

# REVUE



Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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July 2009  
Year 18, No. 5

FREE

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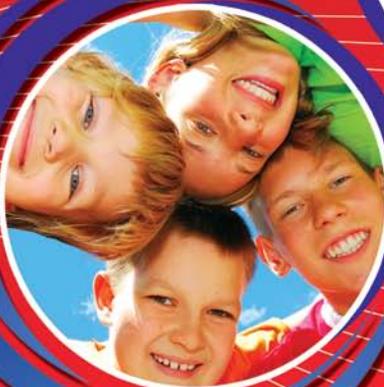
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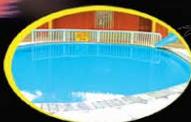
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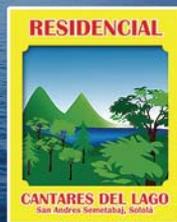
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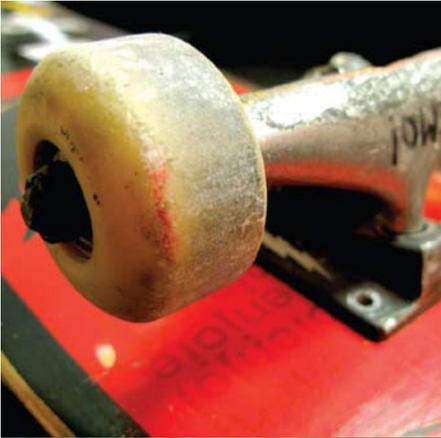
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**Peek-a-boo!**

*Photo by Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave*

*Courtesy of Partner for Surgery (page 128)*



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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Concerts, art shows, fashion shows, conferences, lectures, slide shows, dance recitals, stage plays, circus acts, folk dancing, films, workshops, local bands, tours ... if you can't find something fun to do in July, it certainly isn't our fault for not telling you about it. DateBook starts on page 24 waiting to be used.

There is plenty to read about on other Revue pages this month. We've got a few stories with an educational theme, starting with a new English-language teaching program at Guatemala's Del Valle University Altiplano. Then there is the Colegio Hebrón, creating a "first" for Guatemala with its homeschooling curriculum. The group at Niños de Guatemala are providing education to kids in Ciudad Vieja, and the American Legion has created the Steve Skelton Memorial Library.

The research efforts of Joy Houston and the photography of Jack Houston allow us to learn about medical history in Part II of Healthcare in Colonial Guatemala.

Dwight Wayne Coop discusses a number of topics this month, including the weather and an art exhibit coming to Panajachel.

Oops, running out of space here, please check our table of contents for more great articles. We once again express our gratitude to all of our contributing writers.

July 25 is *Día de Santiago*, a celebration in honor of the patron saint of La Antigua Guatemala, with processions and cultural festivals throughout the month.

The lovely photo on our cover was taken on a medical mission in Alta Verapaz by Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave while she was volunteering for Partner in Surgery (page 128).

We wish you happy trails in July, hopefully we can be of some assistance. If you need back issues of Revue just browse through them at [www.REVUEmag.com](http://www.REVUEmag.com)

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

# REVUE

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### Publishers / Managing Editors:

John & Terry Kovick Biskovich editor@revuemag.com

**Copy Editor:** Matt Bokor

**Staff Writer:** Dwight Wayne Coop

**Art Director / Graphic Design:** Rudy A. Girón

**Photography:** César Tián

**Proofreader/Translations:** Michael Hopkins

**Contributing Photographers:** Harris/Goller, Smith/Riegel, Club Fotográfico de Guatemala: [www.clubfotografico.org](http://www.clubfotografico.org)

**La Antigua Manager:** César Tián

**Production Coordinator:** Mercedes Mejicanos

**Administrative Assistants:** Alma Diaz Castillo

**Systems & Accounting:** José Caal, Luis Juárez, Diego Alvarez

**Distribution:** César Tián, Oscar Chacón, Luis Toribio

**Maintenance:** Silvia Gómez, Irma Jiménez, María Solís

**Sales Representatives:** Ivonne Pérez,

César Tián, Denni Marsh,

Fernando Rodas, Lucy Longo de Pérez,

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**Revue Webmaster:** Rudy A. Girón

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### REVUE OFFICES:

**LA ANTIGUA** [ventas@revuemag.com](mailto:ventas@revuemag.com)

(Central Office) 4a calle oriente #23

**PBX: (502) 7832-4619 /09**

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### GUATEMALA CITY

Av. La Reforma 8-60, z.9, Edif. Galerías Reforma, 1 level, Of. #105 Tels: (502) 2331-7151, 2331-9340

**CIUDAD SAN CRISTÓBAL:** Denni Marsh TelFax: 2478-1649

**EL SALVADOR** [revue.elsalvador@gmail.com](mailto:revue.elsalvador@gmail.com)

**El Salvador Regional Manager:** Lena Johannessen

Col. Centroamérica Calle San Salvador #202, San Salvador

TelFax: (503) 2260-7475, 2260-1825 Cel: 7981-4517

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*Through the impact of British colonialism in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, English has become without a doubt the world's lingua franca. In 2004, English was reported as "the official or dominant language for two billion people in 75 countries" (Global Vision). The roughly 750 million non-native speakers of English now exceed those who speak it as their native tongue by more than two to one. It is the official language for more than 70 countries. English is now the dominant language for informing the world community about scientific discoveries, technological advances, academic research and international commerce. Furthermore, English is the most studied language in the world. "There are more students studying English in China than are studying English in the United States and more speakers of English in India than in Britain" (Altbach). It is predicted that in the next six years, two billion people, a third of the world population, will be learning English (Graddol qtd. in Ives).*

—Dr. Jillian Haeseler

# English & Guatemala

## *A revolution in English instruction coming to Guatemala's Del Valle University Altiplano*

by Dwight Wayne Coop photos: Marcelo Bocel

English is recognized as a co-official language even in Guatemala, where it is the first tongue of many inhabitants of Izabal Department. But a movement is afoot to make it the second tongue of all educated Guatemalans.

A private college, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG) Altiplano, is a local vanguard of reform in English instruction. The goal, says Helga Knapp Baranyai, dean of the school's Centro de Idiomas (CEI), is to turn out graduates who are truly conversant, rather than people who have merely studied English for years.

Freshmen, who are typically 13, will be required to study English from day one. As *básico* university students, they differ from *diversificado*-level students, who go on to become bookkeepers, nurse's aides, teachers and the like. University *básico* compares more to junior high school. We have *básico* (middle school), *bachillerato* (high school) and *especialidades* (first two years of college).

When students are 17 or 18, they may

be graduated from *bachillerato* or enter an *especialidades* (professional career) major in tourism or agroforestry. Either way, says Knapp, they must by then be conversant in English and pass the ELASH test, a complex 200-point examination, scoring 141 or better when they finish studying at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala Altiplano.

American professor of English, Dr. Jillian S. Haeseler working at the UVG Altiplano as a Fulbright, presented her new model for English instruction ...continued on page 110



**Dr. Jillian Haeseler during the presentation of the new curriculum at the Universidad Del Valle Guatemala in Guatemala City**

# A School without a Soccer Field

*Guatemala is the first hispanic nation to produce a homeschooling curriculum*

by Dwight Wayne Coop photos: Ángel Moscoso



In 1999, Marvin Byers had a millennial vision for something unprecedented. Guatemala City's mammoth Hebrón Church, where Byers still pastors, had for decades boasted a school for parishioners and for anyone else who could come—and for some who could not. Some of Guatemala's poorest children attended on scholarship and went on to cheat poverty.

In his vision, Byers saw the lights go out in the school's 20-odd classrooms. The desks disappeared; the doors were double-locked; and the chatter ceased. But the school did not die. In fact, it grew. And it underwent a transformation apparently without precedent. Simply put, the entire Colegio Hebrón school "went home" and never came back.

By 1990, North America had become the international hotbed for homeschooling. The phenomenon exists there to a de-

gree unapproached elsewhere but Australia. About 1.7 million American and Canadian children are now homeschooled, even though the practice remains controversial and, in certain jurisdictions, quasi-legal.

In Guatemala, it is not only legal and free of controversy, but government-approved. In 1999, Hebrón launched the first total transformation of a traditional institution into a homeschooling one. The major North American homeschooling institutions, like Calvert and A Beka, did not begin as traditional schools, or they remain schools that include campuses.

"We know of no other *colegio* anywhere," says Josefina de Machado, Colegio Hebrón's headmistress, "that effected the complete metamorphosis." (A *colegio* is not a college but a private school.)

What is even more certain, according to curriculum coordinator Ángela de Barahona



Colegio Hebrón staff



Curriculum coordinator Ángela de Barahona

na, is that Colegio Hebrón is the first complete homeschooling program in Spanish. Partial curricula have appeared in Chile and Colombia, but only Hebrón covers the full 12-year run of childhood education, plus preschool, and every subject recognized by national education ministries.

The name of the curriculum (and of the church) has significance for education, say the Barahonas. Hebrón is a city in Judea, part of what is also called the West Bank. Three thousand years ago, according to Samuel, it was the temporary capital of Israel. King David, the story goes, reigned there seven years before conquering the citadel of Jebus and renaming it Jerusalem, from which he reigned another 33 years.

Juan Carlos Barahona, Ángela's son and right-hand man in curriculum development, explains that in Hebrón, "the young king prepared himself for the rest of his reign. We want to be 'Hebrón' for our students, so they can capture their own Jerusalems and 'reign well' afterwards. To be productive, to be forces for good."

Families need not enroll in every subject. Secular and Catholic families who are sold on Hebrón's academic merits, but not on its Protestant bias, may exclude the curriculum's religious portion. English-speaking families may opt out of the English component.

In 2001, Guatemala's Education Min-

istry granted status as an experimental school to Colegio Hebrón. In 2004, Hebrón won official accreditation after meeting a long list of *requisitos*. Most of these were academic standards, says headmistress De Machado. But she believes that Hebrón scholars enjoy other advantages.

"They're free of peer pressure, which is the downfall of so many kids, even bright ones." She asserts that the nonacademic lessons are even more important than the scholarly element.

"We've seen children come of age under the program," Ángela de Barahona says. "And we note no generation gap between these children and their parents. They understand each other completely. There is mutual respect and closeness."

Hebrón laureate Alejandra Ligoría, 20, was among the first to complete the secondary courses. She only wishes that the program had been in place for her primary years.

"I have a bond with my parents that would not otherwise exist," she says. "And even though I was schooled at home, I didn't miss out on anything. I had friends, mostly other homeschooled kids. And I had no problem with my parents having a say in who they were."

"It was good," she adds, "for the other teacher/parents, too. My mom even says that Hebrón was more ...continued on page 106



Recording a teaching session for use on DVD



Colegio Hebrón teacher Geraldine de Archila



# Healthcare in Colonial Guatemala

*Part II: 17th-18th Centuries* by Joy Houston photos: Jack Houston

*The latest medical advances in Spain were slow to reach Guatemala which saw its first autopsy in 1622. Hospitals were simple asylums for the sick, consoled by religion.*

**B**y 1600 Hospital Real de Santiago and Hospital de San Alejo had been up and running for almost 50 years. Still, in Santiago de los Caballeros, the capital of the Spanish Kingdom in Guatemala, now La Antigua Guatemala, “the scientific poverty of the 17th century” enslaved doctors in circles of useless theories, wrote Carlos Martínez Durán in *Las Ciencias Médicas en Guatemala*. “Hospitals were simple asylums for the sick, consoled by religion.”

