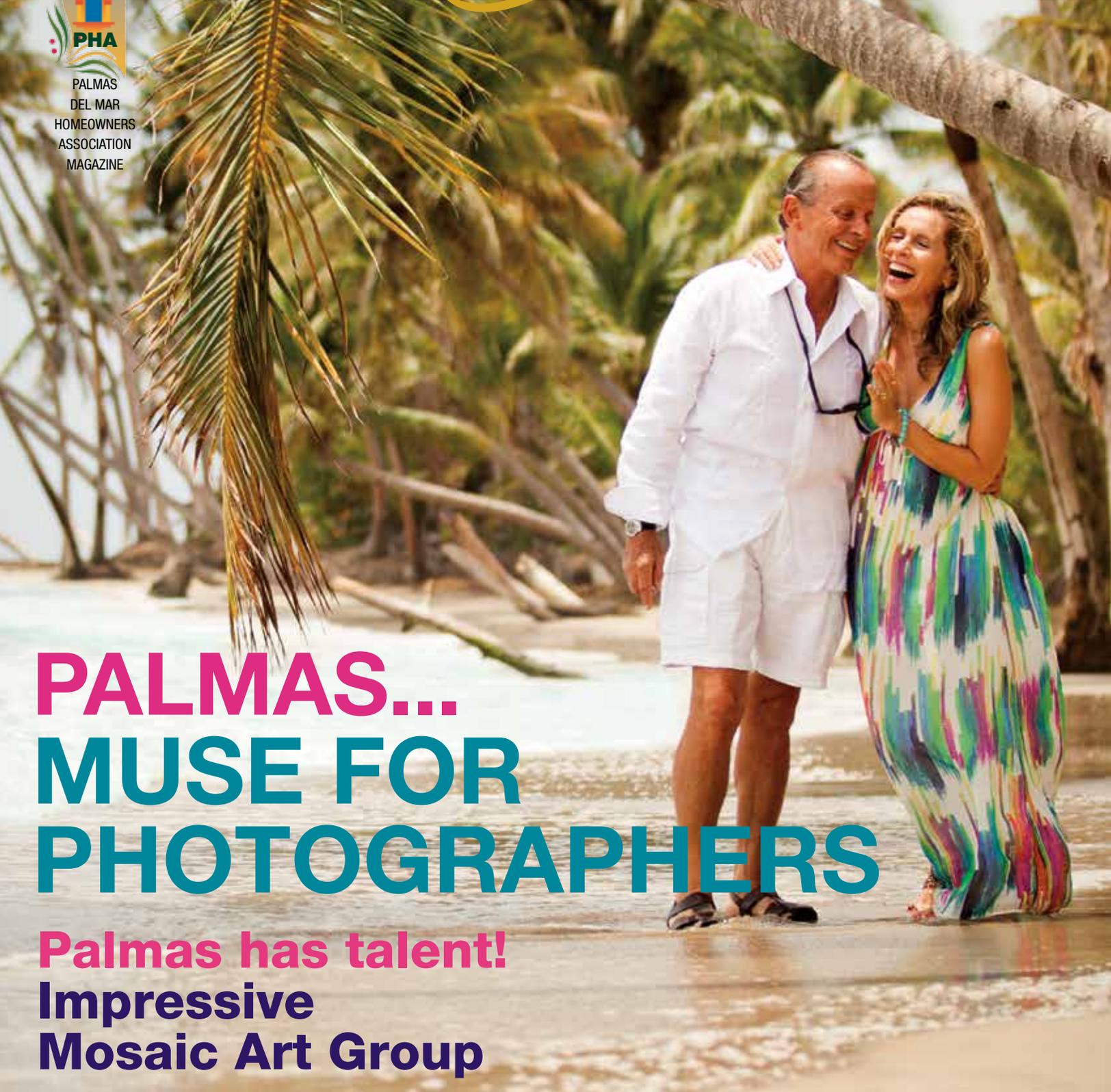


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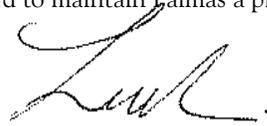
editor's corner



It's been a wonderful summer, except for the fact that my beloved daughter has been away doing an Internship with BP in Houston. I really miss her!

But...apart from that fact, you all know how Mother Nature has delighted us with a truly spectacle of light and color. The Flamboyanes, Reina de las Flores and the Robles have been absolutely exuberant! (In this edition you will find a graphic display of the show). We also had days and days of bright sun.

Maybe Mother Nature is celebrating Palmas' real estate renaissance. Because, different from other areas in Puerto Rico, Palmas del Mar properties are moving along. I have talked to most of our realtor's and they all have agreed and confirmed that a lot of properties in Palmas have been sold. These are definitely good news for everybody! I think people are realizing more and more that Palmas is a wonderful place to live, raise your children or retire. Where else in Puerto Rico do you find, on closed premises: a school, restaurants, a church, gyms, tennis, golf, beach, horseback's riding, a good grocery store, boutiques, coffee shops and a beautiful Yacht Club and Marina? Not to mention the cleanliness, the security and all the activities organized by Palmas del Mar Homeowner Association and our Palmas Athletic Club. We are definitely blessed! Let's keep working hard to maintain Palmas a piece of Paradise on earth, a place we call home. ▲



Lissette Rosado, Editor live.lifeinpalmas@gmail.com

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PATRICIA GOMEZ

Childrenswear Designer of the Year Nominee

By Lisette Rosado

Patricia is the daughter of Marivel Avilés, a very prestigious interior designer of our community and a woman very committed to many causes. Patricia, her beloved daughter, just came back from Parsons, The New School of Design. Four years that changed her life forever. "This years not only made me a professional in the fashion industry, but it made me a confident and stronger person," said Patricia.

The results are evident. Those years awakened her as a professional designer in love with her cultural roots and determined to turn upside-down fashion concepts. (Like mother like daughter) I know Marivel is really proud of these results.

For her senior year, Patricia created a collection aimed for girls between the ages of eight to fifteen that she named "Esplumao", the Puerto Rican colloquial way of saying "featherless."

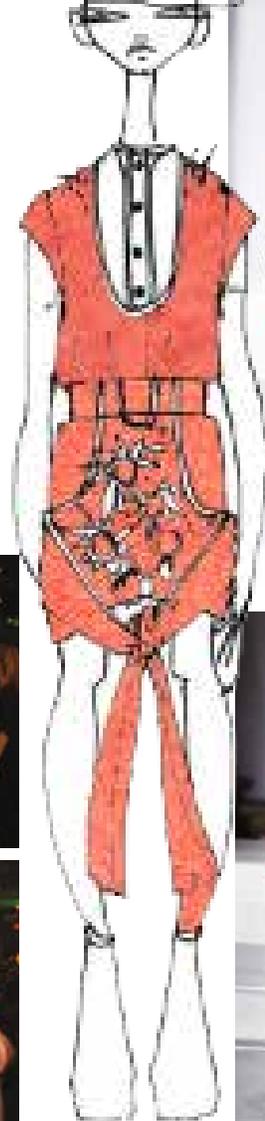
"When I was a little girl my grandfather once took me to a cockfight. This shocking event left such a lasting impression on my young, innocent mind, that to this very day, I can still relive that moment in vivid detail. The whole scene of it all was too much to digest in merely one hour: the smell of dry grass, the animals ruffling their feathers, lunging and pecking at each other while the owners stood watch right behind them. The hectic spectators screaming and drinking, money flying around, and my tiny hand squeezing my grandfather's firm grasp—just staring in amazement...observing the chaos, but taking an even closer look at my people, at my jungle," stated Patricia. Evidently this experience created a strong footprint in her way of seeing life. Patricia, who loves to tell stories, made of this fall's 2012 collection for children, a narration about her desire for Puerto Ricans to fully become one with ourselves. "It does not have to be an issue of one versus the other, but rather an issue of growing as unique individuals. It is not the past or the future. Instead, it is simply a matter of taking what we have and creating something with it that is uniquely ours. We may not be an independent country, but we can be proud and free in so many ways. The fashion that sprouted from this complex girl is geared toward children who love being different and creating their own little worlds," she explained.

After presenting her collection to the jury of fashion personalities, including executives from Ralph Lauren, Patricia was chosen as a "Children's-wear Designer of the Year" nominee. "I had the opportunity to present my collection at the prestigious Parsons Benefit Fashion Show where only 30 students are selected. This year the fashion show were dedicated to Donna Karan, who was present at the show," Patricia explained.

Thanks to the huge exposition from this Show she had the opportunity of being published in many international and National magazines.

"It has been a very intensive month of changes and opportunities. Now with my BA degree I will start working and with God's favor I will continue putting the name of Puerto Rico en alto." This summer she plans on working on a commercial line for kids and then go back to New York to continue acquiring experience. She has very clear goals, in six years she plans to have her own children's line.

I am impassioned and intrigued by this industry. For me as a designer, it is important to always work on something new and different. My biggest inspiration is my country, my identity and my people. No matter where I go, I will always come back home, where I was born. ▲



Patricia with Donatela Versace





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PALMAS MOSAIC ART GROUP

By Lissette Rosado



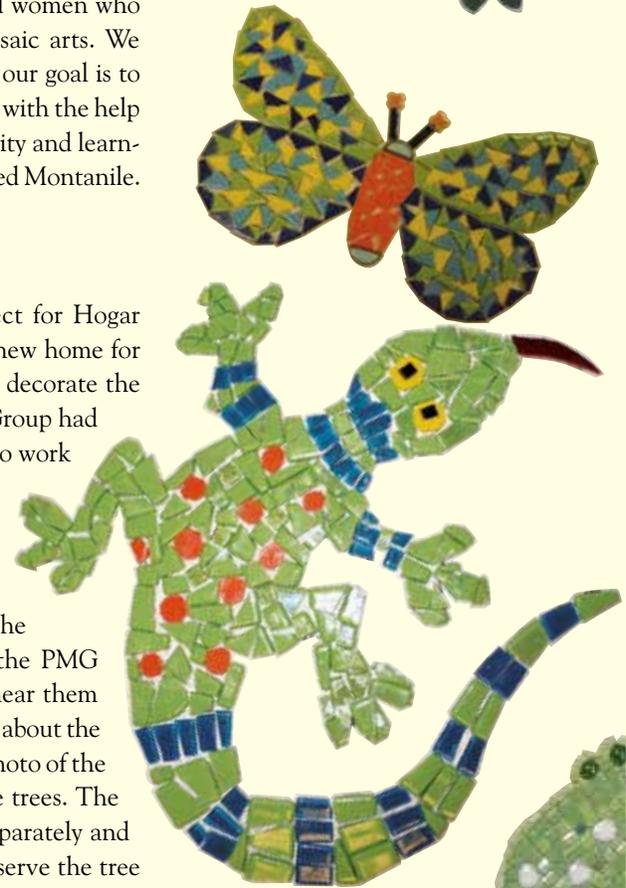
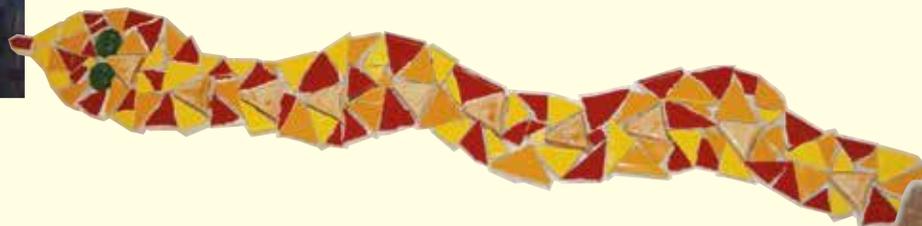
When I heard about the group I thought they were doing some amateur artwork but when I saw some photographs of their work I was impressed. But... when I visited their little cave I was astounded! It's impressive what they have created in silence, without making any waves. They started like many things in life, with a passionate group of people that wanted to create magic. "We started a small group and then we took classes with Eddie Ferraioli (you can see his influence in their art) and then one day Daniel Vasse offered us this space," said Brenda Montanile, one of the group's leaders.

