

REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine
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July 2012
Year 21, No. 5

FREE



- ◆ Cacao—The Heavenly Elixir
- ◆ The Return of “The Zen of...”
- ◆ El Remate Getaway



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¡CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO!

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO edición de AGOSTO, 2012 con con el tema FERIAS 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 julio.



We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for AUGUST, 2012 with the theme GUATEMALAN TOWN FAIRS; 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 July will be eligible.

PHOTO CONTEST!

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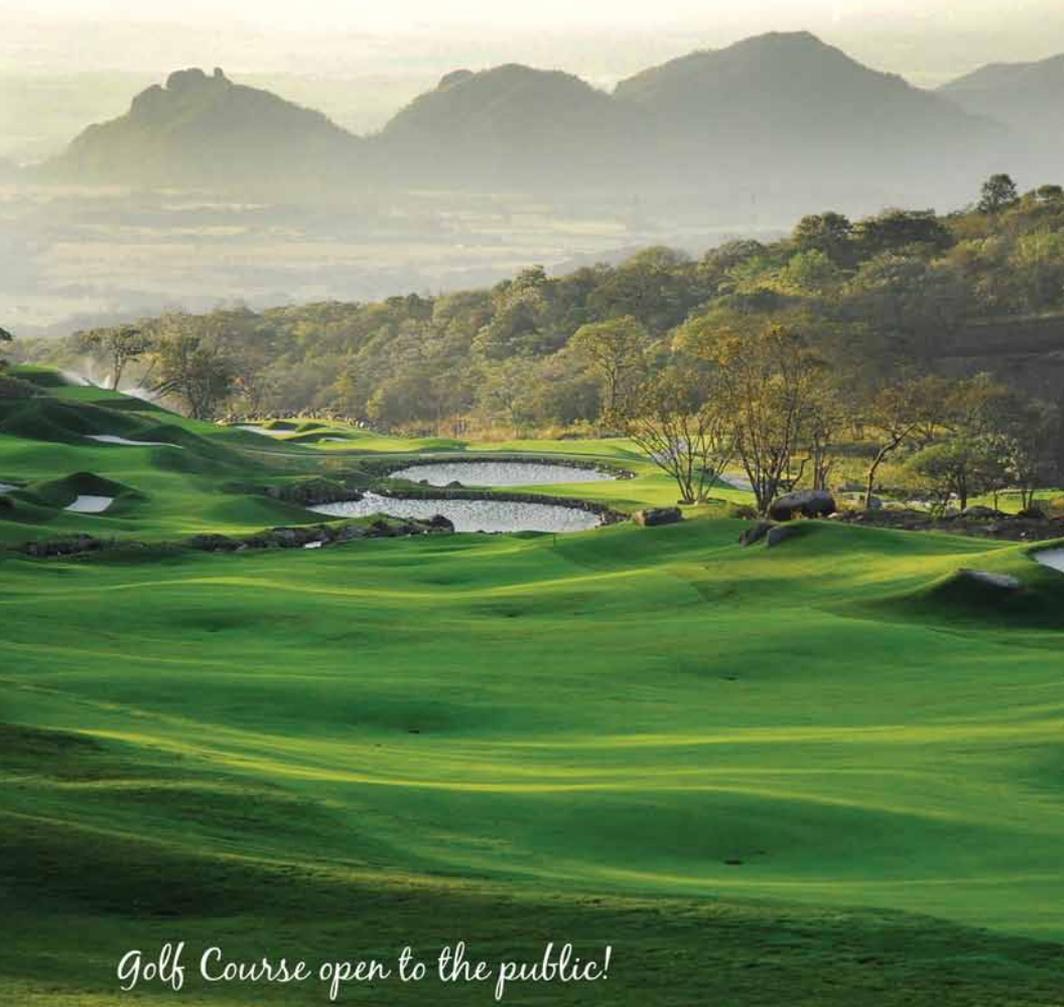
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cover to cover

18 GASTRONOMY

by Capt. Thor Janson

Cacao—The Heavenly Elixer
Guatemalan chocolate

14 PROFILE

by Maru Luarca

José Alejos' Magical Creatures

38 COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Anna-Claire Bevan

C.A.'s First Braille Newspaper

52 ART

by Anna-Claire Bevan

Picture Window

The creative craft of stained glass

56 SENSUOUS GUATEMALA

by Ken Veronda

Candy-Apple Red

60 SACRED ANIMALS & EXOTIC TROPICAL PLANTS

by Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth

Leaf-cutting Ants



74 ASK ELIZABETH

by Elizabeth Bell

Guatemalan Citizenship

82 OFF THE GRID

by Sri Ram Kaa & Kira Raa

Water is Life

84 TRAVEL

by Tara Tiedemann

El Remate

A hidden gem near Tikal

88 LANGUAGE

by Dwight Wayne Coop

The Zen of...

Pegar and Pegáirsele

REVUE PHOTO CONTEST

All of the July entrants
can be see at www.Revue.gt
here are the winners in print

13 Tono Valdés

13 Aland Loarca

16 Germán Velásquez

50 Alberto Bolaños

58 La Guzmán

108 Beatrice Álvares



El Remate Getaway (page 84)

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cover to cover

22 DATEBOOK

July guide to culture and upcoming events

HIGHLIGHTS

- 42 Tour of Ciudad Vieja
- 80 Antigua Bridge Club



22 Check DateBook for July cultural events

SECTIONS

- 12 From the Publisher
- 40 Health Services
- 47 Antigua Map
- 78 Vet Q & A
- 84 Travel
- 86 El Salvador
- 102 Classifieds
- 106 Real Estate
- 110 Advertiser Index

ON THE COVER

Chocolatiers
Dilia Roselia
Pérez Castro
and Gloria
Marleny López
Hernández
by
Capt. Thor
Janson



REGIONS

Guatemala City

- 31 services / shopping
- 34 dining
- 36 lodging

La Antigua

- 46 services / shopping
- 55 dining
- 75 lodging

89 Lake Atitlán

94 Río Dulce

96 Las Lisas

97 Monterrico / Pacific Coast

100 Quetzaltenango

101 El Petén

101 Cobán

101 Tecpán

**Deadline for the
August 2012 issue » July 10**

A left handed Jimi Hendrix
played a right handed guitar.

Upside down.



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From the Editor

In this month's issue, we're pleased to publish another gallery of amazing photographs from the intrepid Captain Thor Janson. Through words and photos, his cover story chronicles the history of our favorite treat—chocolate. *Sweet!* Thank you, Thor.

We also bring good news from historian Elizabeth Bell, who has called La Antigua home for 40-plus years. In her column this month, Elizabeth shares her achievement of becoming a Guatemalan citizen. Congratulations!

In news of another sort, writer Anna-Claire Bevan reports on the debut of a newspaper published in Braille for information-hungry, visually impaired Guatemalans.

Did you know Guatemala has its own “horse whisperer?” Check out the profile of José Alejos, whose work from El Jabalín spans the globe.

This issue also revives an old fixture as Lake Atitlán scribe Dwight Wayne Coop once again explores the quirks of Spanish in his *Zen of ...* column. This month he “sticks it to us” with *Zen of Pegar*. It's part of Dwight's new book, *Zen of Pues*, available at shops in Antigua, Panajachel, Quetzaltenango and Guatemala City.

July also brings a special holiday to many communities, including Antigua: the feast day of St. James (Santiago) on **July 25**. Check out Datebook for this month's run-down of activities.

There's much more in the pages ahead, so enjoy!

—*Matt Bokor*

REVUE

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1st PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, July
Congratulations to Tono Valdés on his photograph titled "Perspectiva forzada" San José Pinula.
Prize: 6 bottles of **LA CHAMIZA** wine. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



2nd PLACE by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, July
"Alimentando a la Garza (Feeding the heron)" by Aland Loarca, Casa Contenta, Panajachel. Prize: Q200.

José Alejos' Magical Creatures



"These magic creatures are my connection to a meaningful life."

PROFILE by Maru Luarca photos by Silvia Asturias and Natalie Martín

The heat and the orange-colored dust on my windshield were signs that I was getting close to Hacienda El Jabalín, a beautiful property in southern Guatemala. I came to meet José Alejos, the tough but smiling cowboy, who would be demonstrating how he works with young horses.

After a wonderful country breakfast, Alejos told me that he wanted to work with a young horse that was still uncomfortable bearing a saddle.

Twenty minutes later he and the young horse were dancing together in unison. Though North American horse trainer Monte Roberts, known as the “man who listens to horses,” brought humane treatment of horses to the attention of the general public, there are many talented horse trainers who communicate with horses in a similar fashion.

“These magic creatures,” says Alejos, gesturing to his horses, “are my connection to a meaningful life.”

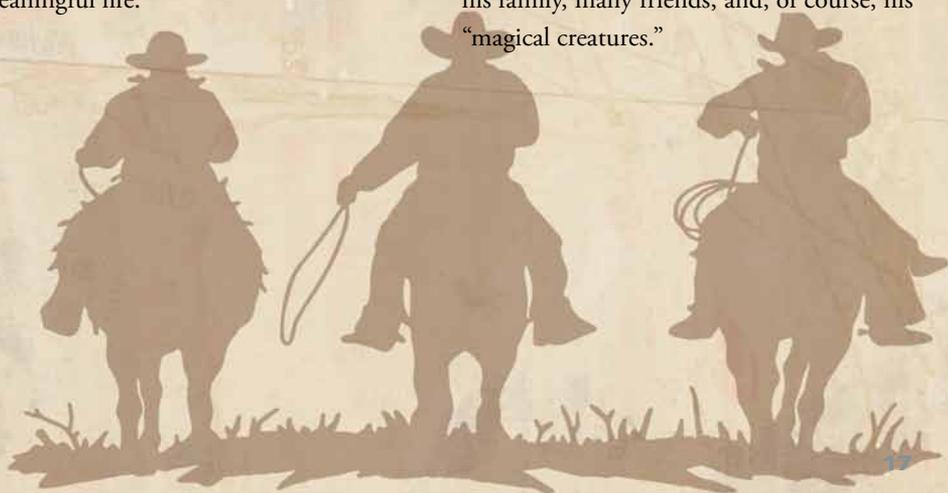
For Alejos and his family, life at Hacienda El Jabalín is lived simply. No electricity means quiet evenings, healthy, good food on the table, family, friends ... the ancestral land is linked with family ties that span generations.

In younger years, Alejos’ taste for physical challenges brought him championships in motorbike racing and judo, and he qualified as a member of the Professional Bull Riders Association.

With years of experience and natural talent, Alejos blends honesty and philosophy, leadership and love into his work with horses.

From El Jabalín, Alejos’ work spans the globe, working with championship horse teams, show horses, equestrian clubs, legendary stables and Olympic equestrians.

I came away from my experiences at El Jabalín feeling inspired and motivated by the example of José Alejos’ life: his land, his family, many friends, and, of course, his “magical creatures.”



