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Guatemala's English-language Magazine
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April 2009
Year 18, No. 2

FREE

Holy Week in Guatemala





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SUNDAY, APRIL 5 AND 19: Pablo Collado, flute and band, 3 pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12: Accordionist Luis Gonzalez Arocha and singer Svetlana Sizoff, 3 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17: Caffeine Jazz Quarter, 6 pm.

THURSDAY APRIL 23: Jacobo Nitsch, trumpet and piano, 6 pm.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26: Accordionist Luis Gonzalez Arocha and singer Eric Malbrun, 3 pm.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 30: "Brazilian Night", 6 pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16: Basic GPS course at Big Mountain, 6.30 pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3: Special telescopes activity at 7 pm. Telescopes provided by Big Mountain.

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Saturdays , 7 - 8.15 am.

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A large background image showing a serene landscape with a blue lake in the foreground and green mountains in the distance under a clear sky.

A small inset image showing a modern security guard post with a sign that reads "GUARDIA DE SEGURIDAD".

A small inset image showing a group of people playing basketball on an outdoor court.

Garita de seguridad
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A logo for "RESIDENCIAL CANTARES DEL LAGO" featuring a stylized landscape with green hills, trees, and a blue lake. Below the logo, it says "CANTARES DEL LAGO" and "San Andres (Keweenaw), Sothia".

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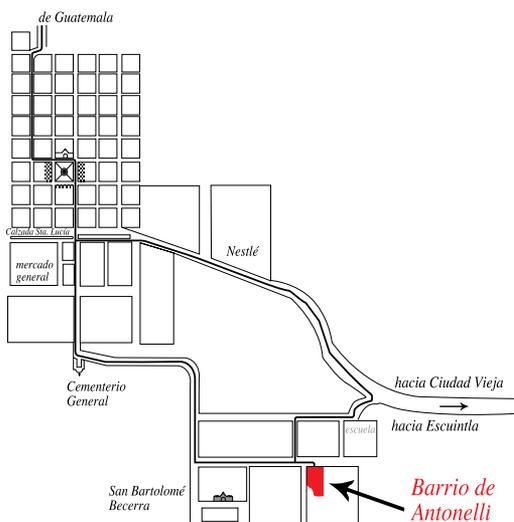
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EXIJA NUESTRO SELLO DE CALIDAD



- 1» The Da Vinci Code
- 2» Hoodwinked
- 3» Wallace & Gromit
- 4» Alice in Wonderland
- 5» Who Framed Roger Rabbit

TOP 10

EASTER

RENTALS

FOR APRIL*

- 6» The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
- 7» Monty Python's Life of Brian
- 8» Fiddler on the Roof
- 9» The Passion of Christ
- 10» Harvey

JENNYSTAR PRESENTS
«See page 57»

* according to jennystardvd.com

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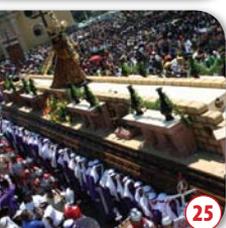
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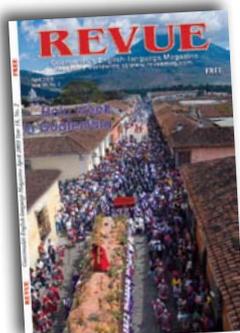
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ON THE COVER



Holy Week in La Antigua
by Byron Ortiz/byronortiz.blogspot.com

Deadline for May » April 6

XIAN



TIME FURNITURE



Asian antiques for modern living



FROM THE PUBLISHERS

As the spectacular photograph by Byron Ortiz on our cover this month demonstrates, La Antigua is a great place to be for Holy Week. But Semana Santa celebrations take place throughout Guatemala with beautiful processions and intricate *alfombras* (carpets) to be found from Guatemala City to Quetzaltenango to the Lake region. This year in the Revue we highlight some of these celebrations in pictures and words.

We spotlight two towns on Lake Atitlán, San Pedro la Laguna and Santiago Atitlán, with some lovely photography by Victoria Stone. Harry Díaz has captured some great shots from Xela, and throughout the magazine you will spot some excellent photos of last year's celebrations by one of our favorite contributors, Leonel Mijangos.

While it's true Holy Week is a big part of what's happening in April, there are a number of other events that merit your attention. Our DateBook section starting on page 24 will guide you through the art exhibits, theatre presentations, music nights, workshops and conferences so you can have as much fun as possible.

Also in these pages you can read about a couple of books that are hitting the stores this month: Elizabeth Bell's third edition of *Lent and Holy Week in La Antigua* and *Nazarenos de Guatemala* by José Carlos Flores L. Check your local bookstore.

Other topics included in this issue: People and Projects, cicadas, Guatemalan mountain climbers, the Museo de Santiago, children's toys and the size of tomato paste cans in the stores. And, of course, as always, we can help you on where to dine, shop, rest, relax and get around in this beautiful country.

May your April be full of joy and celebration, and thanks for reading the Revue.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

REVUE

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Springtime for Chicharra and Chiquirín



by Dwight Wayne Coop

*Lovesick cicadas electrify the air with an amorous
din as they hurdle from puberty to old age*

In the spring,” wrote Tennyson in his poem *Locksley Hall*, “a young man’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love.” The same could be said of old cicadas in Central America.

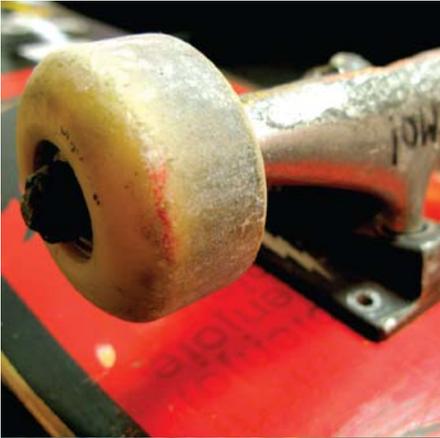
Every spring, millions of them emerge from the ground to molt, unfurl their new wings, mate—and sing. The ensuing swarm can be a pelting, deafening tempest of bugs so intense that wedding planners try to schedule around them. Most cicadas are otherwise not considered pests, although too many larvae in an orchard may kill a few trees, from whose roots they suck sap.

The last five or so weeks of a cicada’s life packs in adolescence, adulthood and old age, following a larval “childhood” of one or several years, although no species among dozens of Central American genera can match the longevity of the notorious “17-year locusts” in the United States.

In Guatemala, the term for cicadas is *chicharra*, a word of K’ekchi origin used as far away as Nicaragua and often bastardized into *cigarra*. That may sound like something to smoke, but there are no records that cicadas are ever smoked like tobacco. They are, however, roasted and eaten; for guerillas in all three of Central America’s recent civil wars, they were practically a seasonal fruit. Cicadas are somewhat richer in protein than fruit, however, and the females are preferred because they are meatier than their mates.

The reason for this is that much of the female’s abdomen is an ovary that produces up to 600 eggs, which she deposits into slits that she chisels into tree roots. The male’s abdomen, contrarily, has a large, empty “echo” chamber that amplifies his singing organs. For guerillas, then, the females were the “deep-dish” variety and the males were the “extra-crispy.” Both have a crunch.

...continued on page 46



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Sensuous Guatemala

by Ken Veronda

Colorful carpets, thumping bands, pungent odors, rich tastes, thick crowds—through the Lenten season, into Palm Sunday and Semana Santa, Holy Week, all five senses are overwhelmed in every Guatemalan city and village, but nowhere more than in La Antigua Guatemala with its colonial traditions and frequent processions.

Intricate floral designs, forming colorful *alfombras*, carpets, are most elaborate on Good Friday but delight the eye before every procession throughout this season. Purple robes, and sometimes white, red, black vestments, line the streets and drape penitents carrying saints through the streets, with banners of color on the homes of the faithful. In the markets, great bundles of multihued flowers, of green pine, yellow palm, brown bark, sawdust dyed in many shades, are stacked for sale for the carpets. All these are treats for the sense of sight.

Soft shuffling of hundreds of feet along procession routes. Loud and mournful bands following the statues of the saints. Even louder and incongruous rock from speakers entertaining the carpet-makers through the night, and loud mortars and strings of fire-crackers. Horse hooves on the cobblestones as the actors playing Roman soldiers ride to announce the Crucifixion with shouts. Sobs and laughter, moans and cheers, murmurs of prayers from penitents in the processions and cries of laughter from children in the parks. And, of course, the joyful music of marimba, in restaurants and homes. All these are treats to be heard.

Pom, incense of burning pitch, forms thick clouds of smoke to cleanse the procession routes. A sweeter odor comes from the machines spinning cotton candy in the park, the sugary smell blended with charcoal grills with sizzling steaks and sausages. More subtle are smells of the blossoms, of the dust, of the crowds standing or shuffling in the sunshine, of the pine needles trampled underfoot. These and more are treats to be smelled.

The special tastes of traditional foods of the season, salads of beets, of smoked tuna, green olives, pickled eggs, candied fruits. The taste in the mouth of the incense smoke as the processions pass, or of the sweets sold by vendors following those processions. Strong coffee for carpet-builders, and draft beer for the spectators. Tamales and tacos and grilled *carnes* and fried bananas. There are so many holiday treats to be tasted.

Then there's touch. Sore shoulders and feet for those carrying the heavy *anda* platforms with the carved saints. Sore backs for fathers carrying little ones on their shoulders to see it all. Sometimes unpleasant touch of people pressing so close together along the procession routes. Sometimes loving touch as couples and families hold hands as they walk among the marvelous carpets before those exquisite creations are destroyed by the marchers in the processions. Each special touch, each sensuous sight, sound, smell, taste, form unforgettable memories of the season, of Semana Santa in Guatemala. 

PHOTO: LEONEL MIMANOS/EMANTIGUA.COM



Procesión Catedral, Quetzaltenango 2008
—Harry Díaz / www.flickr.com/photos/harrydiaz



Colorful and solemn processions will traverse many streets in Central America during Semana Santa (Holy Week) with La Antigua Guatemala's commemoration of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection among the most elaborate in the World.

Each church has its own procession featuring a massive float (*anda*) carried on the shoulders of as many as 80 colorfully-robed church members (*cucuruchos*). Residents meticulously arrange ornate carpets (*alfombras*) on the streets outside their homes, businesses or schools, over which the processions will trod. Brightly colored sawdust (*aserrín*) is the main ingredient of the carpets, with flower petals, fruit and vegetables in abundance.

Lasting from one to 12 hours, processions wind through the streets while musicians walk behind the *andas* playing mournful dirges as the smell and smoke of incense swirls through the air. 



