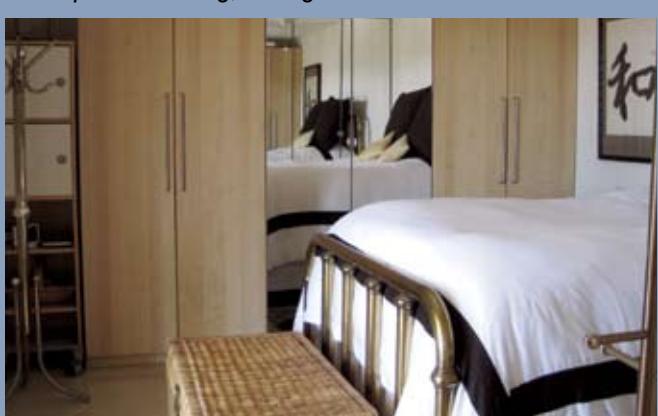
3 Pools and jacuzzis



Built-in entertainment center and bookcase



Spacious living, dining and kitchen and full bath

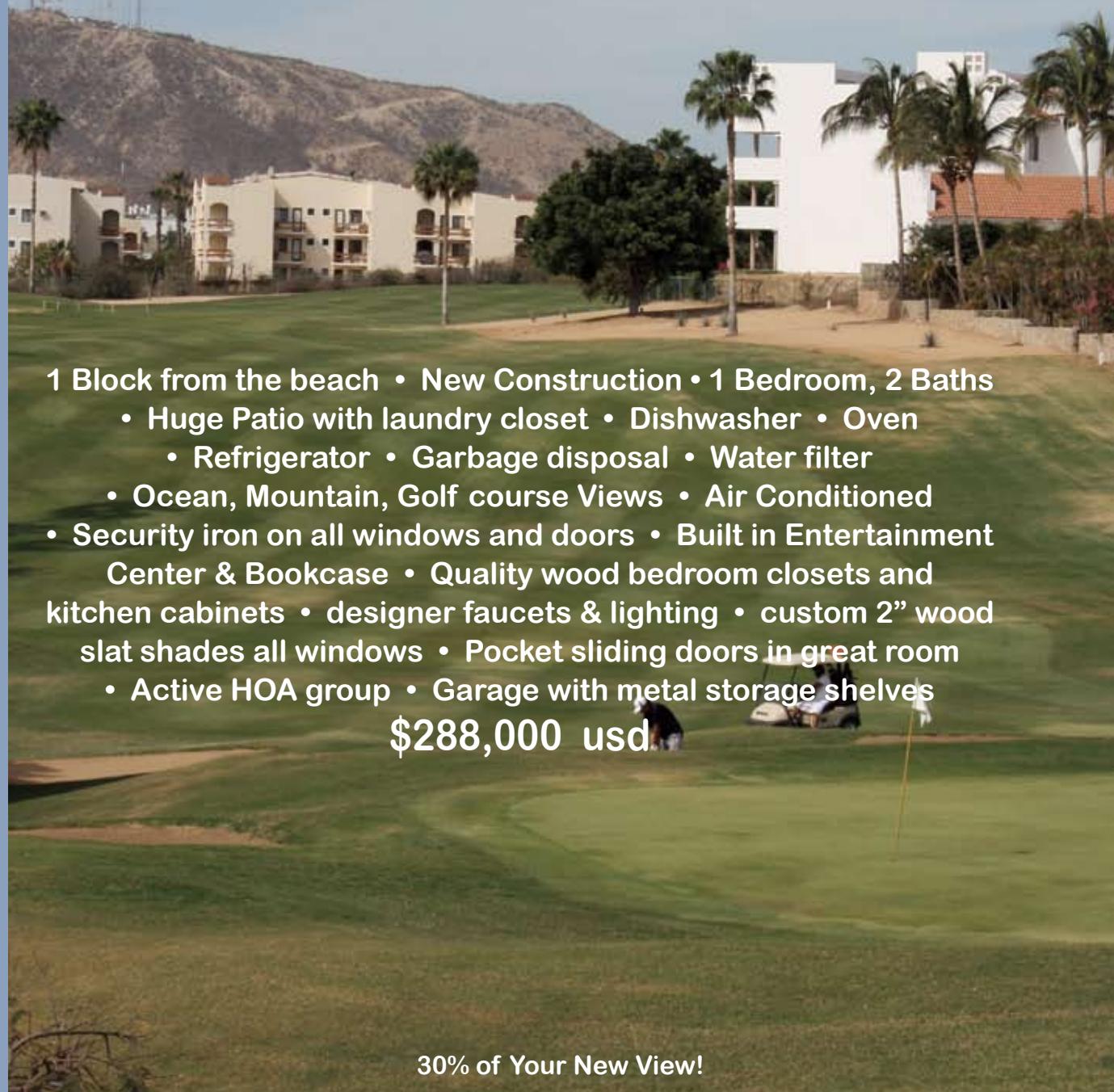


Bedroom/bath suite with walls lined with closets



Pocket sliding doors brings the outdoors, inside

THE LIFE STYLE YOU WANT IN THE DESIRABLE RESORT ZONE OF SAN JOSE



- 1 Block from the beach • New Construction • 1 Bedroom, 2 Baths**
- Huge Patio with laundry closet • Dishwasher • Oven
 - Refrigerator • Garbage disposal • Water filter
 - Ocean, Mountain, Golf course Views • Air Conditioned
 - Security iron on all windows and doors • Built in Entertainment Center & Bookcase • Quality wood bedroom closets and kitchen cabinets • designer faucets & lighting • custom 2" wood slat shades all windows • Pocket sliding doors in great room
 - Active HOA group • Garage with metal storage shelves

\$288,000 usd

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