

## HOW TO READ ATENAS TODAY

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

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

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

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

### **THE NEW YELLOW PAGES**

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

# ATENAS TODAY



Unforgettable Costa Rican Summer Landscape  
Poro Gigante

Photo: Bing royalty-free image

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

*Compositions from back issues are archived on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, [www.atenascatuca.com](http://www.atenascatuca.com). Click on the English version and then Atenas Today on the business page.*



## DIRECTORY OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN THE ATENAS AREA

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

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

Issue No. 109

January 23, 2014

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## Publisher's Note



It is hard to believe the end of January is fast approaching. The older I get, the shorter the days seem to be! This fact motivates me to live each of my days fully and engaged in my favorite pursuits!

We enjoyed wonderful, too-few days with our children and extended family during the Holiday Season and by now everyone has gotten back into their routines. Routines serve a wonderful purpose for me as they allow me to look forward to the special and different activities that are sprinkled throughout the year to break up the monotony.

The Costa Rican summer brings many traditional activities to our town: the Fiestas in Sabana Larga, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Chili Cook-off and this year, we also have the Presidential elections on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many of you will witness the colorful and boisterous festival of democracy on display that Sunday for the first time. Enjoy it!

I was in the supermarket a few days ago and I noticed a small group of visitors walking the aisles selecting the groceries required for their stay. One of the ladies approached me and asked me for help in finding a particular item. She then asked whether this was also **my** first visit to Atenas! I smiled and answered that I was a resident for almost 12 years. I asked how she was enjoying herself.

She shared that so far everyone had been marvelously friendly, helpful and generous. She said I was lucky to live in Atenas and that she was seriously considering a future here soon.

Sometimes in the day to day living in Atenas, it is easy to forget the myriad of reasons we live here. My passion for our county was sparked again by the enthusiasm expressed by our visitor. We **are** charmed because we are living our dreams in Atenas today and every day!

Happy Redding!

Marietta Arce  
marietta.arce@gmail



## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

This space is available for posting community activities for the following weeks. Please provide information about your activity or event to [atenastoday@gmail.com](mailto:atenastoday@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

January 15-January 27 – Palmares Festival. For info: [fiestaspalmares.com](http://fiestaspalmares.com)

February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Costa Rican Presidential Elections

February 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sabana Larga Fiestas: Concerts, Tope, Dancing, Food.

February 9<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CHLI COOK-OFF at ROMA VISTA (see article and ad)

February 14<sup>th</sup> – VALENTINE'S DAY ART SALE at El Rincon de Nana (see article on page 6) from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. to benefit Atenas Orphanages

February 14<sup>th</sup> – 7p.m. – 10 p.m. Live Music at Rossey Steakhouse and Grill

February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Atenas Film Festival (see ad in Classifieds). For more information: [atenascine.com](http://atenascine.com)

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Every Sunday: Buddhist Book Discussion at Roca Verde (SEE FLYER)

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

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

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

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

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

Second Wednesday of every month: Writer's Club meets at Colinas del Sol, at Noon. Contact L. Michael Rusin @ [crcaseyboy@gmail.com](mailto:crcaseyboy@gmail.com) (2451-8063) for more information. Please confirm.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED RECYCLING HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE TIME BEING. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED AS SOON AS THEY ARE RECEIVED.



## Buddhist Book Discussion

\*\*\*\*\*

**Every Sunday**  
**Meditation (optional) 1:30pm**  
**Book Discussion 2:00pm**  
**218 Roca Verde, Atenas**

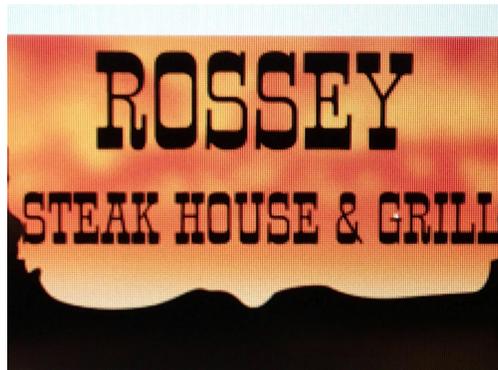
A gathering for those interested  
in Buddhism and Buddhist writings.

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

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

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

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**Highway 03, about 300 meters west of Multifrío  
For Reservations: 2446-5184**



