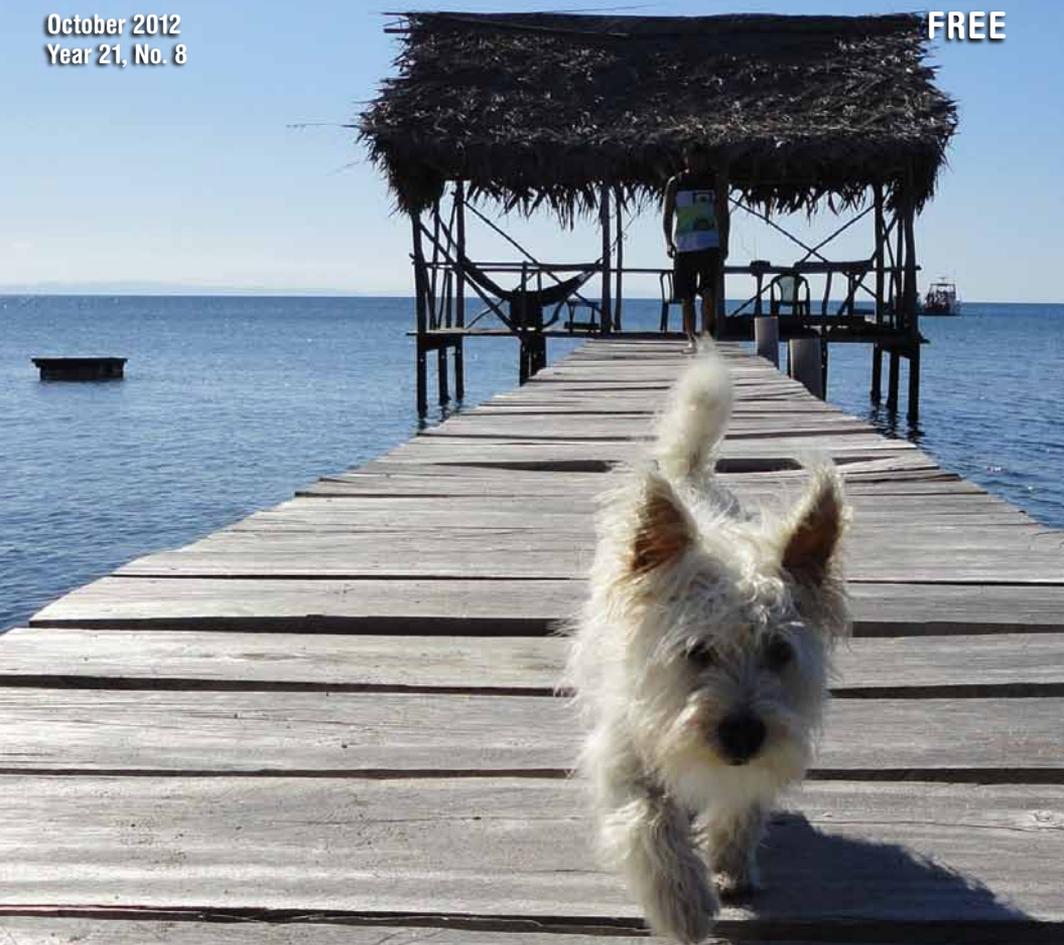


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October 2012  
Year 21, No. 8

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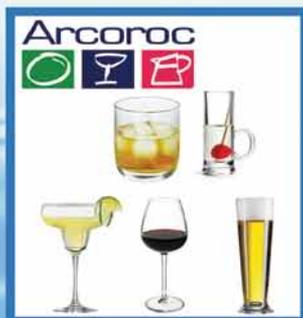
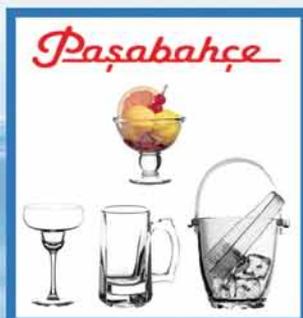
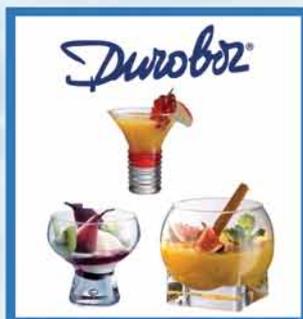
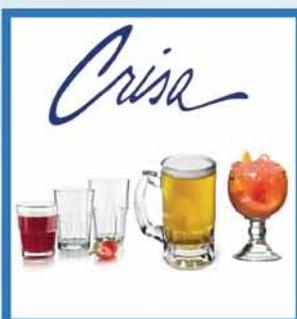
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## ¡CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO!

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO edición de NOV., 2012 con el tema COMIDA GUATEMALTECA; 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@revue.gt**

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

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



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

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

**Submissions entered by the 10th of October will be eligible.**

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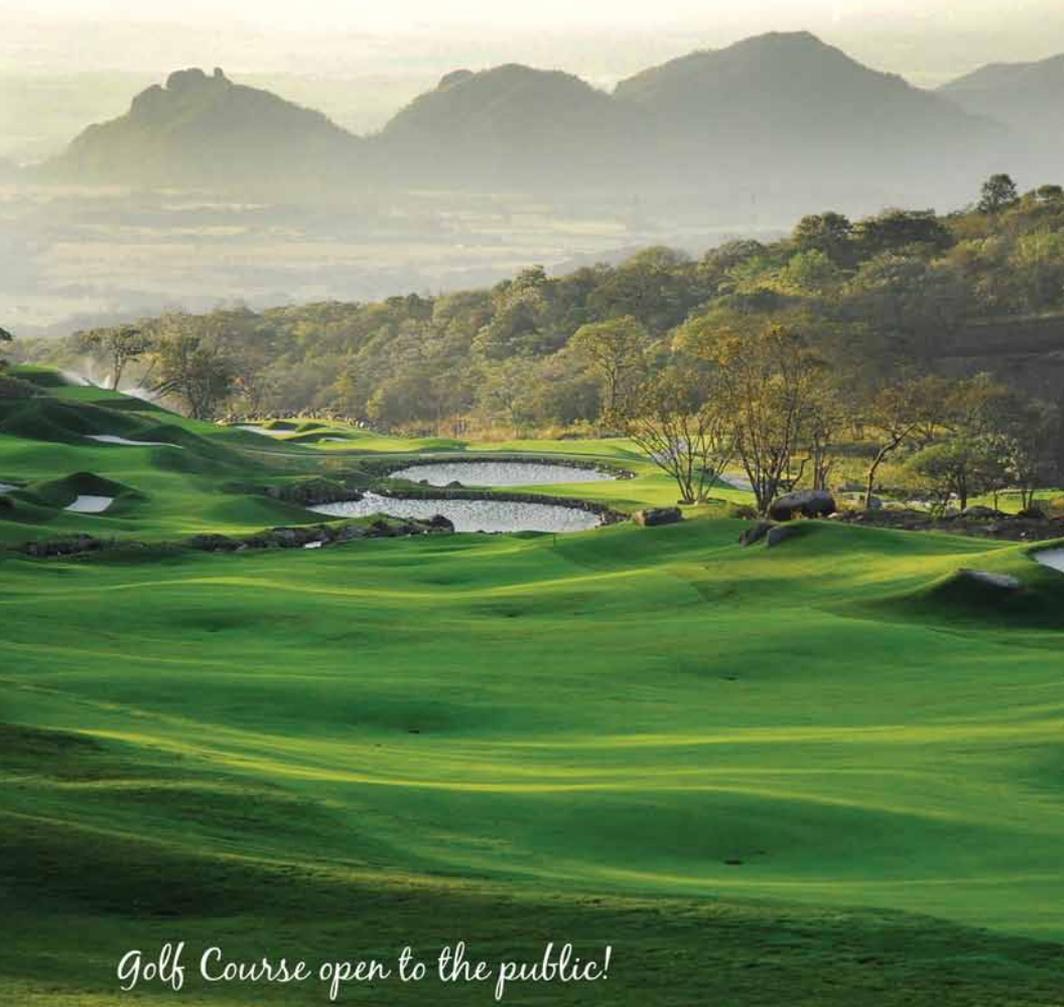
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## INTERVIEW

by Elizabeth Bell  
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

# Gert Rosenthal



*Guatemala's ambassador to the United Nations this month assumes the presidency of the UN Security Council.*

In 2011, Guatemala was selected for a two-year, rotating term in the Security Council (Jan. 1, 2012 through Dec. 31, 2013). Guatemala was unanimously supported for this role, and many UN officials saw this as recognition of Ambassador Rosenthal as among the most respected diplomats at the UN.

While Guatemala was a founding member state of the UN and has played an active role, it had not been a member of the Security Council because of the country's turmoil during the 20th century. These circumstances have changed with the peace process and democratization of the country. Guatemala is regaining prominence, making it possible to be elected as a member state of the Security Council—a great new step for the country!

An excellent choice to preside over the Security Council, Ambassador Rosenthal has had a long involvement in the UN. Some personal background notes include being born in Amsterdam in 1935—he points out that his parents were making their way back from Germany to Guatemala, where his mother was born. His mater-

nal grandfather had emigrated from the old country to Guatemala in 1891.

Mr. Rosenthal, who entered government service in 1960 as a part-time economist at the National Planning Secretariat, has degrees in economics from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala, an MBA from the University of California at Berkeley and an honorary doctorate in social sciences from Universidad del Valle, Guatemala (1996).

He has represented Guatemala in numerous national and international roles over the years, including serving as member of the Oversight Commission of the Guatemalan Peace Accords in 1998. He was appointed permanent representative of Guatemala to the UN in 1999, where he remained until 2004. In August 2006, President Oscar Berger appointed him minister of foreign affairs, a position where he remained until January 2008. In April 2008 he was re-appointed permanent representative of Guatemala to the UN.

Ambassador Rosenthal recently gave us some insights about the Security Council. Here are highlights from the interview:

...continued page 64

# Vive la Leyenda



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*All of the October entrants can be seen at [www.Revue.gt](http://www.Revue.gt) -- here are the winners*

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## OCTOBER PHOTO CONTEST, theme: Guatemalan Pets



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

Congratulations to Ana Mena on her photograph titled "Chester" Guatemala City  
Prize: Dinner for two at **La Peña de Sol Latino**. View all entries at [www.REVUE.gt](http://www.REVUE.gt)



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

"Sorprendiendo" by Ronald Waldo López Mérida. Prize: 3 bottles of **La Chamiza** wine.  
All entries can be seen at [www.REVUE.gt](http://www.REVUE.gt)

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**Deadline for the  
November 2012 issue » Oct. 10**

A left handed Jimi Hendrix  
played a right handed guitar.

Upside down.



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## From the Publishers

October celebrations abound but for many animal lovers Oct. 4 defines the month. It is the only day of the year that animals are honored, blessed by the Catholic Church during a special Mass, in the tradition of the patron saint of animals, St. Francis de Assisi.

This month we, too, celebrate animals, on the cover and inside the pages of this edition. To see so many homeless, starving, injured and sick animals on the streets, in the fields, on roofs gives rise to an opinion that Guatemalans don't care about the suffering of animals. Perhaps many do not, but I believe that many more do care, deeply.