Semana Santa on the Lake: **San Pedro la Laguna**

by **Ana Flinder** photos: Victoria Stone

Semana Santa is undoubtedly the most festive week of the year in Guatemala, celebrated with the most pomp and grandeur in La Antigua, and with deeply traditional ceremonies and indigenous style in Santiago Atitlán. Both of these destinations require advanced bookings for lodging but are not the only places to experience a Guatemalan Semana Santa.

San Pedro la Laguna, at the base of Volcán San Pedro, has a surprisingly authentic and reverent Semana Santa celebration, as well as a plethora of hotels. In recent years, San Pedro has attracted only a smattering of tourists who attend the celebrations, while many, both Guatemalan and foreign, stay downhill from town in the tourist zone, vacationing

among the many bars and restaurants, and perhaps kayaking and horseback riding.

There are processions all through the week in San Pedro, featuring a children's procession and a Judas procession on Ash Wednesday, processions of Christ on the cross and María on Good Friday, the women's daytime processions with María on Saturday, and a procession of the resurrected Christ on Easter morning.

Although San Pedro is a relatively modernized town—for example, almost none of the women still wear handwoven *huipiles*, preferring polyester “blusas”—the Semana Santa celebrations are *bien tradicional*. It is immediately evident that days and weeks of work have gone into the elaborate preparations of the processions and *alfombras*.

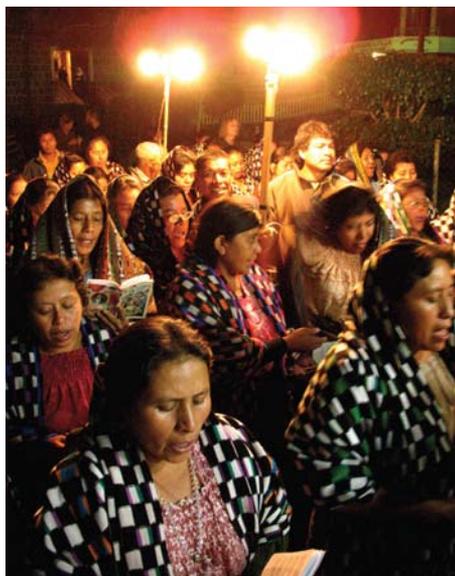


Devotions by candlelight all through the night in the hidden frankincense-filled cofradía house.



Young women of San Pedro carry the statue of the Virgin Mary.

Here, the alfombras—carpets laid out on the streets for the processions to walk over as they carry statues of Jesus and Mary— are nearly all made of organic materials: flowers, leaves, seedpods and seeds, which have been gathered from the woods ...continued on page 110



Hundreds of women line the streets and participate in their colorful shawls; young women, little girls, and grandmothers wear the white lacy veils that mark their devotion.



Aconcagua Expedition 2009



by Kathy Nuñez Töpke

Vinicio and Manuel Álvarez fly Guatemala's colors on the summit of Monte Aconcagua

A team of four Antigüenos and one Quetzalteco recently embarked on a journey to climb Aconcagua (Argentina), the highest mountain peak in the Americas, at 6,962 meters above sea level.

The team members were: Manuela Rosales, Omar Salomón Soto, Manuel Álvarez, Vinicio Álvarez (guide) all from La Antigua, and Manuel Mejía from Quetzaltenango.

On Wednesday, January 7, they approached the peak from Puente del Inca (2,720m) and traveled to Laguna de Horcones, Aconcagua National Park. They arrived Thursday afternoon at base camp, Plaza de Mulas (4,200m), after enduring the first storms that afternoon.

On Friday, the climbers rested to get acclimated and for a medical checkup. Unfor-



Guatemalan Aconcagua climbing team

18 » revuemag.com

tunately, Manuel Mejía had a cough, and wasn't cleared by the medical team. He had to stay behind.

On Sunday, they headed from base camp to the first altitude camp, Nido de Cóndores (5,200m) but had to return because of bad weather. Manuela returned to base camp and waited for them.

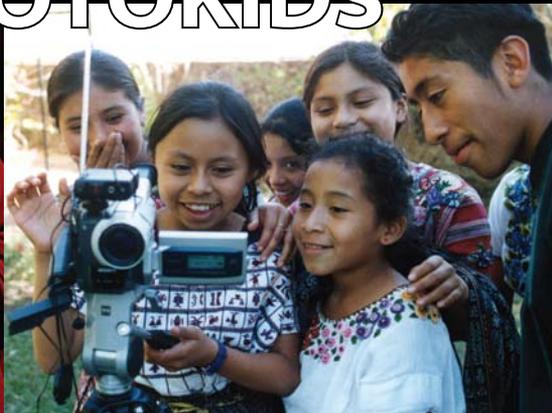
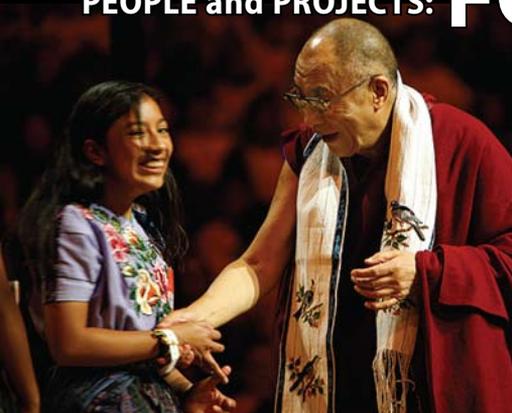
On Tuesday the 13th, the three remaining climbers tried again and succeeded. From that point, Omar returned to base camp. Another storm on Wednesday forced the group to remain in camp.

At this point, only two of the five team members, Vinicio and Manuel Álvarez, (father and son) headed for the next camp, Colera (5,900m), where they spent the night. At noon Friday the 16th, they finally reached the peak of Monte Aconcagua (6,962m). They descended a few hours later to the base camp.

It was Vinicio Álvarez's fourth expedition as a guide to this peak, and the first time that his son, Manuel, joined his team.

Congratulations to all the Aconcagua-Antártica team members! We are so proud of you! 🍷

PEOPLE and PROJECTS: FOTOKIDS



FOTOKIDS: Meeting the Dalai Lama and working with some new camera equipment

Fotokids breaks the cycle of poverty afflicting Guatemalan youth using photography, graphic design and media technology as a voice for disenfranchised youth to examine their lives, families, communities and environment. Participants from some of the poorest barrios learn employable skills opening new opportunities, promoting self-esteem; leadership; critical thinking; and desire for continued education. Students receive traditional educational scholarships and our older students teach classes to younger ones.

The project currently has 103 youths aged 11 to 18 in Guatemala City and Santiago Atitlán, and 50 youths in Las Mangas, Honduras.

Mission

To help young people from poor barrios develop employable skills while encouraging self-exploration, expression and discovery, based on long-term intensive relationships between youth, teachers and mentors.

2008 Achievements

- 5 Fotokids travelled to 3 U.S. cities speaking at schools, meeting the Dalai Lama, working with Tibetan and South African youths.

- Exhibited their photographs in Paris, Estonia, Portland, Seattle, San Paolo
- Won photo competitions; PIEA and BBC young nature photographers, U.S. professional training workshops in design and video
- Creation of student-run design studio Jakaramba and stock agency

Current Projects

- 3-year project training teen girls in information technology
- Expansion Jakaramba design studio in Santiago Atitlán and City with professional mentors
- Jakaramba serves commercial clients
- Giving photographic workshops for public, NGO's and businesses.

Wish List

- Local businesses and NGOs who can use our youth publicity agency services
- Sponsors to support scholastic or photographic education scholarships
- Digital cameras

Contact info: Tel: (502) 2470-1332, email: info@fotokids.org – also, please visit us at www.fotokids.org



Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

3Q and the Tomato Paste War

Dealing with Lilliputian cans of sauce and questionable quantification quirkiness on our retail shelves

Tomato paste is mentioned in Guatemala's Constitution. I have yet to find the paragraph, section, and clause, but I'm certain it is there.

The law in question requires all cans of tomato paste sold here to be the 6-ounce variety. You may occasionally find tomato paste in larger cans, such as at Jim's Pana Meats in Panajachel, but these were smuggled in.

When I moved to Guatemala as a single person, this was no big deal. But now, with a family of five, these Lilliputian cans make cooking a chore: endless spooning that yields a pile of trash big enough to cover Staten Island. Once, in the desperate search for expedience, I tried to vacuum the paste from the cans with a turkey baster inherited from my grandmother. You can imagine how well that worked.

The law applies to every retailer, from the mammoth Pais Hiper all the way down to Doña Pepa's phonebooth-sized tienda in the remotest hamlet. It applies to all three suppliers; none departs from the rule.

It may be rooted in centuries of hand-to-mouth culture, which conditions folks of sparse means to buy everything in the

smallest available quantity. This is why Doña Pepa sells many items *sueltecito* (one-by-one) instead of in bulk. Instead of boxes of matchbooks, she sells individual books, to say nothing of *sueltecito* cigarettes and gumballs. She also sells Fab (detergent) in packets whose contents wouldn't fill a salt shaker, and tiny toothpaste tubes that Mr. Bean wouldn't have to squeeze half-empty when packing light for a trip.

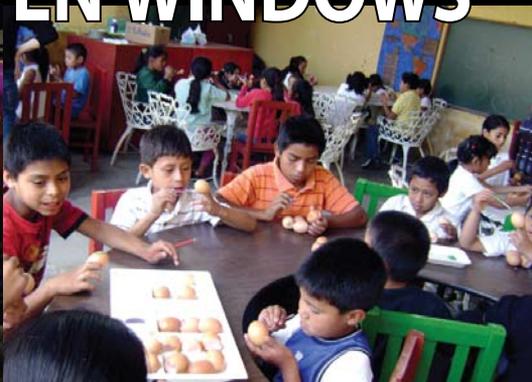
All this is much costlier for the end-user, but it keeps Doña Pepa afloat. Yet surely Hiper Paiz, which buys and sells candy and Fab by the containerload, could sell bigger cans of tomato paste.

The absence of such a commodity, i.e., reasonably sized cans of a major food staple (for which there is no doubt a latent demand) reminds me of the Chicken War between Germany and the United States in the 1960s. This war was less spectacular than the war these powers fought in the 1940s. For this reason alone, you will never see the Chicken War on the History Channel.

Up to 1963, U.S. automakers monopolized the domestic pickup market. But then Volkswagen introduced ...continued on page 66

You need another conversion factor to determine which package is the better deal. Before you can do the math, you must know the density of yogurt. Who is going to know that?

PEOPLE and PROJECTS: OPEN WINDOWS



Try to imagine schools without books. Then imagine an organization that works with schools and families not only to provide books, but learning opportunities for children and parents. Open Windows (Ventanas Abiertas) operates a much-needed library and educational enrichment center with a computer lab in San Miguel Dueñas, Guatemala. In less than seven years Open Windows has grown from 20 registered children to over 1,300, with more than 150 children visiting daily.

