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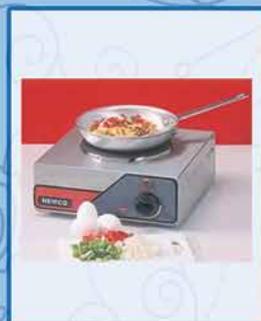
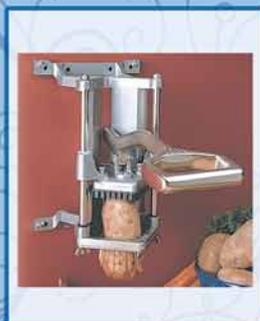
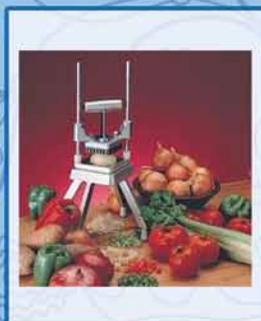
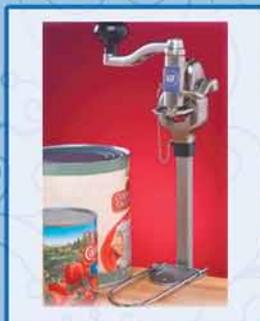
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May 2013
Year 22, No. 3

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PHOTO CONTEST

CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO



Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO de JUNIO 2013 con el tema **RÍOS Y LAGOS DE GUATEMALA.** Enviar UNA (1) foto en ALTA RESOLUCIÓN con el título, lugar donde fue tomada, su nombre y el sitio web para el crédito a: fotos@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 MAYO de 2013.

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for JUNE 2013 with the theme **RIVERS & LAKES IN GUATEMALA.** please send ONE (1) HI-RES photo with caption/location and your name & 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 MAY will be eligible.



REVUE PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY, May
"Felicidad en lo alto de los Cuchumatanes" by Rodrigo Sosa

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

“Secreto ancestral” by Jonathan Argueta. Prize: Q300 certificate to **El Cazador Italiano**, La Antigua. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

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

Congratulations to Mayra Ramírez on her photograph titled “Estoy aquí” Prize: Dinner for two at **La Peña de Sol Latino**. All entries at www.REVUE.gt



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Deadline for the
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from the publishers

Mother's day graces our cover this month as we give thanks and appreciation for their love and nurturing. As well, many NGOs work to assist children, don't miss reading about the KIDS restaurant. For more on other projects that assist children, see DateBook with listings including tours of Open Windows, Niños de Guatemala and Common Hope; the Rainbow Café lecture series features talks by Caminando por la Paz (focusing on education); and the Tejidos Cotzal group.

Month of Museums highlights Guatemala City's Botanical Gardens, The Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and the Museum of Modern Art Carlos Mérida; in Panajachel treat yourself to an underwater adventure, Unlocking Samabaj, at the Museo Lacustre de Atitlán.

For food lovers we start off with some adventure: Canal Clamming, then the sumptuous Taste of Artisan Food Products, and the search is on for ancient flavorings in Finding Virola guatemalensis.

Harvesting Magic in May reminds us that there is a difference between simply living and flourishing. Sensuous Guatemala treats us to the lovely Balsam Peru tree.

This month's installment of Roads to Adventure is The Road to Nakum. If you are an armchair traveler Thor Janson's narrative will take you into the jungle as though you were right there with him.

Elizabeth Bell gives us an update on La Antigua's new mayor; Zen clears up "Relation Words" and Monish Welcome explains how to get to the beautiful Bay Island of Roatan.

The theme for this month's Revue Photo Contest was Portraits, and there are several entries published in these pages.

We would like to dedicate this issue to a great mom who is no longer with us, Mama Lue.

Here's wishing you a wonderful May.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

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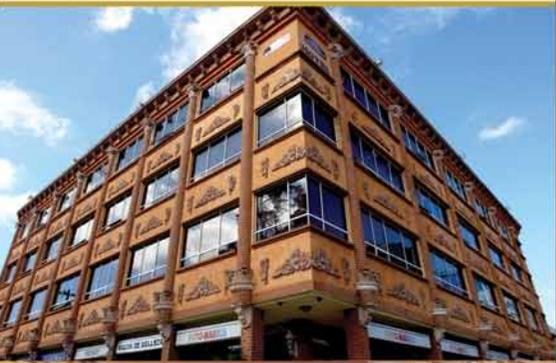
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A “New” Mayor for Antigua

Former City Council member, Edgar Ruiz, gets the official green light to move the town forward.



It's official! Edgar Ruiz, who was a City Council member, was approved by Guatemala's Tribunal Supremo Electoral (TSE), as interim mayor on March 20. He had been acting mayor since Sept. 17, 2012 and, with his new official title, will have more of a command at the helm of Antigua's city government. Mr. Ruiz said his priorities are to consolidate the city's finances showing transparency and to give all citizens and organized groups a voice through team efforts.

Upon Mayor Adolfo Vivar's arrest in September 2012, pending his trial for alleged embezzlement of public money, fraud, illicit association, money laundering and extortion, he was suspended from his position. The City Council submitted the paperwork to the TSE to accredit Mr. Ruiz as interim mayor. After reviewing Guatemala's municipal code and the electoral laws extensively, all of the council members take one step up in the hierarchy and the substitute council member takes office.

The TSE is now reviewing Councilman Antonio Palomo's resignation and the council members will then take another step up, and the next substitute council member will officially join the City Council meetings. No new elections required.

Edgar Ruiz is a lawyer and not a politician. Well known by Antiguenses, he has no small task in bringing transparency to Antigua's city government and finances. His legal background will help him act “by the book” as Antigua sets an example for other municipalities.

All of the municipal authorities I interviewed were completely open about Antigua's finances, projects and programs. Interim Treasurer Julio Barrientos indicated that the 2012 budget was Q99,362,470 (\$12,820,963). The projected 2013 budget is Q104,102,000 (\$13,432,516). That is for Antigua's historical center and 23 villages (aldeas) plus the retired municipal workers' pensions and pending loans. There are more than 1,000 workers on the city's payroll.

Projects include cleaning the city, mending roads, implementing the water and sewer systems, parks, some school repairs, sports areas, surveillance camera monitoring, parking, the cemetery and market (just to mention a few). About 10% of the budget is spent on infrastructure.

Arq. Sergio Cruz, head of the Municipal Planning Department, indicates that many of these projects are requested by local groups now preparing projects for 2014. The main concern in Antigua remains getting funding for new water and sewer pipes and installing a new sewer treatment plant since the current infrastructure has all but collapsed.

With the city's meager budget, additional funds must be requested from other sources. They are very proud of their Escuela Municipal de Artes at Centro Cultural Cesar Brañas where classes are offered and subsidized by the city. With this information, Antigua's private sector must step up to the plate! We congratulate Mr. Ruiz for his new position. 🍷



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Roads to Adventure

text/photos by
Capt. Thor Janson
NATURALIST/PHOTOGRAPHER
FACEBOOK.COM/NUBLISELVA

THE ROAD TO NAKUM

The plan was to rendezvous with friends at Yaxhá Lagoon then drive north to the remote site of Nakum. I met up with Belizean Alfonso Galvez and American biologist Harry Drexler for breakfast by the shore of magnificent Yaxhá. A bit of campstove magic, and I was serving up steaming plates of black beans, fried mol a'catch (turkey eggs) and stacks of toasted yellow-corn tortillas.

Then on to Nakum. Although it is only a 17-kilometer drive, due

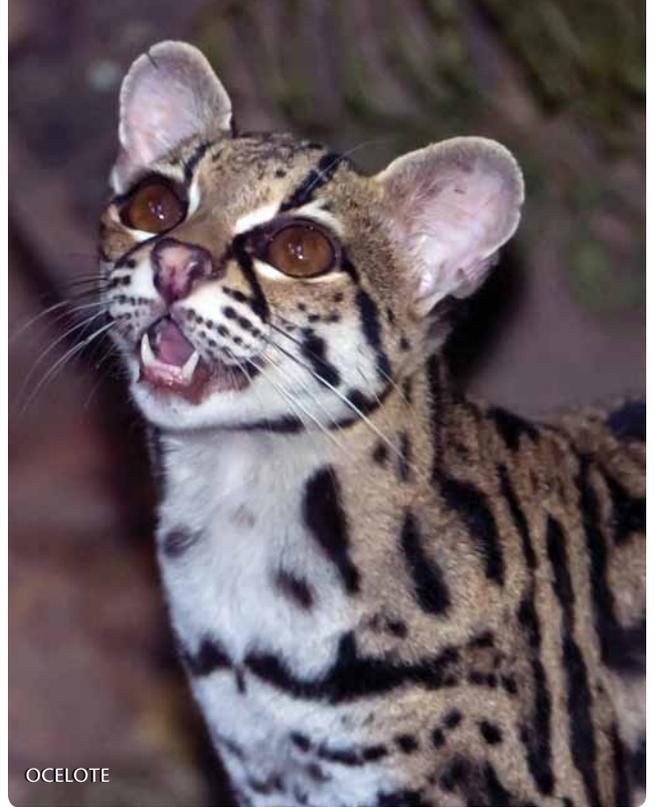
to abysmal road conditions the trip can take hours, sometimes four or five. We were traveling in two 4x4 vehicles and all of us have experience rambling around the back roads of Central America. The jungle was resplendent, the air very clear, the multitudinous tonalities of green was very intense; the birds, howler monkeys, cicadas and crickets, tree frogs and toads all singing together in a symphony of sounds.

At the National Park entrance, the attendants told us that, as far as they

knew, the road was passable, and the first few clicks were OK, somewhat muddy, but passable. Then we came upon our first bog. The road degenerated into a muddy track and then into a mud hole. We plunged forward slipping and sliding while maintaining pretty high speed, hoping to career through the slog. Alfonso was a crack jungle driver and with a combination of quick moves and precarious leaps—all propelled by insanely high velocity—he made it through the 100 meters or so of the bad stuff.



BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKERS



OCELOTE

I was not so lucky, and after doing my best, my Toyota bottomed out about 10 meters from where the road resumed. I got out a portable come-along winch, and we went to work pushing and winching the Toyota inch by inch toward the solid shore ahead.

