

# Welcome to our 2026



**We are so glad  
you could  
join us tonight!**

**January 24, 2026**

# PROJECT GETTYSBURG-LEÓN

It is with great pleasure that Project Gettysburg-León (PGL) welcomes you to the 2026 Fiesta and Auction! For 30 years, PGL has sponsored this chili dinner and auction as its major fundraising event. **Our goal for the 2026 Fiesta and Auction is to raise \$55,000 for PGL!**

**We extend our sincere gratitude to the following people and organizations whose support has made the PGL Fiesta and Auction possible.**

**The Auction Committee:** Their many hours of soliciting donations, cataloging, managing details, publicizing and coordinating the auction are truly appreciated:

Aja Anderson ~ Alana Anderson ~ Dottie Cairns ~ Lynn Cairns ~ Dave Crowner ~ Lexie Crowner ~ Joyce Ettenger ~ Laura Geesaman ~ Laura James ~ Karl Mattson ~ Harriet Marritz ~ Jan Powers ~ Jeff Rioux ~ Allison Singley ~ Megan Robles

**PGL Members & Friends:** The many who hit the streets, talked to their friends and family, and advocated for the beautiful items we compete for tonight!

**Jimmy Peters & Family:** our favorite auctioneers!

**Auctioneer's Assistant:** Paul Kellett

**Silent Auction Manager:** Laura Geesaman

**Check Out Manager:** Matt Crowner

**Auction Volunteers & Staff:** Gettysburg College Facilities, Instructional Technology, Athletics, Dining Services staff, the Center for Public Service team, Gettysburg College student volunteers, and other dedicated folks who hold Nicaragua in their hearts.

## Our Donors

To all of our donors who so kindly gave their time, talents, and goods, we thank you! This event would be nothing without the many treasured items being auctioned off tonight.

## Our Sponsors

To all of our generous sponsors (listed near the end of this booklet), we thank you for your willingness to support PGL by contributing to this event!

# **TONIGHT'S PROGRAM**

**Doors Open/Preview: 4:00 PM**

**Welcome/Dinner: 5:00 PM**

**Live Auction: 6:00 PM**

## **Silent Auction Table Closing Schedule:**

**Dessert Table - 5:45**

**Table 1 - 6:00**

**Table 2 - 6:15**

**Table 3 - 6:30**

**Table 4 - 6:45**

**Table 5 - 7:00**

**Table 6 - 7:15**

**Fishbowl - 7:30**

# Specialty Items Table



**Happy Bees make Happy Honey.**

**Zach bottled fresh wildflower honey harvested from Karl Mattson's diverse backyard bounty.**

***Suggested Donation: \$12-15***

# HOW TO PLAY

## ITEMS ARE AUCTIONED USING THREE METHODS

### LIVE AUCTION

The live auction starts promptly at 6:00 pm and runs continuously without an intermission. Use your personal bidding number to make your purchases. Be sure to keep track of the items you purchase! All items are sold "as is." No exchanges or refunds.

### SILENT AUCTION

All items for the silent auction are displayed on tables and have a bid sheet beside them. To bid, place your bid number in the space provided. Many items have starting/minimum bids. Each change of the bid must exceed the current bid by **at least \$5.00**. If you do not increase your bid by the required amount your bid will be considered invalid. You may bid on an item as many times as you wish.

Tables will close at posted times throughout the evening. Winning bids will be decided by the last written bid on the sheet. If you have the winning bid, **please leave the bid sheet on the table, print your name then remove the winning item after the winning bid has been recorded.**

### FISHBOWL AUCTION

Find a volunteer with a balloon to purchase an arm-length of tickets for \$10.00 or single tickets for \$1.00 each. Place your tickets in the fish bowls that interest you. If your number is pulled, you win! Please check the large bulletin boards near each table after 7:45 pm to find out which items you won!

### PLEASE NOTE

Please pay for all purchased items at the end of the evening. Payments should be made at the cashier's table by cash, check, Master Card, or Visa. ***Please allow at least 30 minutes after the table closes before claiming your items and proceeding to the checkout.***

In the spirit of fair play, we remind all lucky winners to claim their winnings (gift certificates, services, dinners, etc.) by the stated expiration date or, if there is no stated date, by December 31, 2026. **Please do not ask our donors for changes to the service or package offered.** Thank you!

