

# REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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June 2011  
Year 20, No. 4

FREE



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- ◆ The Mysterious World of Maximón
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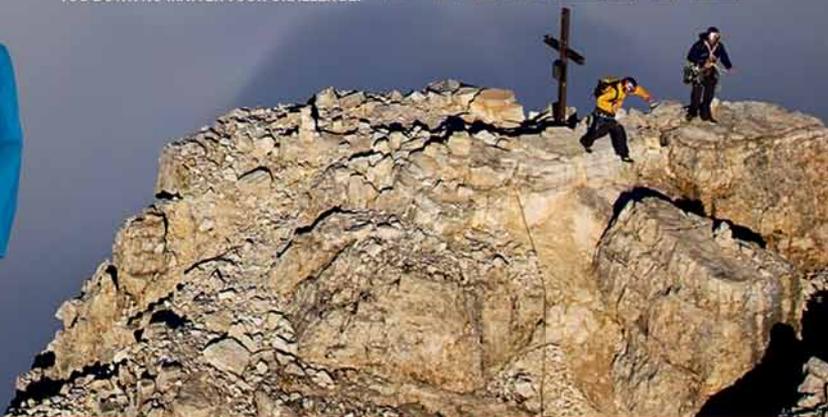
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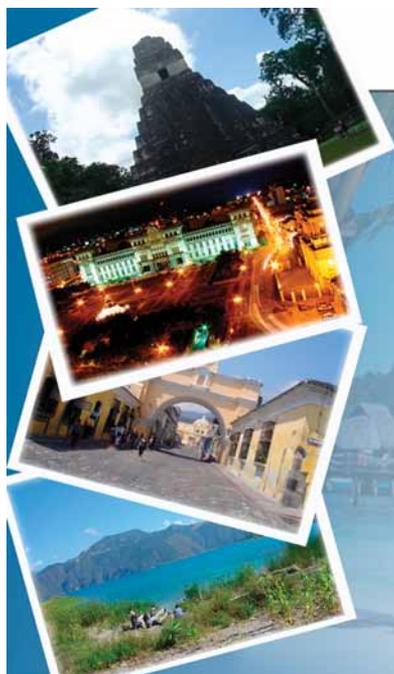
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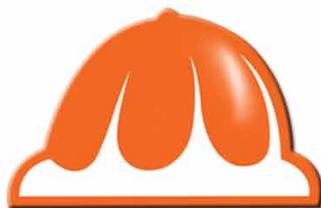
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SÁBADO

18

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by Harry Díaz [www.flickr.com/harrydiaz](http://www.flickr.com/harrydiaz)



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## FROM THE EDITOR

This month's cover story features the gem of the Highlands, Quetzaltenango (aka Xela), Guatemala's second-largest city which is widely regarded as the country's cultural capital. The story by Xela resident Blake Nelson points out the highlights, accompanied by photos, including our cover shot, by Quetzaltenango's foremost photographer Harry Díaz.

The enigma of Maximón is the topic of Thor Janson's article and photos. At odds with the Catholic Church for centuries, the cult of Maximón flourishes in northern Mesoamerica, with thousands of chapels in Guatemala alone.

With June comes Father's Day as well as a new crop of interesting fruits in farmer's markets across Guatemala. Kate Witt gives us a rundown on page 60.

Among the many NGOs making a difference here is Safe Passage, working with children and families in the Guatemala City dump. Volunteer Hannah Wallace Bowman provides her account on page 42.

Looking for an interesting daytrip that offers a little of everything near La Antigua? Catch a free shuttle to Finca Filadelfia. Tanya Hughes tells us what it's like.

We also have stories on those interesting brooms made of royal palm, the monument to Nobel Laureate Miguel Ángel Asturias, the white-tailed deer, and an update on Habitat for Humanity—plus a long list of events, fairs and cultural activities in Date-Book, so dig in.

—Matt Bokor

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**Publishers:** John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

**Editor:** Matt Bokor

**Staff Writer:** Dwight Wayne Coop

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

**Photography:** César Tián

**Proofreader:** Jennifer Rowe

**Contributing Photographers:**

Club Fotográfico de Guatemala: www.clubfotografico.org

**La Antigua Manager:** César Tián

**Production Director:** Mercedes Mejicanos

**Administrative Assistant:** Andrea Santiago

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

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

**Maintenance:** Silvia Gómez, María Solís

**Sales Representatives:** Ivonne Pérez, César Tián, Denni Marsh, Fernando Rodas, Lucy Longo de Pérez, Lena Johannessen, Lesbia Leticia Macal Elias

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## REVUE OFFICES:

### LA ANTIGUA

6a calle poniente #2 (Central Office)

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### GUATEMALA CITY

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**SAN CRISTÓBAL:** Denni Marsh Tel: 2478-1649 Fax: 2485-5039

**EL SALVADOR** revue.elsalvador@gmail.com

**El Salvador Regional Manager:** Lena Johannessen Col. Centroamérica Calle San Salvador #202, San Salvador Tel/Fax: (503) 2260-7475, 2260-1825 Cel: 7981-4517

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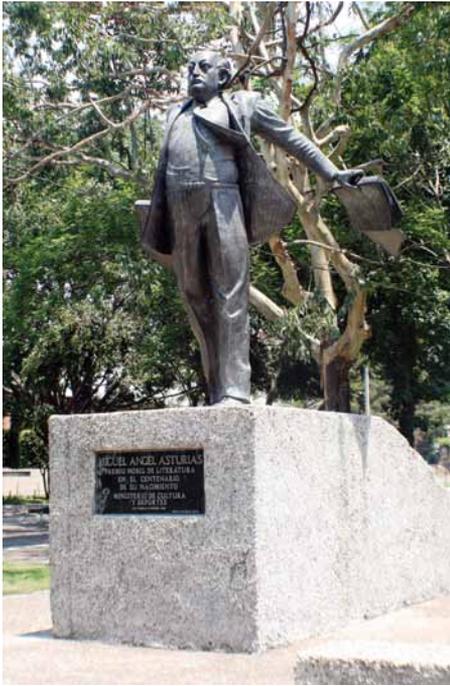
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**Monument to Miguel Ángel Asturias,  
Avenida La Reforma, zone 10,  
Guatemala City**

## Miguel Ángel Asturias

One hundred years after his birth, Guatemala honored the life of its exiled, Nobel Prize-winning poet, Miguel Ángel Asturias, by placing a statue of him on one of the main streets of its capital city. Made entirely of bronze, the full-body sculpture was the masterpiece of Max Leiva and celebrates the memory of the prolific writer.

Depicted in formal clothing with his head held high, the 10-foot-tall statue of Asturias appears to be strolling down Avenida La Re-

forma with papers billowing out from the books he is holding. Originally, the sheets cascaded from his hands all the way down to the ground, but shortly after the sculpture was completed, vandals pilfered the bronze pieces.

Historians have since remarked that the defacing of the controversial poet's statue only serves to increase its symbolism throughout the country. Carlos René García Escobar commented that: "Miguel without pages is a paradox;" just as people tried to silence his work in life, they are now trying to do the same in death.

Born in Guatemala City in 1899, Asturias studied law at the University of San Carlos before moving to Paris in the 1920s. While in Europe, he wrote one of his most famous novels, *El Señor Presidente*, which remained unpublished until 1946 due to its political content. After decades of living in exile as a result of his radical views, Asturias received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1967.

It was only after his death in Madrid seven years later that Guatemala acknowledged its award-winning poet and novelist's contribution to writing. However, despite being credited as modernizing Latin American literature, Miguel Ángel Asturias remains relatively unknown among the majority of schoolchildren across the country today. 📖



# QUETZALTENANGO

*Guatemala's second (and maybe best) city*

I spent my first year out of college teaching in Puerto Cortés, Honduras, and a typical conversation went like this:

LOCAL: Do you like living here?

ME: I love it!

LOCAL: Really? I don't.

ME: Let's change the subject!

After to moving to Quetzaltenango (commonly known as Xela, from the Mayan Xelajú), I was struck by another recurring conversation:

EX-PAT: How long do you think you'll stay here?

ME: I don't know.

EX-PAT: I was only supposed to stay for 10 days...that was in 1979.

My wife and I quickly found out why. Xela draws you in for all the right reasons. My former statement about Honduras wasn't a total lie (what was I supposed to say?), but there's something about this city that makes you want to stay a while.

Xela is the Goldilocks of Central America: Everything is just right. It's big but not massive, cold but not freezing, set apart but not isolated. Europeans come for Xela's world-renowned language schools; indigenous women sell the freshest pineapples you could ask for; and *ladino* teenagers in skinny jeans frequent the clubs that dot downtown.

It's also a good headquarters in the High-



LEFT PAGE: Quetzaltenango's central park and cathedral ABOVE: Interior of the Quetzaltenango Municipal Theatre, and the front gardens of Quetzaltenango's Municipal Palace

## **“In the area are day hikes, resorts, hostels, water parks, Mayan ruins, language schools, zip lines and plenty more.”**

lands: Nearby are day hikes (Volcán de Santa María is a gorgeous, if grueling, climb); resorts and hostels (IRTRA and La Unión de Santa Anita provide two extremes); Mayan ruins; and zip-lining. So, there's a good chance you'll extend your layover a few extra days—if not months or years.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Xela was battling with Guatemala City for national supremacy after losing its fight to be Central America's independent “sixth state.” Xela is sort of Guatemala's Texas; it rivaled the capital in size, scope and cultural importance—until

an earthquake in 1902 leveled the place. Yet the damage was a mixed blessing, for Xela has largely escaped overpopulation, violent crime and urban sprawl.

Xela now prides itself as Guatemala's cultural capital, and the attractive mix of Spanish colonial architecture with a Greco-Roman flair won't let you forget it.

A walking tour of the city is interesting, but the cemetery deserves a special highlight. On Day of the Dead (Nov. 1) last year my uncle finally succumbed to a ...continued on page 98

For Quetzaltenango and the Highlands travel information, package tours and more visit [www.adrenalinatours.com](http://www.adrenalinatours.com) or your local travel and tour operator.



Photos (clockwise):  
Girl from Santiago Atitlán in ceremonial attire with Maximón headdress;  
Commercial images of Maximón come in many sizes and are on sale throughout Guatemala;  
Two worshipers in San Andrés Itzapa receive a ritualistic cleansing;  
Worshippers climb the stairs leading to the altar





Maximón ceremony in San Lucas Tolimán

**TRADITION** text and photos by Thor Janson [www.bushmanollie.com](http://www.bushmanollie.com)

# MAXIMÓN

*Mayan Patron Saint is an enigma*

**T**here is not a town or village in the entire Mayan Highlands where the presence of Maximón is not being asserted. Although the guide books for many years have only listed three Maximón shrines—San Andrés Itzapa, Zunil and Santiago Atitlán—there are literally thousands of Maximón temples and chapels all over Guatemala.

Maximón vies for importance with the principal Catholic saints, and the church has been waging war on him for 500 years with but little success. The cult of Maximón flourishes all over northern Mesoamerica.

But who is this Maximón? Maximón is an enigma. Some scholars will tell you that that

he is a corruption of the Catholic San Simón. Others will tell you the “indigenous saint” is most definitely pre-Columbian in origin. Many scholarly articles and even entire books have been written about him, but no one can agree about just exactly who he is or what his origins are. He is present in many, if not most Mayan shamanic temples. His figure can also be seen in seedy bars in Chimaltenango. His best-known physical appearance is that of a Spanish overlord, although he can just as easily take the form of a primitive stone idol or even an extra-terrestrial.

Maximón plays a prominent role during Holy Week in which he morphs into Judas Iscariot and is seen paraded ...continued on page 100



*Deer are among the 10 most commonly depicted animals on Mayan vases, plates and bowls of the Late Classic period.*

**A**lthough two species of deer inhabit the Mayan heartland, the white-tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, is the one usually depicted in Mayan art. For the Classic Maya, the deer was in some ways as important as the jaguar, monkey and snakes.