Rescuing an animal is the easy part, and often that isn't so easy either. Then what? Paula found a starving dog in need of medical care which she's willing to pay for, but then what? Just the other day Kara rescued a starving and frightened dog she calls Madison. She's leaving the country in week, then what for Madison? A woman called asking if she could bring us a puppy that she'd rescued. I explained that we had no space for this little one. Her response was a constrained sob—then she said, "thank you anyway." I wonder what happened to this puppy, especially on cold, rainy nights.

If you're thinking this is a set up as a plea for help, you're right. It truly "takes a village" ... we need animal advocates lobbying for laws against animal cruelty; donations and dog trainers, food and medical assistance, building supplies, dog crates, dog walkers, foster homes ... it takes a village. For initial contacts with various animal rescue groups, please turn to page 50. It's not a hopeless situation.

On another subject, namely the Revue magazine, we are unveiling two new sections this month: the Marketplace and the Honduras pages; photo contest winners show off their work; plus an FYI on "self-insured" health care, and the opening of a state-of-the-art eye clinic in La Antigua.

Thank you, as always, for reading the Revue, in print, on-line and now with daily postings on our Facebook page.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

# REVUE

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EN ESPAÑOL

# APRENDAMOS A DARLE BUEN TRATO A LOS ANIMALES

*Ya lo dijo Alexander Von Humbolt*

*LA CULTURA DE UN PAIS SE MIDE POR TRATO QUE LE DAN A LOS ANIMALES.*

**A**ctualmente se encuentran miles de perros abandonados y perdidos en las calles, aguantando hambre, sed, enfermedades y las inclemencias del tiempo. Lo lamentable es que en un alto porcentaje, han sido abandonados por sus dueños o sencillamente los echaron a la calle. Actos infames y crueles, todos sabemos que los animales domésticos y en especial las mascotas necesitan de los seres humanos para sobrevivir.

Existen además otras formas de crueldad y de maltrato hacia los perros, por ejemplo: mantenerlos encadenados o en espacios

ridículamente reducidos. La privación de libertad equivale a una tortura permanente. Ellos no pueden expresar lo que sienten, pero el encadenamiento o el enjaulamiento les provoca sufrimientos físicos y emocionales, les cambia el carácter y se tornan amargados y agresivos.

Otros, dejan a sus perros en las terrazas de las casas, sin siquiera un techo para protegerlos del sol y de la lluvia. Ese "exilio" les causa además sentimientos de tristeza y depresión porque ellos son gregarios por naturaleza y les gusta estar cerca de sus amos como una sombra. ...a página 97

# Latest Discovery at Xultún



*The Xultún find is the first place that all of the cycles have been found tied mathematically together in one place, representing a calendar that stretches more than 7,000 years into the future. —BBC News reports*

The ancient Mayan megacity of Xultún (200-900 AD) is the site of the latest and greatest discovery by archaeologists—the oldest-known Mayan astronomical tables, predating other sites by several centuries.

The tabulated numbers chart the motion of the moon and seem to relate to the orbits of Mars and Venus. The Mayan calendar “end of the world” theory can now be put to rest. The numbers do not predict the world will end in December 2012.



Archaeologist William Saturno of Boston University carefully uncovers art and writings left by the Maya some 1,200 years ago. The art and other symbols on the walls may have been records kept by a scribe, Saturno theorizes. Saturno’s excavation and documentation of the house were supported by the National Geographic Society.

Photo by Tyrone Turner © 2012 National Geographic

The structure that houses both art and astronomical calculations is topped by a vaulted ceiling; on the floor sits a stone bench, suggesting to archaeologists that the room was a meeting place.

William Saturno, a Boston University archaeologist, in a statement released by the National Geographic Society, reported, “For the first time we get to see what may be actual records kept by a scribe, whose job was to be the official record keeper of a Maya community. It’s like an episode of TV’s *Big Bang Theory*, a geek math problem and they’re painting on the wall. They seem to be using it like a blackboard.”

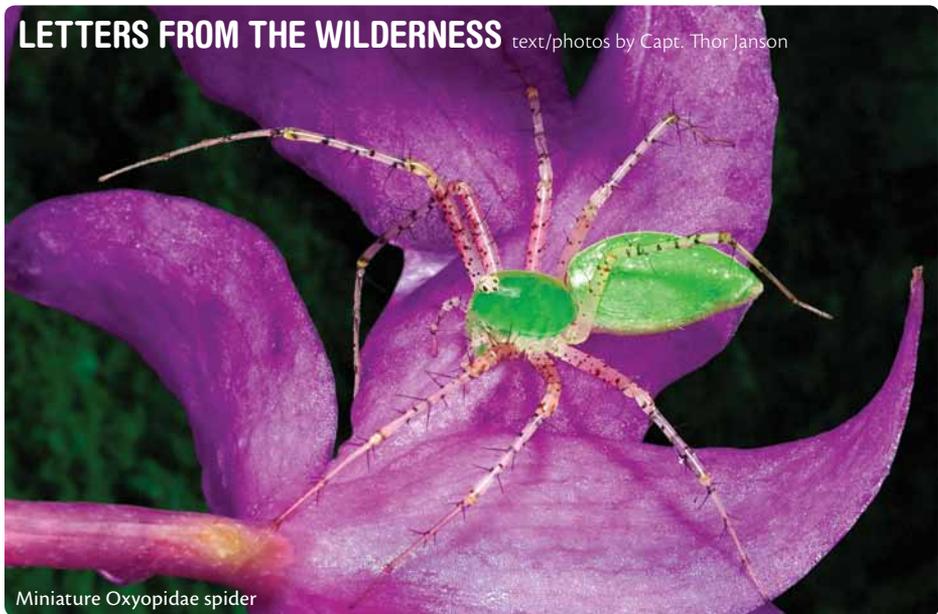
“We’ve never seen anything like it,” said David Stuart, professor of Mesoamerican art and writing at the University of Texas at Austin who deciphered the glyphs.

## Rediscoveries within the ruins of Xultún

**Early 20th century:** Sited and reported by *chicleros* who were working in the forest, harvesting rubber. ...continued page 92

A close-up photograph of a large, colorful spider on its web. The spider's abdomen is covered in a pattern of yellow and white spots on a dark background, with red and orange markings. Several small, dark flies are perched on the spider's back, illustrating the concept of commensalism.

I almost walked right into this large spider one dawn and was amazed by all the little flies walking on its body. As it turns out, these little Milichiidae flies play a role similar to cattle egrets who clean and preen the bigger animal. This is an example of what scientists call commensalism. In everyday language: the spider and the flies are friends!



Miniature Oxyopidae spider

## SMALL IS **HUGE**

*We often overlook the fact that our planet's ecology is totally dependent upon the health of these teeming hosts of creatures numbering in the billions.*

I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words on behalf of all the “little guys”—all the little creatures that make up the vast majority of the Earth’s animal life. If we were to weigh together every creature on Earth—the zoological biomass of the planet—we would discover that more than 90 percent is made up of insects. If we add to that the other small and tiny species of worms, nematodes, tardigrades and others, the percentage would rise to more than 99 percent. On Earth, small is truly huge. The big animals, like tigers, tuna, shrews and humans, members of the vertebrate phylum Chordata—literally meaning creatures with spinal cords—are in the very

small minority. We often overlook the fact that our planet’s ecology is totally dependent upon the health of these teeming hosts of little ones numbering in the billions.

The largest group (order) of animals on Earth is the Coleoptera or beetle, most of which live in the tropical rainforest canopy. Entomologists studying the diversity of the tropical forest shine bright lights up into the trees at night and wait for bugs to descend, knowing that chances are good they will discover new, unidentified species to name after themselves. Only a small percentage of the totality of these insects has been identified. Estimates vary between 10 million and 100 million total species. Many of these are



Beetles comprise the largest order of animals on Earth



Morpho butterfly



Grasshopper



Entomologists studying the diversity of the tropical forest shine bright lights and wait for the bugs.

specialized pollinators and are crucially important for the survival of countless plant species. Each individual is part of a huge interconnected ecosystem, each element playing a role dependent upon many other elements all working in concert creating the symphony of life. Should any part of the global body suffer, so does the whole body.

Conservation campaigns usually focus on endangered vertebrates like jaguars, pandas, elephants and quetzals because people identify more with warm, fuzzy, big animals. But we can be sure that every time a new swath of forest is put to the torch and cleared for cropland and cattle ranching, that many, many species of the little ones become extinct. We are conducting a dangerous experiment upon our home planet by dismantling the incredible diversity of life, each species like a thread in a vast tapestry whose functioning we are only beginning to understand.

*We are dependent on many other species and any failure of one part of the ecosystem can create a domino effect.*

No one knows how much can be destroyed before we upset the balance. Every creature seems to play a role, even parasites serve a purpose. We are just beginning to understand the beneficial symbiotic relationship between the human body and certain bacteria. We are dependent on many other species and any failure of one part of the ecosystem can create a domino effect, causing disruption throughout the entire chain of life.

What we do know for sure is that more than half of all the temperate and tropical forests are gone, half of the wetlands and a third of the mangroves are gone, an estimated 90 percent of the large predatory fish are gone and more than 20 percent of the world's coral reefs are dead. Perhaps the time has come to think about preserving some of nature before it is too late.

### S.O.S. GUATEMALA: YOUR RAIN-FORESTS ARE ENDANGERED!

At the present rates of growth the world economy will quadruple in the next 50 years or less, and the human population continues to increase. This is a very real predicament for Guatemala, which has the second-fastest growing human population, after Haiti, in the Americas. Haiti's forests have been almost completely decimated and that is a major factor causing this Caribbean nation to be an economic and ecological basket case.

So, we call upon Guatemala's leaders to take this situation seriously—there is no time to waste. At present almost all of the protected forests in Guatemala's Petén Department have been invaded by land-poor *campesinos* and the situation is spiraling out of control. (And let me be clear here, I have nothing against the *campesinos*. A hungry man must find a way to feed himself and his family. What is needed is more employment opportunity so that these poor, largely indigenous, people are not forced to cut down the forest in order to subsist.) Also, illegal logging operates with near impunity nationwide. Needed are visionary leaders who will take the necessary steps to stabilize and reverse these destructive trends.

...continued page 90



Tardigrade... smaller than a grain of sand



Hairy caterpillar



Mayan Stingless Honeybees



Death of the Rainforest



# In Search of the Big Pez Vela

**G**uatemala holds many secret treasures that aren't apparent at first sight, and it is always a treat as gem after gem is unveiled with the more time you spend here. One special discovery is the large underwater canyon called "The Pocket," located just off the Pacific Coast. With strong ever-changing currents and a healthy supply of nutrients, predator fish, such as the *pez vela* (sailfish) come in to hunt these rich waters. Thus, with waters as prime as these, you just might have one of the best days of fishing in your life.

To get started you'll need to find a reliable outfitter who knows the waters and the ins and outs of sport fishing. Three great options include Team Parlama Charter Services, Pacific Fins Guatemala Resort & Marina and Casa Vieja Lodge, located in the Puerto San José area of Guatemala. The prime season for sailfish is October-June; the marlin season is September-December. However, with the unpredictable currents and the unique canyon "Pocket" just off the coast, fishing for sailfish, dorado (mahimahi), yellow-fin tuna and marlin is always pretty good. ...continued page 96



**A good day of Pez Vela (sailfish) fishing.** The outfitters do their part for sustainability by only practicing catch-and-release fishing and using circular hooks so as not to harm the fish.



