

# JKß-JOY KROEGER BECKNER-JKß

*classical realism, from hounds to humans & more!*

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News & Journeys of Joy! Vol. 21, No. 2, Spring 2026

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*Happiness!*

*Thank you to those  
who recently bought  
from my Retirement  
SALE! It will continue  
this spring!*

*Meanwhile, enjoy San  
Miguel with us!!!*



Jan. 6, 2026, 8:42am: My cousin, Jane Monken, who recently died, had this picture of me in her collection. Her grand daughter, Keely Dawn McKay, shared it with me.

What a surprise! My parents didn't even have this photo!



6:24pm: The Jardin is PACKED for “Three Kings Day!” Three men in costume hand gifts to every child in the Jardin. There are MANY CHILDREN of all ages, collecting goodies. Search “Three Kings Day” to learn more.

Here, DHL trucks have green eyes! It the first time I have noticed the DHL eyes!



Jan. 7, 2026, 6:17pm: We sit in the Jardin. I walk to take a picture of a black dog in a cowboy hat when this woman cuddles her pet duck who is also wearing pearls. Love it!





Jan. 8. 2026: A stump is the perfect place to grow more plants! This is on our walk to our apartment from the entrance to Puerta Viejo. The palm tree grows behind this colorful stump.

Jan. 10, 2026: Brian and I each get a haircut by Lawrence Demirjian. Lawrence has been our hairdresser here for many moons... He's close and he's good!

Jan.11, 2026: WOW! The last fews days have been nice and warm in the 70s. Today started in the 40s here in San Miguel. Without indoor heat, it's a good day to stay inside. At least we see sunshine outside!

I gratefully email thank you notes to several friends whose Christmas cards have arrived here. Tonight I will make a salad to go with our leftovers.



Jan. 12, 2026: We pick up dinner at Francesca's and take it to our 85 year old friend of 25 years, Arlena Lawrence. It is great to see her, although we are sorry to see she needs a walker.



I think this plant has been in Arlena's house for 25 years! It is HUGE and trying to grow above her 12-15+ foot ceiling!



Jan. 13, 2026: This huge tree is on the walk toward town. I love that someone carved a doorway and windows into it.



I love the way the arches in the buildings where we rent repeat the arches of the palm trees. To me, this looks like a humongous pineapple!



Jan. 16, 2026: My mom would have loved this little shop. She enjoyed dressing me in pinafores.

I remember wearing a pinafore to my friend Shirley's house. We were swinging on her swings when I must have jumped off and ripped my mom's hand sewn pinafore. Oh, was she ever unhappy with me about that. ;-))



A bougainvillea in front of a tree just outside the entrance to our building.



Jan. 17, 2026: A young woman celebrates Quincinerea, her day of becoming a woman at age 15.



Dog in a doorway



I love this flower box beside our apartment entrance.

### *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*

Jan. 19, 2026: On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I share his words: "Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."



### *Coltz' Food...*

Here, our San Miguel vet, Dr. Ricardo Landeros, grinds raw meat with bones and vegetables and packs it in 1 pound frozen packets. Long ago, I started bringing a scale to weigh dog food. Brian's supplements are behind Coltz' food. At home, where I feed Primal Raw Nuggets. Coltz gets 5 nuggets per meal.

Coltz gets 5 ounces of raw meat twice daily. In the morning he also gets a dollop of plain yogurt. He gets that at home too, with his Primal raw nuggets. I learned about the benefits of feeding raw in 2001, when we first came to San Miguel. My friend, Charlotte Peltz, wrote articles for the English language newspaper, *Atencion*. She explained about feeding raw.

Please look here to learn more: Charlotte also has some great training lessons in some of her articles. “Pay Now or Pay (the vet) later...”



I honestly do not remember where I took this photo. ;-))

WOW! Tonight we walk toward the Jardin and stop to eat at a relatively close restaurant on Hidalgo, “Pasta & Vino.” The food is fabulous and all of \$60! We have enough for tomorrow night too. Marco, the owner, is from Italy. He worked in a restaurant in Chicago for 20 years before coming here. Oh, does he know how to cook! Service is great! Enjoy!!!

Jan. 20, 2026: Today I wake up but my computer does not!!! I contact Derek Burroughs, a long time Mac guru. Tonight I think I am updating my operating system. Apparently it is not finished updating. Later this afternoon, I open my computer and it is finally working again. Yay!

In the late 60s, I worked at Famous-Barr, a May Co. department store in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. I first worked under Sam Clark in Display and then in the Fashion office under Lucy Harrison, coordinating tearoom shows and more. I have always felt close to fashion but after a while, I had enough clothes. I also worked as a model and have been with two agencies over the years. Most recently I have been with West Model & Talent Management. Gail, the owner, wants me to get onto the [casting.com](http://casting.com) site. It is not letting me in Safari. It will be interesting to see how long it takes to get on the site. I need to update my headshot and more.

