

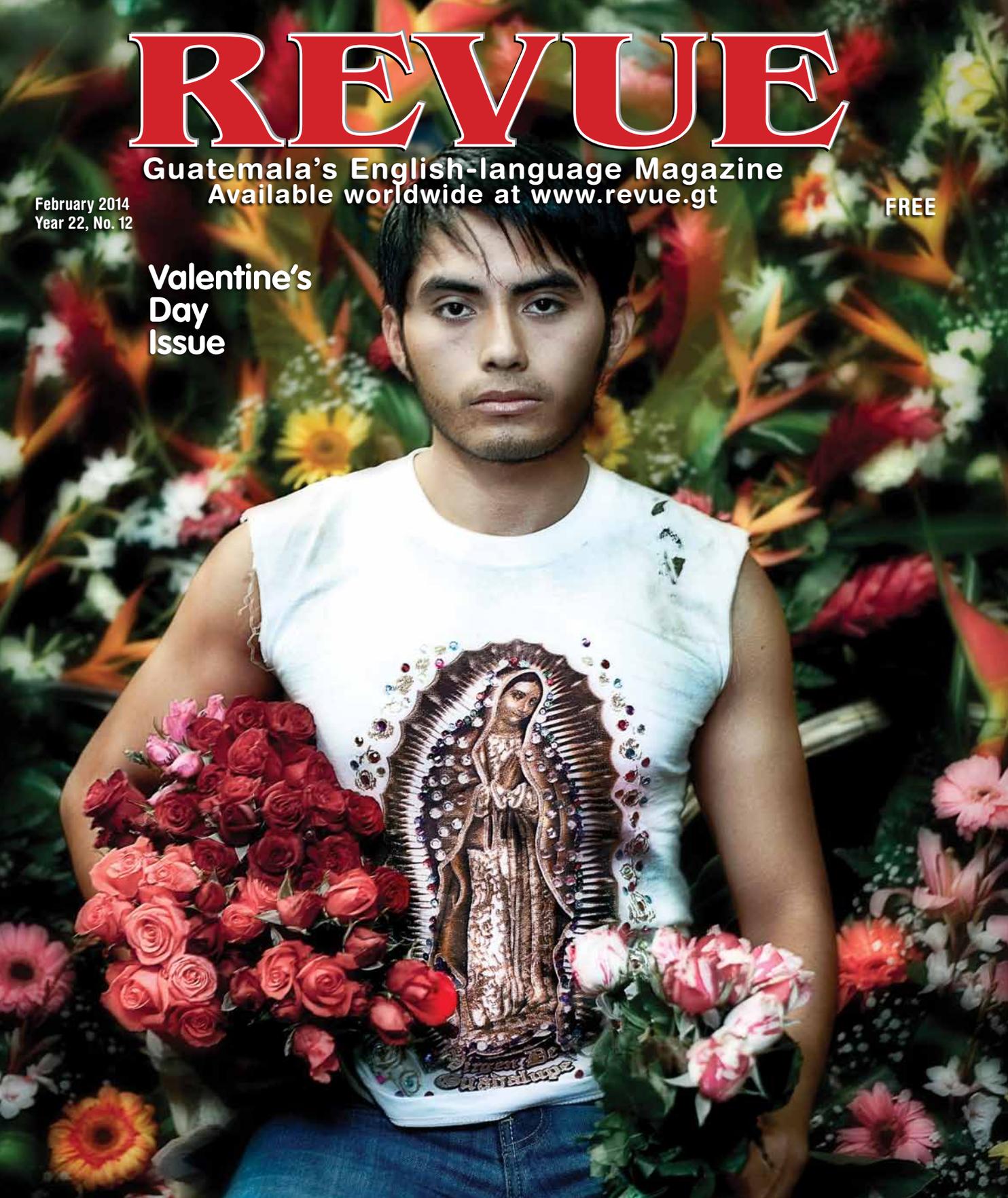
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February 2014
Year 22, No. 12

FREE

Valentine's
Day
Issue





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Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO de marzo 2014 con el tema **TRADICIONES GUATEMALTECAS**. 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 Mesón Panza Verde. Para más información Revue.gt

Serán elegibles las fotos que se reciban hasta el 10 de Feb. de 2013.

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for March 2014 with the theme **GUATEMALAN TRADITIONS**. 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 Mesón Panza Verde. More information at Revue.gt

Submissions entered by the 10th of February will be eligible.

FROMMER'S

The Best Websites in Guatemala

<http://www.frommers.com/destinations/guatemala/274612>

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/ca/guatemala>: Hosted by the University of Texas Latin American Studies Department, this site houses a vast collection of information about Guatemala.

www.revuemag.com: This is an excellent English-language monthly magazine geared toward tourists and expatriates. The entire magazine, as well as past issues, is available online.

www.visitguatemala.com: This is the official site of the Guatemala Tourism Commission (INGUAT). The site is a bit clunky, but if you dig around, you can find some useful info.

www.xelawho.com: A slightly irreverent English-language magazine produced in Quetzaltenango and directed at the town's large population of foreign-language students, this site has honest reviews and a wealth of information.

