

REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine
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February 2013
Year 21, No. 12

FREE



**Photo Contest: Friendship
Quetzals and Trogons
Profile: Siggy Holbik**



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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 febrero.



We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for March., 2013 with the theme **MUSIC IN GUATEMALA**;
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 February will be eligible.

PHOTO CONTEST!

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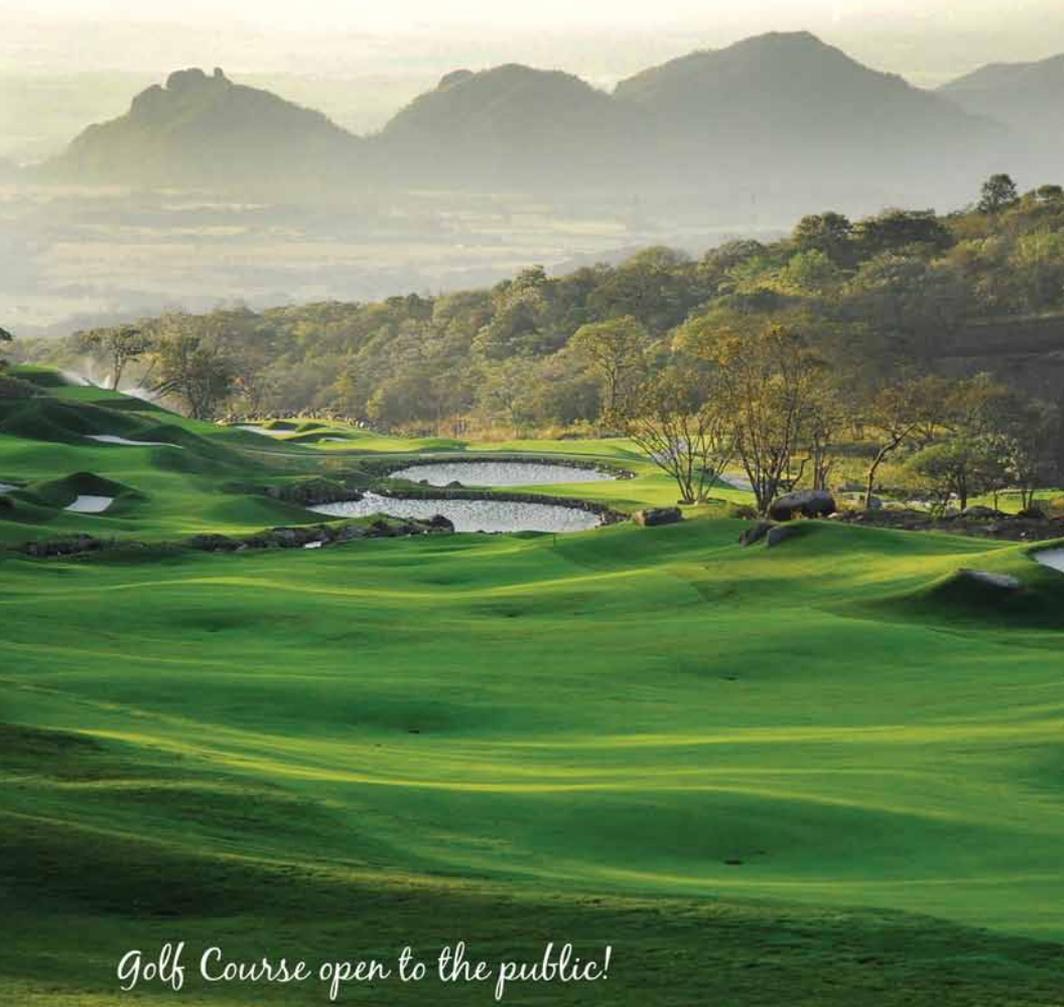
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FEBRUARY PHOTO CONTEST, theme: Friendship / Amistad



1st PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Feb.
Congratulations to José de León Mazariegos on his photograph titled "Entre risas y juegos"
Prize: Dinner for two at **La Peña de Sol Latino**. View all entries at www.REVUE.gt



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

"Amistad" by Febe Avila. Prize: 1 night for two at **Hotel B'alam Ya**. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

Vive la Leyenda



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PHOTO CONTEST: Friendship

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**Deadline for the
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la Biblioteca Francisco Antonio de Fuentes y Guzmán (frente al
Parque Central) Antigua Guatemala.

Grupos mayores de 15 personas comunicarse al PBX 2464 4545 Ext. 4562

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existe
by
Iván
Castro
Peña
[flickr.com/ivan-castroguatemala](https://www.flickr.com/photos/ivan-castroguatemala/)



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*** TODO FEBRERO / ALL FEB.**

From the Publishers

Once again the International Paiz Festival will be offering some wonderful events in February. On this subject we start off with Elizabeth Bell's overview of the festival. Highlight articles include the "out of this world" VocaPeople performing on Feb. 2 and 3; also, note in DateBook Feb. 8 songstress Lila Downs promises to bring the house down.

Destination Opera? Natalie Rose covers opera in Guatemala City. That's right, Live in HD, the Instituto Guatemalteco Guatemalteco (IGA) in partnership with the Metropolitan Opera (live stream performances) offers opera at its finest to Guatemala; this month the IGA proudly presents Rigoletto.

Day trips anyone? Take a ride with Anna Claire Bevan in Motorcycle Diary, and there is a plan-ahead picnic in March at the Finca El Zapote that will be a lot of fun. Fishing? Tara Tiedemann introduces us to Master Fisherman Paustino Cruz Colindres who has been fishing the waters around El Paredón for 45 years.

Nature lovers will enjoy Quetzals and Trogons of the World by Thor Janson, including beautiful photographs that complete the text; also, there is Flowering of the National Tree by Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth, the blooms of which provide tasty treats for the local bat population.

If you are not hungry now, you will be after reading Dining Out, West End Style by Monish Welcome featuring some of Roatan's (Bay Islands, Honduras) best restaurants.

Wishing you all a happy Valentine's Day, a special time, not just for lovers but also to let friends and family know how much you care about them ... the Photo Contest theme for February was "Friendship."

Thanks for reading the Revue (in print or online: www.REVUE.gt) and updates on Revue FaceBook. For everyone out there, a nod from Trip Advisor: La Antigua Guatemala was voted "Best Destination" ... in all of Central America!

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

REVUE

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Motorcycle Diary



There is something undeniably cool about motorbikes, cobbled streets and rock and roll. Combine all three and you have one of the most exhilarating ways to explore La Antigua Guatemala: driving through the pueblos of Sacatepéquez, on the back of a trike, with the Rolling Stones blaring from the speakers.

CATours has been specializing in creating tailor-made motorbike tours of Antigua and beyond since 1999, offering adventurous travelers everything from driving up volcanoes to overnight beach trips and excursions to Lake Atitlán.

I started my adventure at the company's own Motocafe with a strong cup of coffee and a quick briefing of the morning's itinerary from CATours' owner Dave Drudge. I was to be chief passenger for the day on the newest addition to the company's fleet of 13 motorbikes: a fierce-looking, two-person, orange trike. Perfect for those who

aren't brave enough to take the handlebars themselves, or who simply want to focus on the beautiful vistas rather than the passing traffic, the three-wheel bike gives you the luxury of being chauffeur driven by one of CATours' instructors, leaving you free to snap away at the stunning scenery you pass.

Englishman Drudge bought the rare bike over eBay two years ago and spent 10 days driving it down to Guatemala from West Virginia. "It's great for those who are in Antigua and want to do something impulsive like a motorbike tour, but are perhaps a little afraid of driving themselves," says Drudge, who has been riding motorbikes since he was 15 years old and has taught thousands of people in Guatemala how to do the same.

We set off from 6a calle oriente to Antigua's indigenous surrounding villages, meandering along open roads ...continued page 78

*The Most Elegant
of Avian Tribes*

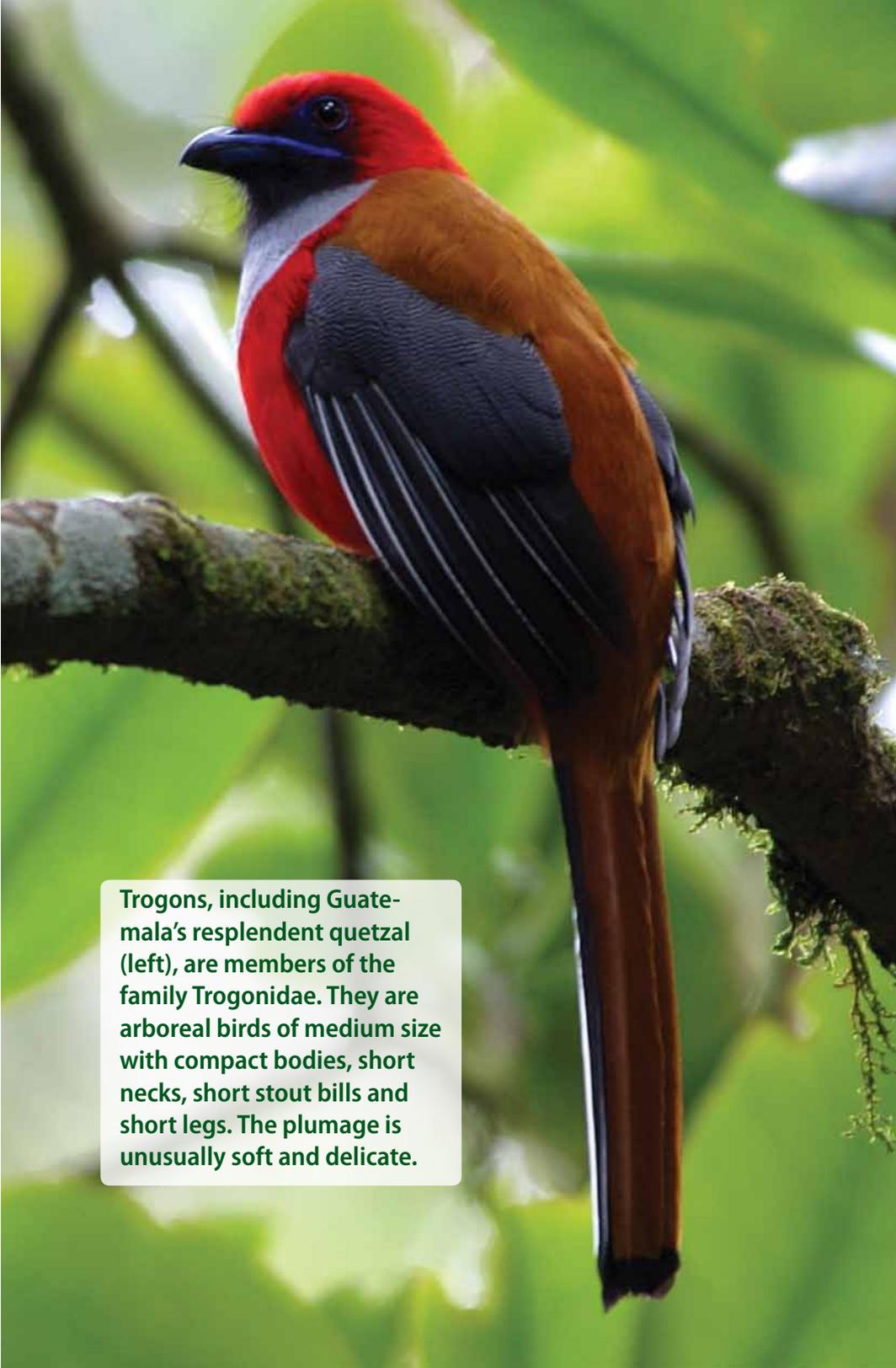


Resplendent quetzal

Quetzals and Trogons of the World

If I were to conduct an informal survey on the streets of any town and asked 100 or 1,000 people a few questions about the national bird of Guatemala, it would become immediately evident the extent and the depth of ignorance of the population concerning perhaps the most beautiful winged creature on Earth. How many people would know, for example, that there are actually six species of quetzal, including one that inhabits the U.S.? That's right, the gringos have their very own quetzal, the eared quetzal. How many people would know that Guatemala's resplendent quetzal is only one member of the pan-tropical trogon tribe, numbering 39?