# SILENT AUCTION

This year we have limited our silent auction to items with a value of \$50 or more.

The items are spread out onto six tables.

Please see each table to fully appreciate all the varied and beautiful donations.

*Some of the wonderful items/experiences you could win:*

**4 Box Seats and Parking Pass for Baltimore Orioles vs Arizona Diamondbacks on April 14th, 2026**

**Handwoven multicolored Nicaraguan hammock-chair**

**A romantic overnight stay at the Gettysburg Hotel**

**Original, newly created Nicaraguan art**

**2 (!) Kiawah Island Weeklong Getaways**

**And much more...**

# LIVE AUCTION

## **1. Marge Mattson's Famous Cherry Pie**

*Katy Mattson*

A made-to-order cherry pie in honor of Marge Mattson. Made with local cherries and cherished memories.

## **2. Pork on the Porch for 8**

*Samantha and Josef Brandauer*

This dinner for 6-8 is a wonderful culinary experience using regional ingredients. Enjoy dinner al fresco on the Brandauer's porch featuring Korean style BBQ with local pork, Adams County hard cider, and a delicious Austrian inspired dessert. Who can say "nein" to that?

## **3. Four (4) Box Seats and a Premium Parking Pass for a Baltimore Orioles Game**

*Jeffrey Blavatt*

The tickets are for the Orioles vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game at Camden Yards on April 14th, 2026 at 6:35 PM. The box seats are next to the Orioles dugout.

## **4. Give Us the Big Hill CiderWORKS**

*Ben Kishbaugh of Big Hill Ciderworks*

Luxuriate in a sampling of Big Hill Ciderwork's fan favorites: Little Round Hop, Michaux Mule, and Farmhouse Peach. Additional treats are a large navy t-shirt with "CIDER" on the front, a branded glass, and a \$20 gift card! <https://www.bighillcider.com/>

## **5. Two Hours of Live Music by the band The Willys**

*Neil Ecker*

The Willys will provide 2 hours of music at a date, time and location determined by the winner in consultation with the band. Jamming across multiple genres, the vibes are immaculate.

## **6. VIP Mushroom Farm Experience for up to 4**

*Johnathon McGrain of Charming Meadow Mushrooms*

Come see how a mushroom farm operates! Charming Meadow Mushrooms is right here in Gettysburg! Lab demonstration, farm tour, Q&A, harvest your own mushrooms, and take a grow kit home to grow your own. Up to 4 people.

## **7. NYC Gallery Tour for 6**

*Nils Folke Anderson*

Join PGL art school co-founder, Nils Folke Anderson, touring Chelsea galleries this spring. See the best art Manhattan has to offer for 3 hours on a Saturday afternoon. Date tbd.

## **8. Captivating Creatures Experience**

*Adventure in Fun*

You are bidding on a fun & educational experience at the location of your choice designed to encourage people to engage and interact with nature around them. This could be either a 45-minute premium deluxe interactive presentation with up to 12 species of reptiles including a 5' American Alligator or a 2 hour session of meet and greet with photo opportunity with Goliath our alligator. Save \$250 on a \$500 show experience!

<https://captivatingcreatures.com/>

## **9. Traditional Danish Dinner for 4**

*Allison Singley & Chris Fee*

Enjoy a five-course dinner of traditional Danish foods. Each course is paired with wines from Wofford Acres Vineyards, a top-notch boutique winery in Camino, CA!

## **10. The Family Portrait and Hotel Stay Experience**

*Stephen Taylor Portraits*

World-renowned Photographic Portrait Artist Stephen Taylor will create a 14-inch textured canvas fine art portrait of your family in his studio. The Experience includes a one-night stay at The Olde Mill Inn. Escape into the stunning New Jersey Somerset Hills countryside, where you'll discover The Olde Mill Inn nestled in the quaint hamlet of Basking Ridge, NJ. The hotel must be used in conjunction with the portrait session. The auction item is not transferable and cannot be gifted to other parties. [Home - Stephen Taylor Portrait Artist](#)

## **11. Burmese Dinner for 4-6 Delivered to Your Home**

*Janet Powers*

A multi-course meal based on a cuisine that is a cross between Indian and Thai. Delightful food adventure not suitable for anyone with seafood allergies. Complete with your choice of beverages and degree of heat.

## **12. Quilt of Your Choosing**

*Nell Matthews*

You can choose the colors and leave the pattern and process up to Nell. This will be Nell's 26th quilt since starting during Covid.

