

THE LAKE CHAPALA SOCIETY

POST LIFE PLANNING

(This is considered a community service, so you do not have to be a member of the LCS to use this service)

The point of Post Life Planning is to make your wishes known in the event of death. It is a great help for those who are left to know what to do. This would not be a good time for them to be wondering if you wanted to be cremated or be buried back in the States or Canada. They'll be upset and grieving and this is your way of making things easier for them and for communicating your desires to them.

- Get the form from the LCS services office, download it from the LCS website or the Lakeside Women's website. Or pick one up from me here today.
- Fill in the form and take it to the LCS services office to be processed and pay the 200 pesos fee.
- The LCS will have it translated into Spanish by a notary and officially stamped.
- You will be notified in about two weeks to return to sign the original.
- The LCS will also post a list on the notice board of those whose forms are ready.
- The LCS will give the original to the funeral home and keep a copy on file.
- You will get a copy of the form and cards with contact details.
- Keep cards somewhere safe and easy to find, such as on the refrigerator or a bedroom mirror at home, in your wallet, etc.

LINK

(This is also a community service offered at LCS, so you do not have to be a member of the LCS to use this service)

- Here is a very helpful service for you to know about. If you're suddenly on your own because of death or divorce, or you've just moved to the area and don't know your way around, or if you don't speak Spanish well, etc. this group may be just what you need. Suppose you have a problem such as a dispute over your telephone or electric bill, or you feel your contractor is not doing what he promised to do, or you're in a whole range of other difficult situations that you don't seem to be able to solve on your own - then you need the services of LINK.
- LINK is a group of bilingual expats who have gotten together to help people with certain problems. The members of LINK know their way around the system and will make every effort to help you sort things out. They know who best to contact, they have names and phone numbers. If necessary, they'll even go with you to the telephone or water or electricity office, or come to your house to talk to your contractor or employee.

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- This is a FREE service. You'll find the LINK table under the blue umbrellas at the LCS every Monday from 10 am to 12 pm from November through April. During low season, they are available by phone or email. You will find them a very handy and resourceful group to know about!

THE LCS AS AN INFORMATION RESOURCE

(These are community services offered at LCS, so you do not have to be a member of the LCS to use these services)

- The LCS is a great place for getting information on many different subjects. These services are listed in the LCS Membership Directory and on the LCS website. Also each month in the Ojo del Lago, and the LCS newsletter. There isn't time to describe them all, but here is a sampling. All of these are open to the general public.
- The Information desk is open Monday through Saturday (10 to closing) and has information from a variety of sources on topics of interest to residents and visitors to Lakeside. (Immigration, employee relations, shopping, health insurance, etc.). Each volunteer on the Info Desk has lived in the area a minimum of two years, so has personal experience of many situations they offer info about.
- Every week on Tuesday from 10-noon a retired employee from IMSS is here to answer your questions about that Mexican health insurance option.
- There is free legal and immigration advice weekly. Check the newsletter, LCS website or in the services office for days, times and locations.
- The LCS offers several free health screening services. Blood pressure checks Mondays and Fridays 10 to noon. Hearing tests and vision tests by appt, skin cancer screenings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (sign up required), and during the quarterly Health Care Weeks in January, April, July and October, we offer diabetes testing, various low-cost inoculations and special medical lectures and presentations by experts in their field.
- The annual Newcomer's Seminars, which are once a week for five sessions, starts in January. Health care options, buying a home versus building one, common legal questions and concerns, and other such topics are covered by panels of experts as well as people who have been through the experience.
- The final session is the very popular Volunteer Fair, where newcomers get the chance to meet and talk with representatives from many of Lakeside's non-profit organizations about what they do and the opportunities for volunteering in helping them do it. (Cruz Roja, Niños Incapacitados, animal welfare groups, orphanages, etc.)

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THE LCS AS A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES

(Most of these are benefits of LCS membership.)

- LCS is a great place for meeting people and getting involved. There are an enormous number of things to choose from: to just visit over coffee on the patio, no membership is required!
- Members may join a wide variety of interest groups: genealogy, current events discussions, Scrabble, Mah Jongg, film appreciation, Spanish language classes, resistance exercise class, yoga, line dancing.
- Members may use the LCS for posting mail via the US mailing system (you buy US stamps at the LCS office and the next person travelling to the US will mail them for you).
- There is an excellent library of over 20,000 books and another of about 3000 movies, most in DVD and some still in VHS tape. (LCS membership required to take out books or movies.)
- There are always events going on at the LCS – Talks, Fairs, Presentations, etc. Of course, to buy a ticket for these sorts of things, one usually need not be an LCS member!
- There is a notice board advertising events in the Lake Chapala area. LCS members may post items wanted or for sale free on the bulletin board outside the library and also online on the virtual bulletin board.
- Membership of the LCS is **500 pesos per year for an individual or 800 pesos per couple**. Great value! You get this great telephone Directory with members' phone numbers, a description of services offered and lots of invaluable information on all kinds of things.
- As a member you also receive many benefits, from classes, lectures, services and meetings to knowing that you are contributing to the betterment of the entire Lakeside community through your dues and volunteer work.
- Once an LCS member, you are eligible to volunteer in the garden, in the office, in the library, at the Wilkes Center teaching ESL or computers to the local Mexican people. Volunteering at LCS or at another non-profit group in the area is a wonderful way to get to know people and to feel a part of the community by contributing to it.
- Whether you are a newcomer to this beautiful part of the world or have been here a while, getting involved is the best way to learn new things, keep sharp and make new friends!