"Palmas Mosaic Arts is a group of like minded women who meet to share their love and knowledge of mosaic arts. We have explored many ways to create mosaics and our goal is to continue to study and develop our personal styles with the help of our fellow members. PMA is a place of creativity and learning, where we share and grow as individuals," stated Montanile.

HOGAR CASA CUNA PROJECT

Currently they are involved in a huge project for Hogar Cuna in Caguas, who happens to be building a new home for the adoptive children. They asked them to help decorate the kids' bathrooms. And since the Palmas Mosaic Group had been looking for a way to put their new passion to work on community projects they could see no better beginning than volunteering for this wonderful organization.

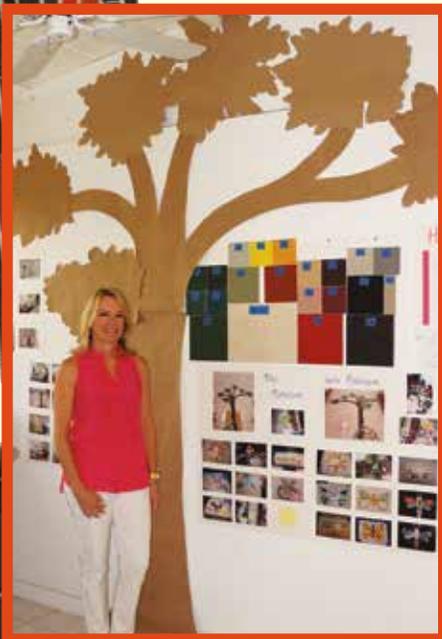
"We are creating two playful mosaic "tree scenes", one for the girls bathroom and one for the boys bathroom", said Linda dajdfakdj, one of the PMG members and designer of the tree. But, if you hear them explain the project, you would never stop to think about the dimensions and the details. That's why I took a photo of the "domi" on the wall to portray the real size of the trees. The most amazing thing is that every part is made separately and then, on the spot, they put it together. If you observe the tree it has like little blue tapes with numbers on it. There is where some of the butterflies, birds, snakes etc will be placed. It's like a giant puzzle. A beautiful giant puzzle! It's really impressive. ▲



BEST KEPT SECRET!



From left to right: Jeannette Bertran, Liza Castillo, Gabi Harvie, Linda Vizcarrondo, Brenda Montanile and Diane Clouser.



Putting it all together!

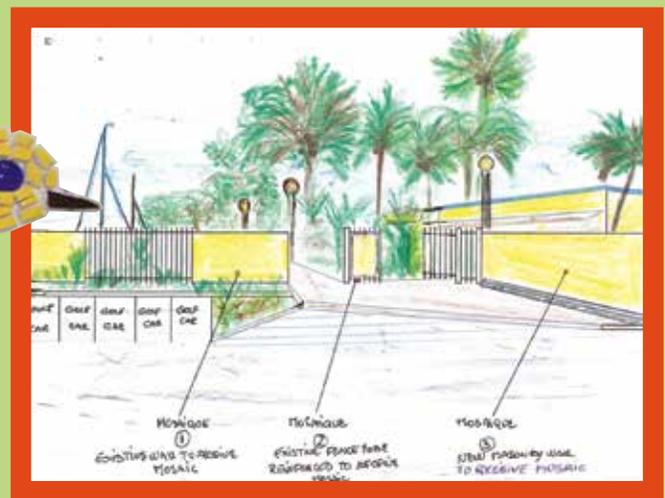


A photo of Linda Vizcarrondo, one of the Palmas Mosaic Art Group and designer of the trees for you to appreciate the size of the trees.

DETAIL



VOLUNTEER ARTISTS AT WORK...



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The Palmas Mosaic Group is excited to embark upon their next community project right there in Anchor's Village, Palmas del Mar. "We will be constructing a mosaic "glass" decorated wall at the entrance of the Marina complex under the design and supervision of the renowned mosaic artist and Palmas resident, Eddie Ferraioli. Are new members welcome? Yes, you can join this magnificent group. Stop by Anchors Village. They are located between Bistro Rico and Tapas Bar.

A special recognition to: Daniel Vasse, who is donating the space; Impec for donating all the tiles for the artwork and to Eddie Ferraioli. They all are key pieces for making this happen at Palmas. Another great addition to our community's achievements. Palmas does it better. No doubt! ▲

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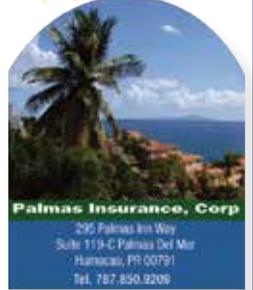
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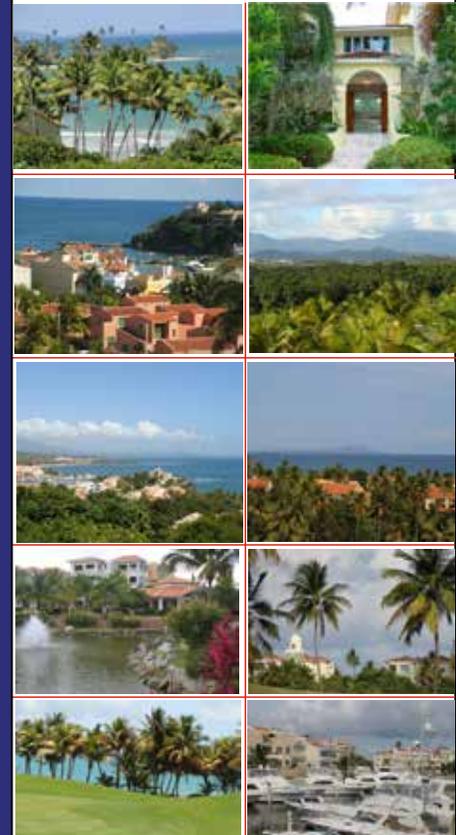
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By Lissette Rosado

Elizabeth Montanile was born and raised in Palmas del Mar. We saw her recently in the Tapas tree article as a little girl. Now she is a beautiful and a successful young adult. Elizabeth attended The Palmas Academy until the 9th grade. From there she attended a boarding school in upstate New York called Kildonan. Kildonan is a school that specializes in teaching dyslexic students. "They approach teaching in an unusual way and look at the different gifts that each student has. They encourage and develop all of our skills and talents," Elizabeth explained. "I took my first photography class there and loved it! Upon graduating I felt that I had to go to college, like it was something I had to do, but being there I felt that I was not where I was suppose to be. Looking back at what I had learned in high school and my love for photography I found Hallmark Institute of Photography; I fell in love at first sight. Finishing the intense 10-month program was the hardest thing I have done so far in my life, but also the best. They had the most amazing teachers and I met many other students that were very helpful with my portfolio and technique but we were also having fun with and without the camera," she stated proudly.

Palmas through the lens of the students of the Hallmark Institute

In May, three photography students came with Elizabeth to photograph the beauty of Palmas del Mar and its residents for their final year-end portfolios. Elizabeth Montanile, Gabrielle Spaulding, Brian Arnold and Ryan DeVoll spent an intense week in Palmas finding sites and prospective models to take photographs to use as part of their final portfolios that they present at a year-end review of each student's photography training at Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. During the Portfolio Review process, a panel made up of working professional photographers critically analyzed each individual student portfolio to determine whether or not it possesses the necessary technical and artistic skills to qualify the student for employment in the field of professional photography and imaging. The following three powerful industry leaders reviewed the class of 2012: Simon Alexander, Lois Greenfield and Grant Peterson. All four students passed their review with flying colors! Here are some samples of their work.

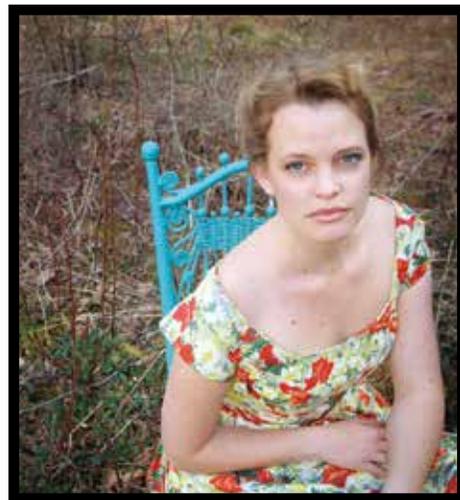
It was clear that Palmas was a very important part in the equation.

The students felt that their pictures from Puerto Rico set their portfolios apart from their classmates'. Our cover, Ryan DeVoll's and all this beautiful photos are testimony of their work, Good job! ▲

BRIAN KEITH ARNOLD



GABRIELLE SPAULDING



ELIZABETH MONTANILE



ELIZABETH MONTANILE

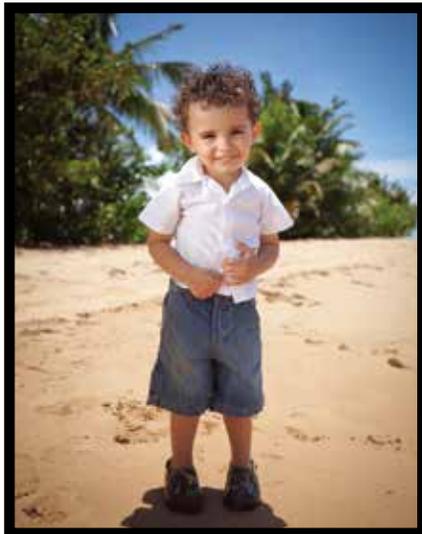




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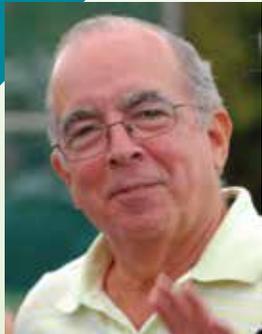
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Válido del 26 de junio al 23 de septiembre de 2012. Planes de Entretenimiento de Claro TV disponibles sólo para nuevos clientes residenciales de Puerto Rico. La programación y precios de los Planes de Entretenimiento están sujetos a cambios. Requieren verificación de crédito. Depósitos pueden ser requeridos según el índice del consumidor. [1] "Triple Play": El Plan de ofertas integradas Internet+Telefonía+Televisión ("Triple Play") de \$39.99 incluye el Plan de entretenimiento Esencial +Español, 300 minutos de llamadas en zona local, y servicio Claro Internet de hasta 512Kbps. Precio sujeto a que no se excedan los minutos del plan. Línea telefónica incluye 8 servicios verticales. Modem Wifi incluido. Costo del minuto adicional en zona local es de \$0.05. Incluye contrato de mantenimiento. Requiere contrato de 12 meses. Servicio de larga distancia es con Claro Larga Distancia, tarifa por minuto intrasla y hacia EE.UU. es de \$0.08 el minuto. La tarifa de larga distancia internacional dependerá del país llamado. Para información de tarifas por país, llame al (787) 749-2000. La cancelación de todos o algunos de estos servicios sin cumplir con los términos de cancelación vigentes al momento de la misma, podrían conllevar penalidades y devolución del módem u otros equipos. Tarifas regulares aplican si el cliente cancela alguno de los servicios incluidos en el "Triple Play". Planes no incluyen cargos asociados a equipos ni programación adicional. Costos no incluyen impuestos o cargos gubernamentales. En los casos de cuentas con contrato "Stand Alone" expirado el contrato de 12 meses, los precios aplicables al plan de entretenimiento seleccionado será el precio regular al momento de la expiración más el cargo regular mensual de decodificador, salvo que el cliente renueve el contrato en cuyo caso aplicará el precio de la oferta seleccionada. En los casos de "Triple Play" expirado el contrato de 12 meses, la renta mensual del decodificador gratis será facturada a precio regular, salvo que el cliente renueve el contrato en cuyo caso aplicará el precio de la oferta seleccionada. [2] Oferta de la renta mensual de un (1) decodificador HD o Digital Gratis (Reg. \$5.00 mensual) aplica al suscribirse a cualquiera de los planes: Esencial +Español, Basic o Basic+ con un acuerdo de 12 meses. Penalidad de \$60.00 por el decodificador HD o digital o \$72.00 por decodificador DVR/HD aplica si el servicio es cancelado antes de los 12 meses del contrato. Después de los 12 meses la renta mensual del decodificador será facturada a precio regular. El plan Prime+ incluye gratis un (1) decodificador DVR/HD, no incluye ni puede cambiarse por decodificador HD o digital. Otros paquetes y planes con otras ofertas y a otros costos disponibles. Otro(s) restricciones, términos y condiciones podrían aplicar. [3] Instalación gratis de Claro TV aplica sólo a clientes nuevos al suscribirse a un contrato de por lo menos 12 meses y activar hasta 5 televisores a la vez; posteriormente aplica cargo de \$75.00 por cada televisor adicional. Cancelación temprana del contrato conlleva penalidad de \$79.99 por la instalación del primer televisor y \$50.00 por la instalación de cada televisor adicional. Garantía de por vida en equipos aplica sólo a decodificadores y controles remotos, no aplica a antenas. Para ver los canales y/o eventos en Alta Definición se requiere decodificador HD o DVR/HD, a un costo adicional dependiendo del plan seleccionado. Además, una conexión con cable "HDMI" o "Component". Para más información sobre Claro Internet y/o Claro TV, comuníquese con Servicio al Cliente [787] 775-0000 ó visite un kiosco, Tienda Claro o acceda www.clarotodo.com. Conéctate en los cientos de Hot Spots ahora Claro Wifi a través de toda la Isla. Claro TV es un servicio de televisión por satélite. Claro y Claro TV son marcas registradas de PRT. 071312/#39776



THE PRESIDENT says...