JULY REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, theme: Humorous



1st PLACE by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, July

"El pollito elástico (The elastic chick)" by Germán Velásquez, Salamá, Baja Verapaz.
Prize: Dinner for two at La Peña de Sol Latino. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



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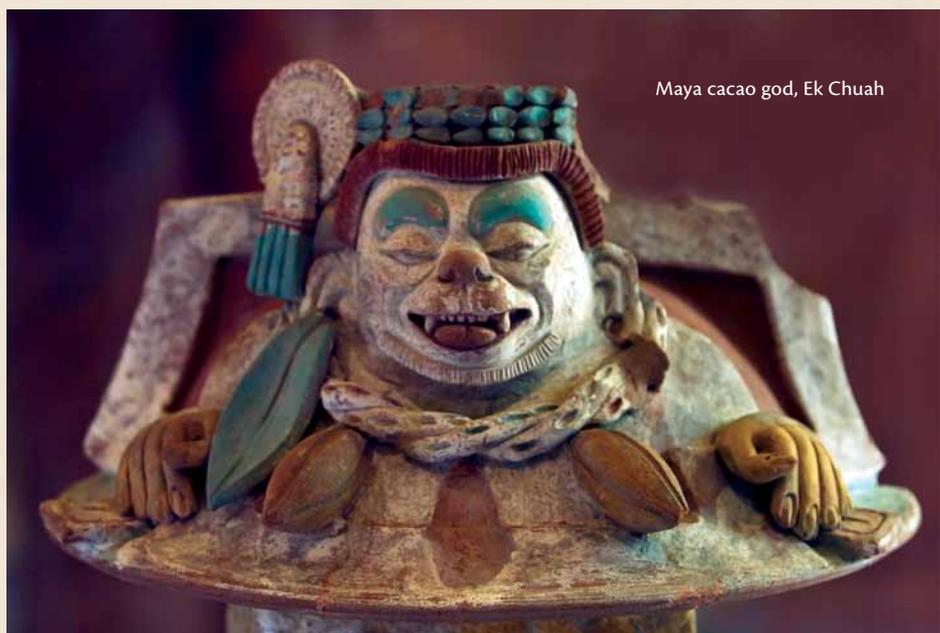
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Maya cacao god, Ek Chuah

Theobroma Cacao—The Heavenly Elixir

Although not all scientists agree on the origin of the cacao plant, the consensus is that it is a native of the rainforests of Venezuela and the Amazon and was brought to Central America millennia ago by traders. The earliest evidence of human consumption of cacao in Guatemala comes from a site in the northeast section of the country, where a 3,500-year-old pottery vessel tested positive for remnants of *theobroma cacao*. Exactly how the Olmec were consuming cacao has not been determined, but they might have been mixing it with native wild honey and chili.

Sometime around 1,000 B.C. the Maya, whose civilization flourished from the Yucatán Peninsula to the Pacific coast of Guatemala, are believed to have cultivated the ca-

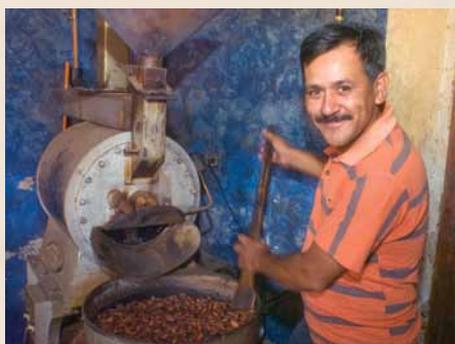


cao tree for the very first time. The Maya so highly valued cacao, they used cocoa beans as currency and to pay taxes.

Spanish *conquistador* Cortez was fascinated by native cocoa-drinking customs. Chronicler Bernal Díaz del Castillo observed that royalty drank cocoa from vessels of gold, and that ground cocoa was kept by the wealthy in gold containers. The Aztecs



Cacao pod ready for harvesting



Cocoa beans being prepared for roasting

made a drink of finely ground cocoa beans, mixed in water and beaten to a froth with a wooden *molinet*. They spiced the cocoa with native vanilla and chili peppers, and some added honey to the mix.

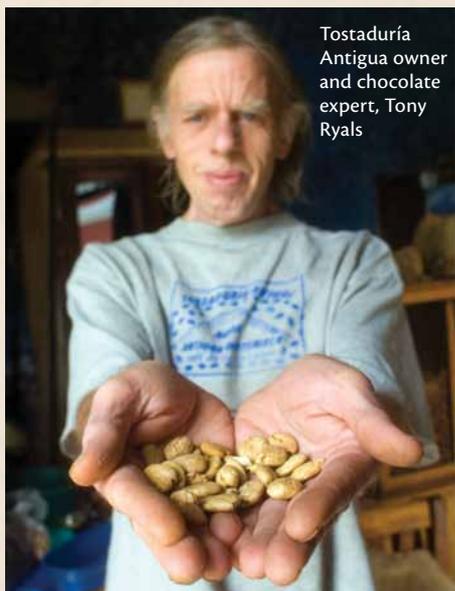
est chocolate in much the same manner as did their ancestors thousands of years ago.

Chocolate has its roots in Guatemala and is the traditional cup offered for hospitality as well as the communal brew distributed at

“Chocolate is a divine, celestial drink, the sweat of the stars, the vital seed, divine nectar, the drink of the gods, panacea and universal medicine.” —Geronimo Piperni, quoted by Antonio Lavedán, Spanish Army surgeon, 1796

The name “chocolate” comes from the Nahuatl word *atle*, which in the Mexican Spanish language means water, and from the sound that the water and cacao blend makes as it is whipped up by the cook: *cho-co, choco, choco*, until it is bubbly and rises into a froth.

Today cacao is cultivated all over the equatorial tropics, from Vanuatu to West Papua and from Sri Lanka to Sierra Leon. In Guatemala the largest commercial plantations are in Retalhuleu, but the true heartland of cacao remains in the region of Alta Verapaz. Here hundreds of small, local producers in Lanquín, Cahabón and Chisec continue to produce some of the world’s fin-



Tostaduría Antigua owner and chocolate expert, Tony Ryals



The Choco Museum offers a delicious variety of chocolates as well as workshops

Creating new products at the Ixcacao Chocolate factory



Cacao flower in bloom

all Mayan sacred and ceremonial events. We can be certain that on Dec. 21 Maya everywhere will be toasting the arrival of the new era with a gourd full of frothy, aromatic, slightly bitter, slightly sweet chocolate.

A new study reveals that chocolate produces heart-healthy benefits. The research found that epicatechin, one of a group of chemicals known as flavanols, is directly linked to improved circulation and other hallmarks of cardiovascular health. The discovery was detailed in the Jan. 16 online issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

“Although previous studies strongly indicated that some flavanol-rich foods, such as wine, tea and cocoa, can offer cardiovascular health benefits, we have been able to demonstrate a direct relationship between the intake of certain flavanols present in cocoa, their absorption into the circulation and their effects on cardiovascular function in humans,” said biochemist Hagen Schroeter of the University of California, Davis.

The study relied on volunteers from the Kuna Indians, who live on the San Blas islands off the coast of Panama. High-blood



The producer of Chocolate San Juan, Doña Josefa

San Juan del Obispo family with a day's harvest



“After water, cocoa is the single healthiest substance you can put in your mouth. It can easily replace a number of psychiatric drugs, plus it produces the same chemistry in the brain that occurs when we fall in love.”

—Chris Kilham, consultant for the Dr. Oz show

pressure and other signs of cardiovascular disease are rare among the Kuna. And they are known to consume large amounts of flavanol-rich cocoa—three to four cups a day. Previous studies found that Kuna who migrated to the suburbs of Panama City on the mainland drink only about four cups of cocoa per week and do not enjoy the same level of cardiovascular health.

The islanders have twice the level of urinary nitric oxide, a chemical associated with healthy flow of blood through the arteries. And those who drank cocoa with more flavanols had higher levels of nitric oxide. Also, higher levels of epicatechin in the bloodstream were accompanied by improved blood flow. Lab tests showed that flavanols allow vascular tissue to relax. Finally, tests showed that pure epicatechin had much the same effect as flavanol-rich cocoa.

“The results of this study provide direct

proof that epicatechin is, at least in part, responsible for the beneficial vascular effects that are observed after the consumption of certain flavanol-rich cocoas,” Schroeter said.

The hub of traditional chocolate production is in the little town of San Juan del Obispo, located just up the hill from La Antigua Guatemala on the slope of volcano Agua. Here numerous small family factories have been producing homemade drinking chocolate for generations. One of the best known local producers is Doña Josefa, who welcomes visitors to her small operation where they can see how cacao beans are selected, toasted, ground and, after being mixed with sugar and a variety of special additives such as cinnamon, almonds or rice, are formed into the round tablets, which are available for purchase all around Antigua. To arrange for a tour of her facilities (Chocolate San Juan, 1a avenida norte #10, San Juan del Obispo),

...continued page 66

DATEBOOK

JULY 2012

GUIDE TO CULTURE
AND UPCOMING EVENTS
COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

1 Sun., 10am — WORKSHOP: The basics of chiaroscuro drawing, a technique that encompasses the physics of light and shadow, light and dark. (FREE admission). For more info. and reserve a space, call 2493-8149. Atelier de Arte, Paseo Cayalá shopping center, z.16, **Guatemala City**.

3 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *Community Center EducArte*, which promotes social justice via education and art, strives to provide social services not otherwise available in Ciudad Vieja. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

4 Wed., 11am-2pm — VOTER REGISTRATION: It's time for U.S. citizens to register to vote for the 2012 elections. Get help from Democrats Abroad. For more info, contact John Chudy at 7832-4581 or mayadems@yahoo.com. Conexion, 4a calle oriente #14, comercial La Fuente, **La Antigua**.

4 Wed., through Tues. 10th — (English & Spanish) RETREAT: Through *Spiritual Sexual Shamanic Practitioners Training*, this world-famous 6-day residential retreat is dedicated to evolving consciousness and embodying bliss, includes luxury room, vegetarian meals, access to solar pools, sauna and hot tub. For more info. & reservation: visit Facebook. Consciousness and Sacred Sexuality Guatemala; tel: (502) 4465-5007; Email: lasexualidadsagrada-guatemala@gmail.com. Villa Sumaya, **Santa Cruz, Lake Atitlán**.

5 Thurs., 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 or [Facebook.com/ClubFotograficoAntigua](https://www.facebook.com/ClubFotograficoAntigua). Free. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, **La Antigua**. ▼



6 Fri., 10am — (Spanish) TALK: *Uso de aceites naturales, vegetales y esenciales*. Además habrá una demostración de estos maravillosos aceites, sales, exfoliantes y cremas. Entrada gratuita. Vivero y Café La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**.

6 Fri., 7pm — THEATER: *Grease*, a musical performance by middle school students. Free. Antigua International School, El Cortijo de las Flores, Km. 48.5, **La Antigua, the road to Ciudad Vieja**.

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

6 Fri., 8pm — (Spanish) THEATER: *A Contra Reloj*, by Compañía de teatro Artistas Trabajando. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

5 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Investigaciones Arqueológicas en el Zotz* por Thomas Garrison. Q30/Q15, students with carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 6a calle final, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

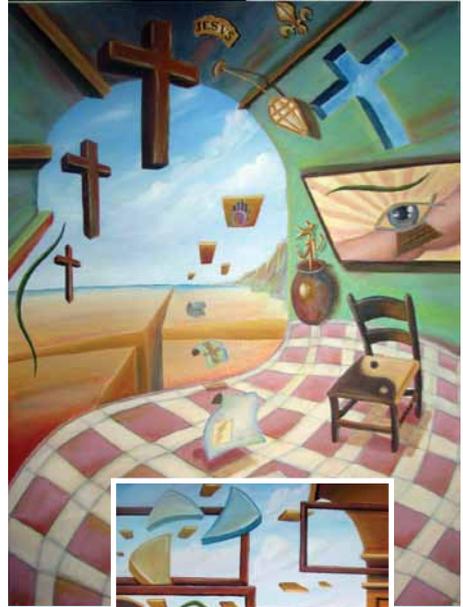
5 Thurs., 7:30am-12:30pm — WORKSHOP: *English Teacher Training ETT 2nd Edition I*, presented by Naomi Wolfe. For details contact info.lersguatemala@gmail.com Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

7 Sat. — FESTIVAL DE ARTE Y CULTURA: Art, music, dance, ecology, and more, organized by Nana Juana Hotel/Marina. Free. See page 28 for details or visit www.festival.inriodulce.com, **Río Dulce, Izabal**.

7 Sat. & Sat. 21st, 9am-noon — COOKING CLASS: Mariela, Norma, María and the staff in the kitchen 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**.

7 Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *Rocío Recinos en Concierto*, jazz and bossa nova like Perfeicao, Let's Fall in Love, I Left My Heart in San Francisco, Bebado e a Equilibrista and Cuenta Conmigo. Q50. El Sitio (7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

7 Sat., through Sat., 28 — ART: *Saban Pinturas*. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



9 Mon., 7pm — FASHION SHOW: *France á la Mode – Mode et Parfums*, creations by Mauricio Samayoa, Eduardo Figueroa, Paola Alfaro, Walter Ramirez, Ichigo Tock, Ana Lis Tanner, Mynor Veliz, Morena. Free. Alianza Francesa (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13, Finca La Aurora, **Guatemala City**.