*The GREAT PARADE ...in honor of*

*Ignacio Allende's Birthday!*

Jan. 21, 2026: Today, I walk Coltz to the entrance of our apartment complex to see and HEAR a Drum & Bugle Corps parade walking down the street. It is LOUD and LONG!!!

Brian sees the parade closer to town. His photos are below. He thinks the parade is 3 miles long...The marshaling area for the parade begins in front of our apartment area and ends in front



of City Hall and the Jardin. The parade honors Ignacio Allende, for whom San Miguel de Allende is named, and who was one of the fathers of the revolution to free Mexico from Spanish rule. The parade includes firetrucks and more, all blowing their horns! Every school marched in the parade which is, literally, miles long.



Above is the School of Nurses.



*Great parade!!!*



Future Firemen, and  
Cowboys in the Parade.



*Thank you, Brian,  
for your wonderful  
pictures and text!!!*

Jan. 22, 2026, 5:31pm: We join Sharon Draper, our former land lady, at “El Pegaso,” our go to favorite restaurant in San Miguel. It is great to see her, yet sad to learn she is not well and will move back to the States in June to live with her son, Bryan, in Atlanta.



Jan. 23, 2026, 7:19am: A text arrives from Bruce a neighbor back home: “You are going to miss the storm of the century! Forecast 5 to 10 inches! Bodie (his dog) and I are excited!”

I call Mike Martin, who, with me, was a trustee for our Meadowbrook Farm subdivision decades ago, and he will plow our driveway once snow has stopped. Thanks, Mike!

11:15am: Sergio, the plumber, comes to fix several things. By 12:14 he has gone to purchase parts, come back and fixed everything! Good man. Thank you.

Thank goodness it is sunny here today. It is just 66 degrees inside. I love the curved corners of walls to ceiling.



5:20pm: WOW! At home in Chesterfield, Missouri it is 5 degrees with -11 wind chill! Snow will start tomorrow morning, let up and then 6+ inches more are predicted for Sunday. Here, indoor temp of 65-68 degrees is a blessing.

We watch "Sinners" on Netflix and neither of us knows how to describe the movie, other than it was riveting.

Jan. 24, 2026: San Miguel de Allende, indoor temperature: 65 degrees. St. Louis temperature: 5 degrees, feels like -6 degrees. Snow! Time to shower and then do laundry. No shower. Water is cold again. I hand wash my face and parts. ;-))

2.33pm: WOW! At least 22 states have declared an emergency due to the huge winter storm. Monday morning wind chills are predicted to be -17 degrees at home in Chesterfield, MO. Single number lows are predicted through Wednesday. Whew! I'm glad we are in San Miguel. I can live with 70 degrees Fahrenheit indoors at 4pm. That does not happen every day, but when it does... Mmmmm.

We walk to Oxxo for Brian to get some peanuts. I wait for him in the sun outside, and a motorcyclist rides by wearing a huge cowboy hat strapped over his helmet. ;-)) One never knows what you will see here. ;-))

With all of the mayhem in Minneapolis and the horrible snow storm across the States, I feel VERY LUCKY to be here in San Miguel. Stay safe and warm everyone, please.

Jan. 25, 2025, 2:07pm: I walk to the Jardin where mariachis are playing! It is the first time I've seen and heard them this year.