Mission

Our goal is to open windows of opportunity and improve literacy rates for the children of San Miguel Dueñas through access to a free library, educational enrichment center with computer lab and a scholarship program.

Past Achievements

Open Windows library began with 300 books; it was a place that encouraged children to come do their homework and participate in educational activities. Since opening, the library has expanded to more than 7,000 books for children and young adults. Schools in San Miguel Dueñas do not have textbooks for all students. The Open Windows library contains textbooks for all grades. The educational enrichment center provides homework help as well as

programs for children to improve their reading, math and academic skills. Open Windows' professional staff of five full-time teachers reinforces the basics while simultaneously supporting academic needs. A special program offers support for children with learning disabilities and their parents. A free 20-terminal computer lab has over 275 students enrolled in computer training. The computer center provides internet access as well as programs to reinforce academics.

Current Projects

At the end of last year, Open Windows completed a new teen center. Teens will have their own space to do homework, socialize, participate in special programs and learn new skills to help them prepare for their future.

Wish List

- Funds for scholarships and to support general operations
- Microphones and speakers
- Craft materials: colored paper, markers, pens, crayons, scissors, stickers, glue, paints
- Backpacks & school supplies
- Reams of copy paper
- Educational DVDs in Spanish for teens

To learn more about what we do and who we are, please visit us: www.openwindowsfoundation.org or contact Open Windows' Director Teresa Quiñonez: openwindows_teresa@yahoo.com



Original sculpture of the “Sirens of the Fountain,” by Mayor Diego de Porras, damaged in the 1773 earthquake.



A visitor is admiring the original sword of Pedro de Alvarado, which is in the case below his portrait. Surrounding it are other Guatemalan dignitaries.

MUSEO DE SANTIAGO

The Museo de Santiago de los Caballeros in La Antigua Guatemala is a must see. It’s among several museums and many churches and ruins in La Antigua, but most people miss it, even though it is located right on the fringe of Central Park. Although under-funded and in need of some upkeep, the museum really has some of the best exhibits tracing the history of Guatemala. A half hour there gives you an idea of Guatemalan history from conquest to the 19th century.

The museum has a very interesting collection of antique weapons dating from the conquest to the beginning of the 20th century. Almost all changes in history have been tied to advances in weaponry—from tying a rock on a stick to make a better club, to the atomic bomb.

The fact that the weapons exhibited are not pristine, shiny examples of “hung-on-a-wall” display arms makes them even more interesting. Many are real weapons,

which were used, and continued to be used and modified and upgraded and used up. This history traces what happened in Guatemala. Some of the displays are reproductions, including spikes and clubs from the conquest—the bows and arrows are real. But with a little imagination one can follow what happened from the time of Pedro de Alvarado to the beginning of the 20th century.

The antique arms collection, unfortunately, had never been properly identified. A new resident of La Antigua noticed erroneous descriptions or none at all. When he mentioned this to Museum Director María Antonieta Godoy Muñoz, she replied, “Yes, we get so many questions that we really cannot answer because we just don’t know what they are.”

The newcomer offered to help. Even with an extensive knowledge of antique arms, he still needed a year of research, calling on experts from two continents, and then another year of writing and translating—the



Descriptive labels identifying antique muskets, prepared and donated to the museum by a new resident to La Antigua.



Entry hall of the Museo de Santiago, a large bust of Pedro de Alvarado looks down on two 18th century howitzers; behind are six-gauge wall guns.

The Museum de Santiago de los Caballeros improves its exhibits

**text and photos
by Ira Lewis**

Director of the museum, María Antonieta Godoy Muñoz points to a new label describing two heavy wall guns, which could have been used at the Castillo San Felipe to defend the entrance to Lake Isabel against pirates.

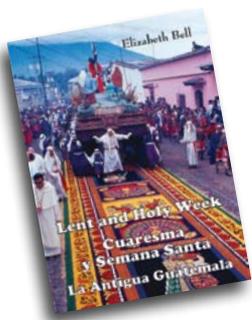
many little-used technical terms were especially difficult—before the new resident could donate a definitive set of descriptions for the historically significant arms. Sr. Gustavo Azmitia of La Copia Fiel collaborated by providing a great deal of free art work and printing at cost.

Now, museum visitors can understand what they are looking at. As the new descriptions were being hung, a large group of students on a field trip arrived. They were avidly reading the descriptions and making notes, especially interested in the dates, instead of just wandering by and glancing at the “old guns.”

Don't miss the Museo de Santiago de los Caballeros, it's an important one in La Antigua. 📍

On a follow-up visit by the newcomer, Directora Godoy mentioned that several paintings needed cleaning and restoration. There are restoration experts working on paintings from other museums who could do the paintings in Museo de Santiago, but there's no funds. A small donation, either in the form of materials or cash would help preserve some important history of Guatemala. Your contact is Directora Godoy, fax (502) 7832-2860 or email museosantiago@enantigua.net





Holy Week Handbook

by Joy Houston



Author Elizabeth Bell

The third edition of Elizabeth Bell's *Lent and Holy Week in La Antigua* hits the shops just in time for the crowds that hit the town for this year's celebrations. When first approached in the early 1990s with, "You should do a book on Holy Week," her response was, "What? We go into hiding during Holy Week!" But it did, in fact, seem like a good idea. Elizabeth's greatest joy is researching La Antigua, so she began to compile information and her own observations of the previous two decades and published the first edition in 1995.

It captivated her, grew on her and now even Elizabeth Bell, from whom flows volumes of historical facts during her cultural tours and presentations, admits difficulty in finding words for the traditions of Holy Week in La Antigua. "I want to bring it to life on paper, and that's very hard to do."

Still fishing, she says, "There's a *Semana Santa* moment. It's a feeling, and it's memorable. You never know when it's going to hit you, when you'll have it. It's just like... wow! That's what I'm looking for."

Continuing to look and learn, she published the second edition of the book in 2001, repeating the compact pocket size. The latest edition is larger, matching Bell's *Antigua Guatemala: The City and Its Heritage*. "Bigger is better for the photos," she explains, which, excluding those of the vigils, are all hers. "Wonderful postcards of the vigils are available after 11 a.m. at each church of a vigil. Why compete with that? I took photos of those!" A vigil is held at the church to display its image the day before it is taken in procession. "The artistic quality of scenery and lighting is amazing, with fruits and vegetables representing the garden of Gethsemane."

The traditions have grown over the past four and a half centuries, ...continued on page 60



Nazarenos de Guatemala

José Carlos Flores L.



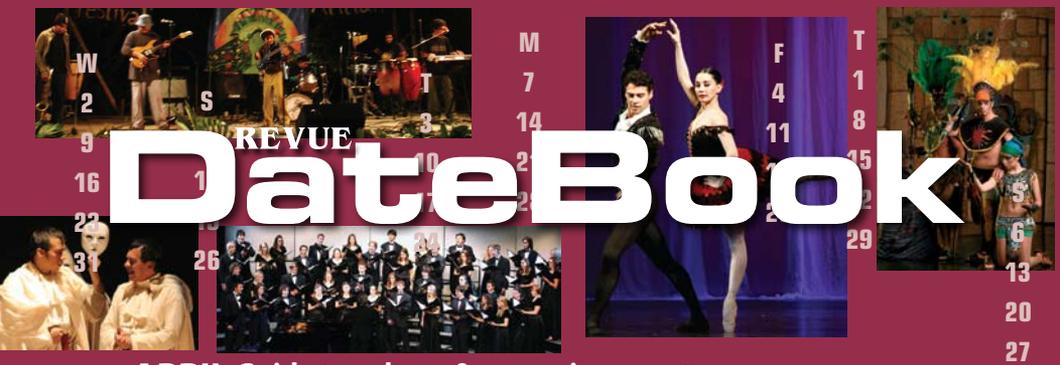
This beautifully-crafted collector's book features a 180 page, full-color photographic collection of Guatemalan figures of Jesus Christ.

Measuring 13x13, it is cloth bound and printed in Guatemala City by Print Studio.

"This book attempts through the various photographs to carry our faith to the hearts of Guatemalans who live here as well as those who presently reside abroad. The most important ingredient of this work is the love of God, faith and devotion."

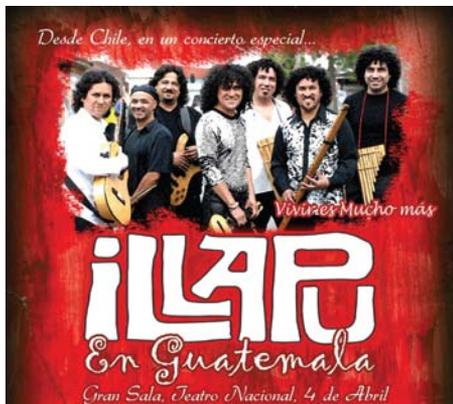
—José Carlos Flores L., March 2009





APRIL Guide to culture & upcoming events

Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos



3 Fri., 11am-3pm — **WOMEN CELEBRATING WOMEN:** Reception & art gallery featuring artistic accomplishments and hobbies of foreign women living in Guatemala, includes paintings, dolls, quilting, sculpture; sponsored by the Antigua Guatemala American Legion Unit #2 Womens Auxiliary. AnEcho (Antigua's Educational, Cultural Home Office), Convento Concepción (tel: 7882-4600) 4a calle oriente #41, **La Antigua**.

3 Fri., 5pm — **DANCE:** *Nuevo amanecer*, Mayan dances performed by indigenous children from the charity K'a k'a' Saqarik (Nuevo Amanecer). Come and see the show and learn more about Mayan culture. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

3 Fri., and Sat., 4th - 7pm — **LIVE ON STAGE:** *Vaudeville comes to La Antigua*, featuring talented local stars singing, dancing and acting out birth and death and everything that happens in between. Q50, benefit produced by Dorothea to promote the professional development of ART (Antigua's Repertory Theatre) El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

4 Sat., 8pm — **MUSIC:** In concert with Chilean group Illapu performing a fusion of Andean Latin music with a touch of jazz, classic and Afro-Caribbean music and the strength of rock. (www.illapu.cl/) More info: 4427-8200.
 ◀ Gran Sala, Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

4 Sat., 9am-4pm — **TEXTILE WORKSHOP:** Opening of *Textile Gallery Show of Ixcaco*, the beautiful natural brown cotton of Guatemala; demonstrations of hand spinning by indigenous master weavers from Sololá and Comalapa. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

5 Sun., & Mon., 6th, 3pm — **SHOW:** *Circus Time*, bring your kids, lots of fun guaranteed. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

7 Tues., 9:30am-1:30pm — **TEXTILE WORKSHOP:** *Natural Palette*, painting with natural pigments on all types of backgrounds, cotton, silk, linen canvas & wood, using plant extracts made into watercolors, temperas, oils, & pastels. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

12 Sun., 3pm — **MUSIC:** Accordionist Luis González Arocha and vocalist Sveltana Sizoff. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

13 Mon., through Sat., 18th, 9am-4pm — **SEWING WORKSHOP:** *Quality Sewing and Finishing*, learn how to adjust your machine properly for the fabric, different types of seams, trims, zippers, bias; how to place and cut your patterns on the fabric. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.