10 Tues., 8pm — MUSIC: *Musique Classique*, by orquesta Municipal de Guatemala. Directed by Master Sarmientos. Free. Alianza Francesa (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13, Finca La Aurora, **Guatemala City**.

Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the AUGUST, 2012 edition of the **REVUE** by Tuesday, July 10

DATEBOOK

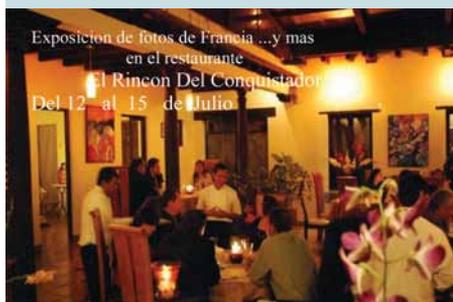
10 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *The Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association* is the leading advocate for the rights of wild animals in Guatemala, receiving 300-600 animals per year, the majority confiscated from wildlife traffickers. Presentation includes wild (non-releasable) animals. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

11 Wed., 7pm — EXPOSITION: *Ixtzunun, l'Histoire à l'histoire* by archaeologist Mélanie Forné. Free. Alianza Francesa (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13, Finca La Aurora, **Guatemala City**.

12 Thurs., 6:30pm, through Wed., 18 — ART: El Misterio de la Incertidumbre, *Batik* by Amparo Toledo. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

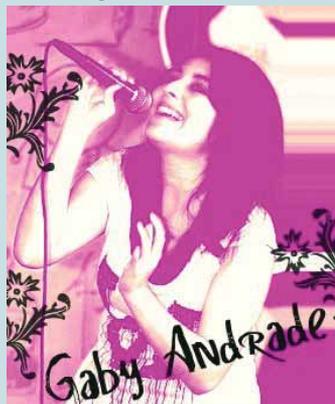
12 Thurs., 12pm — GASTRONOMY: *Festival Gastronomique*, featuring chef Vincent Boutinaud, offering a taste of France though its traditional flavors. Q250 per person. Café de La Paix, Hotel Real Intercontinental, **Guatemala City**.

12 Thurs., through Sun., 15 — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Scenes from France* by photographer Dieter Droth, benefits Rotary Club of Guatemala. El Rincón Del Conquistador (tel: 7882-4398) **La Antigua** ▼



12 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Tipologías Arquitectónicas en el Arte Hispanoguatemalteco*, por Anibal Chajón. Q30/Q15, students with carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 6a calle final, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

13 Fri., 8pm — MUSIC: *Ricardo Andrade Vive* by Gaby Andrade. Acoustic alternative rock. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**. ▼



14 Sat., 1pm — BENEFIT DANCE: The Niños con Bendición from Aguas Caliente dance and play the marimba, flutes and bombas. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

14 Sat., 8pm — BENEFIT: *Fiesta Árabe*. Cover includes a drink. To benefit the Liga Nacional Contra el Cáncer. Restaurante Gaia, 5a av. norte (tel: 7832-3670), **La Antigua**.

14 Sat., 11am-2pm — VOTER REGISTRATION: It's time for U.S. citizens to register to vote for the 2012 elections. Get help from Democrats Abroad. For more info, contact John Chudy at 7832-4581 or mayadems@yahoo.com. El Attico, 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**.



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Author of Antigua Guatemala and other publications
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U.S. Citizen in Guatemala? It's time to register to vote!

July 4th – U.S. Voter Registration. It's time to register to vote for the 2012 elections. Get help from Democrats Abroad. 11 AM – 2 PM, Conexion, 4ta Calle Oriente #14, comercial La Fuente, Antigua. In Guatemala City, you can get help to register on **Saturday, July 14th**, 11am to 2pm at el Atitico 4a Avenida 15-45, Zona 14. For more information, contact John Chudy at 7832-4581 or mayadems@yahoo.com.

An intellectual is someone who can listen to the "William Tell Overture" without thinking of the Lone Ranger. —John Chesson

Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness. —Maya Angelou



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www.revuemag.com



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

Mondays — 7-10pm: A great line-up of various artists. Latin Jazz/Salsa

Tuesdays — 7-10pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana, the fabulous Cuban music of Mercedes Sosa, Silvia Rodriguez, and more.

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



Gaia Restaurant

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: Eric Fry playing and singing the favorites.

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.

9-11pm: Mercedes, guitar blues/rock/folk.

Sundays at LAVA

(upstairs)

— 1pm-3pm
Kenny's Band
plays lively
rock music.



Pub Quiz hosted by Shaun Paul Griffiths; **Sundays** at 6:30pm

Fridas

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

Fridays — Ishto Juevez, swing & Mexican.

La Casbah

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Tuesdays — Live music: cover band

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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.

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Sundays — Latin ensemble.

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— 9:15pm: Rony Hernández and guest musicians.

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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

15 Sun, 10am — ART: Exposition, *Mayan's with a Twist*, by Alejandra "Bara" Barahona, a modern version of Mayan icons; **2-5 pm** — (Spanish) LECTURA: Descubre tu Nahual, by Bara. Also, other activities at the central main square and the surrounding businesses. Pueblo Real Kilómetro No. 82.5 Carretera Interamericana, **Tecpán**.

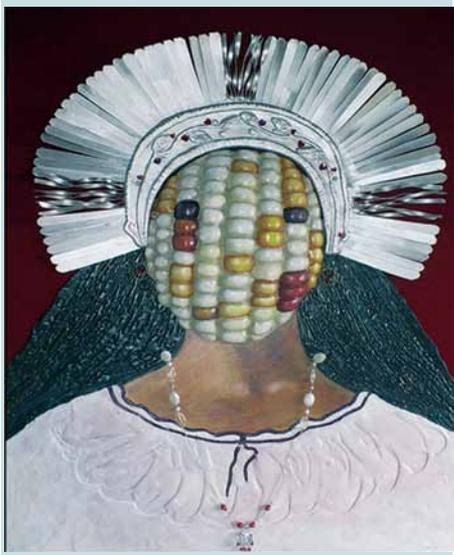
16 Mon., 6-8pm & Wednesdays — PHOTO WORKSHOP: Eight sessions, *Intermediate Level*, taught by Manny Rionda. For details contact taller@mannyrionda.com or galeria@museoixchel.org Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

17 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *Partnering with the Poor: Inequality, Education and Opportunity in Guatemala*. Common Hope/Familias de Esperanza partner with over 2,600 students and their families to break the cycle of poverty. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

17 Tuesday., 6-8pm & Thursdays — PHOTO WORKSHOP: Eight sessions, *The Basics* taught by Manny Rionda. Details contact taller@mannyrionda.com or galeria@museoixchel.org Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

18 Wed., 4pm — (Spanish) TALK: *Charla sobre la exposición El Misterio de la Incertidumbre*, a cargo de la artista Amparo Toledo. Mayor información galeria@museoixchel.org Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

18 Wed., 5pm — ART: Inauguration, exposition of work by Guatemalan artist Antonio Pichillá. Galería Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**. ▼



19 Thurs., 7pm — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Tradiciones Quetzaltecas*. Centro Cultural Casa Noj (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

Río Dulce Arts Festival - July 7, 2012

A festival of arts, culture, ecology and technology will be exhibited in one day of celebration. At the landmark location of Nana Juana Hotel/Marina, the people of the Izabal region will come together to share the wonders of their cultures for the world to see and enjoy. Activities for adults and children alike, there will be something for all to have fun and learn more about this amazing area of Guatemala. For more information go to the website; www.festival.inriodulce.com



La Antigua Galería de Arte

PRESENTS

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19 Thurs., 6:30pm

— ART: *Guatemala Color* by Ingrid Bobadilla de Mendoza. Cocktail. Galería Guatemala de Fundación G&T Continental, Banco G&T, 6 av. 9-08, z. 9, **Guatemala City.**



20 Fri., 7:30am-12:30pm — WORKSHOP: *English Teacher Training ETT 2nd Edition II*, with Naomi Wolfe. Contact Info.lersguatemala@gmail.com Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City.**

20 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) POESÍA: Por grupo Los Quijotes. Centro Cultural Casa Noj (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango.**

21 Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *Por Placer*, bole-ros concert featuring Karin Rademann & Pamela Morales, sopranos; Pedro Pablo Solís & David Martínez, tenors; Hugo Arenas, piano. Q50. El Sitio (7832-3037), **La Antigua.**

24 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Oxlajuj B'atz' (Thirteen Threads) is a non-profit indigenous women's empowerment and education organization that helps Maya women artisans improve their quality of life. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

25 Wed. — CELEBRATION: *Día de Santiago* (St. James Day) honoring the patron saint of La Antigua Guatemala. Processions and cultural events throughout the month. **La Antigua.**

Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the AUGUST, 2012 edition of the **REVUE** by Tuesday, July 10

DATEBOOK

21 Sat. — ART: La Antigua Galería de arte presents *Cofrades of Guatemala* by Oscar Ríos Ochoa. This sculpture show of more than 15 new pieces in resin and terracotta portrays the cofrades of Guatemala in all its regalia. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.



25 Wed. — CELEBRATION: Cultural and religious activities to honor Santiago Apóstol (the Apostle James). **Coatepeque and El Palmar**.

27 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) *POESÍA: III festival de poesía guatemalteca*, a cargo de Casa los Altos, dedicado a Daniel Matul Romero. Centro Cultural Casa Noj (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

27 Fri., 8pm — ART: *Tres Formas de Expresión* by Domingo Peneleu Tuch, Christian Manuel García Hernández and Antonio Hernández Jocón. Free. Cocktail. El Sitio (7832-3037), **La Antigua**.



ANNIVERSARY WEEK AT "PERSONAJES"

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

17 — Karaoke Night

18 — Trova & Romantic Night

19 — Live Music: Groups Malahierba and Tres Latino (Free drinks and prizes)

20 — Gallo Night with Los Contrapunticos

21 — Bacardi Night with Grupo Gangster

28 Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *K'alsem* by Magda Angélica. Contemporary music with a fusion of drums, guitars and Garifuna sounds. Q50. El Sitio (7832-3037), **La Antigua**. ▼



29 Sun., 4pm — DANCE: *Desequilibrio Yin*, contemporary dance performance by Kazia Orantes Cia. Q100, students & dancers Q50. Pre-sale tickets: Lex Cargo (corner of 7a calle & 6a av. sur); also at the venue one hour before the event. arteantigua@yahoo.com Teatro Monsanto, inside Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**. ▼



31 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Los Patojos works with young people in Jocotenango to deal with and prevent problems and teaches them how to become better world citizens. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

DATEBOOK continues on page 32

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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Through Aug. 19 — PHOTOGRAPHY: *FOTOKIDS 20 Years Capturing Dreams*. Cooperación Española 6a av. (corner of 3 & 4 calles poniente) **La Antigua**.



Open through August — ART: *Gitanos de Papel* by artist Rogelio López Cuenca. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

Open through Sun., 15th — 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**.

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

Mondays 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.

Tuesdays, 11am — GAME DAY: Mahjong, bridge, backgammon, cards or BYO game. Come and enjoy your favorite game and meet some really nice people. La Peña del Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2pm — (English/Spanish) The Antigua Bridge Club sponsors duplicate bridge. Call Barbara, 5195-7656, for details or to reserve a chair. La Peña del Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C), **La Antigua**. See related article on page 80.

Wednesdays, 9:30-11am — BRIDGE: The Antigua Bridge Club will be offering bridge lesson seminars. La Peña del Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C), **La Antigua**. See page 80.

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

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

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

Fridays, 9am — *Tour of Ciudad Vieja*: Meet in front of Santa Lucía Church (in Antigua) at the end of Calzada Santa Lucía for the short bus ride to Ciudad Vieja. For more information visit www.ninosguatemala.org or call 7832-8033. See page 42.

