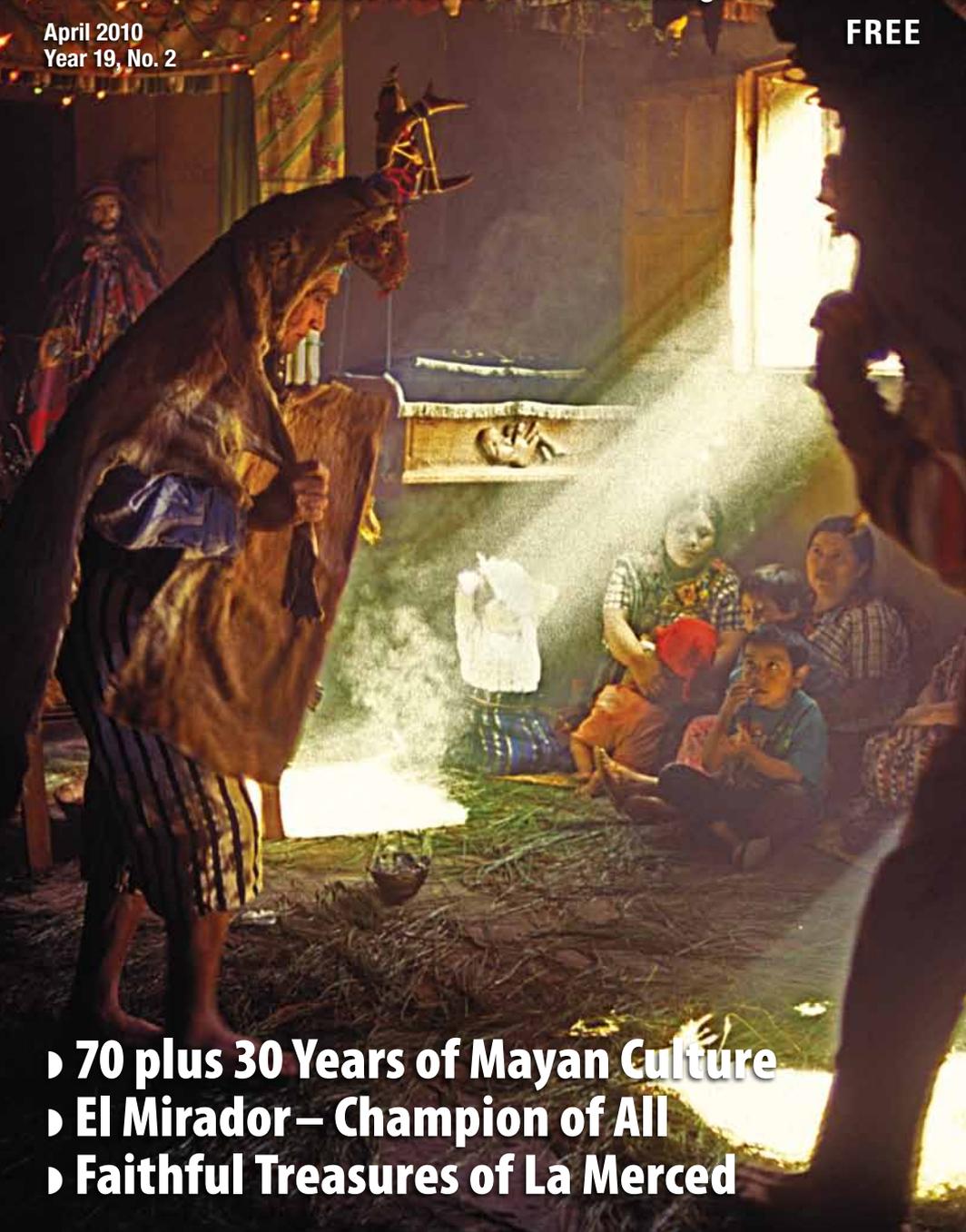


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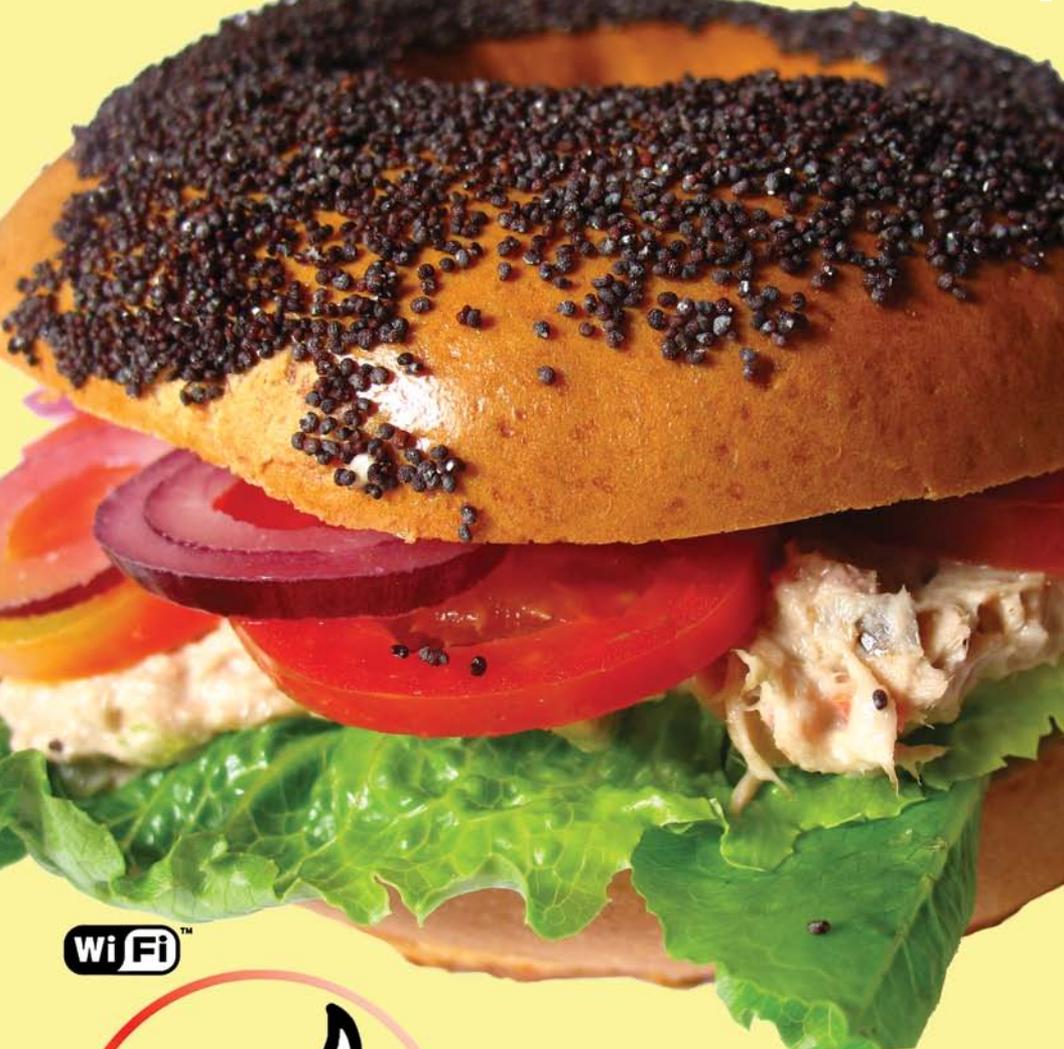
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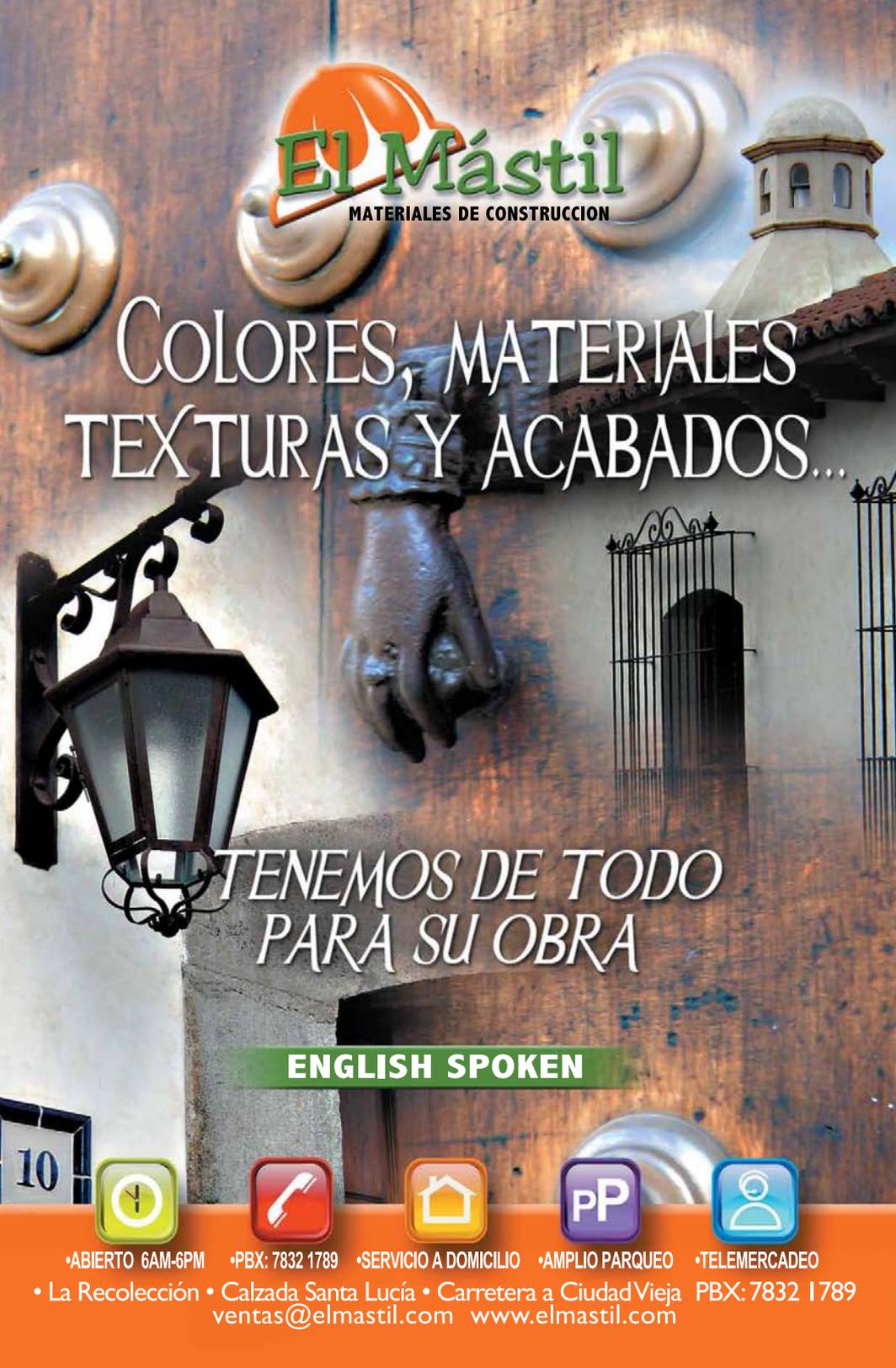
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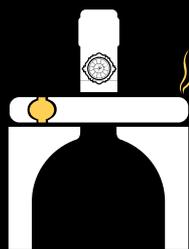
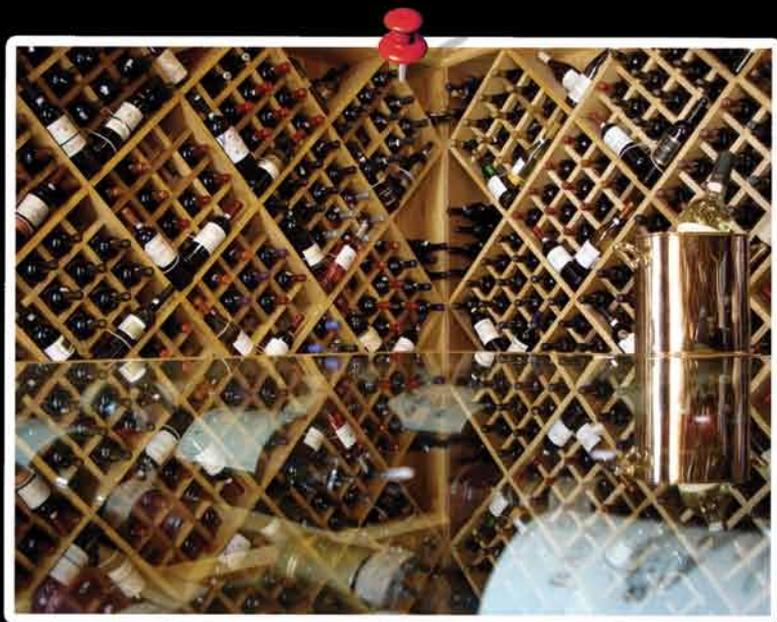
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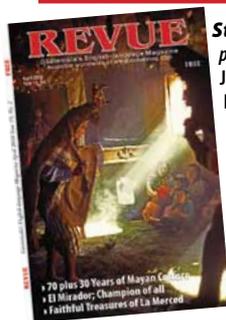
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FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Our cover this month features the work of internationally renowned ethnographic photographer Jeffrey Jay Foxx. More of his beautiful photos can be viewed in the DateBook Highlight by J. Claire Odland on the upcoming exhibition *70 plus 30 Years of Mayan Culture*. The exhibition also features textiles from the Hank duFlon collection.

Other photographers gracing our pages this month include Ange Bourda, Ana Aguilar, Eny Roland Hernández, Rudy Girón, César Tián, Jack Houston, Brent Holmes, George Carofino and Michael Sherer. We thank them for sharing their wonderful images with us.