# Parlama Sport Fishing

*Owner Dennis Wheeler recounts 40+ years of fishing and fleets*

**H**ow Parlama owner Dennis Wheeler came to own his first boat is a once-in-a-lifetime experience not often heard of. He had just returned from a successful fishing trip off the Pacific Coast of Guatemala with a fellow enthusiast, and they were discussing the possibility of Wheeler buying a boat of his own. Wheeler had been fishing all his life, starting when he was a child in the States.

His passion followed him to Guatemala in 1965 where, as a Peace Corps volunteer, he fished to survive in the Petén. Owning a boat seemed like a logical fit for him, but Wheeler was uncertain and had trouble pulling the trigger.

Wheeler's friend, however, was more confident. "As we were saying goodbye, he reached over and put 1,000 bucks in my shirt pocket, and said, 'Go out and buy your boat.' I was ready to go."

This was the 1970s and boats cost more than \$1,000, but it was a good start. With

his new *lancha*, he started taking local volunteers on short day trips, fishing for dorado and billfish. Over the years, he obtained one boat after another. Parlama is now a fleet of six, the newest additions being 28' and 36' yachts. Four are docked in Puerto San José and two in Río Dulce.

Parlama fishes for marlin, sailfish (catch and release only) and dorado, the best time being from October through April. Parlama boats are stocked with all the equipment an angler needs. Rods are custom-made by Pat Brian, a friend of Wheeler's in Austin, Texas, and are outfitted with Shimano reels. Parlama's prices are some of the most reasonable in Guatemala. A half-day trip for three on a lancha runs \$375. A half-day trip on the 36' yacht (which can accommodate up to 9 people), costs \$600 and \$1,200 for a full day. In addition to deep-sea and coastal fishing, Parlama offers half-day or full-day ocean safaris for whale watching or simply taking in the rich Guatemalan sun on the open ocean. ...continued page 96

# DATEBOOK

## OCTOBER 2012

### GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

**1 Mon.** — CELEBRATION: Día del Niño y la Niña (Children's Day). **Countrywide.**

**3 Wed., 7-8:30pm** — DEBATE: Watch the U.S. presidential debate on domestic policy. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad – Guatemala. Questions? Email mayadems@yahoo.com or phone 7832-4581. La Canoa (new location on Calle del Arco) 5a av. norte #30, **La Antigua.**

**4 Thurs.** — CELEBRATION: Cultural and religious activities to honor San Francisco de Asís, San Francisco la Unión, **Quetzaltenango.**

**4 Thurs.,** — CELEBRATION: St. Francis de Asissi, patron saint of animals, with Mass performed in Catholic churches throughout the country, The Blessing of the Animals and other related activities. **Countrywide.**

**3 Sat., 8pm** — DANCE: Quijote, performed by Ballet Guatemala. Q50/Q25 kids. Ermita de la Santa Cruz, **La Antigua.**

**4 Thurs., noon** — CLASSIC CINE & LUNCHEON: Mesón Panza Verde presents a movie and a special lunch menu (choose among three entrees, one vegetarian) on the first Thursday of the month. First film in the series is "The Hunger Games." Q120 includes film and lunch; dessert and coffee afterward, Q40. For reservations, call the front desk: 7832-2925. Questions on the movie, see reviews on Amazon.com or call Judith: 4048-1242. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.**

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

**4 Thurs., 7pm through Wed., 31** — EXPO-AUCTION: Nuestro Futuro, benefits ConstruCasa. Museo Miraflores, 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, Paseo Miraflores, **Guatemala City.**

**4 Thurs, 5:30pm** — OPEN HOUSE: Oxford Bilingual, 1a av. #35, Centro Luterano (tel: 7832-5969), **La Antigua.**

**4 Thurs., 7pm** — ANTIGUA PHOTO CLUB: Club Fotográfico de Antigua (CFA) features talks by special guests, photo contests in color, b/w and digital categories. CFA welcomes novice & professional photo enthusiasts. Info. & 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.** ▼



**5 Fri., 6pm** — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: De tanto andar, libro de poesía del escritor Francisco Javier Puac Choz. Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua.**

**5 Fri., 7pm** — ART: Vivencias Campesinas, paintings by Sergio Alvarado. Casa No'j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango.**

**5 Fri., 7pm, through Fri., 19** — ART: Con Ojos de Niño, paintings by artist Arq. Miguel de León. Convento Capuchinas, 2a av. norte at 2a calle oriente, **La Antigua**. ▼



**6 Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) THEATER: La Magia de ser Niño, show de magia interactivo para toda la familia, con el Mago Luis Karias “Primer Latin American Merlin Award.” Incluye la aparición de palomas, magia cómica, juegos y concursos. Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua**.

**6 Sat., & 20 Sat.,** — COOKING CLASS: Mariela, Norma, María and the staff in the cocina hold típico Guatemalan cooking classes; \$40 includes a cup of Antigua coffee, 3 hours of school and the 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**.

**9 Tues., 5:30pm** — TALK: The Riecken Foundation’s mission is to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through modern community libraries that spark a spirit of discovery and foster social participation. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**10 Wed., 5pm** - ART: Works by Clemens Luhmann. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-6068 ), 3a calle pon. #8, **La Antigua**. ▼



**11 Thurs., 7-8:30pm** — DEBATE: Watch the U.S. vice presidential debate. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad – Guatemala. Questions? Email mayadems@yahoo.com or phone 7832-4581. Las Palmas, 6a av. norte #14, **La Antigua**.

**11 Thurs., 7pm** — PHOTOGRAPHY: Papel Metálico, by artist Yemo Chocano. Casa No’j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

**12 Fri., 7pm** — ART: Latest works by Mauro Osorio. Casa No’j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

**13 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), 5a calle pon. #15-C, **La Antigua**.



**13 Sat., —** FESTIVAL: Trascendencia del Tiempo in celebration of 13 B'aktun. **1-3pm:** Mayan ball game; **3-4pm:** performance by hip hop Tzutu Baqtun Han; **4-5pm:** local musical group; **6-7pm:** performance by Teatro Sotzil. More info., visit [eventosantiguaguatemala.com](http://eventosantiguaguatemala.com). **Santiago, Sololá.**

**13 Sat., 11am-2pm —** VOTE: U.S. citizens in Guatemala, if you have not yet received your ballot, you can still vote by completing the Federal Post Card Application and using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. You can do both at [www.votefromabroad.org](http://www.votefromabroad.org). More info., contact [mayadems@yahoo.com](mailto:mayadems@yahoo.com) or tel: 7832-4581. Conexión, 4a calle oriente #14, comercial La Fuente, **La Antigua.**

**15 Mon., 7pm —** GUEST CHEF EVENING: Linda Champagne, author/editor of cookbooks & host of TV cooking shows will prepare a wonderful feast of Spanish dishes. Reservations suggested. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

**16 Tues., through Thurs., 25 —** PHOTOGRAPHY: Expo of winning photos of I Certamen fotográfico de La Antigua Guatemala. Organized by Comisión Sociocultural de La Antigua Guatemala and Consejo para la Protección de La Antigua Guatemala. Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua.**

Life can't be all bad when for ten dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for ten years. —William F. Buckley, Jr.

**16 Tues., 5:30pm —** BENEFIT DANCE: Mayan dances by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer. K'a k'a' Saqarik - Nuevo Amanecer or New Dawn helps more than 30 indigenous children in San Andrés Itzapa. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**16 Tues., 7-8:30pm —** DEBATE: Watch the town hall-style U.S. presidential debate on domestic and foreign policy. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad - Guatemala. Questions? Email [mayadems@yahoo.com](mailto:mayadems@yahoo.com) or tel: 7832-4581. Las Palmas, 6a av. norte #14, **La Antigua.**

**18 Thurs., 6:30pm —** (Spanish) CONFERENCE: En el año 2012 en el calendario Maya, por David Stuart (University of Texas at Austin). Contribución Q30/estudiantes con carnet Q15. Parqueo tarifa única Q30. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City.**

**19 Fri., 6pm —** Grand Opening: The Avesa Oasis offering revolutionary holistic treatments in Antigua and info., reservations for the Avesa Spa at TOSA La Laguna, Lake Atitlán. Spa features include ozone chambers, laser lipo, effortless detox and total tranquility. Meet our highly skilled staff, chat with our concierge and enjoy live music, alkaline water, wine, appetizers, and sample treatments. More info., [avesaoasis.com](http://avesaoasis.com), tel: 5029-4970. Avesa Oasis Holistic Center & Spa (4a calle oriente #5, local A-1), **La Antigua.**

**19 Fri., 7pm —** ART: Paintings by Mario Méndez. Casa No'j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango.**

**20 Sat., —** HOLIDAY: Día de la Revolución (Revolution Day). Banks and some businesses closed, plan ahead. **Country wide.**



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<http://elattico.blogspot.com>, [www.elattico.com](http://www.elattico.com)



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Universidad Francisco Marroquín




MON - FRI: 9:00 to 17:00  
SAT: 9:00 to 13:00  
Closed Sunday  
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Universidad Francisco Marroquín  
Guatemala Ciudad  
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Author of Antigua Guatemala and other publications  
[www.antiguatours.net](http://www.antiguatours.net)

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Offices: \*3a calle oriente #22  
and \*inside Casa del Conde (main square)  
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9-1pm  
Tels: 7832-5821, 7832-0053



**U.S. Citizen in Guatemala? It's getting late to register to vote but there's still time for the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot**

We can help you with your FPCA and your Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) on **Saturday, October 13, 2012**, from 11am to 2 pm at Conexion, **4ta calle oriente, #14, comercial La Fuente, Antigua**. You can also do both yourself at [www.votefromabroad.org](http://www.votefromabroad.org). For help, contact John Chudy at: [mayadems@yahoo.com](mailto:mayadems@yahoo.com) or 7832-4581.

You can also find our  
**DATEBOOK**  
Calendar of Events  
ONLINE in an easy-to-use format...  
[www.REVUE.gt/datebook](http://www.REVUE.gt/datebook)



Everything About  
CACAO & CHOCOLATE  
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4a calle oriente #14 - Antigua

If you have a garden and a library,  
you have everything you need.  
—Marcus Tullius Cicero

There are three rules for writing a novel.  
Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.  
—W. Somerset Maugham



**For a DateBook daily event listing, check out "REVUE NEWS TWEETS" [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com)**



# LIVE

## La Cueva de Panza Verde

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

**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** — 7pm: Surprise Music Night... Musicians, come by and talk about playing. We are looking for good, exciting acts.

**Mondays** — 7-10pm: Malcolm and his own special Voice, Style and Sound. Original music and some oldies thrown in.

**Tuesdays** — closed

**Wednesdays thru Saturdays** — 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: 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** — World music.

## 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

## Posada de Santiago

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

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

## Circus Bar

tel: 7762-2056 Avenida de los Árboles, Panajachel

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

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

9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

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

8pm: Rockiris, alternative rock.

9pm: Latin ensemble.

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

8pm: Latin ensemble.

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

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

8pm: Latin ensemble.

9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

**Fridays** — 7pm: Flamenco by Marco El Messia.

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



## Kape Paulinos

tel: 7840-3806 Km 87.5 Carretera Interamericana, Tecpán

**Sundays** — 1 to 4pm: Live marimba band

## DATEBOOK

**20 Sat & Sun., 28, 12:30-2pm** — MUSIC: Marimba Juvenil de Concierto Brisa de Hunapú. Kiosko-Café, Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, **La Antigua**.