Plus, its meat was a major source of protein. Deer-hunting scenes are clearly depicted on 7th-8th century Chama-style vases. There are also a series of mold-made vases. It is not always clear if these came from the

Motagua Valley area or from the Escuintla area. The same set of deer scenes is depicted over and over again, as is typical of mold-made decorations in ancient times. Considering that deer were sacred and edible, some of the hunting scenes contain ritual enactments. The Maya ate almost every animal that was available to them, but other than the elusive tapir, the deer is about the largest and most common game animal in Petén, Yucatán, Chiapas and Belize. ...continued on page 88

**ABOVE: White-tailed deer at AutoSafari Chapin**  
(Nicholas M. Hellmuth)

**RIGHT: Quiché urn with deer motif** (courtesy of Museo de Arte Precolombino y Vidrio Moderno, Casa Santo Domingo)

**FAR RIGHT: Mayan deer whistle**  
(courtesy of Museo de Arte Precolombino y Vidrio Moderno, Casa Santo Domingo)



# Clean Sweep

*Hand crafting the not-so-simple palm frond broom*

**P**alma real (royal palm) grows in Guatemala's hot climatic regions, and many products can be made from the fronds of this tree. Custom dictates that the harvest takes place three days before the full moon, after which

the fronds are dried and split into strips. The outer part of the strip is used for hats and the inner section turned into brooms. Palm can also be woven into baskets, around rum bottles or made into *petates* (mats).

...continued on page 38



Before the brooms make it to market to be sold, numerous labor-intensive steps are involved.



The author prepares to fly along one of the nine zip lines

# Finca Filadelfia

*A luxury getaway on a coffee plantation*

**“The hardest part is stepping off the edge,”** my canopy-

tour guide said encouragingly.

Dubiously, I peered over the 40-foot drop. After a couple of deep breaths I took that step and I was flying through the air, held securely in place by my harness. Both youngsters and adults can line up for a ride on one of the nine zip lines at Finca Filadelfia, located just outside La Antigua Guatemala. Reassured by the double safety line and my friendly guides Marisou and Eric, I too relaxed and enjoyed the breathtaking ride and views.

My first impression of Finca Filadelfia was the complimentary shuttle that picked me up in Antigua. Not only was it on time, the fun-to-ride, open-air shuttle truck was

equipped with working seatbelts and a guide. I noticed and appreciated the small but meaningful attention to detail that set the tone for the rest of my visit.

Soon to be renamed the **Filadelfia Coffee Resort**, the complex has evolved into a must-visit destination. Thanks to the vision of owner Roberto Dalton, the site encompasses a 700-acre coffee plantation, a luxury resort, restaurants, zip lines, eco touring, including bird watching, mule rides and mountain biking—and, of course, coffee tours! It is the perfect place to go for day trips or extended stays, for families, foodies and adventurers alike.

**The coffee tour was fascinating.** I doubt I will ever look at a bag of coffee quite the same way again, and I ...continued on page 116



Young mother and her newborn at the AMA clinic



Some of the staff and volunteers of Manos Abiertas

## People & Projects by Hannah Freiwald

# Asociación Manos Abiertas

**A**sociación Manos Abiertas (AMA) was founded in March 2008 in response to the urgent need for reproductive health services in Ciudad Vieja. Our mission is to offer a safe and welcoming place where health services are provided for women by women, in a respectful and confidential manner without discrimination. We strive to treat the woman as a whole, in an environment where they feel safe to express, think and make decisions for themselves.

### Accomplishments

Since we started Manos Abiertas (Open Hands), we have become a trusted haven for women's health and have served over 1,700 women, most of whom have become regular clients. Due to the incredible community support we received in Ciudad Vieja, we opened a second clinic in zone 11 of Guatemala City last July.

### Services

We offer gynecological services, family planning counseling and obstetric services, including pre- and post-natal visits, and humanized birth. Additionally, we provide free pediatric and psychological services twice a

week, emergency care, referrals to legal services and weekly educational radio shows on local station Radio Colonial.

We have just started our Sponsor a Birth Program, where we match donors with women who have the desire, but not the resources, to give birth at our clinics. Sponsoring a birth is a direct and effective way to help address issues of access to women's health care in Guatemala. By supporting a woman's birth, you are giving her the ability to choose and control the path of her birth. For a donation of \$125 you can sponsor a natural, humanized birth for women who cannot afford to pay even our lowest prices. Along with your donation, you will receive a photo and a story of the mother and child you support.

### How to help

We have an apprentice program and look to work with experienced midwives, doulas and other alternative health practitioners. For more information about any of our programs, please visit [www.AsociacionManos-Abiertas.org](http://www.AsociacionManos-Abiertas.org) or send us an email [manosabiertasg@gmail.com](mailto:manosabiertasg@gmail.com). 

# REVUE DateBook

**JUNE Guide to culture & upcoming events**

Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

**3 Fri., 6-8pm** — TANGO CLASSES: Stage tango and choreography for couples, as part of the Paiz Festival. Q40 per person. Artecentro Cultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**3 Fri., 7pm** — (Spanish) TEATRO: *A Contra Reloj*, tres mujeres se encuentran a ellas mismas en una lucha a contra reloj, al verse sometidas a tomar una decisión para la cual no estaban preparadas. Entrada libre (máximo 100 personas). Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, *La Antigua*.

**4 Sat., through July 3** — ART: Re-interpreting icons by Patrick McGrath (Puerto Rico). These icons are viewed from a neocolonial cultural perspective. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*. ▼



**8 Wed., 5pm** — ART: Inauguration of *ArtPhotoSynthesis* by Vera Richardson. A simple and elegant blending of art with photography. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*.

**9 Thurs through Fri., 17** — ART: *Amor y belleza* by Ars Artis academy from Walter Peter. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**9 Thurs., 6:30pm** through July 8 — ART: *Collage de Talento y Sensibilidad*, collective works (oil, acrylic, some mixed with embroidered details) by Antonieta de Anleu, Julia de Cabrera, Marta de Coronado, Katina de Dimitrakis, Cristina de Garita, Vanessa de Ortiz and Sonia de Vettorazzi. Vestíbulo Banco G&T Continental, 6a av. 9-08, z. 9, **Guatemala City**.



**11 Sat., 1pm** — BENEFIT DANCE: The Niños de San Antonio 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**.

**12 Sun., 11am** — MUSIC: A lyrical recital by the talented Guatemalan tenor Mario Chang. Winner of the First Prize the in Francisco Viñas International Singing Competition, Barcelona, Spain, 2011 and accepted at the Young Artist Program of the Metropolitan Opera House of NY. Arias and duets from famous operas. Special guests: Karin Rademann - soprano (Guatemala), Carlos Jimeno - baritone (Venezuela). Donation, Q100. Info. arteantigua@yahoo.com, tel: 5297-5481. Pre-sale tickets: tiendas De Museo, Lex Cargo (Antigua). Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**.



**13 Mon., FESTIVAL** — San Antonio Palopó celebrates its patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua, with a daylong festival that includes processions, music, folk dances, food and more. **San Antonio Palopó, Lake Atitlán**. See page 29.

**14 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Cultural Survival* partners with Guatemalan NGOs to strengthen a network of 140 community radio stations across the country, many of which broadcast in indigenous languages and reinforce pride in Mayan heritage. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**16 Tues., 4pm** — (Bilingual) NGO NETWORKING: *Focus on Education*. The Guatemala NGO Network invites NGOs working in the field of education to present their organization to all who wish to improve the lives of others. Public is welcome. Q50, beverages and boquitas included. More information contact Judy 7832-9871 or La Peña de Sol Latino 4882-4468. **La Antigua**.

**17 Fri.** — FATHER'S DAY: Celebrated throughout Guatemala.



**17 Fri.** — FATHER'S DAY DESERT: Buy dinner for your dad and he'll be treated to a free dessert. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the JULY, 2011 edition of the REVUE by Friday, June 10



**17, 18, 19 Fri.-Sun., daily** — CONVENTION & CONFERENCE:

The IV World Convention on Mayan Archaeology, *El Popol Vuh, visto a través del Arte Maya* (The Popol Vuh seen through Mayan Art) featuring global experts on Mayan culture. The three-day event will also include book presentations, documentaries, exhibits, book sales and free tours of a textile museum. Admission: Q90 per day; Q70 for students & tour guides. For more info visit; [www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com](http://www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com) or email [info@eventosantiguaguatemala.com](mailto:info@eventosantiguaguatemala.com). Tels: 7823-6500 or 4997-8188. Hotel Camino Real, 7a calle poniente #33-B, *La Antigua*. See pages 6 & 74.

**18 Sat., 7pm** — DANCE: A montage choreographed by Didine Ángel (El Salvador) with Guatemalan dancers and *Como Ustedes* by Mexican choreographer Vicente Silva, as part of the Paiz Festival. Q25 per person. Artecetro Cultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**18 Sat., 5 & 7pm** — ART FESTIVAL: *Festival Artes muy Especiales*, participants learn to draw with artists who paint with their feet and mouth as well as make jewelry with blind persons. The event will close with over 20 artists performing percussion, singing, piano, poetry, flamenco, classic ballet, contemporary dancing and wheelchair dancing by company Walter Meter-Alas de Libertad. Free. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, *La Antigua*.

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

**20 Mon., 5:30pm** — (English) DOCUMENTARY: Democrats Abroad Guatemala film series 2011, *GasLand — Can you Light your Water on Fire?* If you ever plan to live in the USA, you must see this film about fracking to extract natural gas. Donation Q30. Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle #41, *La Antigua*.

**20 Mon., through Sat., 25** — FESTIVAL: The historic town of San Juan Olintepeque, near Quetzaltenango, celebrates its patron, St. John the Baptist, with a weeklong festival; key dates June 23-24. *Olintepeque*. See below.

## Olintepeque celebrates its patron saint June 20-25

San Juan Olintepeque, a historic town about 6 kilometers north of Quetzaltenango, celebrates its patron, St. John the Baptist, with a colorful festival.

This area is generally considered to be the site where the famous Maya-K'iche' prince, Tecún Umán, died in battle against Pedro de Alvarado in 1524.

The annual festival features costumed dancers, the traditional dance of the bull, coronation of *La Reina Indígena*, solemn processions and popular entertainment, as well as an array of food and drinks. Key dates are June 23-24.

To book rooms, arrange tours or for more information, call Adrenalina Tours at 7932-5858 or email [info@adrenalinatours.com](mailto:info@adrenalinatours.com)

**21 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) *Life in Guatemala: Brief History and Current Conditions* by Sue Patterson, a former U.S. Consul General who served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is also the founder of WINGS, a non-profit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), *La Antigua*.

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*The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them.*  
 —George Bernard Shaw

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[www.aecid-cf.org.gt](http://www.aecid-cf.org.gt)

**22 Wed., 11am** — MUSIC: Mosaico Cultural and Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo present *From Here and There*, a collection of music from 17th-21st century (Italy & Guatemala), performed by Cuarteto Contemporáneo. ArteAntigua project, [arteantigua@yahoo.com](mailto:arteantigua@yahoo.com). Pre-sale tickets Tiendas De Museo or 1 hour before concert. Q100. Centro de Convenciones de Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**.

**22 Wed., through July 4** — ART: *Abriendo Espacios* by artist Lucky Muñoz. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

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

# Live

## La Cueva de Panza Verde

tel: 7832-2925 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua

**Mondays** — New Orleans Blues with Nelson Lunding.

**Wednesdays** — Classic Jazz Trio.

**Thursdays** — Buena Vista de Corazón, Cuban Jazz by Ignacio.

**Fridays** — Latin Trio.

**Saturdays** — Julio & César, Guitar Duo.  
Nightly cover: Q35

## La Peña de Sol Latino

tel: 7882-4468 5a calle poniente #15-C, La Antigua

**Mondays** — 7-10pm: The magic guitar of Carlos Trujillo, Latin Jazz/Salsa, with Bill on Congas). Free.

**Tuesdays** — 7-10pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana, with Bill on Congas. Free.

**Wednesdays thru Sundays** — 7-10pm: Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼



**Sundays** — 12:30-3pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana, with Bill on congas. Free.

## Gaia Restaurante

tel: 7832-3670 Calle del Arco #35-A, La Antigua

**Thursdays** — 7pm: Live music.

**Fridays and Saturdays** — Belly dancing.

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

## 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: Gustavo plays latino classics, western tunes with some harmonica.