We have some excellent writers to thank this month as well. Submitted for your approval: *El Mirador—Champion of All*; Brent Holmes reports on his trip, getting a VIP tour from Dr. Richard D. Hansen who has spent 25 years working the site. Joy Houston brings the past alive again with *Faithful Treasures*; restoring La Merced Monastery in Guatemala City. Food expert Dianne Carofino shares her lessons in *Market Management*, exploring the stalls at the Antigua mercado. Coffee-hater Dwight Wayne Coop aptly expounds on *The Objective Virtues of Guatemalan Coffee*. We find Thornwhistle in the garden campaigning for the ubiquitous *Bougainvillea* as the national flower. Michael Sherer gives a great argument as to why the ancient Mayan ball game is his favorite new sport in *Whack, Thunk and Oof!* Raconteur Ken Veronda reminds us to stop and smell the *Seasonal Scents*.

For readers of Spanish, Guillermo Monsanto writes a touching piece, *Nuestros Ángeles*, about sculptress Rae Frese Leeth and her upcoming exposition.

We wish you a Happy April.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

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A close-up photograph of white flowers with prominent yellow stamens, set against a dark background. The flowers are in sharp focus, with some petals and stamens in the foreground and others blurred in the background.

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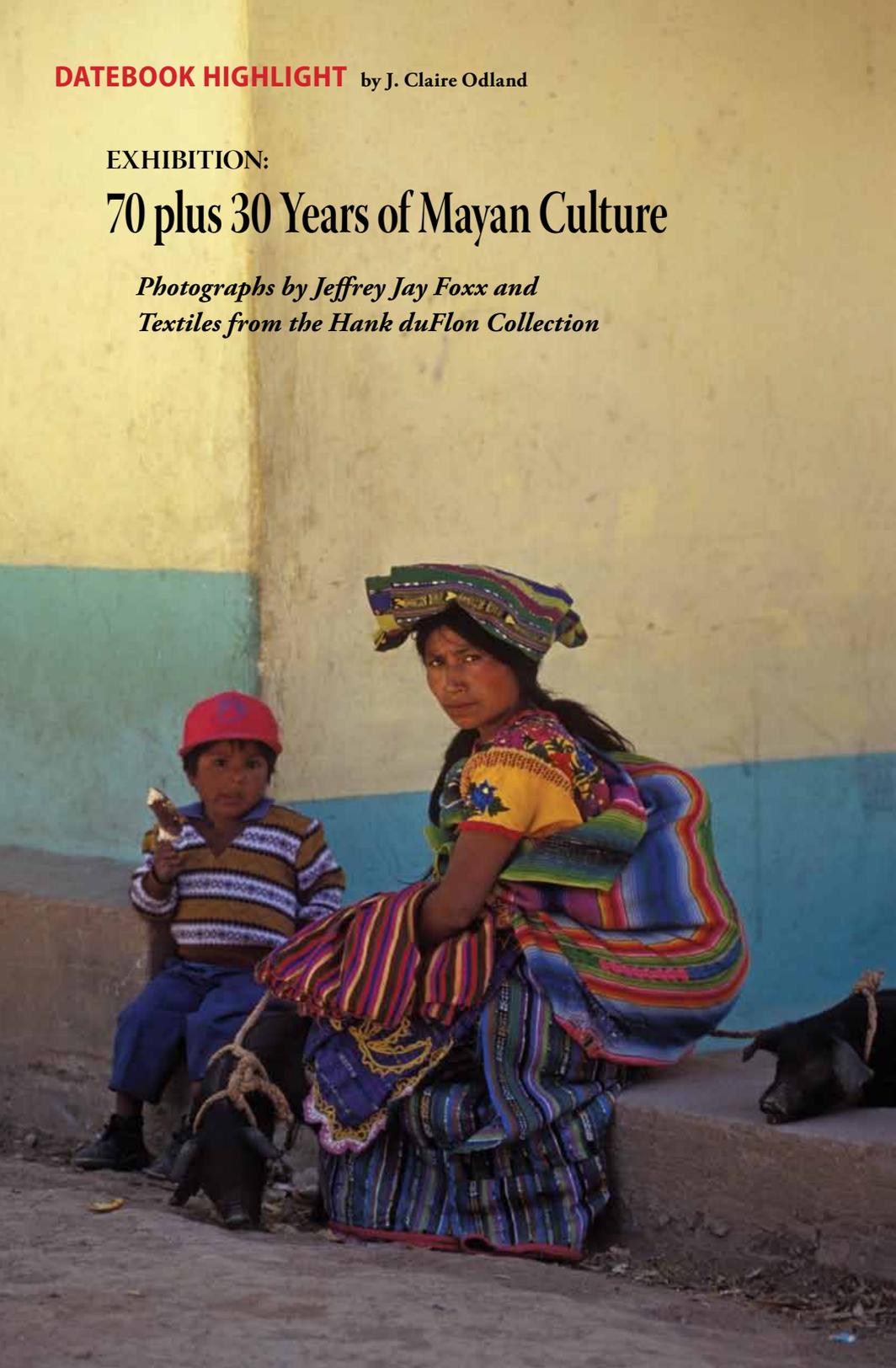
DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT by J. Claire Odland

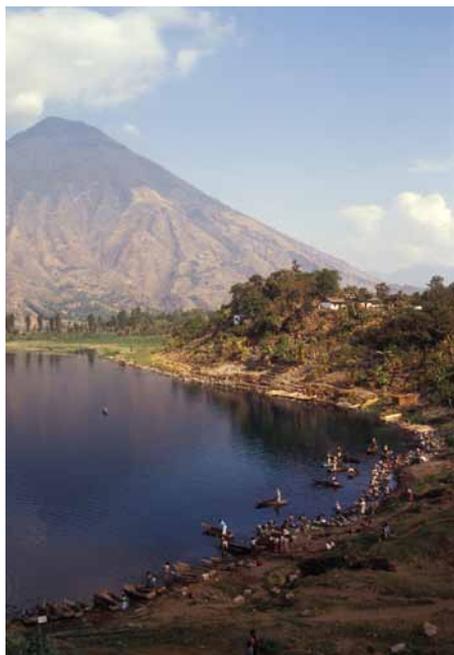
EXHIBITION:

70 plus 30 Years of Mayan Culture

Photographs by Jeffrey Jay Foxx and

Textiles from the Hank duFlon Collection





Curating a double show like this is a double joy: Here are glimpses of two great, archival collections on view through April in the Gallery at Indigo Artes. This show, *70 plus 30 Years of Mayan Culture*, represents selections from 70 years of Mayan textiles and 30 years of Mayan photographs from the hands of two masters well known and loved in La Antigua Guatemala.

Because of their appreciation of Mayan culture, photographer Jeffrey Jay Foxx and the family of collector Hank duFlon (who died in 2007) have dedicated this show to Indigo Artes, the first school for textile and popular arts training in Guatemala. As Indigo Artes is a non-profit organization funded by donations by private individuals, we gratefully acknowledge their generosity.

The school is deeply committed to preserving and enhancing indigenous arts and crafts, and to training indigenous artisans in improving their skills and knowledge. The Guatemala government and foundations from the United States, Taiwan and Norway are working with Indigo Artes in a range of development projects.

As artists and ethnologists, Foxx and duFlon were great friends, both loving the beauty of Mayan culture, and exploring, documenting and collecting all over the highlands. In this show, you will see people and artistry that you could never find on your own. With special events like this, and great tours and classes for visitors and artists, Indigo Artes is a meeting place for cultures to connect and artistic creativity to ignite.





Foxx is internationally renowned for his beautiful ethnographic work, photographing indigenous subjects with respect, dignity and sometimes humor. Foxx says, "Photography of the Maya has been the foremost accomplishment of my career." And when you see his work, you will understand why. I think that no one catches the intimate moment, the personality, like Foxx does. And it is particularly fascinating to see the breadth of Mayan culture extend as it does from Guatemala through southern Mexico. Some of the images in the show are published in his books, the award-winning *Living Maya*, *The Maya Textile Tradition*, and *Angela Weaves a Dream*. A complete presentation of Foxx's impressive biography and archives is available at www.foxxarchive.com.

DuFlon first came to Guatemala in the 1940s, and these selections from his textile collection include never-before-viewed pieces of museum quality, hand-worked in silk, cotton and wool. A graduate of Princeton and business executive, he became a leading textile expert and would travel with his wife Bobbie from village to village, investigating the details of traditional village styles color by color, weave by weave. Documenting each community's dress over the years, he created a textile collection of legendary depth and loved sharing it with his many friends.

Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares is located inside the Cultural Center la Azotea, 5 minutes from La Antigua's Parque Central via the Azotea shuttle.

Please see DateBook for additional information about this show.

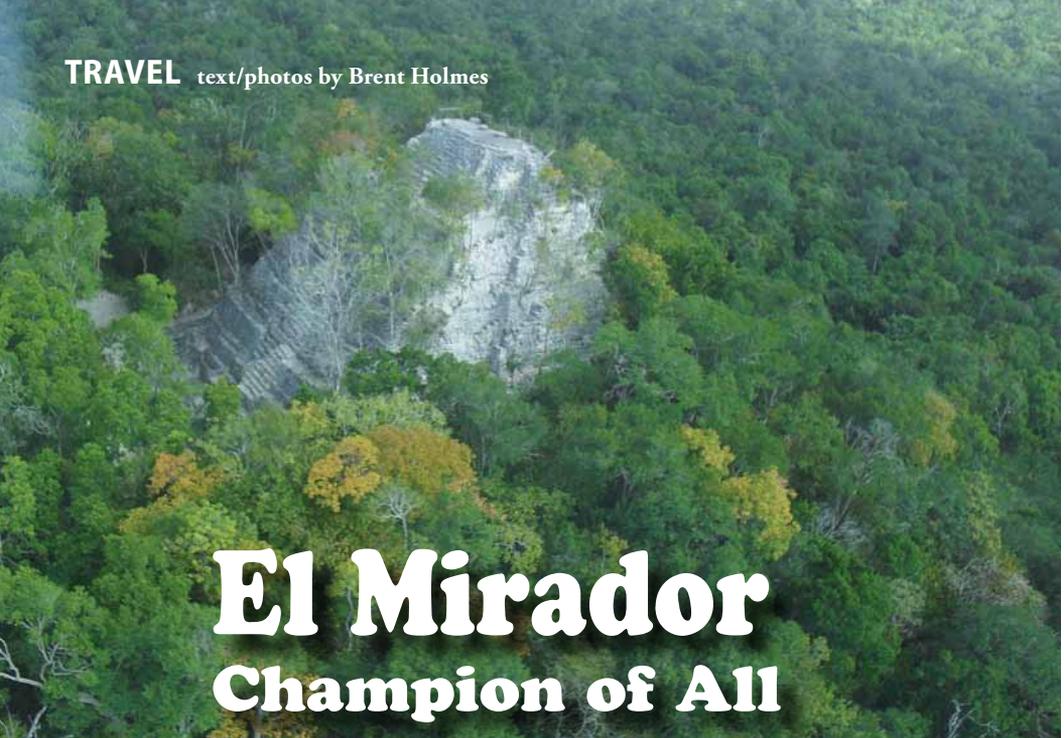




About Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares: For information about classes, tours, special events and the scholarship fund, visit www.indigoartestextiles.com. Generous private donors have enabled over 120 students to gain the abilities to earn the income that will support and educate their families, while honoring the historic and priceless Mayan culture.

About the author: J. Claire Odland, director, Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares, and Associate, Anthropology, the Field Museum, Chicago, author of *Fashioning Tradition: Mayan Huipiles in the Field Museum Collection* and co-author of *Unwrapping the Textile Traditions of Madagascar*. 📖





El Mirador Champion of All

This mighty, pre-classic city flourished hundreds of years before more famous classic sites such as Tikal. It was bigger by far. “The designation ‘classic’ should really apply to the pre-classic sites. Those classic guys never built anything like this,” says Dr. Richard D. Hansen “The Olmec, rather than the mother civilization of Mesoamerica, are now better considered a sister.”

I finally made my dream trip, by helicopter, to El Mirador. Thirty-five minutes by air vs. three days walking and/or mule ride makes the trip feasible for someone like me, not a lot of time, out of shape and pushing 68! Our group of 12 was ferried by chopper in lots of four from Flores Petén to the site. Dr. Hansen acted as our guide for the next 24 hours and gave generously of his knowledge and time. His passion is contagious. So far he has spent 25 years on El Mirador. He was a great host, even giving up his bungalow to five of the visitors while he slept in a tent.

El Mirador is one of the most significant Mayan sites and a must visit for those of us who are so fanatic about our studies of the Maya. Why is it so special?

For starters, El Mirador covers 38 square miles; it is larger than the city of Los Angeles. The temples at El Mirador are huge. El Tigre is larger than all of Tikal’s temples 1, 2, the acropolis and the central plaza—combined!