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

Saturdays 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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Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!
 —Dr. Seuss

They are ill discoverers that think there is no land, when they can see nothing but sea.
 —Francis Bacon



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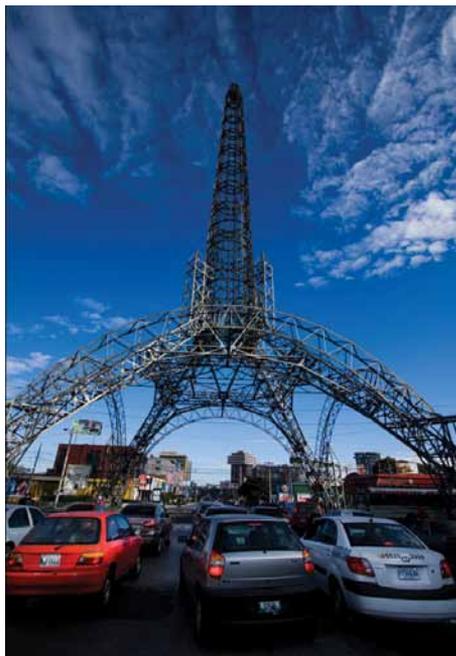
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Trust that little voice in your head that says
 "Wouldn't it be interesting if..."
 And then do it. —Duane Michals

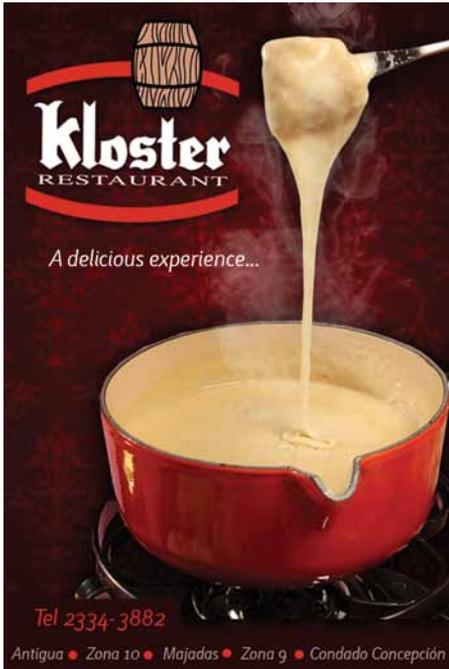
R REVUE = RESULTADOS



▲ "Todos los días pasan bajo mis pies"
 ▼ "Esa Guatemala de belleza y color"

(PHOTOS BY IVAN CASTRO - FLICKR.COM/IVANCASTROGUATEMALA)



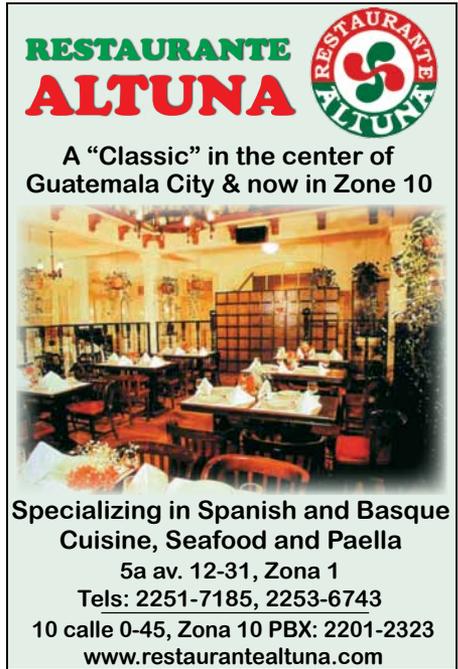


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I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living, it's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. Which is what I do, and that enables you to laugh at life's realities. —Theodore Geisel

The winds of grace are always blowing, but you have to raise the sail. —Ramakrishna

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. —Leo Buscaglia

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Newsworthy

Guatemala launches Central America's first Braille newspaper

“**Y**ou don't need to see to be able to read” was the message Publinews Guatemala sent to the world last month when it launched Central America's first Braille newspaper.

Together with the Committee for Blind and Deaf People in Guatemala (Prociegos), Publinews produced 2,500 copies, which were distributed to visually impaired people throughout the country.

The project, which is financed by four sponsoring businesses, will continue as a free monthly medium with the aim of providing blind and other visually impaired people the latest news and current affairs.

“It's important for visually impaired people to have access to different forms of communication and to feel a part of society. They have the same human rights as everyone else and should be granted them by the state,” says Edilzar Castro Quiroz, director of education at Prociegos.

It is estimated that more than 110,000 people in Guatemala have a visual disability—a problem that is magnified in rural parts of the country, where availability to medical care and special resources is limited.

Jorge Mario Cifuentes lost his sight 20 years ago after he was diagnosed with pigmented retinopathy and now works at Prociegos as the sports and recreation program coordinator.

“Having a visual impairment in Guatemala, like any other kind of impairment, is very difficult. Most institutions that deal with this issue are private and the state's reaction to this subject is very limited—especially on the theme of education. For me to be able to hold a newspaper in Braille is a reflection that society is gaining an awareness of the needs of blind people,” says Cifuentes.

Around eight months ago, Publinews started working with focus groups to find out what specific articles and sections would be of most interest to visually impaired people—and it tailored its content accordingly.

The Braille newspaper has the same 16-page format as Publinews' flagship version but features articles that have been specifically adapted to suit the interests of blind people. Prociegos says the newspaper opens a door to blind people who are more than qualified to contribute to journalism by

...continued page 72

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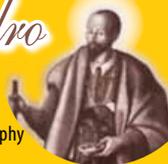
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Niños de Guatemala Offers Tour of Ciudad Vieja

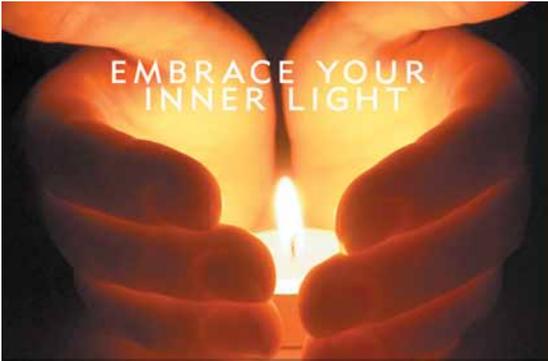
Niños de Guatemala, an NGO that provides education and other services to impoverished families in Ciudad Vieja, offers a tour every Friday morning.

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Afterward, visitors walk through the neighborhood where most of the families from the Niños de Guatemala school live. The final stop is the school itself, where guests can learn more about the NGO and the work it does in the region.

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 I admit to having an imagination feverish enough to melt good judgment. —Dean R. Koontz



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For over 50 years, Lyn Hovey has been working with stained glass, using 13th and 14th century painting techniques to create complex and authentic works of art. From a 30-foot-tall window in a school chapel in the U.S., to a spherical steel and stained glass awning in Taiwan, his designs decorate offices, churches, schools, hospitals and homes around the world.

In 1972, Hovey opened his first studio in Boston, Massachusetts, and over 30 years later founded another one in La Antigua Guatemala.

Alongside a small team of local experts, the talented artist specializes in creating stained glass windows, illuminated mirrors and Tiffany-inspired bent glass lampshades—all created using the traditional painting and firing method.

“I don’t know of any other firm making bent glass lamps,” says Hovey. “I think it shows the skill of the Guatemalan workforce that here you find this complicated design.”

Last year, Hovey was presented with a sketch of a traditional Guatemalan huipil and challenged to execute it into a unique stained glass window for a house on the outskirts of Antigua.

“We wanted a stained glass window with a typical Guatemalan design on it, and there’s nothing more Guatemalan than textiles,” says the homeowner, Jan Theberge.

It took the artist, Corinna Wittel, just 10 minutes to sketch the design, which she originally intended to give to Theberge as a sample. However, as soon as Theberge saw it, she thought it was perfect and passed Wittel’s rough huipil draft straight onto Hovey.

...continued page 64



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—Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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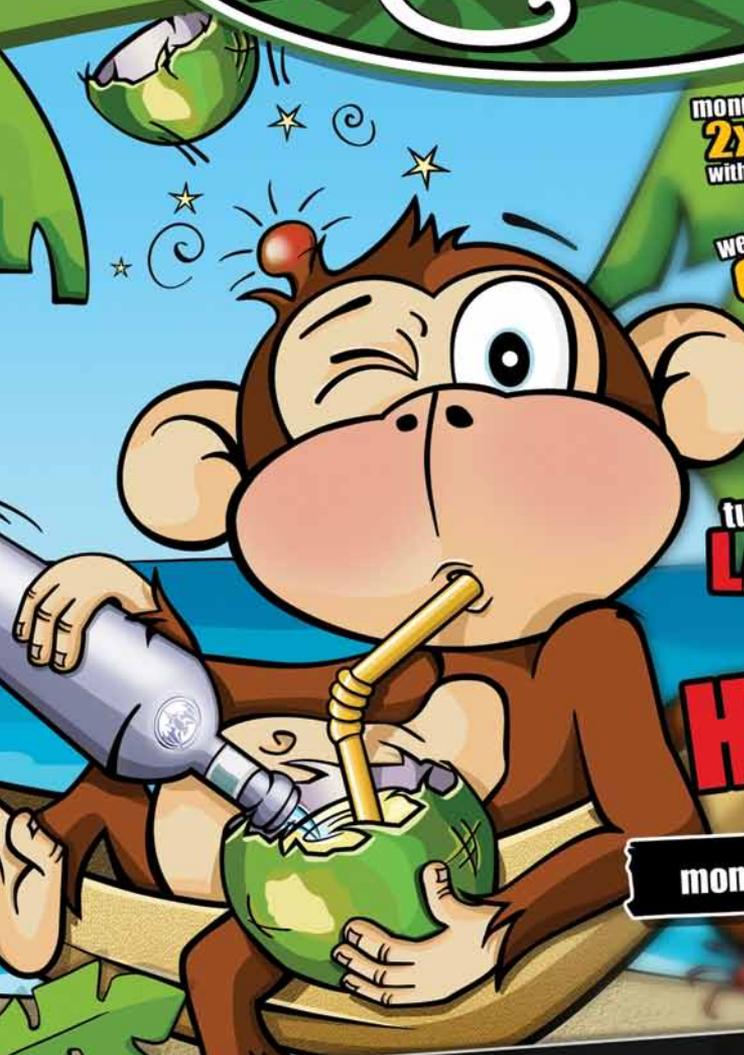
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The proud owner of a candy-apple-red 1970s Camaro can sometimes be spotted cruising zones nine and ten of the Big City, but most Guatemalan car paint isn't quite so flashy. However, that deep metallic candy-apple paint, with a transparent coat setting it off, does show up in other places around the country that you can search out easily.

Look into a music store in big or small towns, and there are racks of imported electric guitars waiting to tempt teen shoppers. Look again – most are painted candy-apple, as are many of the bicycles and motorcycles on sale for slightly older kids.

No wonder the bright color has been picked up by makers of painted wooden toys and trays from Totonicapán, and by weavers who put little blossoms of mercerized red thread on place mats and runners for sale to tourists.

Sail along Lake Isabal and Rio Dulce, or

visit Monterrico and Iztapa on the Pacific, and you'll see lots of boats big and small painted with streaks of dazzling candy-apple red. Some beach shacks have signs on the sand, advertising soft drinks or cell phone service from those big corporations that know candy-apple red will catch your eye and sell their stuff.

But if you really want to see lots of candy-apple red in Guatemala, stacked high and glowing, go right to the source. At any village's fiesta, on Sundays after church, after processions any time of the year, candy-apple red will be featured, easy to spot among the churros, carnes, and dulces on sale by vendors. There, glowing behind glass will be real candy apples, hand-dipped on sticks.

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While visiting the Petén, Alta Verapaz or the *costa sur*, you'll most likely see leaf-cutting ant trails, which look like miniature highways running through a lawn.

One aspect about leaf-cutting ants that is seldom written about is their propensity to carry flowers (rather than leaves). In the last three years I have found ants harvesting and carrying flowers about 90 percent of the time I have been out in the field studying flora and fauna.

