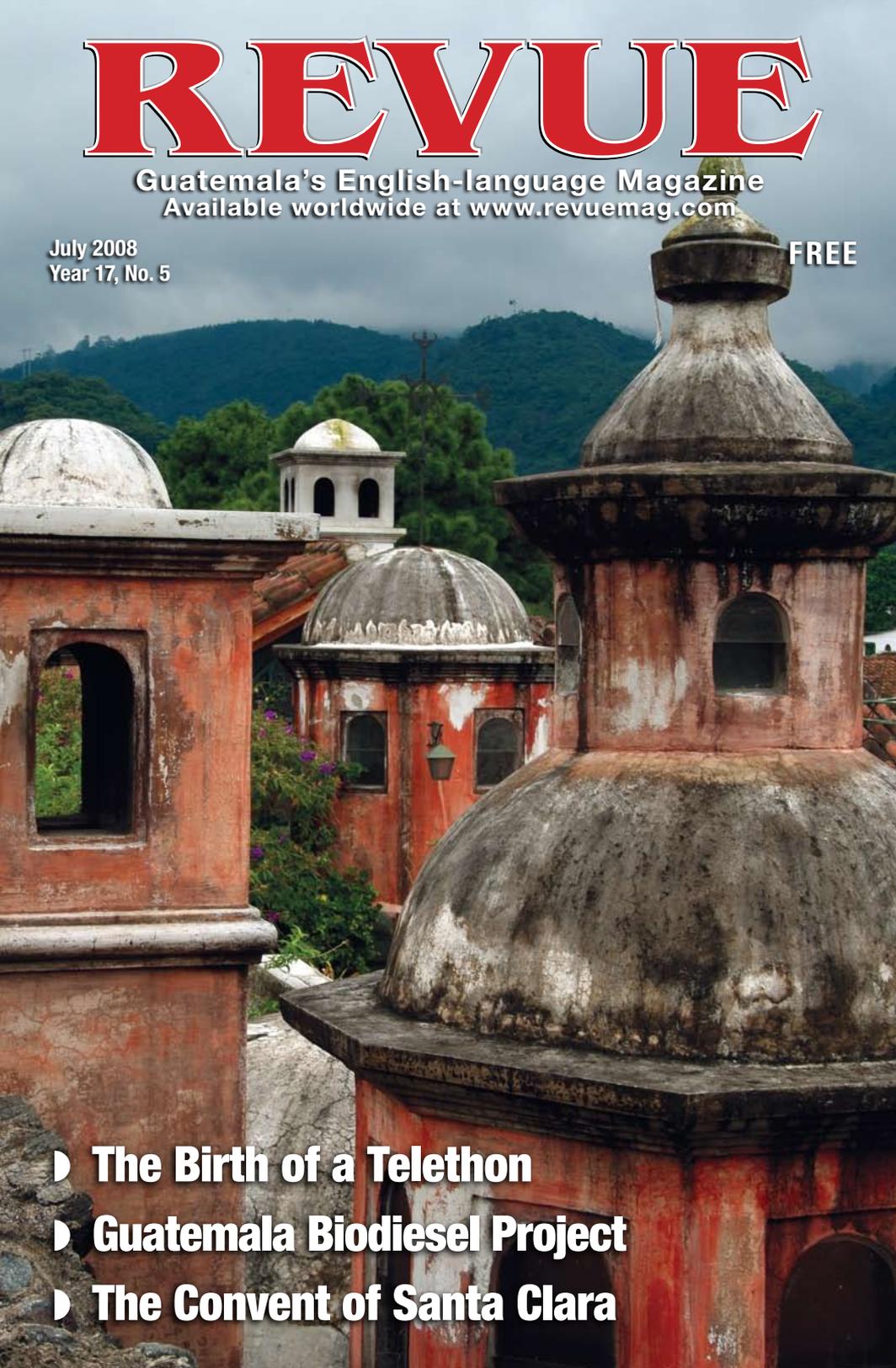


# REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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July 2008  
Year 17, No. 5

FREE

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- The Birth of a Telethon  
► Guatemala Biodiesel Project  
► The Convent of Santa Clara

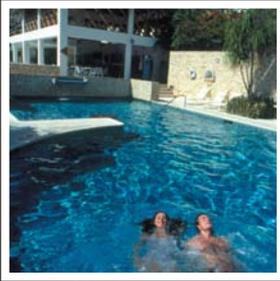


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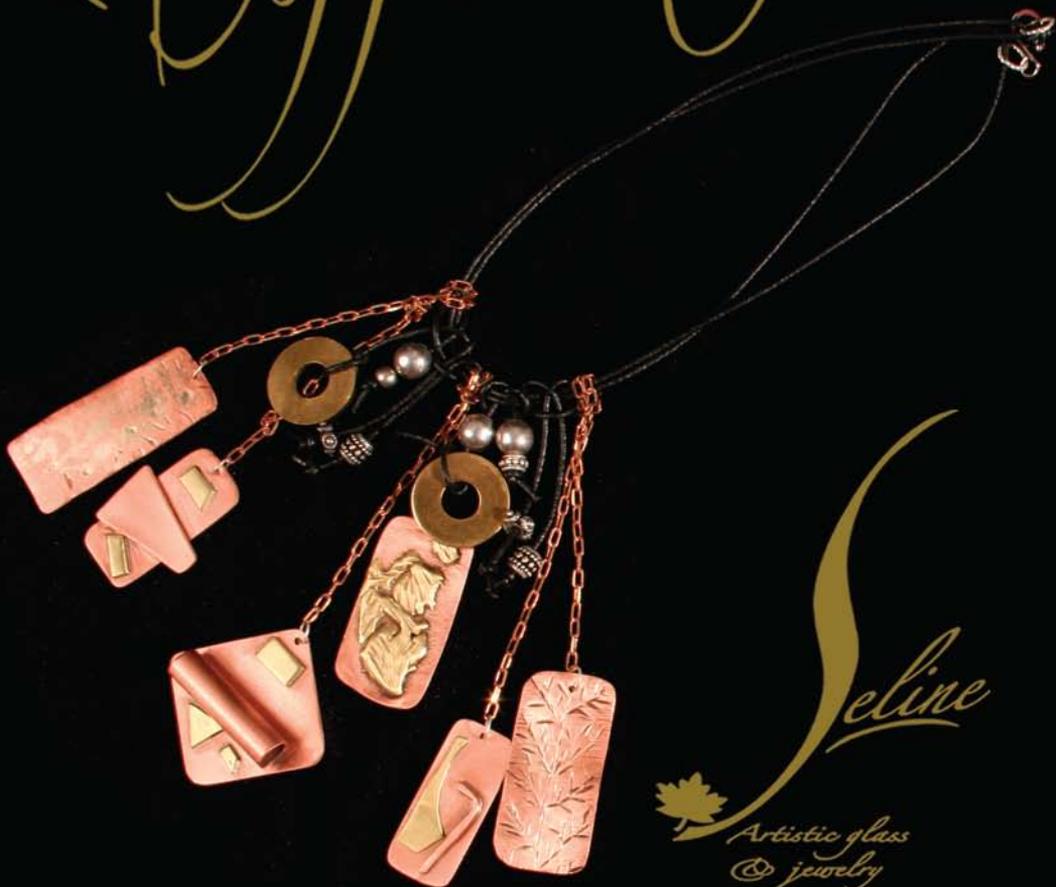
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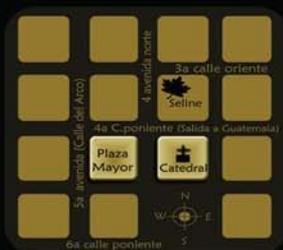
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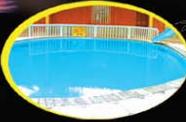
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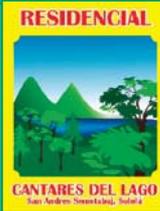
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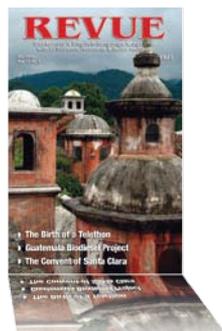
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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

This month's cover photo by Jordan Banks honors the city of La Antigua Guatemala, once known as Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala. Celebrating its patron saint in July and the founding, as the third capital, of Spanish Guatemala, we are pleased to introduce a super-sized map for readers who pick up their Revue in La Antigua.

For our readers everywhere, we've added extra pages to accommodate even more articles; this month's offering includes *The Birth of a Telethon* and how Fundabiem became a household word. The 2008 Telethon will be broadcast on July 18 and 19. *Rock On!* brings good news to rock lovers of all ages because the Museo de los Niños in Guatemala City has opened a fascinating and permanent mining/rock exhibit.

Next up is the *La Antigua Biodiesel Project* that recycles used cooking oil for biodiesel fuel, followed by *I Care, We Care for Eye Care* spotlighting a massive five-day optical-health fair in Panajachel.

We're not done yet: the next installment in the La Antigua Ruins series, *Awakened Sleeping Beauty* focuses on the history and restoration of the Convent of Santa Clara; meanwhile, artist Rosamaría Pascual de Gaméz has finished her latest spectacular mural and you can read all about it in *Images of Reality*. For *Zen of fans*, all things must come to an end, the *Zen of Q and A* is the second-to-the-last in this very popular series.

As we are saddened by the loss, we celebrate the life of Stephanie Riegel, a Revue photo contributor and friend to many, in *Border Crossing*. Dr. Karmen Guevara debunks the *Beauty Myth*. And, finally, we have the El Salvador Travel feature, *The Comasagua Mountain Range*. We hope you enjoy this edition: with 20,000 in print monthly, it is also available worldwide online at [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com) —JBT

# REVUE

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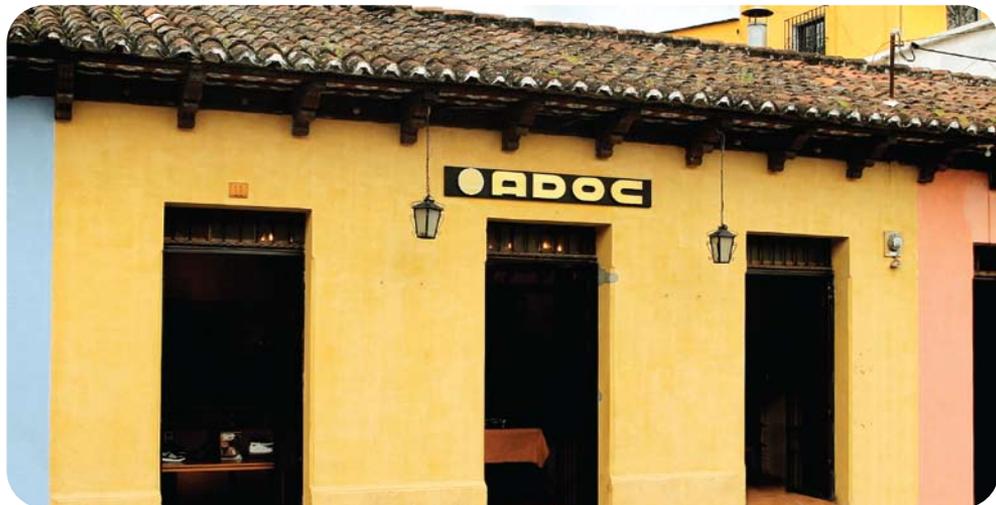
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# The Birth of a TELETHON

*How Doña Chiqui and her “Mercy Squad” became a national phenom*

text/photos by Dwight Wayne Coop

What is an Eggenberger? Ask that question in any other country, and people might think you refer to some new breakfast entrée from McDonalds. And if you then ask, Who is Chiqui de Eggenberger? they might think you refer to the carhop or chica who fills your order for an Eggenberger with fries.