**Wednesdays** — 7:30pm: *Open Mike Night*: come along and show your skills. Free drink for anyone who performs!

**Thursdays** — 7:30pm: A variety of musicians.

**Saturdays** — 7:30pm: Don Ramiro y amigos! Don't miss the chance to enjoy a few drinks and relax to the classics.

**Sundays** — 7:30pm: Sergio y Choko y amigos; some of Antigua's best-loved local musicians with some great improvisation.



**Throughout the week** — Jorge Herrera plays international music on the accordion.

**Wednesdays, 8pm:**

**Como Como**

(6a calle pon. #6)

**Saturdays, 8pm:**

**La Antigua Vineria**

(5a av sur #34)

**Thursdays, 8pm:**

**Kloster**

(3a calle oriente #24)



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

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

# Music

## Ocelot

tel: 5658-9028 4a avenida norte #3, La Antigua

**Thursdays** — 9pm: Mike & Moriah, Piano & Vocals.

**Fridays** — 7-9pm: Ron Fortin Saxophone; 9:30-11:30pm: Nelson Lunding New Orleans Piano.

**Saturdays** — 9:30pm: Mercedes, Guitar Blues/Rock/Folk.



Pub Quiz hosted by Brendan Byrne; **Sundays** at 6:30pm

## Las Palmas

tel: 7832-9734 6a av. norte #14, La Antigua

**Wednesdays, 8pm** — Bossa, soft rock and blues

**Saturdays, 8pm** — American folk music



## Fridas

tel: 7832-1296  
Calle del Arco #29, La Antigua

**Wednesdays & Thursdays, 7:30pm** — Variety of musicians.

## Posada de Santiago

tel: 7721-7366  
1 km south of Santiago Atitlán, Lake Atitlán

**Every week**, usually on Fridays and Saturdays. Check *Gringos of Santiago* on Facebook for details.

## Circus Bar

tel: 7762-2056 Avenida de los Árboles, Panajachel

**Mondays** — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock.

8pm: Marco Solo and friends, Pana's Carlos Santana. Rock, blues and jazz.  
9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

**Tuesdays** — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock.

8pm: Rockiris, alternative rock.  
9pm: Latin ensemble.

**Wednesdays** — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock.

8pm: Latin ensemble.  
9pm: Carlos Rangel and son, swing, Cuban and rock.

**Thursdays** — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock.

8pm: Latin ensemble.  
9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

**Fridays** — 7pm: Flamenco by Marco El Messina.  
8pm: Latin ensemble. 9pm: Trova del Lago.

**Saturdays** — Los Vagabundos, hot rhythms in a fusion of Rumba, Flamenco and Guatemalan traditional elements.

**Sundays** — Latin Ensemble.

## Trova Jazz

tel: 2334-1241 Via 6, 3-55, zona 4, Guatemala City

**Thursdays** — 9:15pm: Nueva Trova and alternative music by the Rony Hernández group.

**Fridays and Saturdays**

— Guest musicians.  
[www.trovajazz.com](http://www.trovajazz.com)



## Melancolía Blues Café & Jazz Bar

tel: 2331-1114 Av. Reforma 13-89, z.10, Guatemala City

**Wednesdays** — 8:30pm: Victor Arriaza on piano, Alejandro Alvarez, bass and Julio García on drums.

**23 Thurs., 6:30pm** — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Mejicanos*, la ciudad clásica del lago de Amatitlán, dictada por Edgar Carpio. Contribución Q30/Q15 estudiantes con carné. Museo Popol Vuh, II nivel, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**24 Fri., 3pm** — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *¿Quieres tener una vida relajada, equilibrada y plena?* Ven y entérate de como lograrlo a través de la maravillosa técnica que utiliza el aroma y aceites vegetales, además te diremos los beneficios positivos para tu vida. Entrada gratuita. Vivero y Café de la Escalonia y Plantor (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**.

**24 Fri., through July 6** — ART: *Resinamiento*, human shapes in resin by Edgar Ramírez. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**25 Sat., 9am-2pm** — OPEN HOUSE: Come and get to know our classes, teachers and facilities, as part of the Paiz Festival. Artecetro Cultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

**25 Sat., 3pm** — (Spanish) TEATRO CÓMICO: *Humanos Comicus*, un disparatado cabaret lleno de humor y circo. Personajes de manicomio, un mago decadente pero muy ingenioso, un faquir en problemas o la pareja de acróbatas más insólita de la historia, entre otros. Después del espectáculo, taller de clown para adultos. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

*The only man who is really free is the one who can turn down an invitation to dinner without giving an excuse.* —Jules Renard

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the JULY, 2011 edition of the REVUE by Friday, June 10

**25 Sat., 6-10pm** — MUSIC: *Woofstock*, a musical benefit for AWARE - Animal Welfare Assoc., Rescue & Education (spay & neuter programs) featuring top contemporary artists Gaby Andrade, Juan Aguirre, Hot Sugar Mama, Woodser, de javu-radio.com. Entrance Q100, incl. an AWARE commemorative coffee mug. Tickets on sale in Antigua at the Revue (6a calle poniente #2); for other locations, email: xenii-2@usa.net or contact Trova Jazz (tel: 2334-1241) Via 6, 3-55, z. 4 (near INGUAT), **Guatemala City**. ▼



**28 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: ARCAS: *Rescuing Guatemalan Wildlife*. The Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS) is the leading advocate for the rights of wild animals in Guatemala. Presentation includes wild (non-releasable) animals. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), **La Antigua**.

**30 Thurs.** — ARMY DAY: Holiday, most businesses and banks closed.

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**ANTIGUA TOUR:** Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat at 9:30am with Elizabeth Bell \$20  
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**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 Casa del Conde (main square)  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9-1pm Tels: 7832-5821, 7832-0053

## DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

## San Antonio Palopó Fair

by Dwight Wayne Coop

Were St. Anthony of Padua alive today, his physicians might send him to the lakeside town of San Antonio Palopó, 10 kilometers from Panajachel that acknowledges him as patron, particularly on **June 13**. Anthony, a sickly but stentorian-voiced preacher, died from dropsy and exhaustion at the age of 36 and was canonized within a year—a church record.

The town's Kaqchikels, attired in distinctive royal-blue típico, toast Anthony with hearty, grainy *atol shuco* in *tecomates*, ceramic jars with a small opening but no neck.

The processions are punctuated with the peculiar black-masked “Negrito Dance” and a bull dance typical of the region. The *feria* music features marimbas galore, but visitors can also experience the rarer notes of the love-it-or-hate-it woodwind *chirimía*.

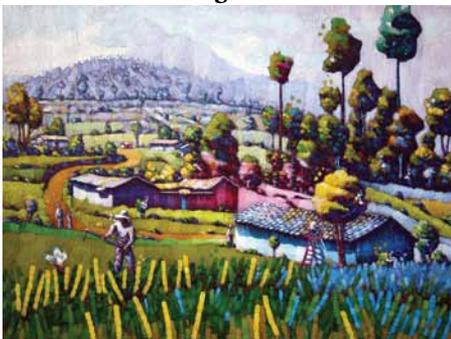
This year's festival falls on a Monday, so visitors desiring to lodge in town for a long weekend are advised to reserve. Alternatively, fairgoers can lodge in Panajachel and make a day trip of it.

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**All month** — Traveling Photographic Exhibit: *Aguas, Ríos y Pueblos*, through photographs and eyewitness testimonials, a human profile of the conflicts and struggles to get water service. Real Palacio de los Capitanes, Central Park, **La Antigua**. See related article on page 86. ▼



**Through Mon., 6th** — ART: *Paraíso Terrenal*, exhibition of the latest landscapes by Guatemalan artist Sergio Alvarado, who grew up in the Highlands. His exhibit of more than 30 works depict everyday life in the countryside. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**. ▼

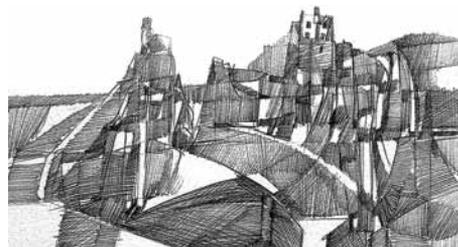


**Through Mon., 13th** — ART: *Hoja en Blanco*, 26 artists from Guatemala and Switzerland present anonymously new works based on a white sheet, as part of the Paiz Festival. Arcecentro Cultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, **Guatemala City**. ▼

**Through Sat., 18, 10am-5pm** — ART: *AquaFlora*, watercolors and Sumi-e paintings of landscapes and orchids from Guatemala by artist Susan Marie Tabush. Q20/Q15 students with carnet. Casa Mima (tel: 2253-4020), 8a av. 14-12, z. 1, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**Through Sat., 18th** — ART: Drawings by well-known artist Ramón Ávila. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



DATEBOOK continues on page 34

**PHOTO CONTEST** Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their work (color or B&W) with the theme *Fiestas Patronales de Guatemala* (Municipal Fairs of Guatemala). The best 12 photos will appear in Museo Ixchel's 2013 calendar. Deadline Oct. 3, 2011. For more information visit Museo Ixchel Galerías in Facebook. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

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*Nature never goes out of style.  
—Author Unknown*



The X Latin American Congress of Magic (FLOSAMA 2011) was held in Guatemala. The conference is held every two years and it features some of the best magicians in the world.

The Merlin Award is given to magicians in different categories including close-up, cards, manipulation, mentalism etc. Mr. Dory (photo) received an award from the Asociación de Magos Ilusionistas de Guatemala.

The 2013 conference will be held in Chile.

**Union Church of Guatemala**

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**Habitat for Humanity Guatemala has increased achievement levels despite global financial problems**

# Make Your World A Home

*Habitat for Humanity conference in honor of Guatemala success*

It's not often that Guatemala is described as a global leader, but in the world of Habitat for Humanity, that's exactly how it's known.

The NGO's international president Ken Klein recently visited the country to celebrate the success of Habitat Guatemala and learn from its effective disaster-response program. During a conference held in the capital, he praised the work of in-country teams and applauded their increasing achievements despite the financial problems around the world.

Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing in over 85 countries and works in all 22 departments of Guatemala. By offering families interest-free loans, it has provided more than 34,000 housing solutions across the country during the last 32 years. The Guatemala branch is so successful that it has contributed approximately 10% of all Habitat for Humanity houses worldwide.

While Klein acknowledged that the housing deficit here is too big for Habitat alone to solve, he urged his colleagues to raise the level of social consciousness within the country. He suggested they seek commitment from the government and corporate world and collaborate with other NGOs to reduce the problem.

"We know that when we have good housing, health improves, education improves and productivity in our work goes up. We want all families to achieve this," said Klein.

With precious resources becoming hard to find, Habitat International believes that the best solution may not always be to build a new home, but to renovate an existing structure. Building latrines and stoves are just some of the smaller ways that Habitat Guatemala is improving housing conditions throughout the country. 

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## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Through Fri., 24th** — ART: Bilocación, by artist Mónica Serra. El Artico, Salón del Coleccionista (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**Through Thurs., 30th** — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Maternidades* by photographer Bru Rovira and *Maternidad Segura*, by both professional and amateur photographers, winners of the contest of the same name, sponsored by Organización Panamericana de la Salud y el Fondo de población de Naciones Unidas. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a and 4a calle, **La Antigua**.

**Through Thurs., 30th** — ART: *Esa Historia a la Vuelta de la Esquina*, with works by numerous talented, well-known photographer and several exhibits, all of which reflect Guatemala's recent history. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a and 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

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**Tuesdays, 6pm** — (English) SLIDE SHOW: *Antigua Behind the Walls* with Elizabeth Bell. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



**Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 9:30-11am** — DANCE WORKSHOPS: Contemporary dance by Kazia Orantes, as part of the Paiz Festival. Q25 per person. Artecultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), **Guatemala City**.