The El Mirador basin is larger still, encompassing territory northward beyond the Mexican border. It includes some 51 other cities, to name a few: Nakbe, Tintal, Paixsbán, Xucnal and Wakna, all pre-classic locations. Many cities in the basin were connected to El Mirador by a road system, *sacbes*. The roads are magnificent examples of the engineering skills of the Maya. They were 15 feet high and 120 feet wide, made of limestone and thickly plastered in white. You can see these roads by air, long straight lines with the foliage slightly elevated over



Ready to board for the flight to El Mirador



Detail of carving near La Danta temple



Dr. Hansen gives a class in Maya 101



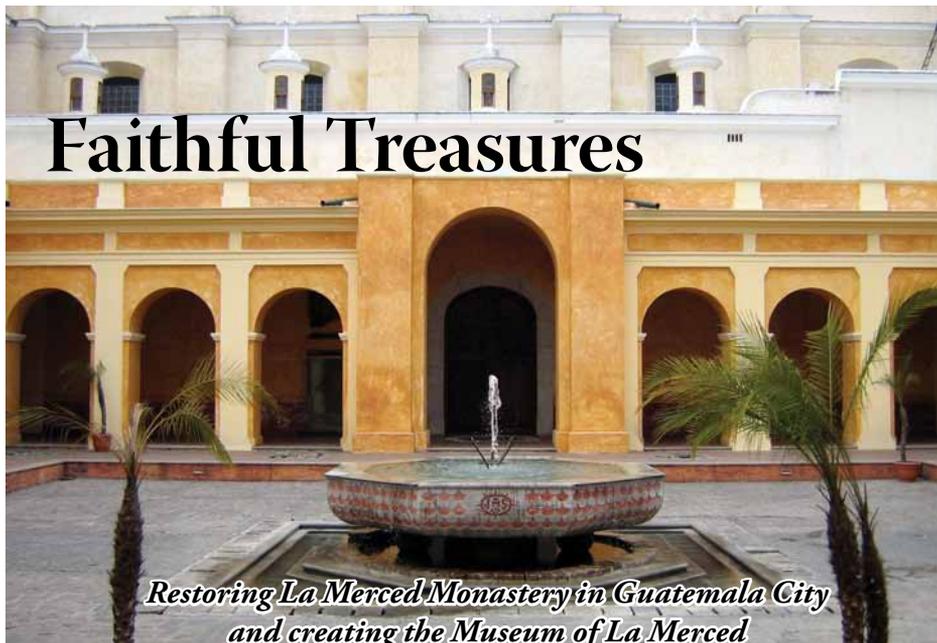
Dr. Hansen points out an Allspice tree

the surrounding jungle. The walking/mule path route into El Mirador utilizes sacbes. A path was cut through the vegetation for man and mule using the base of the sacbes. This is a trip Dr. Hansen says he has made at least 200 times. The project has 126 mules that pack in supplies on a continuous basis.

The idea was to arrive at the summit and watch the sunset. We were late. On descent twilight quickly turned into pitch black. Most had flashlights. I did not. The path consists of partly wood stairs, a rope, vines, loose rocks and small tree stumps, two inches by six inches or so. My fellows tried to help, shining the light and calling out warnings, but, of course I slipped. I rolled sideways; I grabbed and started to roll downward but was caught by a fellow climber, averting a chain reaction affecting eight others below me. I did make it safely down but lost whatever ego I had on the way up.

We were rewarded by a visit to the adjacent Structure #34. This is a small temple

that has been extensively tunneled. A string of ceiling lights, powered by a portable generator, provided light throughout the tunnel. I entered the tunnel behind Dr. Hansen. We were given hard hats, and it took about five seconds before the first crash onto the low ceiling. I was told to turn left and keep going until told to stop. "Do you see the stairs?" "Yes," I replied, but I said I had no desire to go up them. No problem, he just wanted us to see the stairs of the original temple inside the temple. It was hot, humid, and if you had any claustrophobia, it was over-the-top challenging. All in single file, we turned around in the very narrow, low-ceilinged, not-shored-up tunnel and proceeded in the opposite direction. The group ahead of me (I was now in the rear) sort of crouch-walked past the entrance path. I smelled fresh air and decided I could miss the rest of the tunnel tour. The group stayed another 30 minutes, saw the temple inside the temple, with ...continued on page 96



Patio of old cloister with new fountain

The staid, stone, Neo-Classical façade of La Merced Church in Guatemala City belongs there, designed according to the time it was built, early 19th century. So why the gilded, elaborate, full-of-movement Baroque altars that fit the niches inside the church? Because, some might say, they actually belong in the Baroque-façade La Merced Church in La Antigua.

In 1778, when Santiago de los Caballeros, then seat of the Spanish kingdom in Guatemala and now La Antigua, moved to what is now Guatemala City, "...the Mercedarians built their new church to accommodate the altars which had graced the abandoned building in Santiago. These were readily removed and reassembled where they are used at the present time," wrote Verle Annis (*The Architecture of Antigua Guatemala 1543-1773*). The new church was built according to measurements of the altars to be relocated there.

In 1813 the new La Merced Church and, although not finished, the adjacent monastery were inaugurated. Seventy years later the government of Justo Rufino Barrios 'nationalized' some church properties, including that of the La Merced monastery. The space became headquarters of the national police, with barracks, a jail for more than 200 prisoners and a hospital. And so it was, with earthquake repairs in 1917-18 and 1976.

In 1999, through efforts of the Asociación Amigos de La Merced, use (though not ownership) of the prison space was returned to the church, which by then was in the care of the Jesuits. In 2006 use of the hospital area was granted. The police, the jail and the hospital had been an oxymoron in the space, like the Baroque altars behind the Neo-Classical façade; and dedicated professionals went to work.



Guatemala City Church of La Merced with adjacent museum. INSET: La Merced Church of La Antigua with Baroque façade

Archeologists sifted through rubble to salvage every useful bit of information, while architects studied foundations, walls, columns and colors to restore and recreate the monastery space as it had been almost 200 years before. No longer a home for 25-or-so priests, it is now home to the Museum of La Merced. Under the dedicated direction of Ana María Urruela de Quezada, curator of the museum, church treasures were collected, identified and registered, cleaned and conserved.

Treasures of the La Merced Church formed the largest collection of those brought from the churches of Santiago. Some were lost with the passing of time, starting with the move in 1778 and including political changes during which artworks were destroyed or distributed, even to individuals. Safeguarding the thousand-or-so works the church still claims, the museum guide

states: “Only in museums, archives, libraries, etc. can their permanence be guaranteed and avoid dispersion, illicit interventions and theft.”

The museum has four rooms with paintings, sculpture, including small ‘domestic’ sculptures, religious vestments and temporary exhibits plus a ‘treasury within the treasures’, with gold-plated silver items, crowns and relics of the church.

Artworks date from the 17th to 19th century. To name a few, there is a sculpture of the descent of Jesus from the cross, created from a copy of Rubens’ painting; a funerary altar with figures dressed in the mode of the 17th century, which has been exhibited in Mexico, Philadelphia, Vienna and Madrid; an 18th century, spiral crafted cross inlaid with tortoise shell, of Moorish style; a 7-yard-long silver rope belt; sculptures of both Saint Peter of Nolasco of Barcelona, founder of the Mercedarian order,



BEFORE AND AFTER: (ABOVE) connection to a re-stored section; (ABOVE RIGHT) the current space under repair; and (RIGHT) an old photo of when the area was a hospital

and Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order.

In addition to the museum, the first phase of restoration, supported by private and public funds, included the cloister corridors that enclosed prison cells, bright again now in the original yellow and terracotta colors. One wall was left as it was, perforated with bullet holes. Architects Guillermo Aguirre García and Rafael Rivera Neutze explain that there were at least five layers of plaster, with obscenities and graffiti and different colors of paint applied over the centuries.

The entrance on 11a avenida opens to a wide, original ramp, now tile covered, which may have been for horses. Straight ahead, past museum rooms, is the jewel of the work—the fountain. With no information other than 18th century drains and a few bricks to indicate the size of the original, an international competition for

designs was carried out, which Guillermo Aguirre won. The decoration that covers the eight-sided bowl is copied from the façade of the Jesuit church in La Antigua. The same design trims the corridor and museum walls, which begs the question, “How did the Jesuits come to be in charge of a Mercedarian church?”

The short answer includes expulsion from Guatemala of the archbishop and all religious orders in 1829, leaving only secular clergy, and authorization of return of the Jesuits in 1843 to oversee public education. They were expelled again a couple of years later, authorized to return again in 1851 and expelled again in 1871, supposedly having enriched themselves in their educational work. It caused such a stir that the public collected 6,500 signatures on a petition in support of the Jesuits. Obviously there was a good deal of conservative-liberal and church-state conflict.



Some of the artifacts exhibited in the museum

“At the end of the 19th century the church was no more than a shadow of what it had been in the Colonial era,” wrote Hubert Miller in *Historia General de Guatemala, Vol. IV*. During this political seesaw, the La Merced Church in Guatemala City and its monastery were assigned to the Jesuits by pontifical decree in 1853 and the church only again in 1950. In 1962 the Mercedarians were assigned other properties, including the church in La Antigua.

The splendid façade of that La Merced Church was built when a surge of the Baroque in Santiago hit a high in the mid 1700s. “This period signified the culmination of Baroque art in all its manifestations.” (*El Tesoro de La Merced*) Then “a cold wind began to blow from the old world” (*Escultura Colonial en Guatemala*), pushing thought from the spiritual to the intellectual and changing architecture from fanciful flare to scientifically (and politically) correct straight lines. Earthquakes at the same time, in 1773, further sobered society, with psychological and political effects beyond the geological phenomenon. It was on that background that the Neo-Classical façade of the new La Merced Church was built.

...continued on page 86





Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

The Objective Virtues of Guatemalan Coffee

One criticism of columnists is that too often, we cover old ground. When we run out of real ideas, we attempt to build bridges to Readerland on rainy, or writer's-blocked, days with off-the-shelf topics. I have read more than one column about coffee, for instance. Everyone has experience with coffee, so it is as safe a topic as you can get. OK, so Amy Q. Journalist cannot start her workday without that cup of Joe. Like, profound, man.

My coffee column will be different. You see, I loathe coffee, so when I praise it (which I will presently), I have achieved my slant on that basis alone.

Maybe my hate-hate relationship with coffee started the day my grandmother (accidentally) upended a coffee pot, sizzling my foot with roiling black liquid, circa 1963. Even today, the burn scars remain, if faintly.

When I was 8, my Dad took me to work at his car lot during the summer. My first job, "sunrise poop patrol," had to do with guard dogs, a broom, and a dustpan. This activity would have been a distant second to going to Disneyland; but it was play compared to the inadvertent sadism of sending me to fetch coffee.

The coffee vending machine (which also sold hot chocolate and chicken "soup") would fill the paper cup to the literal brim with finger-scalding liquid. Butterfingersed shaver that I was, I could not walk all the

way to Dad's office without spilling it on myself and nearly howling in pain.

In the retail car business, one drinks vat fulls of coffee, as if each day were the eve of a congressionally mandated prohibition. Indeed, coffee is the oil of that and many other professions. I remember one sales manager telling me how to use coffee to disarm irately dissatisfied customers (without actually throwing it).

Here is how it worked. The salesman invited the customer to the vending machine room for coffee. But, uh-oh, he had no dimes (even when he really did). So the salesman asked the customer for two dimes for two coffees. By supplying these (which he usually did), the customer had "invested" in the salesman as a problem-solver, and then calmed down in order to get his money's worth. I can remember thinking, "Wow, they found a real use for coffee!" I confess that, personally, I have found none except as a crutch for the few times that I crammed for exams in college; but even that is a dubious utility, since cramming is stupid. And, being apparently taste-bud challenged, I do not see what the big deal is about the taste, and much less do I understand the application of adjectives like "buttery" and "gamey" to coffee "bouquets." Nonetheless, I go through this cycle where I start imagining there is something wrong with me, since everyone ...continued on page 106

Nuestros Ángeles

*Rae Frese Leeth;
Una norteamericana
con corazón chapín*

Al escribir una nota sobre Rae Leeth se hace difícil separar lo emotivo de lo profesional. Por un lado cuenta el desfile de amigos que conforman el rico universo que la rodea y por el otro el enjambre de artistas que tiene o ha tenido que ver con su producción creativa.

Cuando llegó a Guatemala la escultura era una disciplina que pocos autores seguían como posibilidad de expresión profesional. Salvo nombres muy consolidados como Dagoberto Vásquez —que también era pintor y dibujante—, Luis Carlos —perteneciente a la generación del ochenta— y otros nombres como Carlos Chaclán ...continúa en página 40



EXPOSITION
Galería El Attico
4ª avenida 15-45, zona 14
Guatemala City
Inauguration Wednesday 7, 7pm



Rae Frese Leeth

For information in English about this exposition, please see DateBook, April 7.



APRIL Guide to culture & upcoming events Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

4 Sun., 6am — **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE:** Held at the Christian Academy of Guatemala; a light breakfast after the service, please bring something to share. Organized by Union Church (for additional info., tel: 2361-2037), **Guatemala City.**

4 Sun., 9am, 11am & 6pm — **EASTER SERVICES:** Coffee and doughnuts after the services. Union Church (tel: 2361-2037) 12 calle 7-37, z. 9, **Guatemala City.**

6 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) **LECTURE:** Pop-Wuj is responsible for several community development projects in Quetzaltenango and the surrounding area. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

7 Wed., 7pm through Fri., 30th — **ART & CELEBRATION:** Inauguration, *Nuestros Ángeles* by sculptress Rae Frese Leeth, celebrating El Attico's 22nd anniversary. Cocktail. Galería El Attico

(tel: 2368-0853)
4a av. 15-45,
z. 14,
Guatemala City.

See DateBook highlight on page 23.

(PHOTO: ANGE BOURDA)



7 Wed., 7, 5pm — **ART:** *Grabados* by artist Guillermo Maldonado. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.**

9 Fri., through Sun., 11th, 8pm — (Spanish) **THEATER:** *Encuentro en el Parque Peligroso* presented by the association of artists TRASBASTIDORES, adapted by Jany Campos, starring Reyna Gutiérrez and Juan Diego Rodríguez. Q60/Q30 students w/carnet. Teatro de Cámara Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias (tel: 2270-3736) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City.** ▼



10 Sat., 7pm — **ART:** Expo-Sale *Rapsodias e Impromptus* by Ricardo Silva Cordero. Free. Cocktail. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua.**



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

12 Mon., 5pm — CULTURAL EVENT: A glimpse at indigenous culture as a Maya *sacerdote* (priest) presents an authentic ceremony/ritual. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

12 Mon., through Sun., 18th — SCULPTURE: *Naturaleza y Mar*, X Festival Internacional de Escultura Arte en Concreto featuring work by artists from Guatemala and Germany. Gardens of Hotel Soleil Pacífico. *Puerto San José, Escuintla*. ▼



13 Tues., 8:30am-4pm — EXCURSION: *Comalapa*, visit this indigenous village famous for its folk painters and textiles. Proceeds benefit the women's cooperative, MayaWorks. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176), inside Finca la Azotea, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez*.