Then we heard the sound of a vehicle approaching from the north. A black Land Rover, so thickly covered in mud as if it had been completely immersed, came down the track. It was my old friend Neville Collins from Sittée River in southern Belize. And after we exchanged niceties with Neville, his wife and daughter, they explained that they had tried to make it to Nakum but finally gave up. They'd camped overnight and were now making their way back to civilization. To their excitement they had actually seen a large jaguar loung-

ing on a tree limb right over the road earlier that morning. Neville's Land Rover was properly equipped with a large winch and together we turned our group around, helped each other through the quagmire, and made our way back to Yaxhá Lagoon.

Plan B. Happiness in the jungle is achieved by NOT being too goal-oriented and by being willing to adapt to and have fun with unexpected situations and changes in plans. Such was our case that day. We had a nice time making our chance encounter into a party on Yaxhá Beach. My group was still intent on getting to Nakum; we determined to go by foot the next day.

We broke camp before dawn and began our walk through the jungle in pitch darkness, only an occasional beam of moonlight breaking through

the thick canopy. But the rainforest was far from still—we could hear many scurrying, slithering, chirping and crackling sounds all around us—and then the coughing-growl in the distance of Balam, the jaguar, causing my hearing to suddenly become super-acute.

By the time the first glow of dawn began to warm the air, we were already several clicks up the road. What was impassable for our 4x4s was easy to get through by foot ... all we had to do was skirt the road a bit and walk around the mire. It was a glorious morning, the air clear, cool and fresh. This road is an excellent location for wildlife observations and we saw many species, including an ocellated turkey, slaty-tailed trogons, great kiskadees, a raccoon, coati-mundi, tayras and an ocelot ... plus a wide variety of lizards, ...cont. page 68



The Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

This significant collection tells the story of 3,000 years of history

Arguably the capital's finest educational offering, the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology showcases the pride of ancient Guatemala. With over 30,000 historical artifacts and various recreations of Mayan communities, this significant collection tells the story of 3,000 years of history in a single hour.

From the oldest object—a 6,000-year-old arrowhead—to the newest—a religious mural from 1990—this museum highlights the importance of the ancient Maya and brings their tale to the rest of the world.

“This museum represents one part of the country,” says Director Daniel Aquino

Lara. “Guatemala has a distinctive past with distinctive identities. But years ago, this is what people identified with.”

On average, 70,000 visitors walk through the museum's doors each year. However, last year there were significantly more as global 13 B'Aktun fever hit and crowds gathered to see the only original stone in Guatemala with the sacred December 21st date inscribed upon it. In total there are 30 stones that make up the original inscription, and archaeologists are currently in the process of trying to put them all back together.

Within the museum's vast open space, both rare and common items of the time, such as plates, bowls and jade,

are placed side by side, while recently discovered tombs of Maya royalty are showcased in their entirety so that it appears as if you are the one discovering their burial sites for the very first time.

The tomb of the Maya queen Lady K'abel that was famously discovered in Petén last year will be transferred here later in the year. Considered one of the great queens of Classic Mayan civilization and one of the most powerful individuals in Tikal, Lady K'Abel will be displayed in a similar way to which she was discovered, and alongside the valuable possessions she was buried with.

Due to the popularity of the museum and the sheer volume of artifacts,



the exhibitions are regularly changed. Much of the museum features active presentations of the country's cultural riches, such as depictions of dances, figures clothed in different tela and scenes of Mayan village life, which give visitors an insight into a day in the life of the country's indigenous people thousands of years ago.

"This project tries to unite current Mayas with their past. Many people think that the Mayas left Guatemala, but they are still the same people, just perhaps slightly disconnected with their past," says Aquino Lara.

Just like its neighbor, the Museum of Modern Art, the Spanish colonial-style building was never intended to be used as a museum; it was built as a party house for President General Jorge Ubico —a place to wine and dine his friends before taking them across to the dance hall.

Nowadays the museum also doubles as a cultural center, hosting UN talks and celebrating various countries' independence days. Aquino Lara says these events may not have anything to do with archaeology but they are linked to society, which is another of the museum's focuses. 

Slightly pricier than the others, this museum costs **Q60** for foreigners to enter and **Q5** for Guatemalans, but is well worth the extra money.

Located on **6a calle, 7a Avenida, zone 13 of the capital city**, it is open **Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** and on the weekends from **9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4 p.m.**



Museum of Modern Art Carlos Mérida

*A journey of the individuals
and events that have shaped
Guatemala's art scene*

Proudly centered around the Quetzaltecan artist Carlos Mérida, Guatemala's Museum of Modern Art takes visitors on a journey of the individuals and events that have shaped the country's art scene.

Originally built as a salón de baile for President General Jorge Ubico in the 1930s, the beautifully ornate, colonial-style building didn't become a fully functional museum until 1975. Inside, it houses a varied collection of Central American paintings and sculptures, which cover all periods of modern art—from Romanticism to Cubism, and many others in between. It also hosts temporary exhibitions and contemporary displays. Some of the more eye-catching work includes a concrete wall with hands and faces imprinted upon it, and a desk of knives.



The museum pays tribute to Carlos Mérida for starting the artistic movement in Guatemala, motivating his countrymen to gain an awareness of their nation's cultural wealth and use it as a platform to initiate a dialogue with the outside world. During the Quetzaltecan's travels in France he met Pablo Picasso and later on encouraged other Guatemalan artists and architects to visit Europe. Those who did came back with new visions for their country and, as a result of what they had seen abroad, decided to improve parts of their capital, Guatemala City. In zone One's Centro Cívico the murals of Mérida and his friends still decorate such buildings as BanGuat, IGSS and the offices of la Municipalidad de Guatemala. 

Located in **Finca Nacional La Aurora in zone 13**, the Museum of Modern Art is the perfect place to spend an hour or two before going onto the neighboring Museum of Anthropology. Hours are **Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.** Admission is **Q2** for Guatemalans; **Q10** for foreigners.



Botanical Gardens

Discover an oasis of tranquillity at El Jardín Botánico

Hidden alongside one of the busiest roads in Guatemala City lies El Jardín Botánico—an oasis of tranquillity on the chaotic Avenida de la Reforma in zone 10.

Ever since it opened in 1922, the site has been a protected landmark displaying over 650 species of both native and exotic flora.

The impressive collection of plants, trees and seeds covers 17,000m², largely silencing the passing traffic to give you the impression that you are anywhere but Guatemala's frantic capital.

The beautifully kept gardens are separated into two distinct styles with a statue of the Swedish botanist Carlos Linnaeus in the middle of them. There is a European half with isolated flowerbeds and overhanging plants, and a Guatemalan half, which is more open plan; guided trails weave through both.

Originally built on the three pillars of conservation, education and investigation, El Jardín Botánico remains true to its foundations, having recently received international recognition for its projects to prevent ...continued page 76



Canal Clamming

The most fun you can have with your feet!



“**V**amos!” My friend Doña Irma was excited as she told me that clamming season was here on the Pacific Coast of Guatemala. Clams (*almejas*) exist in Guatemala? I hadn’t heard of anyone clam digging in Guatemala; however, I had seen them served every now and then in the famous *caldo de mariscos*

(seafood stew). Intrigued and always game for a new adventure, I agreed with my friend, “Vamos!”

Soon we had a group of five ready to go out and try our luck finding some clams. We boarded a little *lancha* (boat) and headed out to the indicated secret spot. Any good hunter or fisherman always has a secret spot, and so it is with clamming. Our boatman dropped us off in the middle of the canal surrounded by mangroves and we told him we’d call when we had filled our buckets.

I carefully waded out into the murky water, feeling the slimy, squishy mud ooze between my toes. I couldn’t see anything—the water was as brown as chocolate—and I had no idea what lurked beneath. I tried hard not to let my imagination get away with itself,

although I won’t lie and say that crocodiles didn’t pass through the mental pictures swirling in my head. I carefully used my toes to inspect each step and gradually progressed out into the middle of the canal. Suddenly, I felt a scurrying movement over my feet! What was that? I let out a little yelp. Everyone cracked up laughing and said it was just a crab! Oh, I hoped not to get pinched!

Anyway, time to get down to business, crabs and all; it was time to start clamming. You have to use your feet to dig through the silt at the bottom and when you feel something like a rock—there you have it—a clam! Curl your toes around the little shell and bring it up and place it in your hand. In the bucket it goes and you’re on your way. ...continued page 92

datebook

MAY 2013 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

1 Wed. — HOLIDAY: Labor day, most banks & some businesses will be closed. **Countrywide**

2 Thurs., through Fri., 31 — PHOTOGRAPHY: Exposition by members of Club Fotográfico de Guatemala. Q30; children 12 and under, Q10. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

2 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CHARLA: La Ermita del Soldado de San Juan Chamelco, dictada por Zoila Rodríguez. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

4 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, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

6 Mon., through Fri., 17 — GASTRONOMIC FESTIVAL: Pastas! Plus a display of Italian products and cultural items on sale; also fun activities. Brought to you through the collaboration between the Italian Embassy and the Instituto de Cultura Italiana. Porta Hotel Antigua, 8a calle poniente #1, **La Antigua**

8 Wed., 4pm — ART: Inauguration of Susentir, Nobel de Guerra by Werner Vásquez, in oil and acrylics. Vessica Galeria de Arte (tel: 5381-4232), 3a av. 7-35, z. 1, **Quetzaltenango** ▼



4 Sat., 4-7pm — ART: Lies, Gags, Screams and Very Good Taste; a solo exhibition of the latest work by North American sculptor Keith Andrews. He is well known for his keen sense of humor, social commentary and views of life which he imparts his sculptures. More than 20 new pieces in bronze, resin, aqualock and polimeric clay will be on display. Proudly presented by La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**



9 Thurs., through Sun., 12, 12:30-6pm — SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY MENU: Vivero La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**

9 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) **TER-TULIA:** Fiestas y Celebraciones de la Guatemala Antañona. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

10 Fri., — **MOTHER'S DAY,** you know what to do.

10 Fri., — **CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY:** Bring your special mother for dinner and we will wow her with a free postre and Andean music by Grupo Sol Latino. La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

10 Fri., 5:30pm & Fri., 24th, 5:30pm — **DINING** at KIDS Restaurant: The only restaurant run by KIDS in cooperation with the Education Center of TESS Unlimited. Every two weeks the restaurant serves food with a theme, featuring cuisine from countries around the world. **Fri., 10th-5:30pm:** Featuring Italian cuisine; **Fri., 24th-5:30pm:** Arabian cuisine. Reservations: kidsrestaurant@gmail.com or tels: 4550-7798 or 5279-6976. **5pm:** Our mini chef will wait for you in front of Cafe Condesa (5a av., central park), where you will be picked up at by our shuttle service to bring you to the KIDS Restaurant in **San Gaspar Vivar.** See related article on page 54.