**Fridays, 6pm** — DANCE WORKSHOPS: *Latin rhythms* (bachata, merengue, cha cha, salsa), as part of the Paiz Festival. Q25 per person. Artecultural Graciela Andrade de Paiz (tel: 2270-8400), 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

**Saturdays, 11am** — (Spanish) MINIMOS ESCÉNICAS: **4th** — *El Sueño de Leer*; **11th** — *La Creación del Mundo*; **25th** — *Los Tres Cochinitos Bebés*. Entrada libre. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

**Saturdays, 4pm** — (Spanish) CINE INFANTIL: Cada sábado una película diferente para los pequeños de la casa. Para más información: <http://www.aecid-cf.org.gt/> Entrada libre. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a and 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

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





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*Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. —Plato*

PRESS RELEASE

## Dermalogica launches women’s finance program, new products

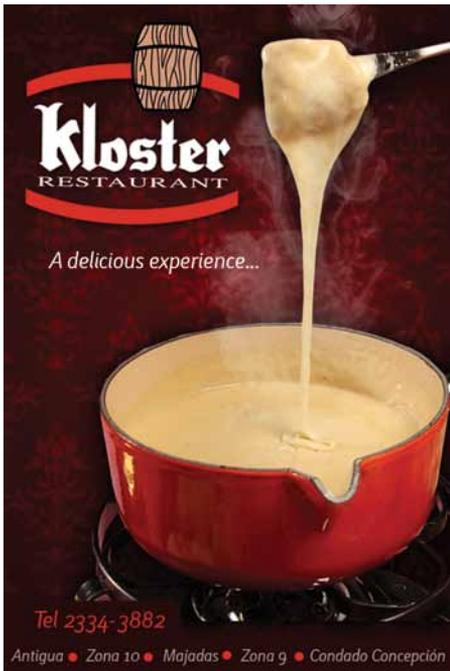
**D**ermalogica, the world’s leading professional skin-care brand, recently launched FITE—Financial Independence Through Entrepreneurship—to help women entrepreneurs in Guatemala and other developing nations to develop or expand their business.

In establishing FITE, Dermalogica partnered with the KIVA organization, a non-profit microfinance leader that provides loans to people without access to traditional banking systems.

Dermalogica has also launched a new product line, Ultra Calming, which was developed for people with sensitive skin. The launch event featured Leanne McCliskie, Dermalogica’s education manager, along with the staff of Dermalogica Guatemala.

These new products can be found in the Beauty Esthetic International Spa and the best spas of Guatemala, and purchases will support women entrepreneurs in Guatemala.



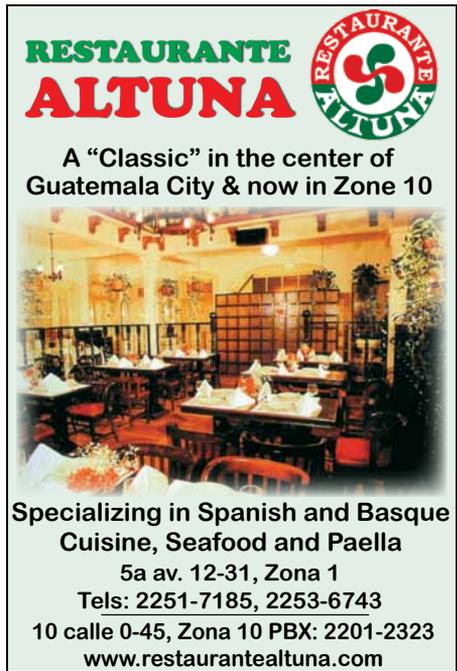


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## Clean Sweep cont. from page 19

Jocotán, Chiquimula is one municipality where palm brooms are commonly found. While sometimes sold in local shops, it is always best to buy from the maker, which requires an early Sunday morning visit, sometime before 9 a.m. This is the day of the weekly market, where brooms sell by the dozen. Besides Jocotán, I have seen the same broom style in San Francisco Gotera, Morazán (El Salvador), Purulha, Baja Verapaz and Colotenango, Huehuetenango markets.

One day I asked a woman selling brooms if she would be willing to teach me how they were made. She agreed, and on the scheduled day I took a microbus to a specified highway stop with detailed instructions of how to find her house. After an hour or so of wandering around the *aldea* I finally located her, with a broom in process.

Strips of palm had been bunched and tied together with a strand of palm. The loose strips were bent back to form a “head.” Mostly white strips are used, but buyers like a few green colored strips mixed in, so they are placed at intervals as well. A separate single palm strand was tied around the “broom” and individual strips of palm were inserted evenly spaced underneath it.

To hold everything together an interesting technique was used. A long, single strand of *tul* (rush or reed) was tied to the single palm strand, and as it wrapped around, toward the top, each added palm

### Royal palms from which so many products come

strand was looped around it in a half-hitch knot. Sometimes one or two brightly colored aniline-dyed strands are inserted, which creates a spiral pattern. The final step was to shove a stick into the center of the “head” and secure it with nails.

It always amazes me to learn intriguing techniques used for making relatively simple, utilitarian objects, and I often wonder where the idea came from and if there is more than meets the eye. Who knows, maybe once long ago, these beautiful brooms might have been a regal tradition, as is the case with *petates*, also made in Jocotán (although usually from *tul*).

*Petates*, an important utilitarian item, are also ritualistic and seen as a symbol of power. Ancient Mayan calendars were painted on mats, and *Pop* (mat) is the first month of the Mayan calendar. Once considered a royal tradition, each woven strip represented the reality of time and space, or the Mayan cosmo-vision, and only a ruler, known as “lord of the mat,” was allowed to sit on them.

So, it could be that besides sweeping the floor, brooms could also symbolize something else. After all, they are made from royal palm. 

*Kathy Rouso is an accomplished textile artist and writer. She is a frequent Revue contributor; her current book, Maguey Journey - Discovering Textiles in Guatemala, is available through the University of Arizona Press and online at Amazon.com*

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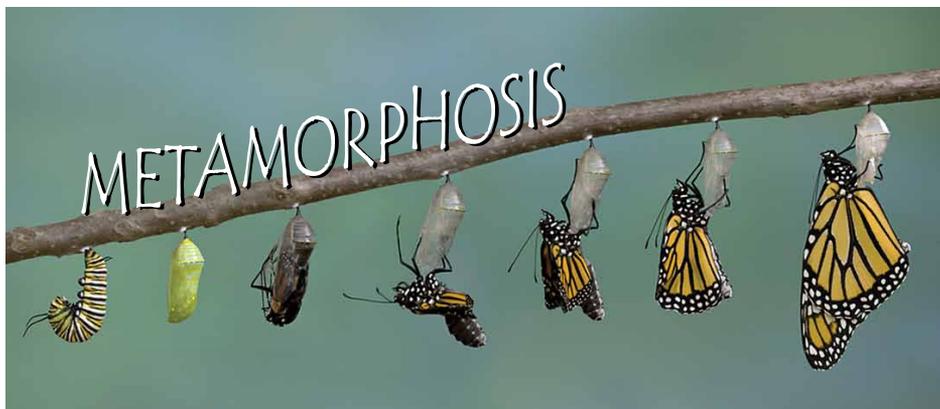
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## Moments of Mindfulness

by Dr. Karmen Guevara  
HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST



**L**ife is a process of becoming. From the moment of birth the process begins through a combination of the stages we go through—infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood. In the early stages we move from one to another because there isn't any choice. We can't spend the rest of our lives in diapers or dragging around our security blanket!

Many times during the stage of adulthood, however, the process of becoming abruptly ends. Very often once people reach a particular state, they remain fixed in it.

Curtailing this process defies the law of physics that states the universe is a universe of true becoming. At a personal level it stops us from evolving into who we truly are. After all, isn't that what the journey is about—the refinement of our soul through time? At a universal level, it's about honoring the gift of life by accepting the privilege and responsibility to give back by becoming more.

Kick-start the process of becoming by

making a fundamental life choice to become all that you are meant to be. Raise the bar on your inward and outward standards. Dedicate yourself to all the things you aspire to become and step away from the things that hold you back. Think of yourself akin to a caterpillar! As it grows it splits and sheds its skin four or five times before its metamorphosis into a butterfly.

It's important to stay present with tapping into the essence of your true nature and not to get lost in the future by aspiring for more. Remember that devilish ego always grabs hold of "the more!"

Master the art of becoming by heeding the words of Nelson Mandela: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you *not* to be?" 

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PHOTO: JOSEPH DEL CONZO

# Safe Passage

*One volunteer's overwhelming experience serving in the city dump*

Every day at 7:15 a.m., a bleary-eyed group of Westerners gathers on the pavement outside La Antigua Guatemala's San Francisco Church. Clutching banana bread and paper cups of steaming coffee, they soak up the early morning sun. Preparing to make their way into one of the infamous red zones of Guatemala City, they are a diverse bunch, comprising people from all over the world; their ages and motivations vary, and each of them has a unique reason as to how they came to be waiting for this particular bus.

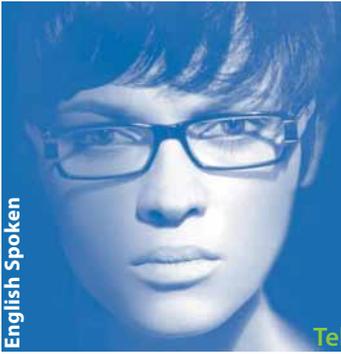
Yet, they all have a shared destination: These are the volunteers of Camino Seguro (Safe Passage), a non-profit organization that provides hope, education and opportunity to the *basurero* community of the capital.

Basurero is the Spanish word for dump, of which Guatemala boasts one of the biggest in Central America. Taking up 40 acres

of a huge ravine that runs through the city, the dump receives over 500 tons of domestic, chemical and medical waste daily. The people in the surrounding neighborhoods make their living by harvesting materials from the landfill for recycling—gathering cans, paper and metals to sell for a few quetzals—and it is this community that Safe Passage was created to serve.

Since it was conceived in 1999, when a young woman named Hanley Denning opened the doors of a small rented apartment in the heavily populated margins of the tip, offering the children who were foraging in the rubbish a safe space to come and do their homework, the organization has continued to grow. Today it works with approximately 300 families, providing refuge and educational reinforcement to over 550 at-risk women and children.

Whether you are a ...continued on page 90



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*We have, I fear, confused power with greatness.*  
—Stewart Udall

*Most men are more capable of great actions  
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*Maybe you don't like your job, maybe you didn't get enough sleep, well nobody likes their job, nobody got enough sleep. Maybe you just had the worst day of your life, but you know, there's no escape, there's no excuse, so just suck up and be nice. —Ani Difranco*

## Sister City in Florida elects new mayor

One of La Antigua Guatemala's Sister Cities has a new mayor. Jim Cason, a former U.S. Foreign Service officer, was elected in April to lead the city of Coral Gables, Florida, a community of 45,000 residents just outside Miami.

Mr. Cason defeated the incumbent mayor, Don Slesnick, who had served since 2001. Mr. Slesnick was instrumental in reviving Sister Cities ties with a mission to Antigua in 2002; several exchanges have occurred since then.

Good luck, Mr. Mayor, and please keep the Sister City relationship thriving.