Trogons, including Guatemala's resplendent quetzal, are members of the family Trogonidae (from the Greek trogein, gnaw). All trogons are sublimely beautiful. All exhibit rich iridescent multi-colored plumes. All exhibit similar behavior and physical structure: They are arboreal birds of medium size with compact bodies, short necks, short stout bills and short legs. The plumage is unusually soft and delicate. All males exhibit glittering green, blue or violet upper plumage while the breast is a contrasting red, yellow or orange. Females have much more mute coloration dominated by tones of brown, gray or slate. One very distinct feature of the trogons are their feet: Their



Trogons, including Guatemala's resplendent quetzal (left), are members of the family Trogonidae. They are arboreal birds of medium size with compact bodies, short necks, short stout bills and short legs. The plumage is unusually soft and delicate.



Trogons of Central America (THOR JANSON)



toe arrangement is heterodactyl—two toes forward and two toes back, similar to that found in parrots, toucans and woodpeckers, except that in all other heterodactyl-toed birds, the outer or fourth toe has moved backward to give a firmer grasping power. The trogons are unique in that the inner or second toe is shifted to the rear, and the two front toes are joined at the base.

Trogons are pan-tropical and found all around the planet, in most cases limited to equatorial zones but in some areas they extend into more temperate regions. Since the 39 members of the avian family Trogonidae are non-migratory and move but little locally, the existence of three widely separated populations (American, Asian and African) is cited by scientists as further evidence that the Earth's continents were once

all united in one super-continent: Pangaea. Also, in past geological ages, when tropical forests extended far beyond their present limits, the ancestors of today's Trogonidae probably were much more numerous with a wider distribution. There are trogons in Cameroon. There are trogons in Nepal, Bhutan, India, China and Vietnam. One famous trogon forest, which is very high on my expedition list, is Mount Kinabalu National Park in Borneo, where six species exist together. Cuba has its own unique species, as does Haiti.

Apart from Guatemala's resplendent quetzal there are five other species, all inhabitants of the American Hemisphere. The Pavonine quetzal inhabits the Amazon. The golden-headed quetzal lives in the Andes of Colombia, Bolivia and parts of Venezuela



This trogon is taking advantage of a natural tree feature to create a nest. (THOR JANSON)

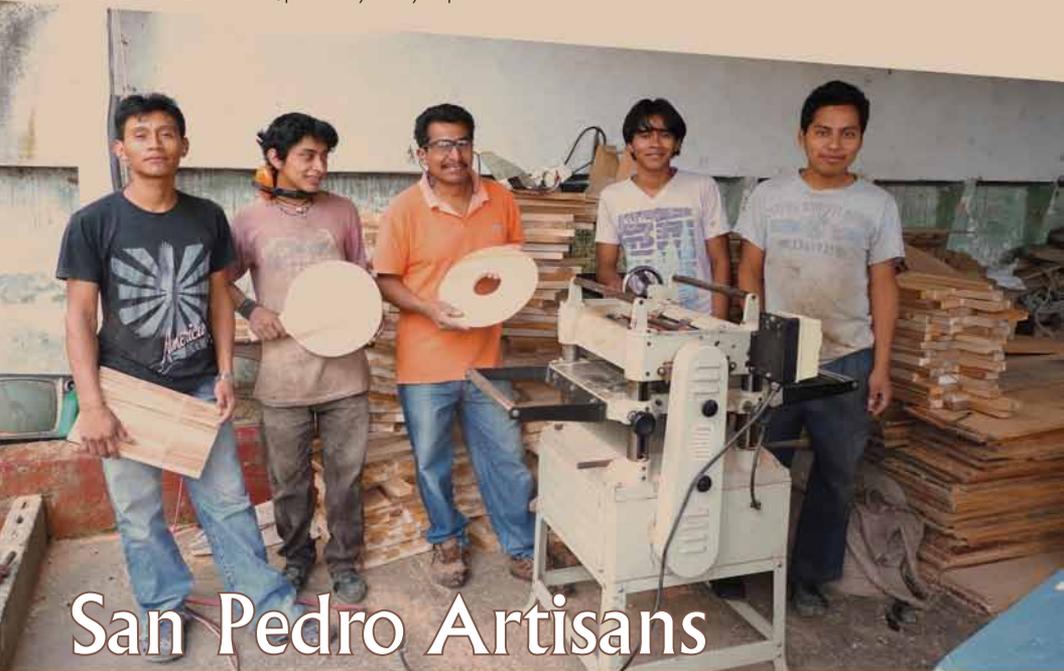
and extreme southern Panama. The white-tipped quetzal is confined to northern Colombia and Venezuela. The crested quetzal ranges from the mountains of Peru and Ecuador up to Venezuela. Our resplendent quetzal inhabits cloud forests from Oaxaca, Mexico and all of Central America down to northern Panama. And finally we have our gringo quetzal, the eared quetzal, which inhabits forests in southwestern U.S. down through mountainous areas of Chihuahua, Durango and reaching its southern limit in Jalisco, Mexico. Another gringo trogon, the elegant trogon, is found in Arizona and New Mexico.

Eventually it is my plan to take a slow trip around the world to investigate and photograph all the different trogon species

and their habitats, and I am combining this project with another one called “Beers of the World!” Beers and birds! That should keep me out of trouble for another decade! 🍷



Autographed books by author, photographer, and conservationist Thor Janson are available for sale at 3a avenida sur #4-A, La Antigua



San Pedro Artisans

“I love what I do. I have acquired considerable experience, and it is rewarding to see people appreciate my work. We work with sustainable woods, and everything we do is entirely done by hand. It is our way of preserving the environment,” explains lead carpenter Teo Hernández.

The carpentry team consists of five, who work just outside of La Antigua Guatemala, modeling various woods into functional creations, but they mainly work with teak. Hernández is the head carpenter of the workshop, and the others look to him as a strong leader.

Teak wood is harvested in the Río Dulce area in Guatemala’s Caribbean region. Grown on sustainable plantations, the trees

are thinned out to encourage the growth of larger trees, and the trees cut down in this process would usually be discarded or burned. Instead, skilled carpenters in Antigua expertly hand shape this wood into hard-wearing, beautiful and strong cutting and serving boards.

“I lead a workshop that specializes in Guatemalan handicrafts, but the story of how I got to do this is not what you’d expect,” explains Hernández. “In 1995 my father was asked to build this workshop, and I tagged along as a bricklayer’s assistant working alongside family members. I loved the kind of work they were doing at the workshop, and realized I wanted to work in woodcarving rather than in construction. The workshop owner ...continued page 74



Holbik (front, second from right) with staff and supporters

Siggy Holbik

Bridging cultures and continents with Guatemalan crafts

Many of us living in (and visiting) La Antigua Guatemala love to stop by Casa de los Gigantes (7a calle oriente #18) from time to time to see what's new in the "House of the Giants." It is well worth your time to investigate every nook and cranny for some treasure or another. This unique store features Guatemalan handicraft at its best.

So who is behind all this ingenuity and who finds and brings in such beautiful things? The answer is Siggy Holbik, originally from Chile, who has been living in Guatemala since 1987 and has been in business here since 1992. I recently sat down with her over a cup of (Guatemalan) coffee.

What motivated her, I asked, to create Casa de los Gigantes? She replied simply, "I had a lot of time on my hands, and I love crafts."

Of course it is more than just the crafts that keeps one in business for some 20 years. Holbik explained that the relationships she has formed are the most rewarding part of the business—from interacting with Guatemalans on a local level to the relationships she has developed with her overseas clients as an exporter of Guatemalan handicrafts. The top-selling products right now are beautiful teak cutting boards. The teak comes from a plantation in Guatemala and is turned into beautiful works of art by employees at her carpentry workshop. ...continued page 50



Guatemala Insight

by Elizabeth Bell
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

Vive la nueva era

Inside the XII International Paiz Festival

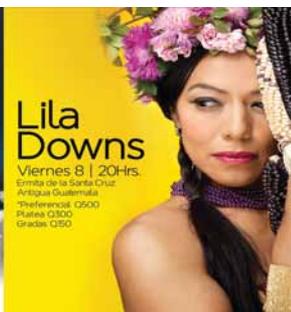
The new phrase for the XII International Paiz Festival is very appropriate as Guatemala has launched itself into a new era with the 13 Baktun, progress in democracy and even with its first medal at the recent Olympics! While the Paiz Festival has been bringing some of the best cultural activities to Antigua since the 1970s, this month we look forward to attending many free concerts in the Central Park and an array of true highlights, including VocaPeople and Lila Downs! Tickets are on sale at the Biblioteca Fuentes y Guzman in Central Park and should be a sell-out.

There is also much more behind the scenes at the Paiz Foundation. It promotes culture and education as powerful engines for development. It believes that investing in Guatemala's future through educational, artistic and cultural programs will improve the quality of life of Guatemalans. Initially organized in the 1970s by the owners of

the Paiz Supermarkets, Carlos and Graciela Paiz, and officially founded in 1990 as a non-profit organization, the Paiz Foundation continues to work hard at these goals through major programs.

Its team is active today in helping needy Guatemalan institutions and projects with anything from books, musical instruments, cleaning materials and clothes to non-perishable foods within its educational and social programs. Projects include the "Programa de Prevención de la Violencia RTI/USAID," where 300 youths receive scholarships for school, a trade (mechanic, baker, nurse, graphic designer) and learning an artistic discipline (music, arts, etc.). "Proyecto Barrilete" teaches youth to deal with challenges, and its programs give children a daily breakfast and older adults meals, medical attention and a place to gather. Many educational institutions contribute as partners.