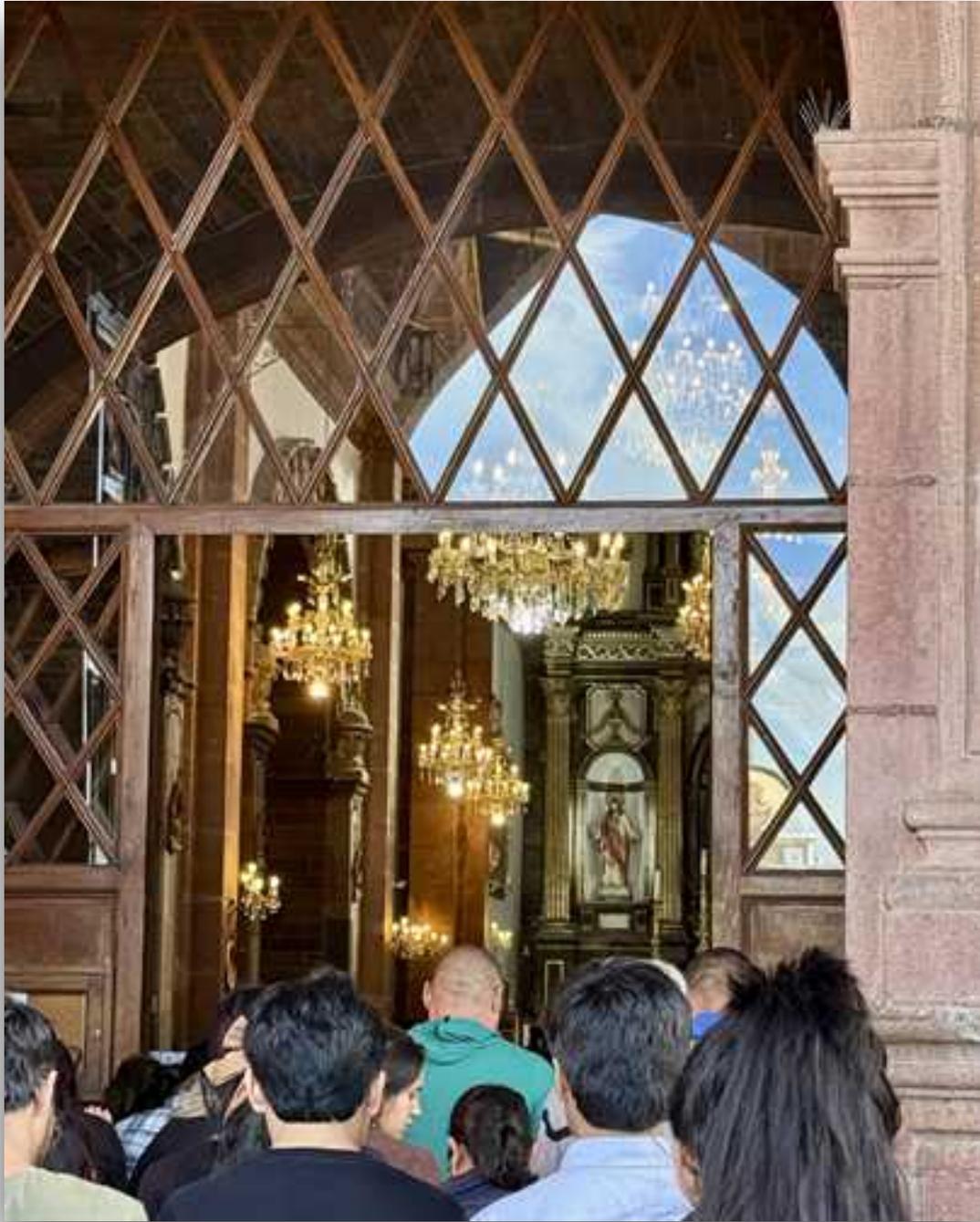


I move to shade where a boy plays with a ball he got on Three Kings Day. I love the curved brickwork.

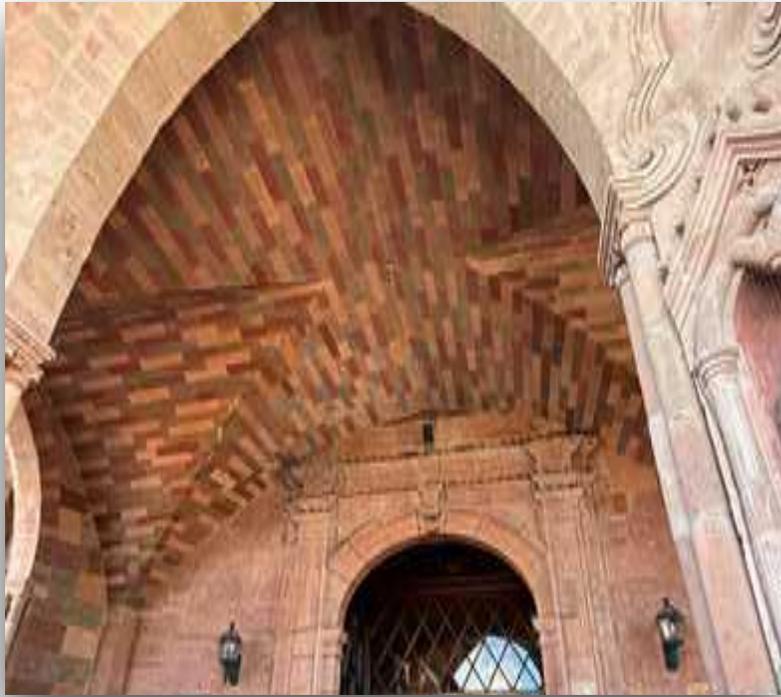
A lady and her friend sit next to me and eat lunch. I love that their lunches are packed in half bags.

What a great use for those plastic bags before they are tossed.

