

# REVUE



Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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June 2012  
Year 21, No. 4

FREE

- ◆ Father's Day Photo Contest
- ◆ Coiling Baskets
- ◆ Aguateca Adventure



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□ ALEX HONNOLD AND JAMES PEARSON ON LUCIFER'S LIGHTHOUSE, 512'. PHOTO: TIM KEMPLE

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## ¡CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO!

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO edición de JULIO, 2012 con con el tema FOTO HUMORISTICA DE GUATEMALA; Enviar UNA (1) foto en ALTA RESOLUCIÓN con el título, lugar donde fue tomada, su nombre y el sitio web para el crédito a: **fotos@revuemag.com**

Habrán premios para las fotos ganadoras, incluye cena para dos en La Peña de Sol Latino.  
Para más información RevueMag.com

Serán elegibles las fotos que se reciban hasta el 10 de junio.

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for JULY, 2012 with theme GUATEMALAN HUMOROUS PHOTO; please send ONE (1) HI-RES photo with caption/location and your name and website for the credit line to: **photos@revuemag.com**



There will be prizes for winning photos including dinner for 2 at La Peña de Sol Latino.

More information at RevueMag.com

Submissions entered by the 10th of June will be eligible.

## PHOTO CONTEST!

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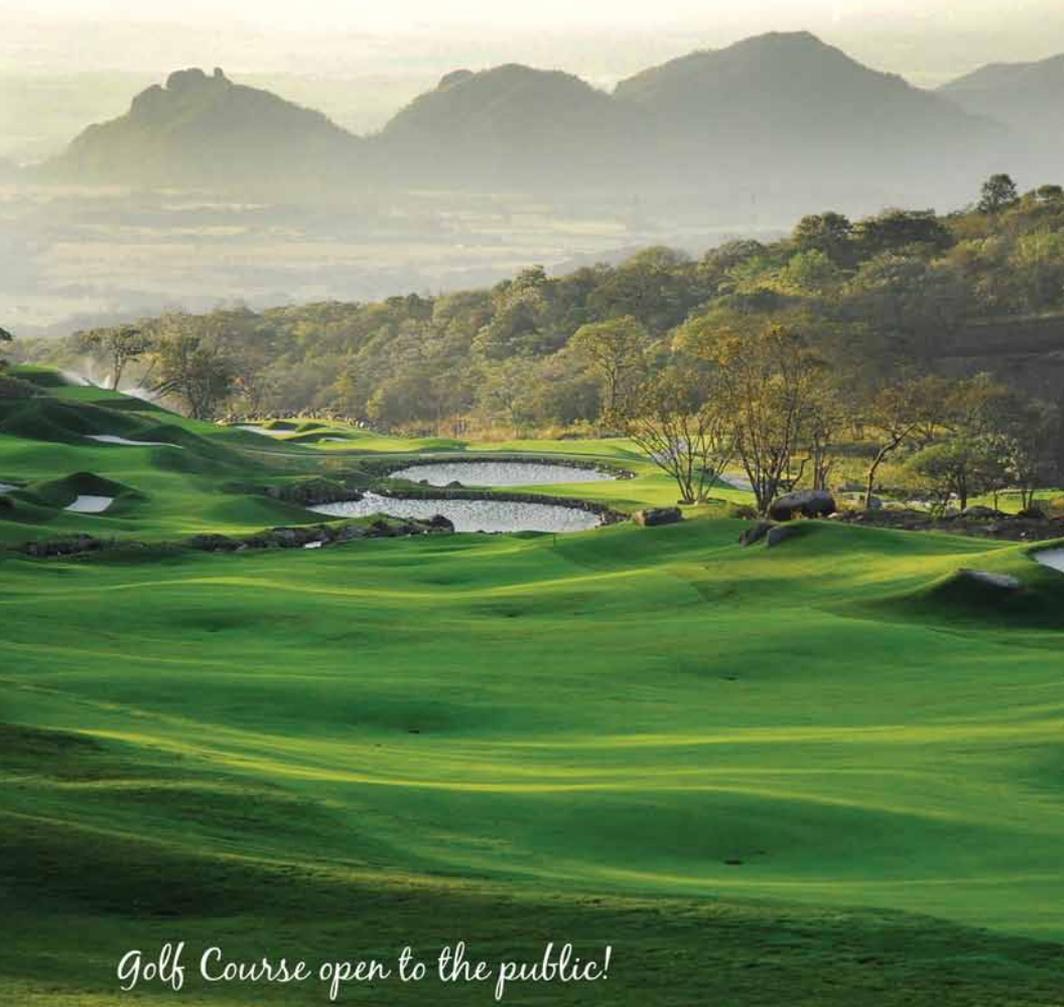
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**Deadline for the  
July 2012 issue » June 11**

## ON THE COVER

1st PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest, June. Congratulations to José Chavarría on his photograph "Piggy Back". Prize: Dinner for two at La Peña de Sol Latino



A left handed Jimi Hendrix  
played a right handed guitar.

Upside down.



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## From the Publishers

**T**hanks for picking up this month's Revue, how is June going for you so far? If you feel like traveling some, we've got a couple of excellent destination suggestions. Helena Oswald fills us in on a way to experience nature and culture by heading north to Aguateca. If you prefer a southerly route, Tara Tiedemann offers a quick and fun tour of Tak'alik Ab'aj and Retalhuleu.

Father's Day is in June and we received many excellent submissions for our monthly photo contest. You can see the winners throughout these pages as well as our cover photo. We have also featured a number of beautiful photographs by professional wildlife photographer and conservationist Thor Janson.

The carriage horses in Antigua have been needing an organization like Helping Hooves for some time, and Anna-Claire Bevan brings us the good news. Elizabeth Bell introduces us to two inspiring men.

And there's more! Lovely baskets made by the coiling method as explained by expert, Kathy Rousso; alternative Energy and Healing methods, outlined by a pair of experts in the field, Sri Ram Kaa and Kira Raa; some great ideas for studying Spanish under the full moon in Quetzaltenango. Dr. Hellmuth serves up some edible fruits the ancient Maya used to survive; and Melba Milak makes it a clean sweep with her observations about sweeping.

And if that's not enough, check out DateBook for cultural events and live music happening all month long. Enjoy.

—*John & Terry Kovick Biskovich*

# REVUE

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**2nd PLACE by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, June**

"Mi querido viejo" by Telma Cruz, Guatemala City. Prize: Q300.

All entries can be seen at [www.RevueMag.com](http://www.RevueMag.com)

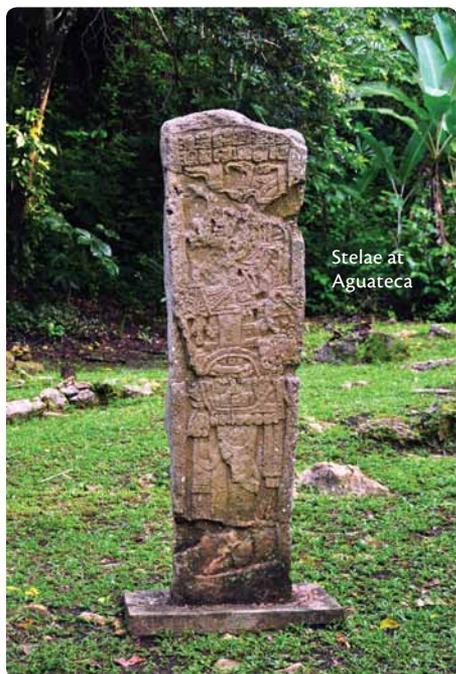
# Aguateca

Site of the  
Royal Palace

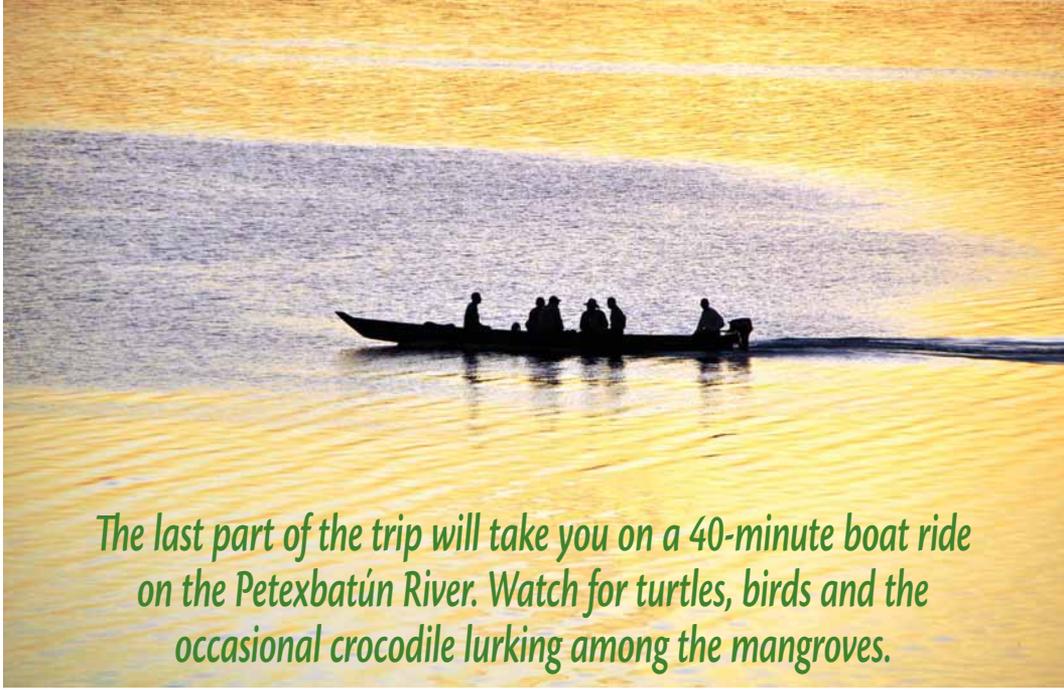
*A perfect combination of a cultural and natural experience*

If you're looking for an off-the-beaten-track destination where you can visit an ancient Mayan city and experience nature, Aguateca, "the Sun-Faced Mountain," might be the place. Located in the jungle atop a low limestone hill on the banks of Lake Petexbatún, it is well preserved and features an impressive natural chasm that is a must to explore.

The origins of Aguateca are estimated to date back to the late Mayan Preclassic period (300 BD to 350 AD). After being densely populated around 700 AD it was later invaded by enemies and abandoned during the ninth century, as were other cities in the Mayan world. The exodus was so fast that one of the buildings was left unfinished. You will come upon this, the defense wall,



Stelae at  
Aguateca



*The last part of the trip will take you on a 40-minute boat ride on the Petexbatún River. Watch for turtles, birds and the occasional crocodile lurking among the mangroves.*

the house of the governor and other smaller structures as you walk through the site. One of the highlights certainly are the detailed stelae (or their replicas) on the main plaza.