13 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: Guatemalans generating opportunities through modern community libraries. The Riecken Foundation's mission is to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through modern community libraries that spark a spirit of discovery and foster social participation. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

FESTIVAL TITIRITLÁN: An international puppet show, organized by Chumbala Cachumbala, promoting civic education and topics that include solidarity, leadership and environmental conservation. Free. Multiple venues in *La Antigua* and at *Lake Atitlán*. For more info, and a full schedule of events and activities contact ventana@chumbalacachumbala.org

14 Wed., 12 (noon) — (English) MEETING: British citizens, share your experiences living and traveling in Guatemala; find out how the British Embassy may be of assistance to you. Also, learn how to use the online registration service LOCATE through www.fc.gov.uk/travel as well as embassy Consular Services. For additional information, contact the British Embassy tel: 2380-7324 or consularguatemala@fc.gov.uk. Café Bourbon, 5a av. norte #16, *La Antigua*.

15 Thurs., 8am-4pm — EXCURSION: *Tecpán & Iximché*: Off the beaten track! Visit this important indigenous community and the famous Mayan archeological site of Iximché. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) Inside Finca la Azotea, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez*.

15 Thurs., 10am — (Spanish) PUPPET SHOW: *El Sol y La Luna* by Compañía Armadillo, for children five to 10 years old. Q25/students; Q5/teachers. Asociación Nuestros Ahijados (tel: 7832-1884) road to San Felipe de Jesús, *La Antigua*.

15 Thurs., & Fri., 16th, 2pm-4pm — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: Puppet making, learn how to create your own puppet with recycled materials. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, *La Antigua*.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the MAY 2010 edition of the REVUE by Friday, April 9



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15 Thurs., through July 15 —ART: *Luces en El Túnel*, featuring artist Ingrid Klussman’s wardrobe from 1948 through 2010. Organized by Galería El Túnel. 16 calle 5-30, z. 1 (tel: 2238-3021) Calle del Purgatorio, Centro Histórico, **Guatemala City.** ▼



SPOTLIGHT

16 Fri., 5-10:30pm — **FUNDRAISER GALA: LIFE** School (www.lifeschoolweb.com), a multicultural non-profit school in Panajachel, is holding its annual fundraising event to benefit scholarship students (44 percent of LIFE School students receive some form of financial aid). The evening starts with happy hour and hors d’oeuvres followed by dinner featuring regional specialties. There will also be a special performance of Kaqchikel music and dance by Grupo Sotz’il (www.sotzil.com). A courtesy shuttle will be available from the Bus Stop Coffee Shop to the Nature Reserve and back. A donation of Q150 includes dinner and the performance. For more info., visit www.lifeschoolweb.com. Tickets available at LIFE School (e-mail lifeschool_director@yahoo.com or tel: 7762-2615), 0 Av. 5-39, z. 2, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán.**



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DEMOCRATS ABROAD PRESENTS

April 22 — *Bioneers on Energy: The Future is Now* — Mary Lou Ridinger, presenter

August 20 — *Keep Congress Democratic in 2010* — John Chudy, presenter

Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm, Q30 donation Place: Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua
For more info call John Chudy, Chair: tel: 7832-4581 democratsabroad_guate@yahoo

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
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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

La Cueva de Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925)5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua***Mondays** — New Orleans Blues with Nelson Lunding. Piano & vocals.**Wednesdays** — Live Jazz Trio; Sax, piano, bass.**Thursdays** — Buena Vista de Corazón; Cuban Jazz. Conga and vocals by Ignacio.**Fridays** — Latin Trio; guitar, conga and piano.**Sundays** — New Orleans Jazz with Nelson Lunding. Piano & vocals.**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.



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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 & Fridays, 7:30pm** — Sergio, reggae music**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.**Saturdays 7:30pm** — At.One.Ment. Come and listen to Luke and his band. You cannot miss it. Enjoy a few drinks and relax to some classics.**Sundays, 7:30pm** — La Raiz: Luis, Juan-Jo & Choko, great improvised classics. Free.**Posada de Santiago** (tel: 7721-7366), 1 km south of Santiago Atitlán, *Lake Atitlán***Fridays, 7:30pm** — Mark Weinstein's Marco Trio will perform a variety of jazz, blues & rock 'n' roll.**Saturdays, 7:30pm** — La Trova del Lago featuring Juan Sisay, Carlos Rangel and Noe Vásquez.**24 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC:*Alma y Guitarra* by master Tito Santis. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037)*La Antigua.*

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

Wednesdays — Nayno, Latin Ensemble

Thursdays, 7:30pm — Carlos and Carlitos, swing and latin rhythms. Trova del Lago, trova

Fridays — a fascinating show of Circus Bar Allstars

Saturdays — Los Vagabundos, hot rhythms in a fusion of rumba flamenca and Guatemalan traditional elements

Sundays — Latin Ensemble

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Ask Elizabeth

by Elizabeth Bell

What is the procession on April 25?

Trying to keep up with La Antigua's processions can be a job in itself. Some are celebrated every year ... but then there is the occasional "anniversary" procession that may seem to come out of the blue!

One procession we can count on is *Santo Hermano Pedro Day* on Sunday, April 25. Hermano Pedro is buried at San Francisco Church and his *cofradía* celebrates the 343rd anniversary of his death this year with a procession from the same church.

Who was Santo Hermano Pedro?

Born in Vilaflor in Tenerife, Canary Islands on March 21, 1626, he worked as a shepherd until the age of 24 when he began his journey to Guatemala working for his fare on the ship to the New World and later walking from Trujillo, Honduras, to Santiago de Guatemala (now La Antigua Guatemala).

Upon his arrival in Antigua, he wanted to become a priest and enrolled in the Jesuit College of San Borja. After trying very hard, it is said that he had great difficulty remembering the material in Latin and withdrew from the school. Following his devotion, he became a tertiary at San Francisco and took the name "Peter of Saint Joseph" and began visiting hospitals, jails and the sick throughout Antigua.

Three years later, he opened the Hospital de Belén, a hospital for the convalescent poor. Soon after there was a shelter for the homeless, schools for the poor and an inn for priests. This also led to the formation of the new religious order ...continued on next page

17 Sat., through Fri., May 16 — ART: Latest work by Guatemalan artist César Barrios; the exhibition



includes more than 20 new watercolors and oils: the main theme are portraits of indigenous women dressed in all sorts of paraphernalia including

flowers, birds, butterflies and rare objects. His inspiration is a large collection of old photos with the intention of using artistic mood and expression through use of colors that inspire a longing for bygone days, a sense that life is ephemeral. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.

Ask Elizabeth cont. from previous page

Orden de las y de los Bethlemitas that was subsequently recognized and approved by the Holy See. Hermano Pedro de San José de Betancur became a saint on July 31, 2002.

Today we remember Santo Hermano Pedro as representing “humility and helping others” not only in our daily life but also through contributions to the Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (3a avenida & 6a calle). Indeed, more than 30 medical groups from four foreign countries work here with Guatemalans performing what many consider no less than a miracle. The director of the Obras, Fray Giuseppe, no doubt, will be in the procession on Sunday!

17 Sat., 1pm — DANCE & MUSICAL PRESENTATION: The Niños de Aguas Calientes dance and play the marimba, flutes and bombas. Donations benefit educational pursuits. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

17 Sat., 3pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Diversificación Apícola y Derivados de la Colmena* por Vicente Arévalo. Gratis. Cupo Limitado. Vivero y Café La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074) 5a. av. sur final 36-C, **La Antigua**.

17 Sat., 7pm — DANCE: *The Breezes from the Middle East*, Arabian dance by Munira Dance Academy and Compañía de Danzas Árabes Horus. Q75. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua**.

20 Tues., 9am-4pm — EXCURSION: *San Juan del Obispo*, visit this quaint town where the Baroque monastery overlooks Antigua. Meet local artisans in their workshops. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) Inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez**.

20 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: Cultural Survival partners with Guatemalan NGOs to strengthen a network of 140 community radio stations across the country, many broadcast in one or more of the country's 23 indigenous languages. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

21 Wed., 8am-4pm — EXCURSION: *Santa Apolonia*, take a picturesque drive to this beautiful & rarely visited village, meet artisans in their workshops for ceramics, pine needle baskets and embroideries. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) inside the Cultural Center la Azotea, **Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez**.

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A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal. —Oscar Wilde

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Never judge a book by its movie.
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22 Thurs., 10am — DANCE & FLUTES: *Desde la Tierra*, a presentation for teens, with Arturo Rosales, Pablo Collado & Bette van Lunteren. Q25/ students; Q5/teachers. Asociación Nuestros Ahijados (tel: 7832-1884) road to San Felipe de Jesús, **La Antigua**. See related article, *People & Projects*, page 82.,

22 Thurs., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: *Bioneers on Energy-The Future is Now*, presented by Mary Lou Ridinger. Q30. Info: John Chudy, tel: 7832-4581 or democratsabroad_guate@yahoo.com Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

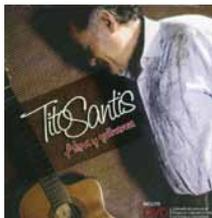
22 Thurs., 6:30pm through May 14 — ART: Inauguration, *Trazos de Luz de Fundal*, featuring work made by deaf-blind people with the assistance of artists Mayra Klée and Salvador Orellana. Benefits Fundal. Cocktail. Galería Guatemala, Fundación G&T Continental, Lobby de Banco G&T Continental, 6a. av. 9-08, z. 9, **Guatemala City**.

23 Fri., 8pm — MUSIC: *Hay Locuras 2010* by Luz María Charriquiry Fry (vocals, maracas and cajón) & Eulogio Moros Troccoli (vocals, Venezuelan cuatro & guitar). Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua**.

24 Sat., 5pm — ART: Inauguration, *Palestra*, by Mexican artist Demián Flores. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

24 Sat., 4pm — (Spanish) POETRY: *Implacables, Odas de la Subversión del Espíritu* by Luis Omar Sandoval Morán. Free. Cocktail. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua**.

24 Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *Alma y Guitarra* by master Tito Santis. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua**.



26 Mon. thru Fri., 30th, 9am-4pm — WORKSHOP: *The Magic of Color with Natural Dyes*. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) Inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez**.

27 Tues., 8:30am-4pm — EXCURSION: *Comalapa*, visit this indigenous village famous for its folk painters and textiles. Proceeds benefit the women's cooperative, MayaWorks. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176), inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez**.

27 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) PRESENTATION: *Mayan Dances* by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer K'a k'a' Saqarik. Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn) is dedicated to helping more than 30 indigenous children in San Andrés Itzapa. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

28 Wed., 7:30 through May 16 — ART: Inauguration of latest work by well known artists including Doniel Espinoza, Edin Morales, Oscar Ramírez, Lauro Salas, Salvador Gálvez, Edwin Guillermo, Mauro López, Mauro Osorio & others. Cocktail. A La Mesa Restaurante, Lounge & Galería (Tel: 2470-1294) 5a av. 15-52, z. 10, **Guatemala City**. ▼



DATEBOOK continues on page 34

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

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29 Thurs., 8am-4pm — EXCURSION: *Tecpán & Iximché*: Off the beaten track! Visit this important indigenous community and the famous Mayan archeological site of Iximche. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) Inside Finca la Azotea, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez*.

30 Fri., 8pm — TANGO: *De Mil Amores* by Compañía Artística Sanluisango. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) *La Antigua*.

**T H R O U G H O U T
T H E M O N T H**

ART: Latest works by Ramón Ávila. Galería El Túnel (tel: 2367-3266), Plaza Obelisco 16 calle 16-01, z. 10, *Guatemala City*. ▼



Mon-Fri., 9-4:30pm, Saturdays, 9-2:30pm — MULTI-MEDIA, PHOTOGRAPHY & TEXTILE EXHIBIT: *70 plus 30 Years of Mayan Culture* with photographs by Jeffrey Jay Foxx and textiles from the Hank duFlon Collection. Free. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares, (tel: 7831-1176; www.indigoartestextiles.com; indigoartestextiles@gmail.com) inside Cultural Center la Azotea, 1a calle, 1a av., z. 3, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez* (five minutes from Antigua's Parque Central via the Azotea Shuttle). See cover and page 10 for related article.

**T H R O U G H O U T
T H E M O N T H**

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

Mon., Thurs., & Sat. (except Apr. 3), 9am-1:30pm — WORKSHOP: *Taste of Weaving*, Mayan backstrap loom with an indigenous master weaver/instructor. The class includes loom prepared for weaving and instruction manual. Indigo Artes Textiles y Populares (tel: 7831-1176) inside the Cultural Center la Azotea, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez*.

Mon., through Fri., 9am-5pm, Sat., 9am-1pm — ART: Permanent exhibitions, *Nuevos colores en el recorrido de la indumentaria y el Tejido maya a través del tiempo*. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*. ▼



Tuesdays, 6pm (except Tues., 13th) — (English) SLIDE SHOW: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* by Elizabeth Bell. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), *La Antigua*.