La Reseña, La Merced Church, La Antigua 2008 —Leonel Mijangos / enantigua.com

Semana Santa Holy Vigils and Procesions in La Antigua Guatemala

6 Mon. — Holy Monday: *Holy Vigil of Jesús Nazareno de La Merced*, La Merced Church, between 1a calle poniente & 6a av. norte.

7 Tues., — Holy Tuesday: *Holy Vigil of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón*, San Francisco El Grande Church, between 1a av. sur & 7a calle oriente.

8 Wed., 10am — Holy Wednesday: *Holy Vigil of Señor Sepultado*, Escuela de Cristo Church, between calle de los Pasos & calle de Belén; **2pm** — *Children's procession*, under 10 years old, from La Merced Church.

9 Thurs., noon — Maundy Thursday: *Procession of Jesús Nazareno de la Humildad, Virgen de Dolores and Saints* from San Cristobal El Bajo Church; **1pm** — *Procesions of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón*, San Francisco El Grande Church.

10 Fri., 5am — Good Friday: *Procession of Jesús Nazareno*, La Merced Church; **2pm** — *Procession of the Burial of Christ*, from Escuela de Cristo Church; **3pm** — *Procession of the Burial of Christ*, from San Felipe de Jesús Church.

11 Sat., 3pm — *Procesions of Virgen de Soledad* from various churches.

12 Sun., 1pm — Easter Sunday: *Procession of Jesús Resucitado* from Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, Templo San Pedro Church.

To learn more about Easter Week (Semana Santa) in La Antigua Guatemala, pick up your copy of "Lent and Easter Week in Antigua" by Elizabeth Bell; also, in this edition, see "Holy Week Handbook" on page 22.

LECTURE HIGHLIGHT

7 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) COMMUNITY SERVICE LECTURE: CasaSito's *Rainwater Catchment Tanks Construction Program* is intended to improve domestic water supplies for rural villagers in Guatemala, where besides the lack of clean drinking water, water for bathing is greatly restricted, especially in the dry season, causing skin and other health problems. Each tank can hold 5,000 liters of water or more, which gives a family a store of clean water for 8-9 months a year. This technology can improve the water shortage situation of many underprivileged families. Rory Healy, CasaSito water project coordinator, will share his volunteer experience building water tanks in rural area of Guatemala. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café

(tel: 7832-1919)
7a av. sur #8,
La Antigua.



14 through Thurs., 30th — PHOTOGRAPHY: *La Luna* by Spanish artist Rodrigo. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City.**

14 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) COMMUNITY SERVICE: *Guatemalans generating their own opportunities through modern community libraries*, The Riecken Foundation's mission is to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through libraries that spark a spirit of discovery and foster social participation. In Guatemala, we support and coordinate with 11 lending libraries. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the MAY 2009 edition of the REVUE by Monday, April 6

14 Tues., and Tues., 21st, 6:30pm — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: *El Arte en el Cementerio General* by Dr. Anibal Chajón, culminating with a guided visit to the cemetery on Sat., 25th at 1pm. Q375/Q250 students and tourism guides w/carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7896) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

15 Wed., 5pm — ART:

Opening of *Nash MD*, by Nathalie Verwilghen. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.**



17 Fri., 6pm — MUSIC: Jazz concert performed by Caffeine Jazz Quarter. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.** ▼



18 Sat., 11am — (Spanish) DISCUSSION: *En recuerdo de Augusto Cazali Ávila*, with the participation of Lic. Alfredo Bonatti, Félix Catillo, historian Ediliberto Cifuentes and moderator Roberto Díaz Castillo. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino, 1a av. norte #23, **La Antigua.**

18 Sat., 4pm — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Amadeo Brañas, historiógrafo* by Guatemalan writer Eduardo Villagrán. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua.**



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18 Sat., 7pm — ART: *Arte en Concreto*, sculpture exposition with more than 10 artists from Guatemala, Germany, Turkey and Nicaragua. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



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—Edgar Wilson Nye



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18 Sat., 7:30am-6pm — WORKSHOP: Peruvian artist Claudia Gamarra presents her extensive knowledge of *Therapeutic Use of Art*, Q250 per person; all tools provided. Sign up by April 10 and receive a Q50 discount. Holistic Center (tel: 5741-2905) Callejón del Burrito, El Injertal condominium, #7A, **La Antigua**.

19 Sun., 3pm — MUSIC: Flute performance by Pablo Collado and his back-up band. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

A good painting to me has always been like a friend. It keeps me company, comforts and inspires. —Hedy Lamarr

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MUSIC

MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

La Cueva de Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925)5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua***Mondays, 8 to 10pm:** Blues Night. Q35.**Tuesdays and Saturdays, 8 to 10pm**—Estasis, Trio, Salón Latino & Tango. Q35.**Wednesdays, 8-10pm**— Latino Jazz Trio.
entrance: Q25.**Thursdays and Fridays,****8 to 10pm** — Cuban jazz performed by Buena Vista de Corazón.
entrance Q35. ▶**La Peña de Sol Latino** (tel: 7882-4468)5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*.**Mondays, 7:30pm** — Kenny Molina hosts *Open Mike*. Free.**Tuesdays, 7:30pm** — Ramiro plays trova Cubana. Free.**Wednesdays-Saturdays, 7:30pm-Sundays, 7pm** — Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼**Sundays, 1pm** — Ramiro plays Trova Cubana during the Sunday Buffet. No cover.

If your bar or restaurant has live music on a regular schedule, send info to: publicidad@revuemag.com

Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919)7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua***Mondays, 7:30pm** — Don Ramiro will serenade you with some beautiful Latin folk music. Free.**Tuesdays, 7:30pm** — Cesar, a home-grown talent plays a mixture of Western and Latino tunes. Free.**Wednesdays, 7:30pm** — *Open Mike Night* hosted by Juan-Jo and friends. A complimentary drink for all performers. Free.**Thursdays, 7:30pm** — Güicho will astound you with his guitar skills and improvisation of Latino and pop classics.**Fridays, 7:30pm** — Get in the groove with Sergio playing great Reggae tracks.**Saturdays, 7:30pm** — La Casa de Kello gets the party going with a mixture of original music, Latino beats, blues and popular Western music. ▼**Sundays, 7:30pm** — La Raiz-Luis, Juan-Jo & Choko, great improvised classics. Free.**La Casbah Discoteca** (tel: 7832-2640)5a av norte #30, *La Antigua***Wednesdays 9pm-1am** — PARTY: Dance to the music of the 80s at the hottest discotheque in town. No cover.

4 Sat., 8pm — MUSIC: In concert with Chilean group Illapu performing a fusion of Andean Latin music with a touch of jazz, classic and Afro-Caribbean music and the strength of rock. (www.illapu.cl/) More info: 4427-8200. Gran Sala, Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Circus Bar (tel: 7762-2056)
Avenida de los Árboles, *Panajachel*

Mondays — the fabulous piano master Chris Jarnach plays jazz and favorite tunes
Circus Bar Latin Ensemble plays boleros, salsa, son Cubano and other Latin rhythms

Tuesdays — Nayno Flamenco and Rumba and Latin Ensemble, Trova del Lago

Wednesdays — Nayno, Latin Ensemble

Thursdays — Nayno, Trova del lago

Fridays — Los Vagabundos, hot rhythms in a fusion of rumba flamenco and Guatemalan traditional elements

Saturdays — a fascinating show of Circus Bar Allstars

Sundays — Latin Ensemble

Fontabella Plaza (tel: 6628-5600 ex. 202005)
12 calle y 4 avenida, z.10, *Guatemala City*

Thursdays, 6pm — Trumpet & piano music by Jacobo Nitsch.

25 Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *La Red de la Vida*, *Etno-Fusion* featuring Magda Angélica and guest musicians Lenin Fernández, Fernando Scheel, Ana Lucía Orozco and Coqui Arriola. Q60/Q30 children. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*. ▼



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19 Sun., 11am — (Spanish) THEATER: *El Mago de Oz*, inspired by the movie “The Wizard of Oz,” presented by Compañía de Teatro Bravo. Q40. Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo, Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias (tel: 2232-4041) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

21 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) TALK: *Life in Guatemala: Brief History and Current Conditions* with Sue Patterson, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer now living in La Antigua Guatemala. She is a former U.S. Consul General in Guatemala and has served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is also the founder of WINGS, a non-profit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

21 Tues., 8am-5pm — TOUR TO COMALAPA: Visit this indigenous village, famous for its folk painters and textiles, includes transportation in minivan, demonstrations of backstrap and floor-loom weaving, visits to painters’ galleries, tour of market, and a delicious home-made lunch in private home. Proceeds benefit the women’s cooperative, Maya-Works. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, *La Antigua*.

22 Sun., 2:30pm — (Spanish) SHOW: *Alexis the Storyteller* and his entertainment team. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, *Guatemala City*.