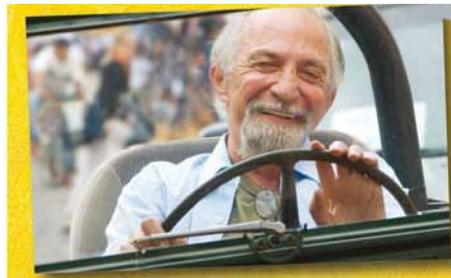
**22 Mon., 4pm** — (English) LECTURE: AnEcho presents a controversial lecture by Dorotea on the traditional roots of the egregious political philosophy, "Winner Take All." Free. Meson Panza Verde, 5 av. sur #19. **La Antigua**. See related highlight on opposite page.

**22 Mon., 7-8:30pm** — DEBATE: Watch the U.S. presidential debate on foreign policy. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad – Guatemala. Questions? Email mayadems@yahoo.com or tel: 7832-4581. Las Palmas, 6a av. norte #14, **La Antigua**.

**23 Tues., 5:30pm** — TALK: Los Patos: Forming leaders for Guatemala, a group that builds relationships between different cultures of Guatemala and the rest of the world. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**23 Tues., through Sat., 27** — PHOTOGRAPHY: Antigua Monumental, monuments of Antigua. Compañía de Jesús, 6a av. between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

**24 Wed., 7:30pm** — MOVIE: Looking for Palladin. Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte (between 3a & 4a calle), **La Antigua**. ▼



**24 Wed., 6pm** — MUSIC: Performance by Banda Pretorianos de Guatemala. Main Square, Central Park, **La Antigua**.

**25 Thurs., 7pm** — ART: Presagios, works by Geovanni Batz. Casa No'j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

**25 Thurs., 7pm** — MUSIC: Baroque music concert from the colonial period by Cuarteto Contemporáneo de Guatemala. Free. Convento Capuchinas, 2a av. norte at 2a calle oriente, **La Antigua**.

**26 Fri., 7pm** — DANCE: Fiesta de Pájaros, performed by Danza Estudio, directed by Rosario Wong. Free. Central park to the Atrium of the church at Cementerio San Lázaro, **La Antigua**.

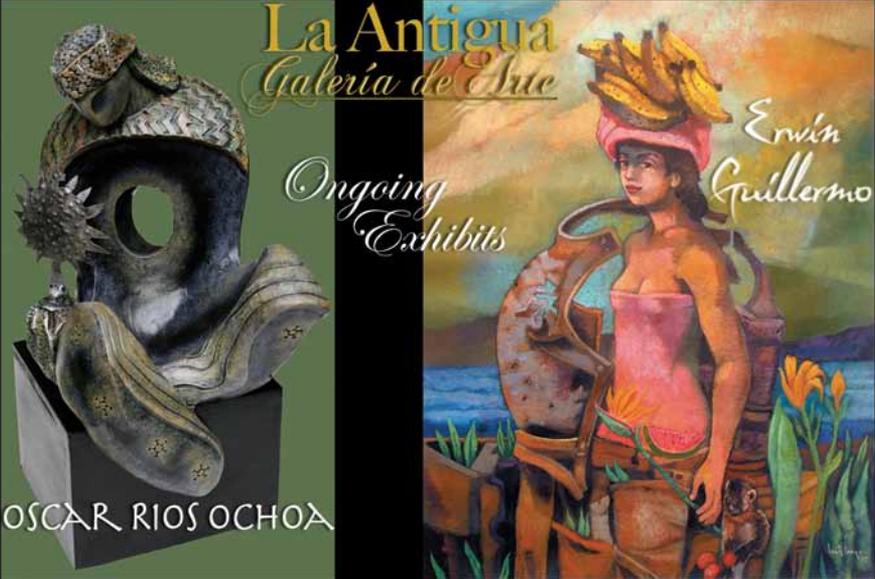
**26 Fri., 5pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: En víspera del Día de los Santos II, escrita por Rosa María Ruiz Porras y presentación del Ballet Fiesta de Pájaros por Danza Estudio. Cementerio General, **La Antigua**.

**26 Fri., 7pm** — ART: Arte Indígena, works by Pedro Cruz. Casa No'j (tel: 7761-4400), 7a calle 12-12, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango**.

**27 Sat.,** — DANCE: Sylphides, performed by Ballet Guatemala. Free. Main Square, Central Park, **La Antigua**.

**27 Sat., 10am** — (Spanish) TALLER: Tratamiento para enfermedades, con productos de la abeja. La forma natural a través de la apitoxina de las abejas, alivia, sana molestias y dolores que afectan a nuestros huesos, articulaciones, musculaturas y sistema nervioso central. Vivero La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final, #36-C, **La Antigua**.





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## DateBook Highlight

# AnEcho Update

AnEcho presents a controversial lecture on the traditional roots of the egregious political philosophy in “Winner Take All.” Thirty years of organized combat policy transformed the 2007-08 economy “made a travesty of democracy” and infiltrated the American culture.

Based on documented sources, a lecture by Dorotea will be given on Monday, **October 22**, 4pm at Mesón Panza Verde, 5 Av. Sur #19, La Antigua.

AnEcho (Antigua’s Educational and Cultural Home Office) is an organization of volunteers and professionals sharing mutual interests and activities that offer en-

hancement to the community. AnEcho encourages open membership with new ideas for communal activities and programs.

Besides our on-going Friday Bridge and Book Discussion groups, we have an ambitious agenda for the new year; new programming include CATS (Conversations About Things Significant) and the development of an Amateur Theatre, and the popular Readers’ Theatre. AnEcho welcomes your participation and particular expertise for other possible activities.

For more information about AnEcho, contact Betsy Cerezo, tel: 7832 8520 or message us at [anechoprograms@gmail.com](mailto:anechoprograms@gmail.com)

## DATEBOOK

**27 Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) THEATER: De las Alas, espectáculo de títeres. Poesía visual, música y juegos titiriteros, todo se conjuga para hacer de este espectáculo un pretexto que nos permita volar como las aves, sin miedos ni paracaídas. Cooperación Española, (6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle), **La Antigua**.

**27 Sat., 7pm** — DANCE: 13 Bak'tun and La Sylphides, by Ballet Nacional. Main Square, Central Park, **La Antigua**.

**28 Sun., 10am-4pm** — CELEBRATION: Family celebration for the International Day of the Pet sponsored by Alianza Pet Food. Call 5401-3148 for more information. Donation Q10 adults, Q5 children & Q20 families of 5. San Jerónimo Ruins, final Calzada Santa Lucía, **La Antigua**.

**30 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 has served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is 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**.

**31 Wed., 6:30pm** — HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY (Day of the Dead): Prizes for the best costume. Drinks, wine, CDs and more fun! La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle pon. #15C, **La Antigua**.

**31 Wed., 8pm** — HALLOWEEN PARTY: Hosted by La Raiz. Live music, prize for the best dressed and much more. Come shake your pumpkin and be part of the fun! Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**ART:** Cofrades of Guatemala, sculptures in terracotta and resin depicting the Catholic brotherhoods by Oscar Ríos Ochoa; also Imágenes en Sol Mayor, a compilation of images that speak of the abundance of beauty in the figures of women, by Erwin Guillermo. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-5911), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Through December** — FOTO 30: La realidad y otros asuntos, by Argentine photo-journalist Rodrigo Abd. Cooperación Española, 6a av. between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.



DATEBOOK continues on page 34

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## HEALTHY SOLUTIONS

by Lori Shea  
MEDICAL TOURISM  
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# Buying Medical Care vs. Buying Medical Insurance

Maintaining healthy bodies and minds is a serious responsibility that requires careful consideration in both our daily lifestyle choices and our long-term financial decisions. We exercise and eat well, drive safely and pay for our health insurance every month. But medical expenses are increasing at 8-20 percent per year while our incomes are not, and the rules are changing. For the benefit of ourselves and our families, we must learn about all the options in order to determine the best possible plan.

Many people would never dream of giving up their medical insurance for fear of financial ruin due to catastrophic medical expenses. They live in the comfort of knowing their medical coverage is “free” from their employer or the Veterans Administration or Medicare. When your knee replacement is \$75,000 and a cancer treatment program is \$150,000, while insurance companies rack up billions of dollars in quarterly profits, and fraud is estimated in the trillions, there is nothing “free” about it at all.

You, the patient or consumer, had your annual salary reduced by about \$12,000 so that your employer could offer group health

coverage benefits to you. The Medicare check that pays your doctor bills this year was funded by YOU, in the form of paycheck deductions, every week, for the past 40 or 50 years. And the veterans, well, we all know the price they paid.

Private insurance is expensive and many people opt out, hoping that they have enough in savings to cover unexpected medical bills. To save money, they might buy the fear-inducing, Armageddon-anticipating “catastrophic illness” coverage, with a deductible so high, and limitations so lengthy, that you might as well just pay the bills yourself. We need to make the move to being informed consumers, purchasing quality medical services and products at a fair and reasonable price, instead of policyholders asking permission to get a good value from our healthcare expenses.

Maybe cancer is your worst-case scenario. In Guatemala, in June 2012, Peter paid \$6,500 for the delicate surgery to remove the cancerous tumor that invaded the lymph nodes in his neck. Only four months earlier, he paid over \$20,000 for cancer surgery with ...continued page 36

Lori Shea is the founder of Guatemala Medical Travel ([www.GuatemalaMedicalTravel.com](http://www.GuatemalaMedicalTravel.com)); you can contact her directly: [lori@guatemalamedicaltravel.com](mailto:lori@guatemalamedicaltravel.com)



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The ideal of calm exists in a sitting cat.  
 —Jules Reynard

A door is what a dog is perpetually on  
 the wrong side of. —Ogden Nash



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We hope that, when the insects take over the world, they will remember with gratitude how we took them along on all our picnics. —Bill Vaughan



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If all the beasts were gone, men would die  
 from a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever  
 happens to the beasts also happens to the man.  
 All things are connected. Whatever befalls the  
 Earth befalls the sons of the Earth.  
 —Chief Seattle of the Suquamish Tribe



**DATEBOOK** continued from page 30

**THROUGHOUT THE MONTH**

**D**aily, 2pm & 4pm — MOVIES: Las Palmas (tel: 7832-9734), **La Antigua**.

**M**on., & Thurs., 2pm — BRIDGE: Call for a partner or for more information, 4912-5229. La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **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. For more information, visit [www.commonhope.org](http://www.commonhope.org).

**M**on., 4:30pm; Tues., 3pm; Wed., 2:30pm — DUPLICATE BRIDGE: Asociación Guatemalteca de Bridge. Info Eva: 7832-4327 or Denni: 2478-1649. Vista Hermosa, z. 15, **Guatemala City**.

**T**uesdays, 11am — GAME DAY: Board games, cards, meet some really nice people. La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

**T**uesdays & Thursdays, 2pm — (English/Spanish) The Antigua Bridge Club, duplicate bridge. Call Barbara, 5195-7656. La Peña del Sol Latino, **La Antigua**.

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

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

**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**.

**F**ridays, 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](http://www.ninosguatemala.org) or call 7832-8033.

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

**S**aturdays 4pm — (Spanish) CINE INFANTIL. Cooperación Española, (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**.