Medical advances in Spain were a long way from Guatemala. A surgeon, Juan de los Reyes, arrived and became the first medical administrator of Hospital Real in 1595. He also took up the challenge of demanding that all persons who presented themselves as doctors show their credentials. This, of course, was something most could not do. But word of the flourishing new capital lured the ambitious, some good, serving years without pay, and some not-so-good but with hopes of a comfortable livelihood. In 1612 the municipality supported a demand to crack down on all who practiced medicine without credentials “as required by the laws of the kingdom, which practice results in much harm to the town,” records Durán.

Persistent efforts of the municipality brought to Santiago a degreed doctor from

◀ This may have been the colonial hospital chapel entrance before the church San Pedro Apóstol was built

Mexico. In 1622 he accomplished what is believed to be the first autopsy in Central America, after an apparent suicide by poisoning at the town jail.

Civil authorities further demonstrated their concern for healthcare in 1636, recognizing the need to isolate the number of lepers who roamed the streets. Records show that the disease had been carried to New Spain by African slaves. The townsfolk feared the lepers, believing the deforming skin disease to be contagious. To isolate the disease, the Captain General, per King Philip IV, ordered construction of a hospital outside the west end of town near the Guacalate River. There a mill for grinding wheat could add income to the stipend granted by the king to support the hospital. In 1640 the Order of San Juan de Dios, which had been administering Hospital Real for three years, accepted administration of the third hospital in Santiago, Hospital San Lázaro.

Earthquake damage in 1717 vacated the hospital. By the time it was reconstructed in 1734, some patients had found refuge in town with the Bethlehemite Order; others apparently were left on the streets. According to Verle Annis, an edict directed that all lepers in other hospitals or free should be placed in the rebuilt hospital. Abandoned



**Ruins of convalescent Hospital Belén founded by Hermano Pedro, adjacent to the Church of Belén, off the northeast corner of the plaza.**

after the 1773 quake, the property became the municipal cemetery in 1834 and remains so today.

Backing up to 1636, at the same time the Captain General was concerned about the lepers, Bishop Bartolomé González Soltero was anxious to build a hospital for clergy, complying with the Council of Trent. A bronze plaque on the side of the church of San Pedro Apóstol credits Bishop Marroquín with the work, but in fact Marroquín had had his hands full before he died a century before. Eventually Bishop Soltero bought a house with cathedral funds to be used for the project. But the scarce funds allotted for support were instead distributed where they were more needed. Although “they were very numerous the religious that existed at that time in the city of Santiago de Guatemala,” not many were sick or aged, writes Dr. Fidel Aguirre Medrano.

The first stone was finally laid in 1646, but the epidemic of 1647 delayed construction again. More than 1,000 died in a few months,

and the doctors couldn't help. In fact, according to Durán, “they had the custom of fleeing the city when the plagues entered.”

Then, during a series of earthquakes in 1651, wild animals came into the town, including a fierce lion that roared through, ripping papers from the wall of the Town Hall. “What next?” the people must have groaned. “Will we ever have peace and health?” But according to Domingo Juarros, reports of disasters and epidemics of that time often make no mention of hospitals or care, only prayers to religious figures. It was believed that the bishop placated divine justice and health returned when he went barefoot in processions. Alas, work was delayed again when the bishop died.

Hospital San Pedro Apóstol was finally ready for clergy patients in 1663, administered by the Order of San Juan de Dios. A doorway flanked by twisted columns and topped with a niche with similar columns, on 3a avenida behind the present church on 6a calle, may have been the entrance to a chapel



**Hospital San Pedro Apóstol (right), now Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro, served colonial clergy.**

of the hospital before the church was built.

After the earthquake of 1773 Hospital San Pedro Apóstol served not only clergy but the community as well. Although purpose and administration changed over the centuries, the hospital, now called Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro, is the only colonial hospital that has continued until the present time in La Antigua Guatemala.

The young Pedro de San José Betancourt, now Santo Hermano Pedro, arrived in Guatemala in 1651 with a passion to serve his fellow man, echoing the efforts of Fray Matías de Paz and Bishop Francisco Marroquín a hundred years earlier (see Part I in *June Revue*). In a simple, donated thatch-roof house on the Pensativo River, south of the San Francisco monastery, Hermano Pedro ministered to the sick and the poor he had brought from the street, his first patient being an African slave. Support came from donations and from 30 community families who each provided food one day a month for the dozen-or-so receiving care.

**The prior himself was caught by surprise one night, ready to run off to Mexico with trunks packed with hospital supplies.**

Pedro solicited funds and land for the growing number of convalescents in the hospital he started to build. Although he would not live to see it finished, those who followed not only finished construction of the hospital, which functioned officially in 1667, but formed the Bethlehemite Congregation, which went on to found hospitals in South America. Hospital Belén was the first convalescent hospital in New Spain, for recuperating rest and comfort, and the fifth and final hospital founded in Santiago de los Caballeros. Some lepers found refuge there after the 1717 quake. In 1740 there were 20 beds for men, 8 for women. After the 1773 earthquake the work moved to the new capital, now Guatemala City. And Hermano Pedro became ...continued on page 122

# You say Granada, I say Enchilada ...

**E**specially the chicken molé-drenched version from *Tequila Vallarta* on Calle El Calmito east of the Parque Central, swimming in several different layers of chocolate and spiced with just enough molé sauce to require one of their delicious margaritas to cool your tongue.

Yes, the owners really are from Puerto Vallarta and on Sunday evenings, as the weekenders from Managua pass by in their shiny SUV's, sitting at a table on the sidewalk in Granada, Nicaragua is a very good place to be. It will still be warm and humid from the earlier heat of the day but that's why we have margaritas. The tourists walk by, ducking into the doors of the three-block-long stretch of restaurants, glance at the menu board and look around to see what's on the nearest plate.

The margarita is perfect and frosty. A visit to Granada is well worth staying a day or two or more: the easiest way to go is to fly either COPA or TACA, you're less than an hour away from Guatemala City. Take a USD \$5 dollar bill to pay for the right

to enter Nicaragua, and there will be taxis outside. If you book a room in most of the better hotels in Granada, they will arrange to have a car and driver waiting for you: it is usually a \$35 ride, past the dusty streets of eastern Managua and out into the green-and-brown fields of the countryside. The road is good, and it usually takes 30 minutes to reach Granada.

A bit of history: **Granada is the oldest city in Central America, founded in 1524 by Francisco Fernández de Córdoba.** Time has not been kind to the "Great Sultan," named in honor of its Moorish namesake in Spain. The city has suffered the slings and arrows of fortune, ranging from devastating earthquakes to the likes of that infamous pirate Henry Morgan, who sacked the town in June 1665. The last of the external pirates was invited by Granada's traditional rival, the city of León, who imported William Walker from New Orleans with his band of mercenaries known as "the Immortals."



Fountain at the main square



Granada's Cathedral at the central park

He and his band of merry fellows defeated the city in 1850; he declared himself president and then launched a failed conquest of the rest of Central America. Twice. The second time he was captured and shot by a firing squad (in Trujillo, Honduras)—a lesson to some of us in the case of being called an immortal.

**What is there to do in Granada?** The central park is surrounded by beautiful colonial buildings, restored to hotels or Spanish schools. The big yellow building on the corner is the Italian Embassy. Horse-drawn carriages of various bright colors wait listlessly in the noonday sun, waiting for the slow tour of the city to begin. Arts and craft vendors line the outer edges of the park, and some very good embroidery can be found. Two of my favorite panamas now sport Granada-woven hatbands (\$30 and a day to produce). There are a few museums, a few art galleries and several magnificent churches to visit. There is a new chocolate store on the south side of the park with enticing displays. There are local and city tours, lake tours (Lake Nicaragua) and the islands thereof, canopy tours of Volcán Mombacho and beautiful countryside to explore. Masaya, nearby, has a large marketplace of craftwork, ranging from woodwork to embroidery. When it gets to be too

much, there is always *Roxanne's Massage* on Calle El Calmito, up the street from Tequila Vallarta.

Don't feel like another night of Mexican food? Try *Jimmy Three Fingers BBQ* on Calle Consulado, east of El Parque Central: The fish, chicken and beef are excellent and inexpensive. When Jimmy isn't cooking, you'll find him at the bar holding court, poking holes in the filter of his cigarette with a paper clip. "I'm trying to quit: I promised my Mom I'd quit after the first of the year." He is a character, as are most of the ex-pats in Granada. For breakfast, it is practically mandatory to stop in at *Kathies Waffle House*, two blocks northwest of Parque Central, on the corner of Calle El Arsenal. The #24 on the menu is three eggs (anyway you like and done to perfection), four strips of bacon, hash browns and a big slice of freshly baked, whole-wheat bread.

Granada is a walking town. Take sturdy shoes and avoid the pitfalls and the occasional open holes in the sidewalks. Banks are close by for ATMs, and there are money-changers in the vicinity. Choose a hotel with a swimming pool, if possible. The days can get a bit warm when the breezes from the lake aren't wafting through the trees. Relax: Granada is a smaller version of La Antigua Guatemala but with Lake Nicaragua at its doorstep. 



Part of the central park with game booths



The Italian Embassy in Granada



## Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

# Name Your Favorite Season

*Central America experiences primavera, morphin, vernal, neolluvial, canícula, and otoño*

Before coming to Central America, I assumed that there were four seasons here. After a few years, I had come to understand that, according to local opinion, there are but two. Furthermore, winter was summer, and vice-versa (more on this later). But the more I think of it, I count six.

With apologies to Dr. Seuss, it all reminds me of a passage in “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish” about a parade of whimsical creatures that kindled wonderment in the eyes of each of my sons as they passed through early childhood. “Some have two feet, some have four, some have six feet, and some have more.”

Depending on whom you ask, Central America experiences two, four, six or more seasons. I will outline the case for the first three possibilities. The folks who think there are more than six are probably manic-depressives who forgot to take their pills, so I will ignore the “more” possibility.

Year in and year out, the Earth pivots on her axis, first 23.3 vertical degrees one way, then 23.3 degrees to the other. As most schoolchildren know, this is what causes seasons. For every lateral degree (each 360th of a complete circle), there is a calibrated vertical angle for the Earth. This has been the case for millennia. There is a smidgeon of decay in this orbit, as we would expect given the First Law of Thermodynamics, but it is so negligible that planetary physicists can-

not explain its virtual perfection.

A certain sage and eunuch in Babylon, sixth century B.C.E., believed that Earth was divinely held in place; almost all modern Central Americans agree with him. “He changes the times and the seasons,” the sage wrote, “and He removes kings and raises up kings.” Personally, I think that changing the seasons is a bigger deal than changing kings, since the latter is something in which mere human hands often take part with tools ranging from hanging nooses to hanging chads.