Also at the site keep your eyes open for monkeys jumping from tree to tree. Probably you will hear them long before you see them, especially the howler monkey, as its roar can be heard several kilometers away. Just imagine standing right beneath one of them when it starts to vocalize.

If you venture into the chasm, which is about 50 to 60 meters deep and only a few meters wide, you might also run into snakes and other little creepy animals. Therefore, watch out as you make your way down the slippery path into the dark creek, which used to serve as a natural defense line. Better yet, take a flashlight.

Not only is Aguateca ...continued page 58



**JUNE REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, theme: Father**



**1st PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, June**

Congratulations to Marco Ortiz on his photograph titled "Mirada y pensamientos" Guatemala City.  
Prize: 6 bottles of La Chamiza wine. All entries can be seen at [www.RevueMag.com](http://www.RevueMag.com)





# Coiling Baskets

Weaving in the present with fibers of the past

Just off of the paved highway between Chiquimula and Esquipulas is the municipality of San Jacinto, where 20 women from the aldeas of Agua Zarco Abajo, Agua Zarco Arriba and Lomas make baskets. They are known as *Asociacion de Mujeres Artesana de San Jacinto* (AMASAJA) and their slogan is “*Mujeres, tejiendo el presente con fibras del pasado*” or “Women, weaving in the present with fibers of the past.” They are supported by *Fortaleciendo la institucionalidad de las mujeres guatemaltecos* and *CSEM Centro de Servicio para Emprendimientos de las mujeres*.

These women use coiling, which is an uncommon Guatemalan basket-making

technique. It was introduced to the San Jacinto women in the early 1980s as an economic-development project. Coiled baskets are made with an inner core that wraps around in a spiral, held to the previous row with another strand or thread. Coiled baskets are made in the departments of Sololá (pine needle and grass) and Chiquimula (pine needle, braided maguery and palm).



The San Jacinto weavers use basketry fibers from palm and coconut palm fronds. The inner foundation of the basket coil is the *bena* or spine part of the palm frond and is separated out from the outer, thinner edges with a needle. The outer frond is stripped into thin lengths with a needle and is used as the “thread” to hold the inner coil in place. A needle is not used when poking the sharp pointed end between the coils. The three natural colors of the baskets come from the outer, older palm fronds, which are green; the inner, younger palm fronds, which are white; and the coconut fronds, which are brown. The palm is harvested when the plant is 10-20 years old. One-and-

a-half palm fronds are enough for a 10-inch basket, which can be completed in about two days. The work always starts with the pointed end of the frond strip.

San Jacinto baskets come in many sizes and shapes and include *tortilleras* (round with a lid), *bolsas* (rectangular), *aisladores* (round and flat), *bolsas tecuaco* (oval with handles), *joyeros* (heart-shaped), *papeleros* (open and rectangular), and *fruteros* (open round or oval). They are sold in Agua Zarco Abajo (Irma Santiago’s house), San Jacinto (Irma Cruz’s house) and in the gift shop of the Paleontology, Archaeology and Geology Museum “Karl Sapper” in Estanzuela, about nine kilometers from Zacapa. 

*For more info, contact Irma Estela Santiago  
amasaja@gmail.com or 5740-6902.  
Kathy Rousso is the author of Maguey  
Journey, University of Arizona Press*



Stone carving at  
Tak'alik Ab'aj

# Guatemala's Exotic Pacific Coast

## *Tak'alik Ab'aj and Retalhuleu*

**A**s we find ourselves right in the midst of this important year for the Mayan cosmovision 2012, one of the most intriguing Mayan archeological sites that can't be missed is Tak'alik Ab'aj, recently nominated to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013. This amazing historical treasure, situated not far from the coastal town of Retalhuleu, is one of few sites in the world with evidence of both Olmec and Mayan cultures in one place. If Tikal represents the culmination of Mayan civilization, Tak'alik Ab'aj represents its birth, and a visit to this site will bring your understanding of the Mayan civilization full circle.

Tak'alik Ab'aj's history bridges two

millennia—from 1000 B.C.E. to 1000 C.E.—as well as many cultures. From the middle Preclassic Era we find low, wide clay ceremonial platforms—and rounded sculptures, juxtaposed against Mayan hieroglyphics and large count dates from the late Preclassic Era. It is also the only place in the world that exhibits such a large quantity of sculptures demonstrating both Olmec and Mayan cultures—such as one famous sculpture with the body of a jaguar body and face of a man. The quality of sculptures and quantity of styles are a highlight of the site, as well as recent finds such as a jade necklace and other jade carvings. Pass an enjoyable morning learning ...cont. page 84



# Helping Hooves

*Local organization helps Antigua's carriage horses*

When an accident forced her to stop riding five years ago, California-raised Suzanne Divoff was determined to keep working with horses, and on the streets of La Antigua Guatemala she saw an opportunity; Helping Hooves (HH) was born.

Made up of three women, Helping Hooves started working with Antigua's horse and carriage drivers with the goal of improving the well-being of the horses and educating the owners on how best to take care of them. Five months on, the project is going from strength-to-strength.

"A lot of people used to complain about the conditions of the horses, but now the

carriage men are doing everything in their power to help them, and you can really see a difference. The horses' coats are shiny and their bones don't stick out," says Divoff. "We told the men that the horses needed to have stalls in the rainy season and they built them within two months."

With help from the British charity World Horse Welfare, Helping Hooves has introduced a strict schedule of regular shoeing. The cost for worming and equine dental clinics is split between owners and HH.

In the past, the horses were shod by laymen with little expertise, which often resulted in many of their hooves being off balance, but now they have ...cont. page 52

# DATEBOOK

## JUNE 2012



**1 Fri., 7pm** — EXPOSITION: *Eco Culturismo, Think Green*, 40 bonsai trees by artist Lic. Enrique Díaz. For more information, tel: 7761-4400. Casa Noj, **Quetzaltenango**.

**2 Sat. & Sat., 16, 9am-noon** — COOKING CLASS: Mariela, Norma, María and the staff in the cocina conduct típico Guatemalan cooking classes. \$40 includes a fantastic cup of Antigua coffee, three hours of school and the wonderful meal you cooked (with a glass of wine or other beverage). Afterward Mariela takes the class to the mercado to see where to buy the best ingredients. Limited enrollment. Call for a reservation, 7882-4468. La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

**2 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC: *Concierto para Italia* by Orquesta Sinfónica Municipal. Gran Sala Efraín Recinos, Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, **Guatemala City**.

**2 Sat., 7pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *A mí no me echen el muerto*, por los Cómicos de la Lengua. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**3 Sun., 11am** — GASTRONOMY: *Con sabor a Italia*, Toscan dishes; **Sat., 9** — Italian Cuisine workshops. Casa Noj, **Quetzaltenango**.

**3 Sun., 11am** — MUSIC: *Concierto para Italia* by Orquesta Sinfónica Municipal. Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**.

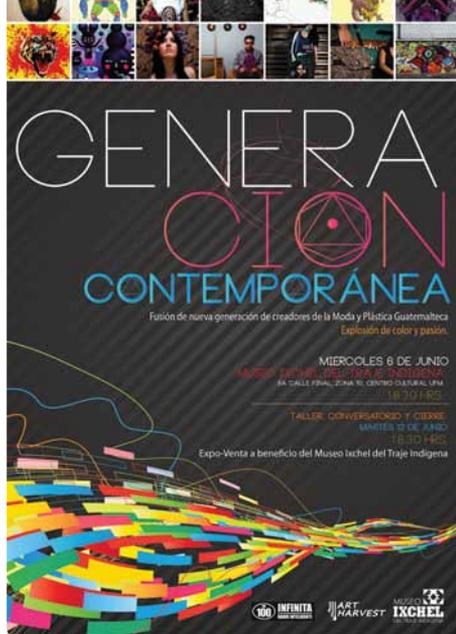
**3 Sun., 12pm** — ART: Within the Festival Paiz, featuring *Gitanos de Papel* by artista Rogelio López Cuenca. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

**5 Tues., 6:30pm** — (Spanish) EVENT: *Encuentro* con Claudio Zulian, en el marco de la XVIII Bienal de Arte Paiz. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2263-0394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**7 Thurs., 7pm, open through July 13** — ART: Inauguration of *Italarte*, an exhibition of works by Italian artists living in Guatemala. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2263-0394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

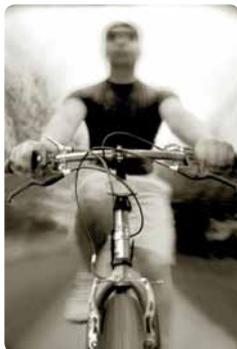
Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the JULY, 2012 edition of the **REVUE** by Monday, June 11

**R** DateBook online: [www.REVUEmag.com](http://www.REVUEmag.com)



**6 Wed., 6:30pm** — ART: *Generación Contemporánea*, collective exposition and sale. Participating artists: André Gribble Alvaro Sánchez, Eny Roland, Estilo Quetzal, Ichigo Tock, Juan Pensamiento, La María, María Alfaro, Mauricio Samayoa, Mynor Véliz, Muxxi, Manuel Regalado, Monájera and Stefan Kalschmitt. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

**6 Wed., 7pm** — ANTIGUA PHOTO CLUB: Club Fotográfico de Antigua (CFA) features photo talks by special guests as well as photo contests in color, b/w and digital categories. CFA welcomes novice and professional photo enthusiasts. For additional information and details visit [www.clubfotograficoantigua.com](http://www.clubfotograficoantigua.com) or [Facebook.com/ClubFotograficoAntigua](https://www.facebook.com/ClubFotograficoAntigua). Free. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, **La Antigua**.



**7 Thurs., 7pm** — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Guatemala Diversa*, more than 100 photos by well-known Italian photographer Oliviero Toscani for ONU Human Rights in Guatemala. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

**8 Fri., 7pm** — ART: *Pequeños Bocados de Conciencia*, collages by Ernesto Argueta. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**8 Fri., 6:30pm** — PHOTOGRAPHY: *En Xela*, photographs by various artists. Organized by Universidad Mesoamericana. Casa Noj, **Quetzaltenango**. ▼



**9 Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) CIRCUS: *Malandrus Circus*, Una pequeña maleta se convierte asombrosamente en un circo donde aparecerán mágicos juguetes de malabares, trasladándonos hasta nuestra infancia e invitando a resurgir el niño que todos llevamos dentro. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

**9 Sat., 1pm** — BENEFIT DANCE: The Niños de San Antonio Aguas Calientes dance and play the marimba, flutes and bombas. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

**9 Sat., 4pm** — (Spanish) ENCUENTRO LITERARIO: *Fuente Ovejuna*, una de las obras teatrales de contenido social y reivindicativo más importantes de Lope de Vega, escrita en 1610. Q20. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

## DATEBOOK

**9 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC: *Valtrez en concierto*, Grupo con más de una década de vida, interpretando música de bolero, balada, trova, latina y folklore sudamericano. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**9 Sat., & Fri., 10th, 10am-5pm** — WORKSHOPS: *Awakening the Sacred Body - An Introduction to Sacred Sexuality*. Q1,000 p/p. Info./bookings/reservations: see FaceBook page: Consciousness & Sacred Sexuality Guatemala; tel: (502) 4465-5007; lasexualidadsagradaguatemala@gmail.com The Sanctuary - Casa Blanca, **San Marcos, Lake Atitlán**.

