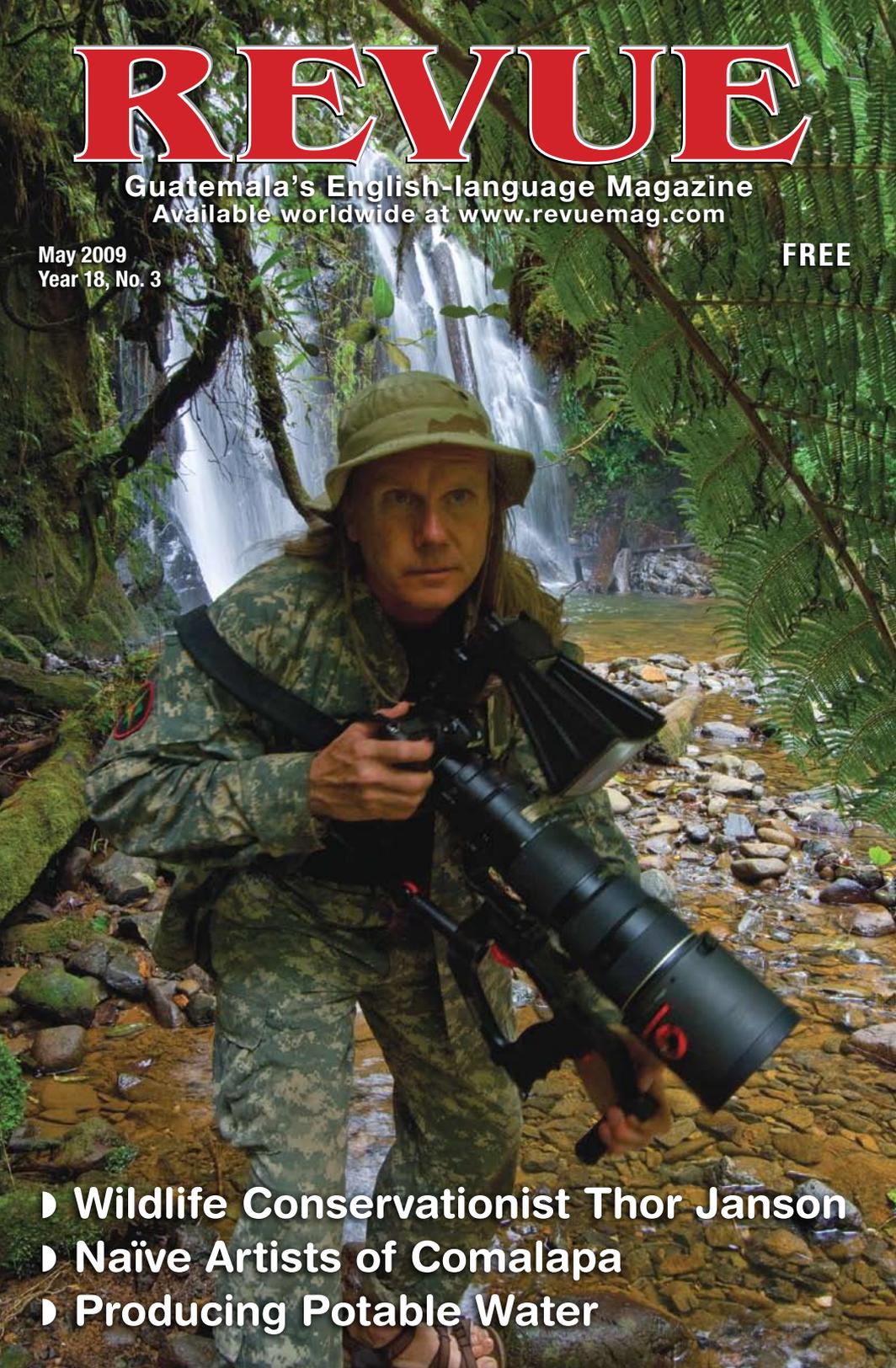


# REVUE

A man in camouflage gear and a bucket hat stands in a lush jungle, holding a large camera lens. In the background, a waterfall cascades over rocks into a stream. The scene is filled with green ferns and moss-covered rocks.

Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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May 2009  
Year 18, No. 3

FREE

- ▶ Wildlife Conservationist Thor Janson
- ▶ Naïve Artists of Comalapa
- ▶ Producing Potable Water



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**THURSDAY MAY 7.** Jazz Night with Jacobo Nitsch, starting at 7 pm.

**SUNDAY MAY 10.** Mother's day special musical presentation at 4 pm.

**SUNDAY MAY 17.** Luis Gonzalez Arocha playing Italian-French Swing-Waltz.

**SUNDAY MAY 24.** Luis Gonzalez Arocha with his accordion and singer, starting at 4 pm.

**THURSDAY MAY 28.** The group "Jazz en Colores" will serenade us with their Boleros Jazz, starting at 7 pm.

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**SUNDAY MAY 10.** Special musical activity.

**SUNDAY MAY 17.** Circus comes to town.

**SUNDAY MAY 24.** Special art expression workshop.

**SUNDAY MAY 31.** Special recyclable materials art workshop.

## ART

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## HEALTH

**OPEN AIR YOGA.** Tuesday's and Thursday's from 6 am. to 7 am. Saturday's from 7 am. to 8 am.

## FLOWERS

**ORCHID WORKSHOP.** Saturday May 23 from 10 am. to 12 pm, with the collaboration of *Orquideas S. y M.*

## THEATER

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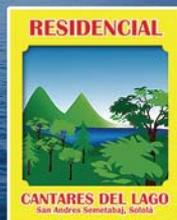
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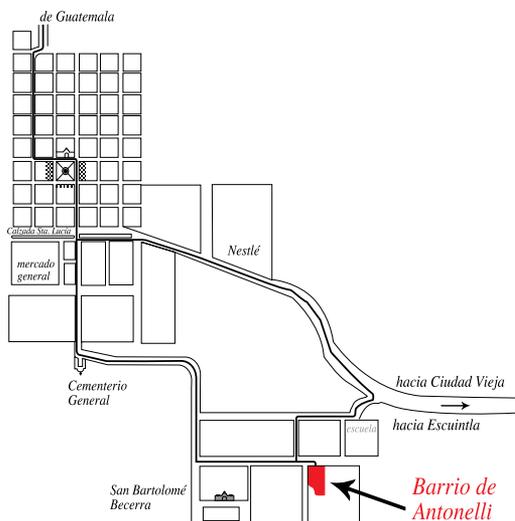
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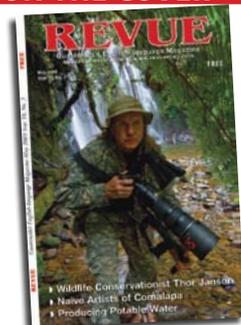
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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Welcome to the May edition of Revue. Our cover story, written by Jack Houston, is Thor Janson, wildlife conservationist, environmentalist, educator, adventurer, photographer extraordinaire, and author of 16 photography books—many from his years exploring the jungles of El Petén. His two most recent books are *La Antigua Guatemala* and *In the Land of Green Lightning*.

May 18 is Museum Day throughout the world, and Guatemala has gone one step further, expanding all of May into Museum Month. We have a listing of more than 30 museums around the country you may enjoy visiting. We also have an article on the Museo de Arte Guatemalteco Primitivo-Contemporáneo.

On other cultural fronts, writer Dianne Carafino takes us on a visit to the artist community of Comalapa. A DateBook Highlight by Dwight Wayne Coop introduces us to Panajachel artist Ursula Baumann. Photographer Victoria Stone shows a side of the Kuna people of Panama. The Notre Dame Glee Club and Symphony Orchestra are coming to Guatemala. And so many other musical treats we had to expand our Music section.

May brings May flowers and May showers—for more on this, see pages 78 and 128.

Other fun things in this edition include a glimpse at Guatemala's sea salt industry, a tour of the local plant where they produce the EcoFiltro for cheap potable water, and an introduction to the good works being done by the NGO CasaSito.

Of course, in May we also put aside a day to remind our mothers that we do indeed love them. We better, because without them most of us wouldn't be here.

Thanks for reading Revue, in print or online, and have a great month.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

# REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine

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# SEA SALT



*Guatemala produces unrefined natural sea salt which is much higher in vital essential minerals...and it's inexpensive as well*

text and photos by Carlisle Johnson gmg988@yahoo.com

**W**ars have been fought over it. Deer in the woods and cows in the pasture love it. Gourmet shops hold sophisticated human tastings of it in elegant surroundings. If you spill some and wish to ward off future bad luck, throw a pinch over your left shoulder. In Roman times soldiers were given a special allowance to purchase it.

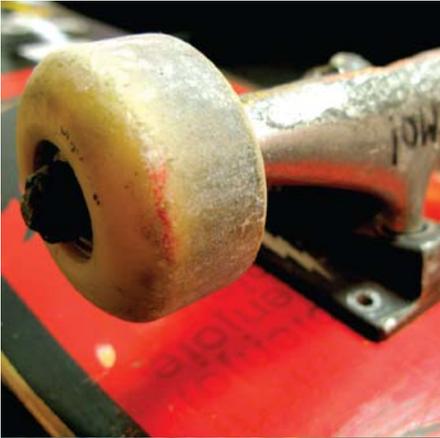
It's salt, and Guatemala's salt is special indeed. It is not just special since it costs one twentieth of what you would pay in industrialized countries, but because it is an all-natural product. Consider these health

claims for sea salt: "Unrefined natural sea salt is much higher in vital essential minerals (especially magnesium), having been in contact with the living ocean for millions of years ... Good unrefined sea salt does contain all the minerals and micro-nutrients that are present in the sea (over 80 elements) that have been shown to support life and good health."

And consider these comments from a 2008 salt tasting session in Oregon: "Humble salt is enjoying something of a renaissance, with gourmets singing the praises of artisanal salt ... ..continued on page 122



**She sells sea salt by the seashore:** packaging salt at the Sol y Mar factory



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**“Hysterical villagers were running down the road—women praying aloud and men yelling at us to abandon the area. Pacaya was beginning to resemble a huge Roman candle.”**

# Thor Janson

*Wildlife conservationist, photographer, author, adventurer, environmentalist and educator*

by Jack Houston photos: Thor Janson

**T**he volcano Pacaya in Guatemala began erupting more dramatically than usual one day several years ago, and nature photographer Thor Janson rushed to the slopes to take pictures for his files.

“By 4 o’clock Pacaya was spewing molten lava several hundred meters into the air every 30 to 45 seconds,” Thor recalls. “The frequency and intensity continued, and by 5 o’clock the explosions reached a frightening ferocity. I was getting some great photos, but my friend was anxious to leave.

“By 6 p.m. hysterical villagers were running down the road—women praying aloud and men yelling at us to abandon the

area. Pacaya was beginning to resemble a huge Roman candle. Every 10 seconds the ground shook and large quantities of lava flowed down the slope. We jumped in the jeep, threw it into reverse and backed off the road into the powder-fine ash. We were stuck, our main means of escape gone.”

Thor remembers making a futile attempt to jack the jeep out, while still snapping pictures. “As I grabbed my camera bag to run, a pickup loaded with stragglers sped toward us. Seeing our predicament, several jumped out, tied a cable to the jeep and freed us. We are lucky to be alive.”

Thor, who never has taken a course in photography, later published images of that

**Janson enjoys a morning cup before heading out to his ‘studio’**





**Though he is best known for his photographic work, Janson's life passion is protecting the environment**

harrowing experience in *Guatemala*, one of his 16 colorful picture books. Though he is best known for his photographic work, his life passion focuses on protecting the environment, he says. "I would rather be called a wildlife conservationist. Photography is only a tool I use in my conservation education efforts. Book sales provide royalties I need to support myself."