Summer is almost over and many of us are going to begin a new cycle as school starts and routine goes back to normal. Also we are in the middle of the hurricane season and, although so far we have been very fortunate, we need to remain alert and have a plan ready in the event of that bad weather comes our way.

Palmas is looking better than ever; landscaping, roads, the regimes, the golf courses and all the main amenities are in great condition. This is not by happenstance. It is the result of putting your assessments to work for the benefit and the quality of life of our community and investing in those things that will enhance the values of our properties. Similarly we continue to pay special attention to the overall security of our community and the wellbeing of our residents and the results being achieved readily attest that our Palmas del Mar is the best community of its kind to reside in Puerto Rico. In this regard, allow me to remind our residents and property owners that we are the ones called to protect our homes and to make our visitors aware of the rules that govern our community. Our property begins at the main gate and anything or anyone observed out of line should be reported to the PHA management staff and, if necessary, to our security department. Palmas is ours and we each of us have a role in its conservation and protection.

As we began to experience last year, the positive trend of people choosing Palmas as their place of residency continues in 2012. This is certainly good news and bodes well for the future of our community particularly in view of the economic stress upon the housing market witnessed these past years. This is another indicator of the premier place that has become of our community and the attraction it holds for those seeking their dream place to live and raise a family. We will continue to maximize our efforts to sustain this trend.

The challenges are many but so are the opportunities. Let us remain united in purpose and focused in our objectives. We are counting on your support.

Servando

HURRICANE SEASON REMINDER!

Don't be lull into a false sense of security because of the lack of hurricane activity, so far, in our area. We are now well into the hurricane season and by now you should be ready to meet any threats that this type of phenomena may pose. Your preparations should be complete, your inventory of critical items ready and your safe haven identified and prepared.

As in years past, in the event of a hurricane an Emergency Response Team led by PHA with security and maintenance crews will be ready to handle last minutes preparations and immediate deployment after hurricane passage. These teams will be performing the critical jobs of initial damage assessment, road cleaning and property security.

It is imperative that you remain in your home or shelter during the first hours immediately following hurricane passage to allow emergency response



teams to perform their functions so that later on you may be able to move around in a safe manner. Palmas security will be exercising strict control of movement of people and vehicular traffic throughout Palmas. Only emergency response vehicles will be allowed to circulate initially. Access to Palmas will be limited to residents and official vehicles. Security checkpoints will be established to exercise control of major residential and development areas. Only properly authorized personnel will be allowed through these points. This is being done for your security and safety as well as for the protection of your property.

Your cooperation, patience and understanding in the event of a hurricane emergency are a must. You can review the entire PHA Contingency Plan at www.palmaspha.com or you may ask your Regime Administrator or Regime President for a copy of the plan. Stay alert, stay ready!

FINES FOR LOOSE DOGS!

The Restrictive Covenants that govern the community of Palmas del Mar prohibit allowing dogs to run loose or unleashed. However, this is becoming a problem in certain residential and common areas as owners are allowing their dogs to roam freely often attacking other pets and scaring walkers, bikers and joggers. In view of this situation, the membership and regime delegates at the PHA Annual Meeting have requested that a system of fines be established to penalize dog owners who violate the restrictions outlined in the governing documents of the community. Accordingly, effective September 15, 2012, Security Officers and PHA inspectors will issue fines for the violation of this restriction. Fines will range from \$50 first offense to \$100 and \$150 for second and third time offenders. Please help keep our community safe and orderly. Keep your dogs leashed!



GOLF CART USE REMINDER!



Please remember that minors under 16 are not allowed to drive golf carts in Palmas Del Mar. This restriction is part of the contract that you sign with PHA when you register your cart and part of the contract you sign with rental companies when you rent a golf cart. The restriction applies at all times even when the minor is accompanied by an adult while driving the cart. This is done as a safety precaution to protect your children as

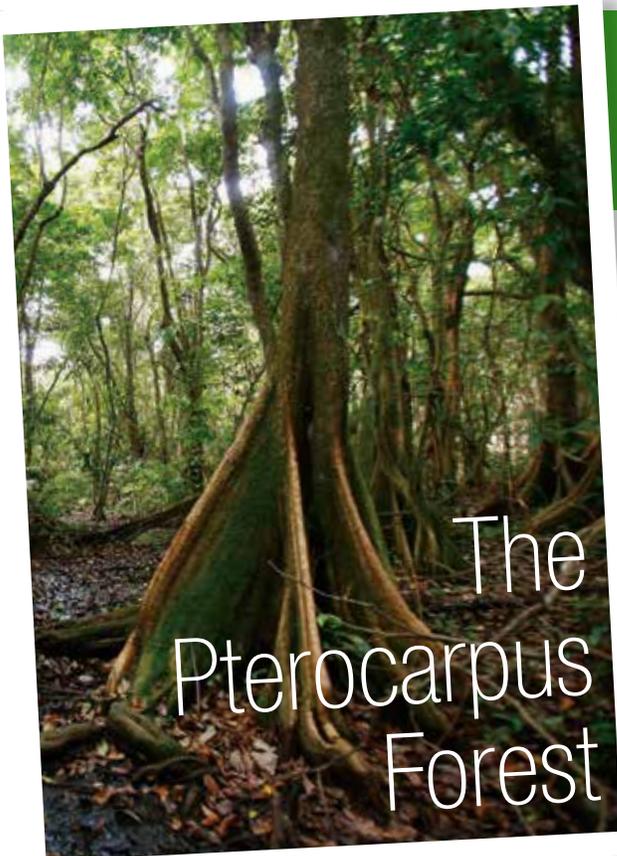
many serious accidents have been recorded over the years involving youngsters driving this type of vehicles. Palmas Security will issue a \$150 fine for violating this restriction.

Forest Update

Each day more and more community members are joining the PHA project to restore the Palmas Forest and its Boardwalk to build a passive park at this entrance. The restoration and preservation of this gift from Mother Nature is the most important legacy we can leave behind for generations to come. Soon we will be installing the first 500 feet of the boardwalk (total approx.. 2500 feet). Please join our neighbors and friends who have already stepped forward to be counted in this noble and magnificent effort. Send or call (787)285-6425.

FOREST FUND DONATION CATEGORIES AND DONORS AS OF JULY 20, 2012

MAGA (\$0-\$50)	ROBLE (\$51-\$175)	AUSUBO (\$176-\$250)	GUAYACAN (\$251-\$499)	CEIBA (\$500-\$999)	PTEROCARPUS (\$1,000 AND UP)
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 - They help the unemployed establish their own business
 - They form community leaders
 - They provide tutoring to children lagging in academics
 - They provide physical, psychological, speech and occupational therapy
 - They prevent school desertion and teen pregnancy in 10 municipalities
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 - They provide employment to 104 persons during difficult economic times.
- What would happen then if you do not help?**

ÁRBOLES Y ARBUSTOS



Por Frank Torres

* This article in translation will be published in www.lpalmas.com and at the PHA web page: <http://palmaspha.org>

Puerto Rico es una isla oceánica. A diferencia de una isla continental como Trinidad a escasamente unas cinco millas del Continente Sur Americano, nuestra biota (seres vivos) se enfrentaron a largas travesías oceánicas por medio de troncos y otro material flotante para poder ocupar y poblar nuestra Isla. Trinidad no tiene esta barrera geográfica favoreciéndole la inmigración de la gran riqueza de especies que ocupa el Continente. Por otro lado, la propia barrera de grandes distancias del mar que nos separa, tampoco permite un intercambio genético de las especies que de alguna manera arribaron y lograron establecerse en la Isla. Con el transcurso de millones de años ocurren cambios genéticos en estas especies aisladas en nuestra Isla que por lo general no se diluyen con la influencia constante de inmi-

graciones de la misma especie como ocurre en Trinidad. El ejemplo clásico de estos cambios genéticos ocurridos en aislamiento son el caso de los Gorrións de las Islas Galápagos, de la cual se formaron trece especies únicas en el mundo y dieron la clave a Charles Darwin para su exposición de la Teoría de Evolución. Estas surgieron de un solo gorrión de la especie Volatina jacarina, que se presume arribó de la costa occidental de Sur América donde es abundante. Cada una con diferentes picos y tamaños del cuerpo para alimentarse de diferentes semillas de la especie que logro llegar y establecerse en estas Islas. Los cambios genéticos se fueron seleccionando en ausencia de competencia de otros pájaros que le permitieron ocupar diferentes funciones de alimentación (semillas grandes, pequeñas, insectos etc.). De una sola especie se formaron trece permitiéndoles ocupar diferentes nichos ecológicos, inclusive una que puede alimentarse de larvas de insectos en los troncos de árboles sin tener el pico de un pájaro carpintero, solo utilizando espinas de cactus. Claro está, en cuanto a distancia, las Galápagos son el extremo. A Puerto Rico la entrelaza un archipiélago de islas que sirven de peldaños y las distancias con el Continente Americano no son tan grandes.

Como resumen de esta introducción, una Isla oceánica tiene menos especies que una Isla

continental pero tiene más especies endémicas (exclusivas solo de la Isla, o sea no presentes en ninguna otra parte del mundo). Puerto Rico tiene un buen número de especies endémicas. Algunos ejemplos son el coquí, el San Pedrito y sobre la flora, el Ortegón (*Cocoloba rugosa*) la cual es muy abundante en Palmas pero no en otros lugares de la Isla (vea la foto 1). El Ortegón con sus hojas grandes, arrugadas y gruesas pertenecen al mismo género (grupo) de la uva playera pero esta ocupa las zonas boscosas del sureste Puerto Rico.