*Two little girls, on their way home from Sunday school, were solemnly discussing the lesson. "Do you believe there is a devil?" asked one. "No," said the other promptly. "It's like Santa Claus: it's your father." —Ladies' Home Journal*

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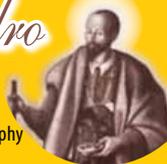
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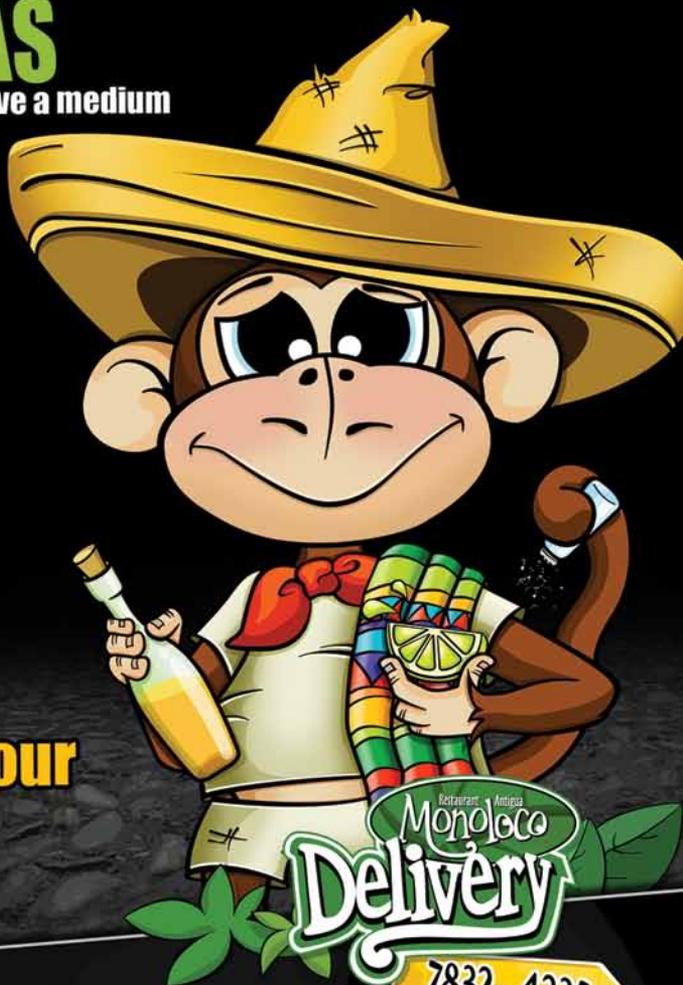
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PHOTO BY RUDY GIRON

# Mangostino, Anyone?

## Strange and Delicious Fruits of June

Regardless of location, farmers' markets throughout Guatemala provide a grand opportunity to experience new flavors, textures and colors in fruits foreign to the *extranjero* tongue. If you're worried about consuming raw fruits here in Guatemala, remember that a couple minutes soaked in low strength bleach water will kill anything looming on the skin of these beautiful fruits. Here are a few coming and going in your local market through the month of June.

First off we have the *ciruela*, or small plum, that is beginning to flood the markets. At first glance this fruit highly resembles a large cherry, such as the Bing variety, but don't be fooled. Vendors continue to

sell the large, dark plums (also called *ciruelas*) that we're accustomed to, but the majority of these are exported, whereas the smalls plums are native (*criollas*). I suggest you bring along a cleaning cloth to taste test your plums before purchasing them. The darker the skin doesn't necessarily mean riper the plum, it may just be a different variety. ...continued on page 62



Ciruela (PHOTO BY ALIAN GARCIA)

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Next we have the *guanaba*, a large, prickly, green sweet fruit that tastes like a mix between pear, kiwi and *granadinas* (those large, passion fruit-like fruits that contain seeds resembling fish eggs). When the fruit is mature, it is soft to the touch. Cut it open, remove the slimy center (it's edible but extremely bitter) and enjoy the sweet, smooth flavor.



Next, the *mangostino* is a small eggplant-like fruit that is cut open and the white part is consumed. When taken out whole, the edible part of the fruit looks exactly like a head of garlic. The fruit is extremely sweet, seedless and easy to eat. The mangostino is more abundant in the Highlands (due to the cooler growing temperature) and is a large export fruit to Colombia. Nevertheless, it is a tasty hidden treasure available in the markets.



In the end, we come to the *paterna*, which, depending on the rainy season, may or may not be around by mid-June. This fruit comes in its thick pod shell, usually green in color. When cracked open (the shell is soft) one is greeted with small, white fuzzy covered seeds (if it's brown, it's past due). The trick is to pop a seed in your mouth, lightly bite it, and peel off the sweet fuzzy outer coating to eat. Do not eat the seed! Spit it out and eat the outer covering, which offers a light sweetness, such as a clover flower.

Enjoy the seasonal tastes available at Guatemala's farmers' markets! 🍷





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**E**cofiltro, a Guatemalan company that produces an innovative, easy-to-use water purifier, has been named one of the world's Top 50 Small and Medium Enterprises by *infoDev*, an international association sponsored by the World Bank.

Based in La Antigua Guatemala, Ecofiltro, S.A., is a joint effort between Guatemalan scientist Fernando Mazariegos, who invented Ecofiltro in 1981, and entrepreneur Philip Wilson.

Ecofiltro has distributed more than 80,000 units in the last five years, benefiting more than 500,000 Guatemalans, especially in rural areas, and has significantly contributed to health improvement and gastrointestinal illness prevention.

Ecofiltro has also helped reduce the number of trees previously cut and burned as firewood to boil water in rural communities. Various models are available, starting at Q300 depending on size.

In 2003 and 2004, the World Bank awarded Ecofiltro with the Marketplace Award for its sustainability.



Most recently, *infoDev*, with funding from the government of Finland, held a competition to identify the world's Top 50 Small and Medium Enterprises with the goal of broadening their international commercial connections. It received 750 applications from 65 countries. Through Ecofiltro, Guatemala was the only Central American country that made the Top 50 list.

Winners were invited to participate in the 4th Global Forum on Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship in Helsinki, Finland, May 30-June 3.

More info: [www.ecofiltro.com](http://www.ecofiltro.com) or [www.infodev.org](http://www.infodev.org), or email [info@ecofiltro.com](mailto:info@ecofiltro.com)



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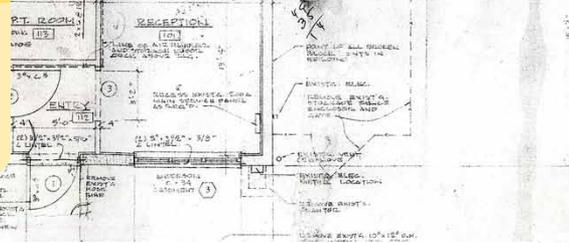


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## ASK ELIZABETH

by Elizabeth Bell  
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN



# What is the extent of urban planning in La Antigua?

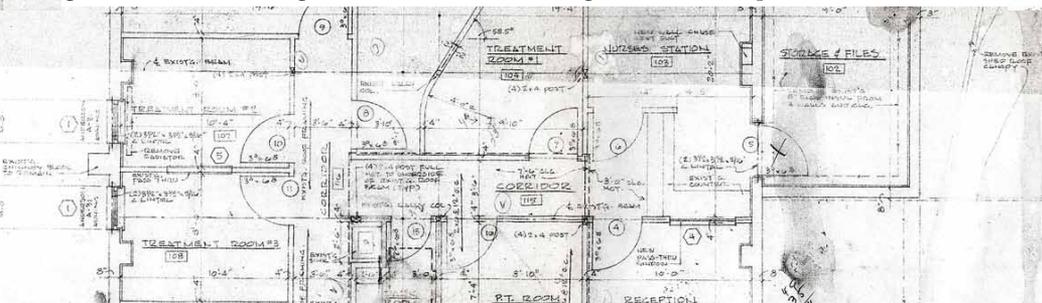
**W**hile the city grid of La Antigua Guatemala was laid out in 1541, it seems that the concept of urban planning was abandoned after the colonial era. Over the years, many groups, including Salvemos Antigua, petitioned the mayors for an urban planning commission. For a centuries-old city, alas, we have a “new” urban planning concept today! Antigua’s City Council approved the “Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial de La Antigua Guatemala” in 2008. It is designed to promote appropriate development and land use as well as economic and social development with a lifestyle that a cultural-heritage, monumental city deserves.

Antigua is one of the areas undergoing more development per square inch than any other city in the country. This new plan states that all urban developers must be approved first by the city, through a “property usage license” (licencia de uso del suelo), before breaking ground. Any property that is to be subdivided needs to go before a consulting committee to first

review public services (water, drains, electricity and property usage).

Through this new plan, a consulting council meets on Wednesdays to review projects, policies, plans, programs and projects based on the 2008 legislation. Meeting participants include the mayor of Antigua (or his representative), City Council members representing city commissions, the conservator of the city, the coordinator of the office for “aldea” (village) development and others. Main players in this “Wednesday Commission” include architect Silvia Soto (head of the city planning office), architect Adalberto Rodas (urban advisor to the city), Oscar Flores and Denise Weikart (civic society/private sector). Oscar and Denise volunteer in this important task.

While Antigua was leaning toward becoming a “shopping center” in 2008 before the financial crisis took its economic toll, this “new” urban planning review committee is essential in preserving the city. Urban planning—what a concept! 



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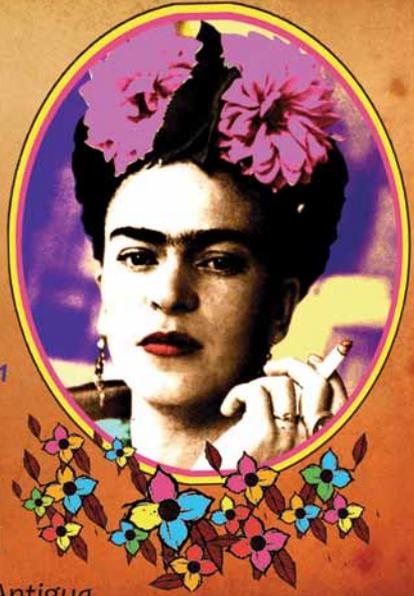


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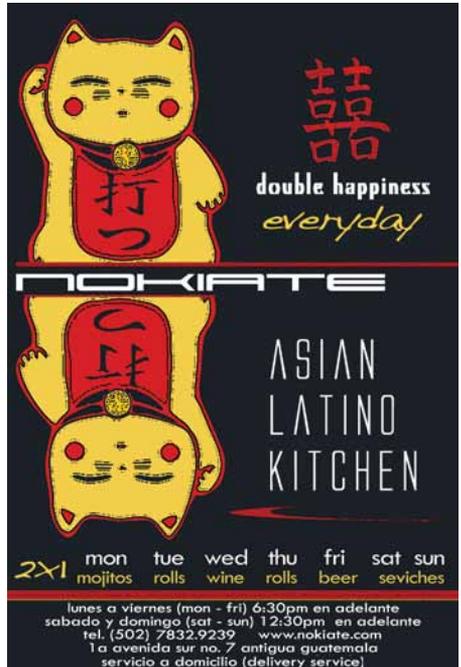
*I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day. — Elwyn Brooks White*



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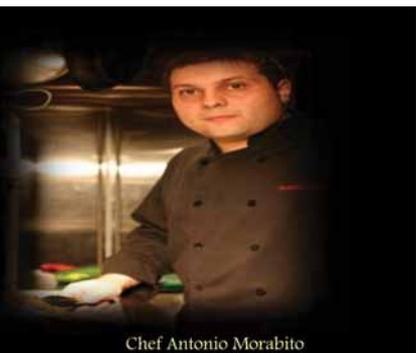
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*An amateur photographer was invited to dinner with friends and took along a few pictures to show the hostess. She looked at the photos and commented, "These are very good! You must have a good camera."*

*He didn't make any comment, but, as he was leaving to go home he said, "That was a delicious meal! You must have some very good pots and pans."*

**RESTAURANT ALERT**

## Gourmet Burgers in Antigua

**G**ourmet hamburgers have arrived in La Antigua Guatemala at the newly opened Lava Terrace Bar & Burgers, 4a av. norte #3.

The menu features everything from the standard hamburger and bacon-cheeseburger to imaginative concoctions such as the jalapeño popper burger, boomerang burger (sautéed onions, beetroot and fried egg), San Antonio chili burger, Hawaiian burger (grilled pineapple and cheddar) and several more.

Grilled on an open flame, all the burgers are generous, hand-crafted feasts made with the freshest ingredients.



More than 200 burgers and an ocean of drinks were served gratis to dozens of patrons at Lava's grand opening May 12. Featuring a scenic rooftop setting, Lava is a half-block north of Central Park in the same venue as Ocelot, Pangea, Ixcot's and Whisky Den.