Born in 1953, Oliver Thor Janson grew up in suburban Chicago where his father, a Swedish immigrant, was a doctor, his mother a nurse. "I didn't start out a troublemaker," Thor recalls, "but after the Beatles hit the scene in the '60s, the world never was the same." Like many of his generation, Thor began his lifelong struggle against the establishment.

He traveled in Europe and North Africa and tried medical school. But he had seen poverty in his travels, and his premed peers, as he puts it, "...only had eyes on making money. They felt no compassion for suffering people."



**Janson scouts the area for wildlife activity**

*You can contact Thor at [www.bushmanollie.com](http://www.bushmanollie.com)*



An incredible Janson photo of the elusive quetzal, Guatemala's national bird



As Pacaya erupts, the town below sleeps

Not yet 20, Thor dropped out in 1973, hopped on his motorcycle and headed south, attending an ‘inspiring’ conference in Mexico City on planetary ecology and the effect of human activity on climate and biodiversity. He continued to Belize, then to Guatemala and down to Lake Atitlan, where he stayed a month. “After feeling sad for a long time, I found a place that made me happy again,” he says. “It took Guatemala to get my smile back!”

Thor later crewed on a sailboat from Panama to New Zealand and eventually returned to Chicago to make some money. He headed back to Guatemala after the earthquake of 1976 to help with reconstruction efforts and decided to stay.

He connected with the University of San Carlos School of Biology and conducted a study of the manatee. “It was then—1978—I got into photography with environmental education groups and later became director of a new conservation group, Defensores de la Naturaleza.”

Thor’s hope to convince the Guatemala



**Janson uses an inner tube to keep his equipment dry as he explores a water-filled cavern**

government to provide his group a concession to manage a forest reserve was realized in 1987. President Venicio Cerezo signed a special disposition, giving management of a section of the Sierras to Defensores, later known as the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve.

But by the end of that year, Thor left Defensores to explore and photograph remote areas of Caribbean Central America and to produce several photography books on nature. He describes his recently expanded and republished *In the Land of Green Lighting* as a 30-year collection of “my best photos of the Maya world.” Like the first edition, he says, the second has something of everything—wildlife, ruins, indigenous people and vistas.

The revised edition of *Quetzal* will be “the most beautiful book on the most spectacular bird of the Americas,” he boasts. “This is my favorite book. It has everything—natural history, Maya and Aztec mythology, cloud forest ecology, planetary ecology, and so on.” The new edition will

“showcase new and innovative ways that humans can live in harmony with nature.”

Never one to stand still, Thor plans to gather material for two new books: *Quetzals and Trogons of the World*, which he calls “a tribute to two of the most beautiful families of birds on Earth;” and *Beers of the World*, “a world beer safari, a less scholarly review with photographs of picturesque watering holes from Alice Springs to Bora Bora to Munich to Timbuktu. “It could be a very fun book.” 

#### **Janson on the prowl for more photos**





ABOVE: Coiled snake BELOW: Margay



ABOVE: Kinkajou BELOW: Hummingbirds



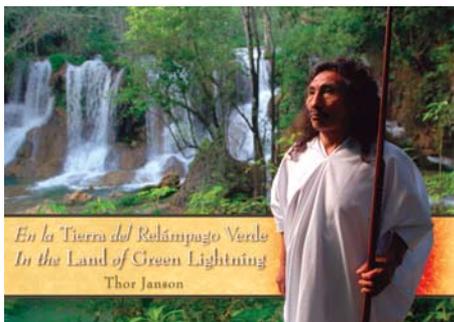
*"I would rather be called a wildlife conservationist. Photography is only a tool I use in my conservation education efforts."*



Howler monkey



Teaching children to care for wildlife



Cover of Janson's latest book



## Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

# My 101 First Cousins-in-law

*Marrying into a large family brings unannounced house guests and some new vocabulary.*

Since my Guatemalan wife had 10 siblings, I have enough in-laws to populate a middle-sized Dallas suburb. I am forever meeting “new” members of the González-Boch clan for the first time. And I was not that good at recalling names even before ADD and premature senility made this task even more difficult.

My Dad, who had some troublesome in-laws, often declared that we cannot choose our relatives. This is certainly true with blood relatives, since we have no control over whom our ancestors were and whom else they procreated. Most of my ancestors were Saxons, who were hunting heads at the time the Mayas were erecting high civilization in Mesoamerica. But thanks to the mixed pedigree of both my grandmothers, I am 9.375 percent Apache. Say what you will about them, they didn’t hunt heads.

With in-laws, however, a theoretical choice exists, and in Central America these carry greater implications than they might in the home country. Family ties here tend to be non-nuclear in nature, unpredictable in intensity and stellar in number. So if you marry a local, you get a heftier pack-

age, for better or worse, than you would get by being endogamous. This term does not mean “marrying oneself into the doghouse” (which happens enough to merit its own term) but, rather, marrying within one’s own herd, however defined.

You can wind up in the doghouse if you have too many troublesome (or troubled) in-laws, whether you are endogamous or, like me, exogamous. Given all this, it may be a good idea to check out your prospective mate’s family.

In my case, though, I would have needed a battery of screeners (perhaps personnel managers resting from their Stateside jobs) to do this. My wife once did the addition and found that she has 57 first cousins on her mother’s side alone (yes, really). She was unsure about her paternal first cousins, but they number well over 40. In other words, she has 100 or more first cousins. The only way she can recognize some of them, even if they grew up in the same village, is to compare recent genealogies.

On the other hand, I have only nine first cousins. I know all their names and where they live, and I know ...continued on page 40

**My wife once did the addition and found that she has 57 first cousins on her mother’s side alone. She was unsure about her paternal first cousins, but they number well over 40.**

# PEOPLE and PROJECTS: CasaSito



CasaSito scholarship students for 2009



Rainwater catchment tank construction program

CasaSito Association is an NGO based in Antigua that works to improve access to education and create development partnerships. We are small but our focused efforts strive to make a significant impact in the communities we serve, which are usually remote. Our public face in Antigua is the CasaSito Volunteers' House at 7a av. norte #51.

Our long-term project is the CasaSito scholarship program which began in 2008 with 23 junior high and high school students from rural areas near Antigua. In 2009 we have expanded the program to a remote village in northern Quiché named Primavera de Ixcán. Our Education Fund also supports some schools and libraries directly.

## Past Activities

CasaSito believes in the power of partnering and collaboration. For example, in the village of Chocantariy, Momostenango, Totonicapán, we partnered with Construcción Casa and Stichting Los Niños of Antigua to build a bakery for a women's cooperative, and we continue to partner with Give Kids a Chance Foundation of Canada to run a nursery and kindergarten in the same building.



## Current Activities

In 2009 we are expanding our rainwater catchment tanks construction program. We would like to build tanks for at least 10 needy families which suffer from a lack of clean water for cooking and cleaning. Each tank costs about \$600 and is labor-intensive so we are soliciting both funds and volunteers.

## Wish List

Also we are looking for funds to build a training center for an association of community radio stations called Mujb'abl'yol located in Quetzaltenango. The work that these community radio stations are doing in the fields of public education and awareness is solid and important.

## Special Announcement

Music lovers should keep August 2-3 free, since we are joining forces with the Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation to offer a unique choir competition in the village of Santiago Zamora near Antigua. The event will benefit several social projects and promote music as part of a healthy education.

## Contact Info

Please visit our web site at [www.casasito.org](http://www.casasito.org) for more information. CasaSito is a USA 501(c)(3) organization and we are not affiliated with any religion or movement.

# Producing Potable Water

*The EcoFiltro has won awards for sustainable technology, now there is a need to make many more of them*

text and photos by Michael Sherer

**O**n the outskirts of La Antigua Guatemala, set back in a corner of the 22-acre, lushly planted Finca El Pintado, is the factory that churns out daily miracles: clay pots, crafted from the best deposits from Rabinal, mixed with pine sawdust, fired in a brick kiln and then brushed with a coating of colloidal silver. There are a few more steps to this process but nothing resembling rocket science: What is this local miracle?

EcoFiltro!

Invented and perfected by Dr. Fernando Mazariegos in the early 1990s, it won awards from the World Bank for sustainable technology in 2003 and 2004. Today, Philip Wilson, director of EcoFiltro, produces 2,500 filters a month, which are shipped to the four corners of the Earth. His largest client is World Vision, a Christian public service organization serving over 100 million people in over 100 countries.

**The process:** the clay is mixed with carefully screened pine sawdust until the proper consistency is achieved. There are three molds for the pots. The clay/sawdust mixture is poured into a mold. Squeeze gently and remove molded form. Place on drying rack. Fire in kiln. Test for porosity. Brush on the colloidal silver solution, a natural anti-bacterial, and bingo—a gravity-based filter that traps bacteria, parasitic cysts, fecal residues, smell and color. And it also removes any turbidity, which is the final taste/visual test for the recipients (clarity). Add water from any source and wait. The finished filter produces one to two liters an hour of cool, deliciously pure water.

This is a very simple but elegant approach to much of the developing world's predicament—no access to pure, clean water. In Guatemala, for example, it is estimated that at least 75 percent of the water available to the rural areas ...continued on page 60



Philip Wilson with a display of various models of the EcoFiltro



A step in the process: clay and pine sawdust are poured into molds



The Notre Dame Glee Club and the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra

# Musical Ambassadors

by Jack and Joy Houston

**D**ubbed ‘Musical Ambassadors’, 55 members of the all-male University of Notre Dame Glee Club of Indiana will sing again in Guatemala, in joint concert with 25 members of the co-ed Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra. Concerts will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, **May 30**, at Iglesia San Francisco El Grande in La Antigua, and 7 p.m. Tuesday, **June 2**, at the Cathedral in Guatemala City, both offered free of charge.

Performances are sponsored in part by the Notre Dame Alumni Club in Guatemala, with some three dozen members. Alumnus Philip (class of ’89) and Christina Wilson of La Antigua, who will host the group for lunch, emphasize, “In addition to a great opportunity to hear beautiful music, one of the motives is to encourage more Guatemalans to apply to Notre Dame.” An additional concert will be given for school groups.

The current tour includes concerts in Mexico. The University of Notre Dame Glee Club, formed in 1915 and recognized

as one of the finest collegiate choral groups in the United States, has toured around the world. Director Daniel C. Stowe said after the 2005 tour, “In terms of hospitality and consistently large audiences, Latin America was the best trip we’ve ever had.”

Stowe also directs the Symphony Orchestra and recently teamed the two groups in joint performance. The versatile repertoire has Russian and German music, American spirituals and barbershop harmony, Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner and a lot more. Undoubtedly, the program in Guatemala will bring rousing applause for *Luna de Xela-jú* and another sure crowd-pleaser, the *Notre Dame Victory March*.

The Glee Club regularly performs two hours before home games of the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team, but for their part, “They’d rather sing than fight.” 

*Donations will be accepted for repairs on the Metropolitan Cathedral and Iglesia San Francisco El Grande.*



# Ursula Baumann

Art Exhibit and Auction,  
Thurs., May 14, 7 pm. Theatre El  
Chapiteau, Panajachel, Lake Atitlán

A host of Guatemalans, including four-footed ones, are glad that Ursula Baumann changed continents and careers in 1998.

She had been an able but often bored hotel manager in her native Switzerland. For decades she dreamt of making her avocation, painting, into a career. After retiring and moving to Guatemala, she indeed realized the vision, but the path took some surprising turns.

After settling into the artistic culture of San Pedro la Laguna, she was stricken with breast cancer and went to Guatemala's National Cancer Institute for treatment. During her recovery there, she saw many who were in great need. She began painting, both *cuadros* and postcards and donating them to the hospital to sell in order to help impecunious patients offset their expenses.