Otro factor que regula la abundancia de especies en una Isla es su entorno natural. Contrario a la Galápagos que son semidesérticas, Puerto Rico tiene un alto relieve; valles, altas montañas y diferentes orígenes de sus suelos; volcánicos, coralinos con amplios valles costeros de aluvión. Como si fuera poco, además la bañan los vientos alisios que nos llegan cargados de humedad. Esta se precipita en forma de lluvia sobre la ladera Norte de las montañas. La orientación de las montañas nos ofrece otra condición favorable a una mayor diversidad de la flora. Su Cordillera Central y la Sierra de Luquillo, con su orientación de Esta a Oeste les ofrecen una barrera a los vientos alisios que provienen del NE. Ello fuerza esta masa de aire saturada de humedad a subir por sus laderas rápidamente. Este efecto es conocido como convección orográfica. Naturalmente al subir baja la presión atmosférica, se expande y se enfría esta masa de aire. O sea nos llega una brisa de aire cálido y saturado de humedad del océano y cuando baja su temperatura, pierde la parte de su capacidad de retención de agua. Es el fenómeno que se conoce por los meteorólogos como el punto de rocío o humedad relativa y en ingles, "dew point" provocando lluvias que sobrepasan en lugares como el Yunque el promedio de 300 pulgadas anuales. Esta condición se invierte cuando el viento



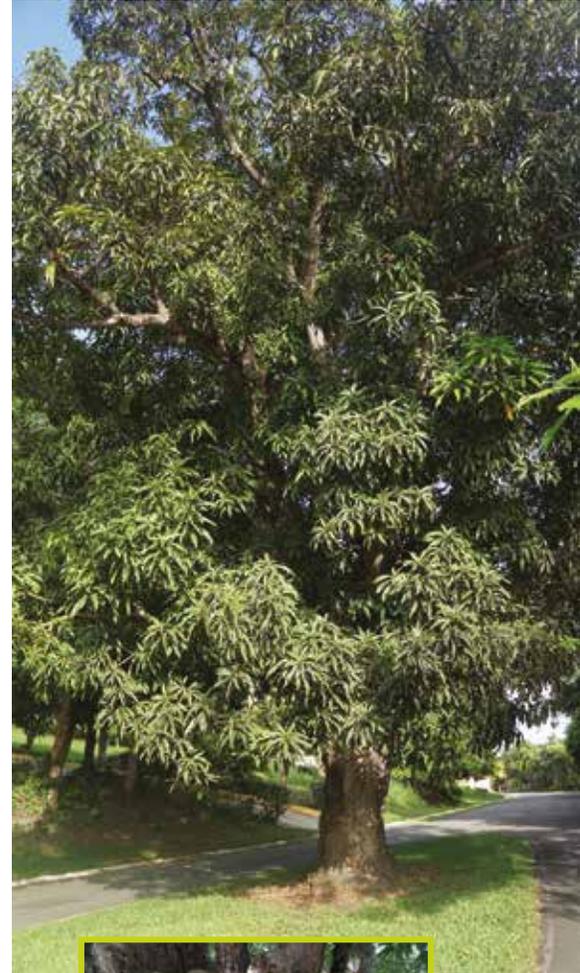


supera las cumbres de nuestras cordilleras. En su descenso se contrae y se calienta. Ello le hace aumentar su capacidad de retención de agua y se torna en una atmosfera secante, extrayendo la humedad de la tierra. La lluvia al lado sur de la Isla es menor y de ambiente seco, conocido por los ecólogos como la sombra de las montañas. Son muy pocos los lugares del mundo en los cuales en menos de 100 millas si trazamos una línea recta de Fajardo a Guánica, podemos experimentar cambios tan extremos en el patrón de lluvia, fluctuando en este recorrido de 80 pulgadas a 300 a 30 en el bosque seco de Guánica. Ello claro está creando una gran diversidad de hábitats en nuestro entorno natural para una mayor diversidad de nuestra flora en tan corto espacio.

En las costas, semillas que flotan y son resistentes al salitre, pueden ser transportadas por las corrientes marinas germinando en remotas playas. Por eso tenemos en nuestras playas especies de árboles playeros como la uva playera (*Cocoloba uvifera*) y los mangles. En particular el mangle rojo (*Rhizophora mangle*)

que se encuentran alrededor de toda la franja tropical de nuestro planeta conocidas como especies pan tropicales (ver fotos 2 y 3).

El último factor a considerar lo es la influencia del hombre. Conocido como los efectos antropogénicos. Por un lado ha mermado nuestra flora nativa para fines agrícolas, desarrollos urbanos y otros pero por otro lado ha introducido voluntaria o involuntariamente sobre doscientas especies de árboles y arbustos en Puerto Rico. Tenemos dos veteranos en Palmas que son un ejemplo de ambos. Cuando viramos a la izquierda al final de Palmas Drive, la calle se bifurcó durante la construcción de este sector de Palmas para preservar dos árboles muy viejos; un Algarrobo (*Hymenea courbaril*) con tronco muy ahuecado y un mango (*Mangifera indica*) de tronco muy ancho y lleno de tubérculos el primero, abundante en las áreas tropicales de América y la Cuenca del Caribe, mermado en nuestra Isla y el segundo importado de la India y naturalizado en las mismas regiones que el anterior (ver fotos 4 y 5).





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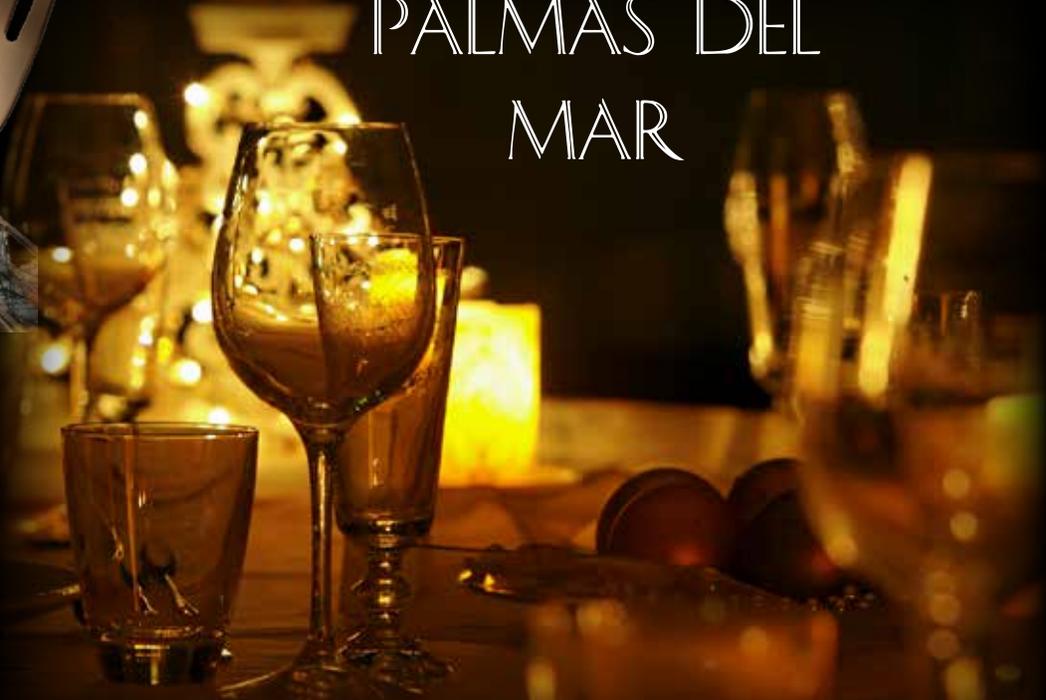
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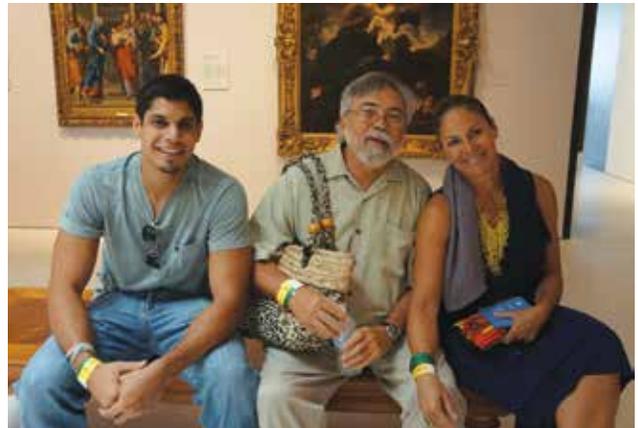
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A wonderful visit to THE MUSEUM...FROM GOYA TO GRECO AND



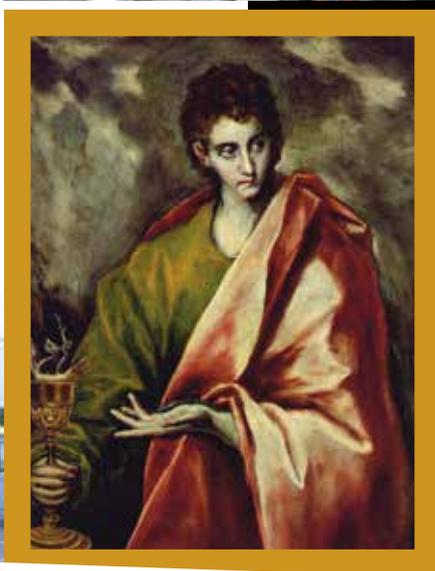
**A beautiful mosaic of our Palmeño
Eddie Frerraioli at the Ponce Museum.**

Ponce

MORE

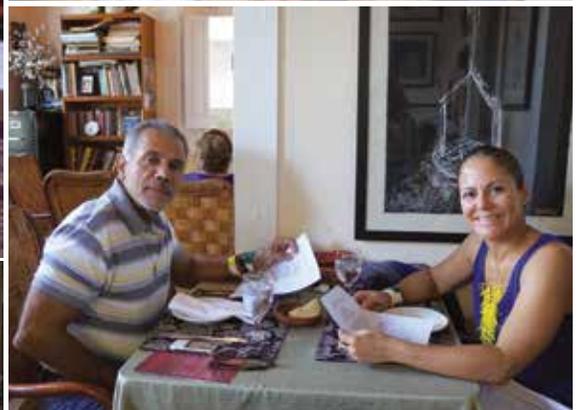
If you missed this trip to the Ponce Museum you should be sorry. It was a fantastic trip! From the moment we boarded the bus that took us to Ponce until the moment we got off (ten hours later) we were having fun. The visit to the Ponce Museum was excellent. Our guide took us on a time voyage through art. First we visited the El Prado -Greco to Goya collection- and then a selected visit to the Ponce Museum. "What a vision Don Luis had," I overheard several people comment. And it's true, Don Luis Ferré was a truly visionary and definitely the Ponce Museum is one of his greatest creations. After the Museum visit we had lunch in a wonderful little restaurant in the Ponce center called "La Casa de las Tías"(The Aunts' House). Whatever I say I will fall short. This is one of the best restaurants I have tried lately!! It's Boricua exquisite cuisine with a gourmet twist in a beautiful homey environment of an old colonial house in Ponce. I have known Wilda Rodríguez for many, many years but I never knew she was such a good chef. "Now it is hard to decide which one you do best, write or cook," I told her. Because, for those of you that don't know, Wilda Rodríguez, one of the owner and Chef of Las Tías, is also a very well known journalist. You can read her column's every other Monday in El Nuevo Día. (and by the way this is not an Ad, its a well deserved review)

After lunch we visited the Ponce Plaza to buy Chinese ice-cream and Quenepas. On the way back? Singing and dancing on the bus! Fun, fun, fun!! ▲



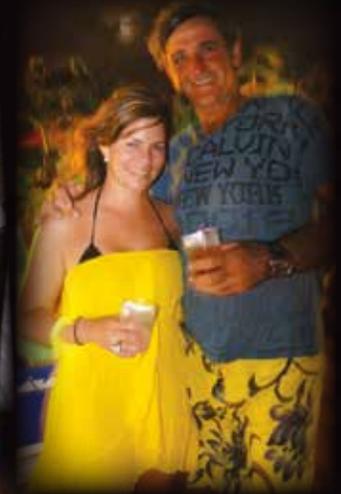
After the Ponce Museum... ¡La Casa de Las Tias!

