

LA CHOZA DEL MUNDO

Newsletter February 2009



(Jessy Cowan Sharp, Julia Tizard, Robbie Schingler, Stephanie Gliege, Todd Khozein)

Welcome

Welcome to the late (apologies!) February 09 Choza newsletter. We have been quite busy!

Enjoy and as always, we would love to hear any feedback on our thoughts and plans in general so please don't hesitate to email us back or start a discussion online.

<http://www.chozadelmundo.com>
founders@chozadelmundo.com

Welcome to the Beta Membership!

The Choza has its first every members! Welcome all.

Over January and February 14 members signed up for the beta membership. These members will be our guides, muses and our critique's for the Choza and the membership program. And here they are:

Chris Rogers	Will Marshall
Kelly Snook	Jessica Ewing
Corrie Harper	Loretta Hidalgo
Matt Hancher	Sara Padidar
Joel Franusic	Joel Matamoros

(and the founders)

The Founders would like to thank all of the above for their support. We look forward to putting the Choza into practise with your help!

Summer Open Dates

As we mentioned in last months newsletter we have kicked off a 'private beta' mode membership for the Choza with a small group of interested Individuals to test drive the membership model through 2009.

In July and August the Choza will be open to receive the members and run its first operational mission. Members are invited to come to the Choza during these two months to explore the living and working opportunities at the Choza. The members group have already been brainstorming on the Choza membership through a dedicated members' discussion group.



We will be holding forums on the membership model and running both community and Choza projects to further their ideas over the summer open dates and will report back here on our progress in the coming months!

Introducing Annie & Spence

To kick off the first open Choza this summer in the best possible manner we have recruited two stewards to be resident at the Choza for the summer. They will look after the members stay, work on their own projects at the Choza and most importantly enable interaction between the local community and the Choza members and activities that are run over summer. They will be our ambassadors at the Choza. We are very excited to have them and feel they will make great contributions to the Choza. So welcome Spence and Annie! Find out more about them below:



Annie

Community members and future friends, hello! I'm Annie: cook, caretaker, confidant, and facilitator of visions both magical and mundane. I am very proud to introduce myself as one of the stewards of La Choza del Mundo for the summer of 2009.

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My background and interests are wide-ranging, covering everything from viticulture to virtual cartography with a whole lot of adventure in between. I've worked as an artist, gardener, cook, baker, and most recently, content editor of a virtual world for kids. (Thanks, Silicon Valley!) Along with formal culinary training and years of experience cooking in all sorts of challenging situations, I bring to the Choza an unquenchable curiosity, enthusiasm for hard work, and burning desire to live mythically. A summer of stories awaits. I can't wait to meet you all at the Choza!



Spence

Greetings fellow Choza revelers! I'm Spence/ Jackie. Feel free to call me either one. I am a colorful person bursting with enthusiasm, passion, and laughter, an avid communicator, collaborator, artist, tangüera, storyteller and self-professed fool. I am thrilled to be the second half of the Choza steward team, joining my best friend and international woman of mystery Annie Kopicko.

My passions are varied and have lead me down many paths. I trained in Fine Arts, studying Scenic Design at a Theatre Conservatory in Chicago. Theatre not only honed my artistic talents, it taught me the magic of collaboration and the sacred ritual of human expression. Following school I pursued several freelance gigs as a set designer, costumeire, carpenter, painter and artistic collaborator. Later I worked as a designer/salesperson for a Christmas Decorations and Horticulture company where I burnt myself out utterly. I quit, hawked my possessions on the front lawn and headed west to re-discover my bliss. I landed somewhere over the Rainbow and haven't looked back since.

I'm heading to Costa Rica with an open mind and big heart. Be prepared for tantalizing culinary delights, gut-wrenching laughter, fun with Ticos, sexy tango dancing and all-around musing in epic proportions. Annie and I are super excited to love and tend the Choza hearth and can't wait to know and collaborate with all of you. Thank you for this amazing opportunity to inspire and be inspired. Pura Vida.

Local Choza Update

There was a wind storm a few weeks ago where many trees fell in our area. A tree fell on the Choza, but it only dented the roof, and the house is fine. A few people lost their roofs in the area. We will try to use some of the fallen, soft, wood for furniture, and the hard wood for the Rancho.

The Rancho will get started this month, and should take 3-4 weeks to build once all the materials are gathered. See details of the Rancho in November and January's newsletters! They expect to use about 200 or 250 palma leaves for the roof, and the roof needs to be replaced every 3 years or so. The palmas need to be laid while they are green, and then dry out in place. We are very excited for this new structure!

Mainor is doing great at the Choza, and Robbie had breakfast with Juan's family on the weekend. We have a real affection for their family, the three brothers- Juan, Eric and Solein are all intelligent and inquisitive people, and their family has been very warm and welcoming to us. Juan is still attending university to be a math teacher while working at La Cangreja (the National Park) during the week. Solein is working on the delmonte banana plant, and Eric is working with his uncle running a vivero (greenhouse) and selling plants.

We still don't have a good handle on how we will be getting internet at the Choza. However, adoption is certainly increasing; the internet that is now in Mastatal is lightning fast, and they operate an internet cafe from the high school at certain times of the day. The internet is now also at the school in Zapaton, and will soon be coming to Concepcion.

Communications

- We have raised over a \$1000 for the Rancho so far, however we still need funds to get it to full potential so if you would like to donate please do!
- Todd's latest Blog is on the website; check it out!

If you would like to comment on any of the content in this newsletter, consider submitting a comment on the blog! <http://chozadelmundo.com/page/1>

Thanks!