Later, she would donate cards to AWARE, Guatemala's no-kill animal shelter near Sumpango, to help that institution with its own costs.

"I have seven adopted dogs myself," she says, "and I know something of their needs, at such a place." All of the cards are originals, not replicas.

Baumann's work is often exhibited at Panajachel's La Galeria, but this month a rare auction of her work takes place in downtown Pana. Nonbuyers are welcome, since the auction will double as an exhibit.

## DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

# La Gente Kuna

*Sovereign Indigenous of Coastal Panamá*

Reception, slideshow, lecture

Saturday, May 23, 7pm

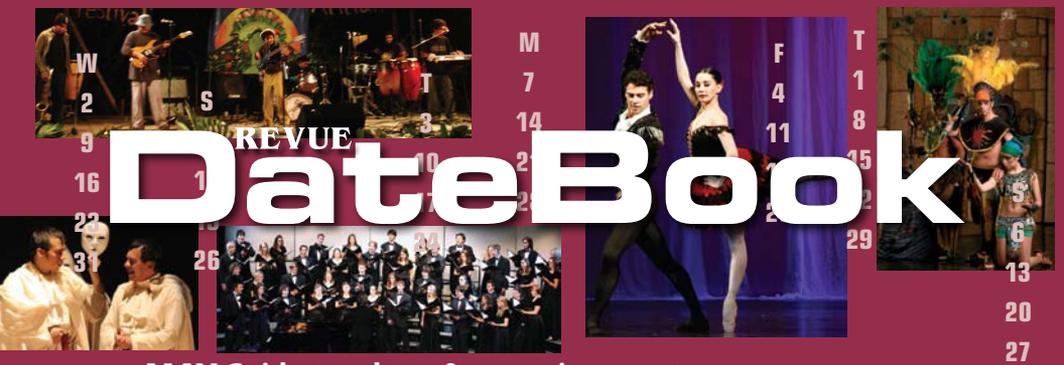
El Sitio Cultural Center, La Antigua.

The Kuna people of the Caribbean coast of Panama have one of the greatest degrees of political autonomy of any indigenous group in Latin America. Their success results from their remarkable tenacity and zealous efforts to preserve a traditional way of life. An island people, they live a very simple and traditional seafaring life, much as their ancestors did. While the territory over which they have jurisdiction includes nearly 400 islands, they inhabit only about 50 of them. The Kuna still live by their ancestral mythologies and maintain their traditions of exquisite indigenous dress, including the hand-sewn *molos* for which they are known.

Guatemala-based photographer Victoria Stone traveled to Kuna Yala (territory), also known as the San Blas islands, in March 2007. She believes that those of us interested in the preservation of indigenous cultures have much to learn from the good decisions made by the Kuna people.

This month El Sitio presents an exhibition of her photographs of Kuna people and their island life. The opening reception will feature a narrated slideshow of more Kuna Yala photos, as well as a lecture and discussion on the Kuna people's remarkable success at preserving their culture.





**MAY Guide to culture & upcoming events** Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

**3, 10 & 17, Sundays, 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 Teatro Nacional Miguel Ángel Asturias (tel: 2232-4041) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City.**



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

**4 Mon.** — **PHOTOGRAPHY:** In collaboration with the Museo Popol Vuh and Club Fotográfico de Guatemala, through Sat., 30. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836) 6a calle final z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City.**

**5 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *Niños de Guatemala*, an NGO promoting and creating access to education & helping advance Guatemala and its people through small scale educational projects. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**7 Thurs.** — **ART:** *Tu Gaviota* featuring works by students from Universidad Francisco Marroquín, open through Thurs., 21st. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

**7 Thurs., 7pm** — **MUSIC:** *Jazz Night* with Jacobo Nitsch. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 Ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

**8 Fri., 5-8pm** — **WINE TASTING:** A perfect gift for Mother’s Day (May 10) treat her to *Petalo, il vino del amore.* Eris (Tel: 7832-1875) 6a av. norte #34, **La Antigua.**

**8 Fri., 9pm** — **MUSICAL CONCERT:** Talented and well-known Guatemalan singer-songwriter Giovanni Passarelli presenting Saxo Piano with the participation of pianist Roberto Estrada & saxophonist Gerson Elizondo. Q40. Trovajazz (tel: 5201-7717) vía 6, 3-55, z. 4, **Guatemala City.**



**9 Sat., 9:30am-1:30pm** — **TEXTILE WORKSHOP:** *Natural Palette*, painting on all types of backgrounds, color from plant extracts. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**

**9 Sat.** — **ART:** *Santas y pícaras*, by Chilean artists Gina Intveen and Pilar Ríos, inspired by free-spirited women, full of mystery and sensuality and not afraid of breaking tradition in order to find happiness. The show is open through June 8. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua.**



**9 Sat., 7pm** — DANCE/MUSIC: *Tango sentimiento* performed by Manuel Antonio, with Roberto Estrada (piano) & Edgar Ávila (accordion). Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua**.



**9 Sat., 7pm** — ART EXHIBIT & AUCTION: Featuring the work of Ursula Baumann. Theatre El Chapiteau (tel: 5044-1144) Av. los Árboles, across from the Circus Bar **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**. See highlight page 22.



**10 Sun.**, — MOTHER'S DAY celebrated in Guatemala, El Salvador, also this year (2nd Sunday in May) Honduras and Belize. (Nicaragua-May 30 & Costa Rica-Aug. 15)

**10 Sun., 4pm** — MUSIC: Mother's Day, a special presentation. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 Ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**11 Mon., 2-3:30pm** — MUSIC: Hoppin' John String Band brings to life the history of American folk music, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy and its Guatemalan partners. Free. Nuestro Ahijados, Carretera a San Felipe #106, **La Antigua**. For more info. & full schedule, incl. workshops, see page 56.

**12 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: Quetzaltrekkers, est. 1995, an NGO all-volunteer trekking organization that raises funds for social projects by offering guided treks throughout the Guatemalan Highlands. Through these trips the organization is able to support the Escuela de la Calle, a school attended by over 200 underprivileged children, also Hogar Abierto, a dormitory/safe home for 17 children and Primeros Pasos, a low cost rural medical clinic. Learn how you can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Highlands and support a good cause! Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**13 Wed., 5pm** — ART: *La vida es un sueño*, oil, crayon and mixed medium by artist Julio Arévalo. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**14 Thurs., 8am-5pm** — TOUR TO TEPÁN: Visit this important indigenous community and the famous Mayan archeological site Iximché. The trip includes Iximché entrance, minivan transportation, weaving demonstrations and lunch at the bakery and cooperative of Ixoqui. Proceeds benefit the women's cooperative Ixoqui. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

**15 Fri., through Sat., 23rd** — ART: Expo of miniature huipiles from some of the most important Mayan weaving communities in Guatemala. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

**15 Fri., 9am-4pm** — WORKSHOP: Tie-dye with natural dyes using an ancient technique for work on cotton, silk or T-shirts. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

**15 Fri., 5:30pm** — MUSIC: Hoppin' John String Band brings to life the history of American folk music, also presenting workshops, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy & its Guatemalan partners. Free. Universidad del Valle (UVG), **Guatemala City**. Info. & full schedule, including workshops, see page 56.

**16 Sat., 4:30pm** — OPERA RECITAL: *Amore mio*, a musical journey with the participation of María José Morales (soprano), David Véliz (banjo) & Hugo Arenas (piano). Q50. El Sitio (tels: 7832-3037, 2442-4720), **La Antigua**.

**16 Sat., 5-9pm** — TALENT SHOW: Featuring young artists from Panajachel and the all-new Chapiteau Dance Crew (choreography, hair and make-up by Danilo Paredes). Free. **Theatre El Chapiteau** (tel: 5044-1144) av. los Arboles, across from the Circus Bar, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

Revue is not responsible for event cancellations or date/time changes.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the JUNE 2009 edition of the REVUE by Monday, May 11

**16 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC: Grupo Coral de Cámara Capella Cantorum, directed by Carlos Salazar, presenting Gregorian, Renaissance, spiritual and contemporary music. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**17 Sun., 3pm** — SHOW: *The Circus Comes to Town*, bring your kids, lots of fun guaranteed. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 Ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**17 Sun., 4pm** — MUSIC: Luis González Arocha playing Italian-French swing waltz. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 Ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**18 Mon.** — MUSEUM DAY: Celebrations and special free activities in all museums of the country (May is museum month in Guatemala). See listing of museums on page 38.



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**ANTIGUA TOUR:** Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat at 9:30am with Elizabeth Bell \$20 Mon & Thur at 2pm with Roberto Spillari. Meet at the fountain in the main square

**SLIDE SHOW:** Tuesdays at 6pm at El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15 Q30

Inquire about other tours and travel arrangements in Guatemala  
Offices: \*3a Calle Oriente #22 and \*inside Café El Portal (main square)  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9-1pm Tels: 7832-5821, 7882-4498

**18 Mon., through Sat., 23rd, 9am-5pm** — TEXTILE WORKSHOP: *Floor-loom Weaving*, beginning & advanced in treadle, multiple-harness looms. Learn to read and follow weaving diagrams or create your own patterns. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

**18 Mon.** — CELEBRATION: Museum Day at MUSAC. **9:30am** — *Visita virtual*: communicate with artists around the world via Second Life, a 3D platform; **10am** — *Rally en busca del tesoro*, use signals & clues find precious art pieces; **3pm** — *Descubriendo el MUSAC*, visit interesting areas not often open to the public; also many other expositions throughout the month. Free. Museo de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala-MUSAC (tel: 2232-7666) 9a av. 9-79, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

**19 Tues., 5pm** — (English) TALK: *EducArte* an NGO private school in Ciudad Vieja helping families with limited resources via education, nutrition, hygiene and the arts. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.



**21 Thurs., 6pm** — ART: *Imágenes de Guatemala*, 25 works by researcher/artist Roberto Cabrera Padilla created between the 1970s & 80s pointing out historic moments during the internal armed conflict. Free. Museo de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (MUSAC) 9a av. 9-79, z. 1 (tel: 2232-7666), **Guatemala City**.



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end up working for one. —Bill Gates*



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*Surround yourself with the best people you can find, delegate authority, and don't interfere as long as the policy you've decided upon is being carried out. —Ronald Reagan*

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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](mailto: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.**8 Fri., 9pm** — Guatemalan singer-songwriter Giovanni Passarelli with pianist Roberto Estrada & saxophonist Gerson Elizondo. Q40. Trovajazz (tel: 5201-7717) vía 6, 3-55, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

## MUSIC

## MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

**22, Fri., 23, Sat., & Sun., 24, 8:30pm** — The famous *Gypsy Festival of St. Maries de la Mer* (also at the Theatre El Chapiteau) no cover. More info., tel: 7762-2056.

**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, 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*

**17 Sun., 4pm** — Luis González Arocha playing Italian-French swing waltz. *Guatemala City*.

**28 Thurs., 7pm** — *Jazz en Colores* featuring boleros jazz. *Guatemala City*.

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

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**Theatre El Chapiteau** (tel: 5044-1144)  
Avenida de los Árboles, *Panajachel*

**6, Wednesday., 8:30pm & Wed., 20th** — Jazz, Chris Jarnach and vocalist Ezebella Young de Éspósito, Panajachel's Billie Holiday. Q25 cover.



**13, 8:30pm** — Jazz, Quartier Latin, with vocalist Isabelle Coutier. Q25 cover.



**27, Wed., 8:30pm** — Jazz, Quartier Latin with vocalist Isabelle Coutier, Flamenco guitar virtuoso Rene Zimzik & special guests. Q25 cover.