This does not mean 90 percent of them carry flowers; it means that if you go into remote areas, you have a 90 percent chance that at least one of the zompopo trails are occupied by ants carrying flowers.

The ants do not eat the flowers or the leaves. Instead, zompopos exude a liquid on the flowers or leaves and eat the fungus that grows as a result.

Sometimes the ants climb high into trees to harvest flowers from vines. I saw this on the property of the Posada Paso Caribe, an hour up the Arroyo Petex Batun from Sayaxche, Petén. But normally the ants harvest flowers that are already on the ground. From my experience it seems that the ants are opportunistic: They cut up and carry off to their nest just about any flower that is convenient.

For example, at the Parque Nacional Tikal, near the *aguada* next to the visitor's center, the zompopos were cutting up the complex flowers of *Pachira aquatica*. They cut every single part of the flower.

The version of the Popol Vuh that we have today comes from the Highland Quiché. But the core aspects of the story of the Hero Twins shooting a mythical bird-monster deity atop a tree goes back to about 200 to 300 years BC in the pre-Mayan stelae of Izapa, lowland Chiapas near the Guatemala-



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lan Pacific coastal border. The Lowland pre-classic Mayan murals of San Bartolo, Petén, also show chapters of the Popol Vuh.

Although you can find leaf-cutting ants in the Highlands (such as Alta Verapaz, along the road between Cahabón and Senahú), I would not expect to find zompopos in some parts of El Quiché. This is a long way of saying that originally there were many different regional versions of the Popol Vuh. Each regional Mayan language had its own version. Most shared certain chapters, and all had some heritage from pre-Mayan versions such as Izipa.

What is interesting is that in the story of the Popol Vuh the zompopos also cut tail feathers of the birds. I have heard of these ants being a plague on farms, but will need to see if we can document ants carrying sections of



bird feathers. After all, the story of the Popol Vuh does have mythical underworld aspects. My goal is not to say that everything in the myth is direct observation of actual habits of plants and animals. My goal is to find and study all mention of plants and animals in the Popol Vuh, and find out which are nat-



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Leaf-cutting Ants cont. from page 61

uralistic, and which are mythical.

If you do not live in Guatemala, this is a great country to visit if you like to photograph plants or animals (and insects). Guatemala offers much more than the impressive Mayan archaeological ruins; Central America offers much more than the beautiful Lake Atitlán and important Spanish colonial architecture of La Antigua Guatemala.

Guatemala is also a paradise of tropical flowers, and remarkable (and hard-working) insects, which harvest these flowers. So when you have time, consider visiting Guatemala to see the diverse eco-systems throughout the country. I work (as a consultant in advanced digital imaging) in China, Korea and Europe, and reside in St. Louis, Missouri. But I come to Guatemala as often as I can to find and photograph (and experience) the wonders of Mother Nature.

The purpose of this discussion by FLAAR Reports is to share my experiences as a visitor to Guatemala and to learn that some aspects of the Popol Vuh are based on real plants, animals and insects of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and El Salvador. 📍

You can learn more about Mayan culture at www.maya-archaeology.org, as well as our separate websites on ethnobotany and ethnozoology; Google “Maya ethnozoology.”

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). You may contact Dr. Hellmuth and his staff by email: FrontDesk@FLAAR.org



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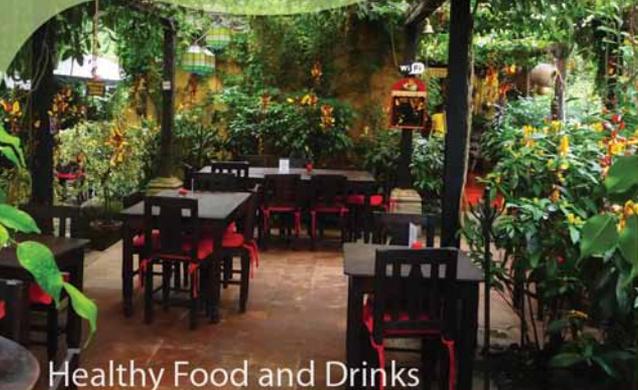
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Putting the finishing touches on the stained glass window



After two months of work, the window is finished and installed in place



Stained Glass cont. from page 52

“I’ve always loved stained glass windows and have had some designed for me before, but they don’t compare to Lyn’s work. The first day the window was put in I just sat in the rocking chair enjoying it—it’s beyond all expectations,” says Theberge.

Using gold to bring out the pinks and purples of the design, Hovey and his team worked two months to finish the window, which they installed in April.

“It’s so perfect that we don’t want to curtain it, we’re just going to leave it as it is. It’s beautiful and when the sun comes through it sparkles,” says Theberge.

The family is so fond of the window that they have asked Wittel to sketch another huipil design for them using a slightly different color palette, and for Lyn to transform it into another Guatemalan inspired stained glass window for their house in Antigua. 

You can find more information on Hovey’s work on his website: www.lynhoveystudio.com

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New to Antigua is the Choco Museum on 4a calle oriente #14, next door to Doña Luisa Xicotencatl bakery and cafeteria. The ChocoMuseo takes visitors through the chocolate process; it also offers workshops where you’ll make your own chocolate, right from the cacao beans! The museum includes installations and displays to educate the public on all things chocolate. It also sells upscale chocolate candies in many flavors and varieties to suit just about every chocolate lover’s craving. And what could be better than to crave something that is actually good for you, too? 

Research tells us fourteen out of ten individuals likes chocolate. —Sandra Boynton

CACAO cont. from page 21

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For those interested in getting organic, pure and unadulterated chocolate visit Tony Ryals at his shop Tostaduría Antigua on the corner of 7a avenida and 6a calle poniente. Nothing fancy here, just 100 percent pure ingredients produced and packaged on site. Tony offers a variety of rustic chocolate concoctions and features his 50-50 chocolate candy that is made from 50 percent pure roasted cacao mixed with 50 percent pure organic honey. My favorite is Tony’s Cinnamon-Chili Zinger!



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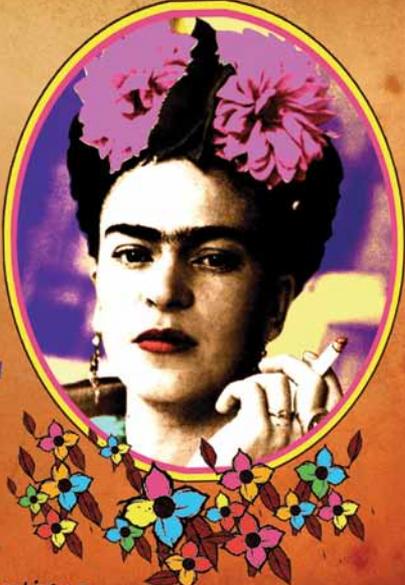
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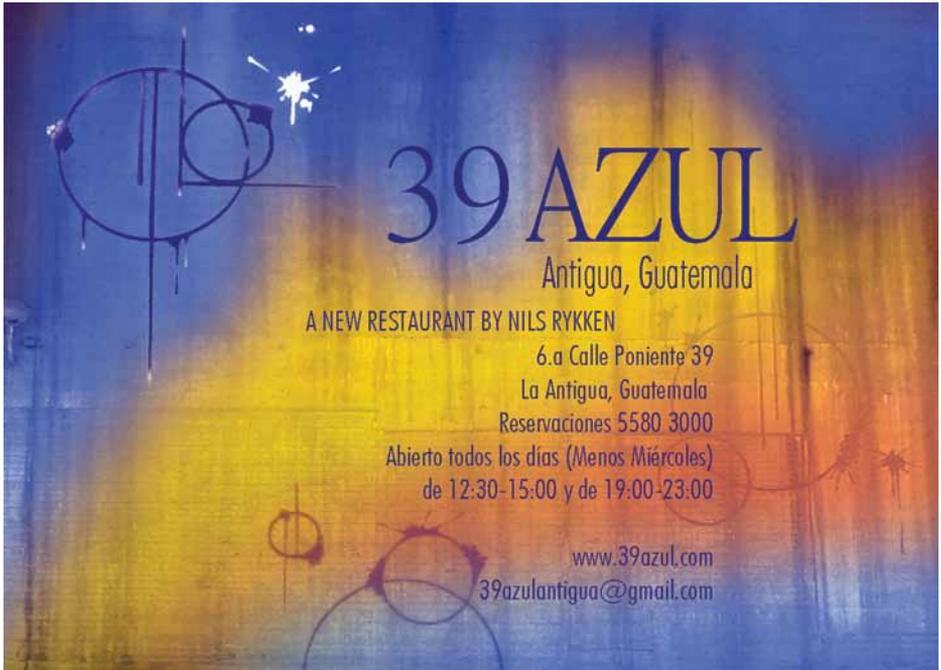
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Braille Newspaper cont. from page 38

writing articles and helping with the production process.

“The idea was to create a project that went along the lines of what Publinews represents, which is a positive media for Guatemalan society. We detected that the visually impaired community had been a little forgotten about and we wanted to support them and prioritize their rights,” says Hugo Perez, director of marketing at Publinews. “It’s a little drop of water, but its making a lot of waves.”

As well as covering the latest international, national, technology and sports news, the paper also features an “Inspirational Person of the Month,” with the aim of motivating other visually impaired people to achieve their potential. This month the focus is on Brandon Aspuac, an athlete who will be representing Guatemala in the 800m and 1500m events in this year’s Paralympic Games in London.

Publinews launched Latin America’s first Braille newspaper in Chile two years ago and has been building on the experience in Guatemala. The Chapin version has been so popular that Prociegos is already in talks to send it to El Salvador.

“The paper has been very well received by the visually impaired community and there have been lots of people coming directly to our offices asking for it. It’s a complex project that requires a lot of hard work, but that effort is nothing in comparison to what it gives the blind community,” says Castro Quiroz.

Sonia Hernandez works as a telephone

operator at Prociegos: “I’ve always been a fan of the news and enjoy reading more than listening. I used to listen to the radio at work, but it was difficult as the phone would ring and I’d lose the thread of the story. When they first gave me this Braille edition, I just sat down right then and there and devoured it. I’m really happy with it. It’s a normal newspaper that speaks about national and international issues—the only difference is that it’s in braille,” says Hernandez.

Publinews and Prociegos both agree that the most important step now is to increase the newspaper’s circulation and its frequency, but say that in the short term it will continue as a monthly newspaper thanks to the support of their four sponsors. 



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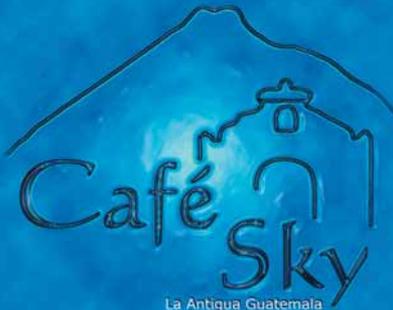
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ASK ELIZABETH

by Elizabeth Bell
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

Becoming a Guatemalan Citizen

During the 43 years that I have lived in Antigua, I have co-founded and participated in many committees, associations and foundations to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Ranging today from education to micro-credit and promoting cultural activities, many of these meetings usually relate to finding solutions to problems that we have identified over the years. Four-plus years ago, I was attending one of the group association meetings (where a number of local committees meet), and mentioned that I didn't vote—but I did enjoy having a voice. It was right before the 2007 elections.

While no one commented, it struck me like lightning that I should become a Guatemalan citizen, particularly since the U.S. allows dual citizenship. And the process began.

Many thought it was a “no brainer” since I married a Guatemalan (widowed), have two Guatemalan children, a Guatemalan business and have lived here so long. It was more work than I thought!

First to Migración, then to the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, then to Gobernación in Guatemala City, back to Migración, Relaciones Exteriores

(countless times).

Since it is a presidential decree, the paperwork was then sent to former President Colom—oops, they needed more flight information—back again—oops, they didn't notice a stamp in my passport. Back again to the president's desk.

Much to my dismay, Migración *does* keep track of all the airport paperwork we fill out—over 43 years, that was quite a few items. (I thought they made firecrackers out of old paperwork as they did in colonial times!)