ART: El Túnel's new showroom is currently featuring work by Eduardo Sac. Galería de Arte El Túnel (tel: 2367-3266) 16 calle 1-01 z. 10, Plaza Obelisco, *Guatemala City*.

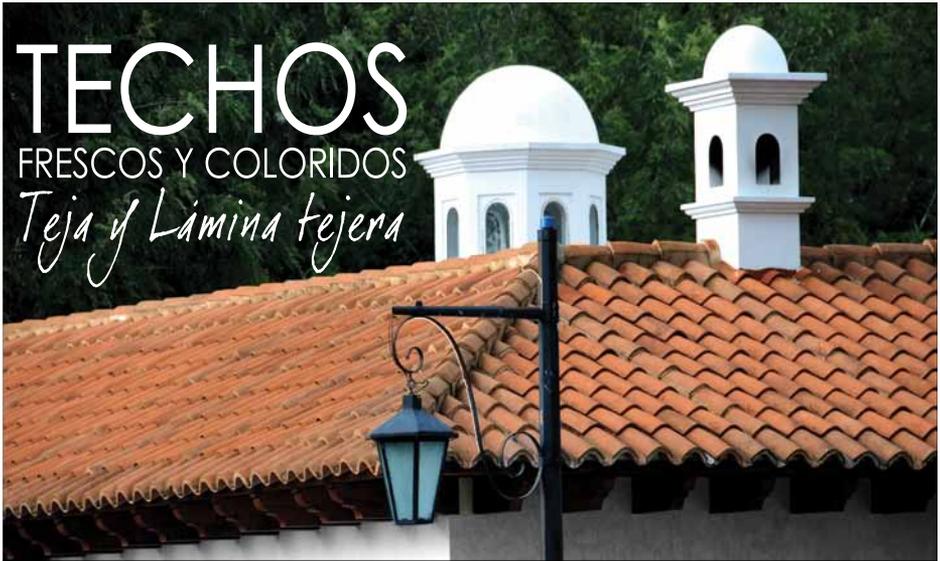


For a DateBook daily event listing, check out "REVUE NEWS TWEETS" www.revuemag.com

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But what is the difference between literature and journalism? ...Journalism is unreadable and literature is not read. That is all.

—Oscar Wilde

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—Sydney Smith



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than the memory of some temptation we resisted.*

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Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it.

—W. Somerset Maugham

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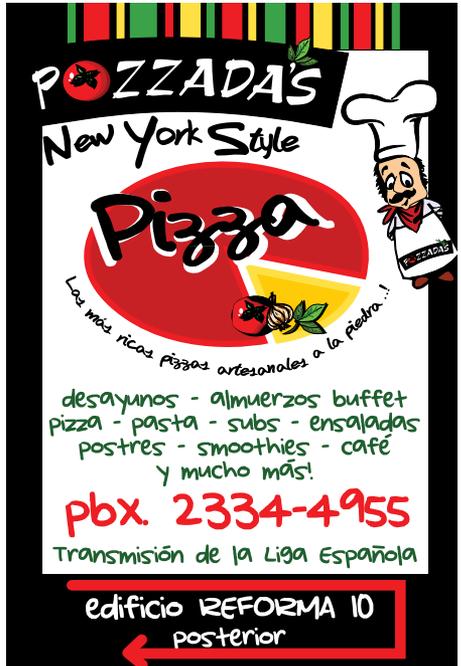
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The best ideas come as jokes. Make your thinking as funny as possible. —David M. Ogilvy

I've stopped drinking, but only while I'm asleep. —George Best



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The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think. —Horace Walpole

A conservative is a man who believes that nothing should be done for the first time. —Alfred E. Wiggam

I don't have a photograph, but you can have my footprints. They're upstairs in my socks. —Groucho Marx



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Rae Frese Leeth viene de página 23

o Rudy Yan Peña— relacionados a certámenes y becas en el extranjero pero sin mercado visible— la disciplina estaba prácticamente de baja. No sería hasta que una serie de inquietudes y coincidencias, entrarían a fortalecer a la creación en bulto.

Es precisamente en ese momento en el que Rae comienza a proponer piezas por demás alejadas del patrón y logra asentarse como escultora. De paso, algo difícil al inicio de los noventa, consigue el respeto de sus compañeros escultores y adentrarse, de a poco, en todos los escenarios disponibles para las artes de Guatemala.

Prolija y diversa, la obra de esta norteamericana de corazón chapín fue dejando cánones que artistas más jóvenes siguieron con igual éxito. Ahora, desde su refugio de paisajes volcánicos, sumergida en su taller en la ciudad de Antigua, Leeth se ha adentrado en un tema por demás espiritual: el angelical. Y desde él en una multiplicidad de posibilidades que exploran desde los cristales, maderas, bronce y mármoles ya en solitario o en fusiones muy a la Rae. Desde allí no sólo se puede entender la figuración que la artista explora. También se puede percibir las inquietudes que mueven su desvelo creativo.

La muestra, por lo tanto, conmemora su arribo hace veinte años a estas tierras y el veintidós aniversario de la galería El Attico. 





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Thornwhistle On Bougainvillea

Bougainvillea Sampler (PHOTO RUDY GIRÓN)

Sometime, before my time, I believe it was in the 1930s when minds were preoccupied with the Great Depression, everybody had to have a national or a state flower. Now mostly, nobody even knows what they are. I was at a British pub quiz night recently and our Swedish team member had no idea what the Swedish national flower happens to be.

In Guatemala the national flower is the *monja blanca*, a delicate orchid that will never see the light of day in La Antigua Guatemala's fine plant nurseries (too hot and illegal, too). So, in my opinion, I think the *monja blanca*'s time has come and gone and it should be replaced.

42 » revuemag.com

A national flower should be national in distribution. The *monja blanca*, confined to a few isolated mosslands is not. A national flower should be easily recognizable, especially by children, the future. Let's face it, if a *monja blanca* knocked on your door, you wouldn't recognize it. "Hello, who are you?"

Enter my candidate for the new national flower, the instantly recognizable and ubiquitous-in-Guatemala bougainvillea. No shrinking violet, the bougainvillea evokes the term my mother used for it every morning, the "wow!" flower. If one knocks on your door, you will say, "Wow! It's bougainvillea!"

...continued on page 102

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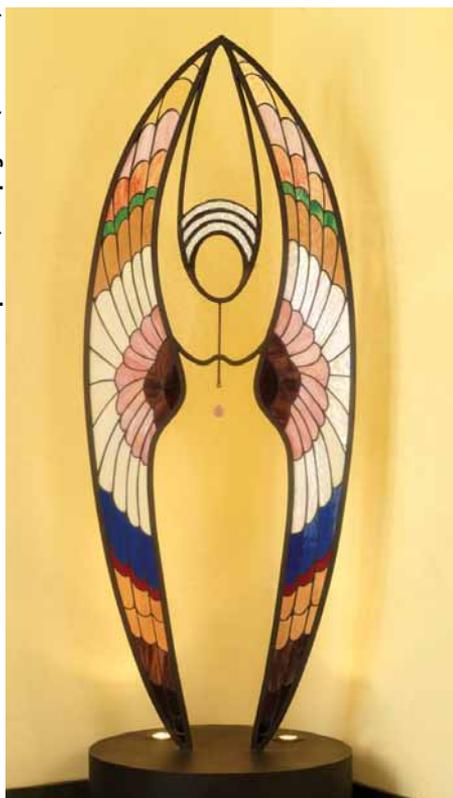
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From the Rae Frese Leeth exposition, see page 23 (ANCE BORDA)





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*If there were in the world today any large
 number of people who desired their own
 happiness more than they desired the
 unhappiness of others, we could have paradise
 in a few years. —Bertrand Russell*

I need help

An old man lived alone in the hills. He wanted to spade his potato garden, but it was very hard work. His only son, Bubba, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

Dear Bubba:

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me.

Love, Dad

A few days later, he received a letter from his son.

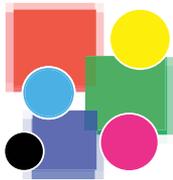
Dear Dad:

For heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up that garden. That's where I buried the BODIES.
 Love, Bubba

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local Police showed up and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day, the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Dad:

Go ahead and plant the potatoes now. It's the best I could do under the circumstances.
 Love, Bubba



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Nobody knows the age of the human race,
 but everybody agrees that it is old enough
 to know better. —Anonymous

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HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST



Masquerade

What a grand masquerade takes place on the great world stage! As Shakespeare pointed out we're all mere players with entrances and exits. The masks we've chosen reflect the parts we play. With any luck we've also selected the parts—otherwise, they were probably hand-me-downs. Our mask has become the thing we always carry around with us; it's our presentation—our storefront. Wearing a mask has become so unconscious for most of us that we even forget to take it off at night to sleep!

There's a whole spectrum of mask behaviors. Some people stick to one specific mask, while others change according to the occasion. Some hint at what lies underneath by playing peek-a-boo from behind the mask they carry on a stick. Then there are those who wouldn't consider lowering their mask until they have another one prepared beneath—they reveal themselves one mask at a time.

The need to wear a mask is strongly ingrained in us. Apart from having been a significant part of our early socialization process, wearing a mask provides a thick layer of protection. We can hide warts and all behind a mask of gold! Oscar Wilde claimed that, "Man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask, and he will tell you the truth."

While others cannot see your true face, the dramatic irony is that you cannot either! The saying is absolutely true, "He who wears a mask cannot see within himself." Look deeply at what lies beneath your mask and dare to step from behind it. Greet yourself and no longer be a stranger in a strange land.

Remember, we came into the world without a mask and we'll depart it without one, too. Meanwhile, relegate your masks to next year's masquerade ball! 



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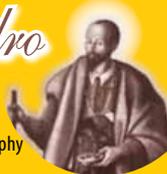
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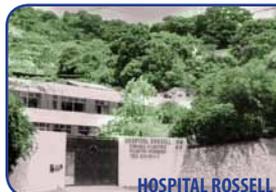
I was the kid next door's imaginary friend.
—Emo Philips



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We do what we must, and call it by the best names. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this. —Emo Phillips

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them? —Abraham Lincoln

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If your dog has stolen a dish towel or your favorite shoe, she probably wants to start a game of chase. But don't chase her or tell her to drop it unless you are 100 percent sure she will do as you ask. Instead, ignore her, walk to another room and make a trade with the most boring treat that will work. No correction, no praise for trading and no laughing at cuteness. No attention whatsoever—just makes an unemotional trade.

Nipping is a common problem for new puppy owners. Puppies play by biting each other and try to get you to play the same way. By withdrawing your attention when she nips and redirecting her toward toys, you can discourage this behavior. Remember that most forms of punishment, such as holding her mouth shut, will only reward her with attention. As you play with your pup, if she nips you, turn or walk away.

Teach your dog an acceptable way to ask for attention. If she brings you a ball, take a few minutes to play with her, even if it means interrupting what you are doing. Be consistent. You can't laugh at your dog's antics one time and get mad at her in the next time.

Be proactive. Give your dog the exercise and attention she needs. Try for 20 continuous minutes of exercise twice each day. Training your dog in obedience will also give her attention and stimulate her mind. 



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*The human race is faced with a cruel choice:
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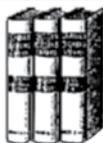


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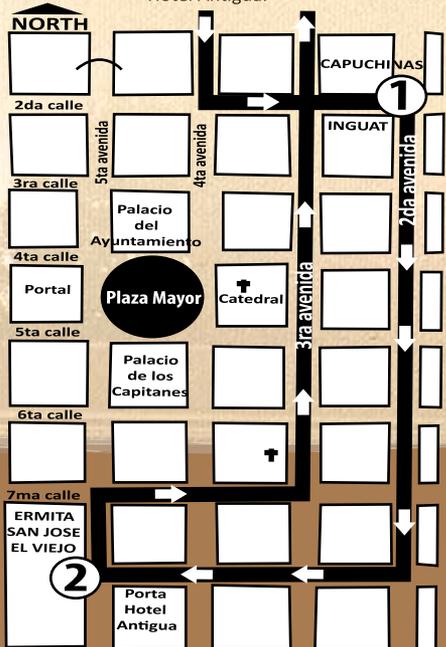
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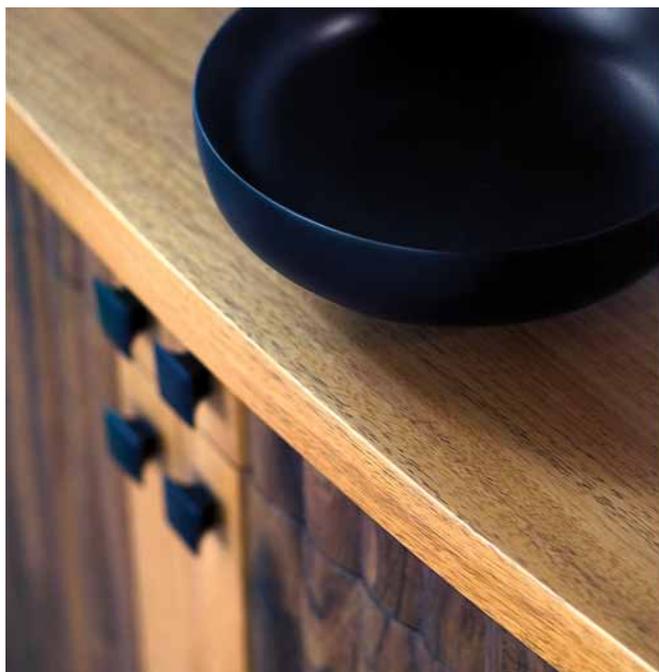


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—Bertrand Russell

If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed and color, we would find some other cause for prejudice by noon. —George Aiken

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—Jack Handey

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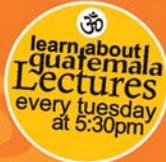
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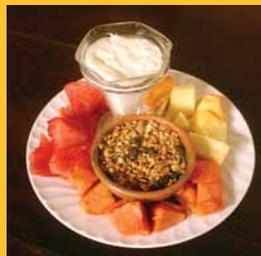
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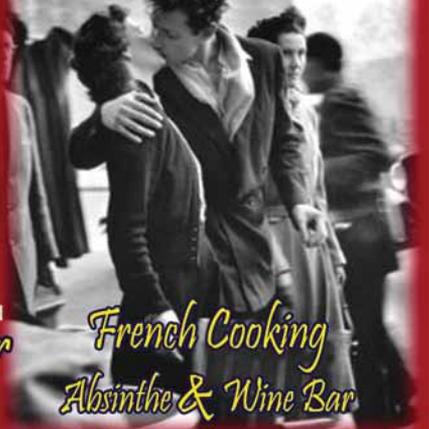
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Irma and Alma at Irma's stall in the mercado

Market Management

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Alma Diaz, an Antigüëña, offers to help me navigate the mercado. I eagerly accept

her offer, first asking about the story I heard of two friends who met at the mercado and didn't recognize each other at first. Each was "in disguise" to get the best prices: no makeup, no jewelry and old clothes. Alma agrees that it is a good idea to leave jewelry, cameras and other valuables at home, since crowded areas attract petty thieves. She also advises carrying only a plastic shopping bag and hand purse with small bills and coins.