The Permanent Cultural Program presents a spectacular calendar of events ranging from theater and visual exhibits to workshops designed for various communities and focused on encouraging the viewer to see the world with a different perspective. Children, youth and adults ...cont. page 66





2013
Spirit

by
Sri Ram Kaa
& Kira Raa



Guatemalan smiles (PHOTOS.RUDYGIRON.COM)

Living Love Guatemalan Style!

Arriving in Guatemala is a fascinating moment. Navigating the airport and arriving at your destination will certainly offer you glimpses of stunning landscapes. You will also be greeted by a cacophony of colors that seems bright in contrast to taupe-painted traditional western wear.

For many years prior to making the “leap” and moving here we would visit often and consistently experience the memorable Guatemalan smile. At one point an acquaintance shared a joke with us: How do you know the difference between a Guatemalan and a visitor? The Guatemalan is the one who is smiling.

Let’s face it, in many other countries there is a perception that Guatemala is not a choice destination, and there is a per-

petuation of fear about arriving here. We frequently offer potential visitors the reassurance needed to select Guatemala and to navigate this stunning country safely and with memorable experiences.

What you may find most surprising is that on Dec. 19, 2012 Gallup published a poll that surveyed 150,000 people from 148 counties around the world. The topic? “Are you happy?” The poll included questions about their sense of receiving enough rest, being treated with respect, do they smile or laugh a lot and had they experienced a positive emotion the day before.

Ready for the results?

Seven of the top 10 countries are in Central or South America. Seven! Worldwide our diverse and often contradictory country of Guatemala ranked No. 7 in the happiest places in the world to live.

...continued page 60

*Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna.
email: office@tosspa.com www.LakeAtitlanSpa.com*

DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY 2013

GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

2 Sat., 9am-noon — COOKING CLASS: Guatemalan cuisine; \$40 incl. three hours of instruction, a coffee break and a delicious lunch (prepared by the class), incl. a glass of wine or other beverage; next, a visit to the mercado to find out where to buy the best ingredients. Limited enrollment. Call for a reservation, 7882-4468. La Peña de Sol Latino, **La Antigua**.

2 Sat., 9am-4pm—FAMILY EVENT: Los Equinos en Nuestras Vidas, Fundación Equinos Sanos para el Pueblo ESAP, invites the public to enjoy demos & activities at this fundraising event. Adults, Q20/children, free. La Ronda Equestrian Club, Finca La Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

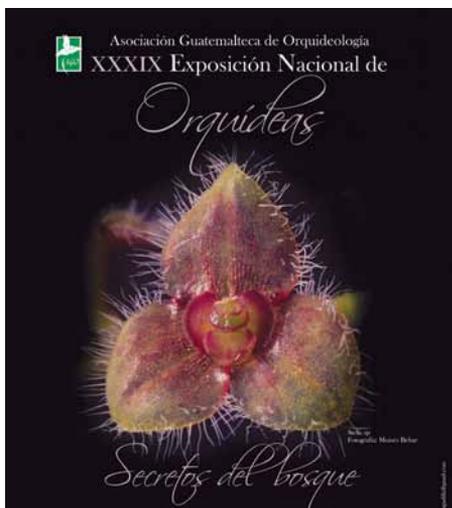
2 Sat., & Sun. 3rd, 7pm — XII Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz-La Nueva Era feature an out of this world performance by VocaPeople. Tickets: Biblioteca Francisco Antonio de Fuentes y Guzmán, across from Central Park (Antigua) & todoticket.com. Additional info: www.fundaciónpaiz.org.gt. La Ermita de la Santa Cruz, **La Antigua**. See related articles pgs. 20, 32. ▼



4 Mon., 7:15pm — FILM: The Union (English w/Spanish subtitles) presented by Cine Conciencia. Q25. Cine Conciencia Facebook for details. La Cúpula, Cineteatro, 7 Avenida 13-02, z. 9, **Guatemala City**

7 Thurs., through Sat., 9th — MEETING: XIII Ophthalmologic National Congress & VII Central American Congress of Retina, Vitreous and Macula (www.ofthalmologosdeguatemala.org); over 300 specialists from Central America, Colombia, Mexico, Belize & the U.S. will be attending. Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**.

7 Thurs., through Sun., 10, 9am-6pm — ORCHIDS: XXXIX National exposition of orchids presented by the Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología. Salón Social José Mariano Arzú Castillo, Cervecería Centroamericana, S.A., 3a av. 17-16, Finca El Zapote, z. 2, **Guatemala City**. ▼



DATEBOOK

8 Fri., 8pm—The XII Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz presents the multi-talented Lila Downs singing a unique musical fusion of melodies based on the sounds of Oaxaca Tickets: Biblioteca Francisco Antonio de Fuentes y Guzmán, across from Central Park (Antigua) & todoticket.com. Additional info: www.fundaciónpaiz.org.gt. Ermita de la Santa Cruz, **La Antigua**. ▼



9 Sat., 1pm — MAYAN CEREMONY: Concert & dance by Niños con Bendición from San Antonio Aguas Calientes featuring authentic costumes, dances and music performed as a benefit for their education. Marimbas flutes and bombas! Come! Discover and take part and enjoy a bit of the ancient Mayan culture. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

9 Sat., 4-7pm — ART: La Antigua, Galería de Arte proudly presents Arte al Tiempo, a group exhibit by renown Guatemalan painters Mauro López and Mario García, and sculptor Flavio Santacruz. Their objective is to pay tribute to the galleries and other venues, that housed their very first pieces of art—reflecting their work as artists, their interactions with the people and their surroundings; and as artists that they feel stronger than ever. La Antigua, Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.

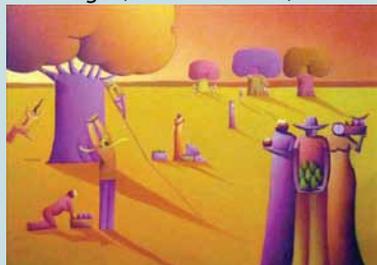
9 Sat., 5pm — BOOK SIGNING: Los Coyotes Tienen Suerte by Robert Hinshaw. Cacique Inn, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**. See related article on page 70.

9 Sat., 9am-noon — COOKING CLASS: La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle pon. #15-C, **La Antigua**. SEE LISTING, **Sat. 2nd.**

11, 18, 25 Mon., 6pm — (Spanish) TALLER: Redacción y Estilo con Arturo Monterroso. Q1,500 (20 horas). IGA (tel: 2422-5555), **Guatemala City**.

12, 19, 26 Tues., 6pm — (Spanish) TALLER: Escritura Creativa con Arturo Monterroso. Q1,500 (20 horas). IGA (tel: 2422-5555), **Guatemala City**.

12 Tues., 6pm — (Spanish) SEMINARIO de Antropología Psicoanalítica AGEAC. Taller de Autoconocimiento como base para encontrar a la pareja perfecta. Diferencias entre Amor y pasión. La importancia de la compatibilidad de personalidades. Cómo mantener el Amor y la buena relación de pareja. El amor como fuerza universal. antigua@ageac.org Q10. Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro prolongación #6, **La Antigua**.



DATEBOOK

12 Tues., 5:30pm — **BENEFIT DANCE:** Mayan Dances by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer. K'a k'a' Saqarik-Nuevo Amanecer is a local charity dedicated to helping more than 30 indigenous children in San Andrés Itzapa. They are working hard to keep these children in good health, to educate them and to preserve the local Mayan traditions such as the language and dance. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), **La Antigua**.

13 Wed. — Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. **Worldwide.**

13 Wed., 5pm — **ART:** Kristine McCallister and Annie Lopez. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**. ▼



13 Wed., 6pm — **PRESENTATION:** Antigua: Behind the Walls with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one hour presentation of Antigua and its heritage through vintage and contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Q30 per p/p. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Join us at Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, **La Antigua**.

14 Thurs. — **VALENTINE'S DAY**



14 Thurs., — **VALENTINE'S CELEBRATION:** Romantic night without lights, romantic food, live music and chocolate! La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

15 Thurs., 6pm — **YOU'RE INVITED:** La Fundación Cultural Duane Carter/La Biblioteca invites you to learn more about its wonderful lending library at a cocktail gathering. Portal de las Panaderas, #2, second floor, central park. **La Antigua**.

15 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) **VELADA ROMÁNTICA:** Siempre tendremos París. Una noche para compartir con esa persona que te ha vuelto un poeta. Lectura de de poesía y músicos invitados. Q15. Casa del Río (tel: 7832-5438), Calle del Hermano Pedro, prolongación #6, **La Antigua**.

16 Sat., 11:55am — **OPERA:** Michael Mayer's new production of Verdi's Rigoletto, Met Live in HD. Q120 adults/Q95 adults over 65 years. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**. See related article on page 36.

Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the Mar., 2013 edition of the **REVUE** by **MON**, February 11

DATEBOOK



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Tels: 7832-5821, 7832-0053

17 Sun., 10am-2pm — ORGANIC Farmer's Market: lots of products, lovely atmosphere, remember your recycled shopping bags. Info: (www.facebook.com/diaorganico.guate) Pasos y Pedales, Avenida de las Américas, Plaza México, **Guatemala City.**



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4a calle oriente #14 - Antigua

18 Mon., 7pm — FILM: The Last Farmer (Italian/Spanish w/ Spanish subtitles) presented by Cine Conciencia Film Club. Q25. Parking avail. Details, www.facebook.com/CineConcienciaGuatemala La Cúpula: (2331-8378), **Guatemala City.**

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DATEBOOK
Calendar of Events
ONLINE in an easy-to-use format...
www.REVUE.gt/datebook

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R DateBook online: 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 — David with easy listening jazzy coffee house guitar and vocals (Pique on the conga)

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

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

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



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

Las Palmas

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

Mondays & Tuesdays — Andean music with William, David and Nery

Wednesdays & Thursdays — Bossa Brazil, North American, Sofá Rock and Boleros with Trujillo, Gilberto, Bryan and René

Fridays & Saturdays — Tropical Salsa with Grupo Caribe



Fridas

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

Fridays — World music.

Restaurante Personajes

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

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

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1 km south of Santiago Atitlán, Lake Atitlán

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

Kape Paulinos

tel: 7840-3806 Km 87.5 Carretera Interamericana, Tecpán

Sundays — 1 to 4pm: Live marimba band

Music expresses feeling and thought, without language; it was below and before speech, and it is above and beyond all words.
—Robert G. Ingersoll

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

MUSIC

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.



Circus Bar

tel: 7762-2056 Avenida de los Arboles, Panajachel

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

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

9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

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

8pm: Rockiris, alternative rock.

9pm: Latin ensemble.

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

8pm: Latin ensemble.

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

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

8pm: Latin ensemble.

9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

Fridays — 7pm: Flamenco by Marco El Messina.

8pm: Latin ensemble.

9pm: Trova del Lago.

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

Sundays — Latin ensemble.