But in Guatemala there is nothing funny about how tire merchant Blanca Lidia Hernández de Eggenberger—her real name—has for 25 years helped the disabled poor of Guatemala to have it their way.

Today Eggenberger, who looks a dozen years short of her real age, is president of the Foundation to Benefit the Disabled. The organization’s acronym, **Fundabiem**, is a household word owing to its July telethon, Guatemala’s biggest annual media event. For one weekend, national television hosts a marathon of entertaining pitches and programs, with peeks into a boiler room of volunteers working phones. Individuals normally pledge money while corporations donate logistic support and publicity.

Eggenberger and her friends had no idea where it would lead when, in 1982, they began visiting the sick at the state-run Jorge Von Ahn Hospital. For this “mercy squad” of five professional-class women, the idea was to honor a Biblical imperative to “aid the least of these: feed the hungry, give drink to those who thirst, invite the stranger in, clothe the naked, and look after the sick and imprisoned.”

“When we started the visits,” she re-

calls, “we found that everyone there needed something the hospital couldn’t provide. Medicine, prosthesis, an operation, transportation, or a simple *ayuda* (alm).” Other patients got adequate treatment but relapsed into disability because therapy was unavailable after discharge.

In 1983, the women chipped in to establish the Casa Hogar Niño de Praga for disabled orphan girls. The house was named for a famous statue of Jesus in Prague that was tossed into a rubble heap by Swedish raiders during the Thirty Years War (1618-48), only to be rediscovered and lovingly “rehabilitated” seven years later. At the *hogar*, five girls live as sisters with a caretaker/houseparent. They enter as unwanted children and leave as educated young ladies with a family to cheer them on. Some find work at Fundabiem’s headquarters in suburban Mixco, where ground was broken in 1989.

That facility is today Central America’s premier therapy center, offering speech and physical therapy, hydrotherapy, special ed, occupational training, counseling, nutrition and prenatal courses and more. The original mercy squad had by this time evolved into a foundation led by Chiqui de Eggenberger. The governing board surprised her in 2000 by naming the facility in her honor.

The Centro Blanca Lidia de Eggenberger was built with proceeds from the first three *teletones* (1986-88). Today it is the event’s nerve center as the modern telethon plays out all over Guatemala.

Eggenberger introduced the telethon concept after studying a Chilean model, the only one in Latin America. Today, however, Fundabiem executes the copied telethon and also boasts the region's largest chain of therapy clinics under a single institution. In addition to Casa Hogar and Centro Eggenberger, there are nine other centros, 15 smaller *clínicas* and several once-a-week *puestos*.

These currently serve about 6,500 patients, but the number actually helped is far higher. Patients' families now have help with their burdens, and Fundabiem's 186 ministering angels—career therapists, teachers, physicians, social workers—get paid to do what they most love. Donors, too, benefit because of Fundabiem's financial transparency; from inception, outside auditors have kept the books open to everyone.

Unlike other people who dedicate their lives to *personas discapacitadas*, such as comedian Jerry Lewis and author Joni Erickson Tada, Eggenberger's background held few auspices. No one in her family suffered disability. Nor were her parents and four siblings involved in the care or support of such people.

“Practically speaking,” she recalls, “opportunities to see them were rare, since in our society most families with disabled members keep them hidden from view.” Such families deny that they have shut-in discapacitados. But when Chiqui Hernández and her siblings encountered such people, they knew they were supposed to help and show respect. “There's no dispossession so great as having nowhere or no one to turn to for help,” she says, paraphrasing her idol, Theresa of Calcutta.

A new generation with this outlook can trace its origins to Chiqui's discovery of Carlos Eggenberger at Rafael Landívar University.

“We were both studying economics,” she



**Eggenberger with the Teletón 2008 poster child (niño símbolo), Pablo Ruiz.**

says. “He was a year ahead of me. But in all, circumstances were ideal for love.” Two of the Eggenbergers' three children remained in the United States after finishing college there. “But they grew up watching us do what we could to expand Fundabiem. And they experienced the teletón as a busy holiday.”

Carlos Eggenberger today chairs the national Telethon which, along with dozens of local campaigns, generates the bulk of Fundabiem's support. The Eggenbergers' son, Juan Carlos, also sits on the governing board.

Eggenberger has won awards but refuses to list them. “They're not worth mentioning, because none compares with the best rewards we can receive, those from our Lord.” She loves listening to Christian music and reading psalms, “in particular Psalm 23, my motto for life.”

Apart from Fundabiem and her business, Auto Servicios in Zone 3, Eggenberger makes time for her weekly Catholic prayer

group, and “tries to make time” for dancing and books; her favorite author is García Márquez. But she has no plans to pen a book of her own on the ups and downs of leading the Foundation.

“There’s really no story,” she insists with straight-faced modesty, “except that this had a tiny beginning and evolved into a national phenomenon. But not by my hand. I’m only a partaker.”



**Chimaltenango’s aging centro can be spotted on the La Antigua-Panajachel highway.**

Yet many doubt that Fundabiem would have emerged without her leadership instincts, sense of timing, and media savvy. These gifts played in tandem in 2006 when the Free Wheelchair Mission of California sought a partner to distribute 453 chairs to people who were both poor and unresponsive to therapy. Fundabiem was not a logical partner, since its mission was betterment through therapy. The clinic directors had no lists of people who would never walk, because such people were not their patients.

Nonetheless, Eggenberger ordered them to find candidates, and in time wheelchairs were delivered with ceremony at each clinic. Nearly 200 were given away in a single pop six weeks after the 2006 Telethon, in front of the National Palace. The venue and timing, Eggenberger explains, was key; just when thoughts of the telethon are fading whoa!—here’s Fundabiem, in the papers, doing something else.

The future, Eggenberger hopes, will see more custom-built facilities on land owned by the foundation, like Escuintla’s model center. More than half of the current facilities are in “rented buildings, without a home of their own.” If the 2008 telethon brings record proceeds, Eggenberger says, then some *clínicas* might become *centros*. Other facilities might get hydrotherapy pools. Or new *clínicas* might open in communities that never had one.

And Guatemala, she notes, still lacks an ambulation lab, a battery of diagnostic equipment that could allow Fundabiem angels to anticipate latent disabilities with therapy. “El Salvador, Panama and other countries smaller than Guatemala already have multiple ambulation labs. Can’t we have just one?”

She also mentions the state of being *auto-sostenible*, i.e., generating profits that exceed expenses. Charities rarely achieve this, but Fundabiem has taken steps in that direction. Its occupational programs for the disabled (baking, computer education and computer repair) actually generate profits.

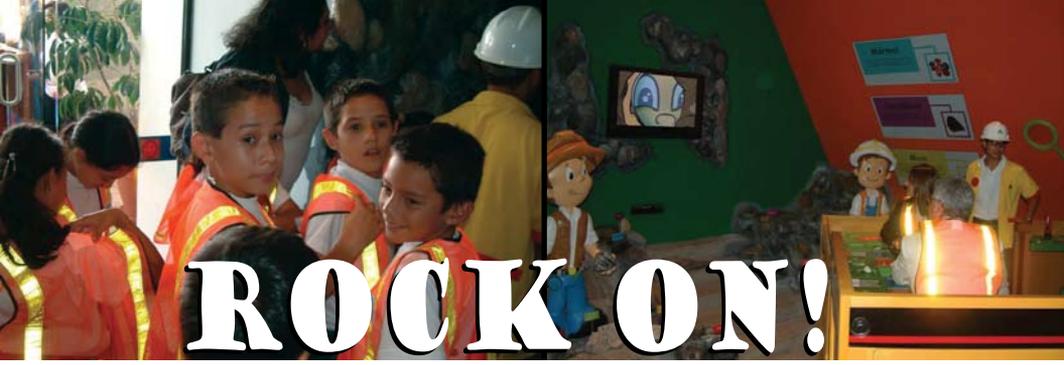
But the bulk of revenues will continue to come through the telethon, raffles and newer efforts like “Makki’s Kids,” a sponsorship program anyone can afford to support (and named for Texan Maxine Bigman, a former Panajachel resident). For under \$6, a *padrino* can help Fundabiem by paying for a month of therapy for an impoverished patient.

“But all this is not about me or [Makki Bigman] or any other individual,” Chiqui de Eggenberger asserts. “God could have raised up another, just as easily.”



**The 2008 Telethon takes place on July 18-19**

Fundabiem’s website is [www.fundabiem.org](http://www.fundabiem.org). To sponsor a patient go to [www.guatemalagrango.com/Makki’sKid](http://www.guatemalagrango.com/Makki’sKid)



# ROCK ON!

*The new “Rocaventura” room at the Children’s Museum in Guatemala City combines learning and fun with our fascination for rocks.*

by Carlisle Johnson gmg977@yahoo.com

For obvious reasons history doesn’t record when it all began. Maybe a caveman spotted a brightly colored stone while hunting for mammoths. Maybe a cavemom found a brightly colored pebble in a cavekid’s laundry.

“It” is mankind’s fascination with rocks, now brought to new heights in Guatemala City. In May of this year officials opened the new permanent mining/rock exhibit at Guatemala City’s Children’s Museum (Museo de los Niños).

Taking a page from San Francisco, California’s pioneering Exploratorium Museum, Guatemala has created a hands-on, don’t-worry-about-breaking-it exhibition showcasing Guatemala’s mineral wealth. Imagine sitting on a moving mine cart, wearing, naturally, a mine safety vest, and having three different flat screens around you transmitting interactive lessons on Guatemala’s mining industry.

**The museum has three stated objectives:**

- To awaken curiosity about the marvelous world of rocks and minerals
- To get to know historically the uses and benefits of mining in Guatemala
- To determine the importance of responsible mining, not only for the environment but also for society

Sponsored by the Mining Trade Asso-

ciation, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, Montana Exploradora (gold), Genprac, Mayaniquel, Cementos Progreso and CGN (nickel), the museum’s exhibit shows kids (and adults) how mined materials play an important role in daily lives in Guatemala. It’s not just exotic minerals such as jade, gold and silver that are featured. How about Guatemala’s zinc, the key ingredient in galvanized roofing? Or Guatemala’s clay, the key ingredient in the country’s distinctive red roofs? Or, if you are a student and aren’t familiar with the role of gypsum, how about the fact that it is essentially synonymous with the chalk used on blackboards in classrooms? It’s all there, “handleable” along with copper, quartz, calcite, volcanic rock and many of the other minerals that make Guatemala one of the world’s most geologically diverse countries.

The permanent exhibit draws schoolchildren (and their cave dads and moms) from all over Guatemala. Public school children pay no entrance fee, while students from private schools and individuals and families (discounted family “passports” are available) pay a modest fee, to ensure the museum’s sustainability, according to María Inés de la Torre, public relations director for the Museo de los Niños.

The new exhibit is part ...continued on page 46



Left-Right: Mario Molina, Alejandro Del Valle Moreno, Nathalie Bosch, Isabel Ramírez and Rolando López

## Antigua Guatemala Biodiesel Project

The Antigua Guatemala Biodiesel Project is the brainchild of a multi-talented group of young professionals working together to reduce pollution in La Antigua Guatemala. With financial backing from the Swiss embassy in Guatemala, the project will involve restaurants, hotels and the general public of La Antigua to recycle used cooking oil as biodiesel fuel.

Biodiesel has the same characteristics as diesel from petroleum but its combustion produces 87 percent fewer emissions. It lubricates the engine and cleans the fuel injection system, and the characteristic black exhaust soot is also eliminated. It functions cleanly and efficiently in all diesel engines. Biodiesel is a renewable energy source, which is primarily derived from vegetable oils, such as sunflower, palm, soybean piñón and corn.