**12 Tues., 6:30pm** — (Spanish)

TALLER DE ARTE: Por los artistas participantes en la exposición Generación Contemporánea. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z.



10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

**12 Tues., 5:30pm** — TALK: Habitat for Humanity provides permanent housing solutions around the world; find out how you can become a Habitat volunteer and become part of the Habitat family. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**13 Wed.,** — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *13 B'aktun*, a cargo del Lic. Tomás Barrientos, director del Depto. de Arqueología de la Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. Para mayor información comunicarse al 2361-8081/82 o al correo galeria@museoixchel.org Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

**15 Fri., 3pm** — (Spanish) TALK: *Amaranto, rico y nutritivo*, ven y conoce sobre este alimento muy nutritivo, sus propiedades y usos. Además habrá exposición y degustación de deliciosos platos hechos con Amaranto. Q40. Vivero y Café de La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a. av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**.

**15 Fri., through Sun., 17, 9am-7pm** — (Spanish & English) CONFERENCIAS: *V Convención Mundial de La Arqueología Maya*, participarán 19 conferencistas de renombre mundial especialistas en la cultura Maya. Este evento es el único en Mesoamérica y a nivel mundial el cual se llevará a cabo solo en Guatemala como parte de la celebración del B'aktun 13. Conferencias Generales Q100 por día. Conference in English with Dr. Mark Van Stone, Q100. Taller de Niños, Q150 por taller. Organizado por Eventos Antigua Guatemala; una producción, promoción, dirección de Rosendo Morales. Para más información: [www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com](http://www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com) info@eventosantiguaguatemala.com Tel: (502) 4997-8188. Hotel Camino Real, 7a calle poniente #33-B, **La Antigua**.

**16 Sat., & 9am-noon** — COOKING CLASS: Mariela, Norma, María and the kitchen staff conduct típico Guatemalan cooking classes. Reference Sat., 2nd listing for details. Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

**16 Sat., 7pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *Policías de Medias Noches*, por Siempre Teatro. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**17 Sun.** — FATHER'S DAY: Celebrations throughout the country.

My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require.

—Edward Elgar



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Author of Antigua Guatemala and other publications  
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On **Saturday, June 23**, members of Democrats Abroad will help you to register for the 2012 elections. 11a.m. to 2 pm, Conexión, 4a calle oriente, comercial La Fuente #14, Antigua. If you're in Panajachel, you can get help registering to vote on **Saturday, June 30**, at La Chinta's restaurant, Calle Santander from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. **For more information call John Chudy, Chair: tel: 7832-4581, or [mayadems@yahoo.com](mailto:mayadems@yahoo.com).**

Dancing in all its forms cannot be excluded from the curriculum of all noble education; dancing with the feet, with ideas, with words, and, need I add that one must also be able to dance with the pen?  
—Friedrich Nietzsche



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# LIVE

## La Cueva de Panza Verde

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

**Mondays** — Night blues: Nelson Lunding or guest artist.

**Wednesdays** — Jazz Duo with Lisandro, Grand Piano & Double Bass.

**Thursdays** — Buena Vista de Corazón, Ignacio Perez on congas and Aniet Gonzáles on flute.

**Fridays** — Latin Trio, Denis Medina on Cubano Tres and Coloso Gudierre on congas

**Saturdays** — Guest artist.

Nightly cover: Q35

## La Peña de Sol Latino

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

**Sundays** — 12:30-3pm: Carlos Trujillo, Latin Jazz/Salsa, with Bill on congas.

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

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

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



## Gaia Restaurante

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

**Thursdays** — 7pm: Live music.

**Fridays and Saturdays** — Belly dancing.

## Como Como

tel: 7832-0478 6 calle poniente #6, La Antigua

**Wednesdays** — 8pm: Accordion music by Jorge Herrera.

## 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: Kenny and Friends, some of Antigua's best loved local musicians will amaze you with some great music.

**Fridays** — 7:30pm: Segio, this talented local plays a mix of music including lots of reggae!

**Saturdays** — 7:30pm: A variety of bands!

**Sundays** — 7:30pm: Kenny and Friends, some of Antigua's best loved local musicians will amaze you with some great music.



## Las Palmas

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

**Mondays** — TROVA and surprise guests.

**Tuesdays** — BLUES Night from 8pm.

**Wednesdays** — Bossa / Latin / Cuban.

**Thursdays** — Bossa / Latin / Cuban.

**Fridays** — SALSA grupo CARIBE from 9pm.

**Saturdays** — SALSA grupo CARIBE from 9pm.

**Sundays** — Late night BLUES.



# MUSIC

## Ocelot

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

**Thursdays** — 7-9pm: Mike Mcarthy plays some mean blues.

9pm: Mike & Moriah, piano & vocals.

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

**Saturdays** — 7-9pm: Malcolm Oakley sings and plays guitar.

9:30pm: Mercedes, guitar blues/rock/folk.



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

## Fridas

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

**Wednesdays** — 7:30pm: Latin music.

**Thursdays** — Ishto Juevez, swing & Mexican.

## La Casbah

5a av. norte #30, La Antigua

**Tuesdays** — Live music: cover band

## Restaurante Personajes

tel: 7832-3758 6a av. norte #6, La Antigua

**Fridays & Saturdays** — 9pm-11:30pm: Rock in English and Spanish. Cover Q20

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## 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**

— 9:15pm: Rony Hernández and 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 Álvarez, bass and Julio García on drums.

## DATEBOOK

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

**22 Fri., 7pm** — MUSIC: *Viaje por el mundo a través de la música*, accordion concert by Edgar Ávila. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**23 Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) PUPPET SHOW: *La Gallinita Sembradora*, una trabajadora gallinita al encontrar un grano de maíz decide sembrarlo y para realizar las tareas propias del cuidado de esa planta les pedirá ayuda a sus vecinos, quienes se negarán rotundamente a brindarle cualquier apoyo. Sin embargo, aprenderán la lección cuando no les invite el pastel de choclo que preparó con su maíz. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), **La Antigua**.

**23 Sat., 11am-2pm** — U.S. VOTER REGISTRATION – If you're a U.S. citizen living in Guatemala, it's time to register to vote for the 2012 elections. Members of Democrats Abroad will help (regardless of political affiliation). For more information call John Chudy, chair: tel: 7832-4581 or mayadems@yahoo.com. Conexion, 4a calle oriente #14, **La Antigua**.

**23 Sat., 7pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *Afuera, lesbianas en escena*, written and directed by Colectivas Siluetas. Q40. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**23 Sat., 12pm-8pm** — MERCADILLO DE LIBROS Y REVISTAS: Biblioce, la biblioteca del CFCE Antigua, organiza una jornada en la que ofrece a todas aquellas personas interesadas la adquisición gratuita de diversos libros y revistas especializadas procedentes de sus fondos. Cada persona podrá tomar hasta un máximo de 10 libros o revistas. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

**24 Sun.** — CELEBRATION: *Cultural and religious activities* to honor San Juan Bautista. **Olintepeque, Quetzaltenango**.

**24 Sun., 11am** — MUSIC: *Verissima*, recital by Guatemalan soprano Julia Pimentel, singing beautiful opera arias, duets, and Italian songs. Special guest, tenor Francisco Guillén. Q50. Tickets: Guatemala City-De Museo, Miraflores, Century, Oakland Mall and Pradera; Antigua-Lex Cargo, corner of 7 av & 6a calle, at the box office, the morning of the event. Centro de Convenciones Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**. ▼



**26 Tues., 5:30pm** — TALK: Quetzaltrekkers was founded in 1995 as a means of self-sustainable, grassroots fund-raising to support Escuela de la Calle, a school for street children in Quetzaltenango. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

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

Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the JULY, 2012 edition of the **REVUE** by Monday, June 11

## La Antigua Galería de Arte

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**28** **Thurs., 7pm** — GUATEMALA PHOTO CLUB: Monthly meeting and photo contest. Everyone is welcome. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

**29** **Fri.** — CELEBRATION: Cultural and religious activities to honor San Pedro and San Pablo. **Almolonga, Quetzaltenango**.

**29** **Fri., 7pm** — THEATER: *Actuando a los realistas*, by Escenario. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**30** **Sat., 11am-2pm** — U.S. VOTER REGISTRATION – If you're a U.S. citizen living in Guatemala, it's time to register to vote for the 2012 elections. Members of Democrats Abroad will help (regardless of political affiliation). For more information call John Chudy, chair: tel: 7832-4581 or mayadems@yahoo.com. Las Chinitas Restaurant, Calle Santander, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**P** **HOOTOGRAPHY:** FOTOKIDS 20 Years Capturing Dreams. Cooperación Española (6a av. corner of 3a & 4a calle) **La Antigua**. ▼



## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**D**aily, ART: Featuring the *Galería Mesón Panza Verde's Private Art Collection* with work by various artists. Galería Mesón Panza Verde, 5 av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**D**aily, ART: La Antigua Galería de Arte presents oils and sculpture by Guatemalan master Arnoldo Ramírez Amaya, better known as El Tecolote. His controversial works brings light on the harsh political and social controversies of the country. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**. ▼



**D**aily, 2pm & 4pm — MOVIES: Different movies every day. Las Palmas (tel: 7832-9734), 6a av. norte #14, **La Antigua**.

**M**ondays 10am & Thursdays at 2:30pm — Join the staff of Common Hope for a free two-hour village tour to learn how it partners with families in education, health care and housing programs. Tours depart from the fountain in Antigua's central park. Or call 7922-6600 to arrange a private tour of the Family Development Center. For more information, visit [www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org).

**T**uesdays & Thursdays, 2pm — (English/Spanish) Individual players and pairs are eagerly welcomed to play duplicate bridge. Bridge lessons are also beginning. Call Barbara at 5195-7656, for details or to reserve a spot, **La Antigua**.

**D**aily, ART: Within the *XVIII Bienal de Arte Paiz*, collective expositions, incl. sculpture, installations, painting, photography, in at several venues around the Centro Histórico. Reference page 17, also for more information, [bienaldeartepaiz.org.gt](http://bienaldeartepaiz.org.gt) & tel: 2464-4545. **Guatemala City**.