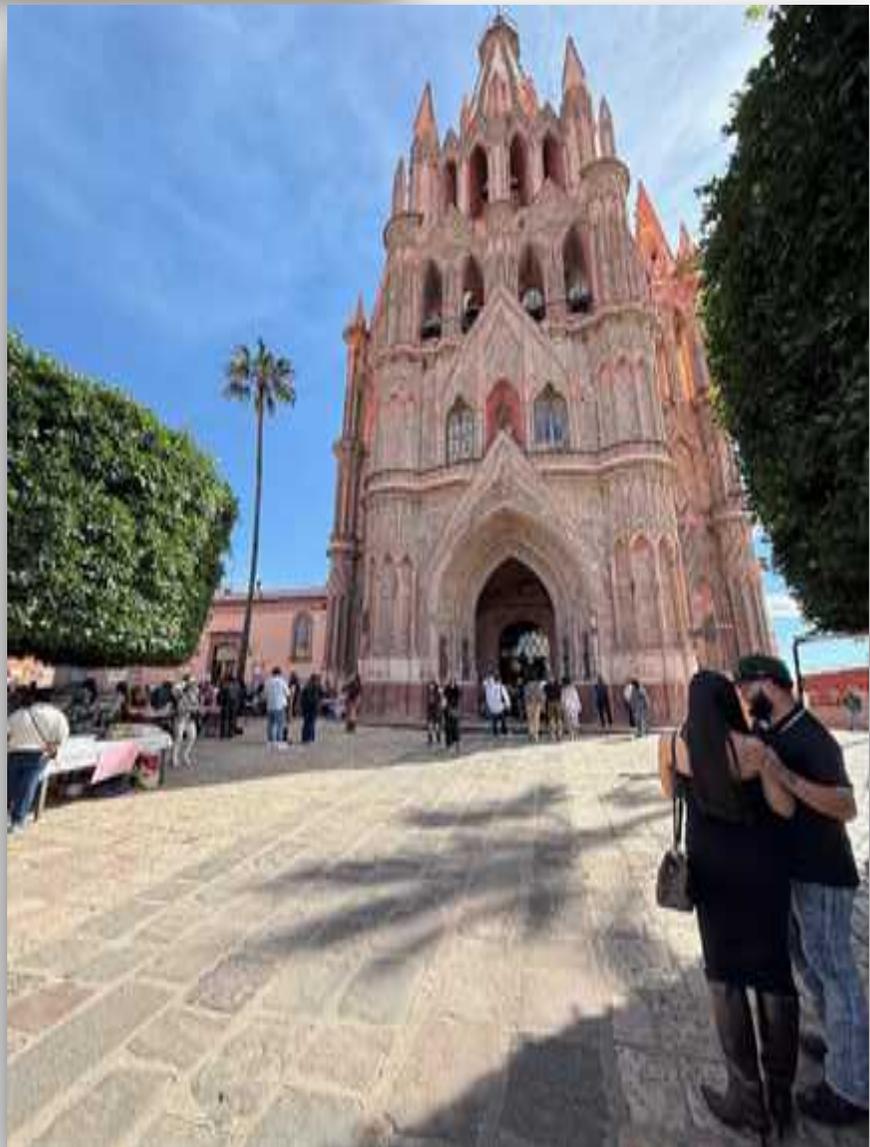




In all the years we have come to San Miguel, I have never noticed the chandeliers in the huge church in the Parroquia de San Miguel Arcangel.



WOW! I also have never noticed the patterned beautiful brickwork in the ceiling to the entrance to the church.





*Pigeons are happily at home here.*

On my walk home I see pigeons living in a large building on Hidalgo. They fly in and out of many second floor windows.



Jan. 26, 2026: Our neighbor Pam shares this photo of three deer nesting under our deck. I'm glad they are cozy



Jan. 27, 2026, 11:15am: I meet Nancy North at the Rosewood Hotel coffee shop. We met in a Pilates class by Sue Lawrence. WOW! I have walked past the Rosewood many times over the years, and never gone in. What an amazing place this is! Above is the restroom next to the restaurant with its amazingly beautiful tiles.



*A Pigeon joins me in the Jardín.*

Pigeons find seeds and crumbs people drop from their snacks. These pigeons are very tame.

*Finally, A warm shower...*

Jan. 28, 2026: Today Brian suggests I turn on hot water in the bathroom sink and the shower. “When the sink water gets hot, turn it off and hop into the shower.” This works. This is a better experience getting a warm shower than I’ve ever had in this apartment. Let’s hope it works in the future. ;-))

Jan. 30, 2026: Yesterday, I got a bill from the Missouri Dept. of Revenue wanting \$378.98 in taxes from 2024. I manage to contact them and pay on line with a “service fee” of only \$7.83. OOPS! Feb. 11, 2026, my Capital One invoice says \$378.98. I’ll check again...

Tonight Brian treats us to a lovely dinner at “Berlin.” We have enough for at least tomorrow night and maybe the next night.

June 2022: We drove to New York from home in Chesterfield, MO to pick up one-year-old Coltz after he showed in the Westminster Kennel Club show.