**30, Sat., 8:30pm** — Grupo Sotzil Theater presents *Danza de los Nahuales* combining live music, dance & theater featuring Kaqchiquel actors from Sololá replicating traditions from ancient Mayan culture. Q40 cover; free for students from Panajachel. See [www.gruposotzil.org](http://www.gruposotzil.org)



**15 Fri., 5:30pm** — Hoppin' John String Band brings to life the history of American folk music, also presenting workshops, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy & its Guatemalan partners. Free. Universidad del Valle (UVG), *Guatemala City*. Info. & full schedule, including workshops, see page 56.

Did you know? You can email specific pages of **REVUE** to out-of-town friends. [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com)



**22, Fri., 23, Sat., & Sun., 24, 8:30pm** — CELEBRATION: The famous *Gypsy Festival of St. Maries de la Mer* (also at the Theatre El Chapiteau) no cover. More info., tel: 7762-2056. **Panajachel.**

**23 Sat., 10am-12pm** — WORKSHOP: *Orchids*, learn all about them. Plaza Fontabella (tel: 6628-8600 Ext. 202005) 12 calle y 4a av., z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

**23 Sat., 9am-4pm** — WORKSHOP: *Basket Making* using natural fibers and natural dyes, taught by indigenous Maya artisans. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**

**23 Sat., 4pm** — THEATER: *Ajchowen* by Grupo Sotzil, representing and honoring the Mayan Kaqchiquel culture. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua.**

**23 Sat., 7pm** — PHOTOGRAPHY & OPENING NIGHT TALK: *La Gente Kuna – Sovereign Indigenous of Coastal Panamá* featuring photographs by Victoria Stone, slideshow and talk about the Kuna People, their way of life and their remarkable success at maintaining cultural traditions and political sovereignty. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.** See highlight on page 23.



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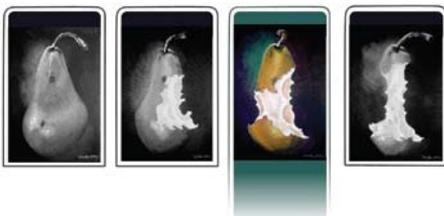


**26 Tues., through Sun., 31st** — MUSICAL SHOW: Show Business presents *Broadway Cats*. Gran Sala Efraín Recinos Teatro Nacional Miguel Ángel Asturias (info tel: 2332-4041) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City.**

**26 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Transitions*, an organization based in La Antigua providing outreach, medical support, and health education to disabled people throughout Guatemala. They also operate a manufacturing and training facility for customized wheelchairs for rough terrain in rural areas, a clinic for prosthetics and orthotics, a graphic design and offset printing business and a special education program. This talk will include personal stories of Guatemalans with disabilities and the challenges and successes of the organization. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**28 Thurs., 6:30pm** — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: *Taller de mitos y leyendas del Popol Vuh*, for children 8 to 13 years old, celebrating the National Day of the Popol Vuh. Q15. Terrace 2nd level, Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836) 6a calle final z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City.**

**28 Thurs., 6:30pm** — ART: *Disfrutando* with recent works by Arturo Monzón. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City.** ▼



**29 Fri., 9am-4pm** — WORKSHOP: Tie-dye with natural dyes using an ancient technique for work on cotton, silk or T-shirts. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**



"El secreto" by William Kalwick Jr.

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Who are you going to believe,  
me or your own eyes? —Groucho Marx



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Sometimes the road less travelled is less  
travelled for a reason. —Jerry Seinfeld



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**30 Sat., 8:30pm** — DANCE: Grupo Sotzil Theater presents *Danza de los Nahuales* combining live music, dance & theater



featuring Kaqchiquel actors from Sololá replicating traditions from ancient Mayan culture.

Q40 cover; free for students from Panajachel. See [www.gruposotzil.org](http://www.gruposotzil.org) Theatre El Chapiteau (tel: 5044-1144) Av. los Árboles, across from the Circus Bar, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán.** ▼



**30 Sat., 10:30am** — (Tri-lingual) BOOK PRESENTATION: *De cuadritos... Su't Kaqchikel*, an activity book for children about the richness of the Mayan culture. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

**30 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC: 55-member Notre Dame Glee Club accompanied by 25 musicians from the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra. San Francisco el Grande Church, between 1a av. sur & 7a calle oriente. Free. **La Antigua.** See highlight on page 21. ▼



*Hollywood is a place where they'll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss and fifty cents for your soul.* —Marilyn Monroe

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Mondays, 9:30am-1:30pm** — TEXTILES WORKSHOP: *Backstrap Weaving*, learn from an indigenous master weaver, class includes loom prepared for weaving & instruction manual. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**

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

**Fridays, 5pm & Saturdays, 8pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *Baño de Damas*, directed by Diego Ramírez, produced by Guillermo Ramírez. Q75. Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo Teatro Nacional Miguel Ángel Asturias (tel: 4013-5089) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City.**

**Fridays and Saturdays, 7pm** — MAGIC FESTIVAL: *Ilusiones mágicas 2009*, Organized by the Asociación de Magos Gran Jaguar, showcasing the best of the best Guatemalan magicians to amuse and delight people of all ages. Teatro Dick Smith del IGA (tels: 4049-5921, 2254-4285) ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City.**

MUSEUM LISTING on page 38

PLAN AHEAD: JUNE

**Tues, June 2, 7pm** — MUSIC: 55-member Notre Dame Glee Club accompanied by 25 musicians from the Notre Dame Symphony Orchestra. Guatemala City Cathedral. Free. **Guatemala City.** See highlight on page 21.

*Without tradition, art is a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Without innovation, it is a corpse.* —Winston Churchill



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# Celebrating the Month of Museums in Guatemala

By agreement of the International Council of Museums XII at its general meeting in Moscow, Russia, the International Day of Museums is now celebrated all around the world on May 18. Museums provide valuable cultural interchanges and enrichment, and every year there are spectacular events and special expositions that highlight the originality of each and every member of ICOM (Consejo Internacional de Museos). This month consider a visit to one or more of the many museums in Guatemala. Below is a sampler listing.

## GUATEMALA CITY

**Artecentro Paiz:** 7a av. 22-01, z. 1, Plaza Carlos Mérida del Banco de Guatemala, tel: 2429-6000 ext. 5248. [www.fundacionpaiz.org.gt](http://www.fundacionpaiz.org.gt)

**Casa Flavio Herrera:** 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, tel: 2285-1014.

**Museo Numismático de Guatemala:** Calle Mariscal 7-46, z. 11, Colonia Mariscal, tel: 2473-0567.

**Casa Mima:** 8a av. 14-12, z. 1, tel: 2253-4020.

[www.portalmuseosguatemala.net/m.casa.mima](http://www.portalmuseosguatemala.net/m.casa.mima)

**Mapa en Relieve:** Av. Simeón Cañas final, z. 2, Hipódromo del Norte, tel: 2285-0330. [www.muniguate.com](http://www.muniguate.com)

**Museo Carlos F. Novella:** 15 av. 18-01, z. 6, interior Finca La Pedrera, tel: 2286-4100, ext. 6435. [www.cementosprogreso.com](http://www.cementosprogreso.com)

**Museo del Ejército:** 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, interior Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, tel: 2253-5289.

**Museo de Ciencia y Tecnología:** 2nd level Hiper Paiz Puerta Parada Km. 16.5, carretera a El Salvador, tel: 2250-0219. [www.funtec-guatemala.org](http://www.funtec-guatemala.org)

**Museo de La Merced:** 11 av. 4-49, z. 1, tel: 2230-1589.

**Museo de Los Niños:** 5a calle 10-00, z. 13, tel: 2475-5076. [www.museodelosninos.com.gt](http://www.museodelosninos.com.gt)

**Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena:** 6a calle final, z. 10, Campus UFM, tel: 2331-3634. [www.museoixchel.org](http://www.museoixchel.org)

**Museo Miraflores:** 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, tel: 2470-3415. [www.museomiraflores.org](http://www.museomiraflores.org)

**Museo Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología:** 6a calle and 7a av., z. 13, Salón #5, Finca La Aurora, tel: 2475-4399. [www.munae.gob.gt](http://www.munae.gob.gt)

**Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno Carlos**

**Mérida:** Salón #6, Finca La Aurora, z. 13, tel: 2472-0467.

**Museo Nacional de Historia:** 9a calle 9-70, z. 1, tel: 2253-6149.

**Museo Nacional de Historia Natural Jorge A.**

**Ibarra:** 6a calle 7-30, z. 13, tel: 2472-0468.

**Museo Popol Vuh:** 6a calle final, z. 10, tel: 2338-7896. [www.popolvuh.ufm.edu](http://www.popolvuh.ufm.edu)

**Museo Postal Filatélico:** 7a av. 12-11, z. 1, tel: 2332-3956.

## SANTIAGO SACATEPÉQUEZ

**Museo Regional de Santiago Sacatepéquez:**

3a calle 4-00, z. 4, Santiago Sacatepéquez.

[www.santiaguerosonlinea.com](http://www.santiaguerosonlinea.com)

## EL PETÉN

**Museo Regional del Sureste de Petén:**

Barrio El Centro, Dolores, Petén, tel: 7820-5489.

## BAJA VERAPAZ

**Museo Regional El Trapiche:** San Jerónimo, Baja Verapaz, tel: 2435-0061.

## ESCUINTLA

**Museo Regional de Arqueología Rubén Chévez**

**Van Dorne:** 4a av. and 5a calle, z. 1, Plaza Central, La Democracia, tel: 7880-3650.

## LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

**Museo de Arte Guatemalteco Primitivo y**

**Contemporáneo:** 4a calle oriente y 3a av. norte #10, Interior Casa Antigua El Jaulón, tel: 7832-6634. [www.centrodeartepopular.com](http://www.centrodeartepopular.com)

**Museo del Café:** Centro Cultural La Azotea, Calle del Cementerio final z. 3, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez, tel: 7831-1120. [www.centroazotea.org](http://www.centroazotea.org)

**Museo del Jade:** 4a calle oriente #34, tel: 7832-3841. [www.jademaya.com](http://www.jademaya.com)

**Museo de Capuchinas:** Convento de Capuchinas, 2a av. & corner of 2a calle, tel: 4149-6598.

**Museo del Libro Antiguo:** Portal del Ayuntamiento #6, tel: 7832-5511.

**Museo de Música Maya Casa Kójom:** Centro Cultural La Azotea, Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez, tel: 7831-1486. [www.kojom.org](http://www.kojom.org)

**Museo de Santiago de los Caballeros:** Palacio del Ayuntamiento, Plaza Central, tel: 7832-2868. [www.museosantiagodeloscaballeros.tk](http://www.museosantiagodeloscaballeros.tk)

**Paseo de Los Museos:** 3a calle oriente #28, tel: 7820-1220, ext. 581. [www.casasantodomingo.com.gt](http://www.casasantodomingo.com.gt)

**Museo Vical de Arte Precolombino y Vidrio Moderno:** Casa Santo Domingo, 3a calle oriente #28, tel: 7820-1220, ext. 580. [www.grupovical.com/museo](http://www.grupovical.com/museo)

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## CHIMALTENANGO

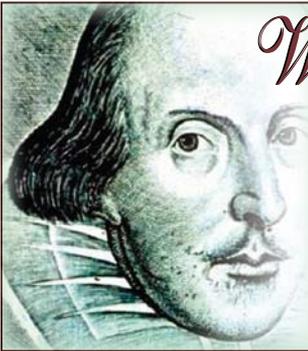
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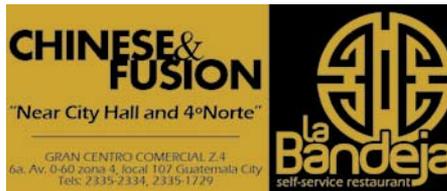
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a lot about each one. In my case familiarity seems inverse to proximity. In my wife's case, even close proximity does not guarantee familiarity. She would need a database just to log them, and just knowing them all would be a full-time career. Perhaps because families are larger, and blood ties stronger, a nomenclature exists that is alien to outsiders.