This time, President Pérez Molina *did* sign it on April 9th and the presidential decree was published in the *Diario de Centro América*. I could have written a book and a half with all the paperwork and certainly have the side-stories to share.

All in all, at least now we can call the government offices and they find the information on their computers! I joined 18 other foreign nationals at Relaciones Exteriores on May 30th to be sworn in as a Guatemalan. I didn't hire a lawyer and there were no fees (except for the Spanish language test). If “time is money,” it is priceless!

While I missed voting in the 2011 elections, I can now call it *my* country. That *is* priceless. 



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You can find inspiration from others but determination is solely your responsibility. —Dodinsky

Doubt is not a pleasant state of mind, but certainty is absurd. —Voltaire

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me. —Ayn Rand

I'm creative—you can't expect me to be neat too. —Larry K. Smith

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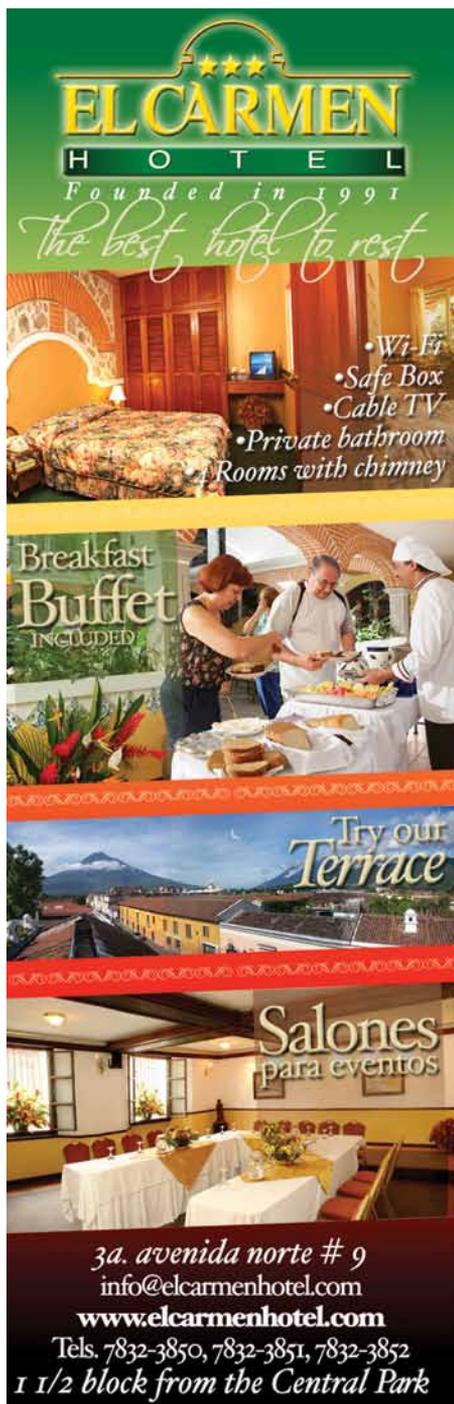
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PET Q's & A's
by Cynthia Burski, DVM

Question: We are bringing our 6-year-old Himalayan cat with us when we move to Guatemala. I have heard that it is not a good idea to use a tranquilizer or sedative on a cat, but he doesn't travel well and won't even go into his carrier. What do you suggest?

Answer: Several types of sedatives can be given to cats, but the effects vary with the individual pet. The most common are acepromazine and diazepam (Valium), both provide a relatively wide margin of safety. The effects of these drugs vary with the cat's age, weight and general health. For international travel your cat's veterinarian will need to issue a certificate of health so you can ask at that time about an appropriate sedative.

It would be beneficial to run a trial, you can give him the prescribed dosage and observe him over the next four to six hours to determine if the desired effect is achieved. Putting him into the carrier and taking him on a car ride should give you an idea of how the medication is working. You would like him to be sedate and calm, not dopey nor unconscious. From the trial dosage, you will be able to adjust the medication to get the proper effect. Be sure to discuss this with your veterinarian.

Importantly, a small dog or cat can travel in the cabin with its owner and can be sedated, especially if he is anxious and might makes noises that would bother other passengers. **It is NOT recommended to sedate or tranquilize pets that would be traveling in the luggage area of the aircraft.** Although airlines transport animals in areas that are pressure and temperature controlled, the sedative effect of the medication does not allow the animal's normal body response to function normally.

The airlines have definite policies as to what constitutes a proper pet carrier for air travel. Generally, the carrier is made of sturdy fiberglass/plastic with a metal door and numerous air vents. The carrier should be large enough to allow the pet to stand up and turn around without being cramped.



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I've seen and met angels wearing the disguise of ordinary people living ordinary lives.
—Tracy Chapman

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
—Anne Frank

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You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. —Kahlil Gibran

Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.
—Sherry Anderson

What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. —Albert Pike

The work an unknown good man has done is like a vein of water flowing hidden underground, secretly making the ground green. —Thomas Carlyle

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Antigua Bridge Club

Several of La Antigua Guatemala's regular bridge players have formed the Antigua Bridge Club in hopes of increasing interest and participation in the game.

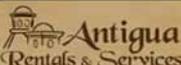
The goal of the Antigua Bridge Club is to create a warm and inviting atmosphere for all levels of players. The club will continue to sponsor duplicate bridge on Tuesday and Thursday at La Peña del Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C); Tuesday is more relaxed and well suited for those who are new to duplicate bridge. Also, on Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Antigua Bridge Club will be offering bridge lesson seminars.

The club is committed to nurturing new players and those players who want to learn more by offering bridge lessons using a program taken from the American Contract Bridge League. Through the use of written handouts, video presentations and card layouts, all levels of participants will increase their skill level and ensure that new players have a solid foundation for their bridge play.

In all the bridge played under Antigua Bridge Club sponsorship, the Standard American Yellow Card will be the bidding system of choice. The club also uses the laws and rules of contract and duplicate bridge as outlined by the American Contract Bridge League (www.acbl.org/play/charts.html).

In addition, a director will be available to resolve any questions regarding proper play, bidding and behavior. The club will be focusing on education in the finer points of bridge, not enforcement. The primary goal is to make the exciting game of bridge a relaxed and welcoming experience for all levels of players.

For more information contact Audrey Buderus, president, 7832-8271; Bonnie Darlington, board member, 7832-2139; or BJ Massette, director, 4912-5229.



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Off the GRID

by Sri Ram Kaa & Kira Raa

Shifting Paradigms: Water is Life!

The soul-searching opportunities of living off grid are fascinating. There are those who believe a solar panel and car battery will keep things going when the power goes out. This is naive and a waste of money.

Clarity helps you set priorities. Am I seeking help for emergencies only? Do I just need lights or do I need my refrigerator? Going solar is more than just electric. What about your water supply? The truth is that homes dependent upon an outside supplier for drinking water still have a health risk.

Money spent on bottled water could be replaced by installing a filtering system that offers higher quality, healthy water without any need for bottles. A water filter system does not require delivery and frees you from dependency. There is an up-front investment, and this will be paid back to you rapidly.

At Lake Atilán we have a plentiful water source, the lake itself. However, lake water includes a variety of pollutants and must be treated before using it for drinking. At TOSA La Laguna we filter the water three times, plus we purify it with a large UV system.

PHOTOS BY RUDY GIRÓN



Choosing a water filter is very important, as most of the stores in Guatemala sell sediment filters only—the first step. A sediment filter keeps dirt and leaves from entering your system. This filter protects the more expensive carbon filter, which is step two in your purification process.



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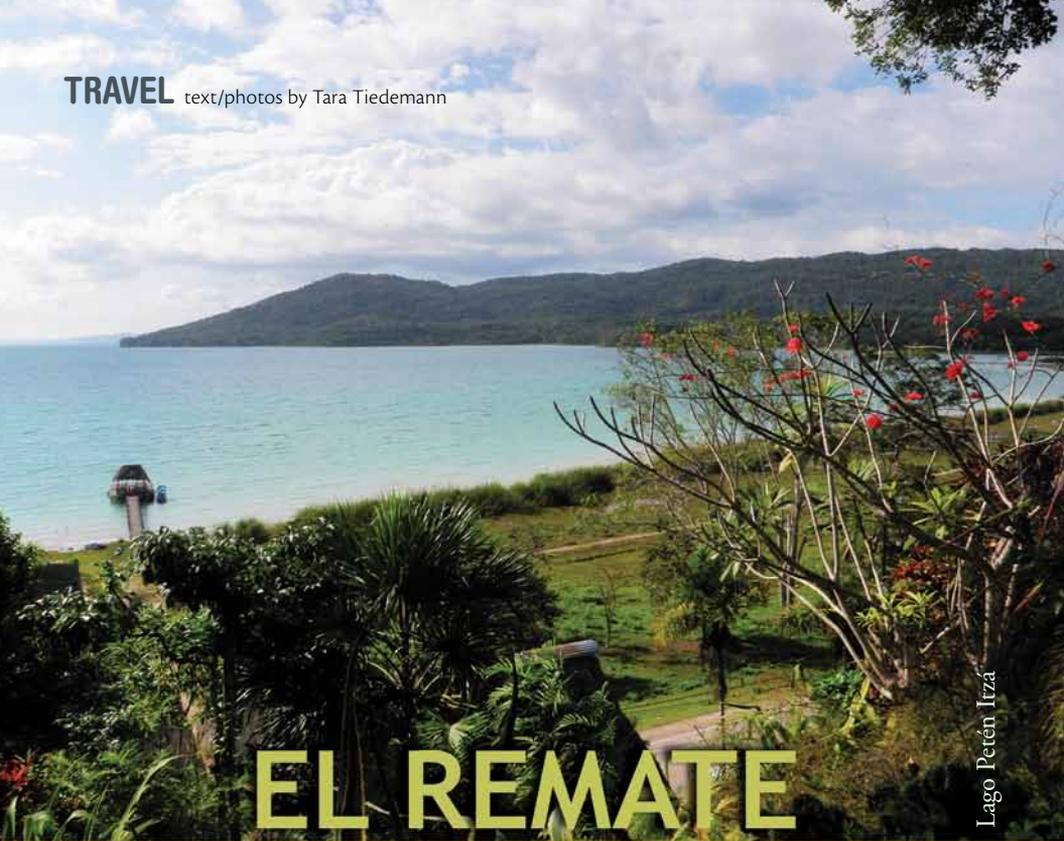

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When tropical storm Agatha raged through the lakeside village of San Antonio Palopó in 2010, the village lost its spring-fed water supply. This left residents with no alternative but to pump polluted water from the lake. We had the opportunity to explain the importance of water purification and later installed advanced systems in the village. This helped prevent the greater threat of health endangerment and this type of system is far healthier than simply throwing large amounts of chlorine into a holding tank.

Many diseases result from toxic buildup over years of ingesting (and breathing) pollutants. High-quality carbon filters eliminate toxins and offer your body a rest.

...continued page 96

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Lago Petén Itzá

EL REMATE

A hidden gem just minutes from Tikal

El Remate is a little slice of paradise along the shore of lago Petén Itzá, only a few minutes by car from Tikal. The pueblo is home to woodcarvers who display their work—beautiful bowls, statues, jewelry and more—in small, open-air stalls along the street.

Located within walking distance from El Remate is the Biotopo Cerro Cahui nature reserve, established by CECON (Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas) Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. This tropical rainforest is a virtual paradise to howler and spider monkeys; the vast array of tropical birds makes for fascinating bird spotting for novice and experienced birdwatchers.

The park has two well-maintained trails; a professional birding guide can be arranged to accompany you. In addition to the animals and birds, your guide can tell you about the tropical foliage and point out sapodilla trees from which *chicle* is harvested to make chewing gum.

Another popular side adventure in El Remate is going horseback riding to laguna Salpetén to explore a small archaeological site. For a nighttime activity, take a boat ride to spot the crocs that inhabit the lagoon or just enjoy the moonlight on the water.