**#59 Vista Atenas  
[www.baronsresort.com](http://www.baronsresort.com)**



**Located across the street from the Registro  
(down the block from Monge)  
2446-6666**



**La Platería Silvershop**  
**Next Door to Don Tadeo**



**La Cafeteria**  
**Next door to Fries and More (across from Park)**



**Carnes y Tintos located**  
**Highway 03 about 25 meters west of Blinking Light**  
**2446-4582**

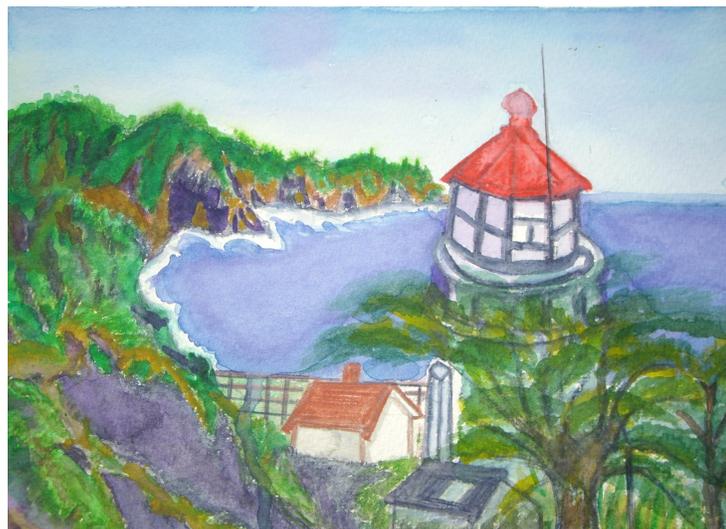




## **Valentine's Day Art Sale for Your Loved Ones to Support the Orphanages in Atenas**

- 1) **Occasion:** Valentine's Day Art Sale to Benefit the Two Orphanages in Atenas
- 2) **By Whom:** 92-year old Japanese woman, **Yoshii Sasaki (residents in CR for 5 years and 3 months)** and her family and friends who want to help improve the lives of orphans in Atenas.
- 3) **Date:** February 14, 2014 (Valentine's Day), starting at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 4) **Location:** El Rincon de Nana, 100 meters South and 50 meters East of Court House – Tribunales de Justicia, downtown Atenas. (Owner: Cecilia Tristan graciously offered Yoshii to use her craft shop/restaurant for this event, without any charge, so Yoshii can raise as much funds as possible.)
- 5) **Purpose:** To raise funds for the two orphanages in Atenas (Residencia de Vida headed by Cheri McCullah and Hogar de Vida headed by Tim Stromstad).

- 6) **Background of this event:** A Japanese TV Company (TV Tokyo) wants to video tape the lives of Hisano Bell and her mother Yoshii Sasaki. As part of their lives here in Atenas, the TV crew would like to videotape the way Yoshii draws her watercolor pictures, how the pictures are sold, the way the Atenas community gets involved in Yoshii's efforts to raise funds for the orphanages, and how the money is delivered to them.
- 7) **Goals of Yoshii and her collaborators:** Yoshii and her supporters would like to sell as many Yoshii's water-color pictures as possible during this 3-hour event. The pictures are going to be sold without frames in the price range between \$6 to \$10 per each.
- 8) **Restaurant:** Sandwiches, pastries and some drinks are available for sale during the event
- 9) **How you can help:** Please participate in this event by visiting the event and buying Yoshii's pictures to raise funds for the orphanages.
- 10) **Note:** Since TV Tokyo crew will be videotaping the entire activity at El Rincon de Nana, Yoshii, her family and friends for a 30-minute TV show, anyone onsite, including the buyers and helpers, may be videotaped. The video will be aired in the Japanese language for the Japanese viewers. If you are going to be here during the event time, **we assume that you give the TV crew permission to videotape your presence and air such video clips in their 30-minute TV show.**
- 11) **Who to contact:** If you have any questions or value added ideas, please contact Hisano Bell at smile@hisanobell.com or by calling 2446-1257 or Cecilia Tristan at El Rincón de Nana, Tel: 2446-0822 / elrincondenana@live.com.



**Untitled Watercolor by Yoshii Sasaki**

# ARE YOUR TASTE BUDS READY?

## The Atenas Charity Chili Cook Off Is Just Around the Corner

By Judy Timson  
Committee Member  
Atenas Charity Chili Cook-Off  
jteci@yahoo.com



**When:**  
Sunday, February 9, 2014

**Where:**  
Quinta Romavista, Barrio Mercedes, Atenas  
2km off the old Alajuela to Orotina Hwy #3

**What time:**  
Open to public: 11:00am to 4:00pm

**Benefitting:**  
All proceeds from this event support Hogar de Vida,  
a local children's home for abandoned, abused and  
orphaned children in Atenas.

**OUR MISSION:** Volunteers working in partnership with our community to seek funding that will provide for the needs of the children at Hogar de Vida in Atenas, Costa Rica.

By the time you read this, we will be less than 3 weeks away from the Seventh Annual Atenas Charity Chili Cook Off. The Committee has been working hard to make this the BIGGEST fundraising event in Atenas and we are succeeding in that goal. We are thrilled to again honor our mission by making a significant difference for Hogar de Vida – our sole charity choice. Hogar de Vida, a children's home located in Atenas provides housing, love and meets the needs of 35 children ages birth to 10 years old. Our commitment in doing this has always been "we do this for the kids"!