11 Sat., 1pm — **MAYAN CEREMONY:** Concert & dance by Niños con Bendición from San Antonio Aguas Calientes featuring authentic costumes, dances and music 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), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the June 2013 edition by May 10



11 Sat., 7pm — **MUSIC:** To celebrate Mother's day, Canto Bohemio (La Vieja Juventud). La Peña de Sol Latino, **La Antigua** ▲

11 Sat., 7pm — **PERFORMANCE:** Biodanza by Fernando Ortiz Moreira. Q30. La Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro #6, **La Antigua**

12 Sun., 5pm — **CONCERT:** Music in the Villages featuring the baroque chamber orchestra World Vision Sounds of Hope. Brought to you by Antiqua Art Project, sponsored by the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo. Donation Q50. Info, tel: 5698-8698; email: streladodia@yahoo.com. **Parish in the village of Santa Catarina Bobadilla** ▼



14 Tues., 5:30pm — **BENEFIT DANCE:** Mayan dances performed by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer, a local charity dedicated to helping more than 30 children in San Andrés Itzapa, providing health care, education and the preservation of Mayan traditions, including language and dance. Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

15 Wed., 9am — (Spanish) **CHARLA:** Representaciones de la Virgen de la Soledad de la Victoria en Guatemala, dictada por Víctor Castillo. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

15 Wed., 2pm — **TOUR:** Open Windows Learning Center, San Miguel Dueñas; join David Dean on a visit to this educational and community development foundation. Meet in front of the Cafe Condesa, Central Park; return by 3:30pm. FREE!. www.openwindowsfoundation.com, **La Antigua** ▼



16 Thurs, 6:30pm — (Spanish) **TERTULIA:** Hace años ... los cortejos procesionales. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

17 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) **FILM:** Puro Mula, comedia. Q20. La Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro #6, **La Antigua**

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



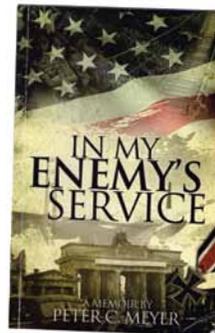
18 Sat. — **HIKE FOR WATER CAMPAIGN:** You hike. We hike. Guatemalans get water filters, we get a little healthier. Villagers in small mountain communities must carry water from nearby streams uphill, downhill, many times a day. Two kilometers later and five gallons of water to show for it — unclean water is the reward. In solidarity we're going to hike three volcanos during this campaign. Join us and raise money or support a hike with a donation. Every \$35 buys a water filter. Details at ecofiltro.org/hikeforwater. **Volcán Acatenango**

17 Fri., 6:30pm — **ART:** Inauguration, a collective exposition by Guadalupe Sum (Quetzaltenango) and Javier Mastranzo (Mexico). Through June 17. Café Lounge, 1a calle 14A-64, z. 1, half block from the municipal theater, **Quetzaltenango** ▼



17 Fri., 5pm — **INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS DAY:** Guided tour. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

17 Fri., 10am-4pm — **BOOK SIGNING:** In My Enemy's Service by Peter C. Meyer. La Antigua Guatemala at Casa del Conde (5a av., across from Central Park), **La Antigua**. See article on page 46.





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4a calle oriente #14 - Antigua

18 Sat., 9am-noon — COOKING CLASS: La Peña de Sol Latino, 5a calle pon. #15-C, **La Antigua. SEE LISTING, Sat. 4th**

18 Sat., 7:30pm — MUSIC: Café Jazz Quartet, instrumental fusión (jazz, bossa, Latin, flamenco). Q40, includes a beverage. La Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro #6, **La Antigua**

21 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Caminando Por la Paz (Walking for Peace). This program operates in zone 18, Guatemala City. It focuses on two areas: Educational efforts by providing all expenses related to school for 22 neighborhood children; backed up by tutoring, open to all children. Community service: resurfacing the soccer field and making significant repairs to a neighbourhood home. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

21 Tues., 5pm — FILM: Travel to the moon with Democrats Abroad! All Mankind gives you an incredible view of the Apollo space missions, cut from more than 6,000,000 feet of NASA footage. You will explore space alongside the astronauts and mission control team—their are the only voices in this 80-minute documentary other than a 1962 clip of John F. Kennedy. A brief discussion will follow. Q15 donation requested. Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle oriente #41, **La Antigua.**

22 Wed., 9am — (Spanish) CHARLA: La Dolorosa en la Historia y Arte de Guatemala por Detter López. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

23 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CHARLA: Arte Tequitqui en México y Guatemala, dictada por Anaité Galeotti. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

24 Fri., 5:30pm — DINING: at KIDS Restaurant featuring Arabian cuisine. More info. see listing **Fri., 10th**. Also related article on page 54. ▼



25 Sat., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONVERSATORIO: Confesiones de una máscara de Yukio Mishima. Entrada libre. La Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro #6, **La Antigua**

ART — Collective exposition. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**. Reference page 30.

Give me a museum and I'll fill it.
—Pablo Picasso

26 Sun., 9am — GOSPEL MUSIC (English/Spanish): Worship with The Calvin College Gospel Choir (U.S.); its dynamic songs, African, jazz, contemporary and traditional music bringings forth joy and inspiration! During and after Mass, La Merced, 6a av. norte, **La Antigua**

28 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: The Tejidos Cotzal group of 42 Maya women from San Juan Cotzal, Quiché are all passionate weavers. Cotzal was hit hard by the civil war that left many families without fathers, brothers or husbands. The women had to take the initiative and unite in order to guarantee the survival of their families. They support each other and send their children to school with proceeds from their weaving. Learn how this cooperative works, also learn about eco-tours, and see the special weaving technique used to create beautiful products. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

29 Wed., 9am — (Spanish) CHARLA: Literatura y bares, sitios frecuentados o citados por escritores guatemaltecos, dictada por José Luis Escobar. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

29 Wed., 6pm — Presentation: "Antigua: Behind the Walls" with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour presentation through vintage and contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, **La Antigua**

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30 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) TERTULIA: La vida estudiantil del siglo XX. Q30/Q15, estudiantes y guías de turismo. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

30 Thurs., through June 2 — ORCHID EXHIBITION: Museo de Arte Colonial, 5a calle oriente #4, **La Antigua**. See related article on page 74. ▼



31 Fri., 7pm — (Spanish) TEATRO: Hoy me traje flores, esta obra refleja la vida de varias mujeres que llegan a vivir encerradas en una relación de dolor, abuso, llanto y amargura, lo cual soportan por problemas psicológicos llamado Amor. Q25. La Casa del Río, Calle del Hermano Pedro #6, **La Antigua**

Late entry for May 3 & 4 — THEATER: Peter Pan. Presented by the Antigua International School, more info at www.antiguais.org, **La Antigua** ▼

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PETER PAN

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| WHEN | May 3 & 4 6:30 pm | WHERE | El Cortijo de las flores, km 48.5 Carretera a Ciudad Vieja, Antigua. |
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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 — Common Hope offers a free 2-hour village tour. Departs: fountain, central park. Tel: 7922-6600 for a private tour; 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 amigos. Q60. Trova-jazz, 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 available. **La Antigua**

Thurs., 8:30am — TOUR: Visit Ciudad Vieja, you'll see where many Niños de Guatemala families work and live. Also, visit the school built by Niños de Guatemala. Q200/Q100, students. Proceeds benefit Niños de Guatemala projects. Antigua_office@ninodesguatemala.org; tel: 7832-8033. **La Antigua/Ciudad Vieja**

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

Saturdays, 5pm — MUSIC: Seth Montfort and friends; Seth is a multi-award winning musician and founder of the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, playing classical & jungle piano. Cover Q100. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**



Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the June 2013 edition by May 10

live music

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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, 5pm — Classical Recitals with Seth Montforth and friends. Q100

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Friday Concerts — Call for schedule: Live music Thursdays through Saturdays.



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



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Fridays — World music.

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Mondays — Don Ramiro will serenade you with some beautiful latin folk music.

Tuesdays — Erick Fry, enjoy some rock and Western classic tunes

Wednesdays — Open Mic Night! Hosted by different musicians; come along and show your skills!

Thursdays — Jorge, dance to the Reggae music!

Fridays — Gustavo, a mixture of latino and western music, from this talented local musician!

Saturdays — A variety of bands and musicians!

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Fridays & Saturdays — Tropical salsa by Grupo Caribe and DJ Antigua (Julio Morales)

Mondays — Surprise group



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Tuesdays — Salsa Night, Live band.

Wednesdays — Cumbia Night, live band

Thursdays — Rock night, live band.

Saturdays — Chill out party, starting at 1pm
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live music

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

ART

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ABOVE: "Don Ramón Liberando la Oropendula" Parque Nacional Laguna del Tigre, by Santiago Billy Prem

MAY PHOTO CONTEST ENTRIES, theme: PORTRAITS

BELOW: "Ancianos" Todos Santos Cuchumatán, by Maynor Marino Mijangos View all entries at: www.revue.gt





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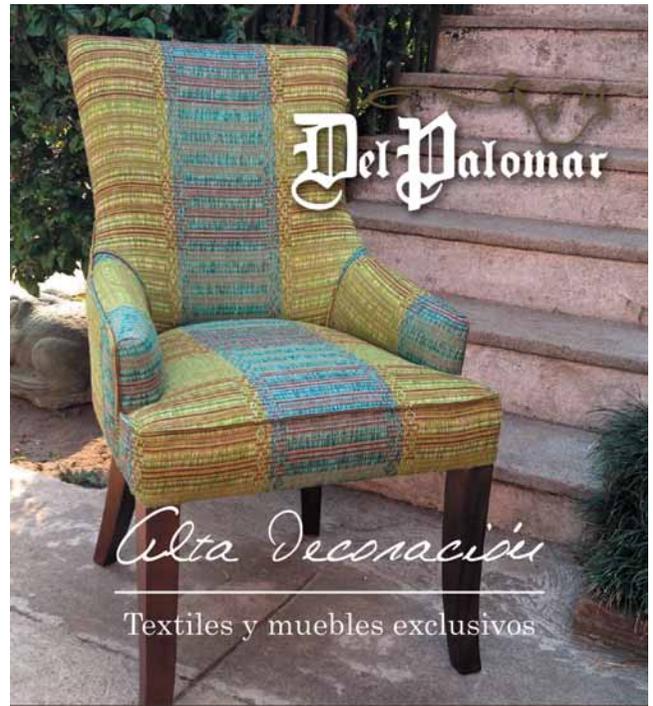
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Family: A social unit where the father is concerned with parking space, the children with outer space, and the mother with closet space. —Evan Esar



