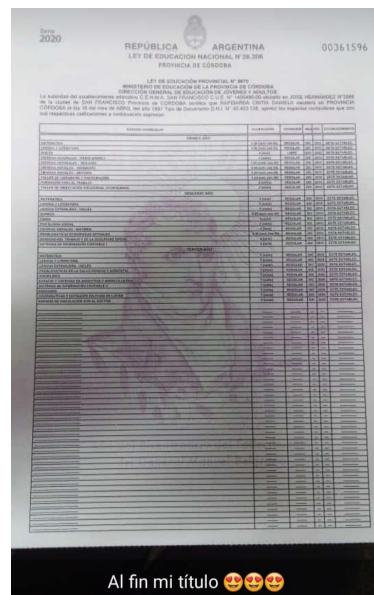


Dear Everyone

Greetings from Winter in San Francisco. August is traditionally kite-making season in our region, something like the equivalent of the UK's March winds. Apologies for last month's lack of news; July passed by in something of a whirl organising and executing our brief visit to the UK. It went very well, and we especially enjoyed doing some fun things with the extended family after the enforced separation through the pandemic.

Now we are back in town and moving on with life. Breaking news is that *La Flaca* is literally moving on. Prior to the UK trip she had been spending more time at her boyfriend's mum's house, and after the UK trip they decided to formalise that. We had a nice chat with her at home, gave her our blessing, and helped her move her stuff. She has been round a few times since and the aim is to keep in positive contact and support her where we can. She is still enjoying work at the food takeaway, and is picking up bits of other work in other places. Really she needs proper hours and a contract, but so many places here rely on the informal labour market, especially in sectors like food takeaways. She was chuffed yesterday because she was notified that her school leaving certificate (see photo right) was ready to collect, so she went in and was treated like royalty by the head and the teachers at the adult night school.

*Teen* on the other hand is a source of much concern to us, and remains in need of prayer for motivation to do anything at all, and for us trying to encourage and support her. She should be starting to see a psychologist again this week after a long break, so we hope that this might be a useful relationship, and a source of help and ideas.



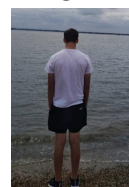
The oldest Scouts enjoyed a camp last weekend, with many thanks to Baldock Trefoil Guild whose donation bought us a much needed patrol tent. We organised the Scouts into teams and they spent the weekend on a challenge hike around the city deciphering clues to visit different plazas, statues, and points of historical interest. Now we are busy fund-raising as they are hoping to participate in a regional camp next month which should be an excellent opportunity for our kids to join in with Scouts from other groups, and to grow in confidence when they realise that they have at least as much to offer as anyone else.

People have asked us about inflation in Argentina. Argentina's inflation rate is presently estimated at 71%, up from 64% in June, and some forecasters are predicting close to 100% by the end of the year. Inflation has historically been an ongoing issue in Argentina; *"Inflation Rate in Argentina averaged 191.17 percent from 1944 until 2022, reaching an all time high of 20262.80 percent in March of 1990 and a record low of -7 percent in February of 1954"* (focus-economics.com). Currently Argentina is in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the world, only outranked by Venezuela, Sudan, Lebanon and Syria. Wages are a long way behind, creating a widening chasm between what people earn and what they need, which in turn causes civil and political unrest. However, we also observe that people are surprisingly philosophical; the average Argentinean seems less panicked about the prospect of 100% inflation than their northern hemisphere counterparts are about their countries hitting 10%. Possibly born from experience of living through regular economic crises, people become resourceful and find ways of getting through, as per this article on the resurgence of bartering; <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/bartering-increases-argentina-inflation-soaring-88258645>

The rest of life, church and family are fine. Hazel thinks she is making progress towards organising a trip for Danny's school. In principle we now have permission. The schools' inspector also wrote a letter requesting resources from the local government, who have agreed. In practise this is a mixed blessing as I am now chasing government officials, who may or may not honour that agreement. Thank you for your prayers. We hope you have a good month.



Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link