## **13. Hearty & Rustic Meal for 6-8**

*Patricia Lawson*

Enjoy an evening at home with friends or family. Have your choice of a pot of hearty Scottish potato soup (with sausage) or vegetarian lentil soup delivered along with a salad, hearty bread, bottle of wine, and dessert. All you have to do is set up the game table and invite your friends.

## **14. Guided Fly-Fishing on the Conewago**

*Bob Anderson*

Join Bob Anderson for a guided exploration of the mighty Conewago between Gettysburg and Biglerville. Newbies to salt encrusted Tars are welcomed for first lessons or sussing out secret holes and leathery leviathans' extraction.

## **15. Mexican Dinner by the Pond 10-20**

*John, Paul, and Christine Kellett*

Enjoy a pond party with swimming, sandy beach, bath house with showers at the Kellett compound outside of Gettysburg followed by a delicious Mexican meal with drinks etc.

## **16. Yoga 10-Class Pass at RISE**

*Alli Baugher, RISE Yoga*

Come Home to Yourself: Unlock wellness, release blocked energy, and ease into 2026 at RISE Yoga Gettysburg. 10 classes to reset and establish good foundations to elevate your practice. Class options range from restorative to core fusion, chair and gentle yoga, sunrise yoga, and yoga to support sleep. [RISE Yoga Gettysburg | studio | Phoenix Wellness Center 2311 Fairfield Rd. Suite A Gettysburg, PA](#)

## **17. Spanish Tapas for 8**

*Harriet & Don Marritz*

Spanish tapas for 8 delivered to your home. Savory (Spanish ham, cheeses, smoked fish, olives, Marcona almonds) and sweet (Spanish chocolate-covered figs, cocoa-dusted almonds, quince paste on Manchego cheese) tapas, Spanish wines and/or sangria. Includes 2 additional prepared tapas of your choice.

## **18. 2.5 hrs of furniture refinishing**

*Katie Riddle, Kip & Idle Design*

“Total transformation!” You must see it to believe it - items that arrive at Katie’s shop leave looking refreshed and ready for another 50 years. The 1970s cedar chest featured on the slideshow was wrongfully covered in a horrific flat blue. Katie restored it to its rightful resplendence.

## **19. Cruise, Brews, and BBQ for 6**

*Joyce Ettenger & John Dufendach*

You are invited to feast on John's smoked pulled pork, with local beers, accompanied by sides of cole slaw and mac & cheese, followed by a sunset boat cruise around Lake Heritage.

## **20. Cozy Cottage in Nicaragua**

*Greg Bowles and Mercedes Álvarez Valle*

Stay in the guest cottage of PGL director Greg Bowles & his wife Mercedes in the foothills of the Mombacho volcano, a ten-minute taxi ride to the gorgeous Mombacho Volcano Nature Reserve and a twenty-minute taxi ride to the colonial city of Granada. The cottage is 100 feet from their house and has its own bathroom & shower. There is a bunk bed which sleeps one above and two below and air conditioning if needed. Mercedes manages a demo farm near the city of Masaya, and there would be an opportunity to visit there to see the work she does in sustainable agriculture, solar energy and butterfly conservation.

## **21. Mediterranean Dinner in Karl’s Garden for 6-8**

*Karl & Noah Mattson*

Noah, as chef, will prepare a delicious meal, including tzatziki, hummus, warm pita bread, chicken and pork souvlaki, Greek lemon potatoes, Cretan salad and baklava. Dinner to be held in spring/summer 2026.

## **22. 2 Costa Rican embossed leather rockers**

*PGL Committee*

Transport yourself to Costa Rica as you rock in these comfortable vintage rocking chairs. Staycation from the comfort of your own porch or sitting room. No delays, screaming babies, or TSA in sight.

## **23. Chinese Dinner for 4**

*Aja & Alana Anderson*

Dumplings for the meat or veg inclined! Food options include siu mai, soup dumplings, char siu bao, spring rolls, freshly steamed veg, rice noodle dish, and tea. Food delivered to your gathering.