**PLAN AHEAD**

**1** Nov. — CELEBRATION: All Saint's Day. Guatemalans prepare fiambre and visit cemeteries to honor departed family members and friends. Special celebrations in different towns, including Santiago Atitlán and Sumpango Sacatepéquez, feature huge kites. Most banks and businesses will be closed. See related article on page 84.

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It is an important and popular fact that things are not always what they seem. For instance, on the planet Earth, man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much—the wheel, New York, wars and so on—whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man—for precisely the same reasons. —Douglas Adams

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## Care vs. Insurance cont. from page 32

a well-respected surgeon in Florida to do the same job, but that doctor obviously did not. After a few weeks of healing, Peter was able to start six weeks of daily radiotherapy treatment to totally eradicate his cancer, for \$12,000. Now, how do those prices compare with your kitchen renovation or speed boat at the lake? Maybe it's not so catastrophic after all.

Do you keep that insurance to cover a one-in-a-million rare, drug-resistant bone infection that requires an astronomically priced, month-long hospital stay and dozens of doctor visits? That happened to our Guatemala Medical Travel client in May 2012, and he paid about \$125 per night for the hospital room and \$70 each for visits with specialists in laparoscopic microsurgery and infectious diseases, for example. After receiving three surgical procedures, daily IV antibiotic drip for a month, and numerous therapies and medications, he paid only \$10,200 in medical expenses until he was 100 percent healed and ready to return home. For some people, that's less than

one year of insurance premiums.

Kenny felt fortunate that his insurance company covered 80 percent of his hip replacement. But, at \$65,000, that still left him paying \$13,000 out of pocket. Total hip replacements are routinely performed in Guatemala's high-tech hospitals, with state-of-the-art prosthetic implants and globally experienced surgeons, for around \$11,000. Sure, it's a big dent on the credit card, but a far cry from bankruptcy or losing your house.

So what is the best health insurance of all? Get serious about treating your body like the most precious, fragile personal possession you own, striving to maintain all of your systems in the best possible working order. Keep yourself nourished and lubricated; active and challenged; calm and happy. See your doctor to find out exactly where you stand, and keep enough cash on hand to self-insure in case of serious illness. You can tell those "billions in profits" and "catastrophic expense" guys that you won't be buying their products any more. You have a better plan. 



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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

I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the "lower animals" (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me. —Mark Twain

I subscribe to the theory that Mankind never domesticated any animal. They came in from the cold and looked cute until they were fed. —David Beard

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Lots of people talk to animals. Not very many listen, though... That's the problem. —Benjamin Hoff

An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language. —Martin Buber



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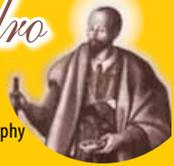
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might be the greater insult. —Isaac Asimov



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Walking into the new offices of Centro Visual G&G is like walking into a relaxing spa where you would go to be pampered, not to have your eye-care needs met. The distinctive eye-care facility was in the final stages of construction as of late September, but the building blocks, such as colonial architecture and rich, sunset orange walls, already exude calm and tranquility. The fountain in the center of the well-manicured courtyard adds a soundtrack of cascading water, setting a soothing tone. To add to the calming ambience, there are plans for patio furniture, reading areas as well as a coffee cart. The doctors meet every patient with a welcoming smile and a warm handshake, as if they were greeting a friend.

Ophthalmology specialists Drs. José and Dalia de Golcher, who have been practicing in La Antigua Guatemala for eight years, walk through their new space pointing out the purpose of every room. There are two exam rooms, an ophthalmologist office to

purchase frames and contact lenses, and a spacious surgery room. There is a dedicated area for aesthetic medicines, such as Botox and other facial treatments, which Dr. Dalia feels entwines seamlessly with eye care. “People not only need to see well, but need to look and feel well too. [These services] complement the ophthalmology services here ... we want to give you the best appearance for your face and your eyes.”

But perhaps the most exciting area in the new G&G office is the diagnostic center. The future home to nine state-of-the-art optical machines, each machine serves a specific purpose to aid in the doctors’ diagnosis of debilitating eye diseases. With these machines, it is possible to detect certain diseases years before the patient notices symptoms and take immediate action to ensure healthy sight for life. Before this latest equipment came to G&G, such as the Humphrey Matrix, used to detect glaucoma (the only machine of its kind in Antigua), ophthalmologists in Antigua, including ...continued page 60

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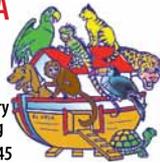
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# Expat Food Cravings

Ask any expat what he or she misses most from home and food is almost certain to top the list — at times beating friends and family into first place.

I know England is not exactly the gastronomic capital of the world, but there are occasions when I yearn for the most mundane culinary items from back home.

I miss curry, cider, Cadbury's chocolate, marmite and a cereal that won't spark diabetes. As a fussy tea drinker, I consider sipping Lipton Yellow Label to be a punishment, so as soon as anyone mentions coming out to visit I send a grocery list — with Twinings English Breakfast Tea starred at the top. Friends have carted tubs of hot chocolate for me from Bolivia, and others have kindly kept their clothing to an absolute minimum to fit in my requests, for there really is no substitute for comfort food.

Here are a few other treasured cravings from expats in Guatemala:



Mate (JUAN PABLO OLMO @ FLICKR)

**Silvia (Argentina):** "Coming from Argentina, it doesn't come as much of a surprise that one of the things I miss most from back home is red meat. I miss *entraña asada* cooked on a *parrilla* and eaten at a noisy table with friends and red wine. And it's not a party unless you have Fernet (a bitter Italian liquor) and Coke. Although I don't miss it that much, every time I Skype with friends who are drinking mate (a tea-like beverage), something in my brain asks me why I'm not doing the same. Then there are those things that you don't realize how much you miss until you see them again. A few months ago an Argentinian friend gave me some 'havannets' (chocolates) and I almost cried with happiness."

**Arnout (Netherlands):** "I really miss our junk food, such as chips with mayo, curry-ketchup and chopped onions, *frikandellen* and *kroketten* (typical Dutch deep-fried snacks). However, a friend of mine here in Guate actually makes them and they're brilliant! We usually get a few Dutchmen together and have a munch session with beer and Dutch music. I've just been back to the Netherlands after 2½ years and I took an extra (foldable) suitcase with me, which I filled with all kinds of Dutch goodies."



Frikandel Speciaal (SJEEMZ @ FLICKR)

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Soft pretzels (DANA SPENCER)

**Alycia (United States):** “I really miss soft pretzels, and when I tried making my own here, I wasn’t aware of how to adjust the leavening ingredients for high-altitude cooking, so they almost exploded. The first time I went to a decent restaurant and ordered something that contained sausages, I was surprised to find cut-up hot dogs in my gourmet dish. Other things that I used to order at restaurants, which I can’t find here, are toasted ravioli (a St. Louis favorite), Scotch eggs, fried pickles and finally, Italian beef with all its cheesy goinness and hot peppers.”

**Asmena (Kenya):** What I miss is a wider variety of lentils and pulses. Not just the *frijol negro*, but split mung beans with skin (or even without skin), adzuki, black-eyed peas, split yellow lentils, split red lentils, *toor dal* (split pigeon peas) and *chana dal* ... to name but a few! These wonderful little power houses, eaten with a cereal such as rice or tortillas, create a very tasty balanced meal. I also miss lamb — although it is now available at exorbitant prices. A good traditional lamb, beef or chicken *donair* or *charwama* would be awesome!”



Donair (JESSE HIRSH @ FLICKR)

**Aleksandra (Poland):** “I miss some fruits like gooseberries, sweet cherries and blackcurrants — although in Guatemala I have discovered a lot of new ones, so it somehow recompenses. I miss soups; we prepare hundreds of different types, and my favorite one is made from soured salted cucumbers (you can’t buy those here). But I have discovered *repollo ácido*, which you can buy to make *bigos*, a very typical Polish dish.”



Blackcurrants (ZOË @ FLICKR)

**Beck (Australia):** “Even though I haven’t lived in Australia for the past six years, I still miss the traditional meat pie, a popular savory snack with minced meats and gravy inside a delicious pie crust and topped with tomato sauce. In all my travels I have never seen them quite like the ones they make back home, so it’s always on my list of foods to eat when I go back to visit.”



Aussie meat pie (OCHA NEKO @ FLICKR)

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*Bohmischen rouladen*

*Bohmischen rouladen*, which in Germany are called ‘Czech ruladen,’ but in Czech are called ‘Spanish birds.’ The week before we had 20 people over for an Indian pot-luck dinner and everyone cooked something. What is there to miss from home?”

**Kira (India):** “My absolute favorite dish from my motherland is *idli sambar*. It’s a breakfast food and one that is virtually impossible to duplicate here (although I did bring some idli flour in my suitcase and it’s almost gone). Idli sambar are super yummy rice cakes that are steamed and served with a savory sambar stew. Recipes vary by region and family; however, I make mine with *chana daal* (large split yellow lentils), *urad daal* (black lentils) and additional spices. Once you adopt this for your breakfast, even tortillas and black beans leave you wanting more.”



Idli sambar (REUBEN FRANCIS CORNEL)

So, what is a food-craving expat to do?

Globalization has not yet managed to homogenize taste buds, but it has given us some solutions. If you are a good cook, you can try being creative, or if you aren’t, you can ask for food parcels from back home. You can schedule indulgence trips, search for good substitutes, or contact one of the handful of online stores that specializes in reuniting salivating expats with their cravings — Expat Emporium is one such company targeted at Heinz baked beans-loving Brits. 🇬🇧

Whichever way you satisfy your culinary cravings: ¡Buen provecho!



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## **Eye Care** cont. from page 42

those at G&G, had to send their clients to Guatemala City for these tests.

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The doctors have been looking to expand for almost a year. Within the next six weeks, the G&G office located on 4a av. sur will close its doors and the new location, in the Centro Gerencial Marqués del Rubio business center, will open. The doctors will maintain G&G’s branch on 6a calle poniente, where there is a full-time ophthalmologist on staff and where Dr. José Golcher holds office hours three mornings a week. Though not open until late October, the new G&G facility will be worth the wait. 



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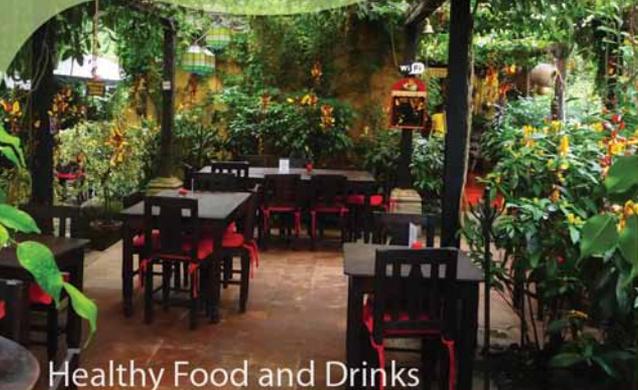
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## Birds in the Mayan civilization:

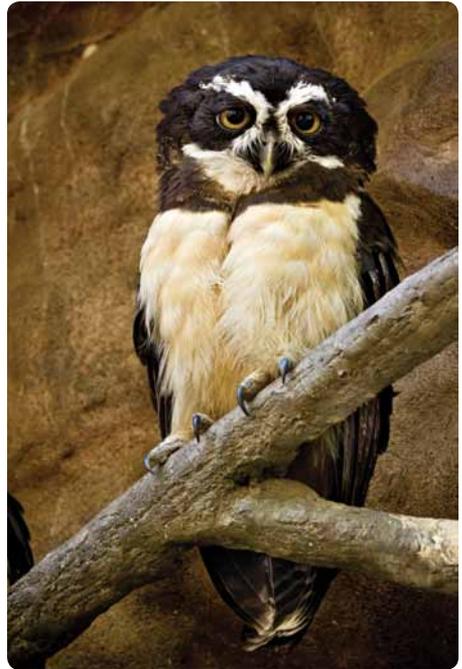
# The Owl



Tyto alba or barn owl, La Aurora Zoo, Guatemala  
(Photo by Sofía Monzón)

Birds have played an important part in the life and culture of ancient civilizations. Between A.D. 300 and A.D. 600, owls were occasionally featured in the murals and vase paintings of Teotihuacán, Mexico. Some owl eye rings are good replicas of the round “goggles” of the Teotihuacán deity Tlaloc.