Truly, you won't want to miss this year's event. We have an AMAZING day planned. Join us Sunday, February 9 at Quinta RomaVista beginning at 11am. We anticipate over 1500 attendees at our Chili Cook Off – we'll have a larger Gringo & Tico participation level than ever before, thanks to the many efforts of those involved in helping promote our event. And guess what? Two different media outlets will be attending – get your smiles on! Visit our website for more information:

[www.atenaschilicookoff.com](http://www.atenaschilicookoff.com). Or join our Facebook Page for regular updates – "Atenas Chili Cook-Off".

## What's Happening at the Cook-Off?

### Chili Teams & Judging

We have 25 Chili Teams cooking – all vying for the TOP HONOR to claim they have the best chili around! The team tables will be decorated and they'll be ready to entertain and serve their chili! We have 16 Judges from Costa Rica and outside of Costa Rica ready to taste and judge all those chili's.

Every single person attending will also be able to participate as a Judge, too, and will be given a little silver bean to place in a container for their favorite chili – a special “ People’s Choice” Award will be given for that selection! The Chili Team awards will begin approximately 2:30 or 3:00 on the day of event. Who do you think will win?

### Join Us For Lunch

What a menu we have planned for you – you will not be disappointed. First time ever, we are providing hamburgers from Uncle Earl’s, along with our traditional fare of hot dogs, chili dogs, chili, vegetarian chili, potato salad, baked beans, lots of desserts from Kay’s Gringos Postres, popcorn, and ice cream – we’ll have a little bit of this, a little bit of that. Come hungry!

### Beer Garden & Wine Booth

The beer garden will be ready to serve cold beer, sodas and water all day long. And new this year, will be our Wine Booth, sponsored by Sabores Argentinos S.A., who will be selling individual glasses of their delicious wines from many of their famous bottled wines. In addition, they’ll also be selling bottled mineral water. So, come thirsty!

### Raffles, Raffles, Raffles – Unbelievable Packages

Once again, our raffle baskets will not disappoint. Last year we had such a successful raffle campaign, but this year, we are ready to blow it out of the park! We’ve got more baskets than before and each basket is valued between \$600 and \$800. Get ready to buy your raffle tickets for prizes such as 3-day Kayak Trip, 6-person LaPaz Waterfall tour to include transportation and lunch, 2-3 overnight stays at various hotels in the countries, an Atenas package, lots of certificates and lots, lots more. And, don’t forget we’ll again have the 50/50 Cash Raffle, where the winning ticket collects half of what is collected. Bring your good luck with you on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

### Visit our Sponsor Supporters

We are so thrilled to have some great Sponsors this year supporting the Chili Cook Off. Not only are they supporting the great cause, but their support directly helps to underwrite all expenses for this event, allowing all money raised on day of event going directly to Hogar de Vida. These sponsors will be sharing about their business, product and/or services – so please visit each booth. We couldn’t do this event without our Sponsors!

### Hogar de Vida



Be sure to visit Hogar de Vida’s table display and meet Tim & Dena, the founders of Hogar de Vida, as well as Helen, a dedicated staff member at Hogar de Vida. It is at their booth that we’ll place the BIG containers for the KOINS FOR KIDS promotion that we’ve been encouraging ALL of you to save your coins for this purpose. So, bring those coins with you and hear the big noise for each time someone places their saved coins in the container. Who’s bringing a suitcase of coins?

## Entertainment

Do we have entertainment planned for you! In addition to having a DJ onsite playing many different genres of music, for the first time we'll have a live band from Escazu...and a couple of individual singers that are excellent! Dancing, too – so come prepared to be fully entertained.

For the kids we will have the swimming pool open, so bring your swimsuits. Lifeguards will be onsite, but it really is the parent's responsibility to oversee their kids while in the pool. Also for the kids (and maybe even you adults) we'll again have face painting.

Can you say "ahhhh...I'd like a massage" – well, we will have a massage therapist onsite to give 10-minute massages, as well. Sounds relaxing!

## Details on the Day of Event

Gates open at 11am and the event ends at 4pm. Cost to attend is 3,000 colones per person, children under 10 free.

Parking is greatly improved from year's past – we think you'll like our new system. Every car will just drive in and follow the signs to parking. We have a great group of volunteers that will direct you specifically to the designated parking lots. After you've parked, you then come to the top where the entrance to the event is located. There will be plenty of volunteers ready to collect your 3,000 colones per person entrance – in exchange your hand will be stamped which allows you entrance onto the grounds. So everyone that comes with you must go thru the ticket line, including all kids, to get their hand stamped for entrance into the Park. At the same time you pay your entrance fee you can also buy your tickets for all that is happening on that day. Each ticket is 500 colones. There will be a big sign behind the ticket sales table telling you the cost of food, drinks, activities, and raffle tickets, etc. We hope you like our new system!

All the Raffle Baskets\* will again be showcased in the small rancho directly behind the ticket sales table - you cannot miss it! ALL Raffle Tickets (except 50/50 tickets) need to be purchased at the ticket sales table at the front and once you enter the Rancho where the baskets are, the volunteers there will exchange your ticket for one double numbered ticket, where you'll drop ½ of that ticket stub into the basket drawing of your choice, while keeping the other numbered half for when the drawings happen. NOW, the 50/50 Raffle guarantees the winner will receive ½ of what is collected thru this promotion. These tickets will only be sold by roamers on the ground for 1000 colones in exchange for three chances to win. Too much info? No worries, we'll be ready to help you on event day. Just bring your cash for your chance to win some great packages!

