

The Chamber of Tourism and Commerce of Atenas (CATUCA)

By Fred Macdonald

One of the reasons I started this newsletter is that I have a good friend who I thought “was in the know” about what was going on in Atenas. Marietta Arce Valverde is an English-speaking Tica who lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Scott Schlieman, and their two children. When I talked with her about the newsletter idea, I was inspired to learn that she is a key member of an organization called ***The Chamber of Tourism and Commerce of Atenas (CATUCA)***. What better source for the kind of information needed for **Atenas Today**?

Here is Marietta’s description of **CATUCA** and the **Climate Fair** they are sponsoring next month.

CATUCA is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to:

- (a) work to preserve traditions*
- (b) work to protect and enhance the environment and quality of living for residents*
- (c) work to promote tourism and commerce in Atenas*
- (d) work to provide training opportunities for inhabitants (for example, we arrange for courses through INA (National Institute for Learning)).*

*In the month of April we will hold the 5th annual **Climate Fair**. The first one was in April 2003 when the Monument to Honor the Oxcart "Tradition" was inaugurated. That is the monument that is at the little park in Los Angeles which you pass each time you come our way!*

We spend the months of January, February, and March scheduling and looking for funding for this event. Usually we are able to cover the costs through donations, ticket sales, and the fees we charge vendors who set up their tents in the park on the last weekend. Printed programs will be available soon in various Atenas stores.

There will be numerous events throughout the month of April as part of the Climate Fair. **Atenas Today** will be publishing a detailed schedule and keep you updated. I hope that many of you will take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy and support these community activities.