Feb. 3, 2026: Below, 5 year old Coltz happily rests on Brian as he reads.



Later, Brian brings home mail! In it are photos that my late cousin Janice Boeker Niermann had in her collection. Janice's daughter, Deborah Nierman Crowder, mailed them January 6!



My cousin Nancy Boeker Netemeyer and me.

This was likely taken in high school.



Sept. 2, 2018: Boeker Girl Cousins Nancy, Edna & me.

plus...

Janice Boeker Nierman's daughters:

Chrystal Labrecque is to my left and her twin sister April is  
in the back.



Sept. 2, 2018:

My recently departed cousin,  
Janice Boeker Nierman and me  
at a Boeker family reunion.  
Janice and Edna are sisters.



*Huge Palm tree outside our apartment.*



Feb. 4, 2026, Wednesday morning: The BIG tree trimming day here in Puente Viejo! Manuel, in Red, is very good!

## *Model shoot renewal! ;-))*

Yay! I hear from my agent, Gail Lasater, founder and owner of West Model & Talent. The Gatesworth has renewed my 2023 photoshoot for 2 years! The Gatesworth now owns Parc Provence for whom I have record of having had a shoot in late 2023. Yay! Gail direct deposited my payment already! Thank you, Gail!

Feb. 5, 2026: I LOVE Sue Lawrence's Pilates classes! She is the best Pilates teacher I have had since Wellbridge closed 4-5 years ago. Sue explains through her movement and her talk which muscles to use in each exercise. I wish I could take her back home with me. :-)

Feb. 6, 2026: We walk to Candelaria, the glorious plant market that has moved from Parque Juarez to a hotel parking area near us.

To the right is is the entrance to "Candelaria."





Next, we walk to Fabrica la Aurora, a renovated textile mill that now houses the major art center for San Miguel.

## *Fábrica la Aurora*

Thank you Brian and Google for this information.

The history of Fábrica la Aurora in San Miguel de Allende spans over a century, transitioning from an industrial powerhouse into a premier art and design center.

### Industrial Origins (1902–1991)

Opened in 1902, Fábrica la Aurora was one of San Miguel's most significant industrial operations for nearly nine decades.

- Production: The factory specialized in fine cotton textiles, including manta (a basic cloth used for traditional Mexican clothing), muslin, flannel, and percale.
- Economic Impact: At its height, the mill employed more than 300 to 500 workers across multiple shifts, serving as a primary economic engine for the city.
- Architecture: The building was constructed with classic industrial features of the era, including 12 stone arches and wrought iron gates that remain today.
- Closure: The factory closed in 1991 due to rising production costs, outdated machinery, and increased global competition.



## Transformation and Rebirth (2004–Present)

After sitting abandoned for over a decade, the site underwent a major reinvention led by the Garay family (descendants of the founders) and a group of North American artists.

- 2004 Reopening: The complex was re-inaugurated as the Cultural Center of Art and Design.
- Visionary Artists: Early pioneers in the transformation included artists such as Christopher Fallon, Mary Rapp, Merry Calderoni, and DeWayne Youts.
- Preservation: The renovation carefully preserved the industrial character. Visitors today can still see oil-



stained floors, massive Zinser looms, old engines, and traces of raw cotton in the building's crevices.

The Fabulous Big Gear Machine is great from all angles.

Most of the art at Aurora is far from realistic, but a few of the artists do know how to draw correct human and animal anatomy.





Between Candelaria and Fabrica de Aurora, this was a very interesting afternoon!



Feb. 8, 2026: I've always liked Betty White, but always seem to have seen pictures of her when she was older.

*Here she is as a younger woman...*



*An beautiful antique cash register ...*

In an antique shop on Hidalgo.