Mayan art, too, often depicts the owl. As birds of prey, they are characterized as nocturnal predators; their soft plumage is adapted to move silently at night. In the Mayan belief system, the night, the darkness and death are connected, so it isn't surprising that the owl has been associated with dark forces, as messengers of the underworld and as a manifestation of the god of death.



Pulsatrix perspicillata or spectacled owl, La Aurora Zoo, Guatemala (Photo by Sofía Monzón)

Probably the most pictured is the barn owl. This bird is characterized by its pale buff, gray and white feathers; its dark eyes are framed by a heart-shaped white facial disk. Some authors have identified owls in Mayan art as “the moan bird.”

So when you next see an owl or hear an owl hoot, I hope this article has introduced the fact that owls are part of the mythology, iconography and epigraphy of 2,000 years of Mesoamerican culture. 🦉

To learn more about birds in the Mayan civilization, visit [www.ethno-zoology.org](http://www.ethno-zoology.org).

*Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). To view the list of sacred animals visit [www.maya-archaeology.org](http://www.maya-archaeology.org) or contact Dr. Hellmuth at [frontdesk@flaar.org](mailto:frontdesk@flaar.org)*

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**What would you like to share about your work on the Security Council?**

“At the least, as a personal experience, it has been fascinating to have a front-row seat in the management of some of the most daunting conflicts in the world: the Israeli-Palestinian situation, the situation in Syria, the situation in Sudan and South Sudan, the situation in West Africa (especially Mali) and the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the same time, it has been sobering to actually have an active participation in trying to manage these conflicts. On the whole, the Security Council has not been all that successful at dealing with the most pressing of these problems (Syria), so the experience has also had its frustrations. But, on balance, it has been enriching, both personally and, more importantly, for Guatemala. I am proud to see our country participating in the ‘major leagues’ of international diplomacy, and, from time to time, actually making a difference. That is both personally and nationally satisfying.”

**What questions does the Security Council have under consideration at this time?**

“There are several categories of agenda items. One is the routine follow-up of all Security Council resolutions that have ongoing peace-keeping operations or special political missions, which total about 20 at present. A second is dealing with the 16 sanctions committees that oversee the work against terrorism and administer sanctions to states that have not met with their international responsibilities. And the third, and most challenging, is dealing with emerging conflicts or situations where you have ongoing conflicts. Syria is the most dramatic example, but we also have serious potential conflicts in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on the border between Sudan and South Sudan, and in Mali, as well as Yemen.”

**What is Guatemala’s position on the Syria civil war and how does that play into your role on the UN Security Council?**

“Guatemala has, since the beginning of the conflict, condemned the government of Bashar al-Assad for committing mass atrocities against its civilian population. What started as a peaceful uprising has now predictably become a civil war. We support a political, Syrian-led transition, which responds to the grass-roots aspirations of the majority of the population. This means that sooner or later President al-Assad will have to step aside and let some type of temporary unity government administer the transition.

We do not support outside military intervention, which would, in our judgment, just make matters worse. And we still feel that there is a chance for diplomacy to win out over armed conflict, and that the United Nations will have an important role to play in such an outcome. On the other hand, should the government and the so-called Free Syrian Army elect to continue fighting, the cost for innocent civilians will be very high indeed, and it is hard for the world to sit by and watch this tragedy unfold. Hopefully, both parties will reach the conclusion that the cost is just too high for their country, and that the political, diplomatic outcome is a preferable option.”

When not in New York, Ambassador Rosenthal and his family live in Antigua, where they have been long-time residents. We are honored to have Ambassador Rosenthal represent Guatemala at such an important time in history. And on a personal note, the Rosenthal family, including his wife Margit and four daughters, are such nice people—great to have as neighbors! 



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—Robert Lynd



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Molly antes y después

# SALVANDO A MOLLY

Fue un sábado en el mes de abril cuando llegué al trabajo que el guardia de seguridad me indicó que había un perro atropellado del otro lado de la calle. Al acercarme me encontré con una triste escena. Una perrita desnutrida y temblando de frío me miraba desconcertada con un semblante vacío y lleno de dolor. El corazón se me quebró. Regresé a la oficina a buscar comida y un recipiente con agua. Después de comer un poquito, la perrita se arrastró jadeando y se quedó debajo de un carro estacionado. Le indiqué al guardia que la cuidara mientras yo me las arreglaba para ver que podía hacer para ayudarla. Me preocupaba que el dueño del carro debajo del cual la perrita se había refugiado no la mirara y la atropellara de nuevo. Después de tres horas y sin poder concentrarme en el trabajo, con la ayuda de otro compañero, decidimos subirla al carro y llevarla al

veterinario. Ya miraríamos después dónde colocarla para su recuperación aunque temía que el doctor nos dijera que había que ponerla a dormir debido a la gravedad de sus heridas.

El veterinario nos indicó que la perrita estaba muy débil y que tenía un desgarre en la pata trasera derecha. Le aplicó un antibiótico y vitaminas y nos dijo que necesitaba descansar durante 3 semanas para que el desgarre se curara por sí solo. Así que volvimos a subirla al carro y la trasladamos a un hogar temporal en donde recibiría las atenciones que necesitaba.

Y así fue como le cambió la vida a Molly (su nombre oficial después del rescate). Con el tiempo, se recuperó del todo, ganó peso y empezó a confiar en las personas. Gracias al buen corazón de la gente que comparte el amor y la ...a página 94

*Dándole sabor a las tradiciones antiguas*



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I had been told that the training procedure with cats was difficult. It's not. Mine had me trained in two days. —Bill Dana

Man is rated the highest animal, at least among all animals who returned the questionnaire. —Robert Brault

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Full of rolling hills, volcanoes and natural wonders to explore, Guatemala draws in many kinds of travelers to experience its culture, cuisine and beauty. The traditional way for travelers to get around has been by tourist shuttle or *camionetta* (bus). Now, MayaStrada Motorcycle Charity Rides is offering a new way to experience the Guatemalan countryside, while helping the very people who make this country unique.

“We are bringing together local and visiting motorbike riders to participate in on- and off-road treks that will benefit local charities,” says Mick Quinn, founder of *MayaStrada.org*.

MayaStrada was created with one goal: to form a La Antigua Guatemala-based motorcycle group open to anyone with a bike, a sense of adventure and a desire to help Guatemalan communities. Participants are asked to pay a small fee to join each ride,

and, if they wish, to do a fundraising campaign on their own. One-hundred percent of the donations from each ride will go to local nonprofit Integral Heart Foundation and other nonprofits, which will be individually announced for each ride.

Motorcycle rides are being planned for the forthcoming months to destinations such as the Mayan ruins at Mixco Viejo, Paredon Surf House, a loop of volcano Fuego, and short, fun runs for breakfast on the weekend to Tecpán and other locations. There are also plans for longer rides to the Cristo Negro in Esquipulas and the famous “drunken” horse races in Todos Santos, and early next year there’s a five-country ride that will visit El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

Quinn, originally from Ireland, also co-founded the Integral Heart Foundation, which serves resource-poor ...cont. page 72



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There is no snooze button on a cat who wants breakfast. —Paul Gallico

The more one gets to know of men, the more one values dogs. —Alphonse Toussenel

There are two means of refuge from the misery of life; music and cats. —Albert Schweitzer

I like pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. —Winston Churchill

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**Dental Care** cont. from page 39

Closer to home, Sam was on his sailboat in Río Dulce, enjoying the care-free life of a live-aboard cruiser. That is, until the debilitating pain of a dental infection sent him running for the best dentist he could find. Through his medical agent, Sam got a bus ticket, hotel room and dental appointment at an ultra-modern downtown clinic within 24 hours, paying ¼ of what he would in the United States.

Other dental patients are already traveling in Guatemala, marveling at the architectural monuments, enchanting cultural events, natural wonders and the genuine kindness of the local residents.

Denise was enjoying a relaxing holiday at Lake Atitlán when she discovered that she could get new custom-made dentures perfectly fitted for her here in Guatemala. The old ones were worn out and uncomfortable, so it was a pleasant surprise to buy high-quality new dentures in La Antigua Guatemala at a price she could afford.

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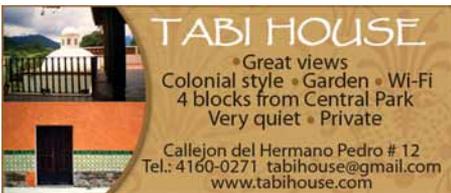
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PET Q's & A's  
by Cynthia Burski, DVM



My daughter bought a Chihuahua puppy to “carry in her purse” as an accessory. Apparently, this continues to be a popular fad. Is being carried around so much bad for the dog?

When dogs are young puppies it is common to carry them around (especially with the small breeds) since they are not yet leash trained. But it's critical that dogs learn to walk (on and off leash) around and socialize by meeting other dogs, playing with children, visiting other homes and other safe locations. If you carry a dog all of the time, he doesn't socialize properly, he can feel helpless and then react to other people by growling and snapping. When this happens the owner usually tries to comfort the dog, unaware that the soothing words come across as praise and thus makes the aggression worse. If your daughter's dog is well socialized, then an occasional hour or two of riding around with his head sticking out of her purse will not be a problem.





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Some people have cats and go on to lead normal lives. —Arthur Bridges

The kind man feeds his beast before sitting down to dinner. —Hebrew Proverb

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Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet. —Colette

Horse sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people. —W.C. Fields

Animals have these advantages over man: they never hear the clock strike, they die without any idea of death, they have no theologians to instruct them, their last moments are not disturbed by un-welcome and unpleasant ceremonies, their funerals cost them nothing, and no one starts lawsuits over their wills. —Voltaire, 1769

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Guatemala and rain! Have you ever walked outside after an electrical storm and noticed how vital the air seems? This is due to the negatively charged ions and extra oxygen in the air. This “charged air” is actually more vital and healthy than regular air, mostly because it contains ozone.

While air is known as O<sub>2</sub>, ozone is actually O<sub>3</sub>. This extra oxygen molecule is easily liberated, and when it enters the human body it offers incredible health benefits. Oxygen is vital to your health, and ozone is a vital form of oxygen. When ozone comes in contact with a moist surface it will release the extra oxygen. This makes ozone an ideal cleaning agent. Ozone is used worldwide to purify drinking water, and ozone-infused water is excellent for rinsing foods and keeping gums super healthy.