\*NOTE: You must be present to win these raffle baskets or the 50/50 split. Winning tickets for each of these will be drawn at 3pm.

## What Else is There?

There are so many elements to hosting a successful event like this. One very important element is our Volunteers. We absolutely could not do this without Volunteer help. With over 80 volunteer slots to share shifts for the day, we are still seeking specific volunteer needs – for example, we are looking for lifeguards, face painters, parking lot attendants, or help with manual labor in closing out post-event activities (stacking tables, chairs, transporting, etc.). If you can help with these specific needs, please contact Dina Duffy, our Volunteer Coordinator at [dinad54@gmail.com](mailto:dinad54@gmail.com) or by phone at 8968-4827. For those that have signed up to volunteer already, she'll be sending everyone an email soon about the specifics of your volunteer effort, including the mandatory training on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Quinta RomaVista at 1pm.

And, of course, if you know someone who wishes to be a sponsor or make a donation, please contact Stef at [stef@costaconcierges.com](mailto:stef@costaconcierges.com) or 2446-6234.

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!  
See you Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>  
[www.atenaschilicookoff.com](http://www.atenaschilicookoff.com)

## January: Rezos del Niño



by Marietta Arce  
marietta.arce@gmail.com

It has become increasingly disconcerting to Costa Rican historians that ticos seem to be living in the present without any real idea of how or where long-standing traditions originated. I have long been fascinated with the culture of tico rural towns, probably because I grew up in the cement jungle that is Brooklyn, New York.

Last month I participated in a tamale-making workshop with a group of intrepid expats whose delight in discovery fueled my inert desire to learn more about the culture. While we were finishing up our lunch on that occasion, the subject of "Rezpos del Niño" came up and piqued my curiosity. I have been aware of these 'rezpos' all of my life but it suddenly became urgent to learn a little more seriously about them.

Rezo del Niño (or rosario del niño as it can also be called) is an activity that used to take place on January 6<sup>th</sup> (Three Kings Day/Epiphany) to indicate the end of the Christmas season and the appropriate time to put away the crèche that has been displayed for the previous few weeks.

In modern times, the rezo (prayer/rosary) is not necessarily scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> but should have been done on or prior to February 2<sup>nd</sup> which is Candlemas, a holiday (for Catholics) that celebrates the presentation of the child at temple and the purification of Mary.

The rezo consists of saying or singing the rosary, which is led by a professional rezador or rezadora whose agenda may be filled years in advance and accounts for the extended time in which the actual activity now takes place. I was somewhat surprised to see various professionals advertising on social media sites!

Neighbors, family and friends are invited to this festivity. After the prayers are finished, refreshments including *rompope* (egg nog) are served. Special attention and treats are focused on any children in attendance. My friends remember the rezpos of their childhood with particular fondness because of the goodies they received. They admit they were grateful for a large family or many friends since no two gatherings (just like tamales) are quite the same.!



candlemas flowers

Images: bing royalty-free images  
Reference: El Santoral Costarricense/  
Fiestas y tradiciones compiled by  
Elias Zeledon Cartin

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



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

**7/9/2004**

**Hola!! Everyone!!**

**All we have been doing is checking out houses for rent. We still like Rosa's house up in San Isidro. The grounds are like a well manicured park!! GORGEOUS!!!! There are several acres of grounds. The house is really big. Mom and Dad say we don't need one that large but Rosa has told us that she really wants us to rent it and will lower the rent just to have us there.**

**It is the house her children grew up in and she wants someone there who will take care of it. She is going to have the whole house painted inside and out including all the fences and everything. She also told Mom and Dad that she will change anything they want changed up to and including knocking out walls or building new ones.**

**The rent also includes a caretaker who takes care of the grounds. He and his family (wife and 2 kids) live on the property in the "caretakers house." He also tends the coffee that grows on the property.**

**We met him and his family yesterday. They seemed like real nice folks!! They have a dog too!!!**

**There are all kinds of fruit trees scattered over the grounds and some BIG TALL trees for shade!!! There are flowers too!!! Really colorful ones everywhere!! The view from the front is really pretty. It overlooks the central valley. Mom said the lights of San Jose should be REALLY pretty at night.**

**One problem Dad noticed is the showers are built for tico's.**

**He has to duck to get under the shower head. LOL!!!!**

**Rosa said, "No worry. We change them to fit you!" She wants \$400.00 a month for rent.**

**OH!!!! Our friends Claire and Cliff had us over for the 4th of July. The morning of the 4th their laundry room sprung a leak and water was going everywhere!!! It flooded the laundry room, the hall, and the big bathroom. They called a plumber and he came over, ON SUNDAY, to try to fix it. He worked for three hours on Sunday and, due to not being able to get parts, he had to come back on Monday and work three more hours to get it all fixed right. Guess how much it cost!?!?!?!?**

