

HBSCA NEWS

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association Newsletter

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From Liz Ramirez



What Are They Doing Now? - Interviews with Former Student Exchange Participants

Thanks to a suggestion from member Margie Dupuis, this month I interviewed four former Student Exchange participants. Here's what they told me:

From the South Bay:



Currently a sophomore at UC Berkeley, majoring in Media Studies with a minor in Spanish, **Maggie** told me that staying with a host family in Loreto allowed her to discover how much she loves *“learning and speaking Spanish!”* She went to Loreto as an exchange student in 7th grade and went back again as our Student Ambassador her senior year of high school. She was grateful for the Ambassador experience because her little sister also participated as an exchange student that year. She *“loved watching her sister get to*

discover Loreto for herself!” Her favorite memory is the boat trip out to Isla Coronado, where the group spent the day on *“the beautiful white sand beach.”* She also recalls *“how welcomed I felt by everyone in the community. During both trips the residents went above and beyond to make sure I had an amazing time!”* When asked if there was anything she didn't like about the trip, she responded, *“Packing my bags and heading home!”* She added: *“I am immensely grateful for the opportunities I had to participate in the student exchange program because I think as a kid learning a language in school it is really easy to get discouraged with worksheets and grammar rules. My time in Loreto allowed me to realize the joy there is to be had in speaking a new language and learning about a culture that is different from our own. Had I not gone to Loreto, I am not sure that I would still be taking Spanish classes and I really have this program to thank for helping me discover a great passion!”*

Tyler participated in both 2017 and 2018, when he was 12 and 13 years old. When I asked what made him want to participate in the program he responded: *“I heard about it in my Spanish class. Mr. Barks did a really cool presentation and my teacher Señora Moreno really sold it!”* For Tyler, the best part of the trip was *“hanging out with the other students and biking around town/down the malecón.”* And what was the worst part? *“Having to say goodbye to my other family. I would've stayed longer in a heartbeat!”* Tyler thinks that it changed him by giving him a *“chance to experience how people in a*



place other than the US live, in addition to practicing my Spanish!” He also shared that he and his Loreto brother, Hiram, still *“talk regularly and I don't see that changing anytime soon!”*

From Loreto:



Lalo is now 22 years old and still living in Loreto (attending University in La Paz but online due to COVID.) He remembers his very first trip to the US when he was 13 and said it was *“Amazing!”* He remembers going to Manhattan Beach with his “brother” Kyle. He said he wanted to

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participate “to make friends.” But then it gave him such “a good opportunity to practice English.” He has so many good memories it was hard to pick his best one: Disneyland, Universal Studios, the beach. But then he said, “When I fell in love with a girl from Hermosa Beach,” I guess that really does top amusement parks and the beach! He was lucky enough to participate 3 times, but the third time was because someone dropped out at the last minute. He remembers his South Bay brothers: Kyle, Amrit, and Lyndon. He was also chosen to participate as an Ambassador when he was 17 and stayed with Sam and his family. When I asked him how the exchange made a difference for him, he replied, “I appreciate very much having had the possibility to travel to the United States and continue traveling, because it is a very good way to relate to many people who in the future help you to be better.”

Flavio - I met Flavio at a “new” restaurant in town called “Alma del Sur.” He waits tables a few days a week for fun, but he is also a lawyer here in town. When I told him I was part of HBSCA, he told me he had participated in the Student Exchange MANY YEARS AGO and asked about AMPARITO! Everybody knows, loves, and remembers Amp!

From the South Bay to Loreto - “I grew up in Manhattan, I live in Redondo, I play in Hermosa! - And now I own a hotel in Loreto!” My journey to living in Loreto...



How did this happen? Sometimes I can’t believe it myself! I blame the Pandemic and “Staying at Home” from March-June. In June as restrictions lessened, I came down to Loreto and found out that Casa Mangos, a small, boutique hotel, was for sale. I blame Dino and Brenda Garland for telling me about it! Well, long story short, I made an offer, Orlando de la Cruz (of Orlando’s Restaurant fame!) accepted it, and away we went. That was July. I’ve been living in Loreto at the Hotel since October. We finally closed escrow in February!