A late afternoon leisure walk along the lake's shoreline gravel road might reward you with a sunset that seems to have painted the



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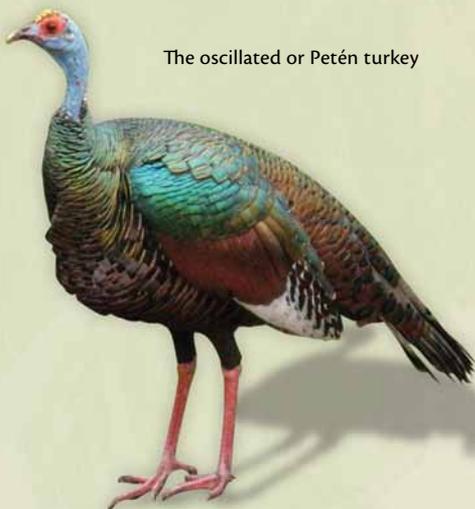
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sky with shades of purple, pink and orange.

The friendly international mix of restaurants include authentic French cuisine in the open-air restaurant at the Hotel Mon Ami, or you can watch the sunset while enjoying *pepián de res* at the legendary La Casa de Don David.

El Remate is well worth a side trip to or from the spectacular structures at Tikal in the beautiful department of Petén. 

Tara Tiedemann is the owner/operator of Viva Adventures located in La Antigua Guatemala.



The oscillated or Petén turkey

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The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom the emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause and stand wrapped in awe, is as good as dead; his eyes are closed.
—Albert Einstein

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The Zen of...

Pegar and Pegársele

I never have understood the appeal of the Smurfs. I once supposed their dialogue was a preschool guessing game. “OK, Joey, what does the third word in ‘The smurfs smurfed all the smurfs to the smurf’ mean?”

The smurfiest Spanish verb may be *pegar*. A classical root is missing, and only Portuguese and Catalanian have even semi-cognates for it. So I suspect that it appeared after Rome’s fall, maybe Visigoth raiders smurfed it into local Iberian languages as a pidgin catchall?

Pegar translates about every fifth English verb. Meanings include (but are not limited to): sticking, gluing, clinging, matching/harmonizing, hitting, inflicting, acquiring, experiencing, taking effect, giving, punishing, transmitting and infecting. If I had to reduce all this to a single commonality, maybe it would be affixing.

Now I try not to overuse *pegar* or any other all-purpose verb. Better just to know



that I will hear it, and that it can mean whatnot; that way I am alert to confusions. But I also study its synonyms, so that my reply to, for instance, “¡Me *pegaste el mono-nucleosis!*” can be a clarifying, “¿*Yo te contagié el mono?*”

Admittedly, there are times when only *pegar* is called for, as in pasting text; your computer’s *pegar* command means paste, and stamps *se pegan* to envelopes. So pasting and gluing are, overall, the most reliable equivalents. But for both kinds of sticking—adhering and stabbing—I prefer *adherer* and *apuñalar* in my clarifying replies. Perhaps because the former requires a stem change (e to ie), the Visigoth raiders, who did not know conjugation from constipation, started substituting *pego* for *adhiero* when they had to say “I stick Smurf decals on my shield.”

This kind of sticking has transitive and passive-voice (“*se-le*”) forms. Transitive, as in *Los visigotas pegan (adhieren) las calco-*

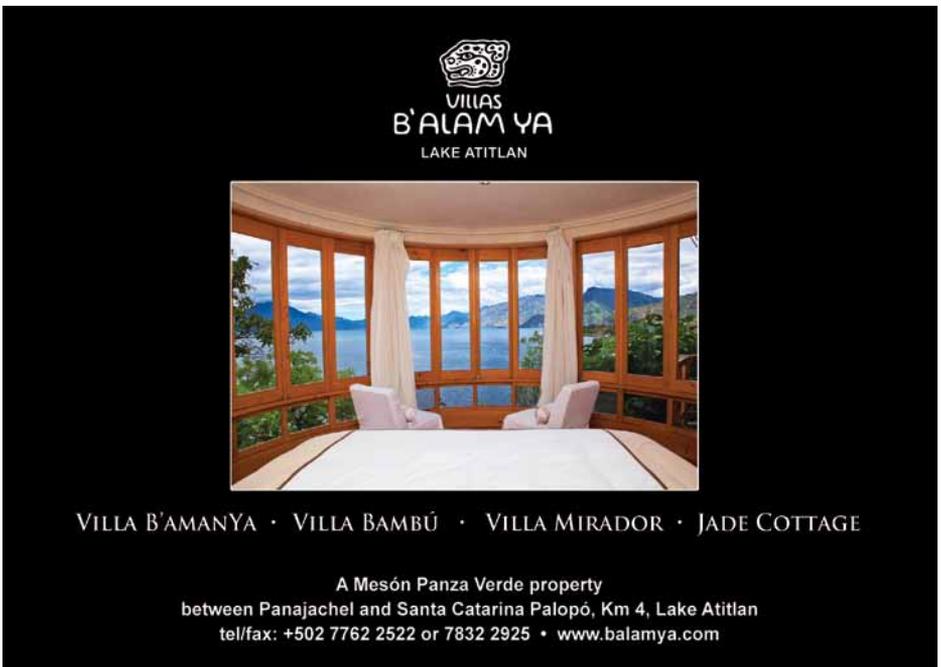


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The Zen of... cont. from page 88

manías de los Smurfs a sus escudos, and *se-le* style as in *Mi fama como columnista bobo se me pega* (*se me adhiere*) a mí (my reputation as a hack columnist clings to me). The infinitives of the latter type, in case you are led to conjugate, I mean constipate, them, are *pegársele* and *adherírsele*. When I travel with my sons, they tell me, “Dad, *te nos pegamos*.” But *te nos enganchamos* has more precision.

Another *pegar* caboodle relates to violence, real or implied. In this case, something harmful is affixed with an anatomical instrument (boot, fist, dirty look, etc.). If a blow, then you can just, uh, stick with the verb: *mi reina me pega* (my queen beats me), although *golpear* (to bruise/pound) is more precise (*ella me golpea*).

In the interest of specificity, you need a noun to describe what has been affixed on you; it can be the action described or its consequence. Hence, “They gave him a (1) a kick (2) a knock on the head (3) a bruise (4) a shot in the foot (5) a lash (6) an injection”—would be *Le pegaron a él* (1) *una patada* (2) *un golpe en la cabeza* (3) *una contusión* (4) *un tiro en la pie* (5) *un latigazo* (6) *una inyección*. But again, to avoid overusing *pegar*, I choose finite verbs like *azotar* (to lash, scourge) and *inyectar*. Zennily, *pegar* works not just for injections but for pills when they take effect: *la aspirina me pega*.

Then there is *pegársele* (touched on above), which is really just *pegarse*, meaning “is affixed” with an added indirect object (*le*, the target of the affixing). Things that can be smurfily *pegados* using *pegársele* include accents (*se te pegó su acento*), manners (*se me*

pegaron sus hábitos malos), and the flus (*se nos pegó la gripe*).

Now let us attend to matching and suiting. Traditional ways to express them are *hacer juego* (for clothes or drapes) and *convenirle* (for people or situations). So, where we once had *la bolsa no hace juego con los zapatos*, we can now say *la bolsa no se pega con los zapatos*. Instead of *trabajar como payaso no le convenía* (working as a clown did not suit him/her), we can now say *trabajar como payaso no se le pegaba*. Even here, affixing is alluded to, in that only certain things should ever be affixed—things that match or suit.

There is more to *pegar* and *pegarse*. Happily, the associated adjective and noun are unzenny. *Pegamento* is always glue or paste. *Pegado* means stuck together or adjacent, as in *mi casa está pegada con la suya* (my house is next door to hers/his/theirs/y’alls). This is sensible, given that mortar is masonry “glue.” But stuck indicating closeness/intimacy is *unido*. And sticky is *mieloso* (“honey-y”)—or *pegajoso*.

OK, reader. How much of all this *se te pega*? Will it “stick” with you? 📖

*Sixty Zen columns now form a book, **The Zen of Pues**, useful to Spanish scholars at all levels. Visit www.iqbooks.com; also available in bookstores in La Antigua Guatemala and Panajachel, Lake Atitlán.*

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they just have the heart. —Elizabeth Andrew

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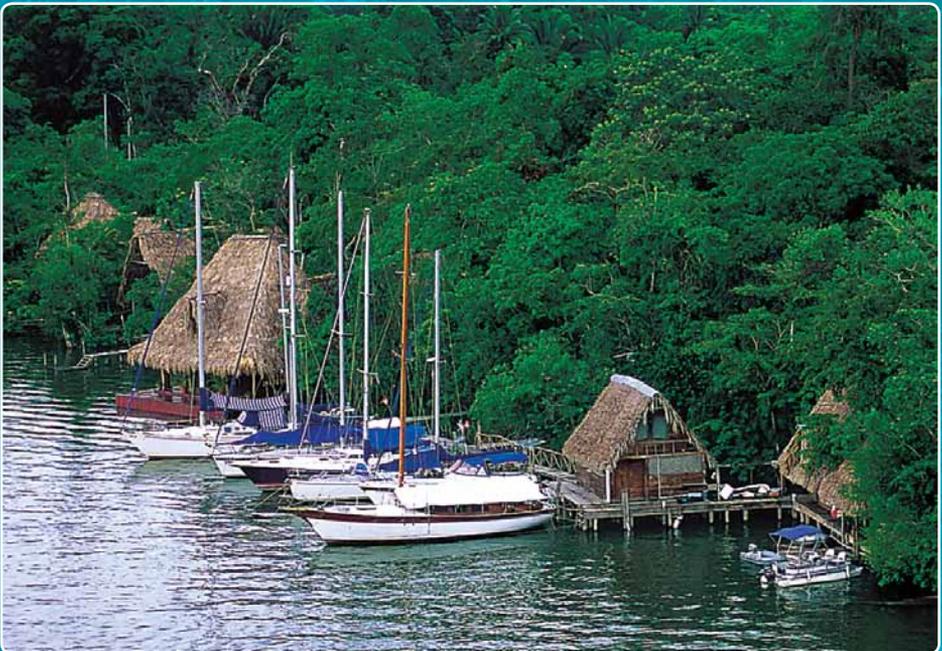
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—Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Foot-prints on the Sea-shore"

.....

Off the GRID cont. from page 83

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When people say to me: "How do you do so many things?" I often answer them, without meaning to be cruel: "How do you do so little?" It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don't. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever.

—Philip Adams

I remember a hundred lovely lakes, and recall the fragrant breath of pine and fir and cedar and poplar trees. The trail has strung upon it, as upon a thread of silk, opalescent dawns and saffron sunsets. It has given me blessed release from care and worry and the troubled thinking of our modern day. It has been a return to the primitive and the peaceful. Whenever the pressure of our complex city life thins my blood and benumbs my brain, I seek relief in the trail; and when I hear the coyote wailing to the yellow dawn, my cares fall from me—I am happy. —Hamlin Garland

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I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren't certain we knew better. They fight for honor at the first challenge, make love with no moral restraint, and they do not for all their marvelous instincts appear to know about death. Being such wonderfully uncomplicated beings, they need us to do their worrying. —George Bird Evans

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2012-13 School Year**

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Please support our work with a tax-deductible donation:



\$25 pays for 1 man to receive a vasectomy.