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Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. —Jane Howard

Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future. —Gail Lumet Buckley



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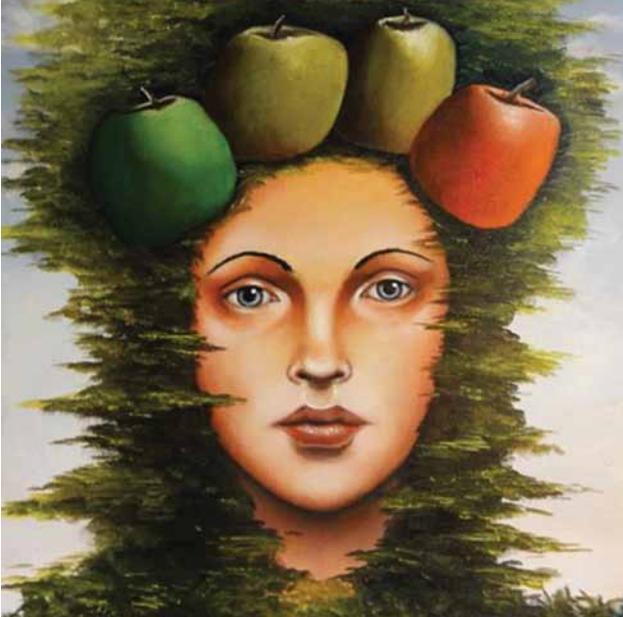
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The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together. —Erma Bombeck

Art Gallery



"Eva" (2012) Miguel Salay · óleo sobre tela

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Art Gallery



"De la serie guardadoras der secretos" (2009) Liliana Aldai · nogalina

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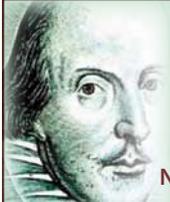
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On Twitter we get excited if someone follows us. In real life we get really scared and run away. —Dan Bowen

Getting information off the Internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant. —Mitch Kapov

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2013
Spirit

by
Sri Ram Kaa
& Kira Raa

Harvesting Magic in May

Ahh, spring! The sun continues to shine and the temperatures skyrocket all with the mixed blessing that soon the rain will come. There is a frenzy that supersedes common sense this time of year. An inner compass that knows the routine will soon change as the weather shifts so why not do it all now?

Here in Guatemala May starts off with great velocity as the spring frenzy reaches a pinnacle of energy. May 1 is Labor Day and like many other national holidays a great excuse to celebrate and party!

La Antigua Guatemala will wel-

come crowds and people will be enjoying themselves in myriad ways. Amidst that energy is an important moment that sets the stage for this month of many shifts. It is the moment to simply say thank you to those who work so hard behind the scenes all year long.

Labor Day is a hard-earned holiday that came at a great cost. It is the workers' day and not uncommon for many who would not normally speak to share their concerns about labor and their hopes for the future. May offers us the gift of looking forward if we chose to claim it.

With the bounty of rain comes vi-

talinity and growth. Guatemala is magical during the rainy season. Arising to gloriously clear and sunny skies is quite beautiful. You then watch the day magically transform as the clouds gently build, bringing a cooling shower in the afternoon. Often those showers end just in time to enjoy a refreshing evening highlighted by the scent of the flowers so gloriously basking in their watery heaven. For many of us, it is our favorite time of year!

As you stroll any street in Antigua and gaze into any courtyard there is a strong sense of beauty. Regardless of where you travel in Guatemala, natural beauty abounds. Yet, often forgotten are those talented beings diligently tending to that beauty every day.

*Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna.
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Those of us who live here tend to laugh that quite literally if you stick it in the ground it will grow! While that is certainly true, if you offer love and attention to that new seedling, it will do more than grow, it will flourish! We have watched a gardener spend hours tracking the entire length of vine to find the exact place to cut to ensure that blossoms are ever present.

This is the greater gift of May. We are reminded that there is a difference between simply living and flourishing. We get to remember that if you offer love and attention to everything you are growing, it will flourish! This is true for every aspect of your life.

So as you receive that great Guatemalan service at a restaurant, or notice a gardener lovingly tending to the flowers, or the friends who are always there even when you forget they are, perhaps this May you can offer a simple thank you and enjoy the harvest of your kindness. That is where the real magic begins! 🍀

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I tell my sons to pack a pocket mirror whenever they travel. Why? So that they, being half gringo and half Guatemalan, can flash themselves a hateful stare each time they toss trash out the window of a speeding chicken bus. (Did I say a speeding chicken bus? Uh, is there some other kind?)

Their half-and-halfness is a legacy of my 16 years of marriage to their mom, a circumstance that obligated me to explore the zenniness of family labels in the Hispanophonie.

My in-law package included enough heads to populate a mid-size Dallas suburb; my ex-wife has 57 first cousins just on her dad's side, and another *cuarenta y pico* (40-odd) on her mom's—a hundred first cousins. The census takers long ago gave up on counting her second cousins.

All these people are, or were, my *parientes*, which means rela-

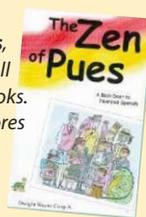
tives, not parents. OK, so false cognates are nothing new. But if *pariente* does not mean parent, then what does? The lamentable answer is *padre*. But were you thinking that *padre* is the word for father? Yes, that, too, but not in the plural. *Mis padres* always mean my parents.

This raises a few questions. The esoteric one is: Which word do Bible translators use to tell us that King Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers? These fathers, of course, are ancestors, and so translators accordingly use *antepasados*. So, in this instance, it is English that equivocates.

The more mundane question is: How do we express parent in the singular? Frankly I do not know. (Write to me if you do.) We can say *madre* or *padre*, but the latter may have to be expanded to *padre varón* unless context removes all fuzziness, as on the forms I filled out each time one of my sons was born. These included sections called *datos de ls madre* and *datos del padre*.

Now I have called my in-laws *parientes*, but in fact this word only covers my half of my sons' extended family. Their mom's half is not my *parientes* but my *parientes políticos*. This is what we call in-laws, whether or not they attend rallies or even vote. (But if one's in-laws are political junkies, does that make them *parientes políticos*?) ...continued page 76

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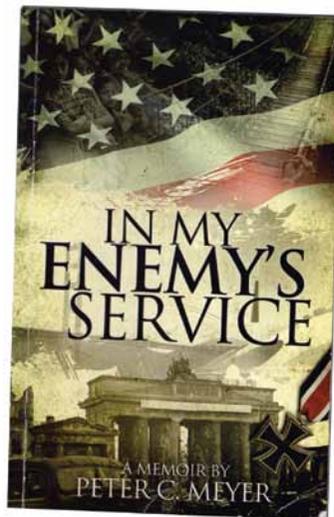
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In My Enemy's Service

written by Peter C. Meyer



Peter Meyer, child of World War II Nazi Germany, rode his bicycle into the front line of the advancing American Army in the last days of the war. His impression was of “the backstage of a circus.” Soldiers chewed and popped bubble gum, smoked cigarettes, rode in Jeeps with their legs dangling out, and saluted as if it were an inconvenience. On the other hand, they had friendly faces, didn’t search Peter or his father, and didn’t steal his father’s watch. In fact, they gave Peter directions and turned their backs on him, unaware and unconcerned that Peter, who at 16 had practiced the German salute for hours, was their enemy.

The realization that it was this American “circus” that had defeated the German Army was a blow to what Peter would later identify as his “Teutonic exactitudes.” In fact, it is the conflict between Peter’s “exactitudes” and the reality of American culture that makes *In My Enemy’s Service* an interesting read.

Survivor of abusive parents, of Berlin’s night bombings, and of hunger that lasted for most of his physical development, Peter found himself in East Germany when the war was over. He needed to escape to West

Germany twice, after his initial forced return to the Eastern sector. Through much of these experiences, and during the years when he supported himself in menial jobs in West Germany, Peter thought of immigrating to the United States, to get rich. His German mother had been born in the United States when her father fled there to escape German inscription during World War I—and then she had returned to Germany as a young child.

Peter’s imagined the United States was a place where bicycles were toys for children whose parents bought new cars every year for transportation. After years of attempting to immigrate, an aunt in Chicago sent him the means to arrive in the United States. Now, Peter was face to face with his American relatives, who had worked themselves into the middle class. Once again, he found his preconceptions offended, this time by what he saw as American materialism.

Peter’s 30-year American journey began in the era of the Korean War, when he was drafted into the American Army, and in return obtained U.S. citizenship and GI benefits that

allowed him to attend college. It ended after a career that included elected office in California. By then, Peter had become financially independent, and now decided that he wanted to improve the lives of others with the rewards of his perseverance and hard work.

The final chapter of Peter’s life is the story of his move to, and residence in, Guatemala, and of his attempts to improve the lives of a group of indigenous Guatemalans. Once again, those Teutonic exactitudes show themselves, but with a softened attitude toward cultural differences.

In My Enemy’s Service is a candid account of a life that has spanned three cultures and some of the most important historical events of the past 80 years. It is told from a unique perspective that acknowledges these cultural differences and the effect that each had on Peter’s life. It is a book that will challenge some readers’ preconceptions, but will never fail to hold their interest. **R**

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How is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?
—François Duc de La Rochefoucauld



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ABOVE: Henry serves the beverage
BELOW: French Onion soup hot from the kitchen



Bright futures ahead for students at KIDS Restaurant

In my past life as a New Yorker, anytime a new buzzed-about restaurant or food adventure hit the street, I would trip over myself to see what the fuss was all about. I collected menus and match-books just as one might do by collecting stamps in a passport, using them to remember journeys past. Similarly, as an Antigüean for almost nine months now, I have dined at the hole-in-the-wall with an hour wait, suffered at the hands of supposedly world-class chefs and been dazzled by unfussy fare prepared by unsuspecting street vendors and roadside stalls.

But never in my culinary adventures have I come across anything quite like KIDS Restaurant, a bi-monthly eatery operated by children ages 10-17. Here, children from the surrounding areas such as San Gaspar Vivar, San Juan del Obispo and

San Pedro las Huertas are taught and trained in the art of hospitality.