I thought, for instance, that I was acquiring a plethora of nieces (*sobrinas*) and nephews (*sobrinos*) by marrying into the González-Boch clan. What I actually got was a wealth of *sobrinos políticos*. I discovered this one day when I introduced one of my visiting "nieces" to another Panajachel gringo, who since that time has had a jones for the girl that has gone unreciprocated. Later, she tactfully explained that she was only my "political niece." My first reaction was to wonder if she attended rallies, ran voter registration drives or painted acronyms on rocks. But the prosaic truth was soon obvious: only by blood are you a real or "nonpolitical" uncle.

There is also a special name for that person who in the United States becomes your partner when two couples play Monopoly. I refer here to what we must call the "husband of my sister-in-law" or the "wife of my brother-in-law." Hispanophones say *concuño* and *concuña*, respectively. I really like these words; with as many relatives as I have in this category, it's nice to have a single word for what are inelegant circumlocutions in English. If I took a friend to a González-Boch family reunion, I would grow hoarse from all the introductions without these words.

I also like the way that great-grandparents are *bisabuelos* and great-grandchildren, *bisnietos*. These, too, are single words

replacing phrases. The English phrases are not that long, but they are ambiguous. What if your great-grandparents were not, well, so great after all? On the other hand, if you say you have great-grandparents, does this mean that your grandparents' parents live under the same roof with you, or that your grandparents were great (i.e., they cheered you at Little League and bought you Lego sets for Christmas instead of clothes)? In all, there are many reasons why we should be bully for bisabuelo and bisnieto.

The same problem exists in English-speaking countries with great-uncles and great-aunts. Are they truly great folks, or do they just happen to be your parents' uncles and aunts? Down here, these are called *tíos abuelos* and *tías abuelas*. Not elegant terms, maybe, but never ambiguous. If you think about it, they can only mean one thing.

So, in the end, am I better off having a gazillion in-laws or worse off? After 16 years, I'm still not sure. Most of them are pretty good houseguests and do not, like fish, stink by day three. Yet very many of them come to Pana (especially during Semana Santa) where they get free lodging from me. Conversely, whenever I go to Guatemala City, where many of them live, I can pop in unannounced, as can the blood relations. On the downside, I never know who, among the in-laws, will pop up unannounced at our place. One was a young salesman who had never met my wife but who found in her someone who could be even lower than he on the Amway pyramid.

The *muchacho* in question was one of my 101 or so "first-cousins in-law." With so many of these, I hope someone will coin a one-word term for them. Reader, can you think of one? 



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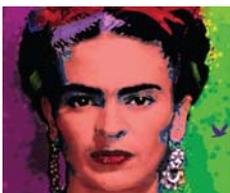
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*Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself.*  
—Bill Gates

*Feeling good about government is like looking on the bright side of any catastrophe. When you quit looking on the bright side, the catastrophe is still there.* —P. J. O'Rourke



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Oscar Perén with some of his paintings in his gallery

# Comalapa Naïve

by Dianne Carafino photos: George Carafino

“The Florence of Guatemala” was once posted on a sign at the entrance of San Juan Comalapa. Regardless of such a welcome, Comalapa—an easy hour or so drive from La Antigua Guatemala—could hardly look less like Florence, Italy. Nestled among pine trees and cornfields in the scenic mountainous Western Highlands of the Department of Chimaltenango, Comalapa presents a sleepy appearance on a non-market day. As one comes into the town, however, the first hint of a unique heritage presents itself. Along both sides of the road, murals depicting the town’s history are painted on walls fronting the street. The murals begin with representations of the Maya ancestors of the Kaqchikel community, through various phases of the area’s history, to the present day.

Along the way to the center of town are the homes of a number of well-known artistic families. Usually the front rooms of the homes double as galleries, and, with any

luck, a visitor will be greeted by the artist himself or a close relative. Conversations with the artists are equally as engaging as viewing their work. The art of Comalapa is known for its naïve paintings, which feature native dress, focusing on the long, colorfully striped shawls with tasseled ends worn by the women, and the indigenous customs of the area.

Perhaps best known of the artists from Comalapa is Andrés Curruchiche, the first Kaqchikel Maya oil painter and, many feel, the most important naïve painter of Comalapa. The Ixchel Textile Museum in Guatemala City displays a permanent exhibit of his work, which demonstrates the dress of Comalapa residents beginning in the 1920s. Curruchiche’s home, at 0 Avenida 3-76, is open to visitors, and his granddaughter, María Elena Curruchiche, herself an accomplished artist, is a delightful historian of the careers of her grandfather ...continued on page 74

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*There was never a child so lovely but  
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—Ralph Waldo Emerson

*I am sure that if the mothers of various nations  
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**Question:** *Why is there so much interest whether the President of the U.S. has a pet or not?*

Nearly all of the U.S. Presidents have owned pets, which not only provided love and companionship but often helped boost the president's popularity with voters.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's black Scottish terrier, Fala, is credited with helping re-elect him for a fourth term. Fala had accompanied Roosevelt on a trip to Alaska's Aleutian Islands, where he was accidentally left behind. Roosevelt immediately dispatched a Navy destroyer to pick him up. The Republicans made a stink about the waste of taxpayers' dollars. Roosevelt responded to the criticism in a speech to the Teamster's Union in 1944, saying that he expected ridicule of himself and his family but Fala's "Scotch soul was furious." Everyone laughed, and the speech became known as the Fala Speech.

Richard Nixon had a similar experience when he was the vice presidential candidate on Dwight D. Eisenhower's ticket. Accused of keeping a secret slush fund, Nixon gave the televised Checkers Speech, named after his cocker spaniel. In the speech, Nixon said no matter what Democrats said, he was going to keep his dog, which had been a gift for his daughters. The outpouring of support for Nixon after the speech was overwhelming and is credited with his not being removed from the ticket.

During a 1964 photo session on the White House lawn, Lyndon B. Johnson picked up one of his beagles by the ears. The image appeared in newspapers across the country, sparking outrage among animal lovers.

Abraham Lincoln's children had a menagerie of cats, dogs, goats, ponies, pigs and rabbits. Even a turkey that was intended for Christmas dinner was mercifully spared, starting the White House tradition of granting one gobbler a last-minute reprieve from death.

Theodore Roosevelt had 12 horses, five dogs, five guinea pigs, two cats, garter snakes, a horned toad, a pony, two kangaroo rats, a flock of ducks, a flying squirrel, a badger, a pig and a blue macaw named Eli Yale, lizards, rats, roosters and raccoons. He also received many gifts from visiting dignitaries which were housed in the National Zoo. These included: a lion, hyena, wildcat, coyote, five bears, two parrots, a zebra and a barn owl.

John F. Kennedy relieved stress by visiting an animal play yard near the West Wing that was stocked with lambs, ponies, dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, parakeets, a canary, a cat, a rabbit, a horse and Pushinka, the pup of a Soviet space dog. 🐾

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—Laurence J. Peter



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**If you would like to adopt a pet**, Hound Heights is open to the public every Sunday from 10am to 3pm. You may not be able to adopt a cat or dog --- but why not sponsor one?

**Q150 per month will provide general medical care, flea control and food.**

A one-time donation is also very much appreciated. AWARE is a registered non-profit organization in Guatemala, and a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation in the U.S. Donations in the U.S. are 100% tax deductible.

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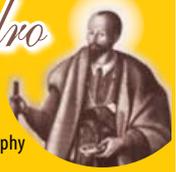
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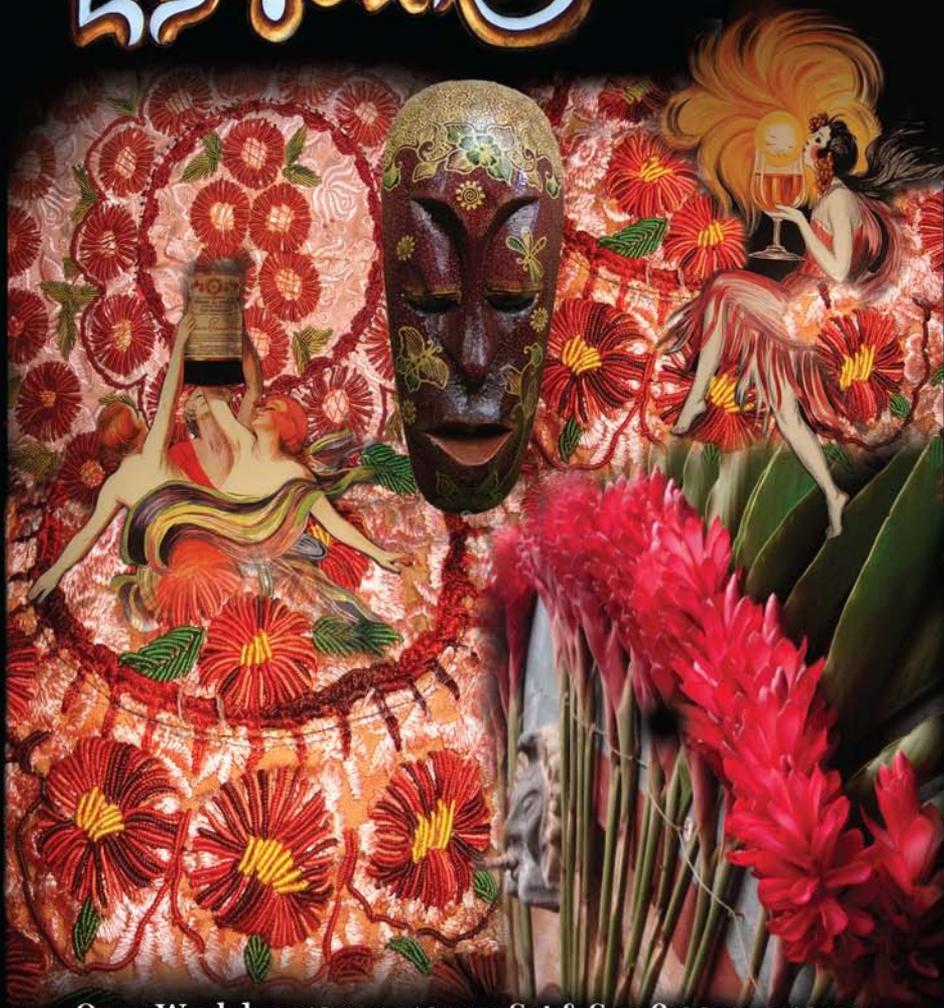
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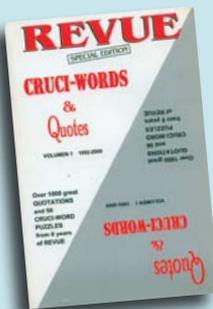


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**11 Mon.**, 10:15-11:45am — Workshop; 2-3:30pm — Concert. Register for workshop or more info: [re@conexion.com.gt](mailto:re@conexion.com.gt), tel: 7832-4678. Nuestro Ahijados, Carretera a San Felipe #106, La Antigua.

**12 Tues.**, 2-3:30pm — Workshop. Tz'alam Chwi Ya' de Salama Marimba School, Salamá; 7:30pm — Concert, Q20 advance sales, Q25 day of event. The Lions Club, Salamá. Register for workshop or more info: [quetzalitotours@hotmail.com](mailto:quetzalitotours@hotmail.com), tel: 79400459 / 58442434 / 59893877/45197111.

**14 Thurs.**, 10-11:30 — Workshop; 7:30pm — Concert. Universidad Rafael Landívar (URL), Cobán. Register for the workshop or more info: Carmen de Fonseca, [fonceac@state.gov](mailto:fonceac@state.gov), tel: 2326-4247.