A writer should write with his eyes and a painter paint with his ears. —Gertrude Stein

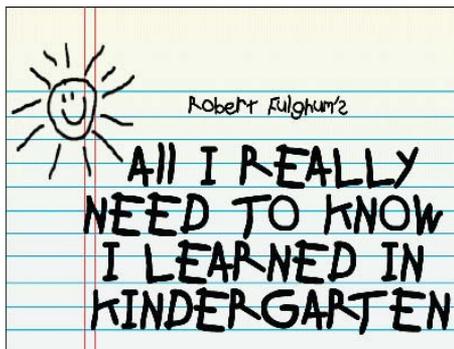
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23 Thurs., 6pm — MUSIC: Trumpet and piano concert performed by Jacobo Nitsch. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

23 Thurs., and Thurs., 30th, 9am-4pm — TEXTILE WORKSHOP: *Product Improvement*, with practical experiences, analysis and discussion, this workshop introduces weavers to several ways to improve the quality of their textiles. A special focus will be given to innovative processes in the creation and improvement of those textiles, to promote market success. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**

24 Thurs., 7pm — FASHION SHOW: Featuring summer fashion, fun for the whole family. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

24 Fri., and Sat., 25th, 8pm — (English) THEATER: *All I Ever Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, the comedy/drama based on books by Robert Fulghum; conceived and adapted for the stage by Ernest Zulia; produced and performed by a new community theater for adults in Guatemala City. Q50. Dr. Sherry Miller Theater, Colegio Maya (tel: 4011-1530) Carretera a El Salvador, Km 12.5, **Guatemala City.** ▼



25 Sat., 11am — MUSIC (DVD PRESENTATION): Beethoven, *concierto para violín, violocello y piano Op. 56* performed by the Berlin philharmonic orchestra, presented by Ing. José Ángel Lee. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino, 1a av. norte #23, **La Antigua.**

26 Sun., 3pm — MUSIC: Performance by accordionist Luis González Arocha and singer Erick Malbrun. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

28 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) COMMUNITY SERVICE: *Microloans: Myths and Management* by "As Green As It Gets," a non-profit organization supporting coffee farmers, artisans and other small producers from disadvantaged communities in Guatemala. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

30 Thurs., 7pm — ART: Inauguration of *Proyecto Inconcluso*, with work by several national and international artists. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua.** ▼



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Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time. —Thomas Merton



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An artist cannot fail; it is a success to be one.
—Charles Horton Cooley



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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Mon., through Fri., 9-10am — (Spanish) **RADIO PROGRAM:** *Voces de Madre-selva*, eco-cultural radio program, tune in to 106.9 FM.

Mondays, 10:30am-12:30pm & 3pm-5pm — **ART WORKSHOP:** Art classes for teenagers and adults, all levels. Teaching different techniques as oil, acrylic, watercolors, dry pastel crayon and drawing. Galería Ríos (tel: 7882-4552) 4a calle oriente #41, local P, Casa Convento Concepción, **La Antigua**. ▼



ART: *Allegories*, copper-wire images and oil, in the latest works by Colombian artist Ricardo Castillo who is one of the gallery's newest artists. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle Oriente # 15, **La Antigua**.

Tuesdays, 6pm — (English) **SLIDE SHOW** *Antigua: Behind the Walls* by Elizabeth Bell. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

Wednesdays, 6:30pm — (Spanish) **MIÉRCOLES DE CINE:** A new movie every week. Free. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua**.

Thursdays, 6pm — (English w/Spanish ST) **FILM:** Charlie Chaplin: **2nd**—*City Lights*; **16th**—*Modern Times*; **23rd**—*The Gold Rush*; **30th**—*Limelight*. Q15. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

Saturdays, 11am — (Spanish) **CINE INFANTIL:** A new movie for children every week. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua**.

ART: *Los Caballos del Rey and Colibrís de Día y de Noche* by Alejandro Wer along



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Culture Unshocked II by Ana Flinder photos: Victoria Stone

Toys and Play

Not long ago, while perusing the endless tables piled high with used North American clothes at the Saturday *paca* market in La Antigua, I found a little T-shirt that caught my eye. It was about the right size for a 5 year old, and on it read “I want it/ You buy it for me/ Got it?” Now, why anyone would manufacture such a thing, or who would buy it, is a complete mystery to me, but it certainly was thought-provoking.

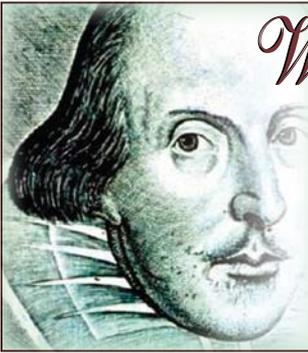
It brought to mind being in a giant Toys R Us-type mega-toy store, the pungent smell of plastic reaching toxic levels, and hearing tiny voices demanding, insisting, badgering and *whining* for the toys they wanted. I don’t frequent stores like that in the States, but on my last visit there, one could witness the same kind of whining insistence in grocery stores, on the street, in malls. It’s the attitude that comes through with the voice.

I saw that shirt, and I thought, “What a North American thing.” But for all I know

that kind of dissatisfied, entitled insistence among children is also a European and Canadian thing. I rather suspect so. It certainly isn’t a Guatemalan thing. Not in the least. *Gracias a Dios!*

Whenever I return from a trip north, I appreciate anew how incredibly well-behaved and cheerful the children here are. And I am astounded or delighted, nearly every day, by the random sight of children playing—in the markets, on the streets, in the tiendas—fully engaged in play, with an innocence that I had rarely seen before and which certainly wasn’t part of my American childhood long ago.

I look around the vast used-clothing market and see four Guatemalan children playing *fútbol* with an old empty juice bottle for a ball. And others, who laughingly compete to see who can yell the loudest as they imitate their parents calling out “*barata, barata!! Meta la mano!, solo un billete.*” (It must be said that the whole ...continued on page 40



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He that speaks much, is much mistaken.
—Benjamin Franklin

*Tradition means giving votes to the most obscure
of all classes, our ancestors. It is the democracy
of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to that
arrogant oligarchy who merely happen to be
walking around.* —Gilbert K. Chesterton



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Culture Unshocked cont. from page 38

issue of working children in Guatemala is another matter, beyond the scope of this writing, and that there exist some horrendous conditions in some places. But I have seen working children who take every opportunity to play at work, and who seem happier than many privileged “Western” children I have known. And, having not spent time in the poorest parts of Guatemala City, I cannot say if my observations apply to those places.)

And as I go on in the next days I keep my eyes open, and I remember. I remember seeing children playing in the markets on many occasions: boys using the shoes that their family is selling at the paca to play catch with; a boy and his little sister at the bustling wholesale vegetable market in Zunil flying the kite that he had made from a leftover string attached to an old plastic bag; and the 10-year-old fish seller, finally off work, filling a plastic bottle with marbles with a huge grin on his face. Yes, they are working children, but there always seems to be time for play. And I have certainly never overheard any one of those market children whining that they want a toy or whining to get off work so they can go and play.

As I walk through the main streets and

the neighborhood side streets of Panajachel and other small towns, I always see children playing in groups. Morning, afternoon, and in the safe dark of evening, little groups of boys and girls play fútbol, race, play hide and seek.

It seems to me that most of the children I see here in Guatemala live with a level of freedom that hardly exists any more in the U.S. And it seems that this is made possible by a number of factors: one, the streets and markets are safe, safe because, for them, they are full of aunts, uncles, grandparents and family friends. The sense of safety that most children here have is due to the fact that there are always relatives around—and they come in all ages.

There are always playmates, too. And I mean *always*. Many children have big extended families with many siblings and cousins to play, all living in the same town. Not only that, but sharing seems to come naturally. After all, if there *are* any toys, they're a lot more fun with someone to play with.

What do they need toys for anyway? They've got sisters, brothers, cousins, grandparents, uncles, aunts. And if a child has an imagination, there's hardly ever a lack of toys. Walking along the ...continued on page 42





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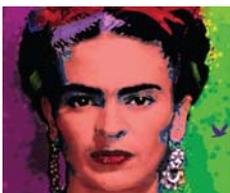
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I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose. —George Carlin

Since there will be no one left to talk peace after the next war, it makes good sense to break with tradition and hold the peace conference first. —William Glasser



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shore of Lake Atitlán, I see that the local children have no qualms about turning the plentiful flotsam into toys. On one stroll I noticed a group building a little house together. They framed it in with popsicle sticks, used a styrofoam plate for a roof, plastic detergent bags for rugs inside, and were having a great time planting twigs for the garden outside, and watering the garden with a styrofoam cup. A bit farther on, their big sister had filled a small plastic water bottle and a piece of broken hose with sand to make a play torch—and was happily holding it up and proclaiming herself the winner of the *antorcha* race.

Then again, when there's no garbage available to make toys out of, there are always the tools of work, as when children on the shore have joined their father who has brought down a pile of plastic *costal* bags to fill up as he harvests sand and pebbles from the shore. These, it turns out, are perfect for climbing into to have a jumping race with your cousins. Or when several little cousins crawl through the "tunnel" made by boards drying in the sun outside the carpenter's *taller*.

But there are only materials to make



toys from all over the place for some children. Apparently, those North American children who have been mesmerized into believing that everything has to be bought do not realize that there are toys to be invented and games to play at any given moment. I have a friend in California—not even wealthy by U.S. standards—and in her backyard, for her two children, is a large trampoline. Guatemalan children in larger pueblos may see something like this once a year at the *feria*, and pay a quetzal or two to play on it for a few minutes. The first time I visited my friend, her children were playing on the trampoline in the hot sun—with the lawn sprinkler cooling them down and adding an extra element of fun. The next time, the trampoline was idle, the children inside, not only playing with computer games, but whining, “Mom! Why can’t we get the new X-box game?”

Once while traveling through the backwoods of Chiapas, Mexico, I walked through tiny encampments of indigenous people who were the poorest I’d ever seen, living in little dirt-yard shacks amid sparse vegetation. I noticed that the slack-eyed children had not a toy in the world. Tin cans in the garbage piles had not even become wheels to pull on a string, neither had rags become dolls. And I remembered the saying, “Of the many kinds of poverty in the world, the most tragic is poverty of the imagination.” This may be a type of poverty shared by “Western” children, but thankfully here in Guatemala, imagination, inventiveness and play are alive and well. 

Remnants of Semana Santa decorations become the perfect vehicle for sledding down the church steps with friends

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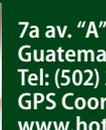
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For happiness one needs security,
but joy can spring like a flower even from the
cliffs of despair. —Anne Morrow Lindbergh

As sure as the spring will follow the winter,
prosperity and economic growth will
follow recession. —Bo Bennett



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Cicada springtime cont. from page 10

Unlike crickets or locusts, male cicadas sing by pulsating membranes called timbals, rather than by violin-like rubbing. And although the females are mute, they are not deaf; in fact, the whole musical hubbub is the male’s way of setting the mood. The female recognizes the call of her species with “ears” called tympana. In larger species, like *Proarna championi*, which can approach 4 cm in length and rival a hummingbird for impact, the mating song can, at close range, approach 120 decibels.

The song of one common species is onomatopoeically called *chiquirín*, because its series of sharp chirps climax in a sonorous, motor-like hum. Cheek-cheek-cheek-cheek-cheek-cheek-areeeeeeeeeennn. Many people find this tune to be soothing, and moviemakers record it and other cicada music to enhance their sets with creepiness and other ambiances.

Over a century ago, while British entomologist W.L. Distant began cataloging Central American cicadas, he noticed that some

cicadas have a repertoire of three or even four songs. Aside from the deafening mating call, there is a softer “honeymoon croon” that a male serenades his mate with after she accepts his advances; the pair separates after an hour (more or less) of coitus. Males also emit a distress screech when snagged by predators, and some species have a “fight song” that tells other males to back off.