**W**ednesdays, 8pm — IMPROVISATIONAL THEATER: Improv Comedy. Q55, includes a beverage. Trovajazz (tel: 2334-1241), Vía 6, 3-55, z. 4, **Guatemala City**.

**W**ednesdays, 5pm (Spanish) FILMS: A different film every week. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte (between 3a & 4a calle poniente), **La Antigua**.

**2**nd & 4th Thursday, 6:30pm — The Antigua Curry Club meets to enjoy delicious Indian food. Visit [www.cernikovsky.com/curry.htm](http://www.cernikovsky.com/curry.htm). A members-only club, limited memberships are still available. **La Antigua**.

**S**aturdays, 2-4pm — RUGBY CLUB: Workouts every week, come and join us. Q15. Visit <http://rugby.com.gt/antigua> for more information. Centro Luterano, 1a av. norte #35, **La Antigua**.

**S**aturdays. 2-4:30pm — WORKSHOP: Adult intuitive painting group. Email [intuitivecourses@gmail.com](mailto:intuitivecourses@gmail.com) or call 7832-5969 for registration or information. Cost: Q950 for four weeks (all painting materials provided). 1a av. norte (Centro Luterano), **La Antigua**.

**S**aturdays 4pm — (Spanish) CHILDREN'S MOVIES: Cine infantil. Cooperación Española, (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte (between 3a & 4a calle poniente), **La Antigua**.

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You will find that if you really try to be a father, your child will meet you halfway. —Robert Brault

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Learn to be what you are, and learn to resign with a good grace all that you are not.  
 —Henri Frederic Amiel

Why are men reluctant to become fathers?  
 Because they aren't through being children.  
 —Cindy Garner

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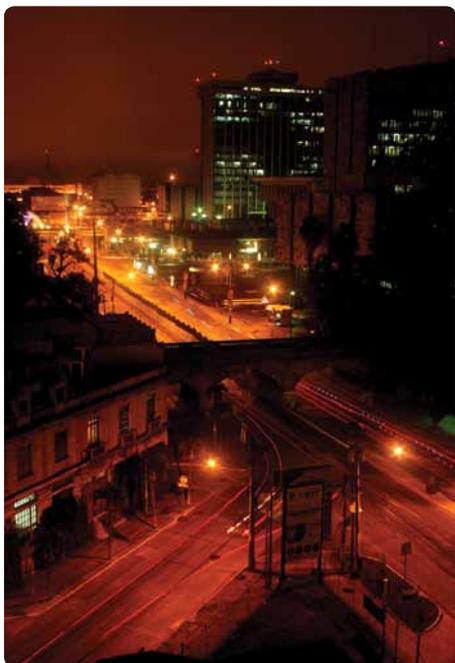
My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

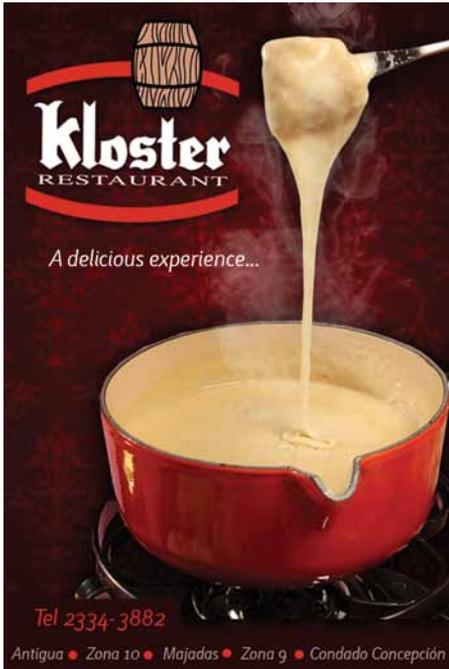
—Harmon Killebrew



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One of the very few reasons I had any respect for my mother when I was thirteen was because she would reach into the sink with her bare hands - bare hands - and pick up that lethal gunk and drop it into the garbage. To top that, I saw her reach into the wet garbage bag and fish around in there looking for a lost teaspoon. Bare hands - a kind of mad courage. —Robert Fulghum



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“The idea came about because we wanted to carry on using the bus, even though the route had been taken over by Transurbano buses,” says Cristal.

The fleet of Transurbano buses that operates around certain parts of the city was introduced by the government to increase safety aboard public transport. But, inevitably, the new system put many red buses into disuse and many were sold as scrap metal.

Cristal and Escobar did not want their bus to suffer the same fate.

“I had experience in cooking and so we decided to turn it into a restaurant,” says Cristal.

However, the former *transportistas* chose not to tell their family and friends about their bus’ career change until it had undergone its transformation and was ready for its first day of work. ...continued page 40



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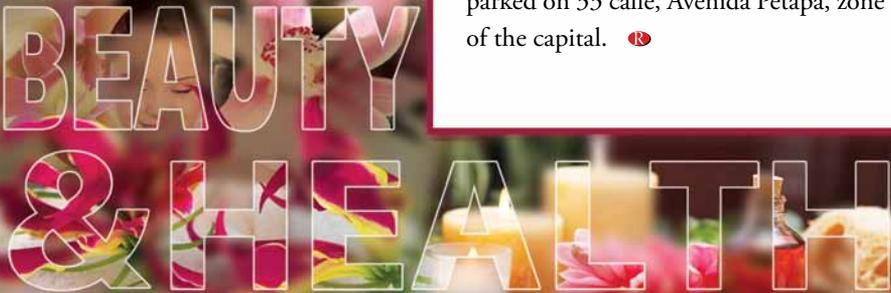
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## Busito del Sabor cont. from page 38

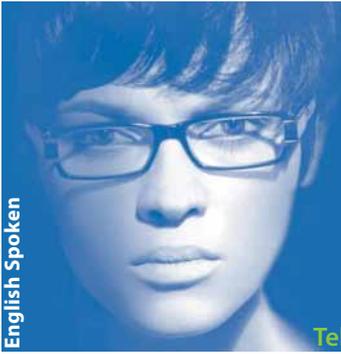
The alterations took just two months, during which time the original seats were repositioned to accommodate tables that offer indoor seating for up to 20 people. A kitchen was installed boasting a grill, a fryer, a sink and a *churrasco*, and some of the windows were removed to form a hatch, allowing the chef to take orders from the street.

The team of three—Cristal, Escobar and their former *cobrador*, who used to collect the bus fares—now work from Monday to Saturday selling *churrasco* and fried chicken to around 100 people a day. They drive the restaurant to its regular spot early each morning, head out to buy daily supplies and then start preparing for the lunchtime rush.

Even though the bus has only been in operation as a fast-food restaurant since last November, it is proving to be a hit with locals and students alike. During Christmas it even catered at a handful of festive events around Guatemala City.

“It has definitely been a change and it can still be stressful at times, but we enjoy it and it’s very satisfying,” says Cristal.

Open noon to 9 p.m. every day (except Sunday), *el busito del sabor* can be found parked on 33 calle, Avenida Petapa, zone 12 of the capital. 📍



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He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it. —Clarence Budington Kelland



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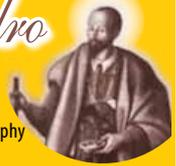
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 —John Redman Coxe, 1800



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The Bible tells us to love our neighbors, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. —G.K. Chesterton

The power of accurate observation is commonly called cynicism by those who have not got it. —George Bernard Shaw

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I never knew whether to pity or congratulate a man on coming to his senses.  
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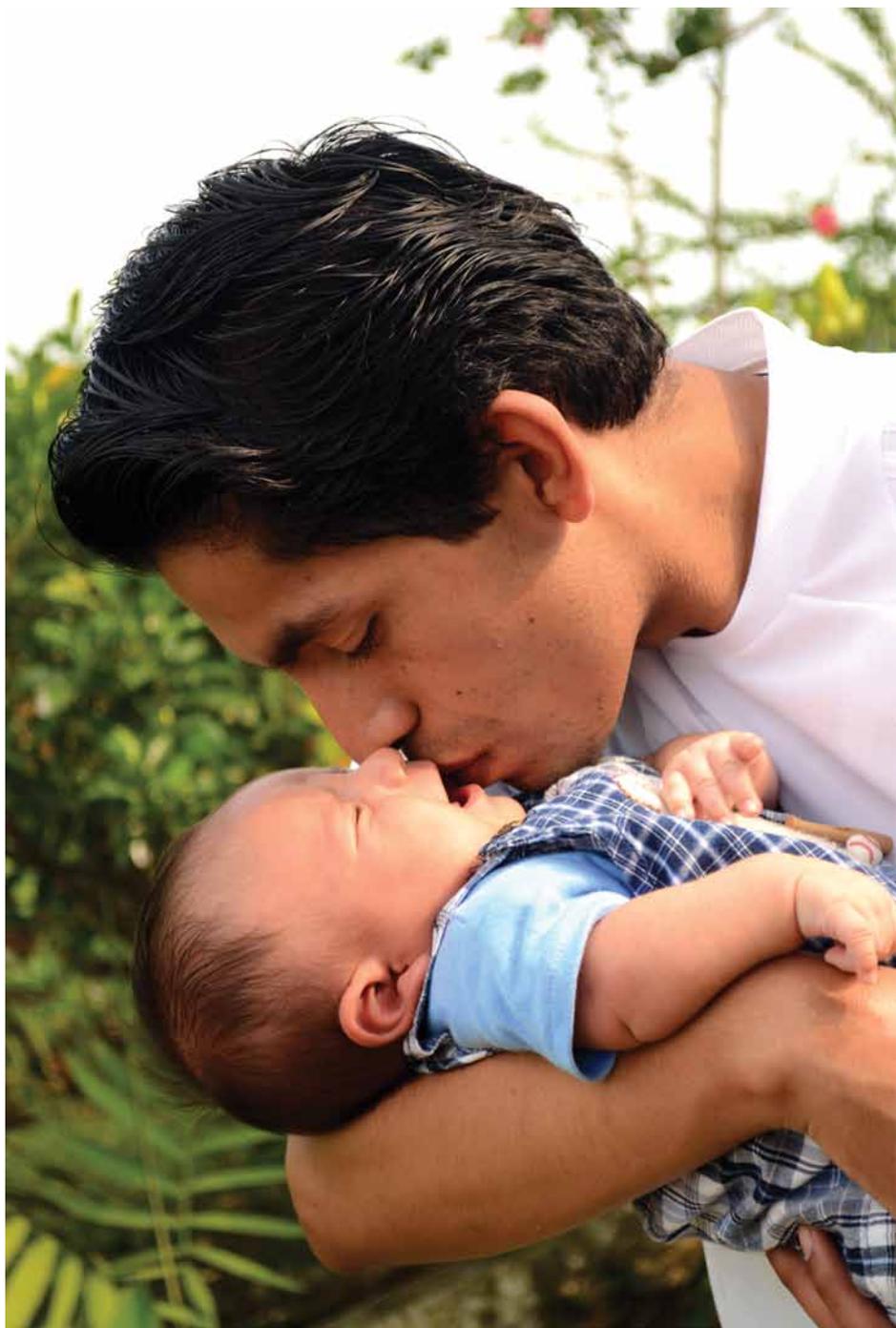
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A satirist is a man who discovers unpleasant things about himself and then says them about other people. —Peter McArthur