**5,000 colones!!!!**

**That's the same as Mom's ticket cost when she got stopped by the cops. \$11.00!!!**

**I met a long legged gal in Grecia. She was really giving me the eye (the black one) and tried to get friendly with me. But I think she was only after me for my wheels. She was giving my stroller the real once over. Then I met a really nice chap about my size. He let Mom and Dad pet him and then he came over to speak to me. Mom didn't get a picture of him but maybe we'll see him again.**

**And you think I have a unique mode of transportation??? There was a man walking around in town pulling his human pup in a milk crate!!! It was NEAT!!!!!!**

**The parking guy had to pet me while we were walking through town. He was REALLY nice and he laughed with me.**

**Well, gotta go. Dad wants to use the computer. Hopefully I will have something good to write about tomorrow!!**

**OH!!!! By the way!!! In one of my previous e-mails, I was just jokin' about the dinosaur. It was just a toy that the caretakers kids left out there.**

**Tailwags!!!**

**BudBud the pooped pup**



## Exploring Turrialba – Pejibaye River Rafting & other fun day tours

By Shannon Farley

Looking for a fun day tour near Atenas to take your visiting family or friends? A great option is to spend the day splashing in the mild rollercoaster rapids of the Pejibaye River in Turrialba.

The beautiful, tropical Pejibaye River is a tributary of the mighty Reventazon River in the Turrialba Valley, just 2.5 hours from Atenas. The drive is scenic after you cross San Jose, taking you past Cartago and the Turrialba Volcano into the verdant Turrialba Valley.



I recommend the **rafting company Explornatura**

(<http://www.explornatura.com/>).

They are a Turrialba-based adventure tour operator, and operate the Pejibaye River trip every day that weather and river conditions permit.

Low-key Class 2-3 rapids (in the lower section) make the Pejibaye River an easy whitewater rafting trip for families (ages 8 and up). On the three-hour river trip, you will enjoy

spectacular scenery of coffee and sugarcane plantations, possible wildlife viewing, and small rollicking rapids for a good time. It is one of the safest rivers for whitewater rafting in Costa Rica since the access road runs right along the river bank.

**What to bring?** Quick-dry T-shirt and shorts, swimsuit, tennis shoes or strap-on sandals, and sun block. Extra clothes and towel will be needed at the end of the tour.

**What's included?** Transportation, fruit snack, rafting equipment, and bilingual guides.



## Turrialba

The tranquil town of Turrialba is located in the Central Highlands of Costa Rica, east of San Jose, next to the volcano that gives the town its name. Beautiful rural landscapes lead up to Volcano Turrialba's giant crater, which has roared into life in recent years. The area is rich in ecosystems, full of plants and animals and rivers. Turrialba's economy focuses on agriculture (coffee, sugarcane, peaches and macadamia nuts), dairy cattle (Costa Rica's famous "Turrialba" cheese comes from here) and adventure tourism. It is the town's love of adventure combined with its natural resource of gushing tropical rivers that makes Turrialba the "whitewater rafting capital" of Costa Rica.



## Other Turrialba attractions

You can combine whitewater rafting on the Pejibaye River with a hiking tour of the Pre-Columbian archaeological site of the **Guayabo National Monument**, or a botanical plantation tour of **CATIE** – the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center. Explornatura offers these tours and more adventures in



Turrialba. Downtown Turrialba is a quaint town worth strolling around.

## Stay in Turrialba

Go for a weekend or a couple of days so you can really explore the area.

A few suggested places to stay in Turrialba:

- **Casa Turire Hotel**, <http://www.hotelcasaturire.com/en/>
- **Hotel Turrialtico**, <http://www.turrialtico.com/>
- **Hotel Villa Florencia**, <http://www.villaflorencia.com/>
- **Guyabo Lodge**, <http://guayabolodge.co.cr/>

## Mae, I can speak pachuco too!



by Dennis Easters [easters3@msn.com](mailto:easters3@msn.com)

No matter where you are from or where you go in the world, every culture has their own slang. Whether you use it or not, slang has its place and in some instances it can be quite humorous. Being a good ol' southern boy heaven knows I have used my fair share of southern slang. When I moved to Costa Rica not only

did I find it important to learn to speak Spanish, but to speak using Costariqueñismos or pachuco (slang) like the locals. Knowing how to use some of the local slang will often take you much further than speaking proper Spanish. At the very least it will impress the locals and make them laugh and appreciate that you took the time to go the extra mile to learn a few of their own special words and phrases.

A few years ago a group of Costa Rican students made an animated video entitled Gringo Pinto. In the video, a Gringo is walking around San Jose and asks a local Tico to give him directions back to his hotel. As is common in Costa Rica, the Tico kindly obliges and goes about giving the direction using the

local Tico slang called pachuco. There is one slight difference between the video and that of a real life experience with a Costa Rican in that a Costa Rican would almost never speak to you using slang unless they know you personally and they are confident that you will understand what they are saying.