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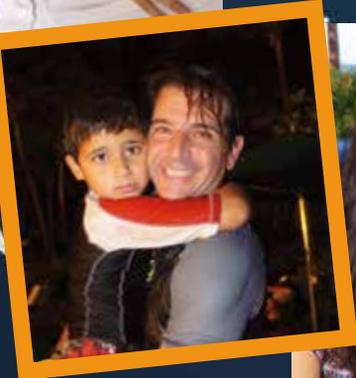
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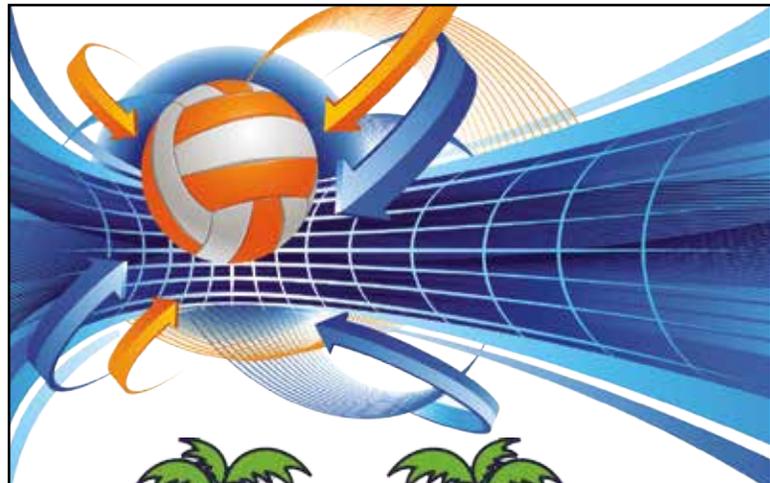


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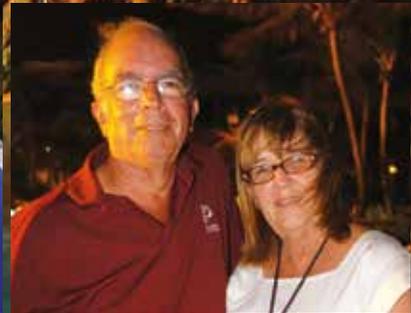
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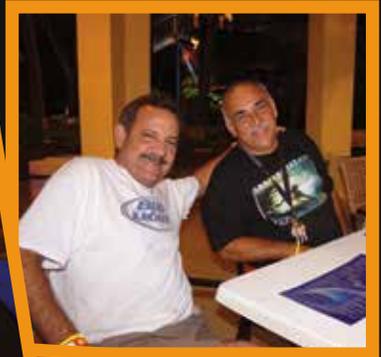
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noche de SAN JUAN





HOT SUMMMER TENNIS AT PALMAS PAC

By William Brown



Members and their guests love to spend time at one of the "Best Tennis Facilities in the World", which made 2012 Summer Time at the Palmas Athletic Club Tennis Courts exciting and lots of fun for Kids as young as 2 years and as old as 18 years to hang out at the tennis facilities. The start of Summer Time 2012 began with the

Junior II Open at Palmas Athletic Club Tennis Courts. Top Ranked Juniors participated in this two-weekend event. Tournament Director Hector Manuel Figueroa and his wife Negui directed the tournament in excellent fashion.

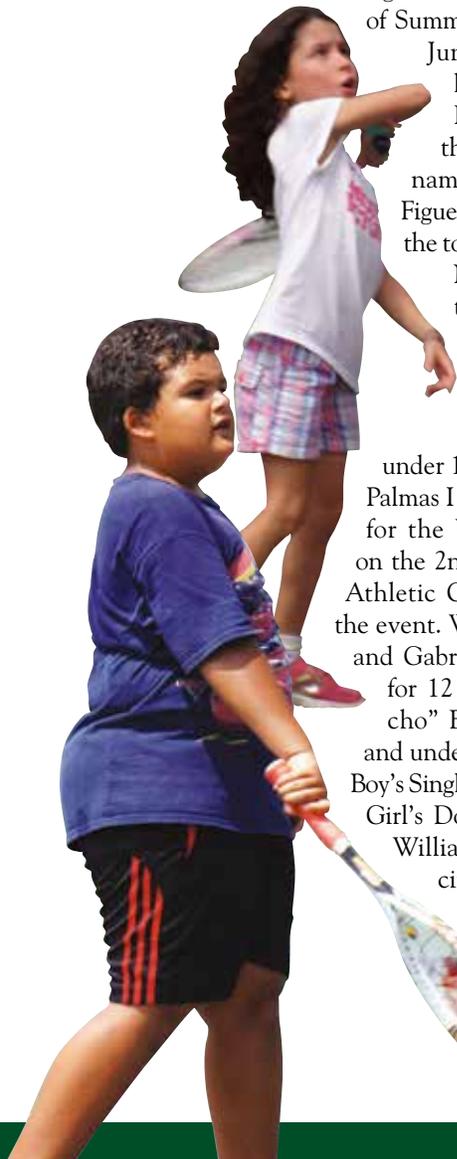
Next in line was the completion of regular season matches for the USTA Junior League Teams represented by the Tennis Club. These are under 12 Palmas I and Palmas II and under 18 intermediate and advanced. Palmas I 12 and Advanced 18 qualified for the USTA Caribbean Sectionals on the 2nd weekend of August. Palmas Athletic Club Tennis Center will host the event. William Brown, Kevin Ramirez and Gabriel Gonzales are the coaches for 12 and under and Ignacio "Nacho" Berasain is the Coach for 18 and under. Format line-up is as follows: Boy's Singles/Girl's Singles/Boy's Doubles/Girl's Doubles and a Mixed Doubles.

William says "We coaches are excited about this opportunity for Palmas I. The players are pumped to be representing the Palmas Athletic Club". Nacho adds, "I have an excellent advanced 18 team I

expect to travel to the states for the national 18 USTA Junior team tennis and represent PAC and Puerto Rico!"

The summer program was in full swing from June 1- July 27. A total of 85 kids attended the program.

Co-Founder and Secretary/Treasurer of PTF, PR (Premier Tennis and Fitness, Puerto Rico) Co-Tennis Director and summer program expert, Angel Diaz, directed and designed the schedule of games and activities. PTF assistants Ignacio "Nacho" Berasain, Yamil Davila, Sebastian Davila, Paul Mantezuma, Felipe Munez, Guillermo Diaz, Kevin Ramirez, Mariana Muñoz, Gabriel Gonzalez and Alejo Maurino did a fantastic job with the juniors and the "Little Ones". Special thanks to Gladys Torres for promoting and supervising the program along with complying with the responsibility of accounting. Gladys made sure that the participants had a healthy snack and a great lunch from the "Center Court Grill". Gladys will be leaving to Boston on July 28 to start her own company TSA (Top Sports Academy). Gladys spent several summers in Puerto Rico directing the Gigi Fernandez Nike Tennis Camp. Gladys expertise is sports management and accounting. We wish her great success in Boston!

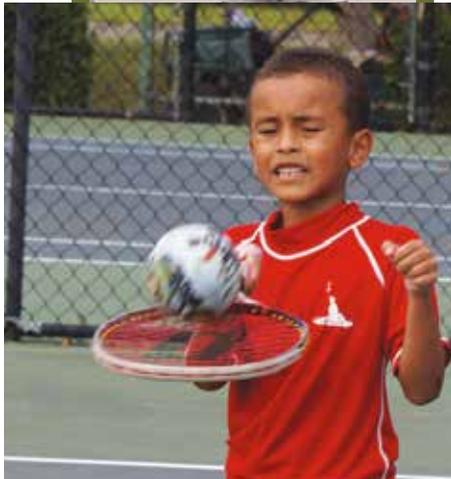




Palmas Tennis Professional Angel Diaz won the singles and doubles championship at the International Tennis Open 2012 @ Tortola British Virgin Island.

Week after week, the young junior players at all levels and ages came to learn the basics of tennis or improve on their already established skills. The program also included fun additional activities such as: Kite Flying, Water Gun games, Soccer on the tennis court, Water slide, Flour Fights, Beach Training, Beach Tennis, Dodge Ball, Ping Pong, Games at the Park for the “Little Ones” and Fun Drills and Tournaments.

Congratulations to PTF Co-Tennis Director Angel Diaz and Freddy Velez (Co-Tennis Director San Francisco Tennis Club) who traveled to Tortola in June to participate in the BVI Tennis Open. Angel and Freddy won the Doubles Championships and \$1,000.00 dollars in prize money. Angel captured the Singles Title and the prize money of \$2,000.00 dollars! They also teamed up at the Puerto Rico National Championships in July. They had a great tournament but lost in the semi-finals 6-2,4-6,7-5 to University of Miami Hurricane no. 1 singles player Gabriel Flores and San Diego State Aztec Senior Jose Sierra Short. Angel mentioned “Great Match the stands were jammed packed. My partner got a bit nervous at 4-3 in the third with a break up and Freddy serving”. Thirty-five year old Angel Diaz does a great job representing our club. Angel is a great example to our junior players when it comes to the “D and D” philosophy Discipline and Determination.



And finally, a short story about the “Diaz Cousins”. William Brown started giving both Carlos Diaz and Edgar Ruben Diaz private lessons when they were both 11 years old. William still coaches Edgar 3 times per week at 3 hours per session. 18 year old Carlos, a lifetime resident of Villa Franca and Tennis Member recently departed to Atlanta to attend the University of Georgia Tech. Carlos was ranked no.10 in the USTA Boy’s 18 Caribbean Section. He will try out for the tennis team at the University of Georgia Tech as a walk if his studies permit any extra time. Carlos studies are Mechanical engineering. Sixteen-year-old Edgar is ranked no.1 in Boys 16 and no.6 in 18’s. Edgar has been playing tournaments in the states and is hoping to play Division I tennis. William says “It has been a great experience coaching both Carlos and Edgar, it is amazing to witness to little guys grow up to be young men with “Big Hitting Forehands”. “I do not want to take all the credit for their development Angel has trained them both extensively over the years.” ▲

By: Dr. Rubén Chamorro

The Palmas Academy Educational Tours Program, under the enthusiastic direction of Mrs. Lizzy Sanabria, has been able to provide a real life experience of history, culture and art to the Academy students. After visiting places like Italy, France, Egypt and Eastern Europe, this summer the intrepid travelers headed to South America, destination, Perú, land of the Incas. After more than eight hours of air travel the group of 37, among students, teachers and parents arrived at Lima, capital city of Perú. Victor Hugo, the local tour director was very friendly and efficient throughout the trip. After visiting Lima's cultural sites the group flew to Cuzco. As expected, the altitude sickness took hold of some of the brave travelers. Not even the coca tea or other local remedies were enough for some. Cuzco has many archaeological sites to visit, bringing history to life. Photo opportunities were everywhere, the colorful clothes of the natives, the llamas and alpacas, the musicians, even a dance festival in the main Plaza Mayor. The students visited a girls orphanage where they shared their experiences, played, even taught them to dance reggaeton at their request. Also a generous donation was made to the orphanage in name of The Palmas Academy. Then, the highlight of the trip, travel by train to Macchu Picchu. To visit Macchu Picchu (Old Mountain in "kechua", the inca language, still in use in the Cuzco region) is extremely impressive. You can walk for hours through the massive edification's listening to the guides telling about the history of this sacred city. The young minds of the students will never forget this place. The last stop of the trip before returning back to the " present world" was a two-night stay at an eco-lodge in the Amazon jungle. After an hour and a half boat ride the group arrived at the Ecoamazonia Lodge. Staying in wooden bungalows without TV, wi-fi, cell phone signal, air-conditioning, etc, was a significant adventure for all. The schedule was full with activities like fishing, hiking through the jungle, feeding monkeys, visiting a native jungle family and even playing soccer with the lodge staff. Once again the students returned home with a wider vision of the World they live in and an awareness of the cultures of the World. ▲

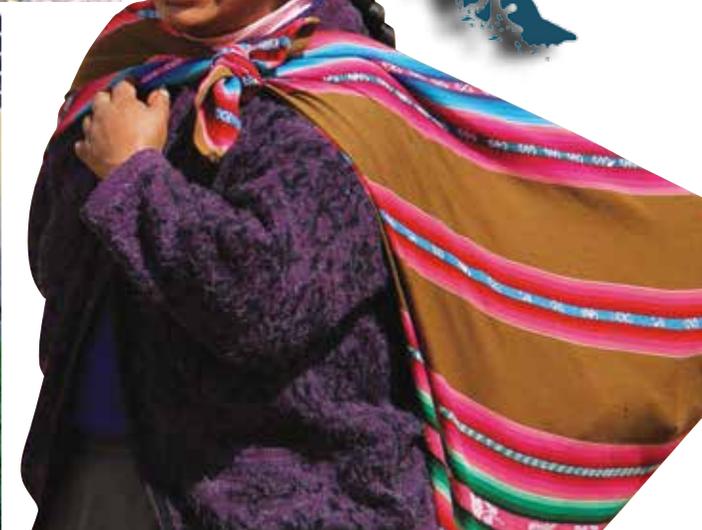
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PALMAS ACADEMY STUDENTS VISIT PERU



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Rev. Darrin Kessler embarks on a new mission

The Palmas community says good-bye to Rev. Darrin Kessler and his family after serving us for eleven and half years. Eleven years ago they boarded a plane with their seven-month-old daughter and a few things. They headed across the ocean to Puerto Rico to serve Palmas Community Church. When Darrin became pastor the church met at the Palmas Inn restaurant that was destroyed by hurricane George.