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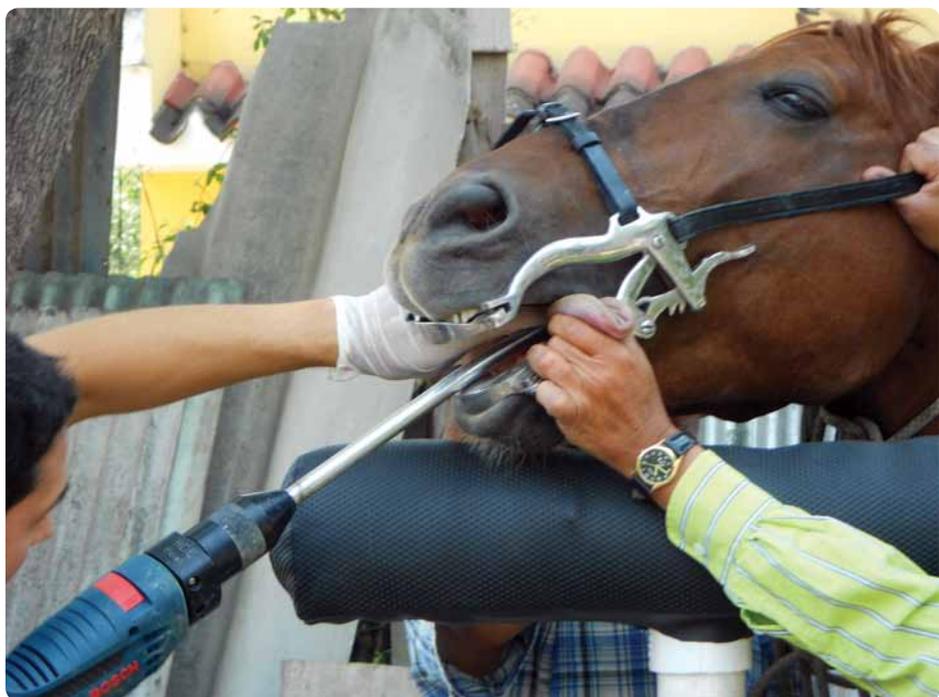
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## Helping Hooves cont. from page 21

their shoes changed every three weeks.

As well as organizing clinics and giving advice, Helping Hooves has also implemented a number of rules aimed at improving the working conditions of the horses. Each carriage displays a sticker stating how many people are allowed on board at one time and the drivers are awarded gold ribbons depending on how closely they abide by the rules.

“We have a great relationship with the carriage owners. They trust us and understand why we wanted to start working with them. So far three of the carriages have gold ribbons for good maintenance and we’re hoping that they all will soon,” says Divoff.

The treatment and clinics are not free, but costs are kept to a minimum thanks to the generosity of local vet Jorge Caballeros and students who have been working with Helping Hooves to improve the conditions of the carriage horses. As well, “we’re forever indebted to World Horse Welfare; if it hadn’t have been for their support we wouldn’t be where we are today,” admits Divoff.

In the future, Helping Hooves hopes to set up nutritional clinics and obtain smaller carriages, which will be lighter for the horses to pull.

“The horses changed everything for us,” says Divoff. “Now it’s like we have 14 grandchildren.” 🐾



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My pessimism extends to the point of even suspecting the sincerity of the pessimists.  
—Jean Rostand

There is nothing so pitiful as a young cynic because he has gone from knowing nothing to believing nothing. —Maya Angelou



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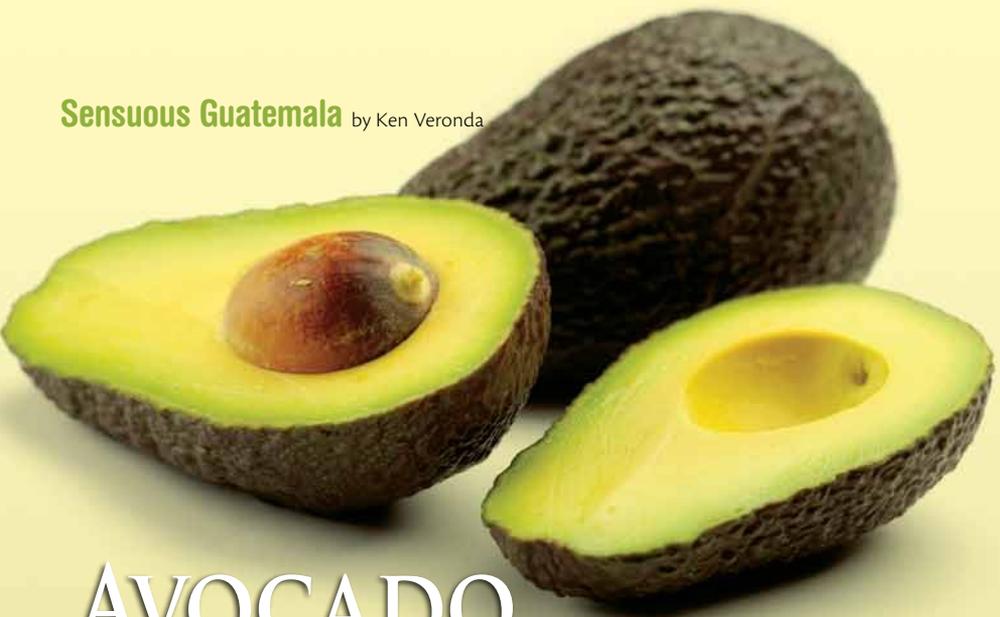
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# AVOCADO

Careful, now. Just a bit too much yellow oil paint mixed with cyan yields a bright apple green rather than avocado. A bit too little and you've dull old olive drab on your palette. Those avocado-green stoves and refrigerators of the 1970s were too shiny-bright to be correctly avocado. Get it just right, and your still life of an avocado salad with ripe tomatoes and fresh lettuce looks good enough to eat. Maybe I'll make such a salad tonight.

Californians and Guatemalans share love of the smooth, creamy fruit, brought north from La Antigua Guatemala to the Pasadena area by Wilson Poponoe over a century ago. Well, most love it. The mouth-feel displeases a few. The texture of avocado fruit isn't appreciated by some who've not grown up with it. Somehow they'll eat it as guacamole with tortilla chips, however.

Avocado production has spread from Central America to other warm climates, sometimes prepared sweet in milkshakes or ice cream. Here, it's never served sweet, but occasionally cooked lightly as an accompaniment or scrambled with eggs or even rolled up with rice and seaweed as a sushi.



Whatever, it's an acquired taste. But what could be a better taste than slices of flavorful avocado wrapped in wonderful Guatemalan corn tortillas?

Some years ago the British chain Marks & Spencer flew in fresh avocado fruit from Guatemala and sold it as "avocado pear." Soon housewives came to get their money back, saying those pears were inedible. They'd tried to fix custards and trifles with the "pears," and it didn't work. So Marks & Spencer quickly dropped that word and sold the fruit as simply avocados, and they caught on with our British cousins. I hope they've caught on with you, too. 

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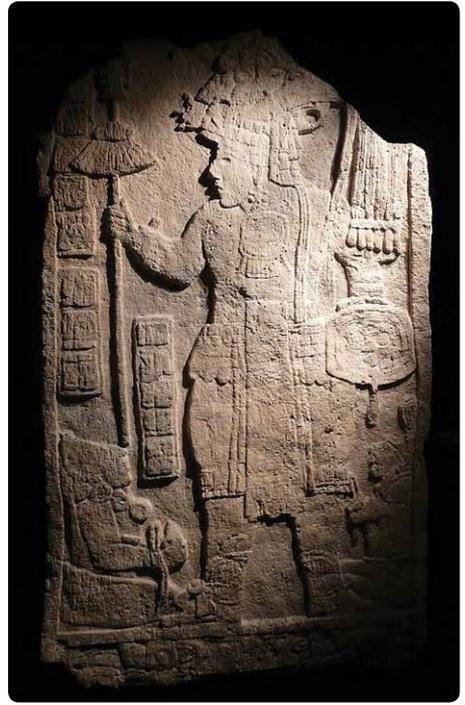
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## **Aguateca** cont. from page 15

impressive, getting there is an adventure in itself. The last part of the trip will take you on a 40-minute boat ride on the Petexbatún River. Watch for turtles, birds and the occasional crocodile lurking among the mangroves.

The easiest access to Aguateca is from Flores. It is a 45-minute taxi ride from there to Sayaxché, where you catch the boat to the site. Alongside the river and right inside the jungle there are a few options for overnight lodging. There are also a few hotel options in Sayaxché.

As Aguateca is so remote, not many people come here. Therefore, there is no entrance fee. If you have the time, also visit the twin city Dos Pilas and nearby Ceibal. The three sites together make a wonderful two- to three-day adventure. 📍



(above) Aguateca stelae and (below) foundation of a meeting house



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## *Edible Fruits of the Mayan Diet*

# CHIRIMOYA

**A**s people around the world expand their health consciousness, they are eager to learn more about the vast array of fruits and vegetables available to them. And, especially for local people, living in rural areas with limited incomes, it is possible to eat healthy foods, in particular fruits and vegetables. One aspect of FLAAR's research is to find out all the healthful fruits and vegetables that have been available in Guatemala since the time of the Classic Maya.

We are also interested in understanding how these Classic Maya could feed the substan-

tial populations of their ancient cities in areas that are semi-abandoned rainforests or low-populated mountain areas today. We are learning that Maya families would tend to have a fruit garden around their houses. So we are making lists of which species and studying its nutritional benefits.

Most people, even today, have a wide variety of tropical trees in their home gardens — these trees provide a different fruit every month or so. There are a lot of tropical trees that might have been introduced by the Maya into the traditional agriculture practice nowadays. ...cont. on following page

  
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The *annonna squamosa*; its Spanish name is chirimoya. The English name is sugar apple or sweetsop. The Mayan name is tsalmuy, and the Nahuatl name is poshte.



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## CHIRIMOYA from page 60

One of these tropical trees cultivated around houses is the *anona*. There are many trees called anona in Spanish and English. For this article we selected one of these. The scientific name is spelled with two n's; the popular name with one n.