As for getting the best prices, Alma suggests asking several vendors how much for a particular item, then choose the vendor with the best produce and make your offer based on this information. ...continued

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"Oyster" mushrooms, ichintal and plum tomatoes at Irma's stall



Alma with a woman selling guisquil at the back of the mercado



Panela (sugar) in 2½ lb. loaves at the mercado

As we weave our way through the stalls, we pass booths that offer clothing, from boxer shorts to wedding dresses; plastic piggy banks in every color; suitcases; back packs; in fact, every imaginable item. We finally arrive in the food market. Hurrying past the meat stalls, with hanging sausages, chicken and beef, our olfactory senses get a workout.

Finally, we arrive at Irma's stall, piled high with as much produce as many small supermarkets. Irma is Alma's *marchanta*, her usual go-to vendor. Alma feels that it is important to establish a relationship with a vendor, in order to receive the best produce at the best price. Although Irma is from Sumpango, she is at the main produce market in Guatemala City every morning at 4 a.m., coming back with fresh produce in time for the opening of the Antigua mercado.

Today, Irma has large, green bunches of *macuy*, *bledo* and *chipilín*, which grow naturally near Antigua. These green, leafy vegetables are responsible for the Antigüenos' nickname *panzas verdes*, says Alma. When Antigua was evacuated to present-day Guatemala City after the 1773 earthquake, those who stayed behind were said to have *panzas verdes* (green tummies) because they had only these greens to eat. Another story of the origin of the nickname is that Antigüenos eat so many locally grown avocados that they develop *panzas verdes*.

Avocados are abundant today, as are red radishes and oyster mushrooms, grown in Tecpán cooperatives. *Ichintal*, the large tan roots of the *guisquil*, plentiful from October to April, are piled high in a large, round straw basket. Prices are very low when compared with prices in the United States, and



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A basket of ajos criollos (garlic) from Irma's stall



as we buy, Irma takes a few quetzales off her initially quoted prices.

We notice commercially packaged, name-brand corn in this and other stalls and learn that products for export become available in the mercado if the exporter has excess produce.

We move on to another stall, where we buy *panela*, brown sugar, in a 2½ pound loaf. This sugar has more of a molasses taste than the modern, packaged version. We also buy a pound of *tamarindos*, long, flat, bean-shaped pods, which we'll use for a beverage. We move farther back in the market, passing smaller stalls, some selling seasonings such as the ground red *achiote*, which provides both color and flavor. There are also *ajos criollos*, tiny bulbs of garlic, which Alma says have a better flavor than the larger variety.

...continued on page 74



Vegetables Napoleon by Alma Díaz (Luis Toribio)



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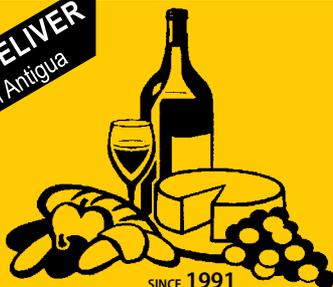
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Market Management cont. from page 70

At the very back of the market, we come to a colorful, chaotic scene. Perhaps 100 vendors are seated on the ground surrounded by produce, which they or their families have grown. The riotous color is overwhelming. From little girls to elderly women, all the vendors wear colorful, intricately woven blouses (*huipiles*) of blues, reds, greens and oranges in all shades and patterns. The sounds too are different. Conversations are in languages other than Spanish—no doubt one of the many Mayan dialects still spoken in Guatemala. Men are loudly hawking hand-carved wooden spoons and other kitchen utensils. Prices are even lower here than in the main section of the mercado.

In this area are also large trucks with their back gates open. They sell produce to some of the vendors. To get the very best prices, Alma suggests coming to the market at four in the afternoon, and buying directly from these produce trucks. 📍

*On the following page are some ideas of what
you can do with your market items.*

MARKET QUOTE

(prices from March, 2010)

- Radishes (bunch)—Q2.50
- Avocados (3-4, depending on size)—Q10
- Oyster mushrooms (1 pound)—Q20
- Ichintal (1 pound)—Q8
- Panela (2½ pound loaf)—Q6
- Tamarindo (1 pound)—Q3.50
- Bristly güisquil (1 mano)—Q2
- Zucchini (dozen)—Q4.50
- Carrots (dozen)—Q3



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Here are some recipes and tips using local produce



Tamarindo seeds

Tamarindo Drink

(Favorite Recipes from Guatemala)

This is a very refreshing drink on hot days.

5 servings:

1 cup **tamarindo** seeds, with the harder outer shell and veins removed

5 cups water

¼ cup sugar

Mix the tamarindo seeds with the water in a pitcher, let sit for 30 minutes, add sugar and stir well. Strain if desired or leave the seeds in the pitcher. Serve chilled or with ice.

Chipilín *(Kitchen Fiesta)*

The tender stem tips are cooked as one would spinach.

The following recipes are provided courtesy of Epicure Deli, La Antigua

Chorizo

2 lbs. ground pork with 20% fat (available from Epicure)

1 tsp. coarse salt

1 tsp. coarse black pepper

¼ cup cider vinegar

2 tbsp. ground **achiote**

Mix. Cover with plastic wrap. Let sit for 12 hours. Form patties and fry, or leave as loose chorizo for the following recipe.

Eggs and Chorizo

1-2 tbsp. olive oil

1 medium-sized onion, finely chopped

Loose chorizo, amount to taste

6 large eggs

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

In a 10-inch nonstick skillet heat the oil on a medium setting. Reduce the heat to low, add the onion and chorizo and cook, stirring until the onions are tender, about 10 minutes.

In a mixing bowl, whisk the eggs, salt and pepper together until frothy. Raise the heat in the skillet to medium-high, pour the eggs over the mixture and gently stir until it cooks.

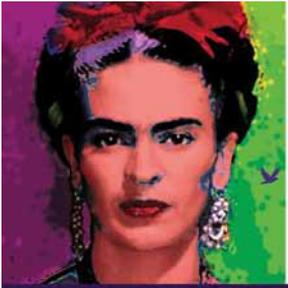
Serve on warm tortillas spread with black beans.

Ichintal

Peel and boil in salt water, 15-20 minutes, until fork tender. Slice into ½ inch rounds. Drain. Dry. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and cumin powder. Lightly dip in beaten egg and breadcrumbs. Fry in olive oil until brown. Serve hot with eggs and chorizo.



Ichintal



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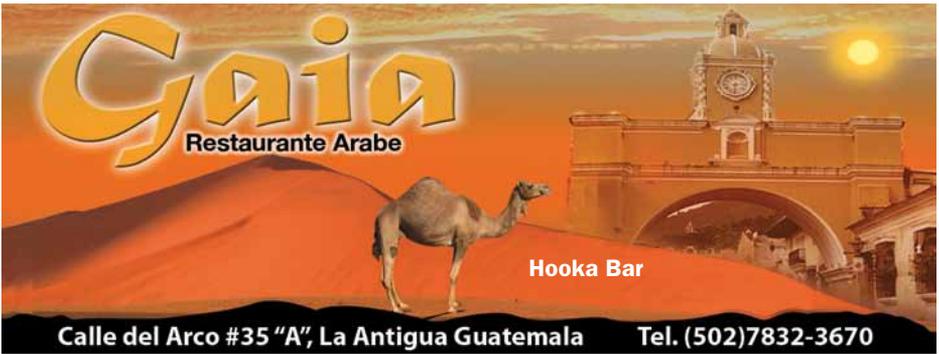
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—Evan Davis

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—William H. Mauldin



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Whack, Thunk and Oof!

A re-enactment of the ancient Mayan ball game of pok-ta-pok

Chocoguatemaya (www.chocoguatemaya.org), in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports, arranged for a re-enactment of the ancient Maya ball game of *pok-ta-pok*, in connection with its mission of preserving the Mayan chocolate culture. Corinne Willock, founder, and José Caal, the vice president, were center stage.

Containers of copal incense were lit, prayers were said and torches blazed. Traditional Mayan music played from loudspeakers as the three painted and armored ball players came to the court. The black and white skull face was a reminder of the seriousness of this game. It was a serious pastime, a ritual and a vital part of the Mayan religion. It is con-

sidered the oldest sport of mankind, dating from 2500 B.C. The most ancient court (500 B.C.) found in Guatemala is at Nakbe, Petén.* Thus far 216 courts have been discovered in Guatemala, and some 1,500 have been found throughout Mesoamerica.

The size of the courts varied but they were usually 25 by 75 feet. Built mostly from stone (though with some of wood), with inward sloping walls, the rings were set approximately 27 feet high. The ball, made out of natural rubber, was usually 10-12 inches in diameter. The players, on teams of 2-11 players, could only use their hips, thighs and forearms, and wore thick padding (and lots of body and face paint). The ball is believed to have represented the sun



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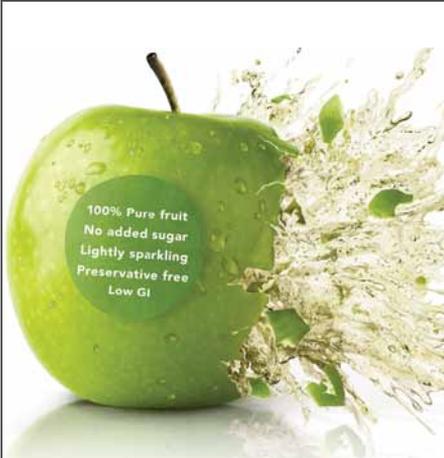


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or the moon, and the stone circle, the universe; with the court itself being the Earth. Another version of the game was presented: the ball of fire. The players brought out painted clubs, the ball was soaked in fuel and then lit ... whoosh! — field hockey the Mayan way and a lot more exciting.

Many warriors and kings played the game fiercely. Sometimes the losers lost their heads, which would be displayed later in front of the court.

The point system? Every time the ball went through the circle, two points were awarded to that team, two points were taken away from the losing side and the game ended at nine points. It's been said that sometimes the game would go on for two to three days. It is and was a spectacle of clouds of incense, fire and fiercely painted warriors. It made the Super Bowl look like a Girl Scout jamboree. 



* *Nakbe, Petén* – also mentioned in *El Mirador* article, page 16.

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Pancho Toralla and Tonibelle entertain the schoolchildren at an El Teatro Escolar en Antigua event

El Teatro Escolar en Antigua

El Teatro Escolar en Antigua works to promote art and culture by encouraging and exposing young people to creativity and artistic sensitivity.

In March 2007 artist Pacho Toralla and his company Robalunas performed *Calle Luna* for the inauguration of the Teatro Escolar in La Antigua Guatemala. One hundred and thirty students from the Colonial Bilingüe enjoyed themselves, for many this was their first time attending a theatrical performance that included music, dance, acrobatics and jokes.

Next, children from Arco Iris came to see *La Liebre y La Tortuga* performed by Compañía Scenium, then later children from Compostela attended a performance of *El Gato con Botas* presented by the Compañía de La Universidad Popular. In all there have been 35 theatrical events attended by more than 4,500 students from 40 schools in Antigua.

Thanks to the support of school principals, teachers and sponsors, including Fundación G&T, El Teatro Escolar en Antigua continues to expand its mission.

This year El Teatro Escolar en Antigua plans to present plays that will bring joy and laughter to young audiences, *Circo de Panchorizo*, *Restaurante Los Malafachas*, *Cuentos al Derecho y al Revés*, and *Sol y La Luna*. As well, we'll present the story of the *Popol Vuh* told by puppets; we will have plays that teach children to respect and take care of the environment like *Basurita a Tu Lugar* and *El Árbol Amigo*. And of course we can't forget music and dance by the Masters Collado and Rosales and Bette's dance *Desde La Tierra*, *Marimba Femenina de Conciertos and Grupo Aj* from Comalapa with Mayan music and poetry.