After a few years, they received an invitation to hold services at Palmas Academy where they have been since. Palmas Community Church is thankful for the Academy permitting use of their cafeteria for services. It is an example of how Palmas Academy continues to contribute to the overall health of the community.

The Kessler family is not giving up their call to help people and teach the truth of the Gospel. They are leaving Palmas to become missionaries in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic ("D.R.") is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. The nation's unemployment rate averages 17%, but in the poor slums it is as high as 45%. Those with jobs often work in sweatshop style factories for less than \$1 per hour. According to UNESCO, 38 percent of the country lives in slums and 43 percent of Dominicans have no access to proper sanitation.

The Kesslers will join a nonprofit ministry founded by Rod Davis, an African American who grew up in the projects of California, dealing drugs. After coming out of a life-threatening drug coma, Rod accepted Jesus as His Savior. A few years later, he felt God calling Him to go into the world with the Gospel of Christ. He arrived in La Vega, D.R. and asked where the worst neighborhood was located. Entering the poverty stricken barrio overrun by drugs and prostitution he said, "I know about this." Seventeen years later the barrio has been changed by the power of the Gospel. Even though the work is challenging, TEARS missionaries and national workers sacrifice in order to facilitate change. It is from this sacrifice they obtained their name: True Evangelism Always Requires Sacrifice ("TEARS"). The Kessler family is willing to leave the beauty of Palmas to serve in the Dominican Republic.

Rev. Darrin Kessler will use his training and experience to mentor, coach and train nationals to maximize resources and their abilities for long term community impact. Darrin will be involved in all areas of TEARS ministry which include: 19 churches, leadership training, a Dominican accredited private school for 165 poor children and a school of 80 Haitian children, a water purification plant and community development.

Rev Darrin Kessler first became involved with TEARS and work in the Dominican Republic in 2004. He determined it to be healthy for his congregation to be more global in their outreach. As a result, he began taking short term teams for ministry projects in poor communities. Since then, Palmas Community Church has assisted at least three families to have cement homes. They have also worked in a rural mountain community updating a solar system and water distribution. They have conducted medical clinics serving both Dominicans and Haitians. They set up a pharmacy and took doctors and medical professionals from Puerto Rico to render care to the disenfranchised population.

The Kessler family is now going to step out of their comfort zone to serve full time in the D.R. If you would like to know more about their ministry you can contact Darrin at kesslercolorado@yahoo.com. You can find out more about TEARS and the work they do at www.tears.org. If you would like to financially help the Kessler family's ministry you can contribute at www.tears.org Donate page. The Kessler family's accounting designation is "The Bridge." TEARS is a USA nonprofit so your contributions are tax deductible. It is secure giving as it is a Pay Pal system. .



A personal word from Rev. Darrin Kessler

"It has been a great eleven and a half years of serving and being served. I have learned and grown through the many people with whom I have had the privilege of knowing. I am thankful to have been a trusted part of many people's lives. I have done weddings and presented babies and their parents to God. As I welcomed new life I also was with families as they said goodbye to loved ones. Each time I walk by the waterfall at the tennis center I remember Heather and Barbara as I did both of their memorial services. I have had the privilege of being part of the Palmas Community as I participated in each opening ceremonies of the buildings at Palmas Academy as well as the new PHA building. I shared with many from the Palmas community at our traditional Sunrise service at the Beach Bohio and our Christmas Eve candlelight service. Our fall activities invited many families and young people the most recent with Osvaldo Rodríguez surfboard shaper and community worker. The people of my church have made a great impact in my life and I am forever thankful for their love and patience, as we have journeyed together exploring the truths of God in a real and relevant manner. Our goal has always been to live authentically not just doing church but being the church of God. Please contact me if you would like more information about our ministry in the Dominican Republic and blessings to all." ▲



Even though Rev. Kessler is leaving Palmas Community Church, Sunday services will continue at the Palmas Academy cafeteria at 10:15 am. If you would like more information about the church please contact them through the church website at www.palmascommunitychurch.com.



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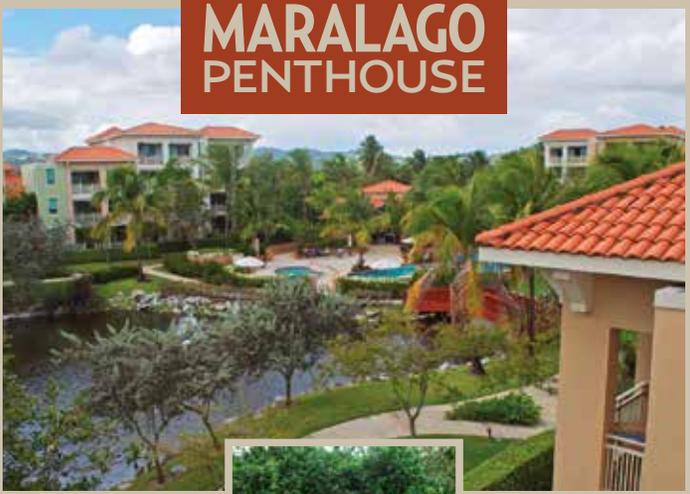
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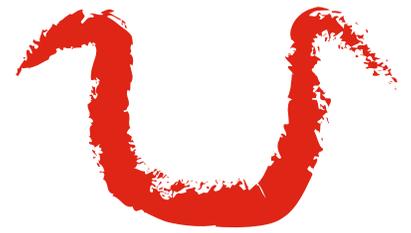
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Miss Puerto Rico Uni

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It was a long day of hard work. The day started with a welcoming message from Ing. Juan Gracia, our PAC Executive Director. From there, Jackie took us for a long two-hour power walk under the hot sun with XCO. We stopped at Marbella Club where Jim Harvey and his staff received the candidates. From Marbella we went to the Beach Club for water aerobics. Then we had a well-deserved nutritious lunch at C BAR where Carlitos and all his staff made the "sacrifice" to serve the girls. From there they went to a conference on nutrition. (I went home and rested!) To close the day we all took a two hour XCO and Flexi-Bar Master Class. I still wonder how they were able to walk the next day!! Definitely Palmas is an ideal place to exercise and we have the best trainer in the world! ▲

Visit to or PAC Club House

Powerwalk



Lunch at C Bar



verse

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Marbella Club
Visit



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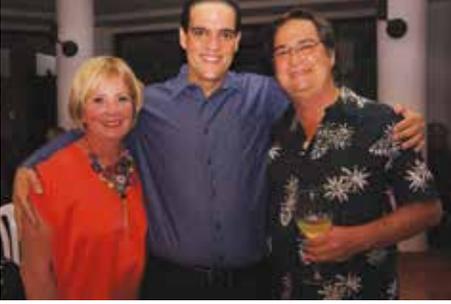
Juan Carlos Rodríguez

at the Yacht Club...

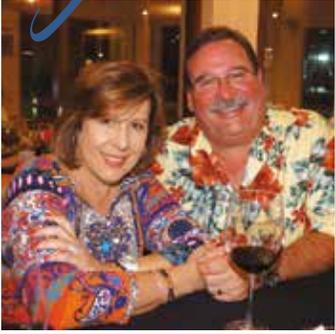
Outstanding

What a great night! Good music, good people and an outstanding performance by Juan Carlos Rodríguez and Martín Nieves. It was truly a tribute to Fathers' Day. Juan Carlos mainly performed popular songs with a couple of superb classical interventions. The acoustics of the Yacht Club proved to be perfect for this type of performance and Cuquito promised us that there would be more. After Juan Carlos, the only brave man that dared to sing was Edwin Pérez and did an outstanding job...and he definitely has the corresponding spirit and demeanor. Here is graphic proof of his performance. ▲





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A dream come true... at the Palmas Yacht Club



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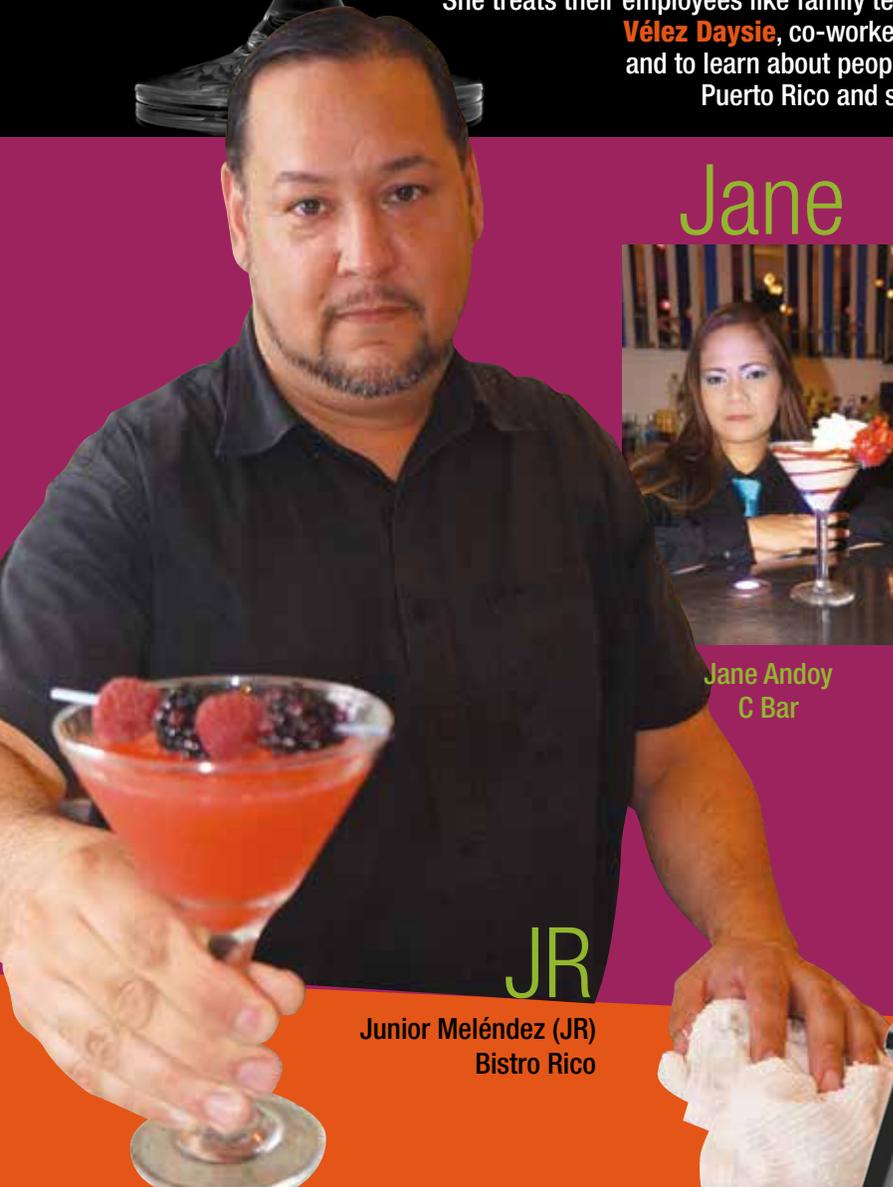
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Our Palmas Bart



Being a bartender is not an easy job; you have to have the right personality to be a good one. Bartenders have to be psychologist, confidant, counselor, and more than anything a good listener and... VERY discreet. Bartenders have to know their clientele and understand their needs. At Palmas we have the advantage that our bartenders know us very well, they are our friends. Some of them have been here forever. Like **Rey Morales from The Beach Bohio** (who started working at Palmas in 1974 in the pool bar Sun Fun Hut- 38 years), **Don Carlos from the PAC Clubhouse**, 25 years and **José Miranda from Tapas Bar**. They know our kids, what we drink, and pamper us like no one else in the world. Some of them have seen two generations grow up in Palmas. "Everybody is different, some clients just want companionship, some want to have fun, some one to sit at the bar and watch a game with, companionship or someone to talk to," said José Miranda from Tapas Bar, the Mojito king. But everything is perfect all the time; sometimes they have to deal with people that become obnoxious after drinking alcohol. "There is not a better place to learn about people's behavior than behind a bar," stated **Jackeline Figueroa from Chihuahua Rest**. Jackeline is a master degree student in Psychology and wants to continue her doctor's degree. I'm sure she will be an excellent physiologist! Take note, just in case you need her in the future. **Daysie Zhen from Blue Hawaii** also admits that she has come a long way and has learned a lot from her job as bartender and waitress. "I have a strong character," she admitted (that's not to say that she is tough). "In the beginning I used to fight with everybody," she added and laughed. Daysie explained that she has learned a lot from Sue Sue. "She treats their employees like family teaching them to be better persons and employees". **Myrva Vélez Daysie**, co-worker, agrees and added that she has also learned to be patient, and to learn about people's behavior. Myrva studies Social Work at the University of Puerto Rico and she is sure this experience will help her in her future career.



