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## NEWS & NOTES

### COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

#### NOT SO FAST IN MEXICO CITY

By Inside México Staff

Inside México and Slow Food Condesa-Roma co-hosted the presentation of *Good Food in Mexico City: A Guide to Food Stalls, Fondas and Fine Dining*, written by New Yorker-turned-Chilango Nicholas Gilman (pictured below). Gilman's mission: to see Mexico City on the map as one of the world's major food capitals. IMX readers, culinary experts and foodies in attendance had the chance to snatch up a signed copy and sample the *marisco* hors d'oeuvres at Colonia Roma hot-spot Contramar restaurant.



#### GETTING AROUND OAXACA: THE INSIDE SCOOP

By Stan Gotlieb

#### SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE PREPARES FOR THE BICENTENNIAL

By Fran Schiavo

A friend is awakened in the middle of the night by her Canadian visitors, fully clothed and packed: "It's the revolution," they say. "We need to get out of here!" She tells them to go back to bed—the revolution was a long time ago.

The next morning I'm picking up grapefruit-sized shards of black plastic, the remnants of fireworks that rained down into my courtyard overnight. I've lived here long enough to be able to sleep through the celebrations. I have also learned to wear a hat against the falling ashes, and that when a fuse is lit and the Mexican crowd runs backwards, join them in fast retreat.

The revolution was almost one hundred years ago—the independence movement one hundred years before that. On September 16, 2010, San Miguel will celebrate the bicentennial of the beginning of the independence movement, born here. Planning is already underway, and the goal is to illuminate the links between the 1810 and 1910 movements, the present, and the future.

No one will be sleeping through the car horns tapping out the one-two-cha-cha-cha rhythm that is "Viva México", and I doubt anyone will want to. It will be a great party: plan to be here. Bring a hat.

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*Inside México welcomes News & Notes submissions from around the country. Please email contributions to Catherine Dunn: [catherine@insidemex.com](mailto:catherine@insidemex.com).*

Traffic cops: License plate removal has been outlawed. The city government of Oaxaca has issued orders to the transit Police that under no circumstances are they to remove the license plates from a vehicle. In the past, it was standard practice for police to take the plates off a car for parking, or even moving, violations, as an assurance that the driver would pay the fine. In most cases, however, the "fine" was negotiated on the spot with a cash payment to the person holding the plates. From now on, the motorist will be issued a paper ticket (which still might not be necessary if the "fine" is paid in cash).

Parking Meters: In the latest in a series of now-they're-in, now-they're out flip-flops, most of the extremely unpopular and probably impractical parking meters installed in the center of Oaxaca have been removed (the rest are being either vandalized or ignored). The city has decided that they are just too controversial, and it appears that this decision is final.

More pedestrian streets: The city has revealed plans to expand the "no circulation" streets in the center, and the merchants are howling. The affected merchants and residents (many of whom garage their cars at home and would be forced to leave them on nearby streets or pay for lot parking) are accusing the city of catering to tourism at the expense of local residents. Even among those who favor more pedestrian-only streets, many say that the city is not ready for the changes, pointing out that thousands of on-street parking spaces will be removed with no current plans to replace them with ramps or lots, and that no comprehensive plan for re-routing traffic has been announced.

*Stan Gotlieb publishes his writings in "The Oaxaca/Mexico Newsletter," which is available by subscription through his website [www.realoaxaca.com](http://www.realoaxaca.com).*