According to the two-season theory, Central America has only winter and summer, with winter being the warmer of the two. That’s what I said—winter is warmer. By local definition, winter is the season of precipitation; since the rain falls mostly in warmer months, these months (roughly May to October) are *el invierno* (winter). The dryer months (November to April) are colder, but, being dry, they are *el verano* (summer). I explained this apparent oddity in my articles “Vivaldi Was Not Born in Belize” and “Canicula, Caniculi” (see [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com) to find past articles).

No need to say much about the four-season model, since *la primavera* (spring) is only a word brochure writers use to lure tourist to Guatemala with phrases like “Land of Eternal Spring.” And *el otoño* (fall/autumn) is an esoteric abstraction, especially since Guatemalan tourists ...continued on page 44

# PEOPLE and PROJECTS: Niños de Guatemala



**N**iños de Guatemala is a nonprofit organization that provides education to Ciudad Vieja's poorest children to develop themselves and improve their life quality and their community's. NDG's strength is in the combined support from both international and local people.

## Mission

To contribute to a better future for the people of Guatemala by initiating and supporting development projects where they are most needed.

## Current Projects

NDG finished the construction of "Nuestro Futuro" primary school in zone 3 of Ciudad Vieja in 2008. Classes started in January 2009 with four grades: preschool, kindergarten and two sections of first grade. Today 71 children attend Nuestro Futuro. Students receive classes of the basic national curriculum in the morning and arts and crafts in the afternoon.

## Future Projects

As most of the children come to school without eating breakfast, we would like to provide a healthy lunch soon. Also, we will build the second floor of the school this year to house a library and a community center.

LEFT: Students studying in primero primaria  
ABOVE: Newly constructed "Nuestro Futuro" primary school in Ciudad Vieja  
BELOW: Pre-schoolers work on arts and crafts



## Wish List

Volunteers, *padrinos*, financial support, funds for lunch program, school supplies, books in Spanish for our library, clothes, hygiene items.

To learn more about the program you're welcome to join our free tour every Wednesday at 2 p.m. from our volunteer center (6a avenida norte #45, La Antigua).

For more information visit [www.ninosdeguatemala.org](http://www.ninosdeguatemala.org) or email: [antigua\\_office@ninosdeguatemala.org](mailto:antigua_office@ninosdeguatemala.org)

# 6 Sky

## The Legacy of Mesoamerican Astronomical Knowledge

*Art Exhibit: July 22-28,  
The Galería, Panajachel, Lake Atitlán*

Astronomy, mythology, the calendar and the spirit world were all of extreme importance to the ancient Mesoamericans. Artist-scholar Dave Schaefer renders these themes in multiple sets of dimensions this month in Panajachel, Lake Atitlán. Some of his images are realized with acrylic on canvas; others are sculpted in exquisite papier-maché.

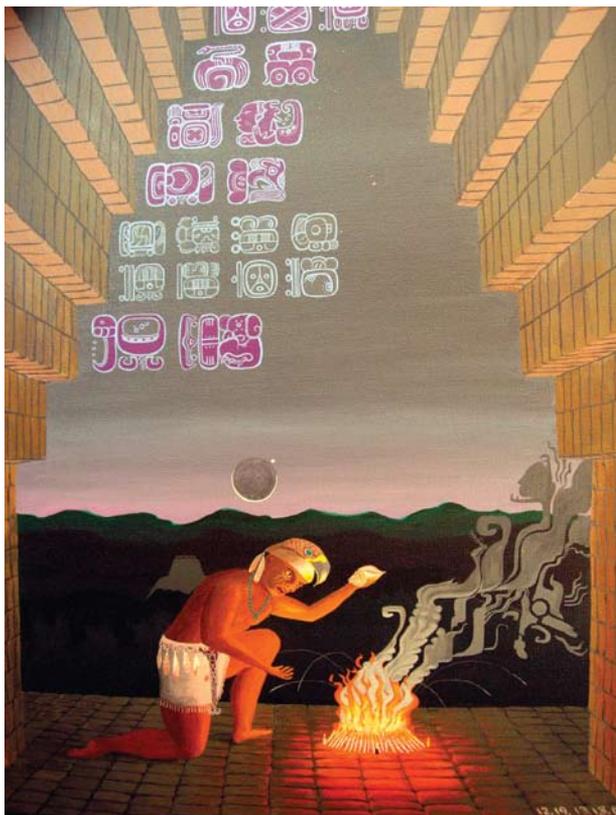
“In many pieces,” Schaefer notes, “I try to invoke the Classic tradition, where hi-

eroglyphs and ‘distance numbers’ connect past and present in ways that demonstrate that this ancient practice is still functional and quite beautiful to behold.” His exhibit, *6 Sky*, will open July 22 at The Galería in Panajachel and run to July 28. A slideshow presentation and discussion will take place on Saturday, July 25. The opening, exhibit and presentation all begin at 5 p.m.

In his seven years in Panajachel, Schaefer has worked as a teacher and guide. He recently chose an academic path, which may challenge certain pre-conceptions in Mesoamerican studies.

“One thing holding back our advancements in understanding,” he suggests, “is the idea that key dates recorded in ancient times using the Long Count calendar—several thousands of years into the past and including the 3113 B.C.E. ‘Creation’ event—are mere products of the Maya imagination. However, geological data and corroborative patterns in other ancient traditions suggest that these dates and the unexplained events they record are in fact not only accurate but invaluable.

“By exploring these topics through art, we have a chance to reconstruct vital knowledge that was forgotten long ago.”





Guatemala City in 1875, view from Cerrito del Carmen (EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE, FOTOTECA GUATEMALA CIRMA)

# Guatemala City—The Young Capital

*A late bloomer of Latin America* by David Jickling

**A**mong Latin American capitals, Guatemala City is a later comer. Most of the major cities of Spanish America were founded in the 16th century, within a hundred years after the arrival of the Spanish. In contrast, Guatemala City was established at the end of the 18th century after the destruction of what is now called La Antigua Guatemala.

Nueva Guatemala a la Asunción grew slowly during its first century. Hard times provided few funds for public and private building. It did not reach a level of amenities enjoyed by the earlier citizens of La Antigua until after 1850. Only with the income from coffee exports after 1880 did Guatemala have the resource base to build a modern city.

Old timers alive today remember when the city virtually stopped at 18th street. To venture out to Tivoli or Santa Clara (today's zone 9 and zone 10) was to take an excursion into the countryside. It took nearly 20 years for the city to recover from the devastating earthquakes of 1917-18.

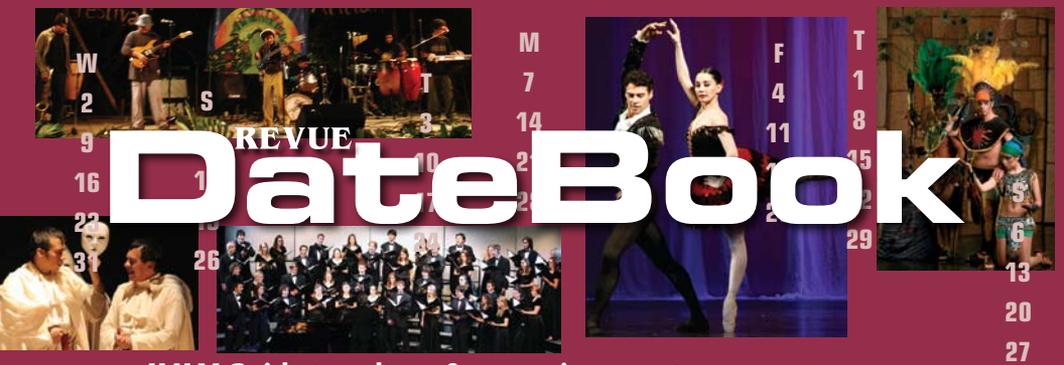
After the revolution of 1944, the city began to grow dramatically. Industrial expansion created jobs which drew people to

the city. The failure of land reform denied opportunities for many people in the countryside. The earthquake of 1976 and subsequent violence in the Highlands encouraged people to move to the capital.

Now "vegetative growth"—as the demographers call it—promises to duplicate the size of the city every generation. The current population of greater Guatemala City is over two million and is projected to reach four million by 2020.

With urban growth have come the problems of modern cities: traffic, crime, water supplies and pollution. Marginal *barrios*, street children and the proliferation of informal street markets add to the list. But at the same time, growth has brought energy to the city, dramatic vertical and horizontal expansion, new commercial centers and wider entertainment and cultural opportunities.

What will it lead to? What will the city look like in the next 20-30 years? What will it be like for its citizens? Will it recreate the fabled *tacita de plata* of yesteryear? A center of creativity, or a new urban jungle reminiscent of the New York of "West Side Story," the London of Dickens or the Paris of "Les Misérables"? **13**



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

**Through Fri., 17th** — ART: *Historias de Amor*. Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, corner of 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

**Through Sat., 18th** — ART: featuring work by artist Edgar Andaverde. Cantón Exposición (tel: 2385-9048) Vía 5, local 3, 4 Grados Norte, z. 4, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**2Thurs., 6:30pm** — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Fronteras e Identidad Política en Piedras Negras y Yachilán* by Charles Golden. Q20/Q10 students w/carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7896) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**2Thurs., 7pm** — ART: *Expresiones de Mujer*, paintings by artist Mélanie Fornié and photographer Arturo Godoy. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, **Guatemala City**.

**4Sat., 11am** — CELEBRATION: *4th of July*, The American Society of Guatemala invites you to join in for a day of games, music, hot dogs, drinks and presentation of the colors at noon. Lots of fun for the whole family! Q50 incl. food & beverage; children under 12, free. Additional info., contact Pablo Arroyave, tel: 5771-3636. Parque La Montaña Residenciales La Montaña, San Isidro, z. 16, **Guatemala City**.

**3Fri., 6pm** — MUSIC: Concert by the Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Santa Cruz Balamyá, directed by Claudia Caldi. Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

**4Sat., through August 3rd** — ART: *Santos y Alegorías* by Puerto Rican artist Patrick McGrath. McGrath's work responds to consumer media culture and the historical use of Christian icons in colonial Latin America. More than 15 oils in small and medium format are part of this exhibition. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.



**4Sat., 4pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *El día que el Sol desapareció a la Luna* by the theater community La Lumbre; directed by Flora María Méndez. Q40/Q25 children. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.





**7 Tues., through Fri., 31st** — ART: *Bocetos para un mural no realizado & Improvisaciones* with work from the late 50s by Guatemalan artist Efraín Recinos. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**.

**7 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Partnering with the Poor: Inequality, Education and Opportunity in Guatemala*, presented by Jeff Barnes. For 20 years, Common Hope/Familias de Esperanza has offered hope and opportunity to people struggling to improve their lives through education, healthcare and housing. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**8 Wed., 9:30am-1:30pm** — TEXTILE WORKSHOP: The ancient technique of tie-dye cloth with natural dyes; bring your own blouse, sarong, or T-shirts to work on. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

**9 Thurs., 6:30pm** — ART: Inauguration of *Policromía* featuring recent works in oil by Guatemalan painter and muralist Rosamaria Pascual de Gámez. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena (tel: 2361-8081) Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City**.