JR
Junior Meléndez (JR)
Bistro Rico

Jane



Jane Andoy
C Bar

José Jacqueline



José Miranda
Tapas Bar



Jacqueline Figueroa
Chihuahua Restaurant

Dayse



Daysie Zhen,
Blue Hawaii



enders ...the best!

Another important virtue of bartenders is their attention to details and at Palmas we are definitely spoiled! Just to give some examples: Don Carlos Chinaea brings real coconut water for his customers who enjoy whiskey. "The day I don't bring coconut water there is a crisis," he said. **JR from Bistro** and José from Tapas bring fresh fruits from their homes and Rey, from the Beach Bohio, brings fresh mint from his patio to make his drinks. The female bartenders have the advantage that at Palmas we are mainly a family oriented community thus, the incidents of clients trying to make advances at them are minimal. But it has happened like in any other place. **Jane Andoy, C Bar bartender**, who has 15 years of experience and who worked at Buffalo Wings as a Bar Manager, confirmed that the Palmas environment is different, more respectful. "The clients at CBar make us feel we are part of the family and the community," she stated and added that she has never encountered a client she cannot manage. **Randall Butt**, who is a North American from Indiana, came to Puerto Rico for three months and decided to stay. The rest is history. Randall has been in PR for 22 years and has three daughters. "I stayed because of the people," he said. He has worked at Circles at the Wyndham for a year now and loves it here. "When I was younger I used to enjoy the disco ambiance but now I love a more mature clientele and the relaxed and sophisticated environment of Circles". Unfortunately he prepared for me a drink that I could not try because that week I was on a detox diet, its call Champagne by design. I definitely have to stop by and try it one day! And our youngest male bartenders...**Kelvin Ruiz, from the Yacht Club Tiki Bar**, and **Ray Saint from Café de la Plaza**, welcomes you always with a big smile and a willing to make you feel comfortable. Ray came from England many years ago, and became a full Palmeño. He studied in Palmas Academy and is actually finishing a BA in Business at the Interamerican University. Although Kelvin (better know by Belucci) has been at Palmas for less time he has stolen everybody's heart with his smile and service oriented attitude. We hope to keep him around for a long time. We appreciate your work and know the big efforts you all make to pamper and spoil us like all of you know how. ▲

Carlos



Carlos Chinaea
Club House - Hole #19

Randall



Randall Butt
Circles, Wyndham Hotel

Rey



Rey Morales
Beach Bohio

Mirva



Mirva
Vélez,
Blue
Hawaii

Ray



Ray Saint
Café de la Plaza

Kevin

Kevin Ruiz, Tiki Bar



SPA DAY AMONG GIRLFRIENDS!



It all started as a crazy idea and very soon it became a reality. Adriana Curland invited a group of girlfriends to spend a Spa Day at her house. A day just for us girls! There were manicures, pedicures, massages, facials, henna body paintings, blowers, and healthy food. I almost forgot—there was also a car wash service outside her house for all her guests. Most of the attendees were young mothers but on that day the kids were not around! What a treat! This is what living in a community is all about. Good idea Adriana! ▲





heRe & theRe



SAD NEWS...

This past June we lost our beloved marina mascot 'Mama'. She had been an integral part of the marina family for more than 16 years. 'Mama' was always waiting by the Bistro door casually greeting patrons and passersby, anxiously waiting for her bowl of Meow Mix. She is and will be sorely missed by all of us who knew and loved her. Thanks for the memories "Mama". You were one "cool cat".

Your #1 Fan,
George Mulligan

REVOLUTION Pink Tour

Xco® Pink Tour invites you to participate in this new adventure. Accompany Jackeline Rodríguez and Vanessa Torres, XCO® Master Trainers, as they visit important gyms and sport centers around Puerto Rico. Participation is FREE. A donation to the Susan G. Komen Foundation will be highly appreciated! A limited edition of the Pink Xco® in aluminum will be for sale during the events. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation of Puerto Rico.



You can find the itinerary of the tour on Facebook:
[xco trainer pr](#)

Ice Cream Happy Hour at David's Cookies for PA students



Abdiel Rosado, David's Cookies owner, announced that from August through September David's Cookies will be offering an *Ice Cream Happy Hour*. This an exclusive offer for bonafide Palmas Academy students from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. **Students will pay only \$0.99 for a Kid's Ice Cream Cone.** Abdiel also reminds us that David's Cookies offers breakfast all day long.



An idea for your golf cart

Sometimes we are in the golf cart and we can't find a place to dispose of our garbage. This is an alternative. You can buy it on line -Google it and you will find several vendors that have it. Let's keep Palmas clean! ▲



What a Show



This year, because of the amount of water received, our *Roble* trees – la *Reina de las Flores* – and our *Flamboyan* trees have bloomed into truly an exceptional sight.

I saw many people taking photos.

It was really breathtaking!

Another of our nature's paradisaical gifts! ▲





Reina de las Flores
(Queen of the flowers)



Flamboyant (red and yellow)





editor's choice

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This modern 5 year young 5000 sq.ft. home on 2100sq. mtrs. backs a green area and has tranquil views to the Caribbean sea. Accentuated with spectacular designer bathrooms, a top grade lighting system, appliances, custom window treatments, Italian tile floors, and 18 foot ceiling in the main living area. This expansive 5 bedroom, 4 full and half bath home also includes 2 covered veranda patios, central air, generator, Valcor hurricane windows and doors, plus 2 1/2 car garage. Outstanding value priced to sell at \$1.1 mil. with owner financing considered. Call: **Culebra Island Realty** at 787-435-6596 / 787-435-6752

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PAUUPDATE

alumni success stories



Valeria Aponte Feliciano

Valeria, one of our original pioneer students, joined The Palmas Academy in 1993. Her leadership was immediately recognized holding positions such as Vice President of her Senior Class, President of the Drama Club, Chief Editor of TPA Yearbook, Class Salutatorian and most importantly, winner of the TPA Leadership Award. She graduated with Honors in 2006.

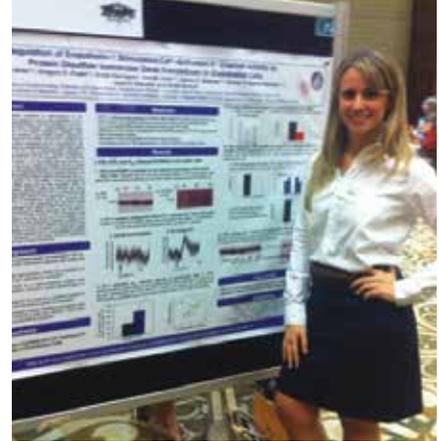
Valeria was accepted at Syracuse University where she is currently in her junior year double majoring in Broadcast & Digital Journalism and Art History, having made the Dean's List since her freshmen year. She has participated in various internship programs with Univisión 41 in New Jersey, "Hello" magazine in Madrid, Spain (the British version of "Hola" Magazine), and NY1 Noticias in New York City. She's currently the Executive producer, anchor, reporter, photographer, and writer of CytrusTV Noticias, a student-run television studio at Syracuse University. Valeria intends to continue her studies in Journalism. Her main goal is to become a reporter and help people out in the Latin communities around the world, give voice to the voiceless, and make the invisible, visible. ▲



Steven Donato

His desire to learn English made him join The Palmas Academy in 2002. Not only did he learn English, but he also became the most outstanding student of his class in the subjects of Math and Science. He was a member of The National Honor Society and also excelled in athletics in the discipline of golf and cross-country. He graduated from Palmas Academy in 2005. He decided to continue his studies in Engineering thanks to his Math and Science teachers.

Steven obtained his BA in Civil Engineering and his MBA in Management Engineering from the Universidad Politécnica de Puerto Rico. In 2012, he became a member of the Colegio de Ingenieros y Agrimensores de Puerto Rico. Currently, he works for the Autoridad de Acueductos y Alcantarillados de PR (AAA) as an Infrastructure Engineer. He also works in the Capital Improvements Program of the AAA as the Director of minor projects for the northern region of Puerto Rico. ▲



Giselle Cristina Brito

Giselle is another of our founding students having joined TPA in 1994. Since then, she made the honor roll every year. She graduated with Honors in 2006 as Class Salutatorian. That year, Giselle was among the top 100 students island-wide who obtained the highest scores in the College Board, for which the Universidad de Puerto Rico in Mayaguez (UPRM) awarded her an honor enrollment to its Biology Department.

In 2009, she participated in an internship program with the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN) in the Hematology/Oncology Laboratory. Her abstract was published in the American Society of Hematology's journal and presented in the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minorities in 2010. During another internship program with the Brigham's and Women's Hospital of Harvard Medical School, Giselle's investigation was awarded twice. Not only was her abstract presented in the American Society of Hematology, but also she was awarded with the Abstract Achievement Award 2010. In Puerto Rico, her abstract was presented in the Simposio de Asociación de Estudiantes de Medicina de PR obtaining first place.

She graduated from UPRM in 2010 Magna Cum Laude. She's currently in her second year of Medicine at the San Juan Bautista School of Medicine where she plans to graduate as a physician. ▲





PALMAS HAS TALENT!

PALMAS YOUTH TO DEFEND ISLAND COLOR!

Gustavo Chamorro called to join the Puerto Rico National Soccer Team

Palmas youth are again the bearer of good news to the community. 15 year old Gustavo Chamorro Figueroa has been called to join the Puerto Rico National Soccer Team (under 17 yr category). Gustavo, son of Dr. Ruben Chamorro and Dr. Annelisse Figueroa, will be participating in a qualifying tournament for the U-17 World Cup in Cuba.



By Dr. Rubén Chamorro



"Hey Dad, bring me my duffle bag with clothes for a week, I was asked to stay with the team at the training center. And, by the way, bring me a copy of my passport, I'm going to Cuba."

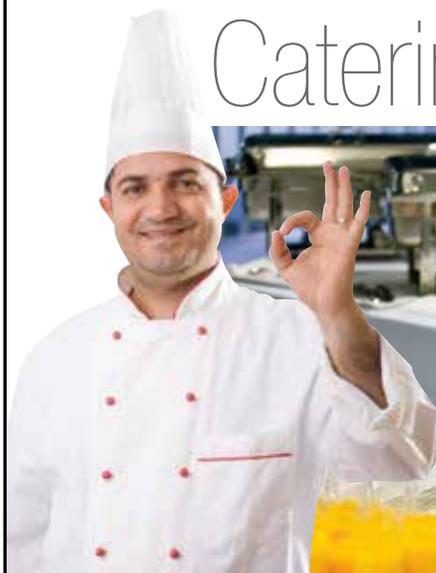
GATHER YOUR GEAR AND GO TO CUBA!

The story you are about to read is true. It is a tale of how commitment and good, hard, effort can make your dreams come true. And yes, our youth can achieve great things if they put their mind to it. My oldest son, Gustavo, now 16, has been playing organized sports since he was 3. If there is a big ball involved, he will play it. His passion for the last 5 to 6 years has been soccer. He has been a very talented player for his school team, The Palmas Academy Dolphins and for the Humacao Tornados FC.