Wish List: Donations, both monetary and in kind; also, we'd love to have a theater with curtains, lights and seating 🍷

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My one regret in life is that I am not someone else. —Woody Allen

We are the people our parents warned us about. —Jimmy Buffett



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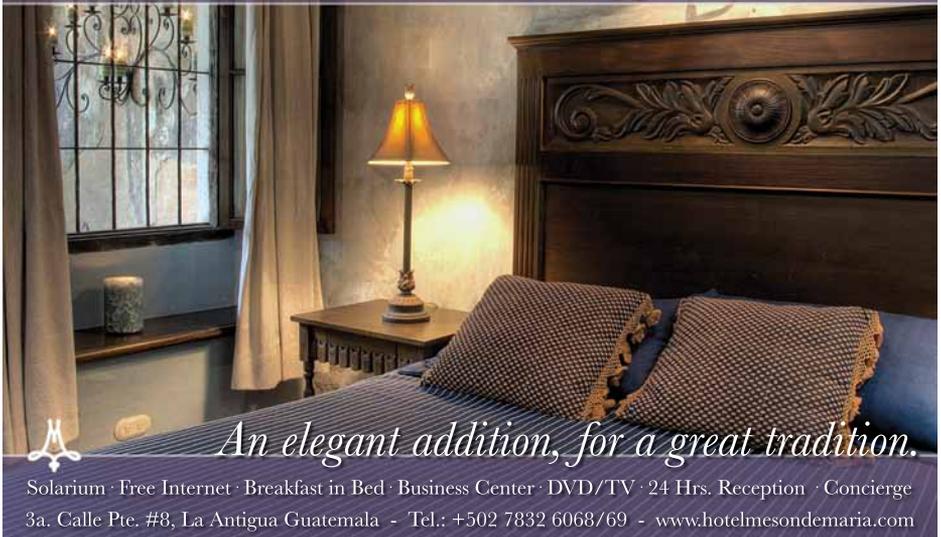
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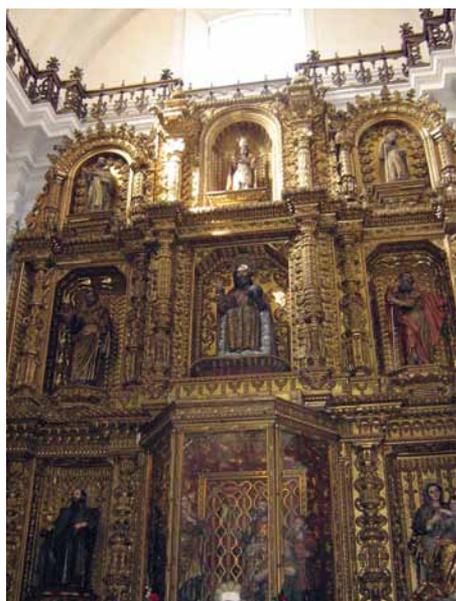
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Faithful Treasures cont. from page 21

Looking to the future, yet to be restored is the remaining hospital part of the monastery. The goal is to house the archives of the archbishop and a school for art conservation and restoration of all kinds—sculpture, painting, textiles, paper, musical instruments. But for now the walls are still covered with hospital-green, 4-inch ceramic tile, the white tile floors broken here and there to reveal original foundations, drains and another stone entrance ramp.

Among the colonial church treasures moved to the new La Merced Church is the organ, which has been called the most beautiful in Guatemala and was played at the church inauguration in 1813. Refurbished in 1960 and 2002, music resounds from the lead pipes and horizontal trumpets, returning the organ, like the church and its treasures, to its original dignity. ◀



(ABOVE) Baroque altar inside La Merced Church, Guatemala City
(BELOW) Organ of colonial La Merced Church, moved to the church in the new capital



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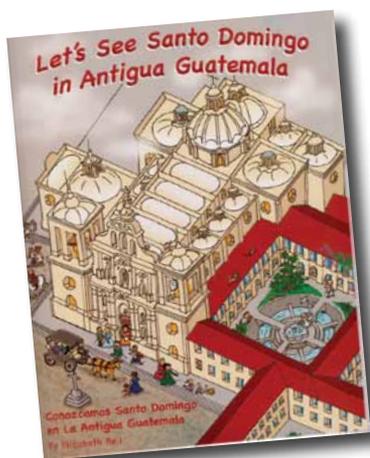
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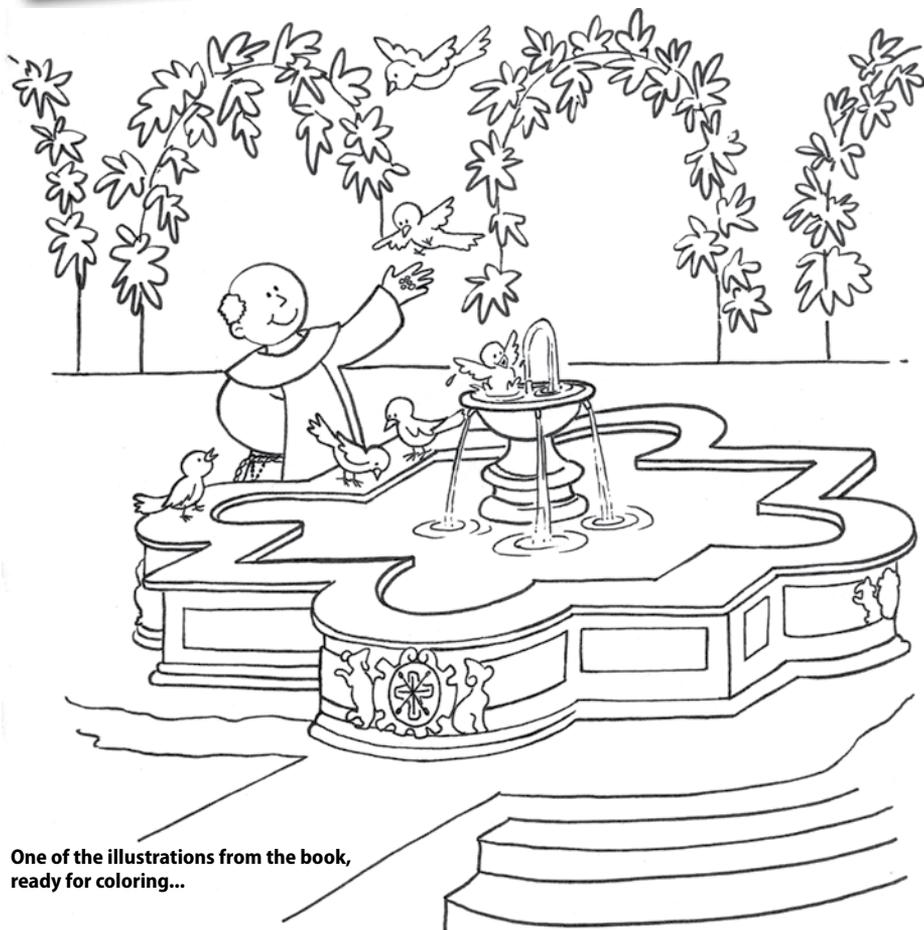
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The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take valves out, fix 'em, put 'em back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come I get such a small salary and you get the really big bucks, when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over, and whispered to the mechanic... "Try doing it with the engine running."

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Dr. Hansen with a frieze depicting the Hero Twins

El Mirador cont. from page 17

its original painted sculptures. Meantime, I rested on the cool 2,000-year-old stone steps in darkness. My reputation was now sealed, of course, as the wimp of the group.

La Danta temple may just be the biggest in the world. It has more mass than the Great Pyramid of Egypt, 2.8 million cubic yards vs 2.6 million. It is not as tall but has more mass. It is, however, the tallest of all Maya temples, I recall 250 feet. The base platform of La Danta is 300 meters on a side. The view from the top is spectacular. One can see north to Mexico and the ruins of Calakmul, as well as Tintal and Nakbe. Many bumps on the horizon are temples, parts of other cities.

El Mirador was a rich and powerful city-state. Rather than locate near a river or a lake, the Maya chose the location for its swampy lands. The swamps were turned into fertile agricultural fields, which became the base of the wealth of El Mirador. Trade with other cities was made convenient by the sacbes.

An early, perhaps the earliest, script in the Mayan world has been found here. One small sample, on Stelae #2 is only about six inches square, not large enough to work with for translating. It may date as early as 300 B.C. No doubt many more discoveries will be made as the site has only begun to have any significant excavation.

Already a beautiful frieze has been excavated, photos of which have hit the newspapers in Guatemala and the U.S. It portrays the Hero Twins of the *Popul Vuh*, one of them

swimming carrying his father's head, returning from the underworld. The frieze is of limestone and plaster, all covered with a pure white powder. But when Dr. Hansen wet his finger and touched the powder, a blood-red color came through. This monument was painted red, as was almost all in the city. The frieze is in nearly perfect condition and deserves a permanent protective covering, or a building to house it. Cost is \$150,000. Donations gratefully accepted!

The next morning the group split up. We were four who wanted to visit Tikal. So together with Dr. Hansen we took the first flight out. He pointed out the sacbes and other cities that appeared as mere bumps on the distant landscape. He showed us the cleared areas that were actually *bajos* or swamps, as the Maya had encountered 2,600 years ago and made into fertile agricultural fields. He showed us massive present-day deforestation, the illegal encroachment into the park for lumbering or cattle grazing (narco cattle he called them), miles and miles of forest cleared. He talked with twinkle in his eye, proud of his project and left us greatly appreciative and impressed.

We arrived in time for Dr. Hansen's 9:30 a.m. lecture at a conference room just off the helipad. The lecture hall was full, awaiting the rather dramatic arrival of Dr. Hansen, stepping off the chopper. Dr. Hansen returned to El Mirador after his lecture while we continued on to Tikal.

The Tikal trip was really interesting because of the comparisons: excavated and restored vs not; Classic vs. pre-classic. Visiting the famous central plaza flanked by two acropolises and temples 1 and 2 made it incredible to realize that all this could fit under El Tigre of El Mirador. It made us really appreciate, once again, the massive size of El Mirador.

So now I can say I have made it to El Mirador. If anyone wants to go, give me a call. Maybe we can make another trip, but I will not climb temples in the dark, and I will bring a good flashlight. 📡

Note from the author: Any factual errors are mine, not Dr. Hansen's.

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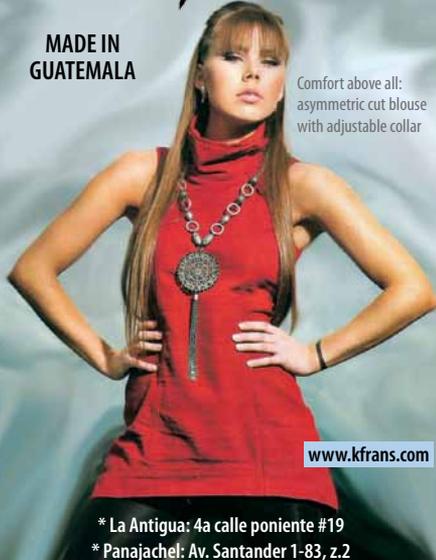


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—Friedrich Nietzsche

*Nobody realizes that some people expend
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—Albert Camus

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Bougainvillea cont. from page 42

And bougainvillea has some special attributes that endear it. We have all looked up, and up and up and up, and seen bougainvillea growing high in other trees. How did it get 60, 70, 100 feet up? Since it has no tendrils with which to grasp, bougainvillea must grow out and flop over a nearby branch, ever higher and higher. A true triumph of perseverance.

Not only does bougainvillea achieve the seemingly impossible by climbing without

tendrils, it is easy to start and can easily grow 10 meters in a season. There is no better flower to show a child how to start a plant, which can become a lifelong love. Simply cut a 10- to 14-inch piece, not too green, and stick it in sunny, moist ground, thorns pointing down. Within a few weeks buds will appear on the stem and your new bougainvillea is off to the races.

Bougainvillea makes an impenetrable barrier against intruders, although birds flit in and out to their nests, safe from cats, weasels or other predators.



What you think is a flower is the showy bract, with the tiny real flower in the center. Just follow the hummingbirds.

Build a bower of bougainvillea, the sunlight filtering through the bracts is truly ethereal.

Where can you find bougainvillea? You can “borrow,” with permission of course, cuttings from a neighbor. Guatemala’s spectacular plant nurseries always have bougainvillea available.

Up over the hill from Guatemala’s colonial capital or down the Pacific road from Guatemala City, about 16 kilometers from each, is the national agricultural university at Barcenas. Rows and rows of flowers and other plants are available for sale, including mature bougainvillea. Barcenas is a national treasure, free to enter and a fantasyland for plant enthusiasts.

Here is my bougainvillea dream. There are over 200 classified colors of bougainvillea. My prior favorite was San Diego Red, until a beautiful English blonde from York, near Carlisle of course, bought me a beautiful yellow bougainvillea in Oaxaca. I dream of someone reading this paean to the new national flower, discovering a new shade and classifying it as La Antigua Amarillo, propagating it and making it world famous. 📌

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Lake Views cont. from page 22

else seems to love coffee. So, every two or three years, I try a cup to see if the taste has “improved.”

Each time brings not a liking for coffee, but the old suspicion that Jiffy Lube has found a way to recycle what they bleed from dirty crankcases. Then they mix it with ground wormwood, put it in bags, and sell it to the instant coffee factory. The vaunted bouquets are imparted by adding a few drops of synthetic essences, almond or vanilla or whatever, to the mix.

We, the one-half percent of the population who do not like coffee, may be the world’s last unrecognized minority. As spokesman for this oppressed group, I would point out that nonsmokers do not have to sit in smoking sections in restaurants, and in Guatemala they never have to tolerate tobacco in any public place. I am not asking for that; but we should at least have coffee-drinking and non-coffee-drinking sections. That, and maybe Coffee Hater’s Awareness Month. I mean, let’s be fair.

That all said, it would be unfair to dismiss all the myriad social and esthetic benefits of coffee to the other 99 percent. Just because I do not “do” coffee does not mean it that it has nothing to offer. In fact, it has much.

Aside from its value as a conversation prop—think of all the friendships that begin in the presence of coffee—it has recently been discovered that coffee is quite rich in antioxidants. I can think of other ways to get these, of course. No one is quite calling it a health food yet, perhaps because dark chocolate is also on this list, and

calling chocolate a health food smacks of rationalization. But, considered objectively, it may qualify.