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

**9 Thurs., 7pm** — ART: *Inauguration of Salón de La Acuarela* featuring work of Leonel del Cid, Víctor Hugo Valenzuela, Carlos Sol, Alejandro Vásquez, José Luis Carrillo, Carlos Rodríguez, Otto Saravia, Jorge Félix, Manuel Barrientos, Rodrigo R. Álvarez Arévalo, Alfredo Guzmán Schwartz and Museo Nacional de Historia, Escuela Superior de Arte Municipalidad de Guatemala. Casa Iburgüen, 7a av. 11-66, z. 1, Centro Histórico, **Guatemala City**.

**10 Fri., 9am** — ART WORKSHOP: *The Natural Palette*, plant extracts made into watercolor, oils and pastels for painting on cotton, silk and wood. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

#### DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

#### Restaurante Personajes de La Antigua

**14 Tues., through Sat., 18th** — ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS:

**Tues., 14th, 8pm** — karaoke, prizes for the best singer;

**Wed., 15th, 9pm** — DJ playing the hottest music of the 70s, 80s and 90s;

**Thurs., 16th, 10pm** — Big party and live music with the band's Dharana and Los Disponibles;

**Fri., 17th, 10pm** — Live music with the group Made in Antigua. Cover Q20;

**Sat., 18th, 10pm** — Live music with Banda Americana. Cover Q20.

**Restaurante Personajes de La Antigua** (tel: 7832-3758) 6a av. norte #6, **La Antigua**.

**11 Sat., 9am-5pm & Sat., 25th, 9am-1pm** — INTERCULTURAL WORKSHOP: *Discover A New World*, learning experiences for children and teenagers. Museo members, \$50-\$75; non-members, \$60-85 incl. coffee break and lunch. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena (tel: 2361-8081) Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City**.

**11 Sat., 7pm** — ART: *Entidad Fragmentada* paintings by Marilyn Elany Boror Bor. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the AUGUST 2009 edition of the REVUE by Friday, July 10

**13 Mon., through Sat., 18th, 9am-4pm** — TEXTILE WORKSHOP: *The Magic of Color with Natural Dyes*, experiment with techniques to dye cotton, wool and silk to achieve a rich rainbow of colors using indigo and other the native plants of Guatemala. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua**.

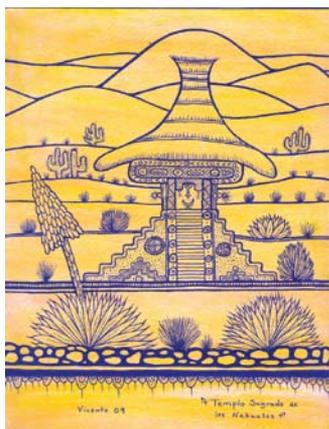


**13 Mon., 5pm** — MAYAN CEREMONY: Presentation of an authentic Mayan ceremony. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

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

**14 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Biodiesel in Guatemala!* Alejandro, the director, will talk about the project, the aims & ambitions as well as the problems they face. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**15 Wed., 5pm** — ART: *Templos y Altares en el Paisaje Sagrado* by Vicente Stanzone. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.



*The man that hath no music in himself,  
nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,  
is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.*  
—William Shakespeare



DEMOCRATS ABROAD PRESENTS

July 22 — *The Population Explosion: The World's Biggest Problem* — Sue Patterson, presenter

August 20 — *Health Care Legislation: What it Means for You* — Gail Terzuola and Rae Leeth, presenters

Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm, Q25 donation Place: Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua

For more info call John Chudy, Chair: tel: 7832-4581 democratsabroad\_guate@yahoo

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**ANTIGUA TOURS**  
by Elizabeth Bell  
Author of Antigua Guatemala and other publications  
www.antiguatours.net

**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



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*Where ignorance is our master, there is  
no possibility of real peace. —Dalai Lama*



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Saturday 9:00 to 13:00  
www.museoixchel.org

*Rain is also very difficult to film, particularly in  
Ireland because it's quite fine, so fine that the  
Irish don't even acknowledge that it exists.*  
—Alan Parker

**el  
attico**  
galería de arte y centro de documentación  
4a avenida 15-45, zona 14, Guatemala  
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**La Antigua  
Galería de Arte**  
presents  
**“SANTOS Y ALEGORIAS”**  
consumerism, satire and our icons  
by Puerto Rican artist  
**Patrick McGrath**  
july 4th - august 3th  
4a. calle oriente no. 15 La Antigua Guatemala Tel (502) 7832 2124 / Fax (502) 7832 2866  
laantigua@artintheamericas.com / artintheamericas@gmail.com / www.artintheamericas.com

Detalle de la obra: Allegory to painting

## 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.**Wednesdays, 8-10pm**

— Latino Jazz Trio. entrance: Q25.

**Thursdays and Fridays, 8 to 10pm**

— Cuban jazz performed by Buena Vista de Corazón. entrance Q35. ▶

**Fridays, 8 to 10pm**

—Estasis, Trio, Salón Latino &amp; Tango. 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** — Nicaraguan musician Heber performs 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.

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

## MUSIC

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

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

**Tuesdays** — Nayno Flamenco, 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

**18 Sat., 7pm**  
trova concert,  
*Alma y Guitarra*,  
performed by well-  
known artist Tito  
Santis. Q60/Q45 stu-  
dents with carnet. El  
Sitio (tel: 7832-3037)  
5a calle poniente #15,  
*La Antigua*.



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

**16 Thurs., 4:30-6:30pm** — (English/Spanish) NETWORKING: The Antigua Network invites NGOs established & new to exchange information/current needs. Everyone who wishes to improve the lives of others are welcome to attend. Antigua Network les invita a las ONG a intercambiar información acerca de sus proyectos y sus necesidades. Todos los que quieran mejorar las vidas ajenas están invitados a asistir. Q50 incl. beverage & snacks/bebidas y boquitas. More info: Judy, 7832-9871 or La Peña de Sol (4882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*.

**17 Fri., 8pm** — CIRCUS: Solei Special, Q50, incl. beverage, all you can drink from 8 to 9pm. La Casbah discoteque (tel: 7832-2640) 5a av. norte #30, *La Antigua*. ▼



**18 Sat., 3pm** — CULTURAL CEREMONY: Presentation of the *Japanese Tea Ceremony* by Mitsuhiro Kondo. After this presentation there will be a tea tasting. Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, *La Antigua*.

**20 Mon., 3pm** — (Spanish) FILM: *Donde Acaban los Caminos* based on the autobiographical novel of the same name by Mario Monteforte Toledo (1911–2003), a Guatemalan writer, dramatist and politician. In 1993 he was awarded the Guatemala National Prize in Literature for his body of work. Free. MUSAC (tel: 2232-0721 ext. 105) 9a av. 9-79, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**21 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Microloans: Myths and Management* with Franklin Voorhes, As Green As It Gets, supporting coffee farmers, artisans and other small producers. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.



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**21 Tues., 8am** — TOUR TO COMALAPA: Call or see details on DB listing for July 14. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, *La Antigua*.

**22 Wed., 9:30am-1:30pm** — TEXTILES WORKSHOP: The ancient technique of tie-dye cloth with natural dyes. See details on DB listing for July 8. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, *La Antigua*.

**22 Wed., 3pm** — (Spanish) FILM: *El Silencio de Neto*, commentary with Herbert Núñez. Free. MUSAC (tel: 2232-0721 ext. 105) 9a. av. 9-79, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**22 Wed., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *The Population Explosion: The World's Biggest Problem* presented by Sue Patterson. Additional details, [www.democratsabroad.org](http://www.democratsabroad.org). Galería Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-4581) 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*.

**22 Wed., 5pm** — ART: *6 Sky: The Legacy of Mesoamerican Astronomical Knowledge* by artist-scholar Dave Schaefer; **25th, Sat., 5pm** — SLIDESHOW presentation & discussion. The Galería, Panajachel, Lake Atitlán. See highlight on page 22.

**23 Thurs., 3pm** — (Spanish) FILM: *La Hija del Puma*, commentary by the filmmaker John Dune. Free. MUSAC (tel: 2232-0721, ext. 105) 9a. av. 9-79, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**24 Fri., 8pm** — DANCE: *Grieta*, presented by Grupo de Danza Contemporánea Otriedad. Q50/Q40 students w/ carnet. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), *La Antigua*. ▼



**24 Fri., 9am** — ART WORKSHOP: *The Natural Palette*, plant extracts made into watercolor, oils and pastels for painting on cotton, silk and wood. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, *La Antigua*.

Did you know? You can email specific web pages of REVUE to out-of-town friends. See page 115

**24 Fri., 3pm** — (Spanish) DOCUMENTARY: *Caudal* highlighting the life of Miguel Ángel Asturias, with a commentary by Licda. Gladys Tobar. Free. MUSAC (tel: 2232-0721, ext. 105) 9a. av. 9-79, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**25 Sat.**, — CELEBRATION: *Día de Santiago* (St. James Day) honoring the patron saint of La Antigua Guatemala. Many banks and businesses will be closed. There will be processions and cultural festivals throughout the month. *La Antigua*.

**25 Sun., thru Sep., 13th** — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Julio Zadik: Un Fotógrafo Moderno en Guatemala*. Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, *La Antigua*.

**31 Fri., 8pm** — MUSIC: Presenting his new CD with a live performance, *Simplemente el Disco del Gordo*, Carlos Rafael Hernández; co-produced by Tuco Cárdenas. Q60/Q45 students with carnet. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.



**28 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Pedal Power Technology: An alternate source of energy in Guatemala* with Carlos Marroquín. Encouraging Guatemalan rural development by introducing bicycle/machines to facilitate daily life and economic advancement. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.



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"El secreto" by William Kalwick Jr.