Trova Jazz

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

Friday Concerts —

Feb. 1: Armando Pineda. Q50

Feb. 8: Julio Dávila. Q30

Feb. 15: Enamorarock, Valentine's celebration Q50

Saturday, 9th & 16th

— 7:30pm: Noche

de Trova with Rony Hernández, Cocky Valdez and other Guatemalan trovadores. No cover.

www.trovajazz.com



DATEBOOK

19 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: ARCAS: The Conservation of Nature within the Mayan Cosmology presented by Shuni Girón Maya AJQ'IJ, (spiritual guide) and an active environmentalist of Arcas Guatemala. In this presentation learn about the Popol Vuh (sacred book of the Mayas) and the message that is encoded in its sacred text about our species, our plants and our planet. Come and find out more about the Mayas and how they felt about mother nature then and now, especially during this period of Purification (Feb 17-21) called The Wayeb. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

22 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) POESÍA: Chinique Poesía, por Colectivo Apaste Animo. Gerardo García del Cid, Vinicio Samayoa, Eynard Menéndez, José María Flores y músicos invitados. Entrada libre. Casa del Río (tel: 7832-5438), Calle del Hermano Pedro, prolongación #6, **La Antigua**.

23 Sat., 7pm — (Spanish) TEATRO: Romper el Silencio por Fernando Ortiz. Montaje escénico realizado a través del mimo, biodanza y poesía, el discurso narrativo de la obra borda el techo imaginario de un mimo que vive agonizando de su propio silencio en un mundo que es un viejo recuerdo o un objeto inventado, hasta que descubre los sonidos a través de la música y la palabra escrita. Un mundo posible y sin ataduras a través de la literatura y el viejo arte de la mimesis. Q15. Casa del Río (tel: 7832-5438), Calle del Hermano Pedro, prolongación #6, next to Puente Belén, **La Antigua**.

23 Sat., 10am — (Spanish) CHARLA: Control de las enfermedades autoinmunes con Apiterapia. Enfermedades que afectan nuestra piel, músculos articulares, glóbulos rojos y otros componentes de la sangre. Vivero y Café de La Escalonia, 5a. av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**.

26 Tues., 5:30 — TALK: Guatemalans generating their own opportunities through modern community libraries. The Riecken Foundation's mission is to promote democracy and prosperity in Central America through modern community libraries that spark a spirit of discovery and foster social participation. In Guatemala, we support and coordinate with eleven lending libraries that offer dynamic programming that engage communities to generate opportunities for themselves in everything from strengthening pride in their local culture and language, to developing leadership and communications skills, and entrepreneurial ideas and ambitions. Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

27 Wed., & March 6, 13 & 20, 9-11am — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: Virgen María en Guatemala, por Lic. Miguel Álvarez. Museo Popol Vuh, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City**.

28 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CHARLA: Figurillas de la Corte Real del Entierro 39 (Proyecto Arqueológico El Perú Waka). Dictada por Griselda Pérez. Contribución Q30. Estudiantes Q15. Parque tarifa única Q30. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City**.

Please submit your **DATEBOOK** entry for the Mar., 2013 edition of the **REVUE** by MON., February 11

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

DATEBOOK



*La Antigua
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"Arte al Tiempo"

by

*Maura Lopez
Mario Garcia
Flavia Santacruz*

February 9 - March 8, 2013

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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

Mondays 10am & Thursdays at 2:30pm: Join the staff of Common Hope for a free 2-hour village tour to learn how we partner with families in education, health care, and housing programs. Tours depart from the fountain in Antigua's central park. Or tel: 7922-6600 to arrange a private tour of the Family Development Center. Details, visit www.commonhope.org. **La Antigua**.

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

Wednesdays, 8pm — (Spanish) COMEDIA: 1,000 maneras de reir, por El Cubo y sus amigotes. Q60. Trovajazz, Vía 6, 3-55, z. 4, Guatemala City.

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

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

DATEBOOK

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Thurs., 8:30am — TOUR: Visit Ciudad Vieja, you'll see where many Niños de Guatemala families work and live: incl. a shop that transforms U.S. buses into camionetas, a carpentry workshop, a coffee finca and a typical neighborhood. Also, visit the school built by Niños de Guatemala where you can meet the students. A snack is provided. Q200/Q100 for students (carnet). Proceeds benefit Niños de Guatemala projects. Info. & details: Antigua_office@niniosdeguatemala.org or tel: 7832-8033. Private tours can be arranged. **Ciudad Vieja.**

Saturdays, 10:30-12pm — (Spanish) TALLER DE PINTURA: niños para edades de 5 a 10. La Casa del Río (tel: 7832-5438), a la par de puente Belén, **La Antigua.**

Saturdays, 2-4pm — RUGBY CLUB: Workouts weekly, come and join us. Q15. <http://rugby.com.gt/antigua> for more info. Centro Los Luteranos, **La Antigua.**

Saturdays 4pm — (Spanish) CINE INFANTIL. Cooperación Española, (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte (between 3a & 4a calle poniente), **La Antigua.**

PLAN AHEAD

March 3, Sun., 8am-5pm — EXCURSION: A day at finca Zapote where friends and family can picnic, fish, swim, and enjoy spectacular surroundings. Organized by Museo Ixchel. Details: info@museoixchel.org / tel: 2361-8081. Finca El Zapote, Escuintla. See related article on page 58.



March 8 Fri., 7pm — IV NOCHE DE LOS CHEFS: Gala charity dinner with a selection of specialities from some of Antigua's best restaurants. Great food in a beautiful setting benefitting Educarte and Semillas de Amor. Info. www.degustantigua.com. Convento de Capuchinas, **La Antigua.**

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DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

VOCA PEOPLE

They are out of this world!



This month the XII Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz—La Nueva Era features VocaPeople who will be performing in La Antigua Guatemala on Sat., Feb. 2 and Sun., Feb. 3, both performances at 7 p.m., La Ermita de la Santa Cruz. Following is an offbeat interview with Lior Kalfó, creator and director of VocaPeople:

Tell us about planet Voca, how many inhabitants are there?

Kalfó: Voca is more like a beautiful, white and shiny star, though some say it's really the planet of creativity.

Does everyone communicate through music?

Kalfó: This is the beauty of VocaPeople, there is only music and vocal expressions, no instruments, and together they sound like a full orchestra. It is pure, sheer talent; this is why Shai Fisham (musical director) and I were so astonished by these mysterious inter-galactic travelers. They can imitate the sound of any musical instruments.

What does music mean to VocaPeople?

Kalfó: It's the most powerful source of energy. It creates life, communication, meaning and harmony. Their motto is "Life is Music, Music is Life."

We know that you have visited planet Earth several times, what is your most pleasant memory of this planet?

Kalfó: Shai and I are earthlings but VocaPeople have sent several delegations to planet Earth. There have been so many pleasant moments.

They spent over a year in NYC, performing on Off-Broadway; and also in the subway stations. They loved the audiences. They've travelled to 20 countries in the three years and each place and its people were special and unique to them.

What is their impression of the human race?

Kalfó: They adore the music of planet Earth, with so many cultures, languages and musical themes and styles. But, VocaPeople are worried that humans are not making the most of the wonderful music on their planet. They want to send them a message: Make music, not war!

What kind of performance can audiences in Guatemala expect from VocaPeople?

Kalfó: It will be an hour and a half musical journey featuring seventy popular songs that will connect audience members with their own inner child, memories and feelings. The arrangements are brilliant and innovative—the purity of sound of a cappella and a beat box feels like it's coming from out of this world. Whether you are five or 105, you'll laugh, a lot, and leave the show humming and singing to yourself. Thank you Guatemala, VocaPeople are excited to visit!

- The XII Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz—La Nueva Era will also feature a performance by Lila Downs in a not-to-be-missed performance on Fri., Feb. 8, 8pm, Ermita de la Santa Cruz. (for details see DateBook)
- Tickets for VocaPeople and Lila Downs available at Todoticket and la Biblioteca Municipal de Antigua Guatemala, "Francisco Antonio Fuentes y Guzmán."
- For more information visit www.fundaciónpaiz.org.gt

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REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Feb.
Thanks to Mercedes Sosa Morales for her photo titled "Descubriendo una verdadera amistad"

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Traditional 11:00 am
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email: unionchurchguatemala@gmail.com
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There are big ships and small ships. But the best ship of all is friendship. —Author unknown

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Only your real friends will tell you when your face is dirty. —Sicilian Proverb



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2nd PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Feb.

Congratulations to Alejandro Barillas on his photograph titled “Conquista”
 Prize: 2 bottles of wine, **Santa Ana**. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.com

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—Deborah Epperson

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A single rose can be my garden... a single
friend, my world. —Leo Buscaglia

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If it's very painful for you to criticize your friends—
you're safe in doing it. But if you take the slightest
pleasure in it, that's the time to hold your tongue.
—Alice Duer Miller

A true friend unbosoms freely, advises justly,
assists readily, adventures boldly, takes all
patiently, defends courageously, and continues
a friend unchangeably. —William Penn

If a man does not make new acquaintances as
he advances through life, he will soon find himself
alone. A man should keep his friendships in
constant repair. —Samuel Johnson

Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo,
but what you want is someone who will take
the bus with you when the limo breaks down.
—Oprah Winfrey

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The Metropolitan Opera Closer to Home

IGA and the Met team up to bring “Maria Stuarda” to Guatemala City

When I hear “the Metropolitan Opera,” Guatemala is not the first word that comes to mind. Like the New York City refugee I am, my first thoughts turn to the very best sopranos and tenors in the world, intricate sets and choreography and the Lincoln Center, just a short distance from Central Park. However, the Met, in partnership with the Instituto Guatemalteco Americano (IGA) in Guatemala City, thinks the revered opera institution and Guatemala go hand in hand.

Since 2006, the Met has streamed its opera performances from Lincoln Center to partner theaters in far away places such as Peru, Egypt and Malta. The program, called *Live in HD*, now screens at the IGA theater in the capital—a bi-national institution dedicated to the promotion of cultural and artistic exchanges between the U.S. and Guatemala. The institute found the Met program to be a perfect addition to its Opera for All roster, which regularly presents operas to promote the art in Guatemala.

María Denisse Vásquez, director of cultural affairs at IGA, said the process of bringing *Live in HD* to the Guatemalan cultural center took over three years. “IGA...started working on this project with the Met...in order to be able to give Guatemalan audiences the possibility to enjoy high-level performances...” After a significant investment to comply with technical requirements outlined by the Met, IGA presented its first opera in October 2012. The institute is proud to screen the very same operas staged between the magnificent red velvet curtains in

New York, with translations in both English and Spanish.

The program is also attracting its share of international travelers as well. *Live in HD* performances have inspired a new term among opera lovers—Destination Opera—to describe travel solely for the purpose of attending great works such as Verdi’s *Aida*, Puccini’s *La Bohème* or Bizet’s *Carmen*.