Here’s my road to Mexican residency and business ownership:
FIRST, you need to apply for residency while you are in the US.

You can apply for Temporary or Permanent Residency status. [See this link for more info.](#) The Mexican Consulate in the US has to approve your application and they affix a sticker into your US passport. (Maybe someday I’ll tell you the story of my TWO visits to the Mexican Consulate in LA -plus multiple phone calls and emails- and my final visit to the one in AUSTIN, TX!)

NEXT, you come to Mexico and visit the INAMI (Immigration) office to apply for the actual Residency Card. (Guess what? It’s GREEN!)

THEN, you get a CURP number, which is like a Social Security Number. But you ALSO need a RFC number which is a Tax-Payer ID number. And finally you visit the Mexican IRS, known as “Hacienda” or “SAT” for an Electronic Signature file that your Mexican Accountant will use to pay your taxes in Mexico. Yes, you will still pay taxes in the US and now also in Mexico! FUN!

NOW, you are ready to close escrow on your hotel but you have to wait for the Government Office in Mexico City to approve your FIDEICOMISO. To own property (personal or business) in Mexico that is closer than 31 miles from the sea, as a foreigner, you must have a fideicomiso or Bank Trust. This link has a really good explanation: <https://www.expatsinmexico.com/what-is-the-fideicomiso/>

When you feel safe to travel again, I invite you all down to Loreto, whether you stay at Casa Mangos or not! (And Yes, **HBSCA Members** get the Friends and Family Rate!) Visit Casamangosloreto.com for more about the hotel and “like” us on Facebook please!

HBSCA NEWS, CONTINUED...

And Speaking of HBSCA Membership...Our 2021 Membership Drive is ON! (NOTE: There is NO INCREASE in our dues as was previously reported.)

Please remember to renew your annual membership today!

- Individual Membership=\$15
- Family Membership=\$25
- Corporate Membership=\$50

Checks can be made payable to HBSCA and sent to PO Box 1025, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

Or you can pay online via credit card at <https://givebox.com/517647>



We had an Earthquake in Loreto!



On January 21, 2021, at 7:59am Mexican Pacific Time, Loreto was jolted by a 5.0 magnitude quake! The epicenter was about 100 km north of Loreto!

INFORMACIÓN PRELIMINAR

TIEMPO DEL CENTRO DE MÉXICO
FECHA: 2021-01-20 HORA: 08:59:52

MAGNITUD: 5.0

EPICENTRO

LATITUD, LONGITUD: 26.90°, -111.12°
LOCALIZACIÓN: 101 KM AL NORTE DE LORETO, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR

PROFUNDIDAD: 10 KM

And Finally:

- Join us on February 25th at 6:30pm for the **Hermosa Beach Historical Society and Museum's Virtual Lecture Series** where HBSCA will present "Loreto - The Story of Hermosa's Sister City" - Visit: <https://www.hermosabeachhistoricalsociety.org/copy-of-virtual-lecture-series>
- Our next **General Membership Meeting** is on **Monday, MARCH 1, 2021 at 6:30pm**. Here is the ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86173615138>
- In a previous newsletter, I shared a little about the [history of the Flying Sportsman Lodge](#). The property is for sale! [Click here for the listing](#).
- Use this link to follow **COVID in Loreto**. <https://coronavirus.bcs.gob.mx/casos-covid-19/> If you scroll down, you can actually click on Loreto and see the breakdowns for each neighborhood in town as well as other areas of the municipality of Loreto
- Do you need your knives sharpened? Visit [Maximus' Knife Sharpening](#)
- Please visit our [Website](#) and join us on [FaceBook](#)



Thank you to our
Corporate Members!