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**30** **Thurs., 7:30pm** — ART: *Caliente Quilts!* featuring the work of Guatemalan quilt artist, designer and international teacher Priscilla Bianchi, the show includes her quilts and her book of the same name. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena (tel: 2361-8081) Centro Cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City.** ▼



**31** **Fri., 8pm** — FASHION: *Frazilian Fashion Show*, Q60, incl. beverage. La Casbah discoteque (tel: 7832-2640) 5a av. norte #30, **La Antigua.**

#### THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**ART** — *Tradiciones y Costumbres de Guatemala*, including oil, acrylics and watercolor by more than 20 students from Escuela de Pintura y Arte 2002. CIRMA (tel: 7832-1006) 5a calle oriente #5, **La Antigua.**

**ART** — *Una Docena de Tún*, 12 drawings by legendary Guatemalan artist Francisco Tún. Galería El Túnel (tel: 2367-3266) Plaza Obelisco, 16 calle 1-01, z. 10, **Guatemala City.**



#### THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**DAILY: 10am & 3pm** — ACTIVITIES: Guided & free visits throughout MUSAC: *Tesoros Universitarios, Sabor y Aroma, Imágenes de Guatemala and Revalorando lo Nuestro.* MUSAC (tel: 2232-0721, ext. 105) 9a. av. 9-79, z. 1, **Guatemala City.**

**Mondays & Thursdays, 9:30am-1:30pm** — TEXTILE WORKSHOP: *Taste of Weaving*, enter into a delightful and peaceful state of mind while learning this ancient art of the Mayan backstrap loom from an indigenous master weaver. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7888-7487) inside Centro Cultural La Azotea, **La Antigua.**

**Mondays, 3pm** — STAR SCRABBLE CLUB: Meets in different locations. See <http://www.starscrabble.com/> for locations and how to join. **La Antigua.**

**Thursdays, 6pm** — (Spanish) FILMS: Celebrating La Antigua's Santiago Apóstol festivities. **2nd** — *El Silencio de Neto*; **9th** — *La Mansión de las Siete Momias*; **16th** — *El Hermano Pedro*; **23rd** — *El Iluminado del Volcán*; **30th** — *Luis y Laura*. Q15. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.**

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

**Wednesdays, 6pm** — FILMS: **1st** — *Pollock, la Vida de un Creador*; **8th** — *Pantaleón y las Visitadoras*; **15th** — *Las Trece Rosas*; **22nd** — *El Jardinero Fiel*; **29th** — *Soldados de Salamina*. Free. Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua.**

**Saturdays, 1pm** — FOLK DANCES: Los Niños de Bendición from San Antonio Aguas Calientes present traditional folk dances. Free, donations gratefully accepted, helping to pay school expenses. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua.**

INTERACTIVE EXPOSITION: *¿Por qué estamos como estamos?* A not-to-miss exposition of a tour through history and current life in Guatemala, presented through photography, videos and interactive games. Bodega #1 Centro Cultural Museo de Ferrocarril (tel: 2254-8727) 9a av. A 18-95, z. 1, **Guatemala City.**

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**Jayisms...**

On a personal note from his wife Mary Lou Ridinger, she shares some "quotes from Chairman Jay that we have written all over his Memory Wall" ... (see page 54)

Pursue the unfamiliar with faith.  
 Risk everything least you gain nothing.  
 The great risk ... is not taking one.  
 There is no shortage of good ideas ... just a shortage of guts to back one up.  
 I never bluff, but I do occasionally overplay my hand.  
 The best is barely adequate.  
 The essence of a decision are the alternatives.

*I found myself in a race with Mother Nature to play as much baseball as I could before she forced me to stop. —Willie Stargell*

*The rain began again. It fell heavily, easily, with no meaning or intention but the fulfilment of its own nature, which was to fall and fall. —Helen Garner*

*If the human mind was simple enough to understand, we'd be too simple to understand it. —Emerson Pugh*



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*Every saint has a past and every sinner  
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*Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet.  
—Roger Miller*

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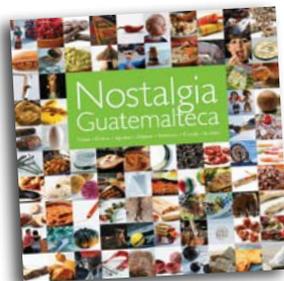
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El libro "Nostalgia Guatemalteca" es el proyecto más reciente de la editorial. Consiste en un exhaustivo trabajo de investigación que reúne todo aquello que hace únicos a los guatemaltecos ante el mundo. Es un libro que rinde tributo a nuestra hermosa Guatemala, recopilando esas pequeñas cosas que hacen tan maravillosa a nuestra tierra: la peculiar forma de expresarnos, nuestros sonidos, nuestras comidas, nuestros ademanes, nuestros juegos de "viros", nuestras costumbres y por supuesto nuestros paradisíacos lugares.

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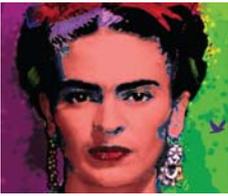


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## *Age with Passion and Purpose*

by **Dr. Karmen Guevara**  
HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

**A**ge is a taboo like religion, sex and money. Next time you're at a fiesta try asking people, "Do you believe in God? Do you have good sex? How much money do you earn? And, by the way, how old are you?" Unless you ask someone under 10 years old, you'll probably find yourself alone at the punch bowl!

It's the dreaded state of aging that we shun. The binary perception of age means that we're young or old. Moreover, we're either on the right side or the wrong side of a digit!

The sense of loss and sadness that can accompany dwindling youth is normal, as are the doses of fear. However, it becomes distorted and exaggerated through social and cultural attitudes toward aging. The "slice, dice and erase" culture chases an illusion of eternal youth. This breeds anxiety and discontent around a natural and inevitable process. How insane, considering that the period of youth consists of less than a third of our lives! Aging is not a high-speed train

that must be derailed. It's part of the journey that'll eventually lead us all to the same final destination.

Consider the question, "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?"

This challenges the view that we're one-dimensional, chronological beings. Real age is based on other dimensions, for example, emotional and spiritual. It's easy to spot emotional infants and to feel the presence of "old" souls. As we move through the junctures on our journey, it's the integration and harmonization of these dimensions that bring us to our true age.

Embrace age with passion, purpose and wisdom. Be like a rose! It doesn't lament as it opens from a bud, blossoms into full glory and when its petals drop to the ground.

Drown the ego attachment to age with a Buddhist chant, "It's in my nature to grow old, it's in my nature to die ... ." After all, it's been said, "Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese." ◀



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# SENSUOUS GUATEMALA: Pink

by Ken Veronda PHOTO: HARRIS/GOLLER, VIAVENTURE.COM

**P**ink has a reputation as a wimpy color, sort of weak and watery. You wouldn't think pink could stand up strong and proud against the deep blues, rich greens, bright yellows and striking reds of the Guatemalan palette. Even by using the fancier French name *rosé*, pink wine is considered, well, sissy. Pink bows look cute on little girls, but wouldn't be a grown-up's color. Pink roses don't seem to send the same passionate love message of deep-red, long-stemmed beauties.

Pink seems to be improving in its reputation. Pink-and-gray outfits for men are back on European fashion houses' runways. Rosé wines are gaining new respect. And pink opens almost every day in Guatemala. Get up at sunrise to see for yourself, and to appreciate the light, deeper and elegantly rich pinks of our dawns. No color could be richer than a sky-full of pink at *la aurora*.

Not that pink has ever been dismissed as wimpy around here. The women of Totonicapán have always woven pink ribbons in their black hair, and they always look strong and confident. Men in several of the villages around Lake Atitlán combine pink and blue without embarrassment in their traditional outfits, mirroring the pink sparkles on the blue waters. Up among the highest peaks of the Cuchumatanes near the Mexican border, the Kanjobal of Salomá wear a long, white tunic with pink, blue, green and gold bands forming collars. Their tunics, similar to those of the Lacondones across

into Mexico but enhanced with those color bands, may be the closest dress still around to that of their ancient Maya forebears.

In the famous weaving town of San Antonio Aguas Calientes, pink bands are used to separate the stronger colors in the weavers' complicated brocades. And in the thick wool blankets produced by the male weavers of Momostenango, little pink animal designs join those in blue and gold. The blanket-weavers learned decades ago to tone down the red *achiote* dye from little bugs, blending the dye with alcohol to make the pink figures on the natural white wool of their *ponchos*. The lanolin-heavy blankets make excellent spreads for bedrooms back home, with the pink animal designs marching along the edges.

Pink primroses edge our gardens year-around, and a hearty oleander tree with deep pink blossoms would take over our *terrazza* if we didn't keep chopping it back. A pink antherium manages to hold its own between our white and deep-red bushes. The pink rose next to our fountain has the most profuse perfume of all our bushes, and pink fuschia drape our patio to tempt visiting hummingbirds. And, of course, there are the pinks themselves—the button-sized blossoms that look like preschool-age carnations. Pinks are bought cheaply by the armload in the markets and last many days in vases around the house in proof that pink is proud to be in Guatemala. Pink is wimpy? No way! 

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**Guatemala Seasons** cont. from page 20

often go to Orlando to see Mickey, but rarely to Vermont to see the leaves turn.

OK, so what about my six-season model? It is undeniable that the dry and wet seasons have a mini-season of three to six weeks straddling their midpoints. There is February, or *el mes loco*, in which any kind of weather is possible, although it is in the middle of the dry season. Then there is the *canícula* that starts in early or mid-July and usually takes in a week or so of August. This period brings positively Mediterranean weather to the rarefied heights of Central America.

So the six seasons are the two mini-seasons, and the before and after phases of the dry and wet seasons. Since winter and summer make little sense as universal terms, I would discard them. But I would use spring and autumn.

People often ask me about the best month to visit. I say that November is beautiful, but to avoid October. There are years when the torrential rains last literally to Halloween but vanish by Day of the Dead (Nov. 1)—almost like they were spooked away overnight. But the rest of the time, this changing of seasons is very close to, if not coincidental with, this changing of months. Good thing, too, since on Nov. 1 cemeteries are clogged with folks leaving marmalade and rum at the graves of loved ones.

The season that starts here, and runs through January, I call primavera, because—the cold notwithstanding—it resembles spring. Wildflowers are profuse in November

and some remain well into bone-dry January. But then the angiosperms get a slight boost in February, the mini-season I call Morphín, since the weather can easily and suddenly morph. Then comes the second dry season, which I call Vernal, after the associated equinox, and because it is the season of corn harvest.

The rains then return in force in what I call Neolluvial. Then comes Canícula, and after that the second rainy season, Otoño, which begins with the sowing of the corn. Rounded very crudely to the nearest whole month, these seasons are: November, December and January-Primavera; February, Morphín; March and April, Vernal; May and June, Neolluvial; July, Canícula; August, September and October, Otoño

I do not expect these labels to enter any lexicon; that presumes much. But the case for naming the four longer seasons rests on the utility of naming anything that exists, even abstractly, like the value for x in algebra. Or things that exist more substantively; in 325 C.E., the Council of Nicea inferred the existence of the Trinity, so they coined this term (not present in the Scriptures) in order to understand each other. Likewise, terms for the six seasons would aid agronomists, travelers and even wedding planners.

If my Stepmom, Doris Burke-Coop, visits me in June and it rains, I'll remark, "Well, what can I say? We're in Neolluvial." Maybe she will take me for a brain and write home about it. 