Almost everybody in Guatemala has eaten a *guanaba* or an *anona* at least once in his or her life. There is one species that we are interested in right now—the *annonna squamosa*; its Spanish name is *chirimoya*. The English name is sugar apple or sweetsop. The Mayan name is *isalmuy*, and the Nahuatl name is *poshte*.

This fruit has a heart shape, with green to gray color. Even though the tree is believed to be originally from the north part of the Andes in South America, it was widely planted in Central America, especially among the Mayan lands. To this day, many people plant this tropical tree in their home gardens.

Sugar apple, another of the *annonna* species, is used as a food supplement and medicinal plant. The edible part is the pulp in the fruit. The pulp has a white color, with a creamy texture and a sweet taste.

Its leaves are also used. It is said that when you put the leaves in the children's baths, it calms skin irritation. Studies carried out since 2003 have been trying to determine if the leaves of the sugar apple have an antidiabetic compound and whether the compound could be used to produce medicine to treat this disease.



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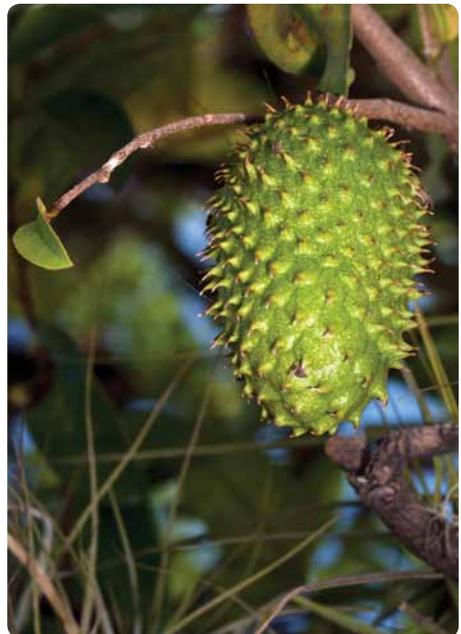
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Since this tree grows in a wide range of altitudes, and thus is distributed throughout almost every part of the country, we have seen it a lot in family garden plots. Not only does it produce edible fruit, it apparently is used for medicinal purposes.

That is why we at FLAAR like to visit these places and show our web visitors about life outside of the city, and how people today have inherited house-side agricultural traditions. 

*Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). For a bibliography from this article and other information, you may contact Dr. Hellmuth and his staff by email: [FrontDesk@FLAAR.org](mailto:FrontDesk@FLAAR.org)*



A "sugar apple" ready for harvest



# Sweeping Guatemala

*Every place you go, everywhere you look, sweeping is going on*

Volcanoes erupt; boulders and rocks bounce down mountainsides; big ocean swells on the Pacific crash into the beaches; dust and dirt blow through the air and sculpt little piles of spindrift.

And yet, the Guatemalan people have found a way to deal with these forces of nature. They replace tiles blown off their roofs; they paint their buildings in lavender, yellow, terracotta red. They continually sweep and sweep and sweep some more! Brooms—with brilliant bristles of turquoise and hot pink—are for sale in all the markets; even the tiniest *tienda* has a few of them standing in a corner.

In La Antigua Guatemala, I go to central park early in the morning to enjoy my *cap-*

*puccino*, and in the background I can hear the soft swishing sounds coming from a crew of Guatemalan sweepers. With palm-thatch brooms they are brushing the dust and leaves from the sidewalks into neat piles, scooping them into garbage barrels and emptying the bins into a truck that hauls away yesterday's dirt. The park is then ready to be its usual wonderful, busy meeting plaza for both residents and visitors.

At hotels, the gardeners use brooms to whisk up red-orange-purple bougainvillea petals that have fallen onto the pathways. After trimming the vines, another gardener reaches up with his broom to knock down the cut branches. ...continued page 66

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## Sweeping cont. from page 64

On Guatemala's Pacific coast, 8- to 10-foot tides make fountains of spray as the waves hit Puerto San José, Iztapa and Monterrico and rearrange the black volcanic sand on the beaches into silken moiré patterns.

In Puerto San José, at the Pez Vela Marina, the mates wipe down the fishing boats every morning. In town, women sweep the dirt off their porches and start the “pitty-pat” rhythms to make breakfast *tortillas* in cinderblock ovens. In the central market, vendors brush away the dust and open their shops for business with a happy “*buenos días!*” At the Hotel Costa Verde, the maids, dressed in pink and white uniforms, use brightly colored brooms to sweep my bungalow floors and then use another

broom covered with a piece of wet towel to mop them clean.

Hour after hour, all the day long—and tomorrow, they will start again—sweeping, sweeping, always sweeping away the dirt. 🇬🇲



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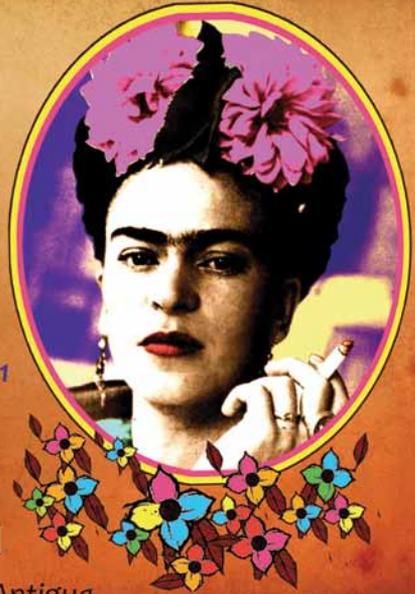


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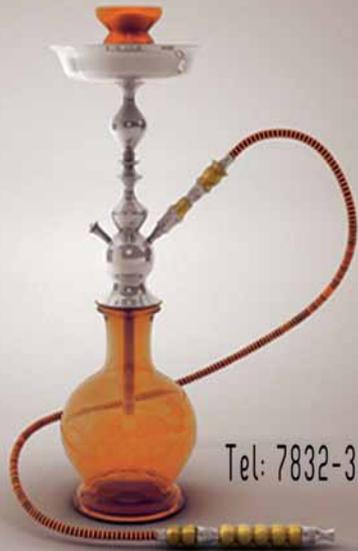
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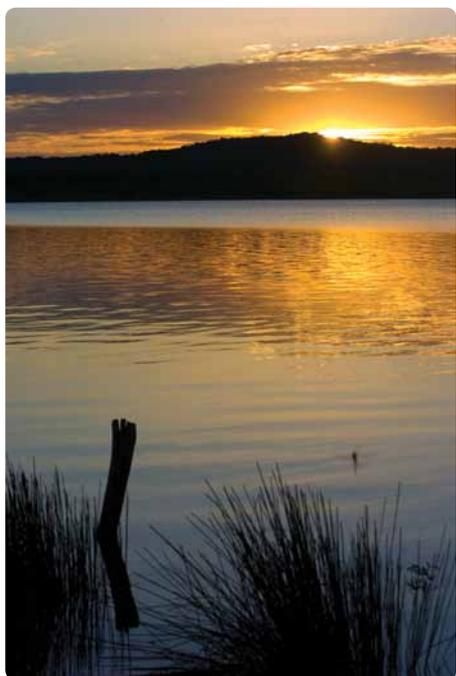


The sun sets on Yaxhá Lagoon

## Sunset Party with the Oropendolas

**D**uring a three-week stay my routine was to spend my days walking around the Yaxhá Ruins site, along the road leading to the adjacent ruins of Nakum, or paddling my Sea Eagle kayak around the lagoon searching out wildlife for the purpose of getting some good photographs to be used in environmental education campaigns.

Within the large protected area there are four principal ruins: Yaxhá, Topoxte (situated on the island in the lagoon), Nakum and Naranjo. These cities played an important role in the central lowlands of Petén for more than 1,500 years. Although the pyramids are not as large as those in Tikal, the ambiance is that of undisturbed rainforest. The campground is ...continued page 72





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Actually, I'm not all that interested in the subject of photography. Once the picture is in the box, I'm not all that interested in what happens next. Hunters, after all, aren't cooks.  
—Henri Cartier-Bresson



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—Brian Landis



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Local resident cruises the Yaxhá Lagoon (see page 68) Photo: Thor Janson

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—George Miller

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Chocolate, men, coffee—some things are better rich. —Mary Graves

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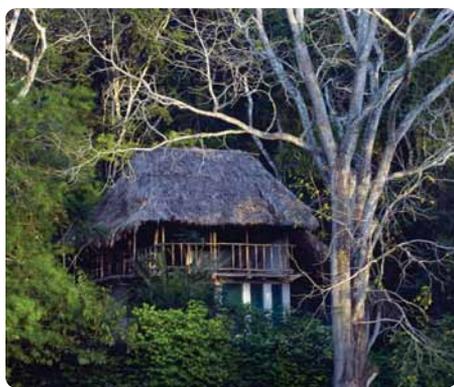


One of the oropendola birds ready to party at sunset on the Yaxhá Lagoon.



## Sunset Party *cont. from page 68*

equipped with four raised and thatch-roofed platforms where visitors can pitch their tents, all jungle-bungalows with a view of the lagoon.



TOP RIGHT: A violaceous trogon at Yaxhá  
FAR RIGHT: Young crocodile suns himself  
ABOVE: Archaeologists' quarters at Yaxhá ruins.

Every evening as I returned to camp I was greeted by a most unusual show. The local community of oropendola birds, perhaps numbering over a hundred, descended from their mountaintop colonies and congregated in the trees closest to the lagoon where they all would raise a hell of a racket singing, screening and chasing each other through the foliage. There seemed to be no other purpose for the avian meeting except to have a big party and watch the sunset.

So I, too, took to joining them every evening with an ice-cold drink in hand, and as the horizon of the Earth eclipsed the sun I would drink a toast to the magical world of sublime beauty that is gifted to us every day by our glorious Mother Earth. 

“Excuse me while I kiss the sky”

— Jimi Hendrix

*Dándole sabor a las tradiciones antiguas*



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## ASK ELIZABETH

by Elizabeth Bell  
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

# Who are some of Guatemala's most inspiring men?

I wrote about a similar topic for women for May (Mother's Day) and thought the gender issue might apply here toward men. Two men—perhaps more than others—have influenced my efforts toward the preservation and positive development of La Antigua Guatemala since 1969.

Mario Antonio Sandoval is one of Guatemala's best-known journalists. He became a great friend in 1978 when we wrote articles about Antigua's preservation for *Prensa Libre*, where he was editor-in-chief. His list of accomplishments is overwhelming as he began working at *Prensa Libre* as a reporter in 1966—his father was one of the five founders in 1951—and is currently the vice president. Since 1982, we have enjoyed getting the update on Guatemalan ethics in politics and economics through his column *Catalejo*. He created *Guatenoticias*, a newspaper for Guatemalans living abroad in the 1980s. He dedicated 24 years to teaching journalism at the Universidad Rafael Landívar where, in 1993, he became a professor in ethics and Guatemalan contemporary history. He was on the front lines during the 1993 protests against President Serrano's censorship. Perhaps he is best known today as president of Guatevision, the most influential and reliable

cable channel in the country—a forerunner in independent journalism. This has helped Guatemala's birth of democracy tremendously. Mario Antonio has taken on countless topics nationally and internationally. Over the years, he has fought for just causes, including the freedom of the press, and making sense out of Guatemala's politics and economy...no easy task.