Though cicadas are associated with rural areas, where they are prized by collecting children, they do well in any urban locale with enough of the right kind of trees. The verdant quarter of San Salvador, which includes the National Zoo and the presidential compound, is abuzz with love-struck cicadas in April and May.

Because they are wont to sing loudly and endlessly, their nickname, chicharra, is often applied to human chatterboxes. That cicadas are so honored is probably of little importance to them, as they hum away in eternal their cacophony with delightful abandon. 🎵

In larger cicada species, which can approach 4 cm in length, the mating song can, at close range, approach 120 decibels.

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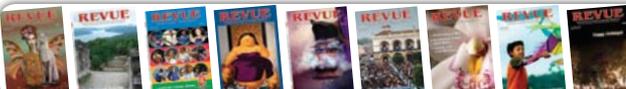
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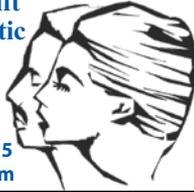


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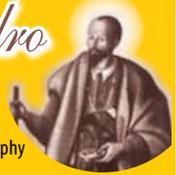
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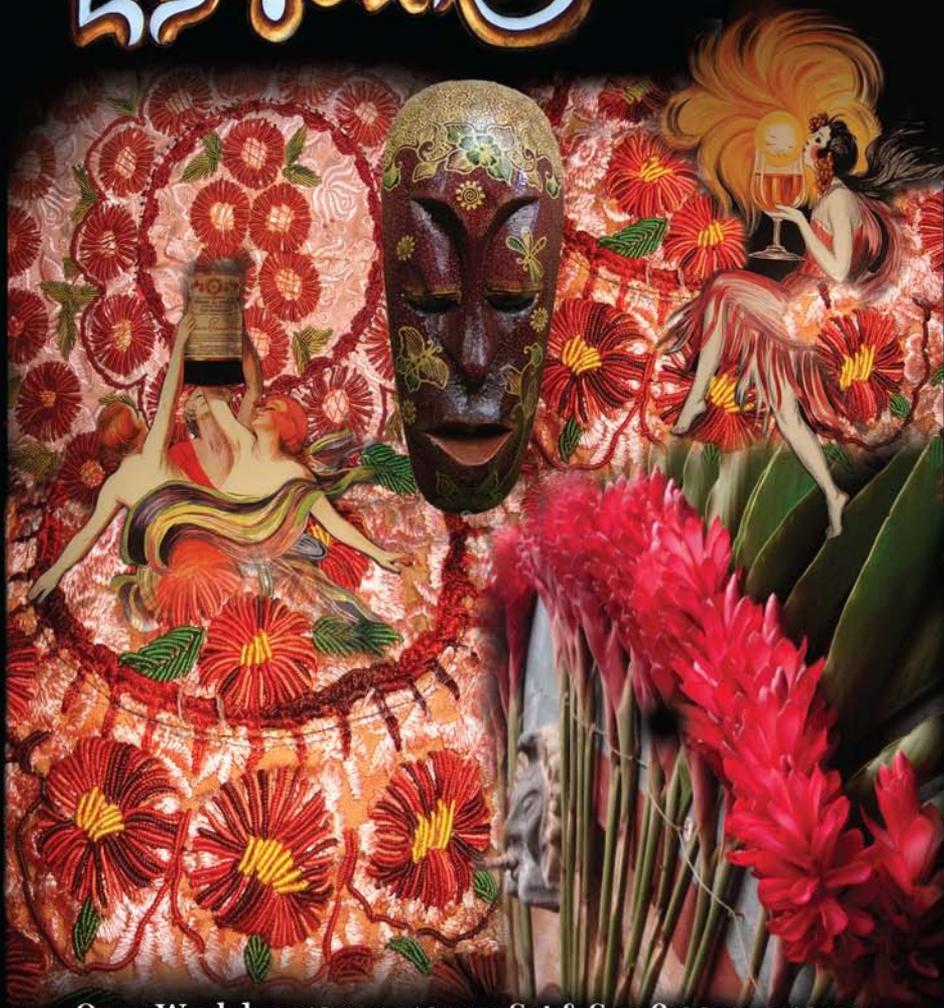
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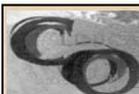


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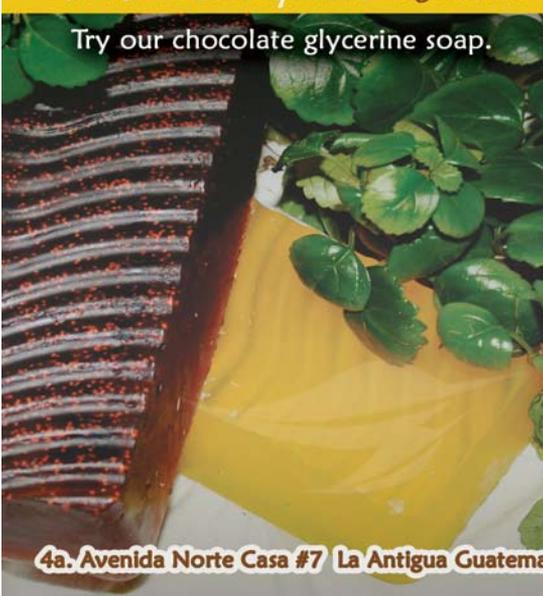
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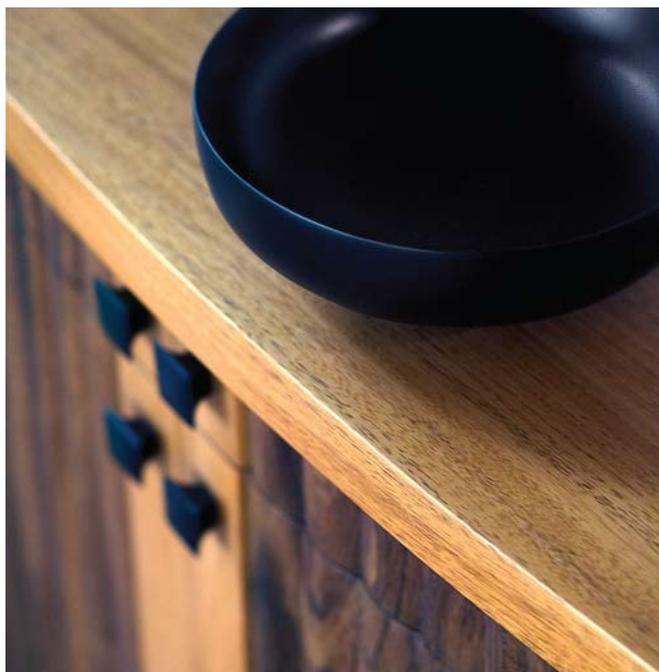








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Images from *Lent and Holy Week in La Antigua*



but not much has changed in the past eight years. Chapters of *Lent and Holy Week in Antigua* include history, carpets, vigils, processions, sculptures and, new in this edition, funeral marches. “Most of them were written here in Guatemala. The composition is very basic. It’s the instruments that give them their oomph.” The edition also expands information about the images. “The real hair and glass eyes create an emotion in you. Guatemala has the finest Spanish sculpture in Latin America, the most expressive.”

The sculptures are town treasures, with *hermandad* groups responsible for their care and keeping and the activities of Holy Week, although virtually everyone participates. That’s part of the beauty of it. Colonial *hermandades* were social, religious and civic groups all rolled into one. Even today, religious celebrations such as vigils become festive with foods and fun outside the church. Carpet making is a family or group affair, following months of planning the production. From the simple to the elaborate, “The creativity comes from the heart. And the interaction is wonderful, with kids and grandparents enjoying together,” says Elizabeth excitedly, a new grandma herself.

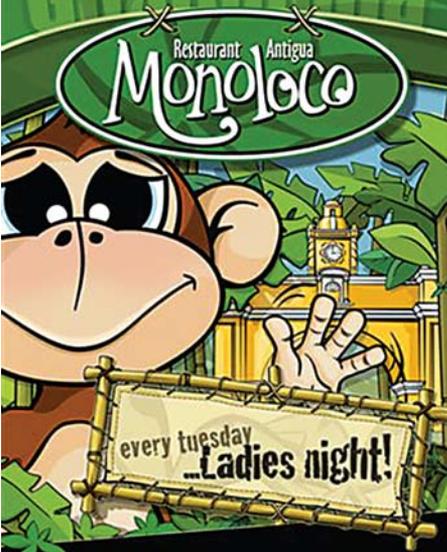
At the back of the book are calendars for Lent and Holy Week for the next four years, a handy reference. Now a Holy Week enthusiast, Elizabeth wears a purple blouse weeks ahead and, with a sweep of her arm she dons “...matching purple sunglasses!”

Will there be a fourth edition of the book? She already has a notebook for it. “There’s always more to put in.” ◀

In addition to the book, Elizabeth Bell offers a Holy Week slide presentation on Tuesday, April 7 at 6 p.m. at El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15, and a carpet tour on Good Friday at 6 a.m. Info: 7832-5821



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If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages? —George Carlin

What if there were no hypothetical questions? —George Carlin

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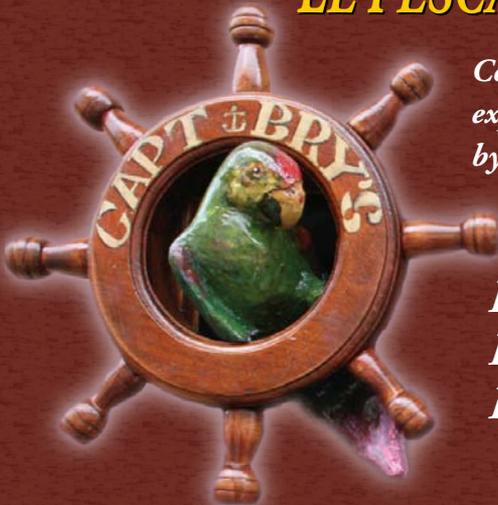
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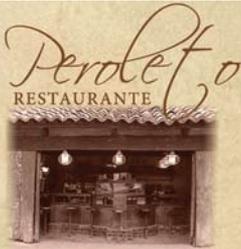
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a pickup that shared the chassis of the venerable VW bus. The VW pickups were almost bulletproof, had hearse-sized beds and ran on fumes. Consequently, Detroit lobbied Congress, which imposed protectionist duties against VW pickups; overnight, their price shot up 70%. Germany retaliated with crushing duties on frozen chickens, of which the United States was the main supplier. Hence, the Chicken War.

All producers of tomato paste sold here are multinationals, so perhaps a “Tomato-paste War” has been going on without our knowledge, with big cans excluded through protectionism.