In my opinion these students did an amazing job of translating the Costa Rican slang by adding visuals to the video to help accentuate the words and phrases. This really helps to get the point across. Each time the Tico says something that doesn't quite make sense to the Gringo, the Gringo has a visual of the word or phrase adding to the humor of the video as well as the viewers' understanding of the literal meaning of the words.

If you want to become part of the local culture when you move to Costa Rica take the time to learn to speak Spanish. It is important that you get to know your Costa Rican neighbors. Take a cooking class and learn to cook some of the local cuisine. After that take it one step further and learn to speak pachuco, the local slang. Even if it is just a few words or phrases, this will be the fastest way to disarm the locals. They will see you have a special interest in being part of their culture. Of course, none of these suggestions are mandatory, but I can assure you that your experience in this dynamic country will be far different if you put in just a little effort.  
Pura Vida Mae!

Take a few minutes to watch the video Gringo Pinto and see if you can understand what is being said. Once you figure out the words and phrases you can refer to the list of words/phases

suggestions are mandatory, but I can assure you that your experience in this dynamic country will be far different if you put in just a little effort.  
Pura Vida Mae!

Take a few minutes to watch the video Gringo Pinto and see if you can understand what is being said. Once you figure out the words and phrases you can refer to the list of words/phrases below with the English translations and repeat the process. I hope you find this video as humorous and creative as I do.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf76qGmVZw8>

Compa-Friend  
Un queque- A piece of cake, very easy  
Ponerse las pilas- To pay attention to, be serious  
Pelar la oreja- To listen carefully  
Agarrar la lata- To take the bus  
Si no le pinta- To not like a situation  
Agarrar un pirata- To take an independent, unlicensed taxi  
Carepistola- A person with bad intentions  
Echar harina- To pay (harina meaning money)  
Un tucan- 5,000 colones  
Buena nota- To be a good guy  
Mala nota - To be a bad guy  
Hacerse bolas- To not be confused  
Ir a pata- To go walking  
Abrasar la pared- To continue on the same path until the end  
Choquear con cerca- To go to the end of the block finding a T intersection  
Un hueco- A hole in the wall

Un Yodo- A coffee (Yoda is a brand of coffee)  
Bocas- Appetizers, snacks, tapas  
Cabras- Women  
Bates- Men  
Echarle ojo- To pay attention to, to watch out for  
Rayarse el disco- To make oneself crazy  
Huelepedos- Nosey  
Tostado- To be drunk  
Un mujeron- A very attractive woman, a babe  
Moverse el piso- Love at first sight, intense physical attraction  
Dar taco- To intimidate or to scare  
Echar el cuento- To be courteous  
Dolor de huevos- A difficult person  
Una teja- To be a nice person  
Verla peluda- To be in a bad situation  
Nave- An automobile  
No tener un cinco- To be flat broke  
No deje que lo limpien- To not be taken advantage of or robbed  
Irse volando- To go or move fast  
Soda- A cafe or informal restaurant  
Una manzana- One block  
Cualquier loco- Anyone, anybody  
Pescar- To understand  
Gringuito/Gringuillo- Foreigner, specifically someone from the United States



Hablar por los codos – talk too much!

\*\*Bing royalty-free image

## A Life Worth Remembering



by Marietta Arce  
marietta.arce@gmail.com

My maternal grandmother, Ana, was an exceptional woman. This fact was not apparent to me until recently when I was jotting down information about my family tree.

Grandma Ana was only allowed to finish the third grade. In sad "Cinderella-like" fashion, she (and her sister) had to work hard all day cooking, cleaning, ironing, etc. while her brothers worked the farm. Her life before she married my grandfather was difficult but I she accepted it as normal for women of her day.

Although many details aren't clear to me yet, it appears that one day young Ana's marriage to my grandfather was arranged. There was a twelve-year age gap and Grandma Ana had to leave her beloved Santa Barbara for Moravia but again, it appears she accepted this.

Life with grandpa Tista was not easy. He was moody and violent (and from what I remember, she was not a

silent victim). They had ten children, although one died in infancy. My mother is the eldest of the siblings so that her youngest sibling is less than ten years my senior.

Grandma Ana was always dusty and tired. There was never enough money but she was very clever and managed to sell eggs or barter chickens for the fabric to make her children's school uniforms. One of her fervent goals was to make sure all her children received an education. All of my aunts and uncles graduated from high school and went on to college. This fact made her feel happy, proud and accomplished.

Ana never expected her daughters to quit school to help at home, something which was extremely rare at the time. I can still remember waking up one day to see one of my young uncles pressing his high school uniform. These early memories have no doubt influenced my dismissal of gender-specific tasks.

Grandma Ana was not an extraordinary cook but everybody got fed! I don't remember Grandma Ana as a sentimental, affectionate grandmother but I can recall the absolute determination with which she made the best of her days. I am no doubt indebted to Grandma Ana for more than I yet know. My focus on her life has so far taken me on an inspiring, mysterious and serendipitous journey into the past.