### FROM USED COOKING OIL TO BIODIESEL

*New program to recycle used cooking oil as biodiesel fuel backed by Swiss embassy and 137 local businesses.*

In April 2007 an agreement was signed between the municipality of La Antigua, the Swiss embassy in Guatemala and Alejandro del Valle Moreno to begin a renewable energy project to benefit the municipality of La Antigua and the Hospital Hermano Pedro Social Works (Hospital de Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro). Using



**Adding biodiesel fuel for the first time to a municipal truck**



**Biodiesel produced in a lab: top layer is biodiesel, bottom layer is glycerol**

biodiesel these two groups with quite different activities and goals are national and perhaps international models.

The project has been structured with one-, five- and 20-year goals, with each phase focusing on the processes and technology for producing and using this renewable energy.

This project so far has the support of 137 restaurants and hotels in La Antigua and Guatemala City, which donate their used cooking oil. An average of 450 gallons per

week are collected—450 gallons per week that are not contaminating our waterways and aquifers. The production area is located in Florencia Ecological Park (Parque Ecológico Florencia) at Km. 21.5 on the highway to La Antigua. This area is open to the public to educate and motivate Guatemalans to become involved in producing and using renewable energies.

This is how an idea becomes a reality for people seeking solutions to environmental problems. We are especially grateful to the business people and other participants who have believed in our project. Thank you! And we hope to count on your permanent support. 📌

### **MAKE A DONATION!**

To make a donation, to sell used cooking oil or for more information, call Alejandro del Valle Moreno at 5104-8376, by e-mail [avalle@biospera.com](mailto:avalle@biospera.com) or visit [www.biopersa.com](http://www.biopersa.com)

# I Care, We Care for Eye Care

*Massive five day optical-health fair in Panajachel brings an eye-opener for 1,800 vision-impaired locals*

by Dwight Wayne Coop

Most of those who came to Guatemala's grandest-ever eye *jornada* were born in a war zone or in its cooling aftermath. Some were refugees daring to re-don traditional garb that was once considered subversive. Some had rarely even seen eyeglasses, much less seen *through* them; the eye-tingling splendor of the Western Highlands was for them as much a blur as had been, for years, the hope of peace.

Peace has its dividends, and war, its levies; one levy was a stunt on progress so acute that in 2006, 10 years after the close of the 35-year civil conflict, all of Sololá province lacked a single optometrist. Today there are four and, for one week in April, triple that. They, and a company of other volunteers, brought light into eyes dimmed by war and its lingering privations. One did not need a month's wages—nor even a minute's—to own glasses.

The health-fair idea began with Dr. Patricia Cole, headmistress of Panajachel's experimental Chinimayá school, and her friend, Chicago optometrist Philip Ortiz. Dr. Ortiz is the co-founder of ICareInternational, a California-based foundation that dispatches optometrists, surgeons, support personnel—and mounds of eyeglasses—to wherever they are needed in Latin America.

Trip organizer Lance Kinney, who chronicles ICare missions with his camera, was personally recruited by Ortiz while doing contract work on the latter's house. "I asked Phil what he did. When he told me

about his ICare teams, I enlisted." Like everyone else, Kinney had to travel light to Guatemala in order to leave room for his share of glasses.

Social worker Dave McClure, a 20-year veteran of ICare *jornadas*, was another personal convert. "I grew close to Phil, my own optometrist, after getting a cornea transplant. I discovered that he was making these trips on his own nickel, helping people who otherwise had no hope of seeing well. So I started going along." McClure's role is operating a gadget that identifies the parameters of donated eyeglasses.

ICare collects tens of thousands each year, more than they can give away. Some come through the Goodwill and the Salvation Army; others are seconds, discontinued styles, or "blems" (perfectly functioning frames with minor flaws).

"The average retail for eyeglasses is \$150," says Dave's wife, Colleen. "But on this trip we've given away Christian Dior, Prada, Calvin Klein and the like, for which the frames alone cost \$400."

Colleen's coworker, Laura Gekeler, says the important thing is "seeing joy spread over the face of someone who's seeing well for the first time in years—or the first time ever—whatever the frames are worth." The volunteers have seen people marvel at seeing things like clouds for the first time.

In addition to prescription glasses, sunglasses and reading glasses were given out. "They'll help farmers who toil at high altitudes," Dave says, "where ultraviolet radiation

is intense.” He adds that reading glasses were also given to women who cannot read “but have to thread needles for their livelihoods.”

Every volunteer could recall memorable cases. Optometrist Chuck Tribbey treated a child who could resolve nothing beyond her arm’s length. And there was a teacher “who was so farsighted, I don’t know how she was able to teach.” Both were helped.

Megan Chilton, majoring in international relations, noted that “kids and adults are always happy with their glasses. They’re not self-conscious. But teenagers often are, and we’ve seen some reject free glasses because they’re too big. They’ll settle for a smaller, better-looking pair, even if the prescription is a little off.” For unlettered patients, Chilton’s eye-chart station featured charts of arrows, fingers, pitchforks and high-pitched houses all “pointing” in a cardinal direction.

Ron and Michelle Reed, an Illinois couple helping out with logistics, recounted one case that needed a second take. “An elderly gentleman received his first-ever glasses,” Ron says, “but seemed disappointed as he left. He returned the next day with a letter typed by his son, saying that the glasses gave him headaches and eyeburn.”

“Sure enough,” Michelle says, “they weren’t at all in line with his exam results. So we found some that were. They were huge and ugly. But this time the guy left happy and excited.”

High-school seniors Danny Brooks, Matt Margolis and Stephanie Riley, manning the autorefraction station, were touched by 7-year-old Madalín. “She was so thrilled with us, and her glasses,” Margolis says, “that she ‘adopted’ us and hung out with us for most of a day.”

“She went around hugging the volunteers,” Riley adds. Brooks ...continued on page 120



**Dave McClure and Helena Rigby share an eye-opening moment with a first-time eyeglass owner**



**Dr. Cay gives eye exam to a young patient**



**Dr. Phil Ortiz of Chicago, co-founder of ICareInternational, discusses eye care with a patient**



# Awakened Sleeping Beauty

by Joy Houston photos by Jack Houston

**T**he ruins of the **Convent of Santa Clara**, on 2a avenida at 6a calle in La Antigua Guatemala, present to the visitor today a mere illusion of the colonial convent. “In the 1940s debris was cleared and bougainvillea planted...The present overall appearance, though very attractive indeed, is hardly what the cloister looked like in the 18th century,” wrote Sidney Markman (*Colonial Architecture of Antigua*, 1966).



Santiago de Los Caballeros, now La Antigua, already had seven monasteries and three convents for women in 1693, when license was granted for founding the Clarisas order in Guatemala. Although this was getting expensive for the town, the Franciscans had processed the paperwork, and the bishop himself sent an envoy to Mexico to advocate for approval. He then poured “all his energies into bringing to a happy finish the organization of the new monastic order,” according to Valentin Abascal (*Santiago de Los Caballeros de Goathemala*, 1961). Such enthusiasm seems curious compared to the struggles of some earlier orders to establish themselves in the seat of the Spanish Kingdom. It might have had something to do with the donation of houses and a large piece of prime property by a wealthy, widowed noblewoman, who left everything she had for an endowment to maintain the order.

The enthusiasm continued. Six Clarisa nuns left Puebla, Mexico in October 1699 to head for Guatemala, and in December an official delegation ushered them from Patzún to the convent of La Concepción, founded by nuns from Mexico more than 100 years before, to await ceremonious installation in

**The public entered through Baroque doorways on the west side of the convent church.**

temporary housing of their own convent in January. Five nuns, one having died in the meantime, and two novices were received “with great jubilation, joy of fireworks and ringing of bells,” wrote Abascal.

Construction of a facility for 46 nuns, as allotted by the order, began in 1703 and was ready in 1705. There were rooms for a novitiate and, according to books of the municipality, the convent also “served for reclusion of women processed for grave misdeeds.” (Abascal) The church, funded by the bishop himself, was completed in 1715.

Then disaster struck. Damage by earthquake in 1717 sent the nuns to Comalapa for 17 years waiting for repairs. Original construction had only taken two years. True, repair and rebuilding were going on all over town, putting a strain on resources of every kind. Also true, lands belonging to the Clarisas had been damaged, cutting their income. But, interestingly, a request in 1721 to found the Capuchin convent, believed impossible due to the major rebuilding, was approved in 1725. The request was made by the same bishop who had support-

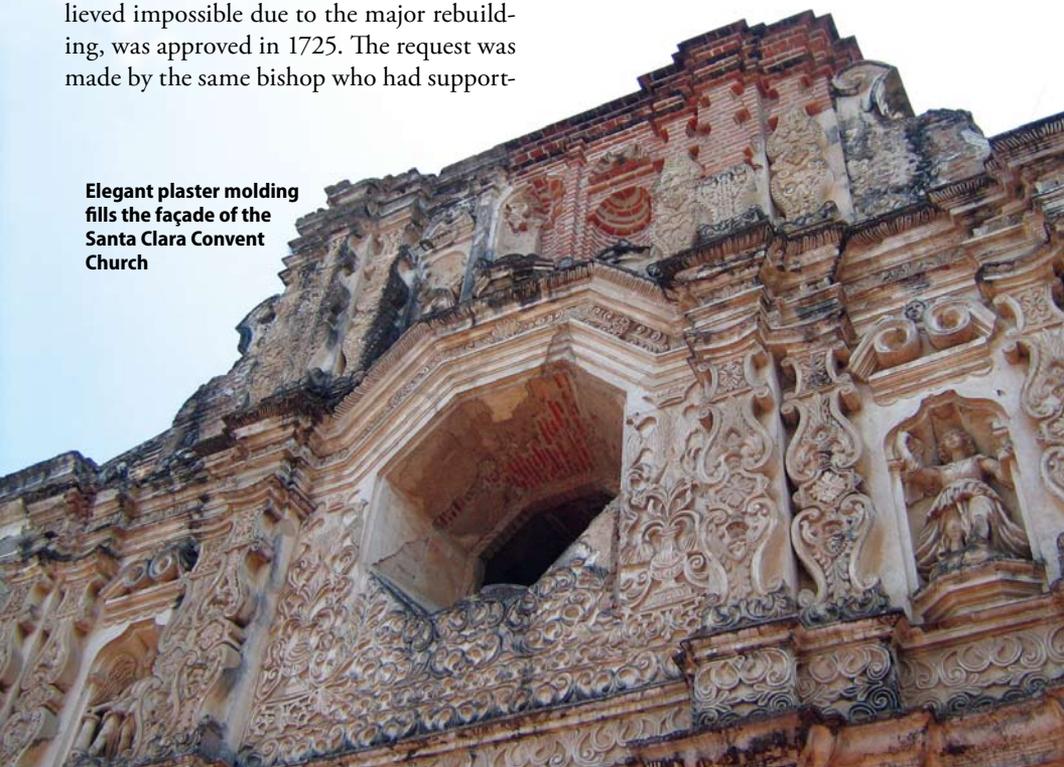
ed the Clarisas and was perhaps dealt with urgently. He died the same year.

Repairs began in 1723, then stalled. Pleas for funding on behalf of the Clarisas were sent to the king, and construction resumed. Again, it could have something to do with a private donation, which had become a familiar refrain. Although records are unclear, there may have been plans for expansion even before 1717, which could also explain the delay. The final convent was considerably larger than the original, indicating complete reconstruction.

The spacious facility seen today suggests comfortable rooms for the nuns and a plan that protected their reclusion. The cold but blackened chimney of the kitchen and stone benches of the dining room testify to the life that was there. An empty window seat may have been enjoyed by a long-ago nun, looking out to gardens that lined the east side of the arcaded cloister.