Joel Atlas Skirble, board member of the Gala Hispanic Theatre in Washington, D.C., the city’s only bilingual theatre, is familiar with the term. He and his fiancée, a resident of El Salvador and fellow opera lover, were both on hand last month for the Met and IGA’s presentation of Donizetti’s *Maria Stuarda*, based on a fictional exchange between Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I. Their choice to travel to Guatemala was part love for its mild, year-round temperatures and overall pleasant vibe and part geographical necessity—currently the only other Central American country offering the Met’s program is Costa Rica—and Guatemala is a convenient meeting ground between the U.S. and El Salvador.

The pair also liked the idea of attending workshops offered by IGA before performances. The IGA program gives brief overviews of the opera in general, a synopsis of the upcoming performance to enhance understanding and enjoyment, and is free of charge. Mr. Atlas Skirble says this program is not offered at his home opera house in the U.S. He says this is the first time he has traveled to see an opera, but he plans to combine the two more often, most likely in Guatemala.

Ms. Vásquez says Destination Opera go-


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Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity. —Henry Van Dyke

ers like Mr. Atlas Skirble is evidence to a growing interest in the combination of opera and travel, but also the growing interest in opera among Guatemaltecos as well. IGA is ready to fill this demand with a host of opera screenings and programs that run through April (for more info, visit www.iga.edu). This New York ex-pat might even cancel her next Lincoln Center trip and stay a little closer to home instead. 

February calendar: 16 Sat., 11:55am —
OPERA: Rigoletto, Met Live in HD.
Q120 adults (Q95 over 65 yrs.) IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1 4-05, z. 4, Guatemala City.

Natalie Rose is a freelance writer based in La Antigua, Guatemala. Her favorite destination is New York and her favorite opera is Aida.

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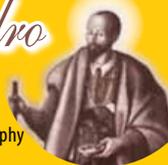
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The subject matter was fascinating. Dr. Zetina was presenting detailed clinical reviews of complex cancer cases recently brought before the newly formed “Tumor Board” of top-notch oncology specialists, in alliance with Hospital El Pilar in Guatemala City. I need to know all about these important developments in order to accurately inform my clients and to disclose all the compelling facts in my next cancer article. I was studying the charts and listening to the presentation in Spanish, deciphering the medical terminology, translating it to English, condensing to digestible facts and writing my notes. Then, my world

became hot, and spun around, and went black. Just like that, in seconds.

With the help of Dr. Linares, I recovered from the seizure a few minutes later, confused, weak and aching like I had just aged 30 years. Beyond the initial incredulity, I was absolutely indignant that my own body could have betrayed me so completely, with no warning and no mercy. Clearly, I needed some top-of-the-line doctors and specialized high-tech diagnostics right away.

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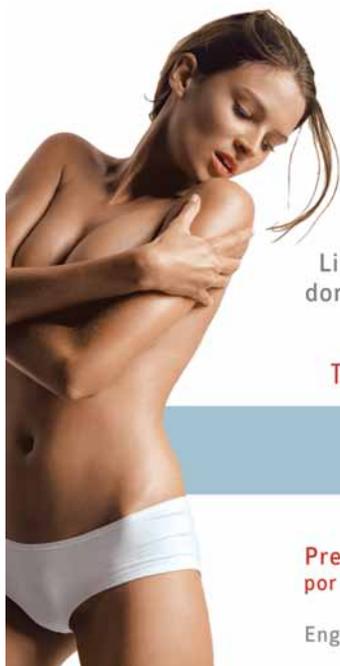
with no universal health care and an insanely expensive, convoluted medical system. I know that my Guatemalan doctors will have the skills and patience to diagnose my problem and guide my choices,

...continued page 76



(L) Dr. Zetina, Oncology
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Lori Shea is the founder of Guatemala Medical Travel (www.GuatemalaMedicalTravel.com); you can contact her directly: lori@guatemalamedicaltravel.com



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We are each the star of our own situation comedy, and, with luck, the screwball friend in somebody else's. —Robert Brault

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Probably no man ever had a friend that he did not dislike a little. —E.W. Howe

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You can always tell a real friend: when you've made a fool of yourself he doesn't feel you've done a permanent job. —Laurence J. Peter

Friends are like walls. Sometimes you lean on them, and sometimes it's good just knowing they are there. —Isabel Norton

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A small sampling of handmade items from one of the many showrooms in Casa de los Gigantes

Holbik loves the quality of life that living here brings—time for friends, enjoyment of beautiful scenery and her acquaintance of interesting residents and visitors here. Her favorite place in Guatemala is her house—“because it is beautiful, peaceful and welcoming to friends.” And she is never bored; she works in many sections of Guatemala with many different people and materials, such as pine needles, plastic, wood, textiles and natural dyes. She claims she is always challenged but in a good way. Holbik sees herself as a bridge between cultures. She can help Guatemalans understand the perspective of other

cultures and can help those from abroad understand the Guatemalan culture.

Holbik enjoys the relationship that one can have with a product. A person made what you are holding in your hand. The energy put into making that product is to be enjoyed by the buyer. It is something real.

As you browse through Casa de los Gigantes, remember everything has been made by human hands, right here in Guatemala. When you give a gift from your travels, remember that you are now acting as a bridge between cultures, transferring the energy from one country to another. 📖



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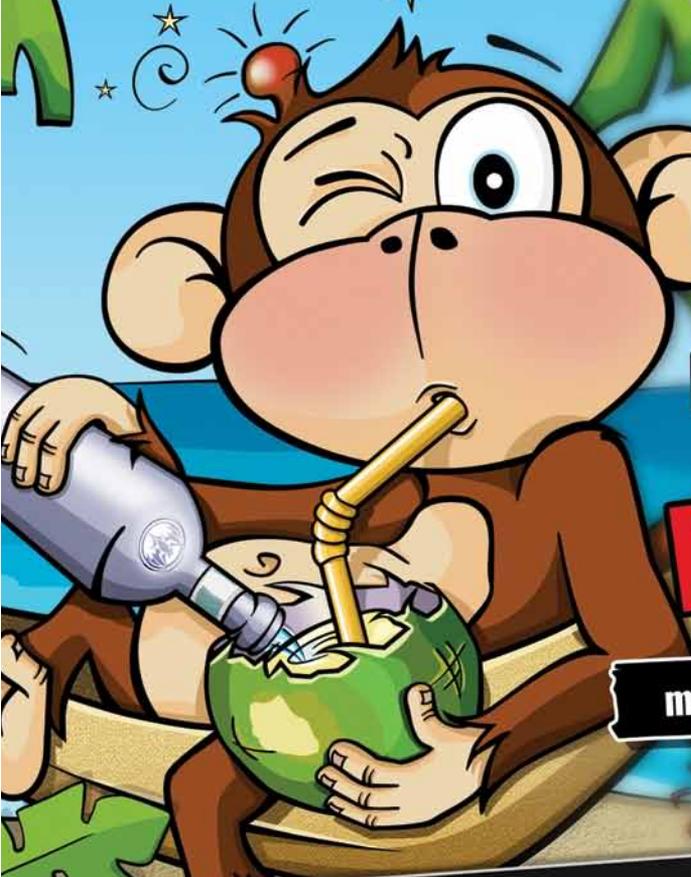
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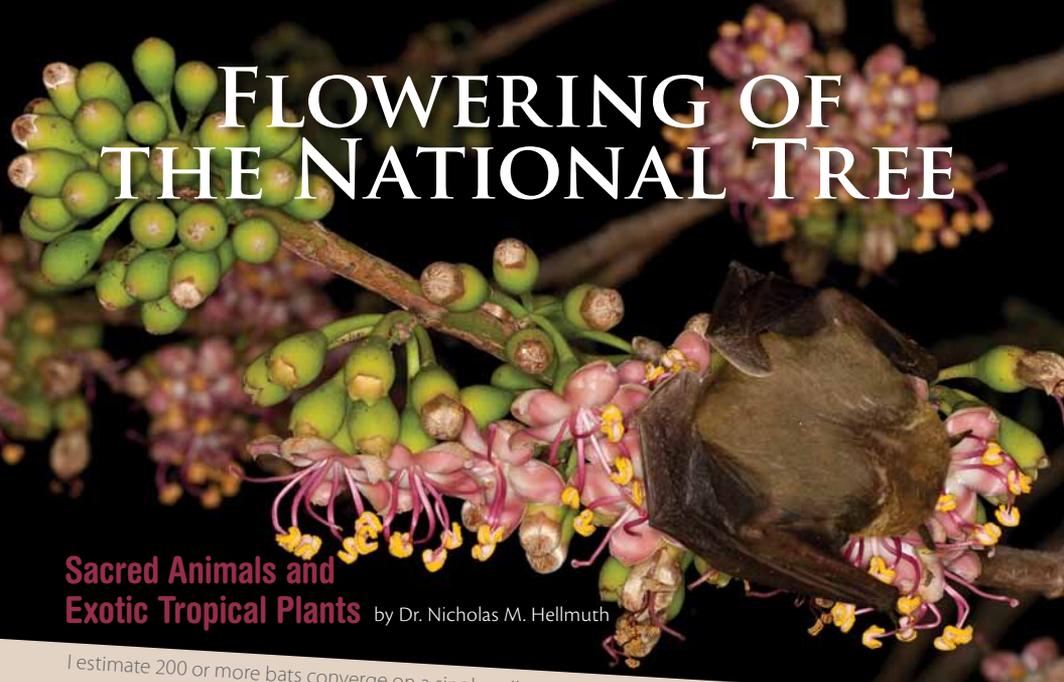
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FLOWERING OF THE NATIONAL TREE

**Sacred Animals and
Exotic Tropical Plants** by Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth

Estimate 200 or more bats converge on a single ceiba tree for the nectar released during flower blooming.

The ceiba tree is the national tree of Guatemala and was the sacred World Tree of the Mayan civilization. There are two species of ceiba tree in Guatemala; Ceiba pentandra is the national tree.

The primary feature of the ceiba tree that the Maya noticed and copied was the conical spines. It is known by most Mayanists that the decorative spines on many incense burners and some burial urns are modeled after spines on ceiba trees. But another feature of the ceiba tree are the flowers.

I have been studying and photographing the spines on ceiba trees for many years. I grow ceiba trees in my ethnobotanical garden, and we have even begun to shoot 3-D photography of the prickles. But in all the years, I have never seen a ceiba tree flower. Now I know why: They bloom only at night, and only for a limited period.

In late November it was possible to

photograph two ceiba trees flowering near Monterrico (at km 133 and 145). It is totally unexpected to have a ceiba tree flower in November or even December. Most botanical monograph and peer-reviewed journal articles report that the ceiba tends to bloom during the dry season (roughly December to April). But our photographs demonstrate that you need to get out into the field and look beyond scientific journals and you will soon learn that some species do not behave precisely as textbooks say they are supposed to.