Congratulations, Shaun Paul Griffiths and Jason Lever, on your new venture.

**Shaun Paul Griffiths and Jason Lever (l-r) in the kitchen of Lava.**



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*We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. —Japanese Proverb*



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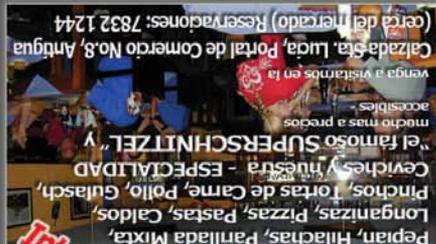
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DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

## Mayan archaeology convention comes to Antigua

**T**he IV World Convention on Maya Archaeology comes to La Antigua Guatemala and Hotel Camino Real **June 17-19**, featuring global experts on **Mayan culture**.

With the theme “El Popol Vuh Visto a Traves del Arte Maya” (The Popol Vuh seen through Mayan Art), the conference will contrast the colonial-period Maya Popol Vuh writings with the archaeological record.

Expert presenters include Iyaxael Ixtan Cojti Ren, Craig Argyle, Edgar Suyuc, Gustavo Martinez, Richard Hansen, David Sedat, Matilde Ivic, Tomas Barrientos, Donald Forsyth, Sergio Romero, Ruud Van Akkeren, Stanley Gunter, Jack Schuster, José Monzón, Cesar Castañeda, and Arthur Demarest.

The three-day event will also include the presentation of the book *Imágenes de la Mitología Maya* by Oswaldo Chinchilla and *The First Maya Civilization: Ritual and Power before the Classic Period* by Francisco Estrada-Belli. There will also be documentaries, exhibits, book sales and free tours of the textile museum Casa del Tejido.

The event is organized by Rosendo Morales of Eventos Antigua Guatemala, with a mission of preserving Guatemala’s cultural and national heritage. 

Admission is Q90 per day, Q70 for students and tour guides (with ID). For more information, visit [www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com](http://www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com) or email [info@eventosantiguaguatemala.com](mailto:info@eventosantiguaguatemala.com). You can also call 7823-6500 or 4997-8188.

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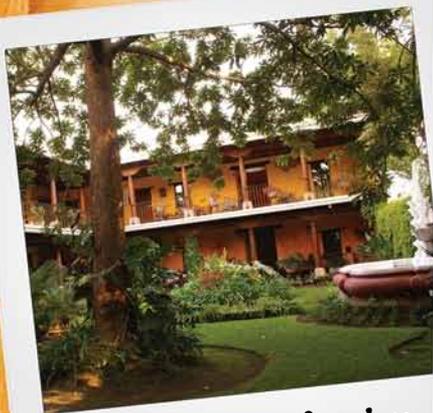
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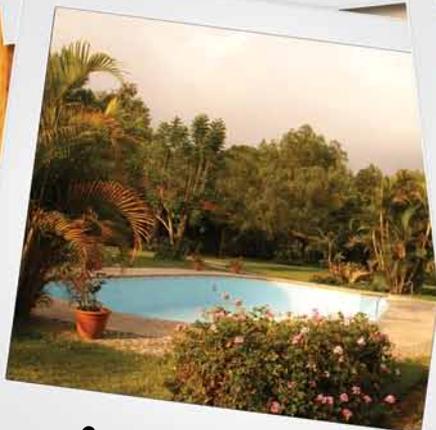
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*A father carries pictures where his money used to be. —Bill Cosby*

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"Waiting for the wife" stance

Some people like my advice so much that they frame it upon the wall instead of using it.

—Gordon R. Dickson



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## Spitters, Scratchers and Snappers

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

**Question:** We are thinking of adopting a second cat but we are worried that our black tabby, Sheba, won't accept him.

**W**hen selecting a second cat, experts recommend that the companion be a few months younger than the original cat and of the opposite sex.

First of all make sure that he has all of his vaccinations and has had a veterinary checkup before introducing him to Sheba. Don't rush either cat into the new relationship. Allow both cats to slowly get to know one another, keeping them in separate rooms and periodically introducing them for playtime or feeding time throughout the day. You can even prop the door open an inch or two so that the two cats can see

and smell each other. Maintain supervised introductions until the cats are familiar enough to be left alone. Cats are territorial.

Keep your first cat from feeling threatened by providing separate litter boxes and food and water dishes. Also, use scent to help introduce the animals. You can rub a toy or towel against the new cat and place it in your original cat's territory so it can get used to the new scent.

Cats usually adjust to a new friend, but it is always best to raise two cats together if possible.

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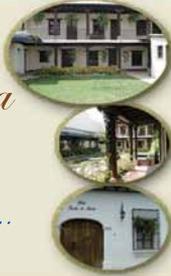


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An advertisement for El Marqués Antigua. It features three interior photos: a dining room on the left, a central red banner with the hotel's logo and contact details, and a lounge area on the right. The banner text reads: 'Fully Equipped', 'Luxury Suites at Hotel Room Prices!', 'EL MARQUÉS ANTIGUA', 'Tels: 2386-1012, 7832-8259', '4a avenida sur No. 30', and 'www.elmarquesdeantigua.com'. There is also a Facebook icon.





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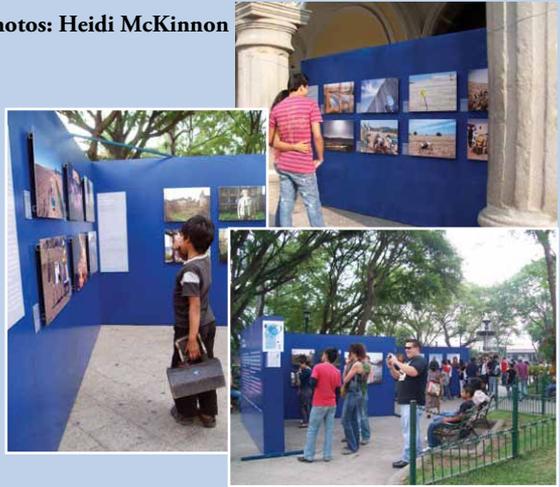


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# Traveling Photographic Exhibit at La Antigua's Central Park



“**W**ater, Rivers and People / *Agua, Ríos y Pueblos*,” is an international traveling photographic exhibit that takes a critical look at water conflicts around the world. The exhibit focuses on the human and environmental costs of contamination and catastrophes, ecosystem degradation, water as a human right, privatization and mega-development projects such as hydroelectric dams and open pit mining. The exhibit is divided into 30 case studies selected from five continents, organized into seven themes. One thematic area is dedicated to local case studies in Guatemala, developed in conjunction with civil society organizations and local communities.

We live on the Blue Planet, the Water Planet. Yet according to the UN, 1.1 billion people lack access to decent drinking water. Because of this (and the related, though even more widespread, lack of decent sanitation), some 20,000 people die every day, most of them children. In reality, we are facing a crisis of unsustainability, which we have caused by taking too much water from the environment, systematically polluting our rivers and aquifers.

The World Commission on Dams estimated that between 40 and 80 million people have been evicted from their homes and villages to make way for one of the more than 50,000 large dams that were constructed during the 20th century. “Between 40 and 80 million” . . . in other words,

no one knows the exact number.

The pressure for privatization from agencies like the World Bank has transformed citizens into customers, ignoring the fact that access to drinking water should be guaranteed and a human right. In sum, we are facing a hydrological holocaust, in which the victims are invisible, distant and faceless. Our consciences easily forget them.

In the *Water, Rivers and People* exhibition, we decided to give a voice to these people, who are simultaneously both victims and protagonists for a more just, dignified, and sustainable world. We aim to show the human side of water conflicts, giving those who suffer and struggle the most the opportunity to express themselves. Perhaps they do not have all the answers to these problems, but there is no doubt that they are suffering on the front lines. They deserve to be heard and their stories taken into consideration.

The national case studies that we have on hand and will be developing include the following: Extractive Industries and Contamination in Laguna del Tigre; Laguna Chicabal: Community Management of Sacred Water; Water and Gender in San Miguel Ixtahuacán; Cleaning up Lake Atilán; Community Consultations and ILO 169 in Guatemala; Agatha and Climate Change in Guatemala; Water Management in the 48 cantones of Totonicapán; Monocrops and Water in Guatemala; African Palm and Sugar Cane; Mini Hydroelectrics in Guatemala. 



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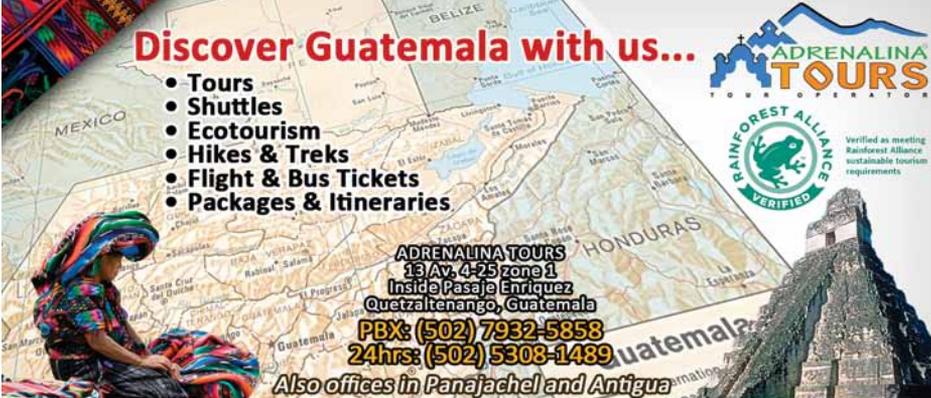
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Henry James once defined life as that predicament which precedes death, and certainly nobody owes you a debt of honor or gratitude for getting him into that predicament. But a child does owe his father a debt, if Dad, having gotten him into this peck of trouble, takes off his coat and buckles down to the job of showing his son how best to crash through it. —Clarence Budington Kelland



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Man's heart away from nature becomes hard. —Standing Bear



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**Mayan carving with deer figures** (courtesy of Museo de Arte Precolombino y Vidrio Moderno, Casa Santo Domingo)

## **White-tailed Deer** cont. from page 18

Thus it is not surprising that reports on zooarchaeology of the Classic Mayan document deer meat as a staple of their diet. As well, the Post Classic bark-paper codices depict deer being captured in traps. Deer antlers were used as a tool, and deer hides were used for leather.

### **Deer are mentioned in the Popol Vuh creation story, but there are not really any major deer characters in the Popol Vuh.**

Some Classic Mayan depictions of the ballgame were representations of a deer hunt: the ballplayers were dressed like deer hunters. Ballplayers and many hunters wear wide-brimmed hats, for example. This concept has been tough for writers of Mayan culture to incorporate in their discussions of the ballgame, since so much of what is written is skewed by popular misconceptions. My conclusion has been that some versions of the ancient Mayan ballgame were recreations of a hunt: Some of the ballplayers were the “game.” However, it is important to realize that there were many different versions of the ballgame—of course not all were recreations of hunting. Some ball-

games were more militaristic; others were pure sport. Other games were more like a ritual enactment of the games presented in the Popol Vuh. Some games involved sacrifice (of the losing player; the concept that it was the winner who was sacrificed is a popular mistake).

The Post Classic bark-paper codices of the Maya clearly show hunting, trapping and ritual interaction with deer. Ethnohistorical sources mention deer sacrifices. Clearly, the deer had supernatural implications. Deer are mentioned in the Popol Vuh creation story, but there are not really any major deer characters in the Popol Vuh. Deer are present but are not as prominent as jaguars, bats, macaws, leaf-cutting ants, and the like. Although deer were not fully domesticated, there are plenty of scenes on codex-style Mayan vases that show deer inside the palace areas, usually with well-fed young women.

Deer heads (real and artificial) are worn by the Maya, especially in dances and ritual parades.