Some other foodstuffs of the liquid-or-sauce persuasion are subject to another bizarritry which I call “questionable quantification quirks” or “3Q.” This is the practice of labeling, say, a small cup of yogurt as containing 200 grams, but labeling a bigger one as containing a liter. One quantity is given by weight, and the other by volume, even though we are not only talking about the same item, but the same brand.

Think about this. When some quantities are given by volume and some by weight (3Q), then you need another conversion factor to determine which package, big or small, is the better deal. Before you can do the math, you must know the density of yogurt. Who is going to know that?

3Q may be a response to the increasing awareness that frugality lies not in buying the smallest quantity, but in buying larger quantities that are (usually) cheaper per unit of measure. That big bag of Fab may wipe out your daily tortilla budget, but you’ll not have to buy more until the rains stop. In the black-and-white commercials from my childhood, they called such packages “economy size.” Central Americans

are now on to this; more and more you see them in stores savvily dividing prices of bottles of oil by their quantity.

Unlike the phenomenon of chintzy tomato paste cans, 3Q is relatively new. You can’t blame suppliers for the same reason that you can’t blame the airlines for introducing frequent-flyer programs. They have to compete with the airline that invented frequent-flyer programs in the first place; not boarding the bandwagon is marketplace suicide. So I’m not accusing yogurt and oil producers of collusion, even though 3Q has yet to be codified in Guatemala’s Constitution, so to speak.

Another expression of 3Q is found in *farmacias*. When you buy a bottle of pills, for instance, you buy a pill count. But when you buy four or six pills *sueltecitos* (according to the prescription), you are buying pill strengths. Are there 250 micrograms of Widgetol in those pills? Or 400? Or 750? With this form of 3Q, at least, the “density” (the pill strength) is indicated. So you can do the math.

But I have noticed that wherever you can buy pills either by bulk or *sueltecitos*, the latter is far costlier, even up to a factor of eight. For this reason, I always just buy a whole bottle. The second time I need that particular medicine for someone, the savings are realized. On every subsequent occasion, the medicine is free.

As for tomato paste, my wife and I just bought what might be our solution: a 38-gallon cooking pot. Next time that fresh tomatoes are cheap, we will fill the pot and simmer a gob of tomatoes into paste (it takes four hours at low heat) and freeze the result. We will save money and not dishonor Guatemala’s Constitution. And besides, homemade always tastes better. 

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Passion Where Art Thou?

by **Dr. Karmen Guevara**
HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Where has passion gone? Unfortunately, the misconceptions surrounding passion have relegated it to one of the “deadly emotions.” It’s not surprising considering the definition: emotions as distinguished from reason: intense, driving or overmastering feeling or conviction. We all want to be civilized, well-balanced and rational beings. So we try to steer clear of those ungainly emotions that drag us into undesirable territory.

Instead, we position ourselves from the neck upwards where the ego runs the show. Even though intellectual passion is allowed to creep in, it’s carefully regulated because the ego cannot bear to be diminished. Enthusiasm, on the other hand, is highly commended. We like people who are enthusiastic. Although it can be contagious, it’s safe and can be contained, unlike passion, which Kahlil Gibran described as “... a flame that burns to its own destruction.”

Set aside the dictionary definition and pre-conceived beliefs to consider the other face of passion, because passion lies at the core of all great works. There can be

no doubt that Chopin’s concertos or Mozart’s operas arose from a well of passion. Likewise, passion is splashed all over the canvases of Monet and Picasso. Have you ever watched a splendid tango or flamenco performance void of passion? As Martha Graham said, “Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they are great because of their passion.” To create anything truly magnificent requires going far beyond the intellect.

Mother Nature orchestrates a symphony of passion for us every day. Sunsets, sunrises, flowers, waterfalls, volcanoes burst forth with drama and vibrancy. Seeds don’t push through the soil without an announcement! Have you ever stared into the face of a passionflower? The seeds of passion lie within us, so let your mind off duty and bring forth the watering can. Your spirit awaits a chance to ignite a fire to fill the hollow spaces with dreams and what truly matters to you. However, take heed of the proverb, “Our passions are the winds that propel our vessel. Our reason is the pilot that steers her. Without winds the vessel would not move and without a pilot she would be lost.”



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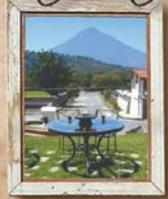
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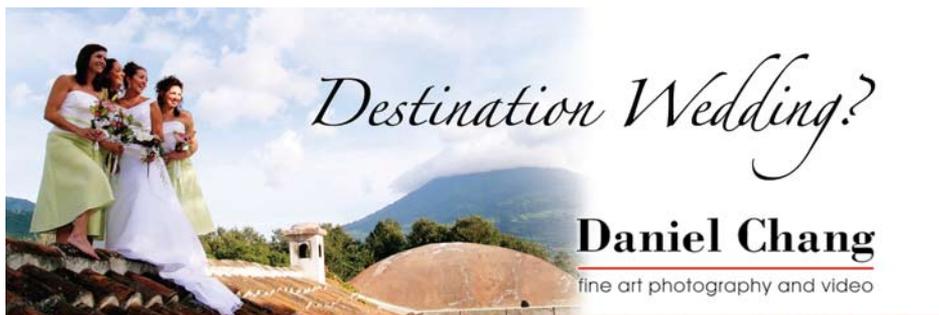
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The men's traje of Santiago features rows and rows of hand-embroidered birds.

Semana Santa on the Lake: **Santiago Atitlán**

by **Ana Flinder** photos: Victoria Stone

Those of you who have your place to stay in La Antigua Guatemala for Semana Santa are sure to enjoy what is known as the second-biggest and most spectacular Semana Santa celebration in the world. (Second only to Sevilla, Spain, so they say.) And you know who you are. Because they also say that if you didn't book a hotel in La Antigua a few months in advance, there will be no rooms available — or you'd better find one now.

But for those of you who are considering other destinations for witnessing some of the best and most authentic of Guatemalan culture, consider a trip to Lake Atitlán. Oddly, Panajachel, one of the largest and most tourism-oriented towns on the lake, only had a tiny community procession

when last we checked. Rather, it is one of the favorite vacation spots of Guatemalan families, as well as of young people from Guatemala City who want to party the week away.

Santiago Atitlán, across the lake, has a truly spectacular and authentic Semana Santa celebration, which is at times a breathtaking show of faith and sacrifice. Here you will see cultural traditions that have their roots in pre-conquest times and which have been evolving, blended with Catholicism, for centuries, while remaining deeply indigenous.

Here in Santiago, one of the lake towns that has most thoroughly preserved its indigenous traditions, both Holy Wednesday and Good Friday offer ...continued on following page

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LEFT: The cofradía shrine in the pilgrim's yard of the church is a hidden haven with walls of fresh cut reeds and a pine needle carpeted floor. RIGHT: One of several drummers who accompany the procession.

...continued from previous page... spectacular processions. On Wednesday, Maximón's procession goes from his house to his chapel in the churchyard. On Good Friday the venerated statue of Christ is taken down from his cross, put in a flower-decked coffin and, around mid-day, leaves the church, first to meet up with Maximón, then to begin the long procession all through the night. Easter Sunday is celebrated with a Mass in the church. ◀



LEFT: Maximón and friends RIGHT: Admirers look in on Maximón from the side window of his chapel in the churchyard, which he occupies for only a few days per year. Volcán San Pedro towers in the distance across the bay of Santiago.

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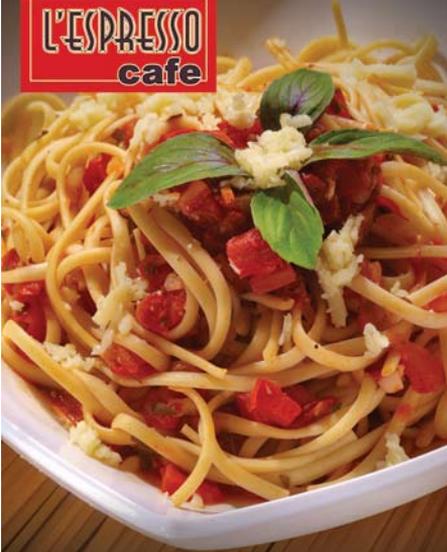
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I say it is indispensable to look ahead of and behind oneself in the present. If there is such a thing as tradition, and I believe there is, it can only exist in the sense of the most profound movements of culture. —Robert Delaunay

The artist doesn't have time to listen to the critics. The ones who want to be writers read the reviews, the ones who want to write don't have the time to read reviews. —William Faulkner

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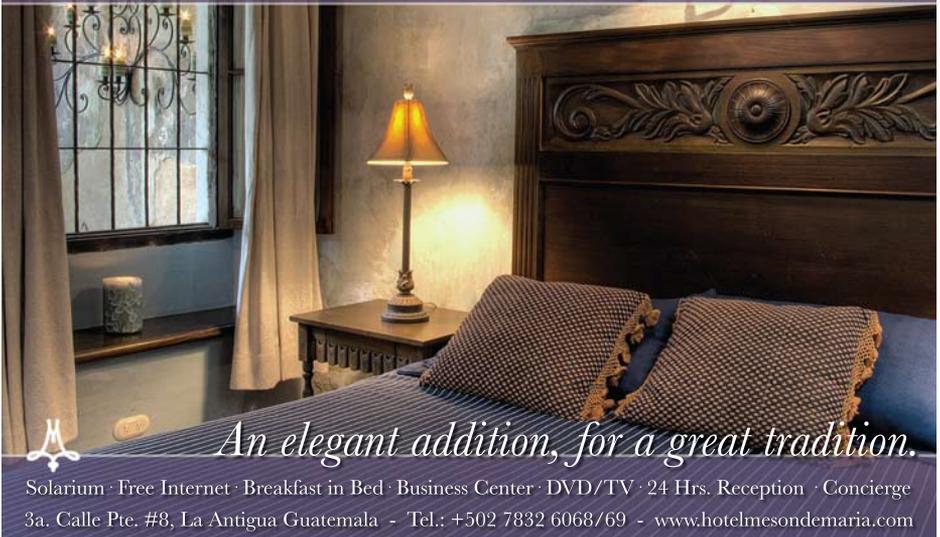
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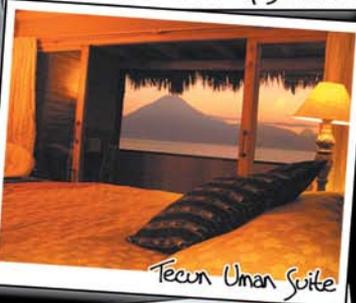
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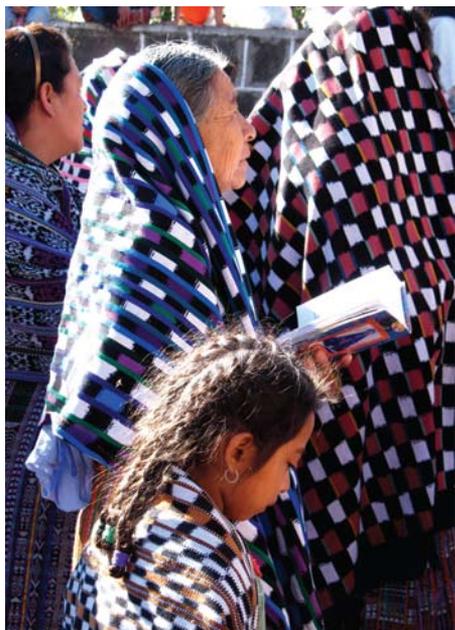
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Scenes from last year's Semana Santa in San Pedro la Laguna. Story on page 14 (photos: Victoria Stone)