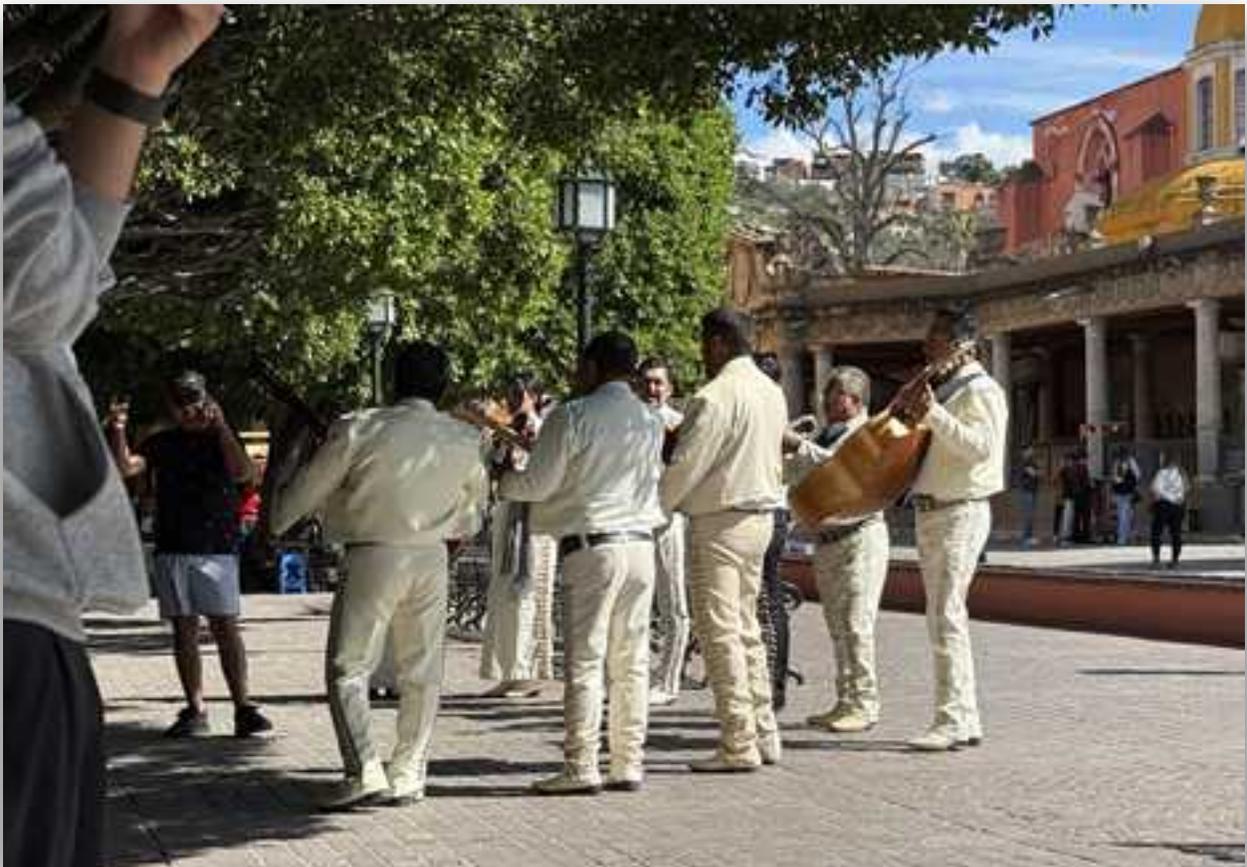


The Beatles, from left, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr on drums, George Harrison and John Lennon, perform for the CBS "Ed Sullivan Show" in New York, as they record a set that would later be shown on the Feb. 23 broadcast of the show. The Beatles made their first broadcast appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," America's must-see weekly variety show, later in the day, Sunday, Feb. 9, 1964, officially kicking off Beatlemania. (AP Photo/Dan Grossi, File)

**Feb. 9, 2026:** "Feb. 9, 1964, the Beatles made their first live American performance on 'The Ed Sullivan Show' in New York!" I would love to see 'The Ed Sullivan Show' again...

*Good memories. Thank you, Associated Press!*

Tonight we watch “Rain Man” (1988) on TV.  
Tom Cruise is YOUNG - in his 20s! Dustin Hoffman is 51.  
A fabulous Movie with fabulous actors!!!



Feb. 9, 2026: Mariachis in the Jardin.



*Aldo*, our mechanical engineering friend, in the Jardin.

## *What's with the US Post office?*

Feb. 10, 2026: A Christmas card with a postmark of Dec. 26, 2025 arrives from my cousin Floyd Boeker and his wife Marlene, who live in Peoria, IL.

5:30pm: We meet our long time San Miguel friends, Karen & Jim Quinn, at restaurant La Frontera for its Tuesday night special: Fried Chicken! I haven't had fried chicken in ages. When I was little, my parents would either drive us 60+ miles to visit relatives in the country near Hoffman, IL, where they grew up, or we would go to "The Golden Fried Chicken Loaf" on Delmar, in the city of St. Louis. I loved their chicken! Last night's was very good.

Feb. 12, 2026, 6:05pm: It is a glorious 77 sunny degrees in the Jardin!

Feb. 13, 2026: This is a GORGEOUS DAY!!! It is sunny and 72 degrees indoors!

*Now...*

*Arthritis Fixes, per Dr. Varsha Rathod,*

*my preventive medicine doctor for decades...*

1. **Knudsen TART CHERRY JUICE**. When we are home, I put some on my cereal & fruit in the morning, instead of milk. I wish I could get that here in Mexico. I get it at Whole Foods.

2. **BOSWELLIA**, by Himalaya. I get it from Pure Formulas.com. It is 250 mg. Indian frankincense extract: 2 capsules in the morning and 2 at night. [Pureformulas.com](http://Pureformulas.com) \$40.17 for 240 capsules.