Throughout the Bilbao area of Cotzumalguapa, Escuintla, you can see many sculptures that depict deer or hieroglyphs of a deer

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head. The Bilbao culture is non-Mayan—a fascinating mixture of diverse Mexican cultures that took root in Guatemala and developed a unique Guatemalan adaptation of a mixture of Teotihuacan, Classic Veracruz and other sources from Mexico. You can see these fascinating sculptures in two museums near the town of Santa Lucía Cotzumalguapa, and other examples in the Museo Nacional de Arqueología, some in the Museo Popol Vuh (Universidad Francisco Marroquín), and a few in other museums.

Today you can see white-tailed deer at AutoSafari Chapín, in the Copán ruins and occasionally at Tikal and Yaxhá.

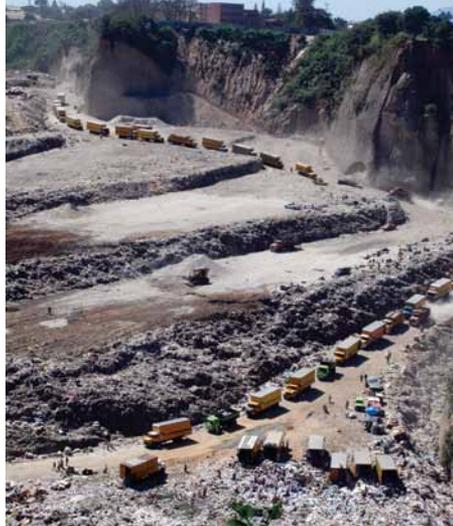
Although we perhaps are mesmerized by jaguars, vampire bats, crocodiles and cute hummingbirds as creatures in Mayan mythology, we should reinstate the deer into the regal processions and supernatural beliefs of Classic Mayan civilization. 🐇

*Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). For more information visit [www.digital-photography.org](http://www.digital-photography.org)*



**White-tailed deer at AutoSafari Chapín**

(Nicholas M. Hellmuth)



**Garbage trucks line up to offload 500 tons of domestic, chemical and medical waste daily**

## **Safe Passage** cont. from page 42

classroom assistant, a teacher, a tutor in the adult literacy program, a social worker or a kitchen porter, there really isn't such thing as a "typical day" at the project. In my last eight months as an English teacher, every day has offered something new. I have been given the opportunity to work with a demographic I wouldn't ordinarily have access to and have experienced almost every spectrum of emotion possible, from the intensely negative to the euphoric. It has been this diversity and intensity that has made the experience rewarding in such a way that only a true challenge can be.

The kids and mothers typically come from backgrounds that can make it a struggle to push past their streetwise exterior. After arriving on my first day expecting to be greeted by smiles and open arms, I quickly learned that building relationships with individuals who exist in the harsh reality of an inner-city slum can be tough and unpredictable. Trust is an issue in these *barrios* policed by gangs, as is violence and substance abuse. There is an educated suspicion and distance toward new people, unsurprising in a context where life is anything but easy and people learn quickly

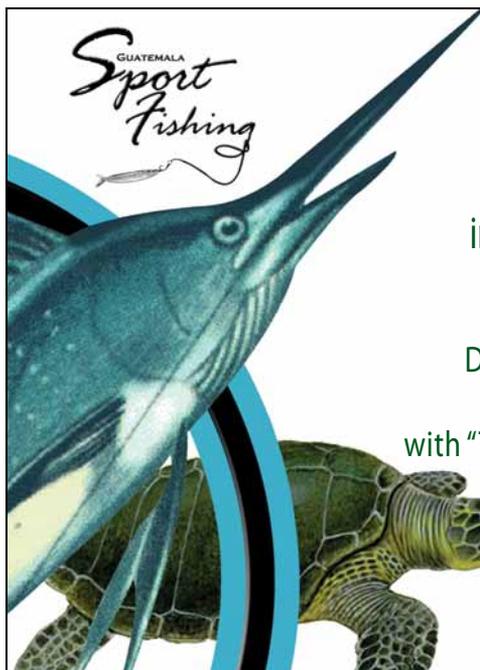
the art of self-preservation to survive.

When those breakthrough moments come, however, those moments when you make a real and meaningful connection with someone—when a normally aggressive student seeks you out for help, or when a kid passes their grade against the odds and thanks you for trusting in them—these are the moments that shall forever define my experience here.

The volunteers, whether they are short term (minimum of five weeks) or long haul, are expected to treat their commitment to the organization as they would a job. This means 10 hours a day, five days a week, and a clearly defined set of responsibilities with no sleeping in for a hangover. It's a tough schedule but it makes for a collection of dedicated and close individuals, who take what they do seriously. Spending so much time together in such an emotive environment forges strong and long-lasting connections between the folks of Safe Passage, while to an outsider, "The Camino Crew" may seem a strange phenomenon, displaying pack-like characteristics and tending to travel together as a unified mass, hosting parties where they take turns picking lice out each other's hair.

I am now coming to the end of my time with the project. Although I fear that this was probably lost in translation, I have been trying to explain to the kids how they have affected me so much more profoundly than I could have possibly have hoped to affect them. If I have managed to give back even one percent of what I have taken away from this overwhelming experience, I can hold me head up high. It is with a heavy heart that I remove my signature green T-shirt for the last time and say farewell to a place that has changed me forever. 

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 An advertisement for Finca El Pilar. The top features a logo with a hummingbird and the text 'FINCA EL PILAR'. Below the logo is the text 'San Cristóbal El Bajo' and 'Come and enjoy Antigua's real nature side'. The bottom section contains two photos: one of a person on a wooden bridge in a forest, and another of a hummingbird in flight.
 

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This is the name given to countries, by those who live in them, whose capital city has the same name as the country itself. Those that come immediately to mind are Guatemala, Mexico and Panama. In effect, it is somewhat true of El Salvador. The capital of that *república* is, of course, San Salvador. But increasingly, in areas outside of the capital, you hear folks refer to their capital as “El Salvador.”

I blame the *ayudantes* on intercity buses for this. Anywhere else in the country, you hear them shouting “¡El Salvador!” from the doors of buses approaching rural bus stops. On my first notice of this, perhaps 10 years ago, my thought was, “It’s some national holiday, and this shouting has to do with patriotism or national pride.” But no.

Not that I was unfamiliar with the habit. On my many trips (before moving to Central America) to the Mexican Republic, I began using the phrase as soon as I crossed the border, lest, by saying *México*, people

supposed I was referring to what Mexicans abroad call “DF.”

Inside of *la República*, we increasingly say “Guatemala” when we used to say Guatemala City. The translation of this latter name, *Ciudad de Guatemala*, is in fact never *heard* anywhere. It is a written form for official papers.

Our second most important city also has written and spoken names. The written name—Quetzaltenango—is always understood in speech, but it marks you as a newcomer. The spoken form is Xelajú, which I take pains to say completely; I consider the shortened form, “Xela,” an undignified corruption (for which, again, we probably have bus *ayudantes* to thank). But why does our second city have two names, and why is the spoken one the preferred one among our hosts?

The written name, Quetzaltenango (place of quetzals) was previously spelt without the first *t* (“Quezaltenango”). I forget what a *quezal* must have been, but adding the “*t*” might have been a way to draw more visitors, even though quetzal birds had long since disappeared from that region. The spoken name, Xelajú, is much older, and a Quiché Mayan place name. Que(t)zaltenango was imposed by the Tlaxcaltecan allies of Pedro de Alvarado, who is “credited” as the conqueror of Guatemala. ...continued on page 96



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*I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright. —Henry David Thoreau*

*If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive. —Eleonora Duse*

*Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the stars... and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers - for no reason. It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are. —Osho*

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In reality, he could not have conquered the region without the aid of these Tlaxcaltecs, who a generation earlier enabled Hernán Cortés to conquer Mexico. The Tlaxcaltecs were, like their Aztec foes, a Nahuatl-speaking people, and the countless place names that are Nahuatl in origin (Chimaltenango, Coatepeque, Totonicapán) are a legacy of their presence in Alvarado's legions. Many settled here and added to the collective pedigree of modern Guatemalans. But the trauma of the conquest is still felt, so locals go on preferring the old name.

By an edict of the court of Emperor Charles V, ruler of Spain during the era of conquistadores, no town in the colonies could have a charter until assigned a patron (or a holy object, like *cruc*) and named for the same. Now there are many more places than canonized saints; accordingly, additional names had to be added to place names to enable distinction.

In much the same way, the innumerable expat Daves, Mikes and Bobs in Panajachel append qualifiers to their names (in normal communities, last names serve this purpose, but Pana expats forget their last names within six months; we cannot blame ayduantes for this—maybe it is the water supply). We have Wheelchair Dave, English Dave, Sawdust Bob, Chocolate Bob, Coffee Mike, Sausage Mike and so on. There is even another Panajachel elsewhere in la República, but for them postal workers require “last names” (i.e., department names).

Some towns come to be known for their patron saint and others for their added name. Panajachel is officially San Francisco, in honor of Francis of Assisi. And yet you can buy a house here, raise kids, run a business and be buried here without ever knowing this.

The most troubling case of mistakable identity is the two Guatemalan cities with

the same first *and* last names: San Pedro Sacatepéquez. Location may provide context if you are near one or the other. But if you are remote from either, you must say “the one in San Marcos” or “the one near Guatemala.” The latter at least takes its last name from its department.

Alaska and Hawaii are not names that colonial authorities would have recognized. And they are not names of chartered municipalities, but they are recognized by cartographers (furthermore, bus ayudantes had no role in their christening). Both are handles for *aldeas*, units within municipalities that have their own submayors and councils. Alaska is a chilly village in the Highlands. Hawaii is a humid one on the Pacific.

So, can you really visit all the places listed in the first paragraph of this column? You can—thanks to the double-place-name phenomenon.

Start in Hawaii. Drive north, bound for Alaska, a trip normally taking five hours. But take scenic detours that will carry you though any of the towns named San Luis Something, San Francisco Something, San Antonio Something, and Something de los Ángeles. Also, there is probably a San Something Filadelfia that will not take you much out of the way. This leaves Chicago.

To include Chicago, I cheated some.

On my Dad's first visit to la República, his itinerary included Chichicastenango. Each time he tried to pronounce the name, he came up with something different. “Chichi-caca-wing-wango-or-whatever-the-hell-it-is” was one result. Finally, he took a pencil and found that, by crossing out certain letters, and without any reordering, one can get “Chicago.”

So add Chichi to the route, and you have done it. 



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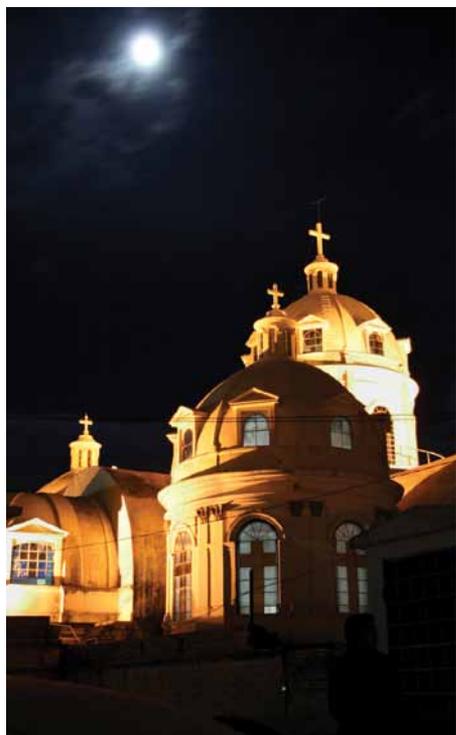
ABOVE: Panorama of Quetzaltenango BELOW: Cúpulas of the cathedral (Harry Díaz [www.flickr.com/harrydiaz](http://www.flickr.com/harrydiaz))

## QUETZALTENANGO cont. from page 15

multi-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease, and I considered canceling a planned visit to the cemetery to watch locals fly kites. I'm glad I didn't.

Walking between mausoleums—designed as mini-cathedrals, Egyptian pyramids and the White House (!)—amidst thousands of people who were also remembering their loved ones was both healing and unforgettable. Even if you're not there on the 1st of November, make sure to block out an hour or two to appreciate the kaleidoscope of colored tombs that stretches for miles.