# The Atenas Today Art Gallery

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



**Boyero Pride**  
22" x 36"  
Oil on Canvas

**Artist's Statement:** I tried to capture the spirit and pride of the Boyeros as they parade their animals and decorated carts in a cultural celebration of a past time in Costa Rica's history.

Al Alexander

*jeanandal@gmail.com*

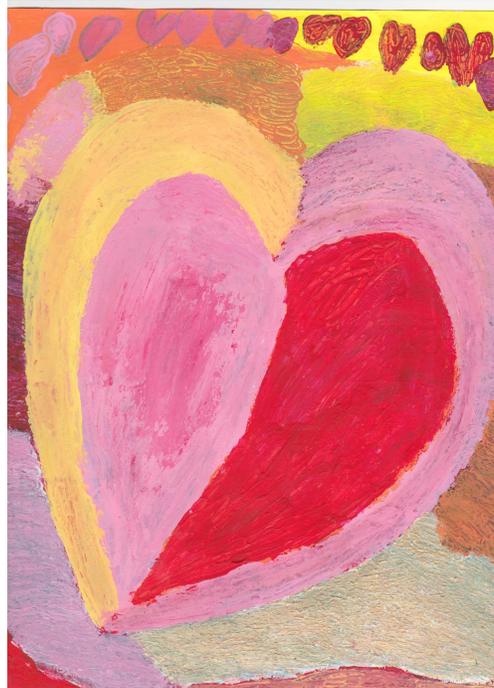


Diana F. Miskell

Horse and Cattle Art: [www.dianamiskell.com](http://www.dianamiskell.com)

Costa Rica Blog: <http://dianascostaricablog.blogspot.com>

**Artist's Statement:** This was a commission. "John Henry" is the registered name of the Hackney pony in the painting. That is his owner driving. She competes in pleasure driving classes in Ontario, Canada. This was a long, complicated painting because of the driving vehicle and all the harness.



**Tropical Valentine**

**Jocelyn @squibblesdesigns.com**

**Artist's Statement:** Made with love!

## For the bloggers...



We are providing a list of *blogs* that might be of interest to our to our readers. By providing this information, we are not endorsing or accepting responsibility for any content found therein. Please contact us if you have any other blogs of interest that you would like to share. These are alphabetized for your easy reference.

Biolley Buzz	<a href="http://bcrcoffee.com">bcrcoffee.com</a>
Carole Connolly	<a href="http://carolejeancostaricacapers.com">http://carolejeancostaricacapers.com</a>
Claudia Leon	<a href="http://photoleraclaudinha.smugmug.com/">http://photoleraclaudinha.smugmug.com/</a> <a href="http://straightline-cmkl.blogspot.com/">http://straightline-cmkl.blogspot.com/</a>
Costa Rica: Sisters in Transition (Judy & Roxi)	<a href="http://costaricasistersintransition.blogspot.com">http://costaricasistersintransition.blogspot.com</a>
De La Pura Vida Costa Rica Diane Miskell	<a href="http://delapuravida.com">delapuravida.com</a> <a href="http://dianascostaricablog.blogspot.com">http://dianascostaricablog.blogspot.com</a>
Fabulista De Costa Rica Fred Ball	<a href="http://fabulista DECR.blogspot.com">fabulista DECR.blogspot.com</a> <a href="http://natureboy70.blogspot.com/">http://natureboy70.blogspot.com/</a>
G. Martin Lively Going Like Sixty	<a href="http://fishinginandaroundcostarica.blogspot.com">fishinginandaroundcostarica.blogspot.com</a> <a href="http://goinglikesixty.com">goinglikesixty.com</a>
Julie and Rick in Costa Rica	<a href="http://julieandrickincostarica.blogspot.com/">http://julieandrickincostarica.blogspot.com/</a>
Lois and Jim Craft	<a href="http://adventurecraft.blogspot.com">adventurecraft.blogspot.com</a>
Marietta Arce Mi Chunchu	<a href="http://marisundays.wordpress.com">http://marisundays.wordpress.com</a> <a href="http://michunche.com">michunche.com</a>
Nadine Hays Pisani New Life in Costa Rica	<a href="http://happierthanabillionaire.com">happierthanabillionaire.com</a> <a href="http://www.anewlifeincostarica.com/nuevo_vida/">http://www.anewlifeincostarica.com/nuevo_vida/</a>
Paul Furlong Paul Furlong motorcycle blog	<a href="http://shootright.blogspot.com/">http://shootright.blogspot.com/</a> <a href="http://eyeneo.com/">http://eyeneo.com/</a>
Pura Vida Mommy	<a href="http://puravidamommy.blogspot.com">puravidamommy.blogspot.com</a>
Rubiatica	<a href="http://rubiatica.blogspot.com">rubiatica.blogspot.com</a>
Shannon Farley Somewhere In Costa Rica Su Espacio	<a href="http://enchanting-costarica.com/">http://enchanting-costarica.com/</a> <a href="http://somewhereincostarica.com">http://somewhereincostarica.com</a> <a href="http://www.suespacioatenas.blogspot.com/">http://www.suespacioatenas.blogspot.com/</a>
The Real Costa Rica The Very Worst Missionary The View From Here	<a href="http://blog.therealcostarica.com">blog.therealcostarica.com</a> <a href="http://theveryworstmissionary.com">theveryworstmissionary.com</a> <a href="http://theviewfromherecr.blogspot.com">theviewfromherecr.blogspot.com</a>