This summer, after we returned from a trip to Peru, I was back at my office trying to get back to work, when I received an URGENT text message from Jose Juan Perez, the Tornados FC's coach: "Call me, urgent!" I complied and immediately understood the urgency of the matter. The Puerto Rico National U-17 team was preparing for an international tournament and they wanted to see Gustavo immediately! The team still had a spot for a lateral defender, Gustavo's specialty. I didn't think twice about cancelling the rest of my afternoon appointments in order to drive Gustavo to the Bayamon Soccer Complex. When I told him, he said calmly: "OK Dad, I'll go." After that first try out that Friday, he was asked to come back on Saturday. So we came back on Saturday and at the end of the day he was asked to come back on Sunday. So I took him back to the training center on Sunday morning and went back home expecting his call to pick him up that evening. When the phone rang the message was: "Hey Dad, bring me my duffle bag with clothes for a week, I was asked to stay with the team at the training center. And, by the way, bring me a copy of my passport, I'm going to Cuba."

Wow! In his calm tone of voice he was saying, I made the National Team! So, all those years of practice, physical effort and sacrifice paid off. Finally, after a few more days of practice they left to participate in a qualifier tournament for the FIFA U-17 World Cup. In the tournament, in which Gustavo played in the initial roster, Puerto Rico finished in second place, and at press time, still have a chance to advance to the next round. As W. Clement Stone once said: "Whatever the mind...can conceive, it can achieve." ▲

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SECURITY above all

GreenWindows Corp. is a manufacturer of aluminum and glass products, specializing in security windows and doors for commercial and residential applications. Ricardo and Debby Sosa, principle shareholders at GreenWindows and full time residents of Palmas del Mar for the last 12 years, explained to *Live & Life* what their business is all about.

What makes GreenWindows green?

“As an organization we are committed to the conservation of our environment in our daily operations and in our products. We have the only “green” security window in Puerto Rico which incorporates a sunscreen in every louver while offering the toughest challenge to any intruder.”, said Ricardo Sosa.

Why GreenWindows?

“We offer the most comprehensive variety of security products for your home or business. Our professional sales group will visit you at your convenience and guide you in selecting the best products for you application. Our installation crew will professionally install our products and our customer service team will ready to respond to any of your service needs.”, stated Debby Sosa.

Which is the best product for my home?

“The best product is the one that best meets your needs, so first identify your needs. Is your priority maximum security and natural ventilation or to maximize scenic views and natural lighting or all of the above? This is where our professional sales team becomes essential; they will guide you in selecting the best combination of products for the maximum enjoyment of each area of your home.”, emphasized Ricardo.

What products do Greenwindows manufacture?

- Entry Doors
- Patio Doors
- Casement and Projected Windows
- Security Jalousie Windows
- Garage Doors
- Frameless Bathroom Enclosures
- Railings

Where can you learn more about our products? “You can visit our web page www.greenwindowspr.com or better yet visit our factory and showroom in Minillas Industrial Park in Bayamón. Our web site includes a Google map or call us for directions at 787-523-3131 or 787-618-2385.”, said Ricardo.

And since one picture is worth more than a thousand words, we asked Ricardo to illustrate to us through specific photos and a simple explanation of each alternative, their wide variety of products.



Frameless Bathroom Enclosure, this is 3/8" Acid Etched (for privacy) Tempered Glass with one sliding door and one fixed panel hardware. This is a home in Montehiedra.



Two sets of sliding doors, two doors-two tracks on the left and three doors-three tracks on the right. On the far right is a patio bathroom door with privacy glass on top and fixed louvers on the bottom, all in grey aluminum and clear laminated glass. This is a home in Guaynabo.



Double garage door with bronze colored aluminum and privacy laminated glass. We installed a ¼ HP motor with automatic lights, battery backup, an outside programmable control panel and two beepers. This is a home in Rio Mar.



This is a double entry door with a "roman bronze" colored aluminum frame with a stainless steel insert designed by the customer. This door also has a three point security lock from ATZ for maximum protection and a 72" stainless steel handle set also from ATZ. This is a home in Rio Piedras.



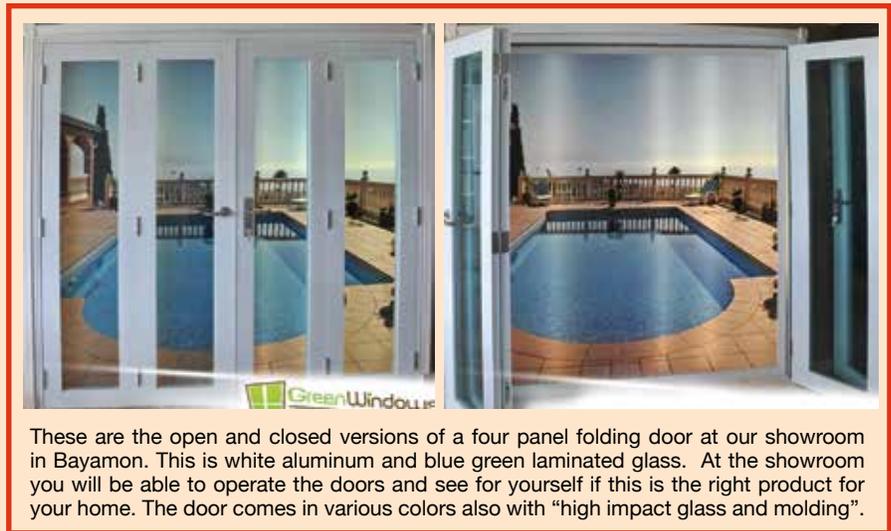
This is a double door because the small side panel also opens in the event you need the full opening. This is bright red aluminum and blue-green hue privacy glass with all stainless steel hardware. This door offers a beautiful accent to this home in Cupey.



This is a pivot door with a texture powder coat and privacy security glass mounted on "high impact" glass adapters for added security. All stainless steel hardware including the 84" handle set makes this a very distinguished and elegant entry door for a home in Palmas del Mar.



This is a double door with an active small side panel. This is bronze colored aluminum with privacy security glass and high impact glass adapters for added security. This door is also available in "GreenWood" which is wood grain color aluminum.



These are the open and closed versions of a four panel folding door at our showroom in Bayamon. This is white aluminum and blue green laminated glass. At the showroom you will be able to operate the doors and see for yourself if this is the right product for your home. The door comes in various colors also with "high impact glass and molding".



This is a bi-folding patio aluminum door perfect for wide openings and to bring the outside in. All stainless steel hardware with aluminum tracks in the floor. This is clear 1/4" laminated glass.



Ricardo and Debbie Sosa, proprietors of Green Windows.

THE JUNIOR OPEN

By William Brown

The Palmas Athletic Club Tennis Center hosted the 2012 PRTA-Caribbean (Puerto Rico Tennis Association- Caribbean Section) Junior II boys and girls 12 to 18 year old on May 18-20 and May 25-27.

Three hundred and twenty one matches were played in two weekends that included 286 boys and girls Main Draw Singles matches plus a consolation boys and girls' Singles Matches. The Doubles Matches began the last weekend.

Boys' 18 singles and number 1 seed Eduardo Irizarry, native of Lajas, Puerto Rico is also the number 1 ranked Caribbean boys 18s tennis player and ranked 158 in the USTA (United States Tennis Association). Eduardo captured the singles title against Number 2 seed Stephan Gonzalez from Ponce. Eduardo overcame a tough

semi-final match against talented No. 1 ranked Boys 16 USTA Caribbean (USTA 101 ranked) Edgar Ruben Diaz 6-2, 7-5. Eduardo was down 5-3 in the second with Edgar Ruben serving 40-Love (Triple Set Point). In the final Eduardo defeated Charismatic Ponce Catholic University player Gonzales in straight sets. Eduardo will be attending Division III University Nichols College this fall, at Dudley, Mass. Gifted 10 year old Lauren Anzalota defeated Valeria Sanchez in the girls' 12 singles consolation draw. Other main draw singles champions at Junior II at Palmas Athletic Club: Girl 18-Clary D. Rodriquez, Girl 16-Minica Matias, Girl 14 Paola Bou and Girl 12-Ana Leonard. Boy 16-Jorge Ortiz, Boy 14-Ignacio Garcia and Boy 12-Rafael Grovas. Doubles Champions: Only Doubles Draw in the Girl's Division were Girl 12 Erika Barquero/Andre Roque. Boy 18 -Edgar Ruben Diaz/Eduardo Irizarry, Boy 16-Jorge Ortiz/Jamie Vega, Boy 14-Ignacio Garcia/Shandor Gomez and Boy 12 Alejandro Rivera/Guillermo Torres.

Tournament Director Hector M. Figueroa quotes:

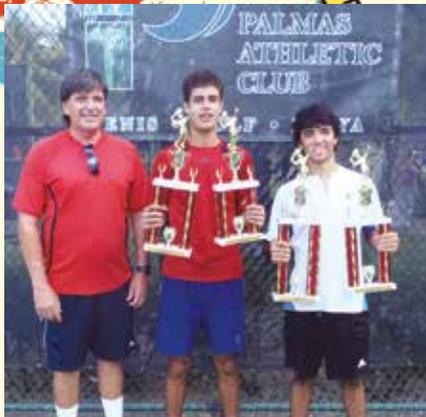
"Tennis Board Director Jose "Pepito" Vasquez and PTF Co-Tennis Director



Edgar Rubén Díaz 3rd place Boy's 18 Singles and No. 1 Ranked Boy's 16 in the Caribbean with Coach William Brown who has coached him since age 11.



Boy's 18 Singles 4th Place Fabian Rodríguez



PTF C0-Tennis Director William Brown and Boy's 18 Doubles Champion Edgar Rubén Díaz and Eduardo Irizarry.



PTF Directors Ángel Díaz, William Brown, Boy's 18 Singles Champion Eduardo Irizarry, Boy's 18 Singles 3rd place Edgar Rubén Díaz, Boy's 18 Singles 4th place Fabian Acosta, Boy's 18 Singles Runner-up Stephen González and Tournament Referee Héctor Figueroa.



Boy's 18 Doubles Champions.

William Brown and the PAC Pro Shop Personnel committed their full dedication to assist in the success of the tournament. The referees and my wife Negui are greatly appreciated for all their hard work. Thanks to PAC for their great support PAC Tennis Center has great facilities for future ITF, USTA and ATP and WTA tournaments at this facility!"

I agree! Palmas Del Mar-PAC is one of the best Tennis Facilities in the World. ▲



Julianne Bou – Finalist Girl's 12



Alexandra Mercado Finalist Girl's 18



Alexandra Mercado Finalist Girl's 16 and Monica Matias Champion Girl's 16



Alexander Leonard Champion Boy's 16 consolation



Cydmarie Melendez, Finalist Girl's 14



Moises Landrau 3rd place Boy's 16



Cristina Tirado, Champion Girl's 18 Consolation



Ana Leonard Champion Girl's 12



Kevin Ramos, Finalist Boy's 18 Consolation



William, Hector and wife Negui



Consolation.



Monica Matias, Champion Girl's 16 and was ranked no.1 in the Girl's 16 Caribbean section. Yaromi Gordils, Finalist Girl's 18

PALMAS VOLLEYBALL ACADEMY... GROWING STRONGER!



By Dr. Ruben Chamorro



Palmas Volleyball Academy (PVA) was created to develop young players to their maximum skill level and competition in the sport of volleyball. Mr. Jose Alvarez and Dr. Ruben Chamorro founded PVA in January 2011 with the purpose of developing volleyball players to the best of their abilities. It started with two girl's teams in the 13-14 and 15-16 yrs categories with great aspirations for growth. "It's started with two girls teams but we accept boys as well," clarified Dr. Chamorro.

PVA not only provides a great club experience for the players but also helps them to develop an athletic profile for their future goals as potential college players and scholarship opportunities. This summer, several PVA players attended the Golden Gopher College Prep camp in Minnesota.

The PVA teams have already participated with great success in the Federación Puertorriqueña de Volibol, Same Level Volleyball and Jeep Junior Nationals tournaments. The coaches are certified locally and internationally by FPRVB- "Comision Tecnica de Entrenadores" and FIVB. Families in the area are invited to join the club that meets at The Palmas Academy facilities in Palmas del Mar, Humacao. For information you may call 787-596-4978 or e-mail at palmasvolleyballacademy@gmail.com. Also check PVA in Facebook



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