The medical use of ozone has been studied by doctors since the 1800s as they quickly discovered that it helps with wound healing and all forms of tissue repair. Ozone’s extra oxygen molecule not only oxidizes (destroys) bacteria and viruses, it also releases

Slice of Guatemala’s rainy season. (PHOTO: RUDY GIRÓN)

es oxygen into the tissues for faster healing. The only caution is that ozone should not be inhaled directly into the lungs in large concentrations, as the delicate tissues can be irritated. Ozone can safely enter the bloodstream through injection or by direct contact with the skin and mucus membranes.

Wondrous healing results have been documented from ozone therapy, from cancers to inflammations to the reversal of AIDS symptoms. Scientist Nikola Tesla patented an ozone generator in 1896, and it was widely used to help heal skin irritations, bug bites and wounds.

While the FDA has stalled the use of ozone in the U.S., it is a highly regarded treatment throughout Europe and many other countries. It is especially valuable in dentistry, where the teeth and gums must be thoroughly cleansed before placing a restoration. Thousands of studies have demonstrated that ozone is safer than any pharmaceutical drug and virtually free from side effects.

Ozone treatment reverses many cancers and other medical ...continued page 78

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## OZONE cont. from page 76

problems. This is because our bodies were designed to use oxygen. The addition of ozone offers a boost to the body's natural healing processes. In fact, in ancient times the oxygen level in the air was far higher than today. It has been demonstrated that pre-historic oxygen levels exceeded 35 per cent of the air; our air today only holds 20 percent of this important gas. Without adequate oxygen, brain function suffers, cancer cells grow and aging is accelerated. This is one of the reasons why doctors recommend exercise—it is not just about moving the body; it is recommended

because exercise increases blood flow and brings oxygen to the tissues. Oxygen supports health.

Transdermal ozone is a method in which ozone is introduced into the body via the skin while the individual is sitting in a hot steam cabinet. An ozone steam cabinet offers tremendous health benefits. The pores of the skin open as a result of being surrounded by the warm steam, and ozone enters the body transdermally (i.e. via the skin). The ozone then penetrates the blood, lymph and fat. Steam ozone therapy is one of the most powerful methods of detoxifying and oxygenating the body in existence.



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**2nd PLACE by popular vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Oct.**

Congratulations to Andrea Michelle Contreras Alvarez on her photograph titled "El Turista" La Antigua Guatemala. Prize: 3 bottles of **La Chamiza** wine. All entries can be seen at [www.REVUE.gt](http://www.REVUE.gt)

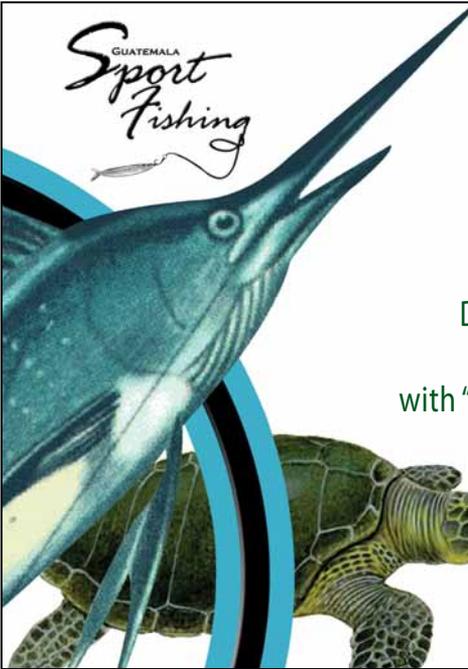


**Honorable Mention by popular vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Oct.**

Congratulations to Aury Páxtor de Lemus on her photograph titled "Hermanos inseparables", Jocotenango. All entries can be seen at [www.REVUE.gt](http://www.REVUE.gt)



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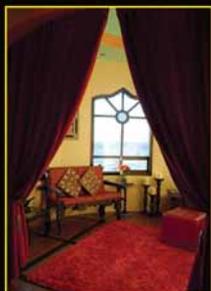


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# Kites of November

## *The Magnificent and Fragile Giant Kites of Sumpango*

On Nov. 1, visitors travel to Sumpango and Santiago, Sacatépequez, to stand in awe of *los barilletes gigantes*, the giant kites made specifically for the Day of the Dead in these two Kaqchikel Mayan villages. As large as 20 meters, the size of a six-story building, the kites are decorated in figures, landscapes and messages, resembling enormous murals or mandalas. From a distance it is easy to think that the kites are giant paintings or made of plastic or nylon. In fact,

they are collages on a fantastic scale, every image, indeed every part of the kite is made from layers of hand-cut *papel de china*, the semi-transparent, colored tissue paper often used to line gift boxes or as wrapping paper.

The Day of the Dead is the culmination of between six and eleven months of work for *los barilletteros*, the kite makers. The kite festival and exhibition on Nov. 1 is the first time the barilletteros themselves see the results of their labor as the ...continued page 86

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is a wet dog. —Ambrose Bierce

You enter into a certain amount of madness when  
you marry a person with pets. —Nora Ephron

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## KITES cont. from page 84

sections of the kites are glued together, then mounted on a web of bamboo.

In Sumpango there are 75-80 groups of kite makers, over 600 barilleteros, most of whom are teenagers and single young men. They are from many occupations, including farmers, students, electricians, architects and lawyers. They are willing to work from 7 p.m. to 1 or 2 in the morning Monday through Friday nights and then from 2 in the afternoon on Saturdays until noon on Sundays beginning July 1 and finishing Nov. 1. Barilleteros with 8-10 years of kite-making experience coordinate the making of the kites and teach the younger kite makers the method and the culture of the barilleteros. In addition to doing the actual work of the kites, the barilleteros contribute their own money toward the construction of the kites.

Even standing close to the kites, it is difficult to believe they are not paintings but are actually made of thousands of pieces of

paper. Variations of color and shading are made by gluing overlapping layers of colored paper to create figures of people and animals, landscapes and written messages. Because of the fragile nature of the tissue paper, the glue is applied with small paintbrushes. Each piece is then carefully placed and smoothed into position by an experienced barilletero, who is usually working on his hands and knees on a cement floor. A backing of black tissue and clear packing tape reinforces the kite.

Kites measuring six meters or less are flown, sometimes requiring eight men to hold the line as the kite becomes airborne. Many times these kites are seriously damaged in their Nov. 1 flight or in a preflight crash, their beautiful murals shattered by the mischievous wind or by a failure to get off the ground.

These “smaller” kites are traditional eight-sided Guatemalan kites, the octagon making a unique rounded, as opposed to

...continued page 104





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The event for the small boats was hosted by the Guatemalan Sailing Association.

(Thanks to [www.riodulcechisme.com](http://www.riodulcechisme.com), photo courtesy of [www.tijax.com](http://www.tijax.com))



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**Small is Huge** cont. from page 19

*"If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe then men would have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man." —Albert Einstein.*

Scientists tell us that the honey bee is totally responsible for the pollination of over 90 percent of the fruit and vegetable crops worldwide, so it is disturbing to discover that 30 billion honeybees representing one-quarter of the Northern Hemisphere's population has mysteriously vanished and that 90 percent of wild honeybees in the U.S. have died out. As yet, no one knows for sure the reason why. Possible culprits cited include genetically modified crops, climate change, electromagnetic pollution, especially from cell phone towers, and excessive use of pesticides. As Einstein proclaimed long ago, it would be devastating if we were to lose all our honeybees, since most of our food crops are not self-pollinating. A study in Europe has revealed that the number of wildflowers that depend on pollination has dropped by 70 percent. The entire world,

including Guatemala, now faces a decline of native pollinators. Over 100 species of birds and more than 80 mammals that pollinate are considered threatened or extinct by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. How many native insect pollinators have disappeared from the Mayan Biosphere Reserve and other Meso-American forests, no one knows, but with more than half of the region's forests gone, we can be sure that the number must be high. 🍷

Those who would take over the Earth  
And shape it to their will  
I have seen that they do not succeed.  
For the Earth is like a sacred vessel  
Dangerous to tamper with  
Those who tamper with her, defile her  
Those who would take her by force, lose her.  
—Laotzu, China, 500 B.C.



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The question is not, "Can they reason?" nor, "Can they talk?" but rather, "Can they suffer?"  
 —Jeremy Bentham

One reason why birds and horses are happy is because they are not trying to impress other birds and horses. —Dale Carnegie

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.  
 —Dereke Bruce

**Xultún** cont. from page 15

**Rediscoveries within the ruins of Xultún**

**1920s:** The Carnegie Institution of Washington spearheaded expeditions to Xultún and picked Sylvanus Morley, respected archaeologist and epigrapher, to lead the group. It went on to discover and register most of the inscriptions at the site.

**1970s:** Archaeological inquiry resumed at Xultún; the Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscription Project recovered and recorded more monuments.

**2008:** Archaeological investigations and excavations resumed under the direction of William Saturno, Boston University, and David Stuart, University of Texas at Austin, with support from the National Geographic Society.

**2012:** The team uncovers the oldest-known Mayan astronomical tables, dating to the ninth century A.D. 

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 —Mark Twain

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**Salvando a Molly** de página 68

solidaridad hacia los animales Molly fue esterilizada, vacunada y en el mes de Noviembre viajará a Filadelfia, Estados Unidos con Valerie Harteg que la conoció, se enamoró de ella y se comprometió a darle un hogar permanente. Mientras llega ese día, cuidó de Molly y la saco a caminar todos los días. Hoy brinca, da vueltas, juega y mueve su colita cuando las personas se acercan a ella para mimarla. Se que la voy a extrañar cuando se vaya, pero también se que en donde esté, terminará sus días llena de amor con las personas que le brindarán una segunda oportunidad. 🐾

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**Honorable Mention by judges vote**  
**REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Oct. ▶**

"La Gata Tsuki" by Sergio Molina  
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*“Mientras tenga un perro conmigo, jamás me sentiré solo, porque su tierna mirada y el movimiento de su cola me dicen: “eres la razón de mi vida, te amo”.*

—Antonio Clement



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## Pez Vela Fishing cont. from page 20

Guatemala has been able to retain this rich pocket of fish by being the first country to pass a law, in 1997, prohibiting the commercial fishing of sailfish. The outfitters do their part with sustainability by only practicing catch-and-release fishing and using circular hooks so as not to harm the fish. This way the sport fishing industry can be kept alive here and many more will be able to experience the thrill of catching and releasing a big 100-pound sailfish.

There are two techniques for catching that big fish—one being the conventional way with artificial “teasers” and natural bait, and the other is fly fishing to really test your angling skills. Either way, once you experience the adrenaline rush of that big fish on the end of your line, you’ll be smiling from ear to ear, hoping for the chance to do it again and again.

A day out on the water sport fishing can be a fun and exhilarating change of pace for experienced fishermen and women and novices alike. That salty ocean breeze, a fresh *ceviche* lunch and great photo opportunities make a trip down to the coast a worthwhile experience for anyone who comes to Guatemala.

With sustainability being a prime concern for Guatemala, the outfitters and visitors alike, one can hope that Guatemala continues to maintain its rich and varied fish population off its coast and promise many more successful days of fishing for years to come. 