Architect José María (Chema) Magaña Juárez has been at the helm of historic preservation for Antigua since 1979 when he became conservator of the city. After returning in 1976 from Rome, where he worked with an intergovernmental organization dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage (ICCROM), his preservation efforts began with restoring the cathedral in Guatemala City after the 1976 earthquake. His work led to Pope John Paul I awarding him with the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (1979). As conservator of Antigua (1979-86), his job was to keep Antigua from "falling down," implement building permits, supervise the restoration of art, and set up children's programs to guarantee the future of restoration efforts in Antigua. Next he reactivated *Amigos de Antigua*, encouraging ...continued page 80



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It is much easier to become a father than to be one. —Kent Nerburn

It is easier to go down a hill than up, but the view is best from the top. —Arnold Bennett

My daddy, he was somewhere between God and John Wayne. —Hank Williams, Jr.

Success isn't a result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire. —Arnold H. Glasow

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Blessed indeed is the man who hears many  
gentle voices call him father! —Lydia M. Child

The greatest love is a mother's; then a dog's;  
then a sweetheart's. —Polish Proverb



\*English spoken

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Butterfly and Margay: residents of the Yaxhá Lagoon  
(see page 68) Photos: Thor Janson



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



**Question:** How can I teach my dog to let go of something that she has in her mouth? She just thinks that it is a game and won't let go.

**Answer:** Teach this with a big toy, so you can hold one end while your dog holds the other. Playfully wiggle it and tell your dog "take it." When she does, let her chew or tug a few seconds while you continue holding. Now say your release cue—"thank you" or "give"—and show your dog a treat in your other hand about six inches from the side of her mouth, so she'll have to let go to reach it.

When she does, praise her, but don't pull the toy away. After she swallows the treat, immediately offer the toy back, saying "take it." She will soon understand there is a big reward for letting go—a treat and the toy.

Repeat several times, then cue the release without showing treats. Most dogs release expecting a treat, so praise, treat and re-offer the toy. If she doesn't release on the first try, cue and show the treat a couple more times and then try again without showing it.

After several days of playing this game, omit the treat and just playfully offer the toy back. If she steals something she shouldn't have, don't scold, just cue the release and reward with praise, a treat and a favorite toy.



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Ever wonder where you'd end up if you took your dog for a walk and never once pulled back on the leash? —Robert Brault

A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down. —Robert Benchley





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We long for an affection altogether ignorant of our faults. Heaven has accorded this to us in the uncritical canine attachment. —George Eliot

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them. —Phil Pastoret

When a dog barks at the moon, then it is religion; but when he barks at strangers, it is patriotism! —David Starr Jordan

To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon is to be back in Eden, where doing nothing was not boring—it was peace. —Milan Kundera



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## Ask Elizabeth cont. from page 74

the private sector to be more active in preservation. After working tirelessly for enactment of historic preservation laws, he co-founded Salvemos Antigua (1999), which has achieved tremendous success. After he founded the Asociación de Arquitectos e Ingenieros “Diego de Porres” (2000) as a group of professionals dedicated to Antigua’s preservation and Guatemala’s cultural heritage, the Guatemalan government awarded him with the “Orden Nacional del Patrimonio

Cultural de la Nación.” One of his favorite awards, however, is the “Orden Roberto Aycinena” from the School of Architects of Guatemala (2005) for more than 25 years of defending the preservation of Antigua. These and other awards are well deserved, as Chema seems to be tireless when it comes to preserving Guatemala’s cultural heritage.

Both men refer to the importance of their strong fathers who gave them a great example. Happy Father’s Day! 🍷



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by Sri Ram  
Kaa &  
Kira Raa

# Alternative Energy & Healing in Guatemala

Living off grid launches you into a world of self-responsibility and independence. We have learned firsthand that these qualities are not for the faint of heart. As shared in this column a month ago, living off grid requires taking an honest inventory of your true needs. An honest review of electrical devices that will require solar panels and batteries is not just an economic decision...far from it!

Reviewing electrical use builds awareness of one's values and choices. For example, how many kitchen appliances do you own? Are there specialized machines that mostly gather dust? What is essential?

Nothing need be compromised; however, without awareness of the impact of your choices, you are unable determine the correct type of solar system for your home. An accurate review is essential both for the physical specifications and for your sense of empowerment. Awareness builds clarity around our choices.

In the 1930s a group of efficiency experts went into a Westinghouse factory to review production line efficiency. As a result the engineers documented a principle that is



taught in business schools across the world: Production increases when workers are watched! Simply having a guy on the factory floor and holding a clipboard resulted in the workers being focused on their jobs. The engineer was not documenting anything...he just stood there and doodled.

This may seem like common sense yet the deeper learning is this: When we bring awareness to anything in our lives, the sim-



ple act of looking stimulates improvement. In short, consciousness offers us enhancement, a restorative principle.

We have equipped our off-grid Holistic Spa at Lake Atitlán with the highest quality mattresses and linens in order to caress the client with refined soft luxury. Our stress-reduction packages always elicit extremely positive reviews. Visitors report a tangible restoration in body and emotional resilience in remarkably short durations of time.

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Recently we witnessed a miracle! A visitor from the U.S. with severe kidney problems (she is on dialysis), diabetes and other health challenges arrived for a simple overnight with her family. To their dismay they discovered she had forgotten her medications and they were all concerned about leaving early.

Allowing herself to relax and simply be present in a fully supportive environment, she accomplished the amazing. She was laughing, happy and even went out on our paddleboat. Her skin color changed and the most amazing part: The day she left, when she checked her blood levels and blood pressure, she had almost normal readings! Tears of joy were in the eyes of her family and the recognition that we have the ability to heal if we offer ourselves the gift of “a moment.”

Off-grid living...beyond just a good investment for electrical power, it is an investment in your personal healing and vibrant life. Discover for yourself the healthful synergy of natural beauty joined with mindful sustainability. It is a natural step and one that is well worth taking. 

Authors contact: [www.LakeAtitlanSpa.com](http://www.LakeAtitlanSpa.com)  
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Retalhuleu's central park boasts  
a beautiful church

## Pacific Coast

cont. from page 20

about this rich history from a local guide (Spanish only) while taking in the beauty of the park's tranquil forest sanctuary.

From Tak'alik Ab'aj, a visit to Retalhuleu is worthwhile. The central park boasts a beautiful colonial-style Catholic Church, and just off the park you can continue on your archeological journey with a visit to the Ethnological and Archeological Museum, taking a look at notable pieces from the Pre- to Post-Classic Periods.

Another highlight of Retalhuleu is its fantastic eateries. Enjoy an ice-cold pineapple and coconut smoothie from La Luna or visit the local favorite Carnitas Rosy for a tasty lunch of traditional Guatemalan *churrasco* (steak). If you're in the mood for authentic Mexican dishes, I would recommend a trip to La Tertulia, which serves up classic Mexican *pozole*, *enchiladas* and *mole*. After lunch, wrap up the day with a swing through the local market, taking advantage of the delicious tropical fruits sold at incredibly low prices. My favorite is the fresh coconut water,



served right in the coconut with a straw, for only Q5! For nightly accommodations, I recommend the friendly and historic Casa Santa María or Hotel Astor. Both are conveniently located right off the park and include free breakfast.

This is the year to set out and explore the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. Take advantage of 2012 to learn more about the Olmec and early Mayan culture at Tak'alik Ab'aj, and relax nearby in the genuinely friendly town of Retalhuleu. The Pacific Coast offers something special for Guatemala, and it will reward you for your visit. 

*Tara Tiedemann is the owner of  
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There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. —Ben Williams

My goal in life is to be as good of a person my dog already thinks I am. —Dave Finer

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Coastal landscape (LENA JOHANNESSEN)



The more I see of man, the more I like dogs.  
—Mme. de Staël



Baby Howler Monkey: resident of the Yaxhá Lagoon  
(see page 68) Photo: Thor Janson

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When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years. —Mark Twain

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...continued page 96

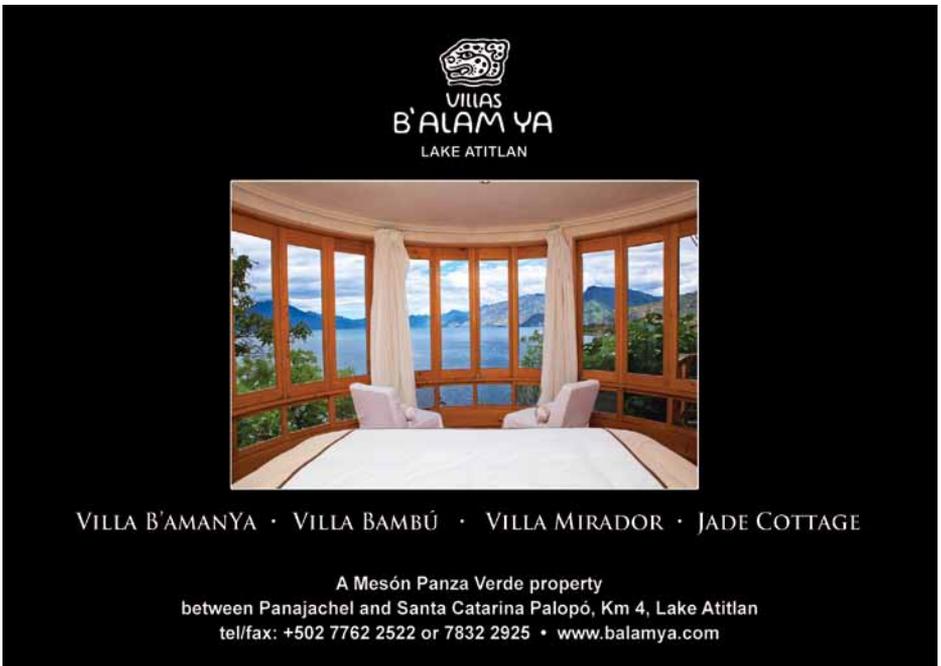


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# LAKE ATITLÁN



MAP BY ELVIRA MÉNDEZ



Lake Atitlán shoreline (PHOTO BY MIGUEL ÁVILA - [WWW.FLICKR.COM//MIQUE79](http://WWW.FLICKR.COM//MIQUE79))



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Perhaps the truth depends on a walk  
around the lake. —Wallace Stevens

The great fact in life, the always possible escape  
from dullness, was the lake. The sun rose out of it,  
the day began there; it was like an open door that  
nobody could shut. The land and all its dreariness  
could never close in on you. You had only to look at  
the lake, and you knew you would soon be free.