From line cooks to pastry chefs to waiters, hostesses and bussers—each student at KIDS holds one of these titles at one time or another. Most of the boys barely need to shave their upper lips, but each participant takes his or her role just as seriously as an employee at some of the most acclaimed restaurants in town.

KIDS Restaurant is an offshoot of the T.E.S.S. Unlimited Education Center in San Gaspar Vivar, a non-profit founded by Tessa de Goede de Ordóñez, who first traveled to Guatemala from Holland in 2008. Like many education-oriented non-profits, T.E.S.S.'s center offers after-school classes in computation, English and other useful skills. However, cooking classes—including nutrition

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Staff roster



Juan Carlos whips up some ratatouille



Tessa and Yuleisi greet guests at the door



ABOVE: prepping for... BELOW: Crepe with chocolate sauce and strawberries



education and restaurant theory—are the heart of the operation.

Alice Lai, director of T.E.S.S.'s center, explains that KIDS Restaurant was developed to give its pupils a chance to practice what they learn in class with real, paying customers. The students study English so that they can communicate with patrons, practice their computer skills to look for recipes and design menus, and draw on their knowledge of nutrition to select top-notch ingredients at the market.

When asked why KIDS Restaurant was started, Lai says, "Antigua is based on tourism. (Most of the businesses) are restaurants or hotels, so we wanted to prepare (the kids) in something useful for them later in their future ... they already have the experience—how to cook, all the theory, the pressure over being in a restaurant ..." Lai and de Goede believe this gives them a leg up in an already competitive job market.

How do the kids feel about it? Judging from my recent experience, they love it. As I entered the kitchen, the line cooks were bent over their stoves or cutting boards looking very serious. Intent on re-creating their chef's recipes with precision, they answered my questions politely (English only in the kitchen, Lai informs me), but never let their attention stray too long from the tasks at hand. The wait staff was in a flurry preparing the dining room with tablecloths and napkins and menus decorated with photos of the Louvre

and the Eiffel Tower for that night's French dinner. Their attention to detail was rewarded and they beamed with pride when they served that evening's fare.

The skills and knowledge that the students have acquired at KIDS flow over into their home lives as well. Lai and de Goede have received nothing but rave reviews from parents.

"A mom once came to the center crying, and Tessa thought, 'Oh no, what's going on?' ... But the mother said, 'I am so happy that I am crying. Last night, I came back home from work, and my son prepared a whole dinner. The table was set—fork, knife, napkin—the food was on the table, everything was prepared. You are really giving my kid something.' That's why she came to Tessa."

Oh, and how was the food? Well, all I can say is my dinner companions and I cleaned our plates with gusto!

The cost of dinner at KIDS is Q75 for three courses and a smoothie. Other drinks and tip are not included. All proceeds go to providing field trips to local eateries like Peña del Sol, Ubi's Sushi and the Chocolate Museum, giving the students an opportunity to observe, eat and learn from industry insiders. For more information and locations, you can go to www.kidsrestaurant.org. 

You can make a reservation at kidsrestaurant@gmail.com or call 4550-7798 (English, Dutch and Spanish spoken)

Natalie Rose is a freelance writer who is very grateful no one saw her licking her crepe plate at KIDS Restaurant.



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The Taste of Artisan Food Products

“**W**hen life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” Personally, I would prefer a fresh lemon tart or a jar of artisan lemon curd. I long for baskets of delicious lemons in markets that are so plentiful in other parts of the world. In the Highlands of San Martin large yellow lemons, with sweet citrus flavors, are grown on farm land. Bodegona, if you are reading, please send someone up the hill to fetch them, as I am longing for an aromatic lemon bar.

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When visiting my friend Joan’s garden, I always head for her Meyer lemon tree, searching for signs of newly sprouted buds. I crave its distinctive taste of lemon, mandarin orange and aromas of honey and thyme. When the tree bears fruit I have promised her a batch of Meyer lemon ice cream with a hint of Guatemalan cardamom. In the meantime, will someone please toss me a damn lemon?

I am also inspired as I walk through Caoba Farms’ lush rows of organic produce. Small growers in



Guatemala need to be embraced to preserve this culture of local artisan food production. Food grown in these environments is healthy, tastes delicious and is good for the land. I choose not to eat produce that has



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been waxed to perfection with petrolatum, a byproduct of petroleum. I would rather keep petroleum in the tank of my car, thank you. This is why I purchase local organic produce rather than the large agribusiness and food processors that manifest the greater food- safety risks.

In Guatemala we have access to many varieties of artisan food. Artisan food is defined simply as not being processed en masse on factory lines with only quantity in mind. It is instead local bakery products fresh out of the oven, piping hot tortillas made by hand, or delicious brews of coffee that comes from small nearby fincas. In Guatemala we are surrounded with lush fruits of the land. In the markets we are surrounded with healthy food choices. I have learned to pay more attention to what nature has to offer from the fields of Guatemala.

As I sit at the Valhalla Farm eating macadamia pancakes with organically grown blueberries from a nearby field, my cup of roasted Guatemalan coffee awakens my senses and reminds me to appreciate the artisan food we sometimes take for granted here in Guatemala.

In North America the healthy, artisan food renaissance has grown to the point of corporate food makers gleefully adding the word “artisan” to their labels. Did they not receive the memo of the definition of artisan?

Whether it is artisan food or organic farming, it all comes down to what we choose to put into our bodies. It is simple. Eat well and you shall live well.

Oh and if anyone can point me in the direction of artisan Sea Salt Honey Caramels, I will walk your dog for a week. 🐕

Shannon McCullough is a writer living in La Antigua Guatemala. He is currently writing a book on cooking and entertaining in Guatemala.



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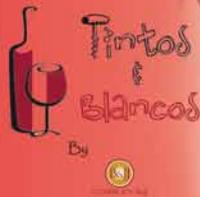
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Sacred Animals and Exotic Tropical Plants

by Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth
photos: Sophia Monzón



Finding *Virola guatemalensis*

The search is on for ancient flavorings

After four years of searching, we still have not been able to find seven of the flavors used by the Maya 1,000 years ago.

For example, where is an actual orejuela tree (muc in K'ekchi Mayan)? Two years ago its leaves were common in the markets of Cobán, Alta Verapaz. Last month not one single vendor had them; they said people were drinking modern tea and bottled drinks and the interest in orejuela was waning. Hopefully, leaves from the orejuela trees are still in other markets, and we will work to rejuvenate interest in this flavoring, which was pretty much No. 1 for many Maya and Aztec peoples before European food arrived.

Nor have we found smilax bushes (or roots) nor the proper magnolia (Magnolia mexicana or Talauma Mexicana), which still most likely

grows near Huehuetenango. The other trees we have not been able to find are itsimte, Clerodendrum ligustrinum, and the *Virola guatemalensis*.

With the help of Dwight Carter of Frutas del Mundo (near Río Dulce, Izabal) we were told of a spot near Puerto Barrios that had a pimenta gorda tree in flower (allspice). This spice is widely used to flavor chocolate and many other foods. While studying this tree one member of our team found a tree a few meters away whose fruit was almost identical to *Virola guatemalensis*. But I believe that its fruit may have been nutmeg, *Myristica fragans*. Nutmeg is from Asia; *Virola guatemalensis* is native to Mesoamerica.

Virola koschnyi is synonym of *Virola guatemalensis*. *Virola koschnyi* is known in Guatemala as banak or

palo de sangre (Cordero and Boshier 2003:937). A dictionary (www.ars-grin.gov) indicates that “dry seeds are used for flavoring chocolate. The seed oil is used for making soap and candles. Whorled twigs are used like eggbeaters.” Using this twig to stir food may itself have a fragrance, which immediately reminded me of molinillo, *Quararibea funebris*, also known as rosita de cacao.

There is very little information available on *Virola guatemalensis*. This tree grows well here in Guatemala and has huge economic potential. But no local can give us enough information to find one.

Although I am not a botanist, I have worked with ...continued page 72

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). Contact: frontdesk@flaar.org



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If minutes were kept of a family gathering, they would show that “Members not Present” and “Subjects Discussed” were one and the same. —Robert Brault

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Road to Nakum

cont. from page 14

spiders and butterflies.

Two hours into the hike we came upon a fork in the road and a sign pointing to a “Mayan well” (*Pozo Maya*). We decided to take that detour and see where it led. Three kilometers farther we came upon a huge clearing by the side a massive depression in the forest, which our guidebook said had been a man-made reservoir used by the ancient Maya 1,000 years earlier. Alfonso signaled us to stop and be quiet. Up on the other side of the clearing was a troop of perhaps 50 collared peccary. Usually the collared peccary are not a problem; it is their larger cousins, the white-lipped peccary, who have the reputation of being very dangerous, perhaps the most dangerous animal in the forest. Nevertheless, we were on pins and needles for a few seconds when suddenly one little pig snorted and clicked its teeth, and the entire troop trotted into the forest and disappeared.

This seemed to be an ideal place to camp, so we decided to stay and explore the area. It turned out to be a good decision, as the birding was excellent. We had the whole “green sea” to ourselves. By the campfire that evening Alfonso entertained us with stories about the old days when he and his boys would come across the border to Melchor de Mencos for a good pub crawl. We were laughing and in high spirits when from nowhere a large deer ran right through the flick-



STRIPED BASILISK LIZARD

We were laughing and in high spirits when from nowhere a large deer ran right through the flickering shadows ... with a jaguar in hot pursuit!

ering shadows ... with a jaguar in hot pursuit! Harry jumped aside, spilling his drink, and fell to the ground. In the blink of an eye it was over and the jungle was all darkness and insect sounds. All we could do was shake our heads in amazement and marvel at what had just happened.

The next morning after a good jungle breakfast of hot oatmeal laced with allspice, raisins, peanuts and honey we retraced our steps to the main road and headed due north again. In another two hours we finally reached the ruins of Nakum,

where the guard bade us welcome and took us to the camping area where there were basic facilities and a rain-water tank for drinking and bathing. We stayed for three days. It made a perfect base for jungle explorations. I had received a report from a bird watcher that he had seen what he thought was a harpy eagle, the largest eagle on Earth, and so I combed the area with the dream of finding one. But no luck. For those interested in archaeology, the ruins have undergone extensive reconstruction, and they are some of the most interesting in the entire Maya Biosphere Reserve.