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People and Projects story  
on page 128**

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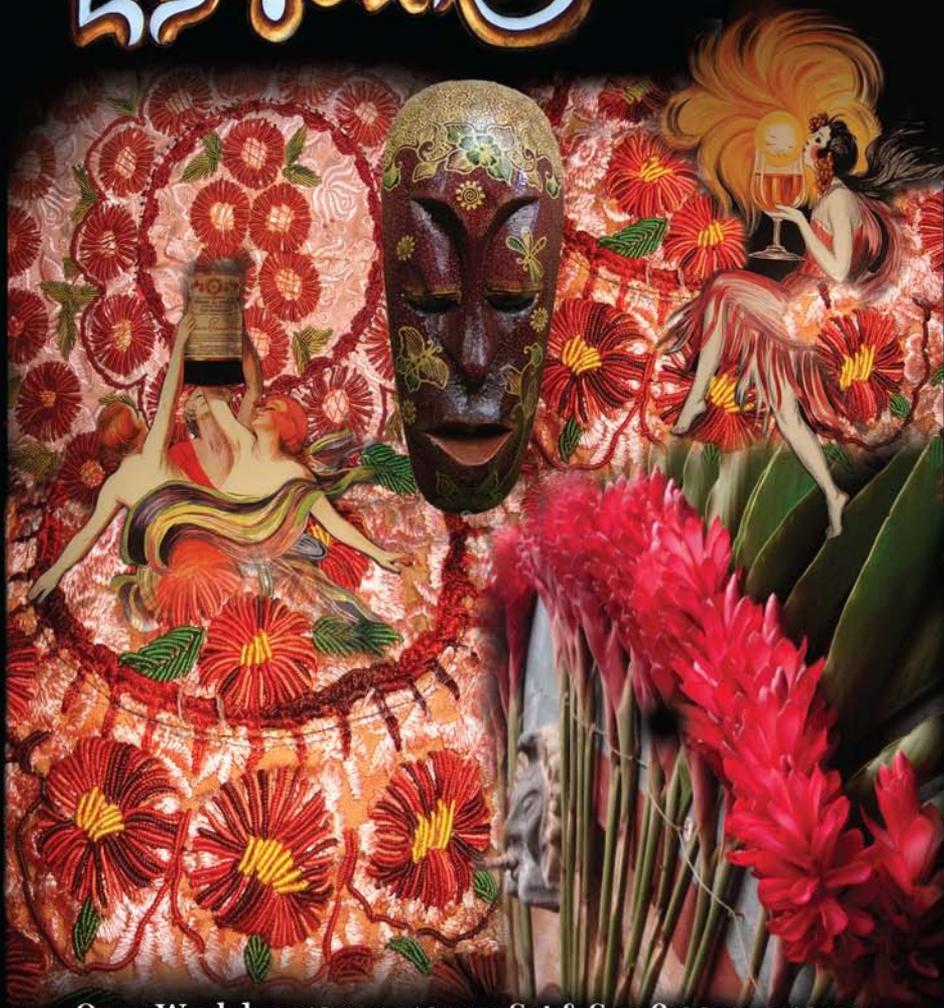
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## BORDER CROSSING



Jay G. Ridinger was born January 18, 1934 in East Chicago, Indiana. He received an MBA from Indiana University in 1956 and worked as an executive for Inland Steel Company in Chicago. He also participated in various war-on-poverty projects in Chicago in the 1960s; was the director of the Lincoln Park Conservation Association; and served on the board of Jane Adams Hull House in Chicago.

Mr. Ridinger moved to La Antigua Guatemala in August 1973, a month after the death of his first wife, and set up household with his three daughters, ages 16, 13 and 10. From 1974 on, he and his second wife Mary Lou rediscovered the ancient jade quarries of the Mayas and revived the ancient jade industry, which had been extinguished at the time of the Spanish Conquest.

Mr. Ridinger died at home in Antigua May 26, 2009, after five years of battling cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Ridinger; his daughters, Renée Taylor, Robin Ridinger and Angela Ridinger; his son Jake Ridinger; and four grandchildren, Andrea Novella, Christian Novella and Rachel and Ariela Lack.

He was a member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, the Antigua Rotary Club, the Institute of Maya Studies and the Explorer's Club of New York.



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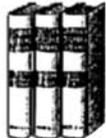


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*The music business is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs. There's also a negative side. —Hunter S. Thompson*

*A king, realizing his incompetence, can either delegate or abdicate his duties. A father can do neither. If only sons could see the paradox, they would understand the dilemma. —Marlene Dietrich*



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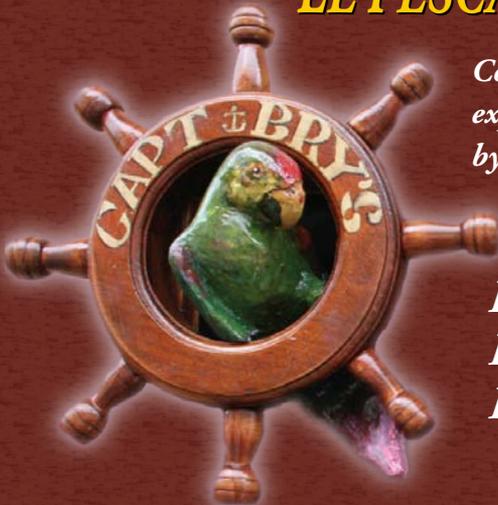
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## MUSIC HIGHLIGHT

by Michael Sherer

# Not Just Another Flash in the Pan Pipe



**H**aunting sinuous melodies interwoven with *cañas* and Peruvian pan pipes, punctuated by a perfect blend of voices backed by guitars and 10-string *charangos*, peppered with conga drums and a professional quality homemade bass drum fill the green-and-white room at the La Peña de Sol Latino restaurant and bar five nights a week in La Antigua Guatemala. The band, Grupo Sol Latino, starts nightly at 7:30, except Sunday and then it's 7 p.m.

The ceiling in the patio is a shiny green-and-white, broad-striped canvas awning, covering what was the atrium, sided by reddish adobe/rubble, ivy-covered brick walls and decorated with five white-trimmed arches. A beaming two-foot high religious statuary sits in a niche behind the band as if to bless its efforts. Could it be Proud Mary? No ... it's Maximón ... the perfect patron saint for this venue.

This is Sol Latino's musical territory, and the four, usually five, first-class professional musicians play Wednesday through Sunday, normally joined by Bill Harriss, who plays percussion, congas and drums. If he's not there, one of waiters may step in for a few licks. Some evenings the room

is scattered with music lovers, sometimes it's packed, depending on the ebb and flow of visitors and locals who enjoy this blend of Central and South American harmony. This is toe-tapping music, one of a kind, original melodies artfully created.

The older, bearded, distinguished-looking Paco, aka Francisco Mendoza, is the leader/improviser and maker of much of the band's instruments, and he sits to the right, next to the conga drums. He usually plays the self-made bass drum while keeping a deep breath and flow through the five-foot-long flutes/pan-pipes that almost reach the floor. To his right stands David Hernández; he also plays two instruments simultaneously, a guitar and another set of smaller wooden flute-pipes. To his right, eye-glasses set firmly in place, Hector Gómez is usually strumming a 10-string charango. The question is how did they fit 10-strings on such a narrow neck? The answer: very carefully. When Hector is really warmed up, about 10 minutes into the set, his fingers are a moving blur. This is EXTREME strumming. You have to see it to believe it. And finally, again on the right, moving to the left and last is Paco's nephew, Chilo. With a degree in ...continued on page 92

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# POSTCARDS FROM THE PARK



text/photos by Melba Milak

The city of La Antigua Guatemala is laid out in a simple grid: seven avenues running north and south and 10 streets going east and west. In the center of town is a park (Plaza Mayor), the heart and soul of the whole area.



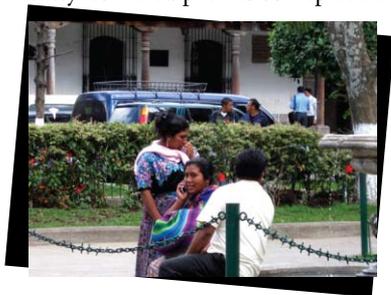
The atmosphere in the park is carefree and carnival-like. When visiting Antigua, I come here two or three times a day—after breakfast and at least once again in the afternoon—to relax, gather my thoughts and people watch. I feel safe here; there are *policía* everywhere—on scooters and on foot, in pairs, usually one man and one woman. It is pretty and green on the park grounds; flowers bloom in soft lavenders or brilliant shades of yellow and red; garden-



ers work daily weeding and pruning and whacking at the grass with machetes.

On each corner, a vendor with a *helado* (ice-cream) cart sells cones and drumsticks. A man in a straw hat sells flavored ices from his *granizadas* cart. More vendors on the east side of the plaza sell fruit—colorful mouth-watering slices of melon and pineapple and papaya.

Every day when school is over, many students—still in uniform (white shirts; plaid skirts for girls and navy blue slacks for boys)—come to the park to laugh and joke and celebrate the schoolday's end with noise and play. Individuals cut through the park on a catty-cornered path to someplace else.



Families come to eat ice-cream or sit under the tall shade trees to spend time together—out of the house, not in front of a television—or to talk on the cell phone. I am always amazed to see indigenous women, dressed in the centuries-old traditional Mayan clothing, pull a cell phone from the folds of their *huipiles* (blouses) and make a call.

...continued on following page



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**Postcards** cont. from previous page

Tourists—in all forms from all corners of the world—form groups and laugh and chatter in their own language. Couples engage in serious conversation or serious kissing.



It is quiet in the park but not silent. Small radios and tape players send Latino beats into the air; I saw a Guatemalan-style band (an accordion, two guitars and a singer who sang slightly out-of-tune) playing for quetzales. One afternoon a band sat at the Palacio Capitanes on the south side and oom-pahed through a concert of brassy marching music.



A horse-drawn wagon clip-clops along on the cobblestone streets and offers city tours.

A fleet of taxis waits for fares on the east side of the park in front of the Cathedral.



One of the joys of being in La Antigua is to come to the park; I do not feel so alone, but actually feel like I'm part of the community for a few days—not only by the Maya women and children trying to sell me hand-made jewelry or by the shoeshine boys giving my shoes the once-over and pleading for a chance to “shoo-shine them up”—but by individuals and families who



are smiling and friendly and very affectionate with their children.

We all want to be here to bask in the splendor of the fountains and the flowers and the care-free hours. 





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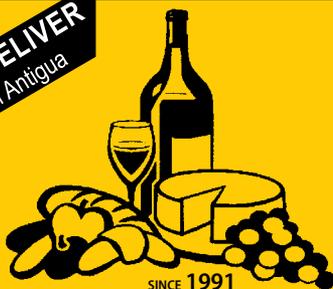
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 —Henry Beston

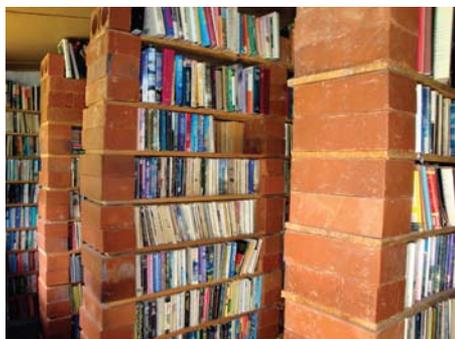
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# Confessions of a Nocturnal Bibliophile

*Discovering the Steve Skelton Memorial Library* by Michael Sherer

**F**ive blocks south of el Parque Central in La Antigua, located at 4a avenida sur #2, sits a local treasure: the Steve Skelton Memorial Library, operated under the auspices of the local American Legion post. Behind the vivid blue stucco walls and through the black iron gates lies a reader's dream, set in two overcrowded rooms stacked from floor to ceiling with over 30,000 volumes and the most unusual assortment of books in town.

The library and the beginnings of the collection began some seven years ago, with the original idea by Steve Skelton, a retired builder from the U.S. He and the local post commander of the Legion decided to create a library for everyone and pass along whatever profits to local charities. Mr. Skelton was tragically killed six years ago in a construction accident. The American Legion then assumed responsibility for the rent and began accepting donations of books, time and money, and has been keeping the dream alive since then.