—Willa Cather

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## Full Immersion under a Full Moon

### Studying Spanish in Xela



Luna de Xelajú  
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PHOTOS/HARRYDIAZ)

**M**y teacher yanked my homework away from me and began furiously marking it up.

“This is ugly. You write bad.”

Normally, this sort of treatment would lead to a *verklemt* Skype call to mom. In this case, my “teacher” was 8 years old, and I was welcoming the abuse.

During *Semana Santa*, I became one of the thousands of international students who have studied at Quetzaltenango’s renowned language schools. The anecdote above came during my home stay, where two extraordinarily hospitable Guatemalans and their children put me up in an apartment on their roof, while I worked for five hours a day in one-on-one tutoring.

I had already lived in Guatemala a year-and-a-half when the week started. Yet since I primarily use English for my job my Spanish has suffered, and I hoped seven days of forced immersion would make fluency a bit more visible over the horizon. I was right.

Quetzaltenango (or Xela, an abbrevia-

tion of its Mayan name Xelajú) is an ideal location to buckle down and study, and you can hardly go two blocks without seeing signs for a wide variety of schools. Tucked over 7,000 feet up in the Western Highlands, Xela avoids the urban sprawl of the capital without sacrificing any major comforts (there’s even a Walmart, if you’re into that sort of thing). Covered in an eclectic mix of Spanish-colonial and Greco-Roman architecture, the city provides plenty of activities, and lots of locals are happy to help improve your ugly writing.

Prices range from around \$100 to \$200 a week, including the home stay. Tutors are used to teaching all skill levels, from travelers who haven’t struggled with *por* and *para* since high school, to bilingual human-rights lawyers like Daniel Wilkinson, who “brushed up” on his Spanish here in Xela before writing *Silence on the Mountain*, a journalistic tour de force that should be required reading for any Guatemala traveler.

Classes usually last until early afternoon,



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leaving time for field trips, salsa classes and sorting through stacks of flashcards. Many schools also incorporate current events and elements of social justice into their curriculum, a move that not only keeps you on top of the major regional issues, but helps grammar rules stick in the process.

Students at various schools voiced similar feelings: “I feel like I became friends with my teachers, and I still keep in touch with them.” “I loved the community feel they created and that the learning was immersed in something deeper and more related to the human experience. It made my learning richer, fuller, and more meaningful.” And of course: “They had some of the best coffee I’ve tried in Central

America—and it was unlimited!”

On my last night I stood on my family’s roof, the giant form of *El Baúl* staring back at me. The mountain’s thick tree cover was visible only in silhouette, lit up by the rising moon on the other side. After several minutes I could trace the edge of *La Luna de Xelajú*, its shape clear but the center obscured by one particularly large tree.

I eventually stepped indoors and got into bed. It would be a while before the moon was in the center of the sky. But as I listened to barking dogs, I realized the moon felt closer than it had ever felt before. 



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## RABIN AJAU cont. from page 88

Of particular importance is the fact that indigenous girls from all over Guatemala come together in a spirit of solidarity and love to work together for cultural revival and the rescue of traditions that might otherwise be lost to the onslaught of globalization and modernization.

Emphasis is placed on the Mayan textile tradition; all participants appear in the finest of hand-woven textiles, showcasing what are among the worlds most gorgeous and elaborate traditional costumes. Another unique characteristic of this Mayan pageant is that no one wears makeup and most appear barefoot.

In Guatemala the indigenous people are known as *Naturales* and this pageant is a celebration of everything natural and beautiful about these young daughters of *La Madre Tierra* — Mother Earth. 📷 (More Rabin Ajau photos on pages 98 and 101)





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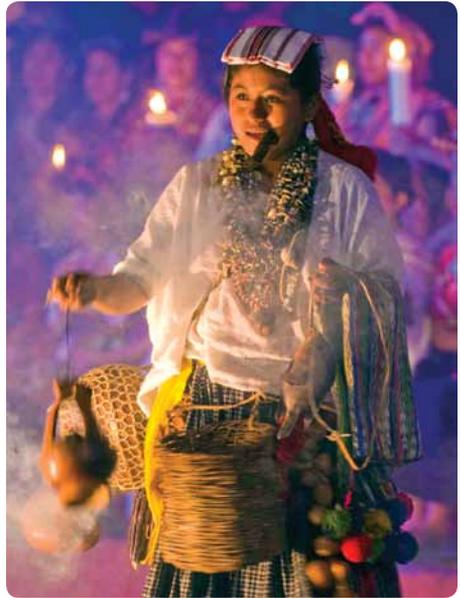
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To lose one's self in reverie, one must be either very happy, or very unhappy. Reverie is the child of extremes. —Antoine Rivarol

Sit in reverie and watch the changing color of the waves that break upon the idle seashore of the mind. —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thought is the labor of the intellect, reverie is its pleasure. —Victor Hugo

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



The Rabin Ajau pageant will be held this year on July 28. See page 88 (PHOTOS BY THOR JANSON)



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One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why. —Author Unknown

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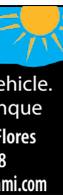
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Perhaps if we saw what was ahead of us, and glimpsed the crimes, follies, and misfortunes that would befall us later on, we would all stay in our mother's wombs, and then there would be nobody in the world but a great number of very fat, very irritated women. —Lemony Snicket

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The Rabin Ajau pageant will be held this year on July 28, it incorporates various entertainment including some major pyrotechnic displays. See page 88 (PHOTO BY THOR JANSON)

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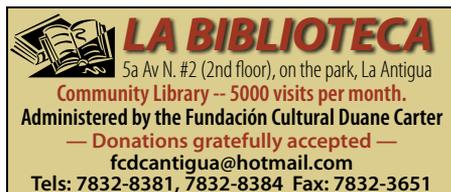
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I talk to him when I'm lonesome like; and I'm sure he understands. When he looks at me so attentively, and gently licks my hands; then he rubs his nose on my tailored clothes, but I never say a thing. For the good Lord knows I can buy more clothes, but never a friend like that.

—W. Dayton Wedgefarth



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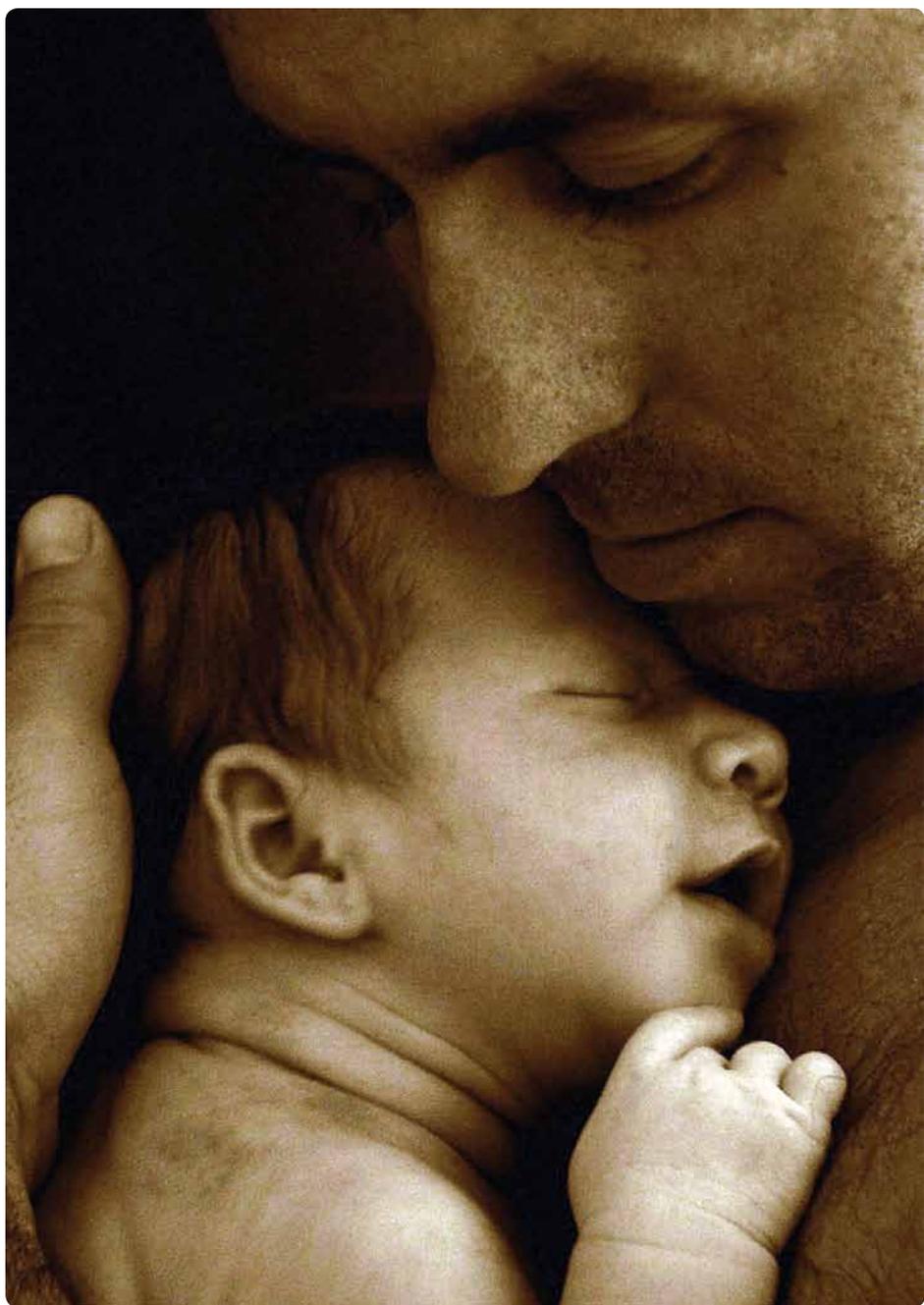
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### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Police: 120 Fire: 122 and 123  
Tourist Police (Antigua)

7832-4131

La Antigua Bomberos (Fire)

Voluntarios: 7832-0234

Guatemala City

Tourist Assistance

dial 1500 (24-hour)

## SHOPS

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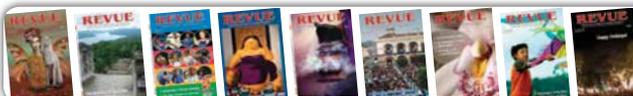
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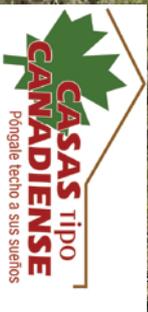
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