What is correctly documented in botanical discussions is that Ceiba pentandra trees are irregular in whether they bloom every year. I have often seen groups of ceiba trees where only one of the group bloomed that year (even though I never saw the flowers, you can easily see the large fluffy seed pods for months after the tree flowers). Lo-

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Ceiba trees bloom only at night and only for a limited period.

cal people say that most of the large ceiba trees do not bloom every year.

To see a ceiba tree flowering, find a tree that is losing its leaves. Then check to see whether buds are forming. Then return to the tree about 6 in the evening to see if the buds are getting ready to open. Once the buds are ripe, they will pop open by about 7 p.m.

Actually, it is more like a symphony, with probably about 1,000 buds opening within a 20-minute period. A tree will continue to bloom for more than a week. But each individual flower lasts only one night; all flowers fall off the tree the next day. It is like a hail storm to stand under

a giant ceiba tree during flowering season. Flowers rain down upon you. And then bats arrive for the nectar; you also get a hail of buds since the bats' activity knocks off lots of buds.

I estimate 200 or more bats converge on a single tree. Better wear a cap and old clothes, as you will be drenched in yellow pollen and wet nectar, and we suspected some of the "rain" was bat urine and feces! But the experience is well worth getting your clothes soiled. There was so much pollen raining on us that one of the camera lenses had to be cleaned off.

The bats did not attack us; they would come within two meters to alight on a flower bunch to suck the nectar. The bats turned bright yellow with all the pollen, which stuck to their hair.

Ceiba trees are very common in Guatemala but to get the full experience you need a tree with low branches. We used a tall ladder to get even closer.

I do not yet have any evidence that ceiba flowers were portrayed in Mayan art, but seeing them all pop open within a few minutes, attracting hundreds of bats, makes the effort to find a flowering ceiba tree so worthwhile.

We will be posting additional photographs on our www.maya-archaeology.org website. 📷

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

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Finca El Zapote

You are invited to the annual charity picnic

Mark your calendar! **On Sunday March 3 (8 a.m.-5 p.m.), visitors will again have the rare opportunity to visit Finca El Zapote.** Those familiar with the extraordinary book *Maya de Guatemala* will recall that El Zapote was where Carmen Pettersen, at age 70 and blind in one eye, undertook the extraordinary task of painting Guatemalan native costumes to ensure that their tradition would not be lost. Her models were employees at the farm, now run by a third generation of her descendants; it is still possible today to run across some of them at the farm.

The entire proceeds from the sale of *Maya de Guatemala* were donated to the Museo Ixchel and represented a significant contribution toward building the museum, which houses the entire collection of Mrs.

Pettersen's original watercolors, amidst the Ixchel's invaluable collection of Mayan textiles. The showrooms have undergone a recent renovation and represent a new and fresh exposure to our textile treasures and heritage. A must see in Guatemala City!

Tucked away in a remote corner of Escuintla at the foot of Fuego volcano, the El Zapote farm is inaccessible by land once the rainy season begins and the rivers start to rise. While the weather is beautiful and warm, the Loenowens family, owners of this breathtaking property, graciously extend their hospitality, once a year, as a fundraising activity for the Museo Ixchel.

El Zapote has been producing cinchona for export since the 1950s when demand for the malaria-fighting substance increased dramatically after World War II. Cinchona



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The annual picnic takes place on over 30 acres of impeccably landscaped gardens, designed over 60 years ago and lush and rich with a blend of tropical and temperate vegetation. There are also five stocked freshwater ponds scattered throughout the property. One of these even has a Tarzan-style rope, which attracts a long line of people of all ages seeking the thrill of swinging from the rope and jumping in. Fishing poles are available for rent.

This annual event is a real treat, and the scenery alone is worth the trip. But more importantly it constitutes an important fundraiser for the Museo Ixchel in its efforts to preserve native Mayan dress. 



Rope swinging into the swimming pond

Tickets and directions are provided at the museum. For more information contact: info@museoixchel.org Tels: 2361-8081 /2



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Living Love cont. from page 21

An interesting note is that the people least likely to report positive emotions lived in Singapore, the wealthy city-state that ranks among the most developed in the world. Other wealthier countries also placed low on the list. Germany and France tied with the poor African state of Somaliland for 47th place. The United States came in at No. 33.

Diving deeper into this revelation we discovered a quote on a website. It seems to sum up why Guatemalans feel so content:

“In Guatemala, it’s a culture of friendly people who are always smiling,” said Luz Castillo, a 30-year-old surfing instructor. “Despite all the problems that we’re facing, we’re surrounded by natural beauty that lets us get away from it all.”

On any given day in the central park in La Antigua Guatemala young lovers find themselves on benches stealing kisses, confident no one can see them. Walk down the street and the couple that has been married for 30 years or more are holding hands and smiling at each other, still enraptured by their love for each other. Start up a conversation about the fertile land here and watch people light up. There is always an affirming story to share about the bounty of the land and her beauty.

Today, as you enjoy the gift of simply being alive and taking in the vast experiences that Guatemala offers to you, if even for a moment, take the time to notice how many smiles are coming your way.

Smiles are universal and transcend borders, language and paradigms. Smiles keep you happy. It is love ... Guatemalan style, and now is the time to unlock the happiness within and share it with all who get you. 

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La Camioneta

Guatemalan Bus documentary wins awards at film festivals

Guatemala is no stranger to the iconic symbol of North American transport—big, yellow school buses crowd the streets of tiny pueblos and carry thousands of Guatemalans up and down the country every day. But how do these buses go from the United States down to Guatemala and become transformed into *camionetas*?

Mark Kendall's debut documentary, *La Camioneta*, sets out to discover—following one decommissioned school bus from an auction lot in Pennsylvania, across the Mexican border and into a junkyard where it's prepared to enter the transportation infrastructure of Guatemala.

The young U.S. filmmaker came across the idea for the documentary while riding a *camioneta* during his first trip to Guatemala almost four years ago.

"I struck up a conversation with one of the drivers, and my curiosity was piqued when he told me the *camioneta* we were on came from a school district in Tennessee, just 20 miles from where I was living at the time. I found myself thinking about the old school bus I used to ride to basketball games in high school," Kendall said. "Where was it now? And who was it caring for?"

Traveling over 3,000 miles, through three countries and across two borders, *La Camioneta* is a film about migration, connectedness and exchange between the Americas. The story centers on a former school bus stripped of its uniform yellow paint, redesigned and ready to begin its new life in Guatemala.

When Kendall began, he did not know where in Guatemala the ...continued page 64

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bus might end up, who might be its new owner, or what route—if any—it might end up joining. Kendall never set out to make a film about violence, but the story quickly changed when the bus he'd been following was enlisted in Rutas Quetzal, one of Guatemala's most dangerous routes. Since 2006, nearly 1,000 *camioneta* drivers and fare collectors have been killed in Guatemala for failing to pay the extortion money demanded by local gangs and the profession has arguably become the nation's most dangerous.

However, *La Camioneta* manages to move well beyond the blood-soaked headlines and provides a beautiful, intimate portrait of a transnational transportation community. To do this, the film follows one decommissioned American school bus

through a collection of moments that unfold during its transformative journey and introduces us to a number of sympathetic characters and events in a very intimate way. Nothing is oversimplified for the sake of narrative convenience, and the film suggests that not everything is as beautiful as the bright colors of the *camionetas* might suggest. Ultimately, the film becomes a deeply poetic meditation that quietly reminds us of the interconnected worlds in which we live.

Last March the film premiered at the SXSW Film Festival in Austin, TX, and has since screened at the Los Angeles Film Festival and AFI Latin American Film Festival, winning a number of awards along the way. In December, the film screened in Guatemala City as part of the Festival ICARO, where it set a new record for festival attendance and was presented a second time as the closing night film in Quetzaltenango.

Last month, *La Camioneta* was recognized with the David L. Wolper Award from the International Documentary Association at an event at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles and this year *La Camioneta* will have its International Premiere in March as part of the Documentary Competition at the Festival Internacional de Cine en Guadalajara, one of Latin America's most prestigious cinema events. 

To find out more about *La Camioneta* visit: www.lacamionetafilm.com and Facebook: www.facebook.com/lacamioneta

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We're all a little weird. And life is a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall into mutually satisfying weirdness—and call it love—true love. —Robert Fulghum

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Paiz Festival cont. from page 20

are involved year round, allowing them access to artistic activities. Through this program, local communities are creating a new window in local artistic production. Three main projects are the “Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz” (this month), the “Festival de Marimbas” and the “Bienal de Arte Paiz”—all world-class events.

“ArteCentro Graciela Andrade de Paiz” is a “WOW” socio-cultural center in downtown Guatemala City, where the first Paiz Supermarket opened in 1958. In 2005, it was transformed into an amazing center for the arts: dance, music, theater, literature and visual arts. Movies, exhibits and just about any and all contemporary cultural expressions are found here today. Nothing old fashioned about this center as it has up-to-date technology. Classes and workshops have a modest price and are open all year.

Over the years, we have attended concerts by José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, Eugenia Garza, Olivia Gorra and Fernando de la Mora; seen theatrical groups including Rajatabla de Venezuela y Maticandela (Colombia), the Bolshoi Ballet and the Imperial Ballet, and I particularly enjoyed Tango Forever and the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company.

This year we won't miss the fabulous Vo-caPeople (**Feb. 2 & 3**)—an international vocal theater performance combining vocal sounds and a capella singing with the art of beat. (Great fun!) Lila Downs (**Feb. 8**) brings music from Oaxaca with her own style—a musical mixture of Mixtec, Zapotec, Maya, Purepecha and Nahuatl.

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The Zen of...

Plant(e)ar



One day in about 1991, I was at some government ministerio doing paperwork; I forget what. Somebody on the 12th floor directed me to the primera planta near the elevator. There I would find the office I needed, to pick up a signature, pay a fee, or whatever; again, I forget that part. But I do recall walking down the hall, past alternating doors and potted plants (facing bay windows) toward the elevator. I stopped at the last plant and turned into the nearest office.

Oddly, the receptionist had no idea what I needed. As so often happens to language-challenged foreigners, I had entered The Twilight Zen!

Everywhere, save at a florist shop, primera planta (or planta baja) indicates the ground floor. And indeed, I later found what I was seeking on the first floor, near the elevator.

In addition to such things as this, la planta covers both kinds of plants in English: botanical and industrial.

The first example of the latter, in my childhood reckoning, was the titanium plant in Henderson,

Nevada. This metal refinery bore little resemblance to, say, a daffodil, but both are plants or plantas, because both are planted in dirt. So it is that in both tongues “plants” give us everything from saffron to microchips (to say nothing of confusion).

Planta has more meanings than plant; it may refer not only to titanium plants but to their floor plans or blueprints. Our word plan may be a truncation of this; more on planning later.

Plant is also a name or, potentially, a nickname. A Tracy Plant Farrington at Guatemala’s Union Church could as well be Tracy “Plant” Farrington because, one year at the Christmas bazaar, she supplied myrrh plants.