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- They'll be fed the food that you provide for them at the times that they are used to being fed.
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- Any medical attention needed, we will take the pet to the veterinarian of your choice (arrangements will be made for payments in any such emergency).
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## **When:**

Sunday, February 9, 2014

## **Where:**

Quinta Romavista, Barrio Mercedes, Atenas  
2km off the old Alajuela to Orotina Hwy #3

## **What time:**

Open to public: 11:00am to 4:00pm

## **Benefitting:**

All proceeds from this event support Hogar de Vida, a local children's home for abandoned, abused and orphaned children in Atenas.



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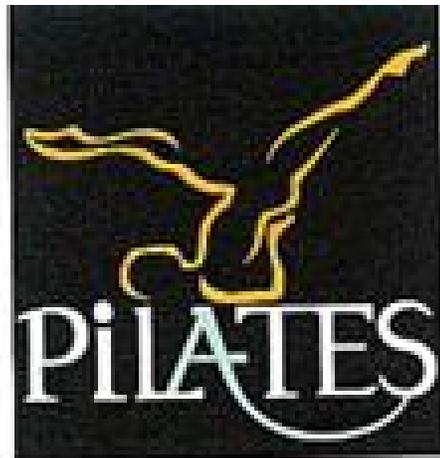
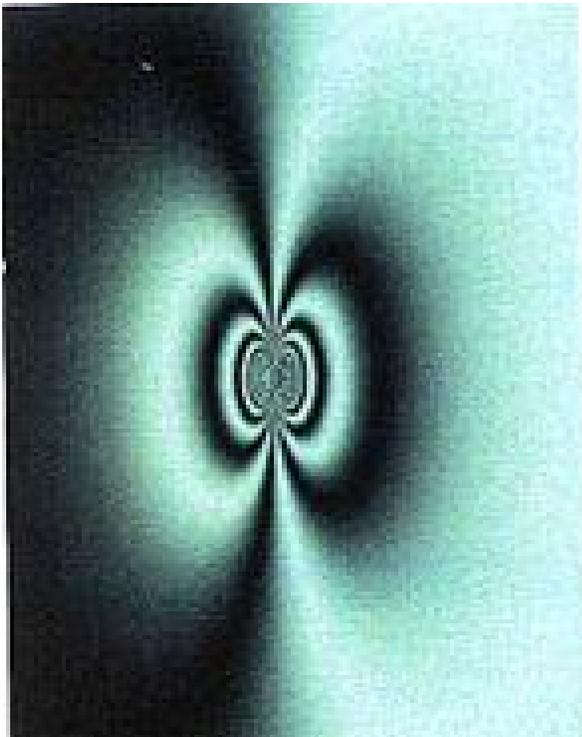
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email: [jeanandal@gmail.com](mailto:jeanandal@gmail.com)

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Personal trainer

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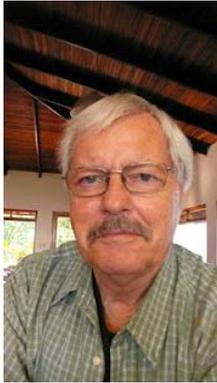
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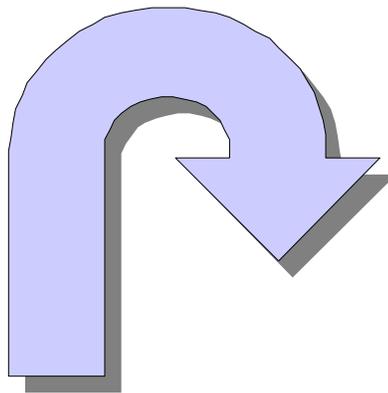
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**Property ID Number:** 4544  
**Specific Property Type:** Single family home  
**Listing Status:** Active  
**Price (US\$):** \$159,900  
**Geographic Area:** Atenas and Alajuela areas  
**Property City:** Atenas  
**Neighborhood:** San Isidro  
**Meters Squared or Hectares:** 1276.19meters  
**Lot Size (sq. Ft.) - Farm Acreage:** 1/4 acre+  
**Year Built:** 2008  
**Construction (sq. ft.):** 1,800  
**Bedrooms:** 2  
**Full Baths:** 2

**Phone Lines:** 1

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Atenas Today is sent out monthly to over 500 email addresses of people who live or vacation in the Atenas area. Display ads up to half a page in size cost \$20 per insertion; full page ads are \$35 per insertion. Ads in the Atenas Today Yellow Pages cost \$5 per month for one column by one inch, and \$10 per month for one column by two inches.

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