What was originally intended as a means of providing money for school tuition to lo-

cal children has been slowly evolving toward profitability (and eventually tuition fees). Volunteers work the front desk, cheerfully rubber-stamping one's card, depositing it in a file and with one more date-stamp for the back of the book, you're good to go. With approximately 90 paid-up library patrons and with a few more good men and women, this operation will be close to the original dream and able to fulfill the original mission.

Six and a half years later, the books continue to roll in by the boxfull: There are some 4,000 more books stored off-site, waiting for a larger home. Inside the small, cramped two-room library, lined with floor-to-ceiling shelves, is everything from 'A' Abe (the Woman in the Dunes) to 'W' Herman Wouk (they were a few Y authors but Wouk rhymed with book). With perhaps 20 percent nonfiction and 80 percent of novels, first editions, long-out-of print obscure writings, this is a trove of the unusual from the 1950s to present.

There are literary gems and writings of a lesser genre: Cramped into ...continued on page 86

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**Confessions** cont. from page 76

the upper shelves in the nonfiction room, with gilded letters adorning the faded brown covers, is a complete set of the Harvard Classics published in 1919. A paperback Mickey Spillane, complete with lurid cover, circa 1952, can be found under S in the fiction room. There is a large section on Guatemalan history, starting with a first edition in 1909 of “Guatemala and Her People of Today,” by Nevin O. Winter. For those who care, there is one Reader’s Digest condensed book in the stacks. Several “Idiots Guides” to an assortment of perceptual problems line part of another upper shelf. The aisles are narrow, and stacks of books lie on every available surface, waiting for love and a temporary adoption.

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The cost per year is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families, with unlimited use and privileges. And they really like overdue books, because at a quetzal a day in fines, that’s the profit-center. The library is open to all and not just members of the American Legion. There are other libraries in La Antigua but none as large or as extensive in subject matter. The Skelton Memorial Library has over 3,000 volumes in Spanish. The library needs your help, both financially and physically. With a few more volunteers, the hours of operation could be extended. With a few more memberships the goal of providing tuition to local students can be met. There is a very inexpensive trove of literary treasures waiting at the end of 4a avenida sur. Happy hunting, and take a large bag for your finds and be sure to keep them beyond the due date. Marian the Librarian is waiting for you. Or contact Milo at mvuko68@aol.com. 



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### Sol Latino cont. from page 66

music he tops off the mix of guitars, piccolos, charangos and *bombas*—overlaid with five-foot-long *sabayones* wielded by Paco or David.

These are musicians with a capital M. Bill Harriss was a session musician in Nashville, TN, for 30-odd years, playing with Dolly Parton, Jimmy Dean, Buck Owens, just to name a few. He has been with Sol Latino for over five of the group's 25 years.

Back to the music: Paco might say a few words of welcome and then they launch immediately, belting out Peruvian-style rhythms in the sweetest harmony of voices, strings and wooden one-of-kind flutes while the hand-crafted deep sound of the bass drum keeps a mesmerizing backbeat. The congas add a nice touch, yet another

flavor-dimension to their music. All eight Sol Latino CDs offer different musical styles, while at the same time, their sound is unmistakable. This group never coasts, cruises or limps through any of its material. These musicians have two switches, off and ON. One speed: FULL ahead. In other words, they rock.

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*Ed note: La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, features a delicious international menu; the 3-Chocolate Brownie is on the "Ten Delicious Desserts in Antigua" list. Group reservations and special events, tel: 7882-4468.*

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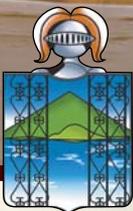
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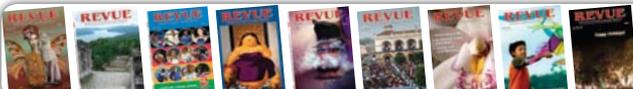
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## Some Guatemalan Cultural Firsts

Guatemala is home to many surprising precedents, for better or worse.

by Dwight Wayne Coop

Guatemala is the oldest country in the Americas, though not the oldest republic. Civilization, kindled here some 43 centuries ago, is Guatemala's loftiest precedent.

Ancient Guatemalans were the first peoples in the Americas known to engineer a sophisticated water-pressure system. They may have been the first in the world to invent the zero, a concept unknown to such contemporaries as the Romans. Agricultural husbandry was practiced here before anywhere else in the Americas.

In the late classical period, ancient Guatemalans erected the first arguable "skyscrapers" in the Americas. Not until over 1,000 years later was the height of Temple IV (71 meters) exceeded—and that by a modern building in Chicago, circa 1880.



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Following the 1944 Liberal Revolution, Guatemala became the first, and to date the only, Central American state to see the emergence of a “nation builder,” a leader with the stature of a Mandela, a Gandhi, or an Atatürk. He was President Juan José Arrévalo.

Under Arrévalo’s successor, Jacobo Árbenz, the first truly comprehensive land reform on mainland Latin America occurred in Guatemala; President Árbenz himself willingly surrendered land to landless peasants.

In 1871, Guatemala became the first Central American society to eschew state religion. Over the second half of the 20th century, Guatemala became the first Hispanic nation where the majority of the population professes the Protestant religion.

Peru, Bolivia and other South American countries had long given official status to indigenous languages. But in 1998, Guatemala became the first Central American country to constitutionally recognize the first language of virtually every citizen.

Guatemala is the first Latin American state to boast Nobel laureates in multiple disciplines. There are Miguel Ángel Asturias (literature) and Rigoberta Menchú (peace).

In the early 21st century, Guatemala is the first Hispanic country to produce a comprehensive homeschool curriculum (*see page 12*). This happened in spite of Guatemala’s ranking as the second least developed Hispanic nation (after Equatorial Guinea), and the association of homeschooling with highly developed countries. 📖

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No one realizes how beautiful it is to travel until he comes home and rests his head on his old, familiar pillow. —Lin Yutang



## Anonymous donor makes big pledge to support Hospitalito Atitlán

Since the devastating mudslides of 2005, a small hospital in Santiago Atitlán has been struggling to serve the community. In the four years since Hospitalito Atitlán opened, it has filled a great need with a 24-hour emergency room, X-ray, lab and clinics.

The hospital board has been hard at work to build a new, permanent hospital, which is slowly taking shape thanks to support from donors around the world and the U.S. non-profit Pueblo a Pueblo.

Hospitalito Atitlán is no longer receiving grant support from Pueblo a Pueblo, Inc., but has been awarded grants from newly formed U.S. non-profit, Amigos Hospitalito Atitlán ([www.amigosha.org](http://www.amigosha.org)).

**Meanwhile, an anonymous donor has pledged to match, dollar-for-dollar, any gifts up to \$750,000.**

One of the first contributors was Posada de Santiago, with a donation of \$100, which will generate another \$100 from the matching gift.

Many visitors to Guatemala have volunteered as medical personnel, worked on construction or served in another vital way. Numerous locals and visitors alike have been treated at the hospital—the only one in a community of 43,000 people.

For information or to make a tax-exempt donation, visit [www.HospitalitoAtitlan.org](http://www.HospitalitoAtitlan.org). To see a slideshow of the construction go to [www.tinyurl.com/ha-constructionpics](http://www.tinyurl.com/ha-constructionpics).

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for her than it was for me.”

Alejandra’s father, Rodolfo, acknowledged that “it was a hard decision to home-school. It was an untried path, an adventure, and the children’s future was at stake. But we chose well.”

Alejandra’s mother, Brenda, praises the program for the time it saves everyone. “My children have extra hours, every day, to pursue sports, music lessons, hobbies. Alone or with friends. And teaching them to read made me feel like the most important person on Earth.”

“My mom is my best friend,” Alejandra agrees. Her sister Mariana, 11, and brother Gabriel, 9, are consequently enrolled. This time Rodolfo has no doubts.

Though parents must commit to a routine, they are limited in the work they must do. The curriculum is a turnkey proposition, such that ordinary students spend four hours daily in studies, with parents monitoring and helping. The books, clearly written and full of whimsical artwork, are available in color or, for families of limited means, black and white. Instead of lesson plans, there are workbooks and outlines; quizzes are also provided. Every two months, students must attend periodic examinations in any of several locations, including Totonicapán.



**Colegio Hebrón staff preparing textbooks**

De Machado says that Hebrón is currently transitioning to a system that is even more hands-off for parents.

“We’re going digital. We’re putting lessons on DVD, to complement and further empower students and parents.” The DVDs parallel the written portion. At this writing, they are available for preschool through third grade.

“But we add a grade each year,” De Machado says. Ultimately, there will be DVDs even for high school chemistry. The recording is done at Hebrón’s Zone 13 campus.

She tells of one mother who had very little schooling herself. “She’s finishing her education—alongside her son. She’s taking the exams and earning her own diploma with our program.”

Over 800 Guatemalan children are currently enrolled. Another 500, in places as remote as Puerto Rico and Argentina, are also matriculated. Claudia de Gálvez, a mother of three Guatemalan girls, is in her first year.

“My daughters are so happy,” she says. “Often, we make day trips around town to complement the book learning. The girls are getting the most out of life. And we share it all.”

Maritza Cabrera, another parent, notes that her son Esteban, 10, often did homework as late as 9 p.m. before his enrollment two years ago. He had been bullied at public school and had become taciturn and withdrawn. Now he practices swimming in the afternoons and aids his mother in the kitchen—another learning experience.

“He’s changed completely,” his mother says. “He’s happy and adores learning.” 



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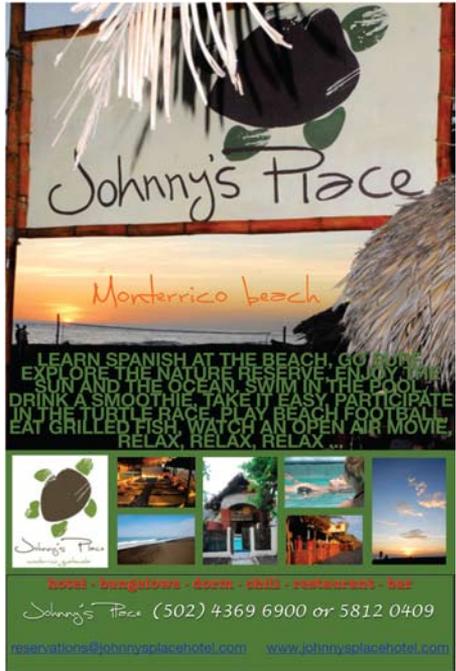
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 but by demonstrating that all peoples cry,  
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 idea that if we try and understand each other,  
 we may even become friends. —Maya Angelou*

*Our battered suitcases were piled on the  
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 But no matter, the road is life. —Jack Kerouac*



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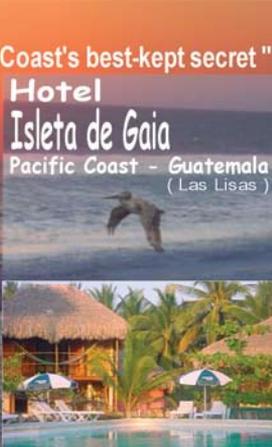


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at UVG's Sololá campus in May.

"The instruction," Haeseler explained, "must do more than 'teach to the test'. We not only want students to have access to better opportunities, but for them to also feel good about themselves, both as Guatemalans and as global citizens. Studying English should not be self-defeating or deflating, but rather a new means of self-expression.