But I am more concerned with the confusable verbs, plantar and plantear. They share an etymology that is “rooted” in the Latin plantare (to fix in place, to propagate from clippings, to transplant).

Plantar and sembrar are verbs for the sowing of narcisos (daffodils), and for sowing in general. They work for any kind of botanic germination I can think of except for sprouting alfalfa or fenugreek in a jar,

...continued page 90

Sixty Zen columns now form a unique book, **The Zen of Pues**, useful to Spanish scholars at all levels. Visit www.ideaquestbooks.com; also available in bookstores throughout Guatemala. Tel: 7762-2022 or sales@ideaquestbooks.com

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We are the captains of our own ships sailing the sea of life, but in times of a stormy weather, you will discover true friends when they don't hesitate to be a lighthouse. —Dodinsky

Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art.... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival. —C.S. Lewis

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Those Lucky Coyotes



With *Los Coyotes Tienen Suerte*, Robert Hinshaw and his translators have given us profound insights into all Guatemalans—Maya and non-Maya—regarding their tumultuous experience as it was a century ago, long before Maya school kids were allowed to study dispassionate records of their own history.

Los Coyotes Tienen Suerte (Coyotes are the Clever Ones) refers to those among us with coyote companion spirits, according to Maya astrology.

Thus opens Hinshaw's ethnographic, historical novels *My Lake at the Center of the World* (2006) and its sequel, *The Rape of Hope* (2007). But now readers in Spanish can enjoy these historical fictions in their own language, thanks to FYG Editores.

Based on oral histories recorded by Chicago anthropologist Sol Tax 70 years ago, the first novel recounts the Maya experience around Lake Atitlán over the course of 25 years of forced labor legislated after Guatemalan coffee entered the international market, beginning in the 1880s.

The sequel (also available in bookstores, but not yet in translation) continues the saga, albeit on the national stage of the struggle for social justice in the four decades following the overthrow of dictator Jorge Ubico. It is an exciting, accurate fictionalization of the 1944 Revolution that may never be equaled for detail, characterization and tempo.

Newcomers to Hinshaw's ambitious writing through *Los Coyotes* might be surprised to discover later that the book is not a

translation at all, having as it does the flavor of an original rendering.

Hinshaw has conducted research in Atitlán communities since 1963 and has served as visiting professor of humanities at the National University of San Carlos in 1968-69.

"It is not by chance that Hinshaw writes with such depth and fluidity about the culture, customs and beliefs of the Mayas around Panajachel. His comprehension of the culture and history reflects his many years among them, around Lake Atitlan."

—Dr. Juan Jose Hurtado

"Los Coyotes Tienen Suerte reveals the injustices of the past and the hope of the future. It is a window on interactions among ladinos and indigenous Guatemalans during an era of taboo and discrimination, to say nothing of the history of our institutions, the role of the cofradías, and the poverty and suffering resulting from a system that—for its cruelty and injustice—cast shadows over our history and our roots."

—Alfred Kaltschmitt

Public presentations and book signings of *Los Coyotes Tienen Suerte* are scheduled at Sophos (Guatemala City) **Feb. 7** at 6:30 p.m. and at the Cacique Inn (Panajachel, Lake Atitlán) **Feb. 9** at 5 p.m.

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Master Fisherman, Paustino Cruz Colindres

Being the fishing fanatic that I am, I always love investigating what is happening around Guatemala in the fishing industry and trying my luck at fishing in all its various forms. One of my favorite little fishing villages on the Pacific Coast is El Paredón Buena Vista. This tranquil little town, with its sandy streets and friendly locals, was more than happy to indulge my latest quest to find out how fishing is being done at the artisanal level.

I had the privilege to talk with local fisherman Paustino Cruz Colindres, who has been fishing the waters around El Paredón for 45 years. Paustino, 72, sat down with me over a cup of coffee to tell me a little more about artisanal fishing and then we went to go try our luck down on the water. Paustino has fished all waters—the ocean,

the river canal and the mangroves. His favorite place to fish is a place called La Boca Barra, where the river canal empties into the ocean. This area is notoriously difficult to fish and a bit dangerous in a wooden canoe with no motor. Paustino has to carefully select the time to fish this spot in accordance with the tide. He told me that when the tide is coming in, there is about one hour of equilibrium between the incoming tide and outgoing currents that allows him to enter this area to fish. Why risk fishing this area when turbulent waters could easily capsize a small boat? As any fisherman or woman knows, the draw is the fish and the fact that the biggest fish tend to congregate in this area. The chance of hooking into that prize can lead you to take a few chances.

And how does Paustino ...cont. page 84



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 —Douglas Pagels



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San Pedro Artisans cont. from page 18

taught me all the basics, and with time and a lot of patience I've developed my own style and now I carve high-quality pieces. I feel very proud of what I have achieved considering I never had any formal training. Now not only am I designing, but I lead a team of talented woodcarvers and our main medium is teak wood.”

Hernández’s story is magical because not only did he accidentally stumble into this profession, but also he suffered from polio as a child and almost lost a leg, which would have made it nearly impossible for him to do the type of work that he now does.

“I had polio when I was a kid, and it is truly a miracle that the good Lord healed me

because I was about to lose my left leg, so it is the thing I am most grateful in life,” he says.

Hernández promises: “Our customers can be sure that what they’re holding in their hand is entirely crafted by hand with a lot of care and dedication. I would like to express my thanks to the Casa de los Gigantes customers for welcoming our culture into their lives and I hope that through my story you get a little idea of what life in Guatemala is like.”

The teak products made by the San Pedro Artisan Group can be found in Antigua at Casa de los Gigantes, 7a calle oriente #18, across the street from the San Francisco Church. 

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Food Poisoning – Part I

Besides grapes, raisins and currants there are also other foods and additives that are dangerous to dogs and cats.

Caffeine: A few laps of coffee, tea or soda isn't a problem but eating a “moderate amount” of coffee grounds, tea bags or even one to two diet pills can be fatal to small animals.

Symptoms: within two hours, mild to severe hyperactivity; restlessness; vomiting; tachycardia (elevated heart rate); hyperten-

sion (elevated blood pressure); abnormal heart rhythms; tremors; hyperthermia (elevated body temperature); seizures and possible collapse. Mild signs of poisoning have an excellent prognosis; severe signs, such as seizures and a collapse, have a poor prognosis.

Treatment: At home, induce vomiting, if on hand, administer multiple doses of activated charcoal (to help remove toxins); under veterinary care: initiate aggressive intravenous fluids to help excretion; sedatives to calm, specific heart medications to reduce heart rate and blood pressure; anti-convulsants for seizures; and antacids for stomach discomfort and diarrhea. Because caffeine may be reabsorbed across the bladder wall, a urinary catheter or frequent walks are needed to keep the bladder empty.



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The friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you. —Elbert Hubbard

Things are never quite as scary when you have a best friend. —Bill Watterson



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Most of us don't need a psychiatric therapist as much as a friend to be silly with. —Robert Brault

A friend knows the song in my heart and sings it to me when my memory fails. —Donna Roberts



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within days, and for a very honorable fee.

Well, I figure, I must have eaten something severely funky to have caused my head to detach from my body like the Exorcist child, so I made an appointment with Dr. Garcia de la Riva, my favorite gastroenterologist, the next day. We enjoyed a lovely chat, but he recognized it right away as a neurological problem, and I still had a lot of questions to be answered.

Up until this day, the only apparent indicators of my “advancing maturity” were reading glasses and a few gray hairs.

Next stop is at Tecniscan for cerebral magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), electroencephalograph (EEG) and a battery of lab tests. For my clients, I depend on Tecniscan every day for everything from pre-op exams to positron emission tomography (PET) scans for early cancer detection. I know it offers the finest quality diagnostic instrumentation, equal to some of the best hospitals in the world. This time, it had to be perfect, with results delivered to my doctor the same day.

In the elegant 12th floor high-rise office of my neurologist, Dr. Salguero patiently interpreted each frame of the MRI for me, with the clinical precision that comes from a lifetime of extensive experience. I was certain that his paternal tenderness and compassionate countenance were just softening me

for the final blow: that monstrous, ghastly, grapefruit-sized tumor that had invaded my skull. But no, he assures me, “Everything is clear, well-balanced and perfectly normal. I can’t find anything wrong with you.” Well, that’s good news, I suppose.

All the best physicians know that family history plays a big role in diagnosing the medical issues that are affecting their patients today. So, now comes the dreaded phone call to my mother, to ask about some crazy old aunt who suffered a brain meltdown, or the poor cousin who “went away” and we don’t talk about him anymore. “No, honey, you kids and all the family were always in perfect health. I can’t imagine what . . .” For the major part of her 86 years, it has been my mother’s mission in life to impart to her children the reasons why things happen, with intuitive clarity, maternal wisdom and normally, a razor-sharp sense of humor. It was painful to hear her now, searching our history, grasping for clues. Then she rallied, triumphant, and gave it her best shot. “You know, dear, they are all alcoholics on your father’s side of the family.” I know, Mother, I remember the Christmas parties, but I think this is something different.

Oh no, dear doctor, with all due respect, I’m certain that you must be mistaken. I couldn’t possibly have heart problems. I’m waaaaaay too young for that. Up until this day, the only apparent indicators of my “advancing maturity” were reading glasses and a few gray hairs. Aggggh, now this. Since the recent renovation and installation of an

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One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.
—Malayan Proverb

entirely new cardiology wing, there is no better choice for cardiology than Herrera Llerandi Hospital. So, I had all the tests: 24-hour Holter monitor, ultrasound echo-cardiogram and stress test, only for Dr. Leal to tell me that my heart is the right size, in the right place, and doing exactly what it is supposed to do. Stress? Well, I work 60-80 hours per week. Do you think that might be a problem?

Within 10 days of my medical issue, I consulted with three world-class physicians, had five state-of-the-art diagnostic exams, 11 lab tests and then all the follow-up visits. Total medical expenses: GTQ7,500, or US \$965. I'm certain that in some "other country" it might cost up to 10 times more and take a month or two.