## **24. Stay in a Silo Near Harper's Ferry**

*Caprice Webb*

Wild and Wonderful Silos is a place where nature, country and modern touches meet in the great outdoor mountains of Harpers Ferry West Virginia! You will experience staying in a fully renovated silo while enjoying peace and quiet in the woods. Four guests can enjoy one weeknight stay in a one bedroom silo with two beds and one bath- a unique experience for sure! <https://wildandwonderfulsilos.com/>

## **25. Kiawah Island Week-Long Getaway for 6**

*Bret Crawford & Sharon Stephenson*

Three-bedroom, two-bath cottage on Kiawah Island, SC. Regularly voted one of the best beaches in the US. Great biking trails, beautiful scenery, world class golf and tennis. Less than an hour drive from historic Charleston. Will work with the winner to find an available week between mid-August 2026 and mid-May 2027.

## **26. Choice of Tamales for 8 to 10 or Traditional Chicken Mole Dinner (2 times in 2026)**

*Brenda Reyes-Lúa*

Homemade corn dough tamales filled with green sauce and chicken or pork steamed in a corn husk that will serve eight to ten people (OR) a traditional Mexican chicken mole accompanied with rice and homemade tortillas for eight to ten people. Enjoy two deliveries of an "olla" de tamales or mole delivered two times in 2026. Dates to be determined between donor and winner, delivered anywhere in the Adams County area.

## **27. Nicaraguan hand-woven hammock chair**

*PGL Staff*

Hand delivered by our fearless program manager, Greg, this is the epitome of rest and relaxation. Imagine yourself on the banks of a volcano bordering the Granada lake, fruity drink in hand, and howler monkeys in the distance.

## **28. Cocktails by the Pool for 6**

*Kurt & Juls Andresen & Buehrer*

Enjoy three rounds of craft cocktails for six by cocktail enthusiast, Kurt Andresen, while lounging next to (or in) the pool. Hors d'oeuvres will be served alongside to create the perfect afternoon or evening. Cocktails can be catered to guests' tastes.

### **29. Exclusive private tour of the George & Elizabeth Spangler Farm**

*Gettysburg Foundation*

Hear the stories of Spangler Farm, used as a field hospital during the battle of Gettysburg. Tour conducted by Gettysburg Foundation docent. The tour includes the house, barn, and summer kitchen, up to 8 people.

### **30. Gardening Design and Landscape Consultation**

*Liz Chronister and Joe Breighner*

Retiring professionals, Joe Breighner, Botanist and Wildlife Enthusiast, and Liz Chronister, Master Gardener/Designer-over 55 years combined experience. Will include a 2-hour walkthrough, from native to conventional.

### **31. Red Beans and Rice for 8**

*Baird Tipson*

A homemade dinner of red beans and rice, includes salad, cornbread, and dessert, for eight people. Will deliver it anywhere within 15 miles of Gettysburg!

### **32. 3 Nights in Rehoboth Beach**

*Julie Ramsey and Bruce Bigelow*

Three nights in a 2 bedroom/2 bath condo in Eagles Landing Rehoboth, home of great restaurants, great shopping and lovely beaches. Dates to be arranged between September '26 and May '27.

### **33. Convenient Staycation Rooted in History**

*Hotel Gettysburg*

1 night stay with breakfast for two, valid through 2026. Walk in the footsteps of historical figures with a visit to the nearby Gettysburg Battlefield.

### **34. Arepa Master Class**

*Janeth Jaramillo, Cesar Leal, & Marritz kitchen*

Gettysburg College's César Leal's parents will offer an arepa-making master class for up to 8. Try your hand at making arepas, while enjoying snacks in the Marritz kitchen.

Available November 1-15 only.

### **35. Group of Four Admission to Beyond the Battle Museum**

*Adams County Historical Society*

Complimentary Admission for a family or group of four to an award-winning museum located less than a mile from the heart of downtown Gettysburg. In a town steeped in history, Beyond the Battle Museum provides a full picture of the Gettysburg story, from prehistoric times to the recent past.

### **36. Delicious wine tasting and food pairing**

*Julie Ramsey & Bruce Bigelow*

Wine tasting and delicious food pairing for 6 guests at our home on Broadway in Gettysburg. Wines are premium west coast varieties. Wine can be a combination of whites and reds, based on your preferences. This will be an evening of epicurean delight and libation!