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\$85 protects 2 women from unplanned pregnancies for up to 5 years through Jadelle (a reversible hormone implant)

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Donations can be made online at www.wingsguate.org or in person at our office in Antigua (9a calle poniente Residenciales El Rosario #3). Email: info@wingsguate.org. WINGS is a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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—Samuel Butler

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Animal Shelter, Hound Heights, Sumpango

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OPPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY GIVEN INNOCENT ANIMALS

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- ADOPT — Don't buy pets

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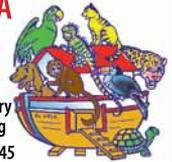
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but I can do something. And I will not let what
I cannot do interfere with what I can do.
—Edward Everett Hale

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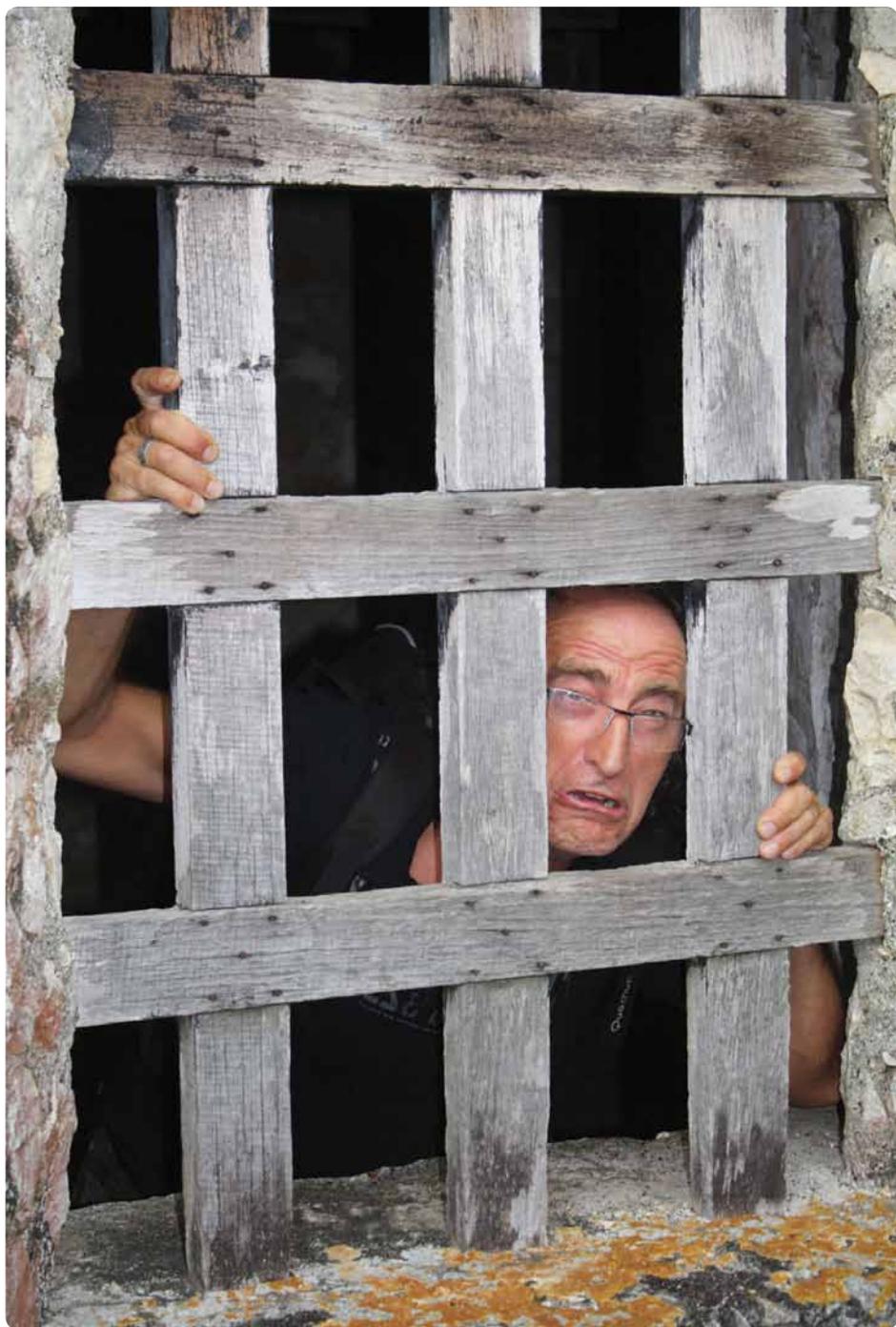
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Honorable Mention by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, July

"Que pena!!! jajaja" by Beatrice Alvares, Río Dulce en la carcel del castillo

All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



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The Possible's slow fuse is lit
by the Imagination. —Emily Dickinson

You can't depend on your eyes when your
imagination is out of focus. —Mark Twain



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ADVERTISER INDEX

LODGING

GUATEMALA CITY

Hostal de Don Pedro	36
Hostal del Centro	37
Hostal los Faroles	37
Hostal los Volcanes	36
Hotel Antaño	37
Hotel Casa Blanca	37
Hotel Villa Toscana	37
Novohostal	37

ANTIGUA

All Suites El Marqués	80
A Place to Stay	76
Casa Familia Ovalle	80
El Mesón de María	77
Hostal El Pasar de los Años	79
Hostal San Nicolás	75
Hostal La Sin Ventura	75
Hotel Aurora	75
Hotel Camino Real	81
Hotel Casa de las Fuentes	78
Hotel Casa del Parque	78
Hotel Casa Quinta	83
Hotel Mesón del Valle	78
Hotel La Galera	78
Hotel Palacio Chico	79
Hotel Posada San Vicente	76
Hotel San Jorge	75
Hotel San Jorge	75
Hotel Mesón Panza Verde	77
Hotel Panchoy	79
Posada El Antaño	78
Posada El Ensueño	79
Tabihouse	78

COBÁN

Casa del Bosque	101
Hotel Posada Don Antonio	101
Park Hotel	101

RÍO DULCE

Amatique Bay	94
Brunos	94
El Tortugal	95
Hacienda Tijax	95
Hotel Catamaran	95
Mansion del Río	95

LODGING

LAKE ATITLÁN

B'alám'ya	89
Hotel Atitlán	93
Hotel Dos Mundos (Pana)	89
Hotel El Chaparral	91
Hotel Fonda del Sol (Pana)	91
Hotel Primavera	91
Hotel Rancho Grande Inn	91
Hotel Real Santander	91
Hotel Riva Bella	93
Posada de Santiago (Santiago)	93
TOSA Resort & Spa	17

EL PETÉN

Hotel Ecológico y Rest. Mon ami	101
Posada del Cerro	101

PACIFIC COAST

Asociación Ola Verde	99
Cafe Del Sol	98
Casa Bella	98
Cayman Suites	97
Club Isleta de Gaia	96
Hawaian Paradise	99
Hotel Dos Mundos	97
Hotel Honolulu	98
Hotel Pez de Oro	98
Hotel Villa Kairos	98
Johnny's Place	99
Playa Quilombo Eco-Hotel	99

QUETZALTENANGO

Casa Doña Mercedes	100
--------------------------	-----

RESTAURANTS / BARS

GUATEMALA CITY

Caffé De Fiori	34
Cheers	34
Kloster	35
Lai Lai	35
Restaurante Altuna	35
Trovajazz	34
William Shakespeare Pub	34

LAKE ATITLÁN

Café Bombay	91
-------------------	----

RESTAURANTS / BARS

ANTIGUA

39 Azul	69
Café Condesa	63
Café de la Rúa	70
Café Sky	73
Casa Escobar	7
Chez Christophe	70
Christophe Pizza	71
Chocomuseo Café	71
Cookies, Etc	71
Degusta Express	70
Doña Luisa Xicotencatl	62
El Rincón del Conquistador	71
El Sabor del Tiempo	65
Epicure	57
Fridas Mexican Cuisine	67
Gaia	67
La Bicicleta de Juancho	70
La Canoa	65
La Fonda de la Calle Real	73
La Peña del Sol Latino	59
Las Palmas	71
Lava Restaurant	71
Mesón Panza Verde	61
Monoloco	55
Ni Fu Ni Fa	70
Ocelot	65
Rainbow Café	57
Refuge Coffee Bar	71
Su Chow Chinese Food	70
Vivero y Café La Escalonia	63
Welten	69
Wiener	71
Wokco	59

QUETZALTENANGO

El Sabor de la India	100
Shai Long	100
Giuseppe's Gourmet Pizza	100
Maya Café	100

TECPÁN

Restaurante Chichoy	101
Restaurante Katok	101
Hacienda Real	101
Kape Paulinos	101

Volunteers do it for free.
—Thomas Hendriks

No man stands so straight as when he stoops
to help a boy. —Knights of Pythagoras



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<http://RevueMag.com/links/>

ADVERTISER INDEX

HEALTH SERVICES

GUATEMALA CITY

Dermalogica	45
Dr. Carlos Quintero	44
Dr. Milton Solis Plastic Surgery	43
Marena	44
Pediatrics: Dr. & Dra. Hernandez	42

ANTIGUA

Ceiba Porta Hotel Spa	43
Centro Visual G & G	41
Clinica y Óptica Santa Lucía	41
Clinicas De La Cruz	40
Clinicas Ovalle	41
Clinica Santa María	40
Clinica Veterinaria El Arca	105
David Elron, Massage	40
Dermatologist Dr. Samayoa	40
Dietetic Consultant	43
Family Psychotherapist	44
Gail Terzuola	42
Guatemala Medical Travel	43
Herbalife	42
Holistic Psychotherapy	42
Hospital Privado Hermano Pedro	42
House of Health Sta. Lucía	43
Maxillo Facial Centre	45
Optyma Visión y Moda	41
Skin Medika	44
Soldent	41
Vet-Pro	44

TRAVEL / TOURS

ANTIGUA

Antigua Tours	25
Filadelfia Coffee Adventure	51
Global Surf	87
Lax Travel	87
Maya Trails	113
Monja Blanca	87
Rainbow Travel Center	87
Tabarini Rent a Car	53

MISC.

Adrenalina Tours	100
Comunikar Technologies	33
Exploring Guatemala	87
Fish Guatemala (Parlama)	85
La Reunion Golf Resort	5
Litegua	94
Rancho Carrillo	2
Sailing Vacation	95
Transportes Turísticos Atitran	87

SERVICES

GUATEMALA CITY

Angel Fire Kennels	105
Hertz	113
Immigration Services	103
Union Church	33

ANTIGUA

Antigua FM	54
Antigua Tattoo	51
CaTours	48
Enmarcados El Arcángel	48
Frank Salon	48
Fumigadora Antigua	48
Funky Monkey	55
Golden Studio	48
Guatemala Solar	48
Wings	104

SHOPS

QUETZALTENANGO

North & South Bookstore	100
-------------------------------	-----

GUATEMALA CITY

Asian Tropics	31
Bernina (Sewing Center)	33
Clean Depot	36
House & Green	inside cover
In Nola (Textiles)	33
Jade Maya	33
Lin-Canola, S.A.	33
Sistemas Solares	109
Super Verduras	34
Vivero Botanik, S.A.	31

INSURANCE

Anfitrionika Insurance	39
------------------------------	----



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 Voluntarios: 7832-0234
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SHOPS

ANTIGUA

Ay Robot	48
Ben-Ke	49
Carnes y Mariscos Coloniales	65
Casa de los Gigantes	49
Casa Del Tejido	48
Colibrí	53
El Corral	70
El Mástil	3
El Valle de las Piedras	49
Hair and Nails	53
Joyería del Angel	back cover
La Casa del Conde (books, etc)	48
Lava Store	49
Lyn Hovey Studio	51
Muebles Xian	9
Orgánica	46
Sistemas Solares	101
The North Face	1
Tribu	53
Utz Ja'Water Filters	45

SCHOOLS

GUATEMALA CITY

Easy Facil	33
English School House	33

ANTIGUA

Antigua International School	103
Christian Spanish Academy	47

LAKE ATITLÁN

Santa Cruz Spanish School	93
---------------------------------	----

REAL ESTATE

Antigua Rentals	80
Carstens S.A.	107
Casa Nova	106
Casas Tipo Canadiense	112
CityMax Real Estate	107
La Reunion Real Estate	11
REMAX Colonial	107

CULTURAL

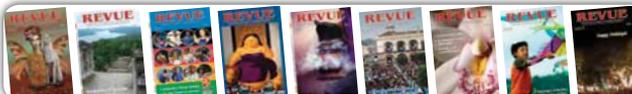
GUATEMALA CITY

El Attico	25
Museo Ixchel	25
Museo Popol Vuh	25

ANTIGUA

Chocomuseo	25
El Fotógrafo Galería	4
Galería Museo Centro Popular	25
La Antigua Galería de Arte	29

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