Final analysis: A seizure like that will probably never happen again. And, I need a vacation. Maybe I should go to Florida and visit my mother. (R)

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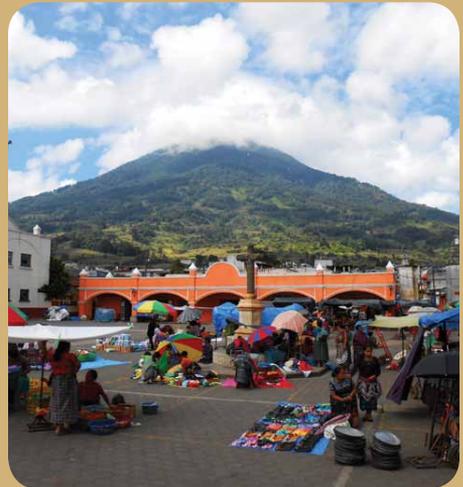
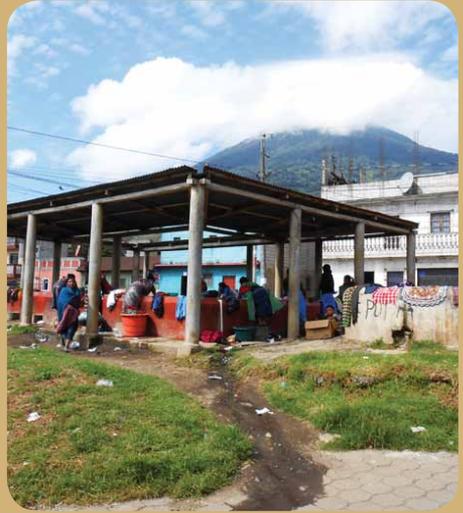
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Motorcycle Diary cont. from page 13

against the backdrop of Volcán Agua, accompanied by a 1960s rock soundtrack. After about 15 minutes we reached Santa María de Jesús, nestled in the foothills of the volcano, and stopped off to explore village life and purchase some fruit in the local market. The next part of our journey took us out past children playing on sidewalks and women doing their laundry in the village's central pila, and onto the cobbled streets of nearby San Juan del Obispo—where I tried (and failed) to knead discs of hot chocolate at a small family business. Our third dismount was in the colorful calles of San Pedro las Huertas, where we visited a church and an indoor market before heading back to Antigua through the dusty back streets of Guatemala's famous cowboy-boot making village, Pastores.

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The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence. No, not at all. Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass where ever you may be. —Robert Fulghum

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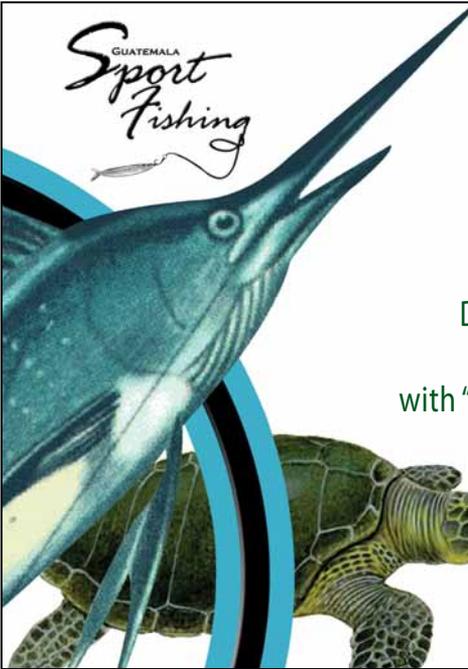
When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares. —Henri Nouwen

A good friend is a connection to life—a tie to the past, a road to the future, the key to sanity in a totally insane world. —Lois Wyse



Honorable Mention by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Feb.

“Amigos hasta siempre” by Andrés Chicol. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



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The language of friendship is not words but meanings. —Henry David Thoreau

The bird a nest, the spider a web, man friendship. —William Blake



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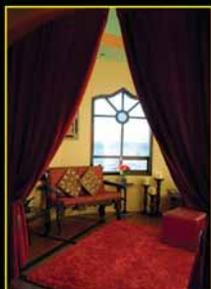


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Master Fisherman cont. from page 75

prepare to go out to fish? He sets his schedule based on the tides and the moon, his schedule changing daily to follow the movement of this cycle. He may get up at 4 a.m. and grab his net to catch the live shrimp and little fish, which he'll use as bait later in the day. He tells me the fishing is always better during the full moon when the night lights up like the day. He'll go out alone in his canoe with his paddle and fishing line and pull in fish such as the tasty *robalo* (snook), *pargo* (red snapper) and *mojarra* (tilapia).

When I asked what the biggest fish he ever caught was, I caught a sparkle in his eye as he shared with me his adventure of hooking into a 42-pound robalo at La Boca Barra. He battled that fish for over an hour, paddle in one hand, line in the other with the fish pulling his boat all over the canal. He successfully landed his prize and made it back to the village with quite the story to tell. When I asked how the line didn't cut his hand with a fish that big and powerful, he explained that the fishermen there use a finger from a rubber glove to protect their

Since there is nothing so well worth having as friends, never lose a chance to make them.

—Francesco Guicciardini

finger from being sliced by the line.

After all that talk of fishing and the excitement of landing the big one, I decided it was time for me to grab my hand line and test my luck. Fishing is a language all of its own. Even if you don't speak the local language, if you fish, you can travel the world and connect with other fishermen. This invisible bond just exists among those who share the joy of fishing, and that was proven again to me that day, talking fishing tales and techniques, with my local friend Paustino. 🇷🇺



Paustino Cruz Colindres with fishing net

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

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But oh! the blessing it is to have a friend to whom one can speak fearlessly on any subject; with whom one's deepest as well as one's most foolish thoughts come out simply and safely. Oh, the comfort—the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person—having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are, chaff and grain together; certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away.

—Dinah Craik

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The Zen of... cont. from page 68

which calls for something like empapar (to drench, soak). For real planting, you need dirt.

Plantear, the other verb, must have been coined when a scribe with excessive earwax, centuries ago, began saying to his associates, “plant-eh?-ar.” Plain old plantar was over-worked, so they started using plantear for stuff that was like planting, but not in soil.

Hence, plantear often approximates poner and could be used when we discuss sowing things, not in soil, but in minds, conversations, constitutions and even chat rooms. Fifth columns, dissent and surveillance

cameras are all cosas planteadas (whereas daffodils are merely plantados). But the commonest meaning for plantear is to propose (proponer and sugerir also work for this).

Maybe it was “Plant” Farrington herself who planteó the novel idea of selling all three nativity gifts at the Christmas bazaar: potted myrrhs, incense and “gold” chocolate coins. Kisses, like daffodils, can also be planted using this verb: vi a Arafat plantando besos en la cara de tu mamá (I saw Arafat planting kisses on your mom).

What follows are zenny exceptions to each verb, sort of.

To stand someone up is dejarlo plantado. Your friend’s mom probably stood Arafat up for the second date (the first having been blind), but she did not pot him in soil. Or she did show up, but only to plantar un golpe (bop/kick/bruise) in return for the kiss. So here is a figurative instance of plantar.

And if you say you are going to plant your property with macadamias or myrrhs, it is plantar, not plantear you use, although soil is involved. The reasoning might be that property, not plants, is the verb’s object.

That all said, I am still seeking a handle on the noun planteamiento. Diccionario Vásquez defines it as (1) an exposition; (2) the raising or posing of a problem; or (3) the laying out, layout, setting out, or focus on a problem. Whew. Maybe I will wait until the next time I hear this word, and ask what is referred to.

Yet planteamiento might be to planificación (planning) what plantear is to plantar. Planificación is what the architects of Belmopán, the capital of Belize, did prior to breaking ground. It is also la palabra indicada for family planning.

Speaking of planning, I am limited, as always, to 750 words. Reader, te planteo un adios. 📖

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that matter. —Marlene Dietrich

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1 Caballería = 64 manzanas	1 Manzana = 6,988 mt ²
.....	1 Manzana = 1.7 acres
1 Hectare = 10,000 mt ²
1 Hectare = 2.471 acres	1 mt ² = 10.764 ft ²
1 Hectare = 1.43 manzanas	1 mt ² = 1.431 vr ²
.....
1 Acre = 43,560 ft ²	1 Vara = 32.9 inches
1 Acre = .4047 hectare	1 Yard = 36 inches (3ft)
1 Acre = 4047 mt ²	1 Meter = 39.37 inches
1 Acre = 5645.4 varas ²	

Note: the precise size of a vara depends on which source you use!

When I go into the garden with a spade, and dig a bed, I feel such an exhilaration and health that I discover that I have been defrauding myself all this time in letting others do for me what I should have done with my own hands.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Dining Out, West End Style

A gastronomical tour of Roatan's West End

by Monish Welcome

Whether it is a night out with the family, a romantic date or a fun night out with friends, restaurants in the West End provide great options! In this colorful community, visitors can find great places to dine any time of day, every day. West End is known for its variety of first-class restaurants, all with friendly service offering a relaxed environment where enjoying the Caribbean charm is inevitable.

Splash Inn, an Italian restaurant and bar in the heart of West End, offers a variety

of dishes, ranging from pizza to fresh local seafood. The open-air atmosphere provides a relaxed experience where the view of a beautiful beach is just an extra thing to love about this place. In addition everyone will enjoy the reasonable prices and the friendly staff that come along with unique, European-style service.

For a spicy dish, **Cannibal Café** is the place to visit. In this one-of-a-kind restaurant you find delicious Mexican cuisine for lunch and dinner. Being a leader in

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HONDURAS

the restaurant business in West End, **Cannibal Cafe** maintains its enormous prestige thanks to its tasty food and attentive service.

The **Argentinean Grill** in Half Moon Bay, West End, offers a very stylish, relaxed open-air environment. Also known as Restaurant Parrilla Argentina, this destination makes it easy to enjoy an evening of fantastic appetizers and main dishes of grilled seafood, beef and chicken. Fresh salads, desserts and wine are more reasons to love the place. The full international bar service blends in perfectly with the comfortable eatery, which serves some of the best food in all of Roatan.

Light House is the perfect place for a romantic date—the palm trees, glistening water and light breeze set the mood for a wonderful night. The view is fantastic and the open beach deck, just lovely. The kind staff adds to the comfort level here, and, as if it is not already a great experience, the chef checks up on the guests to make sure everything is running smoothly.

Café Escondido, located above West End Divers, is a relaxed, open-air restaurant that offers a mix of dishes and a daily diver's special. The noodle bowls and rice dishes are delicious, and the relaxed atmosphere, accompanied by friendly staff, makes this a great place to enjoy a meal. Café Escondido also hosts Sunday Nights with Sangria, which includes relaxed music, tapas and of course its signature sangrias.

Tongs Thai Restaurant is one of the dining highlights of Roatan if not all of Honduras. The authentic Thai dishes are amazing, the staff friendly and the location is just well, wow—enjoy dining on the dock over the water or dine from the terrace. Tongs really does tick all the boxes. Every visitor to Roatan should have at least one meal at Tongs'; customers will not be disappointed. Tongs' tongue-tickling dishes will have you coming back for more.

Nestled in a garden setting off the main road in Half Moon Bay, **Earthmama's** offers a range of healthy and fresh dishes for breakfast or lunch, and its serene atmosphere allows you to really relax and soak up the tropical atmosphere. Earthmama's also hosts weekly Yoga classes, and the overall setting of the place is infused with peace and serenity.

West End is a great place. Its tranquil and happy environment is infectious, don't miss spending some time there! 



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How beautiful
a day can be
When kindness
touches it!
—George Elliston

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Nobody has ever measured,
even poets,
how much a heart can hold. —
Zelda Fitzgerald

I've met a few people in my time who were enthusiastic about
hard work. And it was just my luck that all of them happened to
be men I was working for at the time. —Bill Gold



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