With so many sites and activities to choose from in and around Xela, you'll enjoy losing yourself in one of the country's best cities. 📍



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Pasaje Enriquez, Quetzaltenango (Harry Díaz www.flickr.com/harrydiaz)



about town and hung above the entrance of many Catholic churches. The moment of the most intense excitement is when Maximón is brought out of his shrine to meet Jesus on Good Friday in the packed square in front of the church.

People who fear him imagine that he is used by witchdoctors in their black magic and for conjuring curses. However, there is big plaque at one of the shrines near Maximón's throne where he himself states unequivocally that no one should ever appeal to him to do harm. The Law of Compensation will duly punish anyone who attempts this.

### THE MAGICAL & MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF MAXIMÓN

Guatemala is a land where magic is alive and well. Many people in Guatemala, especially evangelical Christians, reject traditional "pagan" practices as being evil. Nevertheless, much of the population believes that practitioners of the magic arts exist and that their powers are real.

In the modern civilized world our "high priests"—scientists and doctors—have convinced us that this kind of thing only exists in myth and legend. But in rural Guatemala people still freely engage in magical thinking—a kind of thinking where they can believe that literally anything can happen. And this kind of open-ended thinking, which can lead to unfounded fear and anxiety, can also lead to a kind of freedom of thought, which is actually exhilarating. Yes, Guatemala is a land of magic and mystery.

Over the years I have met many Guatemalans who believe in Maximón. In all cases these devotees thought that Maximón was a good being: a friend whom you call on when you are in trouble or when you believe that someone is trying to hurt you. Maximón intercedes on one's behalf and helps

to remove whatever is getting in the way of one's health or prosperity. I will now recount several personal experiences that I have had with the mysterious world of Maximón:

Some time ago I was renting a room at a rather posh apartment complex in Panajachel. As one might expect, many of the workers were indigenous Maya from the region. Part of the staff were made up of individuals from Panajachel and were Kaqchikel Maya. The rest were from Santiago Atitlán and were from the Tz'utujil tribe. What is unknown to nearly everyone except local residents is that there exists a certain amount of enmity between the two tribes, which can be traced back to the Conquest when the vanquished Kaqchikel were obliged to fight alongside the Spanish as they attempted to subdue the Tz'utujil resistance, which continued to defend their homeland on the south shore of Lake Atitlán.

One of the Tz'utujil workers where I stayed began to take ill. It was a slow process, but as the months passed he became weaker and noticeably thinner. He was taken to the doctors but none was able to detect the cause of his malady. I had known this young man for many years and felt quite concerned about his predicament. He became so weak that he was unable to come to work.

Then one day, with the help of his sisters, he came back to speak with the owners of the apartment complex. He told them that he had had a dream where Maximón appeared and spoke to him. Maximón told him that one of the Kaqchikel men who worked at the apartments was trying to put a curse on him. He was told that if they searched the property, they would find a cache of black-magic items.

The owners, who are North Americans, took the young man seriously and searched the compound. Lo and behold, they *did* find the voodoo cache, which ...continued on page 106



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*My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."  
 —Harmon Killebrew*

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*Driving down the wrong road and knowing it, the fork years behind, how many have thought to pull up on the shoulder and leave the car empty, strike out across the fields; and how many are still mazed among dock and thistle, seeking the road they should have taken? —Damon Knight*

*There are three stages of a man's life: He believes in Santa Claus, he doesn't believe in Santa Claus, he is Santa Claus.*

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.*

—John Muir

*I still get wildly enthusiastic about little things.... I play with leaves. I skip down the street and run against the wind. —Leo Buscaglia*



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## MAXIMÓN cont. from page 100

included a stolen photo of the young fellow along with half-burned black candles, incense and feathers. The stuff was promptly burned, and the owners confronted the suspect, who confessed. The perpetrator's pay was docked and he was informed that if he continued with such activities, he would be sacked.

Over the next few weeks, the young Tzutujil man completely recovered. He was absolutely convinced that Maximón had saved his life, and from that day forward he never forgot to take a small offering of food, liquor or cigars to Maximón's temple in Santiago Atitlán. Of course, I don't believe any

of this; nevertheless, it happened just as I have related.

Some years later, while staying at the same apartment complex, another strange series of events occurred. One evening there was a knock at my door. It was the wife of a prominent hotel owner from across the lake. I had known them for years. She said that her husband was in one of the other apartments and she wanted me to come and say hello to him. When I got to the room I was rather shocked by what I saw: The normally portly and jovial man had turned into a living skeleton. He was so weak that he could not even hold a telephone to his ear without help. I felt very, very bad for the guy.

They had seen all the doctors and even experts in the States and none could find out what was wrong with him. Suddenly, I got a bright idea. I knew a medical researcher in Guatemala City who loved nothing more than a good challenge. I told them that they should go see him. It was a Friday evening; they decided to see the doctor on Monday.

Long before this I had promised one of the Tzutujil ladies who worked at the apartments that I would take her and her daughter to see the big Maximón temple at San Andrés Itzapa (near Chimaltenango). Her name was Candelaria Matzar and, being a devotee of Maximón, was very enthusiastic about the prospects of making a pilgrimage to Guatemala's largest Maximón shrine. We determined to go there that very Sunday.

After a nice breakfast along the way at the Katok Restaurant in Tecpán, we proceeded to San Andrés Itzapa. As soon as we got to the temple, Candelaria went to work making prayers and offerings of candles of diverse colors, incense and tobacco. For the next few hours I enjoyed the show as she worked intensely. The atmosphere was welcoming; it felt like a family party.

The place was packed, and thousands of

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twinkling candles placed upon special tables gave the large hall a magical atmosphere. Women were puffing intently on huge cigars. Shaman were performing “cleansings,” which entail spitting *aguardiente* (firewater) on the subjects, even in their faces, and then whipping them with bundles of herbs. Mariachi musicians played as a long line of devotees filed up to get a closer look at Maximón who, looking resplendent sitting upon his throne, presided mutely over the entire affair. A man on the stairway leading up to the throne pulled out a liter bottle of Gallo beer, shook it up and showered the entire crowd with its contents to squeals of approval. It was one wild scene.

When my friends had finished with their ceremonies, we drove back to Sololá and Panajachel, making a stop along the way to visit the ancient Mayan citadel of Iximché. As we walked around the ruins I asked Candelaria about the rituals she had performed back at Maximón’s house. She related that she had been saying prayers on behalf of her daughter and specifically that the girl would do well in school. She had also asked Maximón for help to remove the sickness that was plaguing our friend. She said that since medical doctors had been unable to help the fellow, perhaps Maximón could. He is, she said, good with those kinds of things.

Later on that week I was surprised to see the hotel owner’s wife looking jubilant. What happened? I asked. She told me that they had gone to see the doctor I had recommended and, after several days of tests, he had finally detected the cause of the

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man’s illness and commenced with treatment, predicting a full recovery.

When I told Candelaria the good news, she was also very pleased. She confided that she was absolutely sure that it had been Maximón who had interceded on the man’s behalf. He often works like that, she said. ☛

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**AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA:** Mon. 6-7pm Discussion, Wed. & Thurs. 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant, 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). www.antiguaguatemala.aa.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 progresas3@gmail.com

**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 11:15am. Chapel of Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, corner 6a calle & 3a av., La Antigua. Tels: 5293-1076, 5492-5707.

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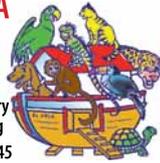
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*For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life. —Fr. Alfred D'Souza*



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*Seek freedom and become captive of your desires.  
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The coffee tour is thorough and interesting



The grounds include a luxurious boutique hotel

## Finca Filadelfia cont. from page 20

certainly won't be complaining about the price. I was amazed to learn how many necessary steps and skilled hands it takes to produce one bag of quality coffee beans. Our guide Esteban walked us through the process, from beginning to delicious end. The finca uses no pesticides and produces some of the world's best organic coffee. Every single bean is picked by hand, and this coffee lover has a new appreciation for her favorite treat.

Handed down by Dalton's ancestors, the Finca Filadelfia has recently added a luxury 20-room boutique hotel that features beautifully decorated rooms with vaulted ceilings, automatic black-out shades, wood-burning fireplaces and pampers guest with Egyptian and Italian linens and fluffy robes. Imagine all that plus a morning spent relaxing with a cup of freshly ground coffee out on your patio, surrounded by gardens, overlooking the outdoor pool and Jacuzzi.

Great for a romantic getaway, the resort is also perfect for family adventures, corporate retreats and large events. Group discounts are available, and the hotel is currently offering special-package pricing. "We love to help

people organize their wedding party," says hotel manager Carmen Córdova, "and, we can accommodate over 1,500 people for events." From airport pickup to babysitters and wedding photographers, Carmen can help you to plan and organize the perfect party.

Offering fine dining, casual meals and fantastic catering, Chef Mario Miralles, who has cooked for Bill Gates and Arabian princes, is adding his signature style to Antigua's food scene. La Pérgola de la Montaña is the finca's most recent restaurant. Located high up on one of the property's mountains and only open Sundays, it is a fabulous place to go for brunch. Leave your car at the base and catch a free shuttle to one of the best views around. Another option is the Cafetenengo, which features traditional Guatemala fare. Last but not least, Chef Mario has combined his creativity and experience and designed an exciting new menu at Pergaminos. With his focus on using quality Guatemalan ingredients, French techniques and Thai finishes, the food alone is worth making a trip to the Filadelfia Coffee Resort. 

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Nesting season —Lena Johannessen

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*Forget not that the earth  
delights to feel your bare  
feet and the winds long to  
play with your hair.*

—Kahlil Gibran



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*You can't be suspicious of a tree, or accuse a bird or a squirrel of subversion or challenge the ideology of a violet. —Hal Borland*

*Truly it may be said that the outside of a mountain is good for the inside of a man. —George Wherry*



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## SENSUOUS GUATEMALA: BRONZE

by Ken Veronda photo: Rudy Girón



**Y**ou can see it, hear it, taste and smell it, even touch it. All the senses get involved with bronze in Guatemala. Bronze metal is seen and heard in church bells, of course, and bronze tones cover the hillsides in the reddish-brown fields of peanut and wheat. Light tan coffee beans are bronzed during roasting, giving off wonderful aromas. Then you can hold some bronze shades and taste them in brewed coffee, fresh breads, and handfuls of peanuts and macadamia nuts, all grown here. In the markets, you can spot several flowers in bronze tones, as well as some bronze-tone nursery plants ready for export.

The alloy of copper, tin, and other metals that we call bronze can be traced 6,000 years back to its discovery in Iran and China. On its own, Mesoamerica developed bronze too – probably coming north from the Moche and Inca peoples through Central America around 600 A.D. Little bronze rings and bells, made by the lost-wax process, have been found in Copán, Honduras; near Guatemala City in Kaminaljuyú, in Quiriguá and Tikal; and north near the Mexican border at Huehuetenango's Zaculeu site.

The ancient Maya must have liked the brilliant sounds and colors evoked through

the movement of bronze adornments. Then the Spanish conquerors brought bronze church bells, and Guatemalans copied and molded their own bronze bells. The Spanish mixed about a quarter tin to three-quarters copper for their bronze. They knew that the more tin, the more the timbre drops. Some of the largest bells in La Antigua Guatemala churches, such as at La Merced and Escuela de Cristo, came from Spain and are about 30 percent tin. In Guatemala, bell-makers found they could add some silver to the alloy for bigger bells, and keep the timbre lighter. Listen around Antigua at the bells calling to morning and evening prayers and you'll hear bronze sounding over two full octaves, Spanish imports and homemade.

Guatemalan craftsmen continue to mix and mould bronze into ornaments and signs. In the craft market stalls, you can buy bronze both new and old. Fancy antique and funky sidewalk shops sell bronze candlesticks, snuffers, and ornaments. Meanwhile, do enjoy bronze for free in its other forms—bronze bougainvillea hanging over white walls, bronze coffee to taste and smell, all the church bells, and little hillside farms with their bronze-toned crops. 

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