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

"Cuando estas conmigo" by José Antonio García Aguirre. Prize: Q250 Brunch at **Mesón Panza Verde**.

▼ **Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb.** "Cantineando en Santiago" by Tono Valdes M. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt





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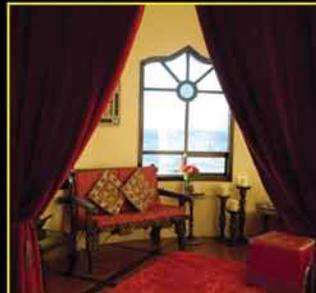
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from the publishers

Happy February! The big holiday and New Year greetings are behind us as we move along into 2014. The fun holiday this month is Valentine's Day, and not coincidentally, our Photo Contest theme is *Love in Guatemala*. Throughout this edition is a sampling of the great photographs we received, including the winners by popular vote and by judges' decision. Thanks to all the photographers who participated.

The work of art on this month's cover is by Eny Roland Hernández.

Besides the Valentine's Day fare—which includes a holiday recipe from Amalia Moreno-Damgaard and a reminder of the gift of love from Sri Ram Kaa and Kira Raa—there is an interesting variety of articles from all corners of Guatemala.

Mazatenango holds its annual carnival, and Thor Janson shares his excellent photos as well as his take on the event, including the unfortunate side effects from the local sugar industry.

Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth introduces us to some *Mayan Medicinal Plants*. Elizabeth Bell explains how the history of Casa Popenoe is being rewritten. John Ohe answers some questions about extranjero tax issues.

For travellers, Tara Tiedemann shares some of her favorite places to visit and encourages us to *Explore More and Go Deeper*. And to help with the communication aspect, Dwight Wayne Coop gives us some special tips when speaking Spanish.

There are many cultural events happening this month: an exhibition of *Contemporary Huipiles*, a sculpture exhibition titled *When the River Rumbles*, the premier of the documentary film *Maximón—Santo o Diablo*, and the annual charity picnic at Finca El Zapote, plus dozens of other fun things to do. Just check the DateBook.

Thanks for reading Revue, and may your month be full of love.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich



ON THE COVER

San Juan Diego,
el vendedor de rosas

by

Eny Roland Hernández
www.enyroland.com

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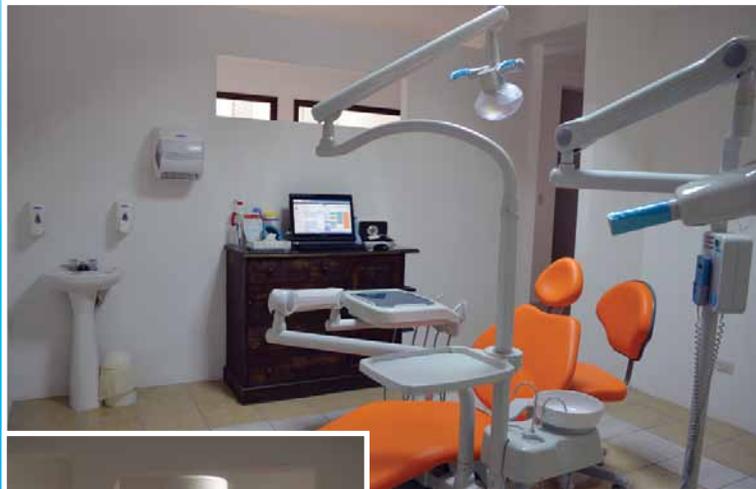
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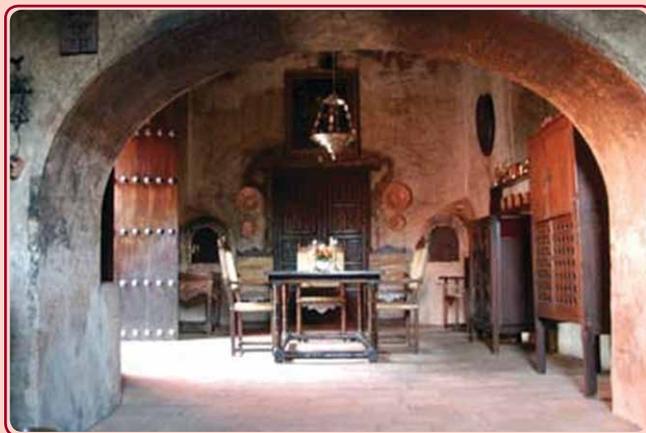


Guatemala
Insight

by Elizabeth Bell
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

Casa Popenoe

Rewriting history



UNIVERSIDAD FRANCISCO MARROQUIN

When the Universidad Francisco Marroquín acquired the Casa Popenoe from the Popenoe family in 2007, we never imagined that, through its historical research, the university would rewrite the house's history. Dr. Arq. Alberto Garín, curator, has done a fabulous job of just that! Meticulously going through the Popenoe family records and interviewing Dr. Marion Popenoe Hatch, he has shown that the historical information presented to Dr. Wilson Popenoe and his wife Dorothy when they purchased the house in 1930, may in fact, correspond to another house possibly on a nearby corner.