So the question of worth, when one concedes the social and health benefits of coffee (and puts aside all subjectivity on the elusive “butteriness,” etc.), then becomes one of impact on the economy and the environment. Coffee is indeed social, but is it socially responsible?

The answer may be that it depends on the source. Tuna canneries now indicate whether their product is “dolphin” friendly. So what about coffee? Demand for it goes on growing, and in places like Kenya coffee plantations are displacing elephant habitats (I personally prefer a world without coffee to one without elephants, but I have said enough on that).

In Guatemala, and particularly the Atilán Basin, there is responsibility on every level I have witnessed. The large coffee *finqueros* in the region are increasingly raising the lot of their workers, via noblesse or under the compulsion of old laws with new teeth. The machinery of fair trade is in place, enabling small growers to get a fair wage for their toil. And the coffee bushes that were planted with the help of Rotarian money following Hurricane Stan yielded their first harvest in 2009. Finally, the coffee of our region is prize-winning Arabica.

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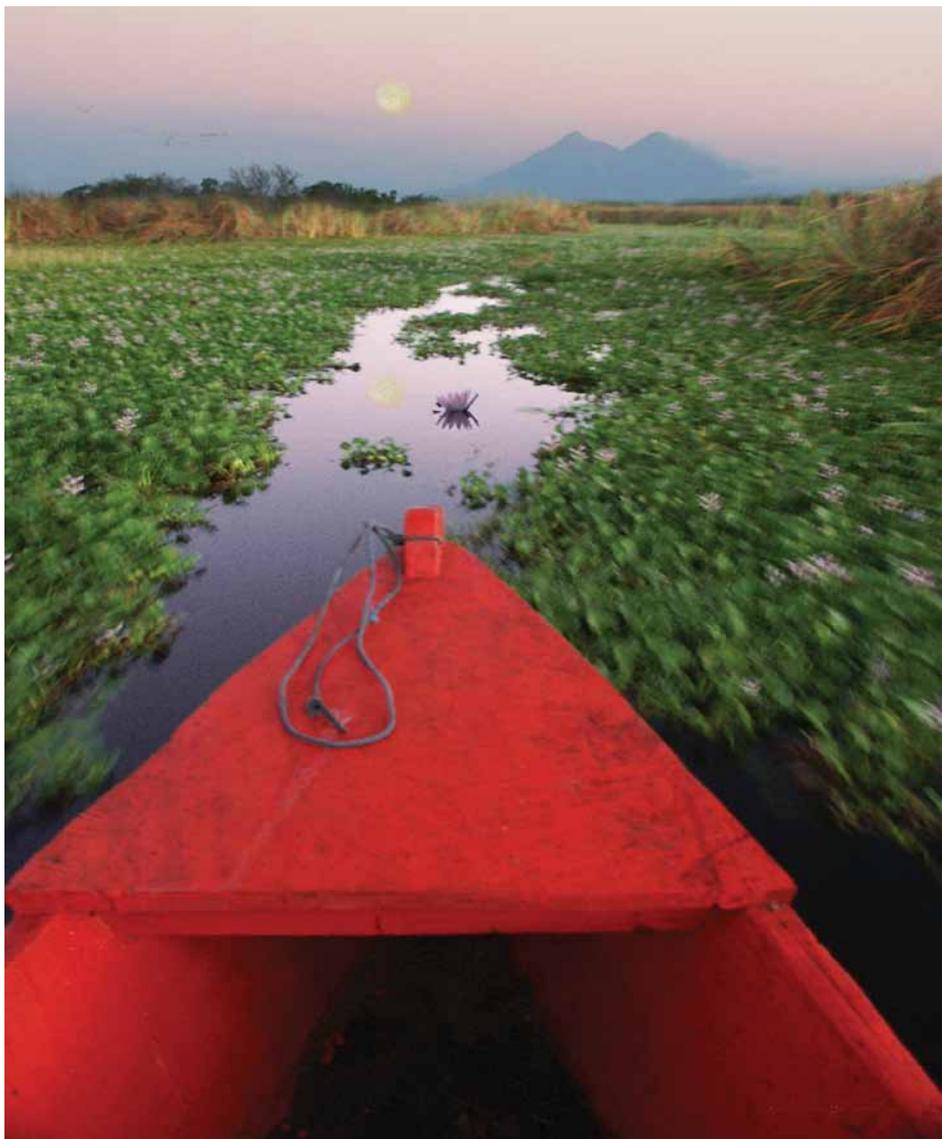


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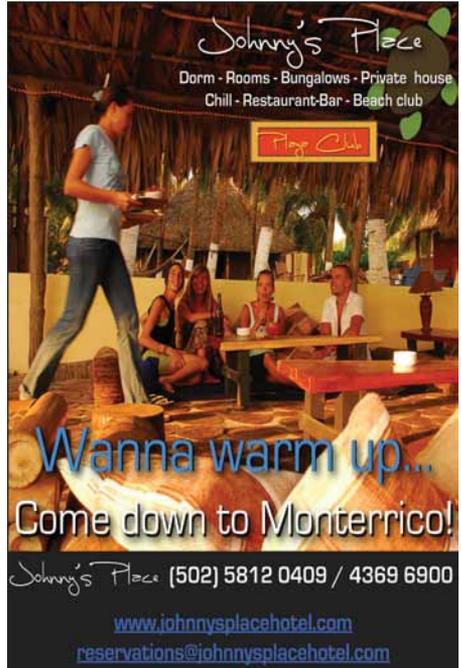


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Seasonal Scents

Breathe deep and enjoy some of the rich scents of this Lenten season! Enjoy the odors of Holy Week, with two pungent yet pleasant smells standing out in your memory. Use all your senses at the processions. See the colors of the carpets and vestments, hear the funeral bands and shuffle of feet, taste the incense smoke in the mouth, feel the press of the crowds (just watch out for the press of a pickpocket against you, please). And don't forget to smell the roses, quite literally as thousands of rose petals will decorate those elegant *alfombras*, the intricate carpets made along procession routes.

Carpets can include citrus peels, chrysanthemum blossoms, spicy carnations, sweet hyacinth, each scent distinct yet blended pleasantly.

Great bundles of pine needles give base to many *alfombras* as they give off the smell of nearby forests. Sawdust, collected all year from local mills and furniture factories and dyed to give intricate detail on many *alfombras*, adds its own earthy odor.

The two standout smells that you'll always identify with this season? One is the intense, sweet odor of a sticky golden fiber from inside the pods of several different types of palm trees. The pods themselves, several feet long and carried up from the coast, then split open in the shape of boats, are often used on carpets. The fibers scooped out from inside form crosses for doorway decorations. They

are woven together with static flowers to form gold-and-purple symbols of the coming Crucifixion, blessed and sold at the doorway of churches on Palm Sunday. Palm fibers are also used as borders and edges along many of the *alfombras*. You'll never forget their distinct odor once you experience it.

Neither will you forget the *pom* incense, the crystallized tree sap burned to smudge and bless the procession routes. Some of the incense-bearers get particularly enthusiastic in swinging their braziers with smoldering *pom*, and the streets get thick with smoke. Sometimes the *pom* catches fire, the flames coming out of the silver container until the *cucurucho* swinging it snuffs out the fire. The incense is the other odor of your memories of Holy Week.

Yes, there are some less-pleasant odors too. The Roman soldiers, or rather their horses, add some farmyard piles on the cobbled streets as they ride before dawn on Good Friday to announce the Crucifixion. Cleanup crews with Bobcats and dump trucks sweeping up after the processions add unpleasant diesel smoke, though Antigua city government is converting most of their vehicles to a bio-fuel that's much more pleasant, with their trucks smelling like burgers and fries.

Carry home lots of photos and videos of these holy celebrations. And carry home memories of the pungent scents, too. You'll never forget the experience. 

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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 www.spanishforlove.org

CLUB ROTARIO: Meets every Wednesday 7pm at Porta Hotel Antigua. (Last Wed. of the month, please call Flor). 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: 7849-5970, 7832-5653 mardugan@earthlink.net progres3@gmail.com

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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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 There is a 'me', though, if you jumble it up.*
 —David Shore



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We would like to hear about your experiences of living and travelling in Guatemala and also tell you about how the British Embassy can help you.

Join us for a meeting where you will be able to learn about our online registration service LOCATE through the following website www.fco.gov.uk/travel and our consular services.

When? 14 April at 12:00 hrs

Where? Café Bourbon
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If you require more information contact the British Embassy on 3860 1324, 3860 1312 or by e-mail: consular.guatemala@fco.gov.uk

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 'Boy, that guy sure owed me a lot of money.'*
 —Jack Handey

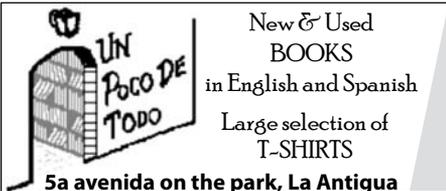


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—Winston Churchill

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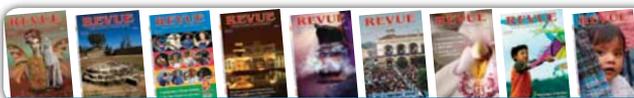
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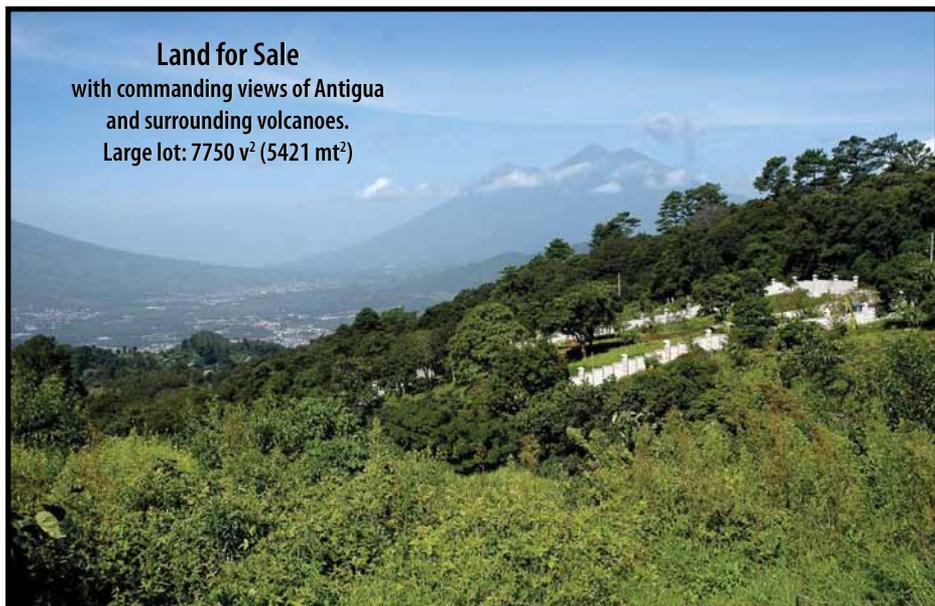
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The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory. —Howard Zinn

A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own, and not in what it can borrow from others. —Indira Gandhi

Property Measurements

- 1 Caballería = 45.12 Hectares
- 1 Hectare = 2.4 Acres = 1.43 Manzanas
- 1 Manzana = 1.7 Acres = 6 Cuerdas
- 1 Manzana = 6988 mts² = 10,000 varas²
- 1 mt² = 1.431 vara² = 1.197 yards²



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PLAYA EL TUNCO

by **Roxana Revolone** photos: Lena Johannessen

No longer in the shadow of its more-famous neighbors Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, El Salvador is now positioning itself on the tourist map as a more-than-attractive destination. The internationally recognized *Lonely Planet* list of “10 Best Tourist Destinations in the Word of 2010” includes, for the first time, this tiny Central American country as a not-to-miss destination.

As you think La Antigua when you think of Guatemala, the word on everyone’s lips when it comes to El Salvador is Playa El Tunco. Although the country is brimming with amazing places to visit, this small surfing beach has turned into a meeting point of international tourists as no other place in the country.

The morning starts with the first rays of sun that color the scenery while eager bodies carry their surfboards to dive into the first waves of the day. After enjoying the morning waves or just a refreshing swim in the warm Pacific waters, visitors can choose from a variety of breakfast options for the first meal of the day. There’s something here for every budget and taste, but all with one thing in common—the view of the natural rock just offshore that from one angle looks like a pig (therefore, its native name El Tunco, Salvadoran slang for pig).

El Tunco is not only for surfers; families and folks of all ages flock here to walk on the black volcanic beach, get a tan, fish or go snorkeling, kayaking or kite surfing.





This area has turned into a vibrant destination, and each year new businesses serving foreign tourists open their doors.

In the past tourists had little to choose from other than surfing lessons and some restaurants. Now visitors can choose from a wide range of services such as internet cafés, coffee shops, convenience stores, arts and crafts, surf board rental and repair, vehicle and motorbike rentals, guide

services and tours, pizzerias and vegetarian restaurants.

The beautiful sunsets of Playa El Tunco are ideal backdrops for practicing yoga or taking a romantic walk along the beach. Afterward, visiting one of the many bars or enjoying live music by candle light on the beach may be an appealing way to end the day and to charge your batteries for another day in the sun. 📍

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Every improvement in communication makes the bore more terrible.

—Frank Moore Colby

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Doing nothing is very hard to do ... you never know when you're finished.

—Leslie Nielsen

Think twice before you speak, and then you may be able to say something more insulting than if you spoke right out at once.

—Evan Esar

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*Maybe this world is
another planet's hell.
—Aldous Huxley*

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*Of those who say nothing,
few are silent.*

—Thomas Neill



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