**15 Fri.**, 3-4:30pm — Workshop; 5:30pm — Concert. Universidad del Valle (UVG), Guatemala City. Register for workshop or more info: [isabelcr@uvg.edu.gt](mailto:isabelcr@uvg.edu.gt), 2364-0336, ext. 541.



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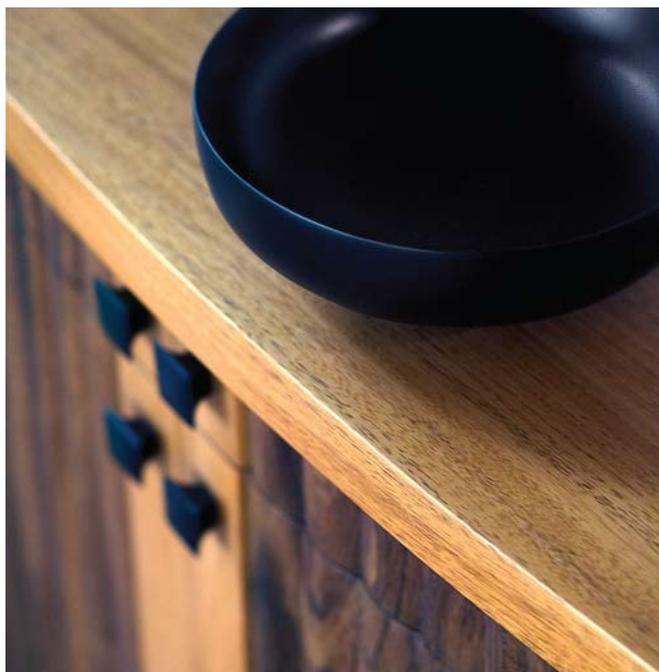








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—J. P. Morgan

*Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.* —Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Most people work just hard enough not to get fired and get paid just enough money not to quit.*  
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*Imitation is the sincerest flattery. —Mohandas Gandhi*

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is contaminated. For the price of an EcoFiltro, Q275 (\$34.33USD), a family can have fresh water daily, eliminating the charges for bottled water indefinitely or buying wood to heat and boil water. The interior filter lasts for a year, although it has been said that it can function beyond the stated shelf life, and costs Q175 (\$21.84 USD) to replace.

Today, Wilson wishes to expand and double the output. Funded by other non-profit organizations from around the world, his foundation constantly struggles to keep up with demand. Mr. Wilson, 41 and a graduate of Notre Dame and the Wharton School of Business (MBA), is looking at another location to expand. The current buildings have stacks of drying clay pots lining the yard, the halls and until lately, the roof.

“My vision,” he explained, “is to provide pure and safe drinking water to anyone and everyone who needs it. We have a simple process that is ecologically clean and green, with no moving parts and minimal maintenance and costs. Our only need is for more publicity and exposure ... and a larger factory.”

His current brainstorm is to reduce what he calls the “plastic footprint” in La Antigua—the purchase and use of bottled water and the subsequent disposal of empty plastic bottles in landfills. By stationing his

units in strategic locations throughout the city, offering free refills to any and all, he reckons there will be a significant reduction of plastic throwaways. Offering an immediate positive impact on the environment of La Antigua, this is a model that other cities and countries might want to consider.

A few local organizations are taking advantage of this remarkable invention. For example, the American Legion recently donated 10 large units to a nearby school. The school saves the Q1500 (\$187 USD) per month that it had been spending on bottled water. (\$187 is the equivalent of monthly tuition for 1.5 students.)

The filters also can be invaluable in the home when the municipal water supply is disrupted by earthquakes, hurricanes or power failures. We might not have ice when the electricity goes out but we will have fresh water from whatever water might be available.

Want to help or lend a hand? The Boy Scouts in the United States are road-testing these units on their walk-about following the Lewis and Clark expedition, and not relying on costly bottled water. Reducing the volume of plastic bottles is good for the planet and you. Contact Philip Wilson and offer your support, visit [www.ecofiltro.com](http://www.ecofiltro.com) to learn more. 



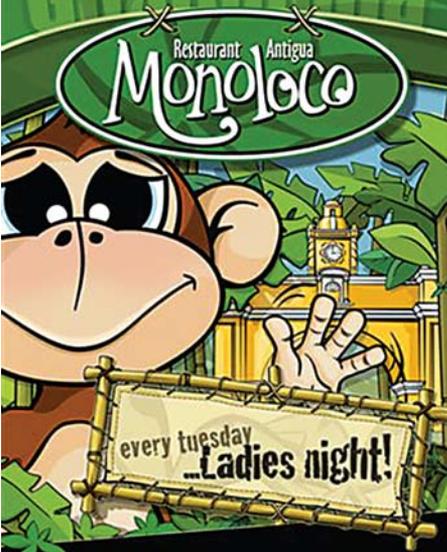
Checking the clay EcoFiltro pots for porosity



Drying the finished pots in the sun



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*Why is there so much month left at the end of the money? —John Barrymore*

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A close-up photograph of a plate of grilled meats. In the foreground, there are several pieces of grilled steak with distinct char marks and a sausage. In the background, there are more pieces of meat, including what looks like a pork knuckle. The plate is white with a brown border. The text "An unforgettable tasty experience..." is overlaid in a green, cursive font at the top of the image.

*An unforgettable tasty experience...*



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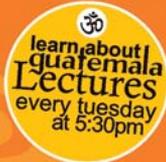


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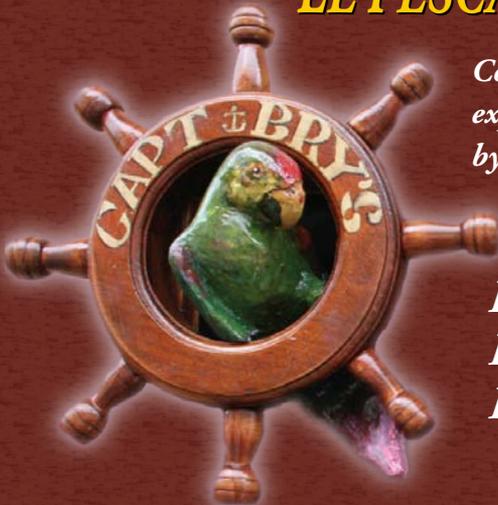
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*When I'm working on a problem, I never think about beauty. I think only how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.*

—R. Buckminster Fuller

Just tell 'em, "Lo vi en la revista **REVUE**"



# ANECHO

by Betsy Cerezo

Antigua's educational cultural home office, Anecho, is Dorotea's brainstorming gathering place. "I wanted to create a center for a variety of cultural organizations," Dorotea says. "It's an experimental project for the English-speaking community. I'm committed to a one-year sponsorship."

Located in picturesque Casa Convento Concepción at the end of 4a calle oriente #41 in La Antigua Guatemala, the office is easy to find. The setting is fresh and breezy with a large garden, even a private parking lot. Here you'll find a lending library, in-house internet access for lap-tops, board games and puzzles; and there's plenty of comfortable seating.

Dorotea's goal is to advance educational topics with lectures and discussions. "My ideal would be a spontaneous meeting place for socializing and planning, scheduling large or small events for the community. I'd like to see workshops of various mediums; forming tables for bridge, backgammon, scrabble or mahjongg; creating fiction and non-fiction book review groups; holding philanthropic and social events; study groups, etc. Anecho needs the input from the community as to its interest in developing the project further. And the availability of the community's talents to fulfill those specified needs."

Anticipated events for May and June are French and Chinese one-day cooking classes, tables for bridge lessons, a discussion session on dreams, Sunday afternoon croquet or badminton or darts. To join one or all of these activities, stop by the Anecho office; call 7882-4600 or 7832-9575; or contact us at [anecho.guate@gmail.com](mailto:anecho.guate@gmail.com). Remember, we need you and your ideas to make Anecho a success!



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# Museo de Arte Guatemalteco Primitivo – Contemporáneo.

Interested in Guatemala's primitive art and artists but unable to search out the artists themselves? Try a one-block walk up 4a calle from La Antigua's central park, to the *Museo de Arte Guatemalteco Primitivo – Contemporáneo*. With May 18 designated as the Day of Museums by the International Council of Museums, there can be no better time to discover this easily accessible collection of Guatemala's primitive art.

The *museo* is housed in the *Centro de Arte Popular* in *La Casa Antigua El Jaulón*, a 16th century building which, with the adjacent building, is believed to have been owned by Leonor, the daughter of the conquistador Pedro Alvarado. Severe damage to the building occurred during the earthquake of 1976, and the subsequent restoration was completed in accordance with the guidelines for historical preservation of the *Consejo Nacional para la Protección de Antigua Guatemala*.

Marilda García de Cruz, a career diplomat who founded the museum in 2007, has a 20-year history of working with primitive artists, and, in some cases, works with the sons or brothers of the artist she originally knew, relationships which she says are now personal as well as professional. Ms. García,

text and photos by Dianne Carofino  
the museum director, relates that descendants of two important ethnic Mayan groups are the primary primitive artists of Guatemala today: from the Comalapa area, Kaqchiquel descendants; and from the Atlán area, particularly Sololá, descendants of the Tz'utujil.

What are the characteristics of a primitive painting? As Ms. García explains, the painting is usually completed in oil on canvas. The work is that of a self-taught artist, often using primary colors, without the use of perspective or a sophisticated use of the combination of shadows and light. The human figure is often not accurately proportioned. Scenes most often portray the actual life of the artist, either everyday scenes or festivities and religious ceremonies. In addition, scenes from the past, as imagined by the artist, who has been told of these events by older members of his family, are often depicted.

Ms. García has found that Comalapa artists most often paint traditional dances and religious ceremonies, as well as scenes depicting daily living and family life, including traditional medicine. In addition, Comalapa artists often depict scenic ...continued on next page

**Museum director Marilda García points out details and facts during her tour of the art works**



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Ms. García with daughters Inés (left) and Pilar (right)

## Art Museum cont. from previous page

landscapes from the highlands. Sololá artists, she has found, often paint agricultural scenes, such as the picking of coffee or cotton, as well as scenes depicting their traditions. Andrés Curruchiche, most often referred to as Guatemala's first primitive artist, began painting in Comalapa in the 1930s.

Now painting in Comalapa are members of the Curruche family, as well as members of the families Simón, Perén and Bal, Ms. García explains. In Sololá, Rafael Gonzales, who worked in the late 1940s and 1950s, is thought of as the first primitive painter of that area. Second and third generations of artists continue to work in that area.

Exhibits in the museum's one large room are divided into 12 areas reflecting themes in primitive art. Ms. García is a knowledgeable guide as she interprets the museum collections, both paintings and other artifacts, such as wood carvings, an 80-year-old dance costume from San Miguel Totonicapán, and several representations of Maximón, a pagan deity of the indigenous.

*Música* is the first theme represented by the museum's collection, and Ms. García points out three types of indigenous dances depicted in displayed paintings. First depicted are the pre-colonial dances, which could be interpreted as almost prayer-like, asking, for example, for a successful hunt or rain. A second type, colonial dances, relates

to the Mayan assimilation of the Spanish beliefs, and the dances end as the Mayan dancers accept the Spanish beliefs. A third category reflects the dances brought by the Spaniards to the New World, which were, and are, simply imitated by the Mayas.

*Family Life/ Trades and Art Crafts*, another theme area, reflects a host of customs, some related to matrimony. Paintings reflect the expression of a young man's professed interest in a young lady by his pulling on the end of her *rebozo*, the long shawl which she wears over her shoulder. Another painting reflects the gifts given by the young man to his intended's family. Still other paintings reflect the actual wedding ceremony and fiesta afterward.