The church formed the west wall. Deli-

**Elegant plaster molding fills the façade of the Santa Clara Convent Church**





**Window seat looked on to east convent garden**



**Enclosed nuns' passage along church nave protected seclusion for access to church and entrances to confessionals**

cate plaster curls fill the elegant façade on the south and hug the angel-occupied niches. Such artistry surely was not meant to be hidden behind a convent reclusion wall, but that's what happened. More likely, it was meant to crown a fine, open front plaza that extended south to 7a calle, toward the San Francisco Church a stone's throw to the southeast. Whoops! According to a letter dated April 1733, changes were made to answer conventual complaints that "grave errors had been committed in the construction of the church." (Markman)

The unnecessary door in that façade was sealed, which provided a lower as well as an upper choir for the nuns, and an octagonal window inserted instead. The nuns entered directly from the cloister, from an enclosed corridor that ran alongside the nave on the east. The corridor also had entries to five confessionals built into the walls of the church.

Typical of convent churches, two main entrance doors were cut into the west, side wall of the church. The elaborate Baroque helps to break the austerity of the stone veneer and false mortar, a style used also on the City Hall.

Excitement returned for inauguration of the new church in 1734, with a procession that included the new bishop, the town council, royal representatives, nobles and religious congregations. The Franciscans were followed by the Mercedarians, carrying the image of Santa Clara with the royal eagle in her hands.

But even the smart, earthquake-resistant, squatty columns couldn't protect the Santa Clara Convent from catastrophe again in 1773. The nuns fled their convent, having had enough of earthquakes, and re-established themselves in the new capital of Guatemala City three years later.

Private construction in 1800 usurped the front plaza of the abandoned ...continued on page 84



## Images of Reality by Joy Houston

**V**ictory! One can almost hear the exuberant burst of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus at first view of the new mural in San Francisco el Grande Church in La Antigua Guatemala. The confidently outstretched arms of Jesus Christ emerged from the empty burial crypt upstage those of current political or Olympic races. "The water that flows to the pool below represents life," explains artist Rosamaría Pascual de Gámez. "The monstrosity stands boldly as the sacramental presence."

Another mural in the church by the artist illustrates the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. A third work by Rosamaría in La Antigua, in the church of San Pedro Apóstol, portrays the social work begun by Saint Hermano Pedro in the 17th century and the work today that follows his example. The new work, ti-

tled *The Resurrection*, hangs in the front south chapel directly opposite the chapel and tomb where the remains of the saint rest.

When Father Damián Muratori commissioned the work in December 2007, he requested a 'modern mural', one that speaks of reality today. "The theme was to be victory of life over death and the triumph of good over evil, but always in the present context. I did not know if I could accomplish that," reflects Rosamaría. "I stared at the empty canvas prayerfully and decided I just had to plunge in and start!" Given the theme, "It would be great to have it for Easter," she thought. So she did the math and gave herself two weeks for each section. The work was unveiled on Palm Sunday.

Four scenes full of Guatemala color support the dominant, ...continued on page 110

# FILGUA 2008

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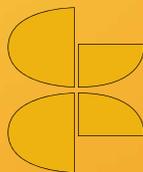
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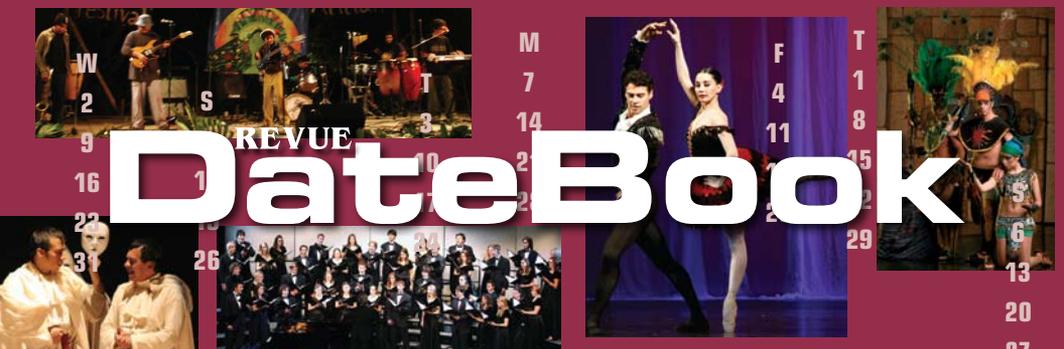
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**JULY Guide to culture & upcoming events** Compiled by Elizabeth Bell & Mercedes Mejicanos

**3 Thurs., 6:30pm** — (Spanish) **CONFERENCE:** *El juego de la pelota Maya* by Ramzy R. Barrios. Q20/Q10 students. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7896) Universidad Francisco Marroquín, 6a calle final, z.10, **Guatemala City.**

**4 Fri., 8pm** — **MUSIC:** Classic guitar concert by Guatemalan artist Mario Bautista. Q30. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.**

**5 Sat., 7pm** — **ART:** *Santería*, an exhibit of engravings by Alejandro Leal. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) **La Antigua.**



**7 Mon., through Sat., 12th** — **ART:** *Kosta Boda* by Sweden artists. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City.** ▼

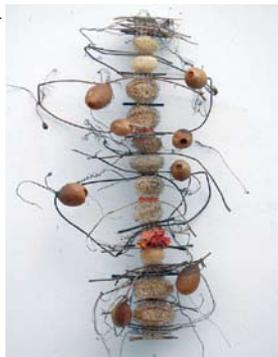


**5 Sat., 2pm** — (Spanish) **TALK/DEMONSTRATION:** *Los beneficios de la relajación combinado con productos naturales* (combination of tea and massages). Bring a poncho and sports clothing. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, zona 11, **Guatemala City.**

**8 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *What does fair trade signify to rural communities in Guatemala?* chaired and translated by Tom Triglone, a volunteer working with these groups and others in the commercialization of fair-trade products in Guatemala. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**8 Tues., 7pm** — **ART:** *Transiciones*, oil and acrylics exhibition & sale by 25 artists; proceeds benefit Patronato Femenino de la Liga contra el Cáncer (Women's league against cancer). Lobby de Anacafé, 5a calle 0-50, z. 14, **Guatemala City.**

**9 Wed., 5pm** — **ART:** *A flor de tierra* by artist Marie Noelle Fontan, mixing plants, flowers and organic materials. Galería Panza Verde (7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.**



**10 Thurs., 6pm** — (Spanish, subtitles in English) **FILM:** *Ritual terminal*, directed by Oscar Urrutia (Mexico). Q15. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.**

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the August 2008 edition of the REVUE by Friday, July 11

**11 Fri., 8am** — **PARADE:** Contestants vying for the title of Señorita Antigua parade in horse carriages from the Pensativo stadium to Central Park; **7pm**—**PARTY:** Presentation of candidates and dancing to the music of Grupo Elite. Q25. Salón César Brañas, 5a calle poniente #44-A, *La Antigua*.

**12 Sat., 9am-4pm** — **DEMOCRATS ABROAD GUATEMALA:** Voter Registration Day for US citizens. Register for your absentee ballot for the November 4th presidential election. Conexion (John Chudy: 7832-4581/ democratsabroad\_guate@yahoo.com) 4a calle oriente #14, *La Antigua*.

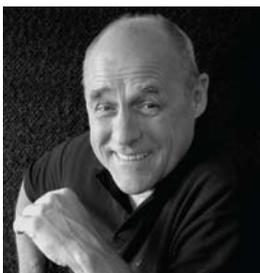
**15 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *Life in Guatemala: Brief history and current conditions* by Sue Patterson, a US foreign service officer, former US consul, founder and executive director of WINGS, a non-profit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

**17 Thurs., Thurs., 31st** — **ART:** *Susentris-mo*, latest paintings by Quetzaltenango artist Werner Vásquez. El Atrico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, *Guatemala City*.

**17 Thurs., 8pm** — **MUSIC:** *Concierto de Gala*, by Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional. Seats Q30 & Q50. Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias (2232-4041 ext. 239) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**18 Fri., 7pm** — **EVENT:** *Velada de elección señorita Antigua*, the crowning of Miss Antigua 2008. Salón César Brañas, 5a calle poniente #44-A, *La Antigua*.

**18 Fri., 8pm** — (English) **THEATER:** *A Night at the Improv Antigua II:* Live sketches, comedy monologue directed by Bob Polakoski. Q35 El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.



**19 Sat., 1pm** — **MUSIC:** Live marimba concert, organized and produced by Fabuestereo. Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias (tel: 2232-4041 ext. 239) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**19 Sat., 7pm** — **ART:** *Fractaluz*, paintings by artist Victor Hugo Valenzuela. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.



**20 Sun., 11am** — **MAGIC SHOW:** *Magia y ventrilocuo;* enjoy fun and fantasy with magician Renzo. Q15. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, z.11, *Guatemala City*.

### DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

**L**earn from the experts how to arrange flowers; Q480 per person. For detailed information, tel: 5354-4640. Hotel Soleil, *La Antigua*.



**20 Sun., 6pm** — *La magia del diseño* with Llum Benedicto and Jaime Piñol Beltrán from the Catalan floral art school.

**21 Mon., 5-7pm** — *Naturaleza y fantasía* by Kike León from Escuela-taller Kike León.

**21 Mon., 7:30-9:30pm** — *El diseño en su esplendor* by Silvano Erba from Escuela Federfiori (Italy).

**22 Tues., 4-6pm** — *El cielo es el límite* by Jean Michel Janvier from Escuela Ploriform (France).



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

**22 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *Niños autistas* (autistic children), in collaboration with Escuela Pablito Ruiz, highlighting a new organization committed to helping these children who rarely receive special attention. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**23 Wed., 9:30am** — **ART:** *Multitudes* by Ricardo Silva. Galería El Túnel (tel. 2367-3266) Plaza Obelisco 16 calle 1-01, zona 10, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**25 Fri.** — **HOLIDAY:** *Día de Santiago* (St. James's Day) honoring the patron saint of La Antigua Guatemala. Many banks and governmental offices will be closed; there will be a procession and cultural festivals throughout the month. The Municipality of La Antigua offers a special program which is available from the secretary, located on the steps to the second floor of the City Hall Palace, Central Park, **La Antigua**.

### DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

#### FILGUA 2008

The much anticipated annual international book fair, **July 25 to August 3**, will be held at the Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, **Guatemala City**; activities include the

*International Central American Literature Conference, the Writers' Meeting, a Childrens' Literature Symposium,*

book presentations, storytellers, poetry, music and much more. The fair is open from 9am-8pm, admission: adults, Q5; children, Q1; student groups (public and private), free. Note additional information on page 22.



**25 Fri., 6pm** — **MUSIC:** *Música y folklore* including 'Dances of the Cofradía de Santiago' and the 'Dance of el Cristo Negro' in celebration of the 484th anniversary of the founding of Guatemala's first Spanish city, La Villa de Santiago de Iximché, in 1524. Free. Central Park, Palacio Municipal de Tecpán, **Tecpán**.

**26 Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) **MAYAN VIDEOS:** Discover more about Quiriguá, Candelaria caves and Joyancá. Q15. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, z.11, **Guatemala City**.

**26 Sat., 3:30pm** — (Spanish) **FILGUA** Conference: *Guatemala: linaje, racismo y genocidio*, written by Marta Casaús de Arzú. Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, **Guatemala City**.

**26 Sat., 5pm** — **MUSIC:** *Bewitched*, an opera recital featuring Karin Rademann (soprano), Hugo Arenas (piano) and Héctor Palomo (tenor). Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



**26 Sat., 6pm** — (Spanish) **CONFERENCE:** *Charlas Magistrales* with historian Lic. Miguel Álvarez on the architectural and historical value of the first cathedral in Guatemala, the San Francisco de Asís, and the founding of the first Spanish city in Guatemala in 1524. Also, a talk by historian Ofelia de León on *Customs and Traditions*. Live music by the folkloric group Sol Andino de Tecpán. Free. Palacio Municipal de Tecpán, **Tecpán**.