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

## Parlama Fishing cont. from page 21

The world of deep-sea fishing has changed since Wheeler bought his first boat. With evidence pointing to a drastic change in the world’s oceans due to climate change, one would expect Wheeler to say he has seen a drop in the number of fish caught now than in the past. Wheeler, however, says in the last few years, he has seen an increase in the number of fish Parlama’s clients catch—especially marlin. Whereas five years ago, a boat would hook four marlin every year, the last two years his boats have hooked a marlin almost every trip. He equates this to the water temperature and currents in “The Pocket,” a deep trench that spans from El Salvador up to Mexico where many local species like to dwell.

Conscious of these changes, Wheeler feels a responsibility to preserve and protect the fish population in addition to providing a grand maritime adventure for his clients. Parlama gave up using standard J-hooks, the industry choice for many years, in favor of fine wire circle hooks. The former left marlin and other fish with considerable damage when released if the hook caught in the wrong place, like the gut. Wheeler states not only do circle hooks work better for catching billfish, but also leaves them in great shape after they are released.

When he speaks about his fishing operation, it’s clear he respects the territory and wants to leave it as untouched as possible. Wheeler states, “The idea is to leave a small footprint.” 

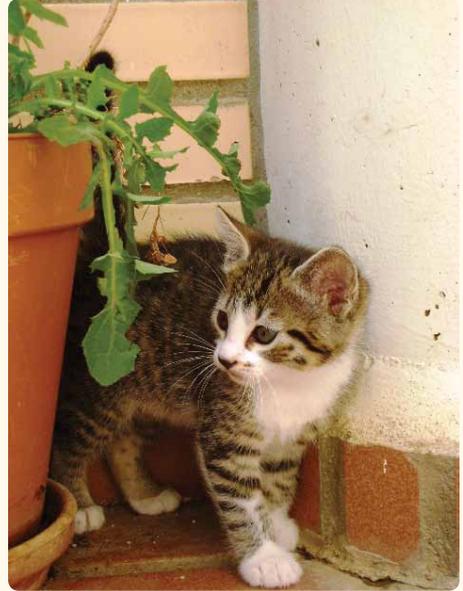
Mal trato es también, no curarlos cuando se enferman. La mayoría de veces no es por falta de recursos económicos sino por inconsciencia, falta de compasión y de amor, por una tacañería ofensiva o por conceptos primitivos de que “son animales”, creyendo quizás de que no sienten.

Muchos no se preocupan siquiera por brindarles una alimentación adecuada. Lo que hacen es tirarles una cuantas tortillas o panes, pero estos no contienen los nutrientes esenciales. Una mala alimentación debilita sus defensas y los predisponen. A distintas enfermedades, incluyendo el llamado “jiote” o sarna. Tampoco les dan agua, o lo hacen solo cuando se recuerdan sin comprender que el agua limpia debe de ponerseles todos los días en forma fija. Otros, juegan con los sentimientos de los animales, los adquieren y después fácilmente se libran de ellos al darse cuenta que no era lo que deseaban o que no tienen el tiempo de cuidarles correctamente. No se salvan tampoco los que lucran con su dolor, se dedican a reproducirlos para venderlos como mercancías, sin importarles su destino.

El error más común es que dejan irresponsablemente que tengan descendientes, al no evitarlo en el periodo de celo, mucho menos esperar que paguen operaciones de esterilización, y en el peor de los casos, se empeñan en buscarles parejas. En un país como el nuestro, en donde existe una marcada sobrepoblación de animales y gran parte de ellos sufren por las calles, tener grandes camadas de descendientes implica un problema social y una gran dificultad para encontrarles hogar. Lo más seguro es

que al regalarlos, la mayoría llegan a manos de gente inconsciente e inculca que les van a dar malos tratos y finalmente terminan en la calle. 📌

Es este un tema para reflexionar, aprendamos a amar a nuestras mascotas



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**AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA:** Mon. 6-7pm Discussion, Thurs. 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant, 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). [www.anti-guaguatemala.org](http://www.anti-guaguatemala.org)

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**ST. MARKS ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE IN ENGLISH.** Sundays 11:15am. Chapel of Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, corner 6a calle & 3a av., La Antigua. Tels: 5293-1076, 5492-5707.

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It is inexcusable for scientists to torture animals; let them make their experiments on journalists and politicians.  
—Henrik Ibsen

I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs. —Joseph Addison



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## KITES cont. from page 86

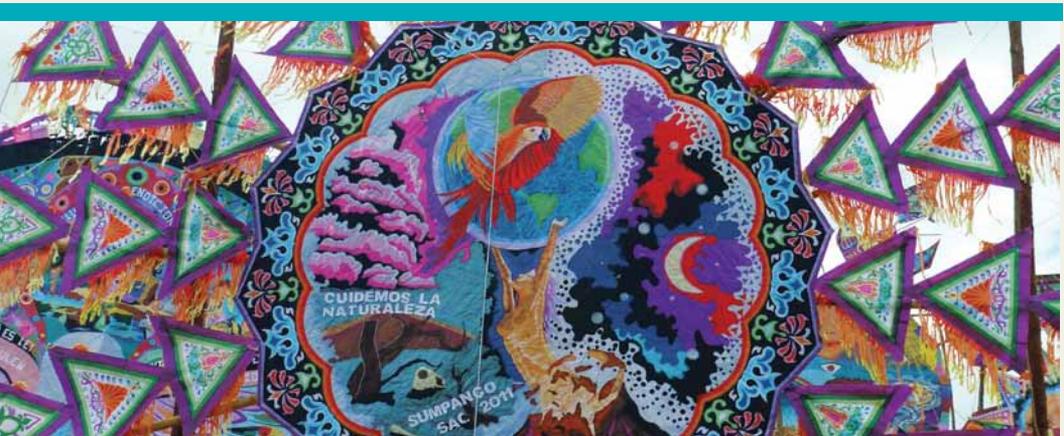
a diamond, shape. This octagon is thought to represent the Maya belief in the four directions: north, south, east and west, with four additional points to form a corona, the crown of the sun. Fringed paper is fixed to four sides of the octagon. The sound of the wind rustling this cut paper is believed to keep away bad spirits. Prayers and messages to the ancestors are traditionally placed on the string of the kite and then are moved by the wind up the string. When the message joins the main body of the kite, it has been received by the ancestors.

The larger kites are not flown, but displayed upright. The mounting of these kites involves securing the kite to an intricate lattice of bamboo and then undertaking the herculean task of hoisting the kite so it is vertical. Families pose for photos, diminished by the size of the kites. Many of these massive kites are far from being octagonal —indeed some of them are so challenging in structure that they are designed by barilletteros who are professional architects and builders.

Following the peace treaty of 1996 and led by a group of highly creative barilletteros, who call themselves “Happy Boys,” the gi-

ant kites of Sumpango became increasingly innovative in form and design. In addition to giving their group an English name, they broke free of the traditional eight-sided kite to incorporate open space and improbable shapes into the form of their kites. Other groups followed and also began addressing social issues such as indigenous rights, pollution, violence and the situation of women. Some kites speak to the contemporary meaning of Mayan cosmology using modern images, others affirm the strong cultural traditions of the Mayas, portraying highly detailed scenes, all crafted from colored tissue paper and meticulously glued.

Perhaps more than any Mayan art in Guatemala today, the creation of los barilletes gigantes is an evolving form giving voice to contemporary Maya artists and speaking to the power of traditional community and collaboration. According to a barillettero I spoke with, the tradition of using papel de china for the Nov. 1 kites is over 70 years old. It is interesting that such a slight medium was chosen for such intricate and time-consuming work, but perhaps it represents the nature of life itself, magnificent and fragile. 





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# Clínica Esperanza

by Monish Welcome



Peggy Stranges in her “clinic of hope”, Clínica Esperanza

*For over 5,000 locals on Roatán, this special clinic is their primary medical care provider.*

It is Monday morning at Clínica Esperanza in Sandy Bay. People are talking in hushed voices as they sit in lines of chairs waiting to see a doctor. Children are playing on the playground outside while adults enjoy *baleadas* prepared by a local woman running her own little micro-business. The waiting room is air conditioned, clean and inviting, these are staples of the care that patients receive at Clínica Esperanza, a not-for-profit clinic for the underserved of the Bay Islands of Honduras.

Behind this vision is a red-haired, middle-aged woman, covered in freckles with glasses dangling from her neck and a serene, yet matter-of-fact demeanor. Her name is Peggy Stranges.

A registered nurse, Stranges began her journey in 2002 at her kitchen table, where she was educating families and patients with diabetes and other prevalent illnesses here in Roatán. Her home instantly became known as the clinic of hope, and patients with ailments of all sorts started seeking her out. Pa-

tients soon were overflowing her first-floor, beach-front apartment, so she moved into a few rooms at the former Son Rise Mission Inn in Sandy Bay.

When the patients increased daily a permanent home was necessary. Land and monetary donations were made, as well as materials and labor, and Clínica Esperanza soon opened, thanks to donors, island-wide fundraisers and the sweat and hard work of many.

In August 2011 Clínica Esperanza received its license and in early 2012 opened a new pediatric inpatient unit and birthing center.

Located in Sandy Bay, adjacent to Anthony's Key Resort, the clinic opens at 8 a.m. five days a week and closes when the last patient is seen. The number of patients ranges from 60 to 100 a day; approximately 60% are children, 30% are adult females and 10% are adult males. Over 15,000 patients have been treated here, from Punta Gorda, Diamond Rock, Coxen Hole, French Harbour—even people from the mainland seek Clínica Esperanza's service. ...cont. page 108

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Every time we walk along a beach some ancient urge disturbs us so that we find ourselves shedding shoes and garments or scavenging among seaweed and whitened timbers like the homesick refugees of a long war. —Loren Eiseley

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Located in Sandy Bay, adjacent to Anthony's Key Resort, the clinic opens at 8 a.m. five days a week and closes when the last patient is seen.

## **Clínica Esperanza** cont. from page 106

For over 5,000 locals on Roatán, Clínica Esperanza is their primary medical care provider. It is also considered as the center for diabetes and hypertension on Roatán.

The clinic provides many services, such as treatment for upper respiratory tract infections, malaria and minor orthopedic and traumatic injuries. It also manages chronic problems requiring lifetime care, such as diabetes and hypertension, which are very common on Roatán. Many of patients affected by these conditions had not received proper care before they arrived at the clinic for the first time.

An important aspect of the clinic is its well-stocked pharmacy of medications — provided free of charge — from international organizations and individual do-

nations. The clinic also provides donated medication to other clinics and the public hospital. The treatment charge per patient is 70 lempiras, equivalent to \$3.50, and it is waived if the patient is unable to pay. The fee encourages patients to participate in their own healthcare, and patients often choose to give a larger amount.

Clínica Esperanza has raised the bar for healthcare in Roatán. Everyone is welcome at the clinic and will be treated by a kind staff. There is no doubt that Peggy Stranges and all who stand beside her are a blessing to the island and will continue to be for as long as this noble project stands. 

*For more information visit  
[www.clinicaesperanza.com](http://www.clinicaesperanza.com)*

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Sunrise over Volcán de Santa Ana (LENA JOHANNESSEN)



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I orchestrate my mornings to the tune of coffee.

—Terri Guillemets

It is never too late to be what you might have been.

—George Eliot



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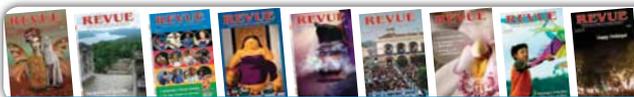
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He who believes that the past cannot be changed has not yet written his memoirs. —Torvald Gahlin

A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way. —John Tudor



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