

The Next Big Thing: Bare Bed And Breakfasts

BY CAT FENNER

In 2010, my life and business partner, Lee Wilson, and I changed our careers of 30 years to pursue Lee's passion for painting. We also became nudists at the same time. While Lee changed my life with that "exposure," our new career allowed me to also change his life with one of my passions—travel. Naturally, we have tried to find a way to combine the two by staying at clothing-optional places when possible while on the road showing, selling and distributing Lee's paintings.

That same year, as if the planets had aligned for us, a couple on the other side of the country decided to expand their career horizons as well and created the Clothing-Optional Home Network (C-OHN). Supply and demand at its finest, they knew there were many established and first-time nudists that needed a safe, quiet place to relax, or even work as Lee and I have been known to do.

The concept of this couple married 23 years was simple: find homes around the country that would provide a private, relaxing upscale nude B & B experience. While they enjoyed the occasional nudist resort experience, they preferred being nude in the privacy of their Phoenix, Arizona home and knew others felt the same way. When they opened their own home as the first in the C-OHN (which they named AZ Lagoon del Sol), their suspicions were confirmed. Now they had to find more homes that would adhere to their guidelines of providing this environment.

The four of us inadvertently met in Las Vegas at the 2012 Nudist Expo. C-OHN had purchased a booth to generate interest—both from new potential homes and from the public—while Lee and I had a booth to showcase our classic nude paintings. Since most of our travels take us from our home in Nashville, Tennessee to our primary beach painting market in South Florida, we begged them to find a C-OHN home in which we could stay during those travels. Fortunately for us, they provided.

Since our best market for our tropical paintings is the Tampa to Naples area in Southwest Florida, finding Casa Alegre along that path was a dream come true. It had been a C-OHN home for just a few months when we first stayed there in the fall of 2013. Meeting all of the requirements of a C-OHN home—the full breakfast, private bed and bath wing of the house, walled outdoor area with pool and hot tub, refrigerator space, luxurious bed, and a sense of security—were all met to our delight. The unexpected bonus was the hosts. Casa Alegre's owners retired only a short time before they purchased this home and put in the pool and hot tub, could not have been more delightful, and we now consider them friends. We were tended to when needed and left



Guests enjoy the warm sunshine and pool at Amigos Casa in Mexico.

The outdoor shower at Arroyo del Sol is refreshing.



Lee repairs minor shipping damage on the commissioned painting of C-OHN's logo, poolside at Arizona Lagoon del Sol.



Cat Fenner and partner Lee Wilson relax during their first trip to Casa Alegre.



Cat adores having a pool to herself for her laps.



This is a typical gourmet breakfast at Casa Alegre.

Photos courtesy of au Naturele Organic Images and Clothing-Optional Home Network.

Current C-OHN Homes:

Arizona

Casa Cahava B & B

Located in the Sonoran Desert near Cave Creek.

Casa Jardin Paraiso

Located in Central Phoenix

AZ Lagoon del Sol

Located in North Phoenix

California

Arroyo del Sol

Located in Pasadena/Altadena

Florida

Casa Alegre

Located in southern Sarasota County

Louisiana

Bayou Allure

Located in Baton Rouge

Mexico

Amigos Casa

Located in Guadalajara

Caribbean

Clothing Optional Schooner

St. John's, U.S. Virgin Islands

For more information on Clothing-Optional Home Network and their locations, go to www.clothingoptionalhomenetwork.com.

alone when Lee and I both worked on our computers, naked and poolside of course! There's nothing like having to work at an outdoor bar top with the sun beaming down on your naked back and the soft sound of the pool fountain behind you . . . ahhh.

While we haven't had the opportunity (yet) to visit the other C-OHN homes, we did have a wonderful stay with C-OHN creators in Phoenix, when they commissioned a painting of their logo and hosted a "Meet the Artist" reception for us. We soon realized why our experience at Casa Alegre was so perfect, and what anyone can expect at any C-OHN home. After C-OHN conducts background checks and site visits, potential homeowners are required to go through an orientation at the home of the C-OHN creators, so that they know exactly how to give their guests the positive experience they deserve.

So whether a tired road traveler, a seasoned nudist wanting a vacation, a married couple needing to connect, or someone interested in trying a first time clothing-optional experience in an intimate setting (typically no more than one couple guest at a time), you will find it at a C-OHN home and you will feel pampered and relaxed. ■

"They know exactly how to give their guests the positive experience they deserve."

Cat Fenner is an freelance writer based in Nashville, Tennessee. Watch for her contributions to The Bulletin.