**26 Sat., 7pm** — **DANCE:** Presentation of the Ballet Nacional de Guatemala. Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias (2232-4041 ext. 239) 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

**27 Sun., 12 noon** — **FESTIVAL:** Marimba concert and presentation of the Ballet Folklórico to accompany the 3rd food festival of Tecpán; buffet lunch at the Hotel Albergues de Tecpán. Q50. Hotel Albergues de Tecpán (7840-3863) carretera Interamericana Km 89, **Tecpán**.



**27 Sun., 5pm** — (Spanish) **FILGUA-Literature:** *Intersecciones y transgresiones, propuestas para una historiografía literaria en Centroamérica. Tomo I de Historia de las literaturas centroamericanas.* Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9 **Guatemala City.**

**28 Mon., 3:30pm** — (Spanish) **FILGUA-Literature:** Three Salvadoran writers present their books, *Trece, Los locos mueren de viejos* and *El sueño de Mariana.* Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, **Guatemala City.**

**29 Tues., 3:30pm** — **FILGUA-Poetry:** *Canto palabra*, from Pablo Glaciari. Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, **Guatemala City.**

**29 Tues., 5:30pm** — **TALK:** *Educarte*, a local and independent non-profit organization that runs a primary school in Ciudad Vieja. Its goal is to build a better future for Guatemala's poorest children. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**31 Thurs., 5pm** — **FILGUA-Literature:** *Romualdo, cuentos, cuenterailes y cuenteretes*, Eduardo Villatoro. Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, **Guatemala City.**

**31 Thurs., 6pm** — **MOVIE:** (English, subtitles in Spanish) *Un día sin mexicanos*, directed by Sergio Arau (Mexico). Q15. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua.**

### WEEKLY EVENTS

**Mondays, 7pm** — **MAYAN HISTORY FLICKS:** **7th**—*Lost Worlds: Palenque*; **14th**—*Engineering an Empire, The Maya: Death Empire*; **21st**—*Where Did It Come From? The Ancient Maya: Tools of Astronomy*; **28th**—*Where Did It Come From? The Ancient Maya: Power Centers.* Free. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.**

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### WEEKLY EVENTS

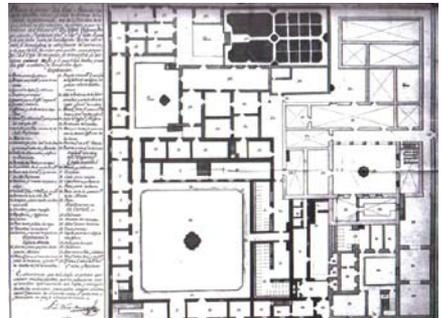
**Mondays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** Kenny Molina hosts *Open Mike*. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

**Mondays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** Don Ramiro will serenade you with some beautiful Latin folk music. Free. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**Mondays, from 8-10pm** — **LIVE MUSIC:** Monday is *Blues Night*. Free. La Cueva Panza Verde (7832-2925) 5a av. Sur #19, **La Antigua.**

**Tuesdays, noon** — (English) **EXPATRIATES' DISCUSSION:** Share information about living in Guatemala, volunteer opportunities, real estate, banking, security, activities, etc. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

**Tuesdays, 6pm** — **BENEFIT SLIDE SHOW:** *Antigua: Behind the Walls* with a one-hour slide show by Elizabeth Bell. Q30, benefits educational program. Fusion Restaurant & Bar (tel: 4144-0171) 1a calle poniente #9), **La Antigua.**



**Tuesdays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** Ramiro performs trova Cubana. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

**Thursdays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** Son de La Antigua will light up your night. Free. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. Sur #8, **La Antigua.**

**Wednesdays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** *Open Mike Night* hosted by Juan-Jo and friends. A complimentary drink for performers. Free. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919), **La Antigua.**

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Wednesdays-Sundays, 7:30pm** — **MUSIC:** Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*. ▼



**Sundays** — **MUSIC:** *Live Jazz* during a la carte brunch. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*.

**Sundays, 1pm** — **MUSIC:** Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*.

**Sundays, 6:30pm** — **ART FLICKS:** **6th**—*Alfred Stieglitz: The Eloquent Eye*; **13th**—*Botticelli: The Humanist Trilogy*; **20th**—*Chagall*; **27th**—*Man Ray: Prophet of the Avant Garde*. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Thursdays and Fridays, 8 to 10pm** — **MUSIC:** Cuban jazz performed by Buena Vista de Corazón. Q35. La Cueva de Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*.



## PLAN AHEAD: AUGUST

**1 Fri., 3:30pm** — **FILGUA-Literature:** *Del genocidio al feminicidio, Cuaderno del presente imperfecto 5*, Victoria Sanford. Parque de la Industria, 8a calle 2-33, z. 9, *Guatemala City*.

**5 August, 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *Partnering the Poor: Inequality, Education, and Opportunity in Guatemala* with Jeff Barns who will also talk about Familias de Esperanza that works with over 2,300 students and families to break the cycle of poverty. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.



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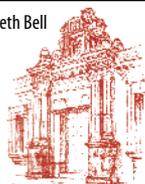
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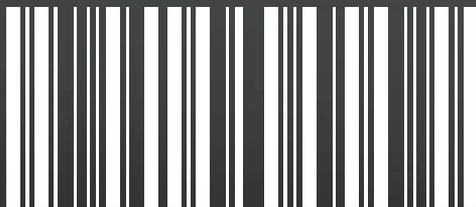


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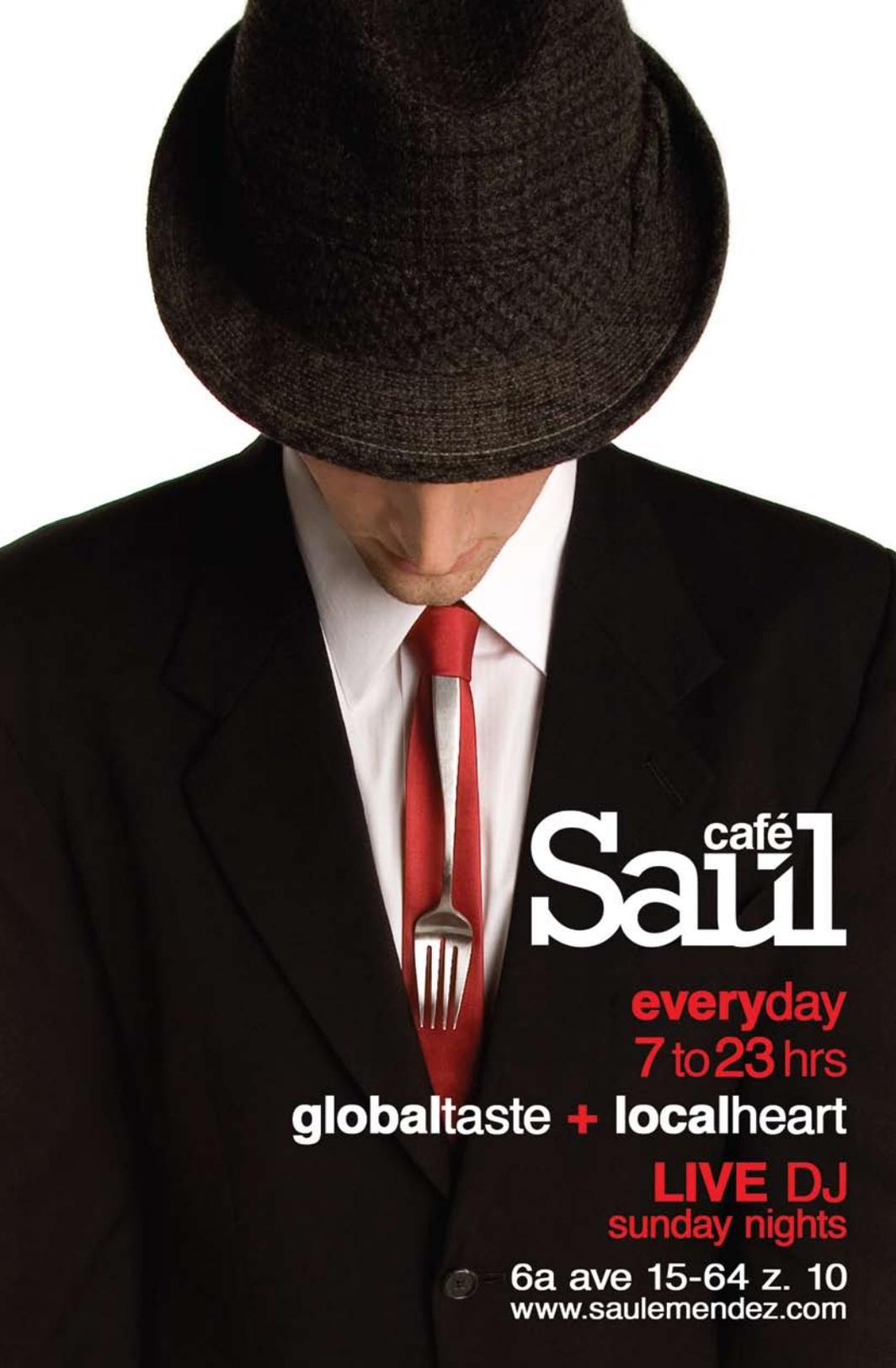
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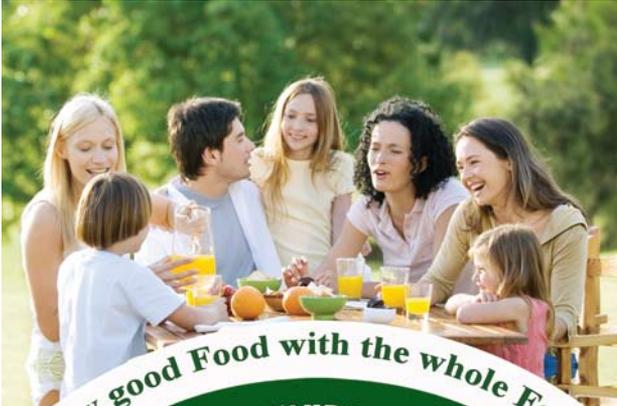
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**Rocaventura** cont. from page 13

of the overall Children's Museum, located on 5a calle 10-00, zone 13 in Guatemala City (tels. 2475-5076 to 79), a street increasingly known as Museum Row, housing also the national museum of archaeology and anthropology. The overall museum also features hands-on, Guatemala-specific exhibits. Did you ever stand in a small house, push a button and trigger a Richter-5.5 earthquake as part of learning what to do and what not to do during Guatemala's infrequent shakes? And then build your own house anti-seismically? Where does Guatemala's trash go? Where does the water come from? These—and a scaled-down city road scene where kids drive "cars" and are cited by "police" for infractions—are all part of the airy museum complex. The name of the scaled down city? Of course, it is "Chiquitenango."

Adjacent to a Pollo Campero on Museum Row, there is ample parking. The museum is open Monday through Thursday from 0800 to 1200 and again from 1300 to 1700; Fridays the same schedule until 1800; and Saturdays and Sundays from 1000 to 1330 and 1430 to 1800. Professional guides shepherd visitors through the complex's 30 exhibits, and since it is just five minutes from the international airport, a trip to the museum is an ideal complement to a trip to La Aurora International to pick up or drop off a passenger, or a way to pass time productively in the event of a flight delay.

By the way, I am indebted to Dr. Sam Bonis, a geologist who has worked all over Guatemala for 51 years, for the answer to this tantalizing question. "What is Guatemala's most valuable rock/mineral?" The answer, and surprisingly enough shiploads are going to the United States: gravel. 



