



NOSEY PARKER

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY Michael Parker-Stainback

WILD CHERRIES

Director and queen-of-the-American Benevolent Society-scene Barbara Franco didn't say why the pie-bearers weren't wearing Martha Washington costumes (they used to) at this year's 140th Annual Meeting and Cherry Pie Festival. But that didn't bother the expat old guard, who turned out in well-coiffed droves. US Ambassador Antonio García -I mean Garza!-enjoyed his flaky, neon-colored treat so much he stayed way later than predicted. Charity-circuit darling Shauna Leff snagged the coveted Cherry Pie Award for all the amazing stuff she's doing at ABS. But what about those two shady "blonde" fem-bots who, pouty about the eligible-bachelor shortage, snuck out before pie time?



Barbara Franco

NEW ADVANCE IN VIRTUAL DATING

Perhaps in a cherry-pie food coma we let down our guard. Walking back to Inside México's Colonia Roma Compound with two (admittedly very hot) IMX staffers, our amenable confab was interrupted by an inappropriate message, broadcast via apartment building intercom. "Eeehh, GUAPAS!" croaked a static-y, unseen admirer. I guess it's the new dating technology for those without internet access. Sadly for him, the foxy ladies in question declined the Radio-Shack Romeo's tacit invitation to romance.

Sofia Tamayo and Ricardo Laborin



WILD STRAWBERRIES

Polanco's *jeunesse dorée* is no longer afraid of Plaza Garibaldi—not when Ibero-American ba-dass Valerie Garra! is there to protect them. She celebrated husband and Crédit Suisse player Mauricio Esquenazi's birthday at El Tenampa, where all were over-served! How else to explain that adorable Sofia Tamayo (she's not really Rufino's love child, is she?) and scrumptious coca-cola cowboy boyfriend Ricardo Laborin, as well as gallery owner Andrés Siegel (who lives in Trotsky-assassination collaborator Tina Modotti's house) and Susana Coppel (yes, of the appliance-store Coppels)—and a whole horde of Hermosillo hotties—all paid to do a collective shock-treatment on one of the cantina's test-your-machismo battery-and-electrode machines?



Mauricio and Electro-Shock guy

SLOW FOOD-FAST CROWD

Contramar hosts Gabriela Cámara and Pablo Bueno served all manner of luscious dishes and succulent sweetmeats, plus fruits and nuts at Nick Gilman's recent book party. The food was fantastic too! Media titan Aran Shetterly and journalist Daniel Barrón (what a voice he has!) introduced *Great Food in Mexico City*, Nick's culinary vade mecum, that takes you everywhere from gilded salons to scabrous street corners in search of the best DF eats. The author received his adoring public as boyfriend/artist Jim Johnston beamed like a proud political wife. The tequila began to flow (special thanks to natty waiter Ulises) and the next thing you knew a certain well-known apron vendor blew in with a group of middle-aged merry pranksters from San Miguel, including Michael "I'm a Pepper" Sudheer (love the Tilley hat) and Lyn Prashant, the jolliest grief counselor ever. Meanwhile "Comida Commander" Ruth Alegría was floored watching slow-food guru Cristina Palacio, cuisine scholar Rachel Laudan and Tamales Queen Beatriz Ramírez Woolrich fight for the same delicious *hors d'oeuvres*...design partners César Castañeda and Walter Denning are bringing back polka dots and Pierre Cardin this season...and those who like it hot enjoyed chatting with the sexiest electrician alive, Verónica Rivera Moctezuma (of the Tenochtitlan Moctezumas) as well as South American playboy Carlos Gutiérrez. Finally, Arizona sisters Alysson and Patricia Coulter hastened to clarify there's no relation to extreme-right sweater-girl Ann.



César Castañeda and Walter Denning



Pablo Bueno



San Miguel merry pranksters

FOURTH-ESTATE FAREWELL

So much for quick getaways: former Copley News Service correspondent Lynne Walker opened a month-long going-away party season recently, as she exits DF for La Jolla and an Institute of the Americas VP job. Journalists and notables from here to Tegucigalpa crowded her Coyoacán home—including Foreign Press Club honcho Eloy Aguilar and cover-mommie Marion Lloyd—but your best eavesdropping investment was quondam US Ambassador and legend Jeffrey Davidow, who was telling tales out of school about don Fidel Castro! Inside México is mighty bummed to see Lynne go.

Got the scoop, a hot tip or a snazzy invitation you care to extend? Please email: parker@insidemex.com.

ON THE LAMM

The arty/party set loved Colombian-born artist Juanita Pérez's recent opening at Casa Lamm: they simultaneously expanded horizons and bent elbows. Oh, the buzz at Juanita's show, *Nombrar las cosas*, about her rich, beautiful pieces, inspired by Mexico's open markets... But don't worry—there's none of that dreadful oversized fruit art that's sold outside the Casa along the Álvaro Obregón median strip!

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