On the way back to Yaxhá Lagoon we took the alternative route that begins several kilometers down the road south from Nakum. This narrow path takes you through dense, virgin jungle and comes out at the ruins of Yaxhá. The path is superb for wildlife encounters of all kinds. Back at the Yaxhá campgrounds, and after a cool shower and change of clothes, we were in fine form to toast the sunset and enjoy a gourmet repast of my specialty: fettuccini with olive oil, mixed vegetables and goat cheese, all accompanied by the daily sunset concert provided by the gregarious oropendolas.

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The Artisans of Flor de San Juan

“I want to wear the traditional dress of my people, but I also enjoy contemporary fashion. I love starting with something traditional as a base and modifying it into something fashionable and sexy. This way I am able to wear clothes that display my heritage while keeping up with the latest fashion trends,” explained Angélica Mendoza, the group leader of Flor de San Juan, when asked what she likes about her craft.

Flor de San Juan is an artisan group of six women who use weav-

ing, crochet and embroidery to make original and quality products. They live at the foot of the Cuchamatanes in a small village, where most families survive by cultivating garlic for export and domestic use.

The group combines traditional techniques in new and innovative designs to create modern products that are classy and stylish. The women weave using both the back-strap loom and the foot-pedal loom, and have had great success in combining the two.

Angélica is the youngest member of the group at 21 and lives with her

mother, father and three brothers. Her father is a garlic farmer and her mother works in the house. Angélica had the good fortune of receiving a scholarship to study middle school and finish her vocational studies in computer science and now teaches basic computer skills at the local middle school.

“I taught myself how to sew when I was 15 by trial and error. My mom had an old sewing machine and I wanted to be able to create my own designs,” Angélica said. “I already knew how to weave but learning to sew gave me the ...continued page 77



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Antigua Sister City in Florida re-elects its mayor



Jim Cason

Voters in Coral Gables, Florida, one of La Antigua Guatemala's Sister Cities, have re-elected Jim Cason, a retired U.S. Foreign Services officer, as their mayor.

Mr. Cason was first elected in 2011 and won a second term last month by a 71-29 percent margin over longtime City Commissioner Ralph Cabrera.

Mr. Cason has more than 40 years of national and international public service, with extensive experience in Latin America and the Caribbean. Among other posts, he served as U.S. ambassador to Paraguay; chief of mission, U.S. Interests Section in Havana, Cuba; and deputy chief of mission, U.S. embassies in Honduras and Jamaica. He is fluent in five languages.

Coral Gables, located beside Miami, and Antigua have been Sister Cities since 1993 through Sister Cities International, an organization founded in 1956 by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower to create opportunities for cultural exchange at the municipal, county and state level.

Images and information about Antigua, as well as Coral Gables' other siblings, are on display at the Coral Gables Museum in an ongoing exhibit titled "Coral Gables Sister Cities: Partners in Peace."

—Matt Bokor



I have worked with plants long enough to understand a bit about the basics of classification. So *Pseudobombax ellipticum*, *Pachira aquatica* and *Ceiba aesculifolia* are all members of related species (formerly *Bombacaceae*, now sub-family *Bombacoideae*). You can see the relationship—just look at its flowers.

Yet, *Virola guatemalensis* and *Myristica fragrans* look (to a lay person) almost identical. The nut inside the fruit has the most remarkable red "claw" clinging all around the surface. It looks like it comes from another planet.

So, our search continues. If you would like to be part of our endeavor, please contact us: FrontDesk@FLAAR.org. For example, our project really needs a 4WD vehicle, since some areas are rather remote. A 600mm prime lens would enable our team of botanists and photographers to get better photographs of flowers and fruits high up in a tree. Obviously it would be ideal for a major international chocolate company to cooperate with our project, since we have the best high-resolution photographs available of both cacao and pataxte, and gradually, each of the elusive ancient flavorings.

We have compiled an ever increasing list all plant substances that were used by the Maya and Aztec to flavor cacao beverages. Our specialty is the flavoring. (Visit www.maya-ethnobotany.org to view the on-going list.) 🍷

A further goal of FLAAR is to provide information to students, scholars and the general public on what the diet was like for the Classic Maya. We study native fruits, tropical vegetables and plants; over 200 native plants are edible but less than 15% are eaten today. Of course anona and zapote are indeed still consumed, but there are another 40 fruits that the Classic Maya ate 2,000 years ago!



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You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around - and why his parents will always wave back.
 —William D. Tammeus

Making the decision to have a child is momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking around outside your body.
 —Elizabeth Stone



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In a houseful of toddlers and pets, you can start out having a bad day, but you keep getting detoured. —Robert Brault



Orchid Association Created in Antigua



In June of 2012 a group of orchid lovers gathered in La Antigua Guatemala and founded the “Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala.” The group’s mission is to promote the rescue, preservation and conservation of Guatemala’s orchids. The lovely *Rhynchostele rossii* was chosen as the association’s symbol.

The group held its first exhibit in July, displaying many beautiful species of orchids belonging to its members as well as orchids from private growers.

Monthly meetings are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month. The focus is on conferences and workshops to provide members and guests with a broader knowledge of orchid care and cultivation.

The association’s doors are open to any orchidologist, from beginner to expert collector.

Monthly member contributions along with private and public donations allow the group, a non-profit organization, to continue and expand.

The Asociación de Orquideología is proud to announce its participation in the National Orchid Exhibition that will take place **May 30 through June 2** at the Museo de Arte Colonial (Museum of Colonial Art), 5a calle oriente #5, (next to the cathedral) in La Antigua. Friends and neighbors are invited to participate in this magnificent event. 📍

Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala, Tel. 5114-5501

Facebook: Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala

Spitters, Scratchers, & Snappers

Food Poisoning – Part IV

PET Q’s & A’s
by Cynthia Burski, DVM



Though humans suffer no harmful effects, there are many foods that are very dangerous to your dogs and cats.

Onions, garlic, chives and leeks: The small amount of garlic sometimes found in dog treats is unlikely to be harmful to dogs. However, if cats or dogs consume the contents of a tasty pan of sautéed onions, garlic or leeks, poisoning may result. The ingestion of large amounts of garlic pills or powder may also cause poisoning. Garlic was once thought of as a home remedy for flea infesta-

tions; however, it has been shown to be ineffective and is not recommended. These vegetables can cause red blood cell destruction (specifically, Heinz body formation) and results in anemia. Ingestion of onions or garlic greater than 0.5 % of a dog’s body weight is potentially toxic. This means that a 30-pound dog who has eaten about 2.5 ounces of onion or garlic could have problems. Cats and Japanese breeds of dogs (Akita and the Shiba Inu) are even more sensitive to the effects of these plants.

Symptoms: An onion or garlic smell on breath, lethargy, pale mu-

cous membranes due to anemia, tachypnea (elevated respiratory rate), tachycardia (elevated heart rate), vomiting and a reduced appetite.

Treatment: At home, include inducing vomiting and administering multiple doses of activated charcoal to decontaminate (adsorb and remove toxins).

Veterinary care: Check packed cell volume or blood smears daily to evaluate anemia. If anemia is severe, initiate blood transfusion. With early intervention and appropriate care, the prognosis is very good.



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Botanical Gardens

cont. from page 20

the extinction of certain endangered species. The latest additions include a meteorology station, a medicinal plant garden and even a beehive.

The garden, which is part of San Carlos University, receives 10,000-15,000 visitors every year and each one is able to see the country's national tree, la ceiba, as well as the country's 24 departmental flowers.

The site that hosts the botanical garden is also home to a small museum of natural history and various educational exhibition rooms that are focused on insects, marine invertebrates, fish and birds in various habitats from cloud forests to dry forests. 📍

Open from **Tuesdays to Fridays 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.** and costing **Q3** for nationals and **Q10** for foreigners, El Jardín Botánico is the perfect outdoor activity if you want to “escape to the country” while in the middle of the city.



The ZEN of...

cont. from page 42

What this means is that while I can call my wife's nieces *sobrinas*, I may have to clarify when the person I am addressing points out that my charming niece, Laura Torres, does not look like me. I have to admit that she is “only” my *sobrina política*.

All is not zenniness, however. In Spanish, we are blessed with the elegant words *cuñado* and *cuñada* in place of the unwieldy brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

To make matters better still, Spanish has real words for the spouses of *cuñados*. Instead of presenting Laura's father, Enrique, as “the husband of my sister-in-law,” I simply present him as my *concuño*.

Now to half-siblings and step kin. The former are directly translatable as *medio hermano* and *media hermana*. And the step labels are easy if you see them all in one place, since there is a clear pattern. Instead of *padre*, *madre*, *hermano*, *hermana*, *hijo* and *hija*, we have *padrastra*, *madrastra*, *hermanastro*, *hermanastra*, *hijastrastro* and *hijastra*.

Here are two ways to remember to insert *-astr-* before the final vowel. This letter cluster looks a lot like the Greek word for star (*aster*). So if you like your step-relatives, think of them as stellar

versions of your blood relations. If not, think of them as space beings from the star system Sigma Stinkus 13.

Now we come to the zenni-est label. Your sweetheart is your *novio* or *novia*. But upon engagement, a *novia* becomes a *novia comprometida*. In practice, this phrase is always abbreviated to *comprometida*. So far, so good; but on the big day, and on the days prior to it—when she becomes what we call a bride—she reverts to being called a *novia*. So the continuum of girlfriend/fiancée/bride becomes *novia/comprometida/novia*. Perhaps, on the home stretch, the bride-to-be is put on probation, being demoted (temporarily, let us hope) to girlfriend status. A better explanation is that Spanish lacks separate words for girlfriend and bride—a zenny omission, since *novia* serves two poles. It likely recalls an age when all marriages were arranged, a courtier era when we had fiancées and brides, but no girlfriends.