*Indigenous Faces*, another theme reflected by primitive artists, is most often represented by the faces of older people. These are frequently painted by the Tz'utujil, according to Ms. García, and reflect the great respect the indigenous groups feel for the elderly.

Other theme areas in the museum include religious organizations, medicine and dentistry, and agriculture.

The museum is organized in such a way that visitors can spend as much or as little time as they have available and delve as deeply or as superficially as their interests dictate. There is no entrance fee, and guided tours in Spanish, French or basic English are available for the asking. Self-guided walks through the museum are also possible, as written information is available in Spanish and English.

The museum's mission, according to Ms. García, is "to give to our national and international visitors an appreciation for the customs, traditions and way of living of the Mayan descendants in our indigenous communities." As the tour of the museum exhibits ends, this visitor leaves feeling that the museum's goal is well accomplished. 



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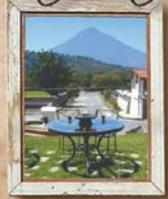
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*I was eating in a Chinese restaurant downtown.  
There was a dish called Mother and Child  
Reunion. It's chicken and eggs. And I said,  
I gotta use that one. —Paul Simon*

*I blame my mother for my poor sex life. All  
she told me was ‘the man goes on top and the  
woman underneath.’ For three years my  
husband and I slept in bunk beds. —Joan Rivers*



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Murals cover the walls on the way in to Comalapa



## Comalapa Art cont. from page 42

and father, Vicente Curruchiche, also an acclaimed artist.

María Curruchiche has one of her own paintings, *Navidad*, delightfully demonstrating the Christmas customs and dress of Comalapa, featured as the December painting of the Arte Maya 2009 calendar. The calendar may be purchased at the family home and in many shops featuring Guatemalan artisans. A visit to the Curruchiche home should definitely include a visit to the upstairs gallery, which includes textiles woven by Doña Isabel Vda. de Curruchiche, María Elena's mother, which are for sale. Textiles include *huipiles*, or traditional blouses, woven with the naturally brown cotton of Guatemala.

Down the street and around the corner is the home and gallery of Oscar Perén, perhaps best known for his humorous painting of the interior of a "chicken bus," which has become a well-known poster. Even a casual conversation with Oscar demonstrates his abilities as a story teller, verbally as well as in his artistic work. Pulling out a photo album of previous paintings, he points to one. "This is me when I was 12 years old," he says of a painting of a barefoot boy peeking in a doorway of a room where Andres Curruchiche is painting. "I saw Sr. Curruchiche painting when I was 12 years old, and I knew I could do that, too. I'm barefoot in the painting because I didn't have a pair of shoes until I was 15, and I didn't sell my first painting until I was 20, but on this day I knew I could do it. I was so excited when I realized that, I didn't hear a thing the teacher said that day."

"This is Comalapa the day before the (1976) earthquake," Sr. Perén comments, as he continues to show his visitors around his gallery. "Everything is in order. This is Comalapa the next day," he says of the following painting. On around the gallery goes the explanation, illuminating even further the story that each painting tells.

Back along the main street of town, the visitor has only to ask to be directed to the gallery of Feliciano Bal and his family. Sr. Bal himself answers the door and graciously shows the visitor around the gallery, the two front rooms of his home. The elder Sr. Bal has for many years painted the changing landscape of Comalapa and its inhabitants, from the time when the main street coming into town was a dirt road.

Also in the Bal family gallery are works by Walter Bal, following very much in the family landscape tradition and Omar Bal.

...continued on page 104

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*I love quotations because it is a joy to find thoughts one might have, beautifully expressed with much authority by someone recognized wiser than oneself. —Marlene Dietrich*

*Somebody said to me, 'But the Beatles were anti-materialistic.' That's a huge myth. John and I literally used to sit down and say, 'Now, let's write a swimming pool.' —Paul McCartney*

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Some of the expected participants are Dr. Tomás Barrientos, Dr. James Awe, Lic. Daniel Aquino, M.A. Edgar Carpio, Dr. Arthur Demarest, Dr. Richard Hansen, Lic. Crista Schieber, Lic. Miguel Orrego, Arq. Federico Fahsen, Dr. Héctor Escobedo, Dr. Francisco Estrada Belli, Dr. Chole Andrieu.

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*Mascara de Tak' Alik Ab'aj -- fine jadeite copy of a mask found in 1986 at the archaeological site near present day Retalhuleu. Catalogued as Olmec style, the original is on display in the National Anthropology Museum in Guatemala City and has been dated to the period 250-500 A.D.*



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*If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands? —Milton Berle*

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## SENSUOUS GUATEMALA: May Flowers

by Ken Veronda

photos: Smith & Riegel / atitlan.net

Up in northern latitudes, folks get so excited when the first crocus breaks through the snow or when a scrawny poinsettia plant lasts past the holidays. Our British gardening friends bubble with joy when they spot mayflowers, even if those simple flat blossoms are usually a month or two late. After consulting seed catalogs all winter, Nordics nurse their little seedlings in flats indoors, waiting for the right moment to transplant and then hope for no more frost. Gardeners up there work so hard for a few months of blossoms.

Down in the tropics, folks chop away to thin out greenery that would fetch fancy prices in American or European nurseries. Ferns, bromeliads, philodendron are so abundant they block roads and driveways. Machetes are used with surgical slashes to cut back plants that homeowners in the northlands would pay big money to put in their steam-heated living rooms. Gardeners must hack the stuff out of the way to plant anything else.

Gardening in Guatemala's western mountains is perfect. Other than occasional watering between showers, the biggest work to gardening is deciding what color combinations to pick and put in a vase. Here in the Highlands, we have it not too cold and not too hot but just right: Flowers all year, roses blooming every month, rich green hillsides,

and always the colorful climbers spilling over whitewashed walls. Children up north who might need to search hard for sufficient blossoms to fill a tiny May basket can gather huge armloads in fields here or buy more than they can carry for a few *quetzales*.

You know the common joke that corn grows so fast in Iowa, or wheat in Kansas, or whatever in California, that all you have to do is drop in a seed and stand back quickly before you get pushed aside. That's not quite literally true in the Guatemalan Highlands, but it sure comes close. A slip from a friend's geranium, a begonia cutting, a tiny fuschia sprout, seem to double and double again by the weekend. That baby key lime we planted a year ago is well over our heads already and producing lots of fruit. The *nazareno* vine with its deep purple flowers topped our wall in a few months and is draping itself nicely in both directions. Pink oleander is yards taller than the neighbor's walls, giving us a colorful treat.

We work so hard back in colder climates to nurse orchids along. It's amazing to see the varied orchids that are abundant on so many trees here. We're proud of our roses back in the north, after pruning them at the right time of year, drip-watering ever so carefully, cutting off the hips just right to get another bloom before ...continued on page 102

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A la Iglesia Islámica Guatemalteca,  
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Atentamente.

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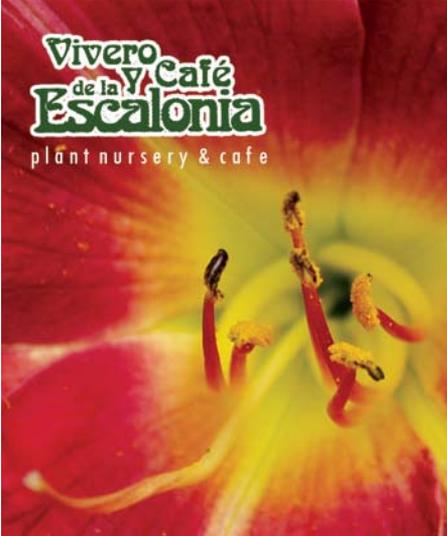
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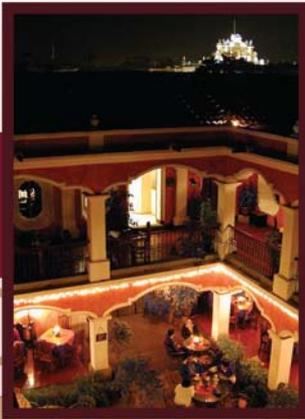
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# Spring Forward

by **Dr. Karmen Guevara**  
 HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

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Thirdly, design your dream garden—the landscape of your life. Contemplate the desired outcome of the seeds you sow, for like the old Spanish proverb, “More grows in the garden than the gardener sows.” Decide which creatures you'd like to visit—butterflies, hummingbirds, frogs, lady-

bugs, long-lost family members or potential partners—then plant their favorite things. Mix flashes of colors that'll make an appearance only once with those that always return. For inspiration, complete your design with a white lotus pond as a reminder that like the lotus, we too grow exquisitely from muddy waters!

Now it's time to peel off the dirty gloves and turn your attention to the spring renewal of the gardener!

Begin the renewal of your life by stepping out of the box of routine. For example, fill the mind with new ideas and viewpoints; travel somewhere you've never been before; celebrate your birthday in a way you've never dared to, and take a chance on a new friend. Remember also to renew your fundamental choices as well as your dreams.

As always, nature shows us the way home, so take a deep breath of fresh spring air and let it push out the old and renew what remains! 

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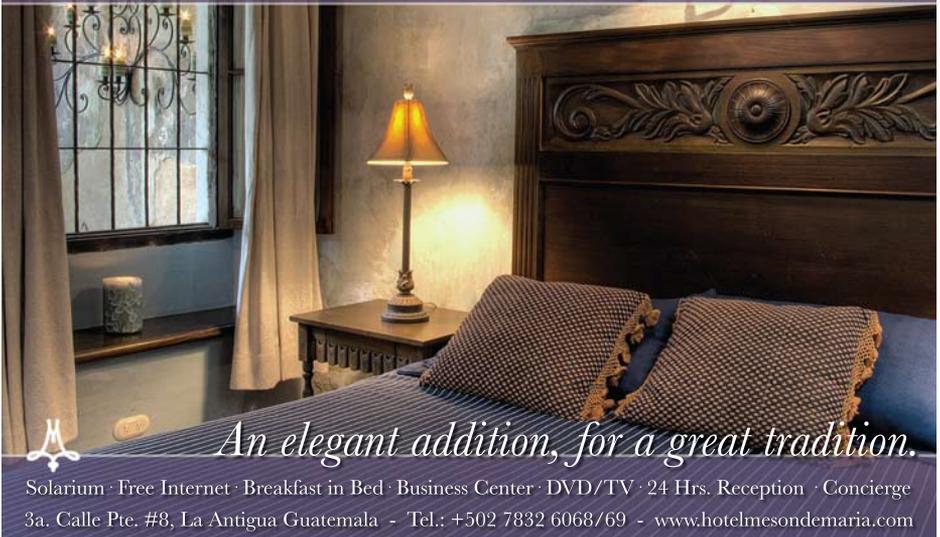
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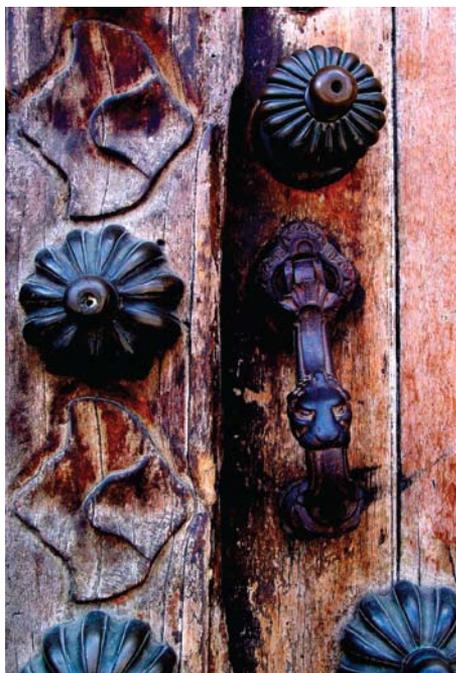
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## May Flowers cont. from page 78

it's too cold. No need to prune the plants that produce rich white roses all year at our doorway, until the bushes grow so much they start snagging sweaters as we enter. Bird of paradise and papyrus bushes across our driveway are problems too, as they beg to be cut and used for indoor arrangements.