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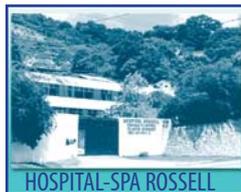
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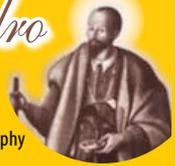
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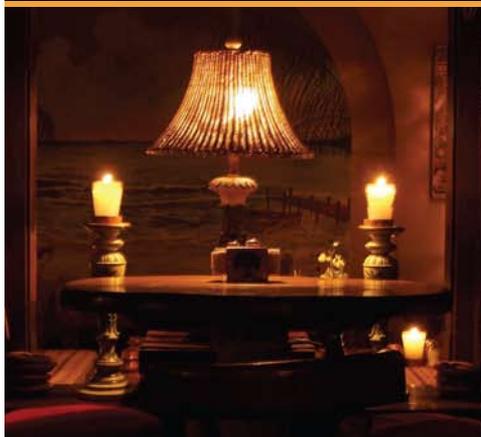
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# The Zen of Q and A

by Dwight Wayne Coop  
maddogwriter@yahoo.com.sg



Periodically, I remind readers that the study of English is a proposition at least as zenny as the study of Spanish. Think, for instance, how “contest” can mean one thing as an adjective and something else as a noun. And once the poor student of English grasps this, he must next distinguish adjective from noun by stressing the correct syllable, with no help from spelling. Otherwise, he will sound off-key as the emcee of the school talent *kubn-TEST*.

Not only that, but contest is a false cognate of *contestar*, which is accordingly false for us. To contest a will (for instance) is *disputar el testamento*. OK, so what does *contestar* itself mean? Surprisingly, it is one of many nuanced words for “to reply/respond/answer.”

*Responder* also exists, but is apparently favored for verbal responses as opposed to reactions. The kind of responding that a formerly comatose patient does is *reaccionar*, which also works for reacting from *provocación*. *Contestar* seems preferred to *responder* when the reply is connected with obligation, or even duress. *Responder* is better for lighter or voluntary replies, such as answering email or raising your hand in class.

*Contestar* overlaps with *contradecir*, which means what it looks like (to contradict). But is also that thing which I dare never do with my mother-in-law: to “talk back” (although, as a former snoutnose, I

practiced amply with school principals, to the point of achieving expert status).

Now this clutch of verbs (*contestar*, *responder*, *reaccionar*, *disputar*, *contradecir*, etc.) looks daunting. Happily, a single word, *respuesta*, works for all of them as the associated noun (*reacción*, *solución*, and other “answer words” tend to closely — and blessedly — mirror their English cognates). A *respuesta* can be an answer in any context. The only noun I’ve ever personally confused it with is *repuesto* meaning “replacement part.” But even a *repuesto* can be a *respuesta* to a question about a broken appliance. I remember which is which by recalling that answer and *respuesta* both have *s* as the third letter, whereas *repuesto* and replacement don’t.

So much for answering; what about questioning?

There is *interrogar*, which, like its English cognate, is about questioning with some compulsion; in the Q and A equation, it is opposite to *contestar*.

*Preguntar* is the main verb for questioning and asking (unless you are *asking for*, or requesting, in which case you need *pedir*). A two-edged modismo is *preguntar por*, which means both “to ask about/after” (as in *Pepe preguntó por ti*) and “to ask to see or speak to someone” after the phone or door

is answered (as in *Siempre preguntábamos por Pepe en la cantina*). I doubt that this phrase existed a century ago; perhaps it is Spanglish that entered the language proper, courtesy of some underqualified translator; consequently, *preguntar* is beginning to overlap with *pedir*.

*Hacerle una pregunta*, however, was probably around before the Moors invaded Spain around 700 AD. It means to pose or ask a question. *Le hice al Señor Mago unas preguntas de la gravedad*. (I asked Mr. Wizard some questions about gravity).

Obviously, then, *pregunta* is the associated noun. It is indeed the usual word for question, but I've noticed that the word for doubt, *duda*, often works for questions. If you hear someone say, "Tengo unas dudas," it's likely a polite request for clarification. If accepted, a series of questions (*dudas*) will ensue. It's not, as it potentially is in Eng-

lish, a challenge to the person addressed, as when the prosecutor said, "You mean to tell me, Joey, that you don't know Amy Fisher? I have some doubts!"

For Star trek "Siglo 30" fans, the zenny translation of Captain Kirk's "I want some answers!" includes no answer word, but a question word: *¡Tengo algunas dudas!*

The noun *cuestión* exists, but is limited to questions requiring solutions rather than replies, such as philosophical or political riddles, or child custody disputes. *La cuestión de los curdos* (the Kurdish Question). And "It's a question of ..." translates straightforwardly as *Es una cuestión de (perseverancia, tiempo, etc.)*.

In the Internet age, Spanish, English and other major languages converge in *FAQ*. One question that I like to pretend is a FAQ is "Will "Zen of" continue?" The respuesta is in next month's *Revue*. ◀



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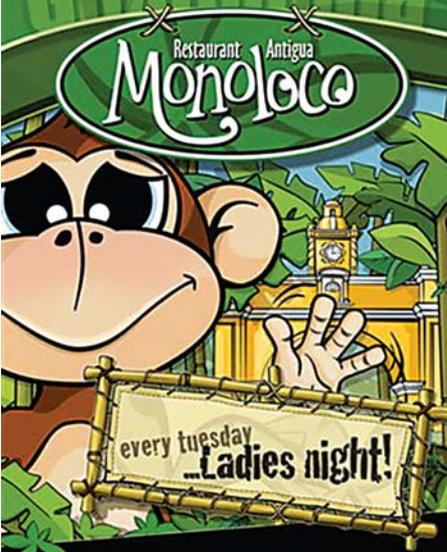
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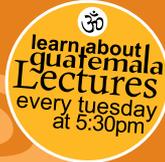
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*How lazy is he?*

My son is so lazy he won't empty the trash in the computer recycle bin!

**Bedside Manners**

Susie's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months. Things looked grim, but she was by his bedside every single day. One day as he slipped back into consciousness, he motioned for her to come close to him. She pulled the chair close to the bed and leaned her ear close to be able to hear him.

"You know" he whispered, his eyes filling with tears, "you have been with me through all the bad times. When I got fired, you stuck right beside me. When my business went under, there you were. When we lost the house, you were there. When I got shot, you stuck with me. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. "And you know what?"

"What, dear?" she asked gently, smiling to herself.

"I think you're bad luck."

**Subject: Exercise for Older Adults**

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-pound potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can.

Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato sacks.

Then try 50-lb potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.

**Cute kid**

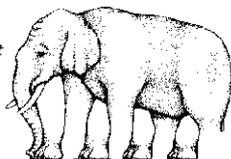
A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says: "That's the ugliest baby I've ever seen. Ugh!"

The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a man next to her: "The driver just insulted me!"

The man says: "You go right up there and tell him off – go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

**The dancing elephant**

Try to count the number of his legs



**Too much information**

A police officer pulled over a driver and informed him that because he was wearing his seat belt, he had just won \$5,000 in a local safety competition.

"What are you going to do with the prize money?" the officer asked.

The man responded, "I guess I'll go to driving school and get my license."

At that moment, his wife, who was seated next to him, chimed in, "Officer, don't listen to him. He's a smart aleck when he's drunk."

This woke up the guy in the back seat, who, when he saw the cop, blurted out, "I knew we wouldn't get far in this stolen car."

Just then, there was a knock from the trunk and a voice asked, "Are we over the border yet?"

**Missing chatterbox**

On a rural road a state trooper pulled a farmer over and said: "Sir, do you realize your wife fell out of the car several miles back?" To which the farmer replied: "Thank God, I thought I had gone deaf!"

**Confused friend**

A man had been drinking at the bar for hours when he mentioned something about his girlfriend being out in the car. The bartender, concerned because it was so cold, went to check on her. When he looked inside the car, he saw the man's friend, Dave, and his girlfriend kissing one another. The bartender shook his head and walked back inside.

He told the drunk that he thought it might be a good idea to check on his girlfriend. The fellow staggered outside to the car, saw his buddy and his girlfriend kissing, then walked back into the bar laughing.

"What's so funny?" the bartender asked.

"That stupid Dave!" the fellow chortled, "He's so drunk, he thinks he's me!"



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*No statue has ever been erected to the memory  
of a person who let well enough alone.*



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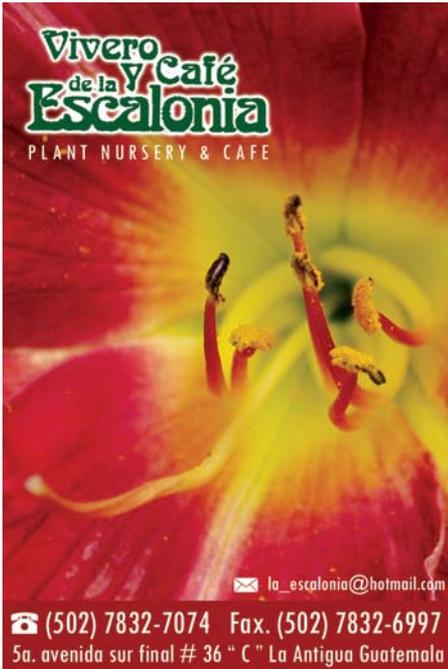
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—William Allen White

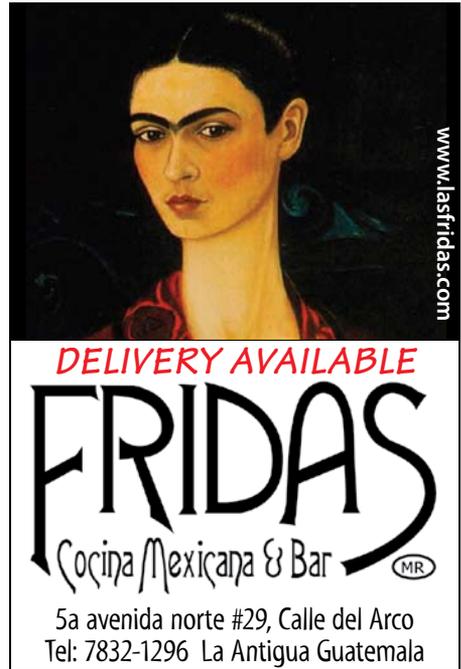
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## The Convent of Santa Clara cont. from page 20

church, squeezing in on the church façade. A third large, impressive doorway in the west wall seems to be from that construction. The *cúpula* fell in 1874, killing a family that had found a home in the nave of the church. (Pardo, Castellanos, Muñoz, *Guía de Antigua Guatemala*, 1969) In 1936 colorful tiles of a fountain were taken to be reassembled in a courtyard of the Palace of the Captains General.

“Except for the two-story arcade of the main cloister, little of the convent remains today,” wrote Markman in 1966, but the quake in 1976 further felled the second level.

In the 1980s the Council for the Protection of La Antigua Guatemala carried out restoration work, reawakened the lovely convent and opened it to the public. The grand church remains roofless above and keeps an extensive crypt below. Perhaps the spirits live on. 



Tiles of fountain, once near cloister kitchen, now adorn fountain in courtyard of Palace of Captains General.

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I was stunned. “Why? What happened, you two seem so happy together”

“Well” he said, “ever since we got married, my wife has tried to change me. She got me to stop drinking, smoking, running around at all hours of the night and more. She taught me how to dress well, enjoy the fine arts, gourmet cooking, classical music and how to invest in the stock market.”

“Are you a little bitter because she spent so much time trying to change you.” I probed.