### **37. Elevated & Whimsical: Balloon Decor for Your Event**

*Adventure in Fun*

Unique and high quality balloon decorations that are cost effective with a modern flair. We specialize in turning the ordinary into extraordinary with custom designed balloon decor that will make your event unforgettable. We create the dramatic, the whimsical, the romantic and the fanciful for all your balloon decor needs. Value up to \$500 in decor - delivery fees not included. <https://www.adventureinfun.com/>

### **38. Hike with an Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker**

*Ed and Janet Riggs*

Come on a hike at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, led by Ed Riggs, an Appalachian Trail hiker. Ed and Janet will take you on a 3-5 mile hike in the spring or fall season (length, difficulty, and exact date to be determined) in the woods in and around Pine Grove Furnace that will include parts of the Appalachian Trail. This guided hike for up to six people includes lunch afterwards at the Riggs's cabin.

### **39. Weeklong Stay on Kiawah Island, SC for 6**

*Angela and Steve Kohler*

Stay for a week in a 3 bedroom, 3 bath villa on the canal in Kiawah. Walk to the beach, golf & tennis. Winner and donor to agree on a week between mid-August 2026 & mid-May 2027.

# Muchas Gracias to our Sponsors!

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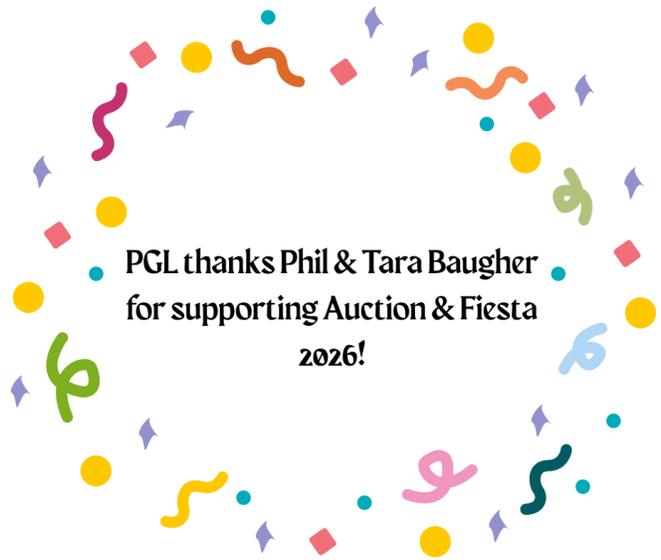


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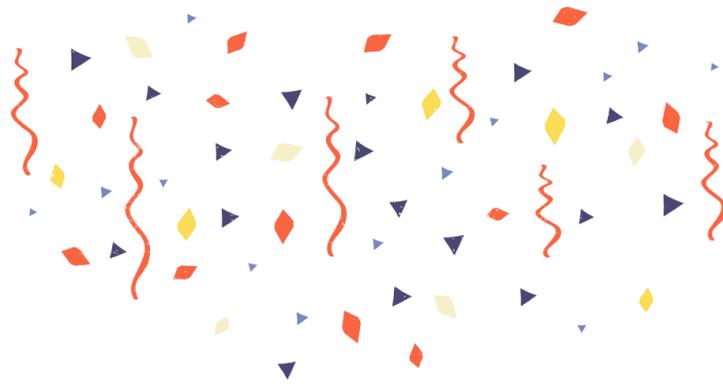
In honor of Greg and Mercedes who have served the people of Nicaragua for years and have kept so many PGL projects alive and viable.

*Lynn & Dottie Cairns*

GOOD LUCK PGL!

JOYCE ETTENGER  
AND  
JOHN DUFENDACH





**PGL thanks Annie and Doug Douds for supporting  
Auction & Fiesta 2026!**



**PGL thanks Rukhsana Rahman for supporting  
Auction & Fiesta 2026!**

**PGL thanks Scott Robertson for supporting  
Auction & Fiesta 2026!**



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**PGL** is a **non-profit** and **grassroots** organization formed to promote cross-cultural understanding and to develop programs that support our friends who struggle to overcome poverty and inequity and establish a more just world.

**PGL** immerses students and area community members in developing communities in Nicaragua to raise awareness of the realities and complexities of unjust economic structures and development policies. **PGL** also develops and supports programs in Nicaragua and the United States, which promote efforts to establish justice and human dignity through education and personal exchange.

**PROJECT GETTYSBURG-LEÓN**

[www.gettysburg-leon.org](http://www.gettysburg-leon.org)

# Remembering Stephen Ramos

July 8, 1970 – January 20, 2026



Tonight we honor the memory of our friend and colleague Stephen Ramos (GBC' 92), former Country Director for Project Gettysburg-Leon who passed away suddenly on January 20, 2026.