But I find it in my heart to forgive Spanish for such failings each time I recall that my pal Enrique Torres is my *concuño*. 📍

I don't have to look up my family tree, because I know that I'm the sap.
—Fred Allen



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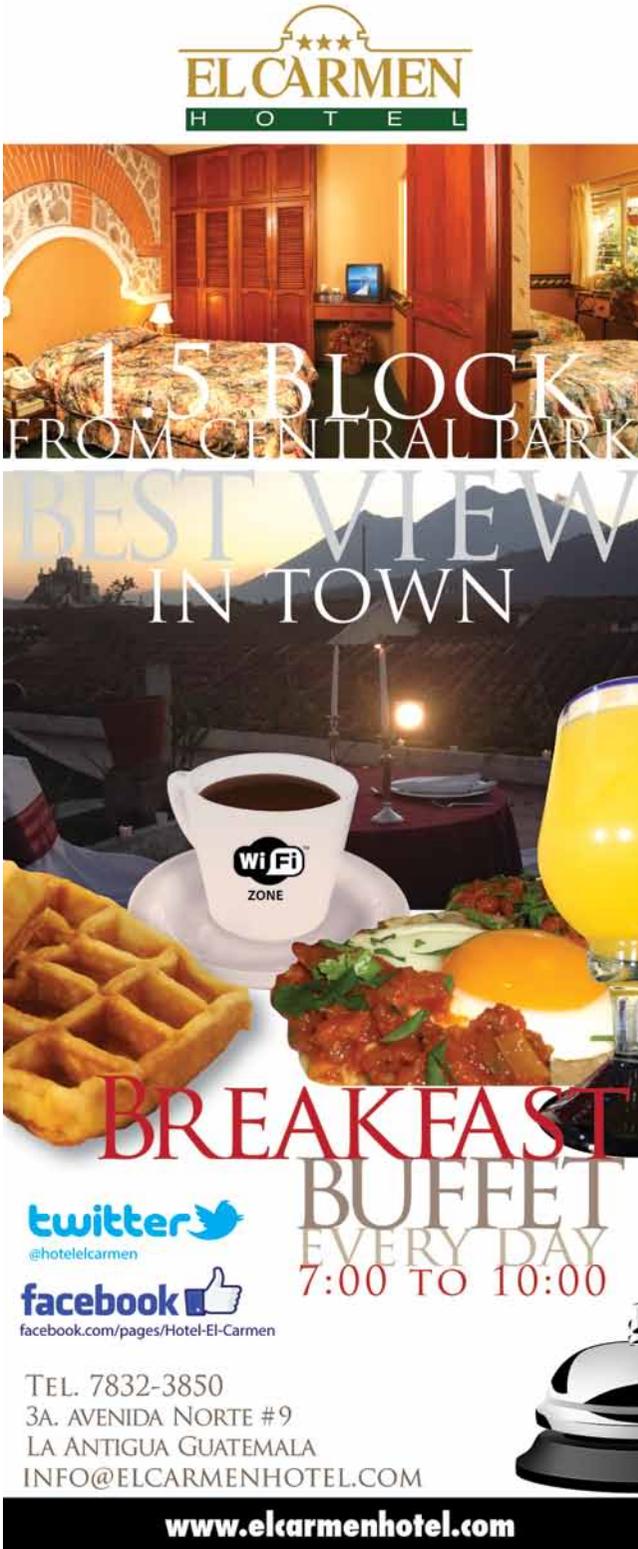
Flor de San Juan cont. from page 70

freedom to be more creative and make my own designs.”

The women work as a group but are also able to work individually in their free time, which is a great benefit to them. Most of the group members are mothers who are busy with family responsibilities for much of the day. However, they enjoy creating and by selling their creations are also able to contribute financially to their families.

When asked about her dreams for the future, Angélica explains, “I dream of one day earning enough money to travel the world, but in the meantime I just want to help my family make a better life for themselves and send my little brothers to school.”

Products made by Flor de San Juan can be found in La Antigua Guatemala at Casa de los Gigantes, 7a calle oriente #18, across the street from the San Francisco Church.



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We confess to little faults only to persuade
 ourselves that we have no great ones.
 —François, Duc de La Rochefoucauld

Looking at the proliferation of personal web pages
 on the Net, it looks like very soon everyone on Earth
 will have 15 megabytes of fame. —M.G. Sriram



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I had a life once... now I have a computer.
—Sally Owens

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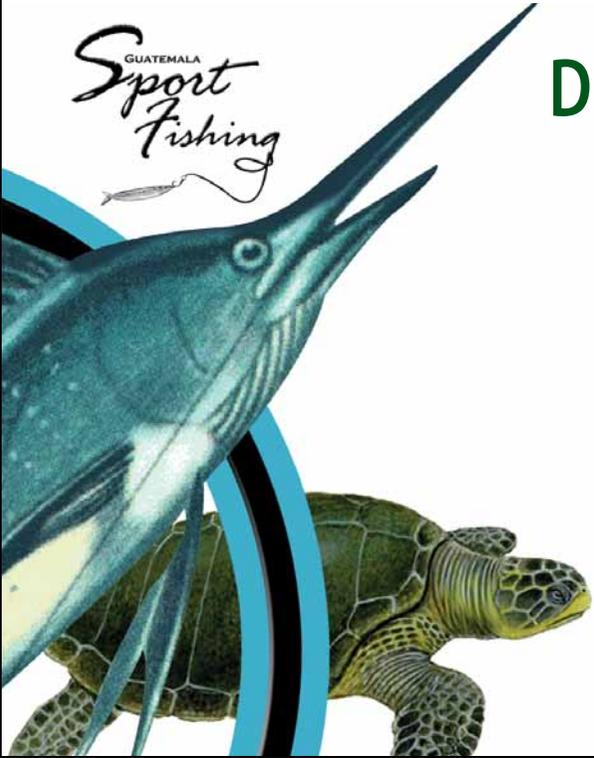


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Unlocking Samabaj

*The Museo Lacustre de Atitlán stunningly presents
an important underwater archaeological site*

The task of conveying the wonders and rarity of an abandoned, underwater Mayan burial and ceremonial site to dry, fully clothed museum-goers on the surface was quite a challenge for the Museo Lacustre de Atitlán, the informative underwater-themed exhibit dedicated to Samabaj.

Although the actual Mayan site is under 30 feet of water about 500 meters from the volcano Tolimán, this archaeological museum is in Panajachel, housed in a building in the historic Hotel Posada don Rodrigo.

Lacustre (as it is referred to) stepped up to the challenge by using floor-to-ceiling underwater photographs, special “water lights” and ethereal mood music to convey the quiet, peaceful and almost Titanic-like ghostliness of the pilgrimage site that has been underwater since around 350 A.D.

The mood is set immediately upon entering. From the moment you remove your shoes (visitors are required to remove their shoes upon entering) and step inside, the feeling of time and space slips away. Unlike a normal, brick-and-mortar museum,

the art at Lacustre is not in frames on the walls or in display cases. Rather, it is plastered in images inches above your head, and in the space underneath your toes.

Stelae, or ancient upright carved slabs or stones, can be seen in these images, including No. 1, which is the only stela to have been found standing under the lake. The artifacts—pottery, incense holders and ceremonial objects to name a few—are works of art not only because of their ancient craftsmanship, but also be-



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MAP BY ELVIRA MÉNDEZ



“After about 30 dives I found a stela with its front offering plate. It was indescribable.”



Samabaj from previous page

cause of the configurations ingrained in them by the mold, moss and water after being submerged for centuries.

As you view the haunting images all around you, it is easy to feel as if you are intruding on something sacred, and that at any moment, an an-

cient Maya inhabitant or modern-day scuba diver will drift slowly past you.

Samabaj takes its name from the first three letters of the last name of its discoverer, Roberto Samayoa, and the word abaj, which means “stone of” in Kaqchiquel.

Samayoa, an amateur scuba diver, discovered the site in 1996 after he began noticing peculiar rock formations at the bottom of the lake. In 2012, he told Prensa Libre’s Ana Lucia Gonzáles, “I had noticed strange stone alignments and I thought they were natural, but after about 30 dives I found a stela (No. 1) with its front offering plate. There I said: This is not natural. It was indescribable.”

The site was registered in 1998 at the Institute of Anthropology and History and work began on excavating and preserving its treasures. To date, 18 monuments have been discovered. Scientists from all over the world, including the Scripps Institute in La Jolla, California, have

come to research and examine the site, as well as marvel at the museum. It is yet another jewel in the already marvelously decorated crown that represents the Maya people and Guatemala’s contribution to our universal history as humans.

The significance of Lacustre cannot be understated. First, Samabaj is pretty inaccessible. Because of the altitude, diving in Lago de Atitlán is extremely precarious and even researchers can only descend twice a day for half an hour each, such a short time to see such a mysterious place. Second, with the lake quality deteriorating, even Samayoa admits the water visibility is cloudy and obscured, making it difficult to see many of Samabaj’s most important sites. But most importantly, the flood of visitors to archaeological sites like Peru’s Machu Picchu or France’s Chauvet caves often disrupts and deteriorates the precarious balance that has helped preserve these sites for thousands (and thousands) of years. Through Lacustre, Samabaj is open to the public, and the actual site can be left for scientists to study for many more years to come. 



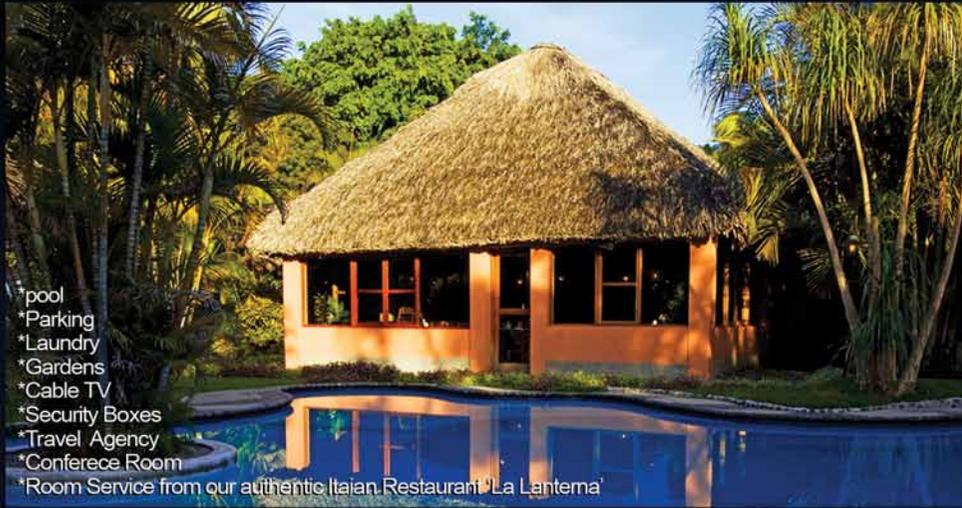
Museo Lacustre de Atitlán is open Mon-Fri 8am-6pm; Sat-Sun 8am-7pm, inside the Hotel Posada Don Rodrigo, south end of Calle Santander, Panajachel.