If I cannot get the above, she told me to use ...

3. **DICLOFENACO**. It comes 20 pills to a package here. It is over the counter at a local pharmacy and it helps with swelling and pain.

4. **ARNICA**. I rub this on my fingers before I go to bed at night.

Here, I use all of the other items listed. The alternatives work, just not quite as well as Tart Cherry Juice and Boswellia. My rings ARE tighter, but they fit!!!

Feb.13, 2026: Brian comes home with a 70 year old antique Turkish hand woven rug. We'll find a home for this beauty at home. What a nice surprise! Thank you, Brian!





4:50pm: I love the light on the fountain at the entrance to the Puente Viejo condominiums where we rent this year.

**CONCIERTO**

**Gil Gutierrez Trio**  
**Dave Rodriguez**  
**Robert Stern**  
From New York

11 y 14 febrero 2026  
6:00 pm | Teatro Santa Ana  
Donativo \$550 pesos

**Gil Gutierrez Trio**  
**Dave Rodriguez**  
**Robert Stern**

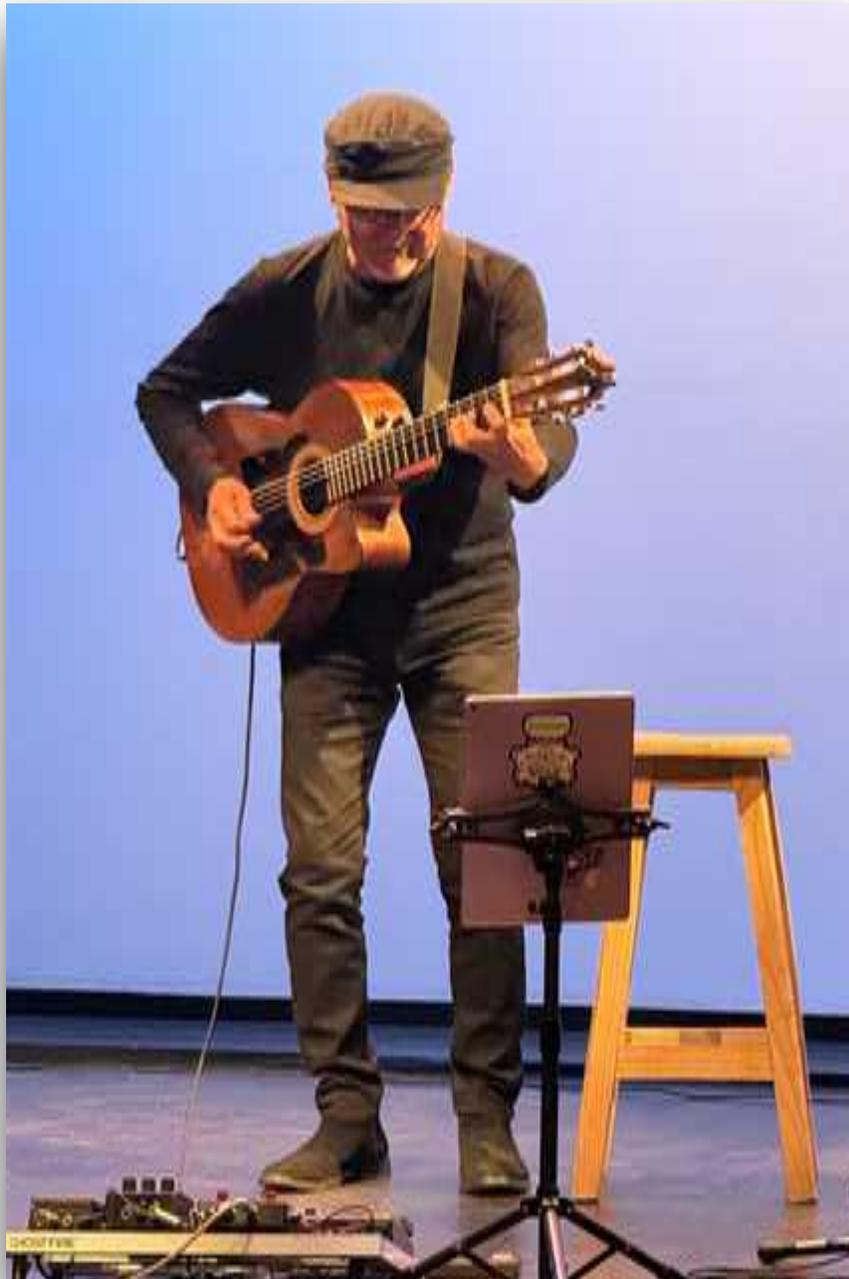
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**TEATRO**  
SANTA ANA

*"Gil"*

*Feb. 14, 2026: Valentine's Day!*

We have watched and listened to Gil Gutierrez for decades! He is a wonderful guitarist!