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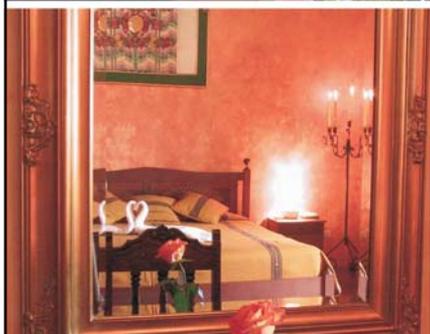


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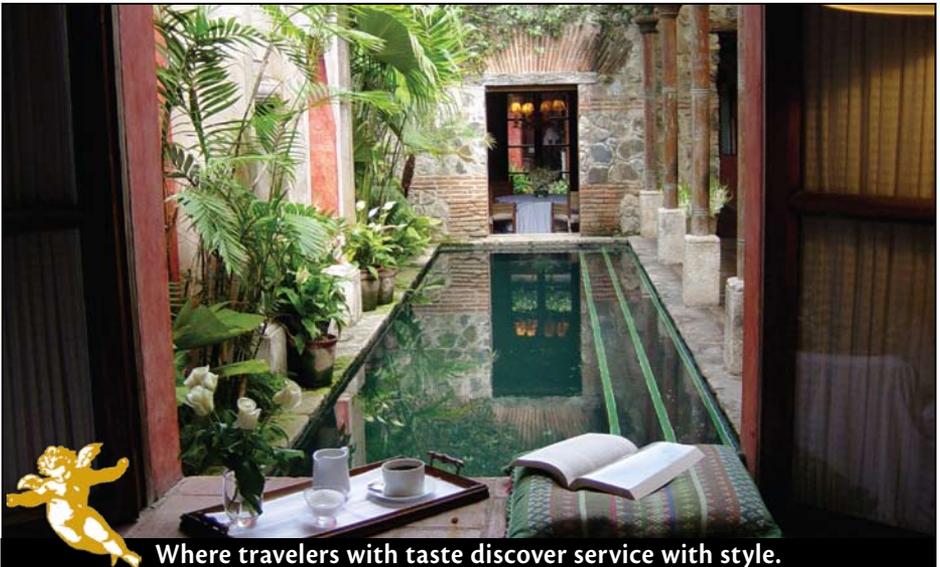
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# Border Crossing: Stephanie Riegel



by Dwight Wayne Coop

**S**tephanie Riegel, who left a legacy of patrimony for thousands of families too poor to own a camera or hire a photographer, lost her struggle with breast cancer last month. The Ohio native was 69.

“Stevie,” as she was known to neighbors in Panajachel, came to Guatemala in 1993 with her first husband, photographer Dan Waldorf, who himself had been Stevie’s own mentor in the craft. After they settled in San Andrés Semetabaj, near Lake Atitlán, Stevie began photographing local folk and giving them copies of the photos.

Waldorf’s 1996 death coincided with the digital revolution in photography. This might have been a barrier for Stevie, a self-described computer-phobe. But it was then

that she met her next partner, Bay Stater Jerry Smith, who survives her. Smith’s technical genius and Riegel’s artistic prowess were perfect complements, and the couple generated tens of thousands of exquisite photos of Guatemalan subjects, under the joint credit of “Smith & Riegel.” Some graced the covers of *Revue*, *Crónica*, and other media.

One thing Stevie did to assure authenticity was to lean on a building near her subjects until they stopped noticing her and returned to their natural composure. Next she “chatted them up” until taking their picture became the natural thing to do. Then she asked if they would be in the same place a week later and, ...continued next page



**Photos by Smith & Riegel:** Smith’s technical genius and Riegel’s artistic prowess were perfect complements, and the couple generated tens of thousands of exquisite photos of Guatemalan subjects.



  
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**Stephanie Riegel** cont. from previous page

if so, she reappeared to hand out free enlargements of the images snapped on the first visit. Jerry Smith joined her, and they became so familiar around Lake Atitlán that children flocked after them. Those same children will have something to show their children and grandchildren.

Stevie exhibited no bitterness or self-pity during her five-year duel with illness, which included frequent radiotherapy. In the final weeks, when the prognosis was hopeless, she maintained the sweetness and graciousness that had made her a favorite among expats and Guatemalans alike. But she spent her final hours in Austin, Texas, surrounded by her children, David, Donald and Justine, and her grandson, John.

“She had the heart of a lion,” Smith recalls.

Stephanie Riegel immortalized herself, and her adopted country, in her work. She will be missed. 📷



**Photos by Smith & Riegel:** The couple became so familiar around Lake Atitlán that children flocked after them. Those same children will have something to show their children and grandchildren.



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*Albums of Smith & Riegel images  
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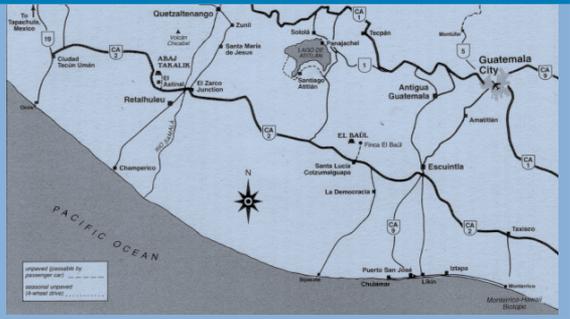
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*The goodness of bad people and the badness of good people is less surprising than the ignorance of educated people and the knowledge of the uneducated.*

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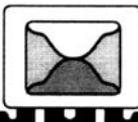
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**Images of Reality** cont. from page 21

central figures of the triumphant Christ, the brilliant monstrosity and the flowing water. The lower right scene shows the misery of massacres of the 1980s. Pointing to details, Rosamaria explains: “There the men carry coffins; skulls and bones remind of the exhumations even now; a church and houses burn in the background.

“Many people would prefer to forget those years, but we cannot pretend it never happened. One native lady said to me, “Thank you for including the suffering of our people in your painting.”

At the lower left the artist illustrates the pain of poverty and current social ills. “There is a boy picking through the garbage and one sniffing drugs; a young girl is pregnant. There is an old man begging; another lies drunk; another hauls a load on his back. Their pots are broken, like their lives; and

this background also is burning.”

Rosamaria brightens as she focuses on the upper two scenes. “Here are bread and books and a bicycle. There are kites and huipiles. The children are studying, playing, enjoying water. Smiling people are working the land, harvesting corn and wheat, buying and selling, making tortillas; the landscape is green. This half shows the return of life.”

Does the mural reflect reality of today? Yes and no. The massacres, hopefully, are a thing of the past. Misery of life in the garbage dump continues. The apparent health and happiness in the upper scenes illustrate promise of a truth of which Rosamaria is unshakably sure: Good and life do ultimately triumph. “It is the truth of the Beatitudes. The humble, those who mourn, the pure in heart, the peacemakers—theirs is the gift of well-being, of spiritual joy.”

The mural of 75 square feet awaits framing. It is the 16th donated by Rosamaria for churches in Guatemala. Others are in Guatemala City, Cobán, Quiché and Rabinal. 

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*Things have not happened to me; on the contrary, it is I who have happened to them.*  
 —Bernard Shaw

*Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done.* —Andy Rooney

*I am genuinely free from envy, but how can I be envious when I pity every other man for not being Bernard Shaw.* —Bernard Shaw

*There's one good thing about tight shoes: they make you forget your other troubles.*  
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*Many a train of thought carries no freight.*

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# The Beauty Myth

by **Dr. Karmen Guevara**  
HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Everywhere we go, we are surrounded by the beauty myth—in television, cinema, fashion magazines, the catwalk and even department store mannequins. Wannabe beauties promenade during the day and synchronize to the beat of strobe lights by night. For clothes “less is more” and for adornments “more is more.” Just like the proverb, “Beauty is 10, nine of which is dressing.”

Society is fixated on beauty with the clear message, “to be less than beautiful is a failure.”

The tyrant ego pushes us to become more beautiful, and the tortuous mind constantly tells us that we’ll never make it. We’re too fat, our nose is too pointed, our eyes are too far apart and we’re getting old.

Unfortunately, despite the glaring flaws, we are caught in the web of this beauty myth.

The one-dimensional, social-cultural view of beauty—physical appearance—traps us.

The other trap is the gender bias. As Kinky Friedman said, “Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.”

This is well illustrated in a recent interview between the 11th in line to the English throne and his new bride. When asked what attracted him to her he replied, “It was her stunningly good looks.” She responded, “It was his good humor and kind nature.”

Confucius said, “Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.” When we open our eyes we can see that true beauty lies beyond the obvious. John Ruskin said, “The most beautiful things in the world are the most useless: peacocks and lilies.”

Send the ego on a Caribbean cruise and switch the mental button off. Drop the endless pursuit of physical beauty and open your eyes to the beauty within you. Our bodies encase our spirit, where all beauty lies. As Kahlil Gibran said, “Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart.”

The pursuit of beauty is futile, for if we do not carry it within us, we will not find it. So light a candle and honor your true beauty. Remember the heart sees the beauty that the eyes could never see. 



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**AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA:** Sun Discussion 1-2pm (2a avenida sur #34), Mon 6-7pm Discussion & Thurs 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). [www.antiguaguatemala.laa.org](http://www.antiguaguatemala.laa.org) and [www.lakeatitlanaa.org](http://www.lakeatitlanaa.org)

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**CLUB ROTARIO:** Meets every Wednesday 8pm at Porta Hotel Antigua. (Last Wed. of the month, please call Alma). Tel: 7832-7600.

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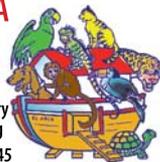
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## Spitters, Scratchers and Snappers

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

**Question:** Is it true that we can catch a cold or the flu and other diseases from our pets? Also, is it true that dog saliva is cleaner than human saliva?

**Answer:** Cold and flu viruses are species specific, meaning the common human cold cannot be passed to your pet, or vice versa. Campylobacter and Salmonella can pass from dogs and cats to humans, but only through fecal contamination, hand to mouth. However, reptiles (such as turtles and snakes), baby chicks and ducklings, as well as "pocket pets" (hamsters and mice) present a much greater Salmonella risk.

Dog saliva is just as contaminated as human saliva, so it is not a good idea to let your dog lick your mouth especially if you are immune-compromised. Also, be careful not to get pet saliva in an open wound.

Even if a pet is not sick (or doesn't appear sick), it may still harbor organisms that can infect humans. The bacteria that cause cat-scratch disease, for example, can be passed

from an infected cat with no signs of illness through a bite or scratch. Leptosporosis, a less common but more serious bacterial disease, can be passed from the urine of an infected dog into human mucous membranes. It is also possible to get a fungal disease (ringworm) from contact with the skin of an infected dog or cat. And toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease, can be transmitted from cats through feces, though a more common source is contaminated meat or soil.

Even with all of the above, please remember that you are far more likely to get sick from another person than from your dog or cat. But, you should still take precautions with you pets, especially if you have a weakened immune system or are otherwise at high risk (frail, elderly people, pregnant women and young children). Always wash your hands after handling pets and cleaning up after them, get pets vaccinated and dewormed, control fleas, and take your pet to the vet for regular checkups. ---



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*People who like to shoot off their mouths  
never run out of ammunition.*



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remembers a man who, at 94, was “too old for treatment. But he at least got sunglasses.”

Duane and Eunice Wakeman, married 57 years, have volunteered for 14 ICare expeditions. They are, they say, the high point of their retirement. They brought their daughter, Sue Bea, on this one. Sue and coworker Joan Sable managed a database of the eyeglass inventory. Whenever glasses were given away, Sue and Joan deleted them from the database.

*“The important thing is seeing joy spread over the face of someone who’s seeing well for the first time in years—or the first time ever.”*

“We don’t find a perfect match for everyone,” admits Sable, “so we give the closest we have. Sometimes, we find we have the lens for the right eye, and another for the left—but on *different* frames.”

In such cases, it is often possible to mate the lenses into one of the original frames, or into another, in spite of differing shapes or dimensions. For this there is a frypan full of seasalt where frames are heated to malleability for refitting. Lenses, too, can be modified on the spot by filing. Frame arms can be recurved, to fit their new owners.

Klaus Schumann, a German lawyer who immigrated to the United States and became a truck driver, spent part of every day for three months prior to the jornada sorting the glasses. They are always indexed by the right lens, then divvied further according to refractive parameters. At the end of the jornada, Schumann and wife Jay turned over some 2300 undelivered eyeglasses to the Lake Atitlán Rotary Club, whose president, Rufino Caniz, began pondering his task: to find owners. “It won’t happen

quickly,” Jay says, “because some of the glasses are for relatively weird prescriptions. But there’re still many for people with commoner vision problems.”