"Attitude is another factor in success. So we will teach English in a way that students positively identify with and use in their own search for identity. We won't push it as an elitist language or one having higher status than Spanish and the Mayan tongues. We see English in purely utilitarian terms."

Haeseler surmises that students of English have two "literacies," what she calls the "in-school one" and "out-school one." They are, she says, often attuned to American and British culture and feed on pop music songs, YouTube videos and MTV.

"Consequently, we will integrate these into classroom instruction as ways to make learning meaningful and relevant. Adolescents engage better when they see how learning English will make them more insightful about a culture they are already interested in. And Guatemalan youth, like all young people today, are drawn to technology and multimedia. So we intend to assimilate these into our language instruction."

The old, static curriculum has been shelved in favor of those promoting what Haeseler calls "communicative competence." The new curriculum incorporates role playing, interviewing, group projects and problem solving—all in English. But it does not stop there.

The traditional acquisition skills—reading, writing, speaking and listening—are still emphasized. To become literate in each, students will practice vocabulary holistically, that is, in all four domains. Toward this end, they will read a range of authentic material in periodicals, textbooks and on websites. They will learn to preview, predict, infer,

paraphrase and summarize.

"Reading materials will be age-appropriate," Haeseler says. "Research shows that good readers become good writers if they study reading and writing simultaneously. Thus we will promote such writing processes as brainstorming, outlining, revising and proofreading."

Finally, since students will practice social situations, they will attain insights into socio-cultural norms in areas like social register and polite speech.

Students finishing bachillerato at UVG-Sololá select a major among agro-forestry, horticulture and tourism. Each will include relevant materials; agro-forestry students, for instance, will read English material in geology classes.

To better teach such "thematically linked content," CEI staffers themselves took classes in March to learn an instruction model called Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP).

In preparing a SIOP lesson on, say, Lake Atitlan's volcanoes, the English teacher will address language issues beforehand and consider what background knowledge students already have. Graphic organizers will help students read and discuss scientific texts. Lessons will be student-centered; there will be minimal teacher orientation, but extended student discussion. Students may not give one-word responses to inquiries; they will be asked "Why do you think so?" or "Can you give examples?" Before class ends, the teacher reviews the main concepts and vocabulary under study that day.

At the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala Altiplano, we offer also classes with the same concept to people in the area and they can take the ELASH exam at the end of the English course.

"We have an excellent staff, and we are always seeking trainable teachers," Dean Knapp says. 

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—Dalai Lama



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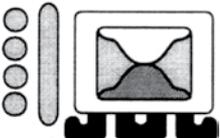
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 but the amount of love that is put into them  
 that matters. —Mother Teresa*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SWEETWATER GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Meets every Saturday 12 noon & Wed. 12 noon at Hacienda Tijax, Río Dulce, Izabal. Tels: 5902-7825, 5201-5361.

**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 7pm 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.

**US Citizen in Guatemala?** Your vote counts! Be a registered voter in your state and receive an absentee ballot to vote in the November 10, 2010 mid-term election, [www.votefromabroad.org](http://www.votefromabroad.org). Participate in local events with Democrats Abroad Guatemala. For questions contact John Chudy 7832--4581 or [democratsabroad\\_guate@yahoo.com](mailto:democratsabroad_guate@yahoo.com).

**NEW LIFE & PEACE FELLOWSHIP:** English & Spanish Service, Sun. 10:30am, Wed. 7pm Bible studies & youth groups (Spanish). San Pedro El Panorama, Lote 10 Sección D, La Antigua. Tels: 7821-0742, 5042-0159.

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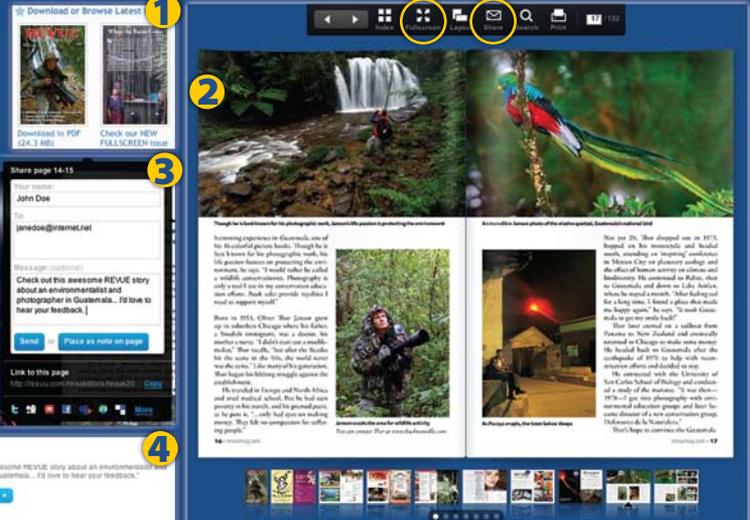
Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.

Life is full of misery, loneliness, and suffering - and it's all over much too soon. —Woody Allen

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**HORSEBACK RIDING, English Equitation** Classes: from beginner to intermediate level. Taught by English instructor. See also ad under "Fun Stuff" - **Ravenscroft Riding Stables**. New Tel #: 7830-6669, 5408-7057.

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**ART WORKSHOPS IN GUATEMALA:** Botanical and Nature Drawing/Painting with Cynthia Padilla July 20 - 27. For more info email info@artguat.org.

**YOGA:** Taught by Rae Ishee, Liz Van Leeuwen and Nancy Payne. Mon. 7:00-8:00am, Tue. 8:30-10:00am, Wed. 10:00-11:30am, Thur. 8:30-10:00am, Fri. 8:30-10:00am, Sat. 9:00-10:30am & Sun. 9:00-10:30am (Men's beginner class with Liz). Galeria Panza Verde, 5a av. Sur #19. Tel: 7832-7920, pr@panzaverde.com

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*A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave. —Mohandas Gandhi*

AWARE (Animal Welfare Association-Rescue/Education) is a non-profit, non-governmental charitable organization registered in Guatemala and with 501(c)3 status in the U.S. that cares for and finds loving



and responsible pet owners to adopt abandoned animals. AWARE has a 10-acre site in Sumpango where about 170 dogs and 70 cats live. A permanent spay/neuter clinic is also on site and public education is another key objective of AWARE. Donations of cash, dog and cat food, metal food dishes, towels, used books (for resale) and building materials are always welcome. Volunteers are urgently needed and opportunities are many.



For more info:  
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## Spitters, Scratchers and Snappers

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

**Question:** Our Labrador Vicki is eight-months-old, she's a wonderful dog but we can't get her to stop jumping on us. I'm afraid one day she's going to knock down my elderly mother. How can we teach Vicki to stop this behavior?

**Answer:** Generally dogs jump up because they want to get closer to you, this is their way of telling you how happy they are to see you. Using appropriate hand signals, once you have told Vicki NO or DOWN, command her to SIT. Then pet and talk to her. Praise her every time she welcomes you and stays on all fours. Consistency is very important. Rewarding and praising appropriate behavior is far and away more effective in training your dog than physical punishment which is cruel and inhumane.



### In memory of Ted Axelrod January 7, 1934 – June 2, 2009

This month's column is dedicated to a kind and wonderful man who truly loved animals. In his compassion, he rescued and cared for a host of dogs and cats, their lives made better by him as they, in turn, enriched his life.

We who knew him will miss him so very much.

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*A rose must remain with the sun and the rain  
or its lovely promise won't come true.*

—Ray Evans

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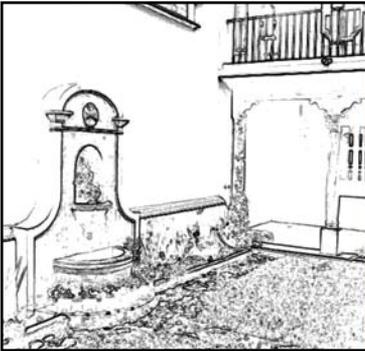
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The municipal cemetery at the west end of La Antigua is located on the site of colonial Hospital San Lázaro for lepers.

## Colonial Healthcare cont. from page 17

the first saint from Central America in 2002.

By the end of the 18th century there were many complaints against the Order of San Juan de Dios. The brothers had come from Portugal with the sole purpose of founding and administering hospitals. Despite the lofty mission, members of the order had fallen to padding their own pockets. The prior himself was caught by surprise one night, ready to run off to Mexico with trunks packed with hospital supplies. Durán writes, “It’s incredible that a prior of the brothers of San Juan de Dios had lasted more than 15 years administering the hospital, with grave detriment to the health of the sick and integrity of the funds.”

The colonial hospitals circuited a complicated maze of founding, ownership and sponsorship. It was common for a bishop or church or monastery to acquire land, sometimes purchased, sometimes through gifts

or inheritance, and assign income from crops or animals for particular works. This surely led to tricky politics.

But probably no more so than the vying for European thrones during the same period or clever taxation schemes in the American colonies. In 1710 England taxed soap as a frivolous luxury. On the bright side, in 1714 champagne was invented in France, and the first typewriter was patented in England. 📖

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*The author thanks Dr. Johnny Long for assistance with this series.*

*Next month: A medical school is founded in Guatemala.*



## EL SALVADOR BEACH SCENES

by Lena Johannessen



## This year's El Salvador Cup of Excellence auction broke price records — and touched hearts with a humanitarian gesture.

The auction, which took place last month, ended with the surprising announcement that the buyers from one of the 33 winning lots were donating the projected profits to Ricardo Espitia, Executive Director of the Salvadoran Coffee Council who had suffered a stroke early this year.

Sweet María's, Tony's Coffees and Ritual Coffee Roasters wired the funds the very next day to El Salvador. Tom Owen of Sweet María's explained his rationale: "I had the idea to connect our auction lot to Ricardo's recovery, and it was terrific that Wendy De Jong (Tony's Coffees) and Ryan Brown (Ritual Coffee) jumped in immediately. I met Ricardo some years ago and feel he has done more than anyone else to promote and improve the quality of El Salvador specialty coffee. Every time I taste a beautiful cup from this origin, I owe him a debt of gratitude. This is just a little payback. Plus, it was in-

spiring at the recent competition to see Ricardo dedicated to participating, even though it was extremely challenging for him physically. If this contribution speeds up his recovery, we in the coffee world will all be better for it."

The auction saw a new record for El Salvador's first-place coffee. Wataru & Co. Ltd. of Japan, bidding for C&C, purchased the top coffee for \$22.25/lb. The previous record was \$20.10/lb, set at last year's auction. A Canadian company, T.A.N. Coffee, placed winning bids on three lots and has already resold nearly half the coffee to other North American roasters who want a taste of extraordinary coffee. The El Salvador auction grossed over \$500,000.

While Japanese roasters were the top volume buyer, Salvadoran coffees will also be heading to South Korea, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, U.S., Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.



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*If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done? —George Carlin*

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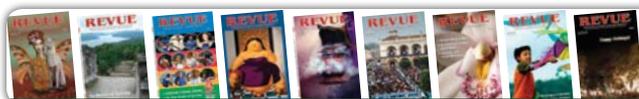
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