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*The ideals which have lighted my way,
and time after time have given me
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have been kindness, beauty, and truth.
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they won't bother you for weeks. —Jacob Mosby

I have never for one instant seen clearly within myself.
How then would you have me judge the deeds of others?
—Maurice Maeterlinck

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Canal clamming cont. from page 21

Yes—success! At first it's hard and a little scary, as you're not sure those hard little bumps in the mud are actually clams and not crabs. But your confidence grows and soon I was able to find those clams and bring them up with my toes just like the locals...well, almost.

It is so soothing to be out in that water, gently digging around for clams while watching white egrets and great blue herons do their work alongside of you. Pelicans fly in their V-formation overhead as the sky paints a beautiful pink and purple canvas with the sun setting in the west. You can't help but feel extremely lucky to be in paradise, up to your neck in the mangrove canal, digging for clams and laughing with friends at the odd yelp of someone narrowly avoiding a crab and slowly but surely everyone filling their bucket with delicious clams.

Back on land as we divided up our haul evenly among all participants, we started imagining a steaming bowl of caldo de mariscos. I just happened to have some fresh shrimp back at the house, so I invited everyone over and within the hour we had a sumptuous stew ready to enjoy. Nothing is better than food as fresh as this—fresh clams—collected and eaten within hours of their harvest. Now this is really delicious good living! ◀

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



When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points or it would be impossible to endure them.
—George Bernard Shaw

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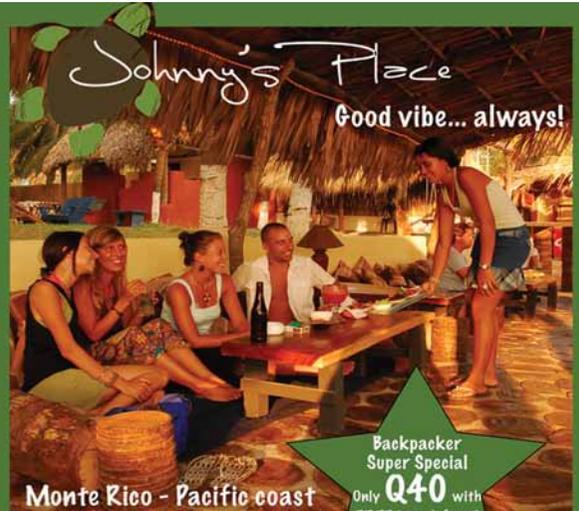
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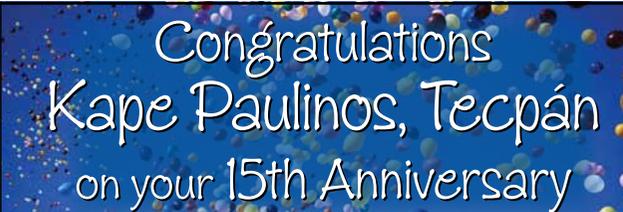


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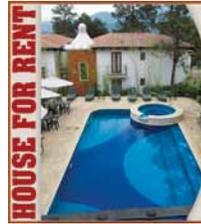
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GUATEMALA CITY

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| | |
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| 1 Acre = .4047 hectare | 1 Manzana = 6,988 mt ² |
| 1 Acre = 4047 mt ² | 1 Manzana = 1.7 acres |
| 1 Acre = 5645.4 varas ² | 1 Vara = 32.9 inches |
| 1 mt ² = 10.764 ft ² | 1 Yard = 36 inches (3ft) |
| 1 mt ² = 1.431 vr ² | 1 Meter = 39.37 inches |

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Karen
55.10.51.33



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 Precio US\$ 300,000.00 + IMP
 Código: PVC-009-09-13



AMPLIA CASA CON PINOS ACABADOS DETALLES COLONIALES AMUEBLADA
 800 Mts², 644 Vrs, 2 piscinas, 8 hab., jacuzzi, 1 parqueo, 6 baños, pérgola, terraza española
 Precio US\$ 466,000.00 + IMP
 Código: PVC-035-10-12



CASA EN VENTA EXCLUSIVO CONDOMINIO SEGURO EN ANTIGUA GUATEMALA
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 Oferta US\$ 399,000.00 + IMP
 Código: PVC-033-12-12



Inés
59.23.06.64



Elma
55.10.34.90



TERRENO RESIDENCIAL EN VENTA EN CIUDAD VIEJA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA
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 Código: PVT-019-09-12



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 Precio US\$ 220,000.00 + IMP
 Código: PVC-032-03-13



TERRENO EN VENTA CARRETERA ANTIGUA EN SAN LUCAS SACATEPEQUEZ
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 Código: PVT-003-12-12



ORANJA RESIDENCIAL EN VENTA EN SAN LUCAS SACATEPEQUEZ CAMINO ANTIGUA
 800 Mts², 20,000 Vrs², 6 hab., 6 baños, 2 casas, 1 apto, área lavaf, csa de retiro, sala con chimenea
 PRECIO US\$ 98,000.00 + IMP
 Código: PVC-038-10-12



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Kathryn
59.23.06.54



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bilingual “cruci-word”

Translate the Clue to the Opposite Language (Spanish/English)

(Feel free to use the dictionary—the main idea here is to learn new words)

DOWN

1. Dawns
2. Llegada
3. Sin Grasa
4. Puzzling
5. Pantano
6. “To go and fetch”
7. To Coincide
8. “Una Cerveza”
9. Descanso
13. Cantos Sagrados
18. High Card
20. Avaro
22. Recuadro
24. He Plows
25. Ganar
29. From
30. Nosotros, Nos

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | | | | | | | | 11 | |
| 12 | | | | | | | 13 | | |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | 17 | 18 | | | | | |
| 19 | | 20 | | | | 21 | | | 22 |
| 23 | | | | | 24 | | | 25 | |
| | | 26 | | | 27 | | | | |
| 2 | 29 | | | 30 | | | | 31 | |
| 32 | | | | | | | 33 | | |

Puzzle by Michael Hopkins

SOLUTION ON PAGE 66

ACROSS

- | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. To Harm | 15. Principio | 23. Se Posó | 28. To make suitable |
| 10. Sand Dealer | 16. Ultravioleta (abr) | 24. Creadores de Propaganda | 31. Respecto a |
| 11. Ser | 17. To Brand | 26. Yes | 32. Panniers |
| 12. Tubos de Desagüe | 19. Scales | 27. Laughters | 33. Insecto |
| 14. Anillo | 21. Estado de EE.UU. (abr) | | |

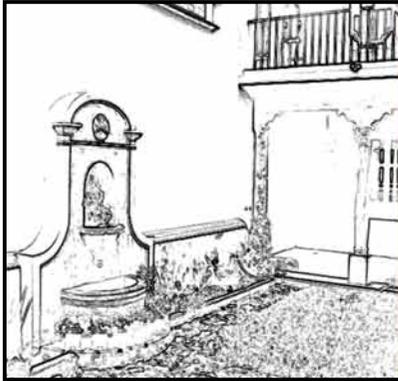
Phrases that Don't Translate Well (thanks to www.studyspanish.com)

“By pure luck” Como el burro que tocó la flauta. (As the donkey played the flute)

“What's that got to do with the price of tea in China?” Yo tengo una tía que toca la guitarra. (I have an aunt that plays guitar.)

“You're putting me on.” ... A otro perro con ese hueso. (To another dog with that bone.)

“Out of the frying pan, into the fire.” Salir de Guatemala y meterse en guatepeor.



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Grid-Tie

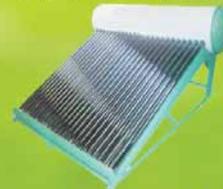
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by Monish Welcome

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by popular vote

"El Cofrade" by Alejandro Barillas
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MAY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

theme: PORTRAITS

2nd PLACE by judges vote (top left)

"Untitled" by Manuel Aldana.
Prize: 2 Concert tickets to **Editus**, La Antigua

2nd PLACE by popular vote (top right)

"Mucha vida" by Katherine Poole.
Prize: 2 bottles of wine, **Santa Ana**.

Honorable Mention by judges vote (left)

"Untitled" by Sergio Rizo
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He conquers who endures. —Persius

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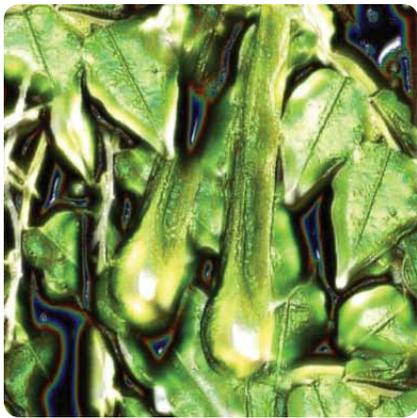
Home is where you can say anything you like cause nobody listens to you anyway.
—David Arnsnap



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE Police: 120 Fire: 122 and 123

Tourist Police (Antigua): 7832-4131 Fire Dept: 7832-0234

Guatemala City Tourist Assistance: 1500 (24-hour)



BALSAM OF PERU

They're in bloom now, and the sweet but spicy aroma is easy to recognize a block away. Beautiful specimens of this tall tree are in many parks throughout the country, the purple blossoms hanging from the rich green branches. They're not from Peru, but Guatemala, though this handsome tree—officially *Myroxylon Pereirae*—grows throughout Central America.

Don't confuse it with other balsams, though. There are over 200 balsams in the world, from the "Christmas tree" of North Amer-

ica to the frankincense and myrrh of the Bible, plants with oily resins that are used in every culture as remedies, flavorings, preservatives and perfumes.

The dark, oily juice of Peru Balsam pods is a treatment for skin disease, a base for rubs and ointments, and a cinnamon-like flavor in some traditional Mayan dishes. In fact, the ancient Maya used the juice and extract as natives do today, to heal, give taste and preserve. Meanwhile, the wood itself can be worked into beautiful furniture, prized as much as the richest mahogany for its grain.

A few people are allergic to Balsam of Peru, either on the skin or taken internally, but it's a popular ingredient for many dishes and for topical use. It's not found in supermarkets, but easy to discover in the local markets, in the little stands with other herbal and natural curatives. Home-cooked lotions of Peru Balsam can be purchased for a few quetzals at these market stands. Smooth some on your skin and take some back home as another memory of Central America. 📖



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* Fees per person in US\$, payment in full before reservation date, space subject to availability. Price includes transport, boat and equipment rent, does not include gratuities or non specified meals.



Photo: Roberto Sacasa



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