Drive the valley road out of Antigua and see the endless rows of roses being cultivated for export. Sometimes a husband-and-wife team is in charge of a row, competing with their neighbors to nurture the finest long-stemmed beauties that will be sold when they're perfect in the floral auctions of Holland and Pennsylvania. Because no fuels are needed to heat the greenhouses here, blossoms can compete in price year-around in the world wholesale markets. Potted plants, orchids and carnations are exported also throughout the year, especially orchids timed to be tied into corsages for the northerners' Mothers' Day late in May.

We've shrimp around all year, too. Not the eating kind, though they sure look like their crustacean cousins. Pink and yellow shrimp, a couple of inches long, cascading from their mother plant climbing up the walls. And there's the antheriums, from patent-leather-deep-red through pinks to almost pure white, so colorful every month.

Gardenia's sweet perfume can be enjoyed any old time. Primrose and zinnia are lush. Calla lilies, aromatic freesia, golden margaritas, deep blue statice arrive for a few months only, rotating with red and white nochebuenas — poinsettias to northerners, blooming for the good nights of the year-end holidays.

May baskets? May flowers? Nice for those who've struggled through cold months without. We are happy to enjoy our flowers every month, thank you.  



...un feliz descanso



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**Comalapa Art** cont. from page 74

Omar Bal's paintings are easily recognized as focusing on the traditional dress and market activities of Comalapa's residents, but in a more stylized, modern approach. His paintings are perhaps well known to the visitor of artisan markets as the "no-face" paintings, groupings of market vendors in stylized renditions of traditional costumes, with their faces painted out.

On the way back out of town, a serendipitous stop almost on the edge of town leads to the gallery of two of Oscar Perén's sons. The brothers Perén, Edgar and Orlando, each have slightly different approaches to the depiction of the customs of the people of Comalapa. Edgar's paintings are of the traditional naïve style, and he demonstrates his father's gift for storytelling as he explains the stories depicted in his "Maximoto Ceremony" painting. Orlando's paintings sometimes have a more modern appearance. If you stop, don't miss the small painted boxes here or the standing churches, which open into scenes of village life.

Although the visit to Comalapa's artists was over for the day, other galleries wait to be explored at a later time. **18**



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 —Russell Baker

*I actually thought that it would be a little confusing during the same period of your life to be in one meeting when you're trying to make money, and then go to another meeting where you're giving it away.* —Bill Gates

*Sleep is the best meditation.* —Dalai Lama

*We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.*  
 —Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Reptile residents of the local wildlife preserve, Monterrico —Jordan Banks

# “Shirtless Jack” Clinton McGovern

*Jack Clinton McGovern, 64, beloved teacher and movie lore expert, has lost his battle with cancer. The Tarzan novel he was writing remains unfinished.*

Around election time in the United States, people would tell him, “I know whom you are voting for!” Though Jack could not vote in 1960, he canvassed for his namesake, Jack Kennedy. Twelve years later, he supported a cousin, George McGovern. And he voted in 1992 and 1996 for a third namesake—Bill Clinton. No one could call Jack a democrat in name only. He was also a lifelong Cubs and Red Sox fan, despite hailing from San Diego.

During his 20 years in Panajachel, Jack was respected by expats of every ideological bent and by uncounted Guatemalans, many of whom studied under him at LIFE School. He had a crusty, and, in his early

years in Guatemala, underclad exterior. But all who knew him even casually knew he was kind, though nonplussed by his kindness. He grew gardenias and regaled students’ mothers with them.

Jack had taught abroad in places like Chile and Sweden. While still employed at Guatemala City’s American school, expat Jennifer Martin cornered him in Chalo’s grocery and hired him as the first teacher at LIFE, which Martin had just chartered. He was the only person available with proper teaching credentials, if not proper attire.

“He was ‘Shirtless Jack’ back then,” Martin notes. “All he wore was shorts.” As a new staffer at LIFE, he added T-shirts and flip-flops to his attire.

“I had the unique honor of having Jack teach all four of my kids,” Martin adds. “He was the most inspirational teacher. All my kids felt the same. He really taught them things that served them in their lives. Peace, Jack!”

“Jack was my true mentor in Panajachel,” says LIFE principal George Nippo. “I arrived fresh from college to teach at LIFE. He took me under his wing and taught me the ropes.”

“The world is sadder without him,” says friend Gary Hagan. “I’m sure he’s still cheering the Cubbies.” 🍷



**Jack McGovern (in hat), at his 2001 retirement (from LIFE School) party, makes a humorous attempt at dapperness.**

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*Babies don't need a vacation, but I still see them at the beach... it pisses me off! I'll go over to a little baby and say 'What are you doing here? You haven't worked a day in your life!'*  
—Steven Wright

*Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.*  
—Mohandas Gandhi

*Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.*  
—Dalai Lama

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA:** Sun. Discussion 1-2pm (2a avenida sur #34), Mon. 6-7pm Discussion & Thurs. 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). [www.antiguaguatemala-laaa.org](http://www.antiguaguatemala-laaa.org) and [www.lakeatitlanaa.org](http://www.lakeatitlanaa.org)

**HELP NEEDED!** Our autistic children die due to lack of clinical resources & education. Help us in getting equipment for the clinic of tomography, neurology and encephalography. If you wish to volunteer or donate, please call 5470-1536, 5915-3982 or [info@spanishforlove.org](mailto:info@spanishforlove.org) [www.spanishforlove.org](http://www.spanishforlove.org)

**CLUB ROTARIO:** Meets every Wednesday 8pm at Porta Hotel Antigua. (Last Wed. of the month, please call Alma). Tel: 7832-7600.

**THE LIGHT OF GOD IS IN EVERYONE:** Join us for silent meeting in the manner of Friends (Quakers) on the first Sundays of the month. Contacts: 7832-5653, 7849-5970 [mardugan@earthlink.net](mailto:mardugan@earthlink.net), [progresar@hughes.net](mailto:progresar@hughes.net)

**PANAJACHEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** Lake Atitlán's English-language church meets Sundays, 9am at member households. Visitors welcome! More info. 7762-1581 (Wayne)

**ST. MARKS ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE IN ENGLISH.** Sundays 11:30am. Chapel of Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, corner 6a calle & 3a av., La Antigua. Tel: 5293-1076, 5492-5707.

**ATTENTION ALL US CITIZENS** in or around Antigua. Please visit [USAntigua.org](http://USAntigua.org) for updated travel advisories, emergency information and local contacts. For more info please email [warden@USAntigua.org](mailto:warden@USAntigua.org)

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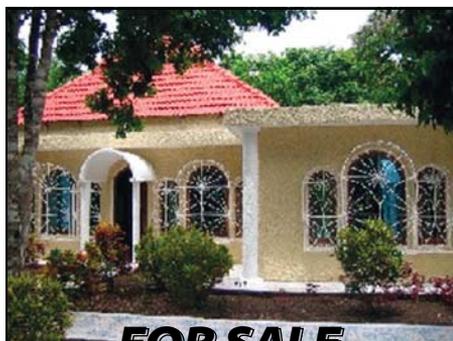
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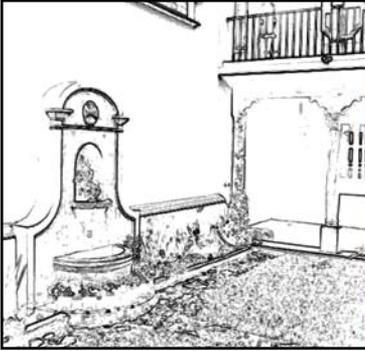
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*We can live without religion and meditation,  
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## Sea Salt cont. from page 10

they offer 85 varieties of sea salt, which include those with mild to intense salinity, with a touch of sweetness and with hints of unexpected flavors (like truffles). For your wedding meal ... suggest featuring a trio of salts, delicate *fleur de sel*, a snappy flake sea salt and a smoked sea salt —at each table.”

**Humble salt is enjoying something of a renaissance, with gourmets singing the praises of artisanal salt. 85 varieties of sea salt are available, which include those with mild to intense salinity.**

Guatemala's major salt works are less than two hours by car on some of the country's best-paved roads, from either Guatemala City, Lake Atitlán or La Antigua. The near beach areas to the west of Sipacate and much of the estuarine area that parallels the Pacific Ocean have been adapted to producing natural sea salt from the nearby pristine Pacific waters.

The basic process to produce the sea salt is to create diked areas, lined or otherwise drain proof, to pump or haul salt water into them and to let Mother Nature's sunshine do the rest. After the water evaporates, the salt dries it is pushed into mounds and then sold. The very large-scale salt works sell by the ton, but there are smaller cooperatives and individual mom-and-pop backyard operations.

Salt is a compound composed of sodium and chlorine, and different salts from different areas of the world vary slightly as to trace elements that might be present. A crucial trace element is iodine, which defends humans from thyroid deficiency or goiter. Iodine is so crucial to goiter prevention that where absent naturally it is usually added to salt. No problems here with Guatemala's sea salt, which contains naturally occurring iodine in ideal proportions for human health.

Best of all about Guatemala's sea salt is the price. If you visit the Sipacate cooperative, where artisan salt is packed by hand, the bad news is that your minimum purchase is a 25-pound bulk package containing 25 individually wrapped one-pound packages. The good news is that the 25 pounds cost Q14, or \$.07 per pound. Your friends will thank you. 



**Expanding a salt flat production area**

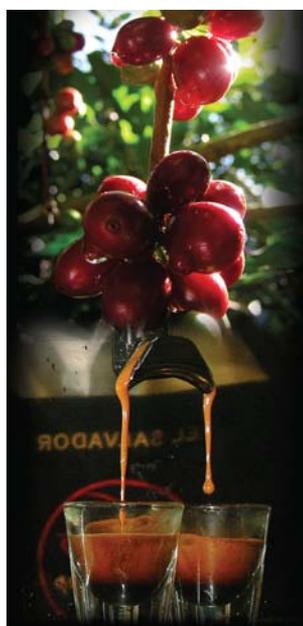
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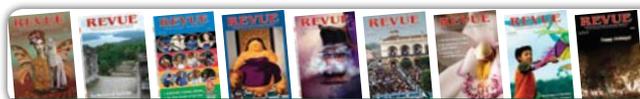
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GUATEMALA

*If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. —Dalai Lama*

*The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated. —Mohandas Gandhi*



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# When the Rains Come

by Jlong photo: Rudy Girón

**N**ow is the May month, the solstice of the seasons you might say. Flukes of hesitant rain tickle the dust laid these six months before, grain upon powdered grain. The ignorant drips have no certainty of what might follow.

In the afternoon sunlight Hunahpú assumes its dark cap, an inverted saucer of cloud that displaced the golden clouds that surround it since the breaking of daylight.

Later there is a roar of thunder way over the far side of the volcano warning us of what is coming. Then clouds leak over the hips of the volcano and spill, filling the town below. Lightening, set

loose, loosens its attendant thunder. Now rain-pebbles rejoice in their liberation and dance together in runnels, rivers and on to the sea, children reunited with their mother. They shout their presence to us, rattle the rooftops, lick the windows, flush the gutters, swallowed by pour after rotating pour inflating the intestines of choked drains.

The rain drips through the caves and the ladies' sleeves filters to a tidy end. The electric light flickers as the storm moves to chew a different part of the valley—to remind us it is still there and has graced us by its retreat.

Rain refreshes in cycles of rain. How will I be old when the rain stops?





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