Before the event, Rotarians distributed flyers and posters and asked local mayors to inform their townfolk of the jornada. One Rotarian business, Panajachel’s El Horno Bakery, donated a day’s worth of meals to the volunteers and provided another three days at cost. Seven sharp students of English from nearby Del Valle University showed up to translate. Some Atitlán expats also entered the translating fray.

“Foreigners who live here need to give something back,” says American Myron Klein, of Santa Cruz. “That’s why I’m here.” Klein’s presence was rewarded in a special way. “A nice seamstress who did work for me 25 years ago popped up in one of the lines. She remembered me, if not my name.”

The jornada ran nearly five days, with most of the first spent logging symptoms and identifying surgery candidates. Over the week, surgeons led by Dennis Deters performed 46 operations in Sololá’s public hospital, with Guatemalan medical students assisting. Another ophthalmologist, Roger Ewald, remained at the jornada site to evaluate additional candidates and perform post-ops of the work of his colleagues laboring in Sololá.

The hospital also received a donation of a \$250,000 Alcon Phaco Emulsifier, a surgical appliance from Vantage Technology, where Dr. Deters’ wife, Ann, is CEO. The gift puts this provincial hospital on the map of vanguard treatment.

The event’s most compelling volunteer might have been retired optometrist Lenny Sable, who filled in wherever needed. Dr. Sable wore a paper Burger King crown all week, and encouraged and entertained everyone with his self-effacing humor. On the final day, he won a kiss from a young translator.

“I can’t wait to come back,” he said. 

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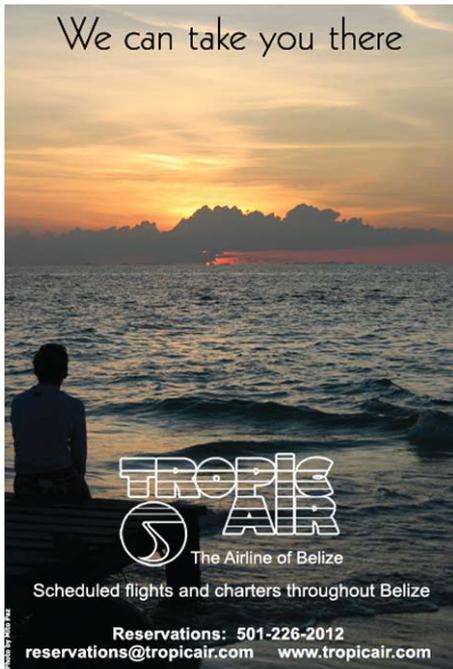


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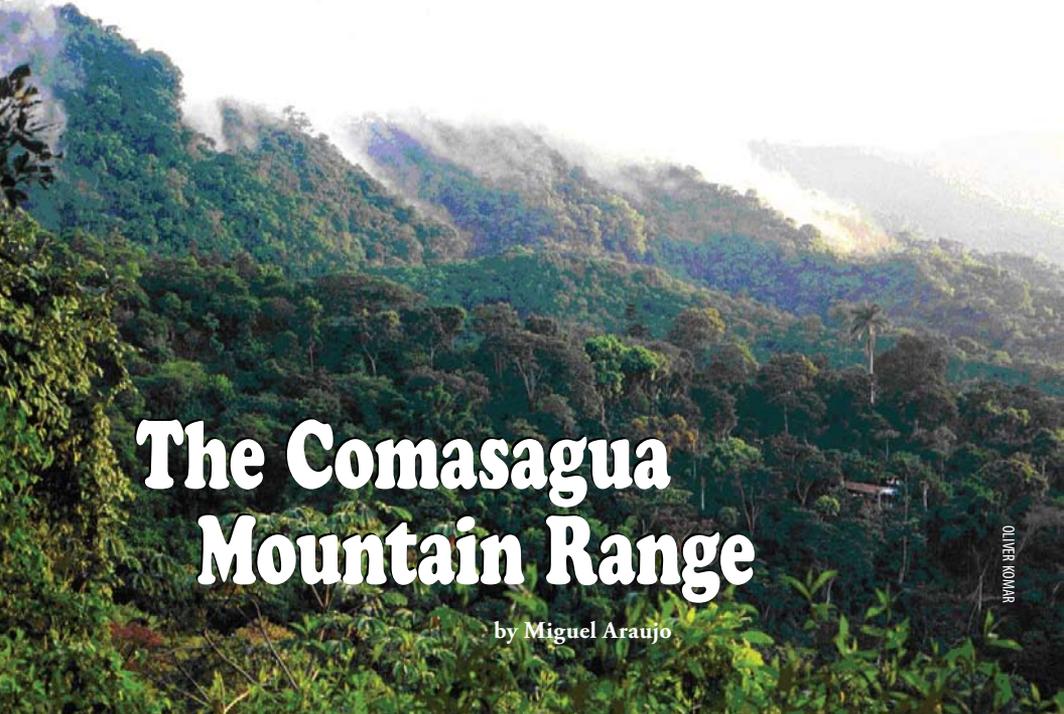


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# The Comasagua Mountain Range

by Miguel Araujo

OLIVER KOMAR

**T**he Comasagua-Talnique range is located a half hour from the Pacific beaches of La Libertad, San Blas and El Sunzal and a half hour from San Salvador, the busy capital of El Salvador.

With an elevation of 1,250 to 1,500 meters above sea level and an eternal, spring-like climate, this region offers local and international tourists a wonderful option that boasts impressive landscapes, fine food, music, arts and crafts, and in abundance—a pristine natural environment.

This beautiful range provides incredible panoramic vistas: South is the Salvadoran coastline; turning north is the impressive Volcano of San Salvador. Visitors have an exceptional 180-degree view that comprises the Volcano of Izalco, Cerro Verde and Santa Ana, the Apaneca mountain range, Volcano Chingo bordering Guatemala, the Miramundo and the Chalatenango heights near Honduras.

Fifteen years ago Swiss-born Gaudenz Graff had a vision: this cool mountain cli-

mate and excellent views of Comasagua could be the setting for a recreational retreat. His project, Pontesina, consists of 37 Swiss-style cabins. “Gody” Graff and his wife Ana Rosa also became involved in the local community and introduced sustainable development through arts and crafts, which are exported to Europe and United States. Today this project provides jobs to 16 local women.

Other visionary programs in the area include the Cooperative of Santa Adelaida, which 15 years ago pioneered organic management of its coffee farm. Organic farming quickly spread to neighboring coffee farms such as La Giralda, Las Quebradas and San Antonio. It was this effort that inspired Miguel Araujo and his wife Carmen Irene to create—within the La Giralda farm—the first privately-owned nature reserve in El Salvador that included a scientific investigation of the biodiversity of the mountain range. Of the 520 bird species in El Salvador, over 220 species have been registered at the nature reserve. Later Miguel Araujo



(PHOTOS: MIGUEL ARAUJO)



accepted the challenge to be the first Minister of Environment in El Salvador and to become an advocate for local environment as well as that of all of Central America.

The Comasagua-Talnique range has also been attracting artists for years. The famous painter Licry Bicard and her husband, later converted this inspirational place to her new home.

The 2001 earthquake was especially devastating in this area and it temporarily halted creative development for several years. But some three years ago, activity began picking up with the Finca San Ernesto's new small zoo and rescue center for endangered species. Accompanying this awakening came the first cabins for rent in the area of Bello Atardecer, led by Salva-

doran publicist Hermann Bruch.

Then in December 2007, the Mirador de la Giralda opened its doors. Proprietors Miguel and Carmen Irene Araujo wanted to offer visitors an interesting mix of original gourmet dishes, spectacular views and cultural activities. Each visitor to the restaurant receives a personal and warm welcome.

The exquisite combination of cool climate, amazing views and the biodiversity of the Comayagua-Talnique mountain range has created the ideal base for increased tourism in the area.

To reach this area, take the new paved road to Comasagua village, which starts at the turnoff from the main road to Puerto La Libertad by Centro Comercial Las Palmas (by Las Piletas). 



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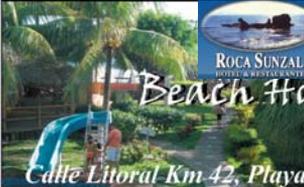
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Estuary Barra de Santiago (Lena Johannessen)



Film crew at Barra de Santiago beach  
(LENA JOHANNESSEN)

## A new showcase for tourism in El Salvador

**S**in Escala, a TV program highlighting the best tourist destinations of Argentina, has chosen El Salvador for a new series where both countries will showcase the best of its nature, adventure and tourist attractions.

El Salvador production company CamposArtGroup, with Argentinean Alejo Campo, was a key factor when El Salvador was chosen for the program that Argentines watch when choosing their next vacation.

The series began last month, airing each Sunday at 5:30 p.m. on Channel 12 in El Salvador. In addition to Argentina and El Salvador, viewers in Guatemala and the United States can also catch this innovative and exciting series.

An Argentinean film crew led by Nara Ferragut came to El Salvador in April to film the first cycle of 13 programs on the country's most impressive and interesting tourist destinations. For three weeks the crew traveled from border to border and

filmed a variety of attractions from family activities to extreme sports.

The first programs feature kite surfing in Costa del Sol; surfing on the Pacific coast from Sunzal to Las Flores; boat rides into the mangroves of Barra de Santiago and the Estero de Jaltepeque; climbing the volcanoes of Cerro Verde and Izalco; mountain biking in El Pital and Eco Parque El Espino; rafting in the Río Paz; diving in Lago Ilopango; and much more.

Sin Escala Argentina-El Salvador is a new generation of TV productions to motivate viewers to get out and experience the great variety of tourist destinations available and serve as a guide to new and exciting experiences. The show is supported by the Argentinean and Salvadoran Ministries of Tourism and a range of private enterprises in the tourism industry. 

*For more information contact: Daniela Raffo,  
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# Records Smashed at Salvadoran Coffee Auction

In an auction that lasted over seven hours, 36 of the best Salvadoran coffee lots, totaling 104,500 pounds of green coffee, were sold recently in one of the most successful regional auctions this year.

The El Salvador Cup of Excellence 2008 electronic auction in April smashed three records. The first was a historic high price of \$20.10 (USD) per pound of raw coffee by Finca La Ilusión from Santa Ana, the first-place winner in the competition. The previous high price of \$17.04 per pound was obtained in the 2006 by Finca Los Planes from Chalatenango. The second record was the average selling price, which reached \$5.36 per pound, surpassing the average

price of \$5.18 reached last year, despite 13 more lots participating in the auction this year. The third record was the dollar total, which reached \$557,987.58, surpassing by more than \$150,000 the previous high in 2006. The auction was also transmitted live via internet among all bidders.

This success reflects the work done to raise quality awareness in the specialty coffee market. Ricardo Espitia, the Salvadoran Coffee Council's executive director, said: "In recent years we have seen coffees from El Salvador regaining their prestige in select markets through several efforts but with far greater resonance in recent months."

*For more information; [www.elsalvadorcoe.com](http://www.elsalvadorcoe.com)*



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transgresiones.  
Propuestas para  
una historiografía  
literaria en  
Centroamérica.  
**Werner Mackenbach**  
(comp.). Tomo I  
de Historia de  
las literaturas  
centroamericanas.

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julio de 2008  
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**Rafael Menjívar**  
**Ochoa, Vanessa**  
**Núñez Handal y**  
**Jorge Galán,**  
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libros: Trece,  
Los locos mueren  
de viejos y El  
sueño de Mariana.

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julio de 2008  
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Canto palabra, de  
**Pablo Glaciar.**

**Jueves 31,**  
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cuenterailes y  
cuenteretes, de  
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