Stephen worked for PGL from 1993-1996, coordinating student and community delegations and coordinating sustainable development projects in urban and rural communities in and around Leon related to housing, health, education, and the arts. About his time there, he said, "Nicaragua changed my life. In almost every way, the experience will guide what I do for the rest of my life."

He went on to earn a Masters in Latin American Studies at University of Texas Austin and a PhD in Urban Planning and Design from Harvard. He was an accomplished teacher and scholar at University of Georgia in the School of

Environment and Design in Athens, GA. His most recent book is called *Folk Engineering: Planning Southern Regionalism* published by University of North Carolina Press. He is survived by his wife Nuria Jaumat Pascual and their two children, GJ and Enzo. He was a bright light of music, community, and joy and will be forever missed by all who knew him.



Nils Anderson, Carola Delgado, Ana Romes (GBC '94), and Steve Ramos in Nicaragua, 1994

# 2025 Special Report on Water System Repair & Upgrade Community of Las Marías (Quetzalaguaque district, part of Los Mangles) Department of León

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We are so pleased to report the completion of the Las Marías potable water project! Support we received at our fundraising events (Auction, Garden Party, Giving Spree) in 2025 helped make this possible (that is, YOU made this possible!).

This project was a collaboration between Las Marías and Project Gettysburg León to improve the quantity and quality of available drinking water for 284 families or approximately 1,400 people. The community itself purchased the water pump needed for this improvement and provided most of the labor for the project.

Las Marías is a ninety-minute drive from the city of León. Most of the community lives either by subsistence farming or through contract labor on industrial sugar cane fields in the area. The average cash income is below \$2,000 per year. Especially during the dry season (March until June), the community was affected by shortages of water, whether for personal consumption, washing, livestock or irrigation. Some families had to walk up to a quarter-mile each way to haul water by hand from other water sources.

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Las Marías had an inactive well that could meet all of the community's water needs if used to strengthen the existing system. This improvement required a pump system and the community raised the funds for that purchase on its own. The communal water board is responsible for maintenance of this pump and any other work that the system would require after completion of the project.



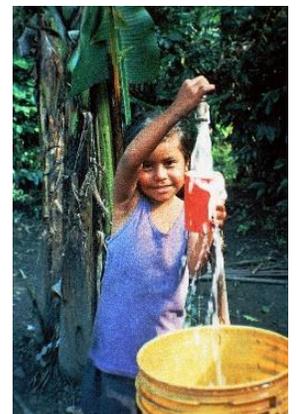
To the right on the ground is where the old and unused well was located. The pump and support structures made use of this refurbished well for the water system.

Pictured are members of the water board in Los Mangles & Las Marías discussing the water project.



Project Gettysburg León purchased a water tank to be placed on a tower and PVC water pipe to complete this project. It has been a complete success and the families now have access to a reliable drinking water source. The water is pumped from the well to the tank, and then by gravity flows out to individual taps of the homes in Las Marías. There are no flush toilets or washing machines in this community – the project is for a simple tap to provide water, but this has made a huge improvement in the quality of life for people.

At left is PGL President Jeff Rioux at the water tank of Las Marías. At right is the kind of water tap installed for the project.



**Doña Angela Toruño of the Las Marías water board...** *"I think it would be very hard for people in Gettysburg to fully know how thankful we are and how much of a difference this water makes in our lives and especially the lives of our children. A blessing to you all from all of us."*

# **Attend PGL's Monthly Potluck Meetings to Learn More**

Good programs! Good food! Good friends! Everyone is welcome to attend!  
First Sunday of the month, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Contact Dave Crowner with questions, [dandpcrowner@comcast.net](mailto:dandpcrowner@comcast.net)

## **Want to travel with us to León, Nicaragua or Morelia, Mexico?**

We are planning delegations to both of our Sister Cities this year, tentatively as:

**Morelia** - late October/early November for Dia de los Muertos

**León** - January as a college student/community member joint delegation

If you are interested in participating in a PGL sponsored delegation, contact the Center for Public Service at Gettysburg College ([cps@gettysburg.edu](mailto:cps@gettysburg.edu))

# **Join us for SALSA ON THE SQUARE**

**September 2026**

**Gettysburg Square**

**5 pm – 10 pm**

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