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The best proof of love is trust. —Joyce Brothers

Peace on Earth is not an impossible ideal: all we have to do is keep wars from breaking out. —T. Farhang

God should not be judged on the basis of this world—it is just one of his rough sketches. —Van Gogh

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be. —Douglas Adams

The press is the enemy. —Richard M. Nixon

Writing is the only profession where no one considers you ridiculous if you earn no money. —Jules Renard

I can't understand why a person will take a year to write a novel when he can easily buy one for a few dollars. —Fred Allen

Part of the secret of success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside. —Mark Twain



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The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up. —Mark Twain

Time is nature's way of keeping everything from happening at once. —Woody Allen

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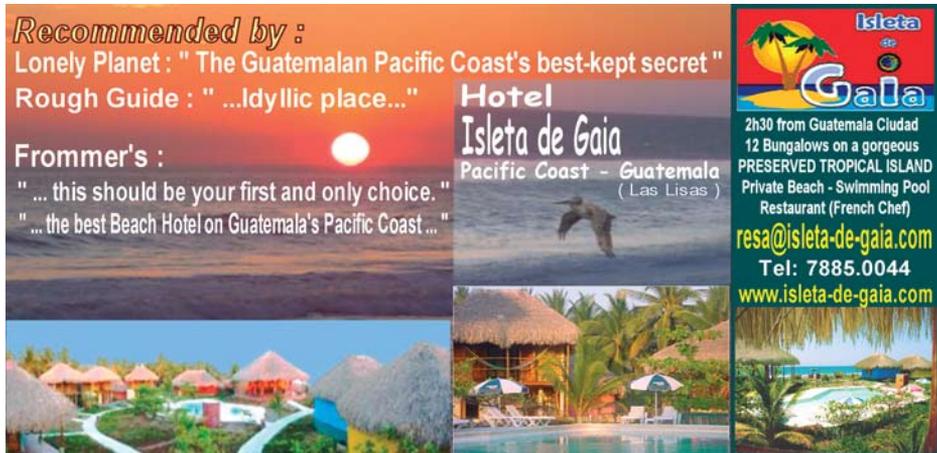
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There are several good protections against temptation, but the surest is cowardice.
—Mark Twain

Writing is the hardest way of earning a living, with the possible exception of wrestling alligators. —Olin Miller



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San Pedro la Laguna cont. from page 15

and volcano slopes surrounding the town in the previous days. And over their finest sequin-spangled lacy blusas, the Catholic women of San Pedro wear traditional hand-woven multicolored checkerboard shawls. These backstrap loom-woven *trajes* of San Pedro are still used for daily wear as well as for ceremonies. Traditions which seemed to have been lost are revived and alive in San Pedro in this week of the year.

While not as mind-boggling or dramatic as the processions in La Antigua or Santiago, Semana Santa in San Pedro is a feast for the eyes, as well as an authentically reverent celebration that carries its own unique sweetness and devotion. And, naturally, there are plenty of firecrackers. 🔥

Photos» ABOVE: Offerings of fruit adorn the gateways through which the processions pass.

BELOW: Close-up detail of one of the alfombras



Semana Santa Processions

San Pedro la Laguna, Lake Atitlán

(main streets, time schedule is approximate)

April 5 - Palm Sunday

5:30am—A blessing, distribution of palms & procession; **6am**, Mass

April 9 - Holy Thursday

8am—Procession, *Via Crucis*; evening brings preparation of *alfombras* for Good Friday

1pm—Procession, the *Holy Cross of Jesus of Nazareth*

1:30pm—*Veneration of the Holy Cross* until 1pm on Holy Friday

8pm—Procession, *Jesus of Nazareth and La Virgen Dolorosa*.

April 10 - Holy Friday

8am—Procession, *Via Crucis*, with the statues of Jesus of Nazareth and La Virgen Dolorosa

Noon—Procession, the Holy Cross

8pm—Procession *del Santo Entierro con el Señor Sepultado*.

April 11 - Holy Saturday

6pm—Solemn procession of *la Virgen de Soledad* carried by the mothers of the community, along the main streets of San Pedro

April 12 - Easter Sunday

8am—Procession, the Risen Christ, *el Señor Resucitado*

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—Ernest Haskins

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—Harry Hill

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 —Orison Swett Marden

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Pet Q's & A's by Cynthia Burski, DVM

Canine Compulsive Disorder

I have a mixed breed dog that constantly licks everything. She does not lick herself so much that she gets sores, but she always wants to lick something, including us. Is this a medical problem?

Incessant licking can be a manifestation of canine compulsive disorder, which is a psychological syndrome characterized by repetitive activities. These activities can include fly-biting, tail-chasing, obsessive barking, circling and self-mutilation. Dogs that have this problem may be incapable of stopping their behavior, and it can interfere with normal eating, sleeping and play behavior.

Experts do not seem to know why these behaviors develop, but several possible factors have been theorized. Some breeds seem to be genetically disposed for certain behaviors, like flank-sucking in Doberman Pinschers or spinning in Bull Terriers. Sometimes the behavior starts as an attention-seeking tactic. Receiving the desired attention reinforces the behavior, which makes it more likely your dog will repeat it. Some dogs respond to local irritation or inflammation by licking themselves incessantly, which can cause hairless, inflamed patches of skin, usually on the lower legs, and other types of self-trauma. Some dogs, especially those left alone for long periods of time, can develop these types of behavior because they are bored or anxious.

First, your veterinarian needs to do an examination to rule out a specific medical problem, such as allergies, skin parasites, etc. After a thorough investigation, if it is felt that the dog is suffering from a compulsive disorder, the most effective treatment would be a combination of an antidepressant medication with behavioral techniques such as behavior modification, distraction, and stress and boredom relief. Punishment does not work and may actually worsen the problem by further stressing you dog.

Although the compulsive disorder cannot be completely “cured,” it can be effectively controlled with appropriate treatment, which will reduce or eliminate the unwanted behavior. Patience and persistence are important. It may take weeks or even months to see significant results.

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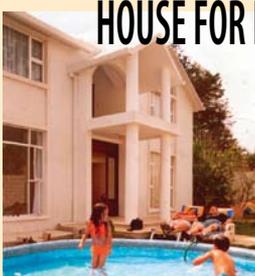
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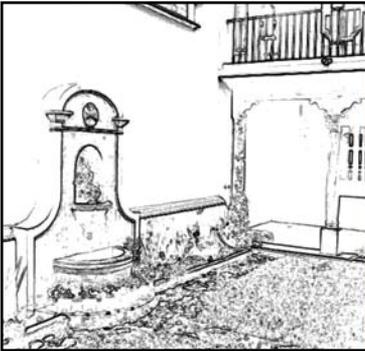
Guys are simple... women are not simple and they always assume that men must be just as complicated as they are, only way more mysterious. The whole point is guys are not thinking much. They are just what they appear to be. Tragically. —Dave Barry

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Tax Time for U.S. Citizens

by Steven Pittser



If you are a U.S. citizen, the rules for filing income tax returns are generally the same whether you live in the States or abroad. The following is a brief summary of the criteria that would require an individual to file a 2008 tax return.

If you are married filing jointly and your gross income (*all* income – earned income, investment income, interest, rentals, taxable Social Security, etc.) was at least \$17,900 (\$18,950 if one spouse is over 65; \$20,000 if both are over 65), then you must file a return.

If you are single and your gross income was at least \$8,950 (\$10,300 if you are 65 or older), you must file.

Married or single, you may not owe any tax due to the foreign earned income exclusion, which is \$87,600 for 2008, but there would still be a penalty for not filing.

If you are married filing jointly and all of your gross income plus one-half of your Social Security add up to more than \$32,000

(more than \$25,000 if you are single), then you have to start adding a portion of your Social Security to your taxable gross income. How much depends on how far over those figures you are. If there is self-employment income of \$400 or more, then you must file, due to owing Social Security and Medicare taxes (even though you may not owe any **income** tax).

Important Note: Because of the Rebate Recovery Credit for 2008, many people who would not be *required* to file, **should** file to claim their credit. For example, a married couple whose only income is Social Security would receive a rebate refund of \$600, if they had received no stimulus payment for 2007 (\$300 for a single person). If a married couple had earned wages of less than \$17,900 (normally allowing them to not file), their rebate refund would be \$600 if they do file (\$300 for a single person with less than \$8,950 income).

Believe it or not, the IRS encourages people to file, even if the only reason for filing is to claim their rebate credit. 

PHOTO OP by Lena Johannessen

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Don't worry, we'll give you the basic steps to achieve a great coffee finale at the El Salvador School of Coffee, where you can learn

how to create not only a nice cup of coffee, you can also become a coffee connoisseur. The school has many different courses to learn about coffee, including cupping techniques, coffee roasting, barista and coffee brewing classes and coffee marketing.

People around the world will continue to enjoy coffee as part of a widespread social ritual for generations. Coffee is a natural product that promotes the wellbeing and imprints the feeling of a good quality life, so it's better to use it as an attraction instead of a letdown at your business. Pay attention to coffee, it can often create much better memories for both owners and customers.

*For more coffee information contact:
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*Don't let your mind wander. It's not
strong enough to be allowed out on its own.*



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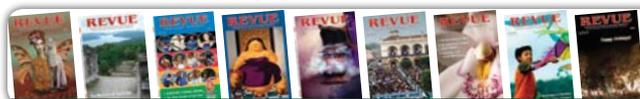
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The World War after the next one will be fought with rocks. —Einstein

I want to do to you what spring does with the cherry trees. —Pablo Neruda

I guess I don't so much mind being old, as I mind being fat and old. —Benjamin Franklin

A man sees what he wants to see, and disregards the rest. —Paul Simon



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