Gil used to play at a local restaurant, with a flutist whose last name was Cartes. They were fabulous!

Then Doc Severinsen came to San Miguel, got involved with Gil and Cartes, dissolved that relationship and took Cartes to the States. I miss hearing Gil & Cartes at restaurants here.

Tonight, two more string players join Gil's guitar: Violin and Base. They are fabulous!



*We walk past the pharmacy with two dogs on  
the counter on our way to "Berlín" where we  
share dinner with friends,*

*Alberto and Ana.*

*Thank you, Brian, for a  
Happy valentine's Day!!!*

WOW! Did we ever sleep! It has been forever since we  
went to bed at 11pm!

Feb. 15, 2026: I am so glad our friends, Nonnie & Ed  
Markeset switched their dinner invitation to Tuesday, Feb.  
17. We'll be awake by then! ;-))

*Nonnie & Ed*

Feb. 17, 2026: We enjoy a bottle of white wine with Nonnie  
and Ed, along with dinner and a beautiful view of Ed's  
magnificent garden. This is the first time I have had alcohol  
other than an inch at the bottom of Brian's beer glass, in  
many moons. I will try to abstain to help my heart...

Feb. 19, 2026: Brian surprises me again! He exchanged the antique Turkish rug for a different handmade 50-60 year old Turkish rug that has a bit thicker wool. Our good rug man, Fevzi, on Hidalgo, shared this with us. I like it!!!





*Yes, it's a Diaper!*

6:24pm: You never know what you will see in San Miguel!



*6:40pm: A Glorious Sunset!*

6:40pm: We walk from the Jardin to a great restaurant, "Hecho en Mexico" where we start with guacamole & fresh chips. I order delicious Chilean salmon with black beans and creamed spinach. Yum! Brian has a hamburger & fresh fries. We have enough guacamole and chips for another night. ;-))

### *A Private Pilates class!*

Feb. 20, 2026, 10am: WOW! Sue Lawrence's Pilates class is really good - and - HARD! I signed up for a duet, but my partner was sick, so I luck into a private class. Sue has me on machines I have not been on since around 2020. It is good!

Afterwards I walk to Mercado Sano to get groceries and take a cab to our rental apartment on the other side of town.

After I put groceries away, I take a long nap, call my Kindergarten girlfriend, Shirley, and we talk for 40 minutes.

Around 3, Brian comes home from visiting his buddy, Alberto, at his motorcycle shop. They tried to fix something, but it remains a mystery.

### *Charlotte!!! My Dog Guru!!!*

5pm: My dog guru, Charlotte Peltz will be 92 on May 14th!!!

We met Charlotte here in San Miguel in 2001 when she wrote articles for the English language newspaper, "Atencion." She sent an email today with a new phone number. Thank you, Charlotte. You are as sharp today as when I first met you! Congratulations on your good health!

Charlotte's wise articles are available on my website:

<https://joybeckner.com/living-with-your-dog/>

and...

Charlotte has a blogspot:

*Paws, Claws & Hooves: The Positive Way*

<https://charpeltz.blogspot.com>

[CharPeltz.blogspot.com](https://CharPeltz.blogspot.com)

May you and your pup enjoy her articles!

Feb. 21, 2026, 5.45pm: Yikes! Channel 5 in St. Louis, just announced that a 2012 bronze bust of famous writer, Kate Chopin, by my former sculpture teacher and friend, Jaye Gregory, was stolen in the Central West End. Fortunately, the theft was caught on camera. Now, Jaye and I have something more in common. We've each had a sculpture stolen. My "*So Good to See You, SS*", was stolen years ago from a public display in Grand Junction, CO. Luckily, both bronzes were returned.

I dearly miss Jaye and her husband, Zelli.

Feb. 22, 2026: Great! Indoor temperature at 1:52pm is 75 degrees! It will be cooler this afternoon, but with sunshine, it is much better than 32 degrees, that feels like 19 degrees, back home.

Feb. 23, 2026: Apple's "Pages" has been updated and I just figured out how to add color to the dates in my news. ;-))

This morning, we take Coltz to the local Dog Spa for his bath and toenail trim. Next we join long time friends, Carol Jackson and Art Bone for a delightful brunch at their home with Jim & Karen Quinn. We four met in a Warren Hardy Spanish class in 2005. I still get high school German mixed in with Spanish. ;-)) Thank you Art & Carol for a wonderfully delicious time!

I promise to show which pieces of my work are on sale in another newsletter.

*Thank you for reading my news about life in  
San Miguel.*

*I wish you a very Happy Spring 2026!*

*Sincerely, Joy*

*314-378-7032*

*<https://joybeckner.com>*