By establishing that the house was built by a wealthy businesswoman, doña Venancia López, in 1736 and not in 1632 as previously thought, it is quite possible that Antigua's architectural history can be, to a certain degree, re-interpreted.

The house remains remarkable. Wilson and Dorothy Popenoe, both botanists, bought the house mostly in ruins with some squatters still in some of the rooms in 1930. Dorothy was also an archaeologist and both went to painstaking measures to restore the house to its original grandeur. Working initially with plans created by Fred Reckholder, they returned the house to being a home. A few changes were made to embellish the house. Wrought iron grids from the balconies and indoor windows were changed to wood and a colonial fountain was acquired and located in the central patio. A collection of colonial doors and the first fireplace in Antigua were also added. These items have frequently been interpreted as original and appear in many of the newly restored homes in Antigua. Everyone uses the Popenoe House as an excellent example of Antigua's standard.

Years after Dorothy passed away,

Dr. Popenoe married Helen—an art historian who collected many works of art to decorate the house. While the photos from the 1930s show the house with some furniture and art, it was through Helen's work that the house was filled with the collection we view today.

More research by the UFM team will no doubt enhance and even change much of how we view Antigua's architecture. It has been noted that we have studied 1543-1773 when the city was the capital of Guatemala. Very little has been documented of how the city has been restored since 1774. Through their monthly lecture series, *Exploraciones sobre La Historia*, which began in January, we look forward to learning more about Guatemala. The house is also open by appointment for group visits. In any event, more "rewriting" will follow! 📖

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Roads to Adventure

text/photos by
Capt. Thor Janson
NAVIGATOR / EXPLORER
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Carnival at Sugar City

and it's raining ash

Mazatenango is affectionately referred to by locals as “Sugar City,” as it is surrounded by cane fields and sugar refineries. The growing public antipathy toward everything sweetened and flavored with genetically modified corn syrup has led to a real boom for Guatemala’s south coast producers of real, natural, cane sugar.

This current economic upsurge is reflected by the prosperity of the residents and their enhanced power of acquisition and ability to spend on non-essential things. I have been col-

lecting images for a planned book on Mardi Gras and carnivals throughout the Americas. Instead of focusing on the big, commercially funded events in Rio de Janeiro and New Orleans, I plan to zoom in on the little-known carnivals, and they are many and diverse, throughout the hemisphere. I love color and carnival indulges in this lavishly. I remember some years back I had commented to friends how much I enjoy the “Mazate” carnival despite the fact that it is one of the poorest cities in the region. Though poor in funding, the people are rich in the joy

of spirit and go all out with limited resources to make the most beautiful costumes adorned with painted peanut shells, dyed seashells and chicken feathers and red annatto (achiote) pods.

In 2013 everything changed. I arrived to find the streets of Mazate lavishly adorned with banners and the brash accoutrements of celebration. Commercial sponsorship, largely absent a few years back, was now massively present. The disjointed cacophony of distorting loudspeakers, some blaring out cumbia, others rock

Beautiful shimmering gowns resplendent with glittering Tortrix corn chip and Cheetos bags, discarded plastic spoons and forks, bottle tops, chewing gum wrappers and other twinkling bric-a-brac amazingly combine so as not to look like refuse at all.

and still others carnival tunes like the macarena, charged the atmosphere with electricity.

All the many different groups and marching bands assembled down by the old train station. Revelers lined the main avenue. At 9 a.m., led by queens and dignitaries, the parade began. The current craze among carnival costume confectioners are elaborate

Carnival is a period of public revelry which takes place the week before Lent, which is a time leading up to Easter when Catholics fast and pray. It's one last big bash before the proscribed time of penitence and abstinence.

In Mazatenango there are parades and events every day of carnival week, including a children's parade, an adult parade, a parade of floats, a parade of horses and a parade of indigenous Maya. There are also numerous concerts, dances, and the Grand Masquerade Ball.





creations made of 100 percent recycled matter. Beautiful shimmering gowns resplendent with glittering Torrtix corn chip and Cheetos bags, discarded plastic spoons and forks, bottle tops, chewing gum wrappers and other twinkling bric-a-brac amazingly combine so as not to look like refuse at all. Who would have thought that a beautiful girl dressed up in garbage would still look appealing?

Yes! Ecology is in, trashing the countryside is out! The procession made its way slowly through the streets, taking several hours to arrive at the fairgrounds. Along the way pranksters pelted the marchers with confetti-filled eggshells and water balloons. Watch out! An occasional mischief maker will throw an egg filled with flour, and that can be quite a mess. Motorcycle police and patrol cars were pelted mercilessly and soon were covered with multicolored muck. A kind of high-spirited anarchy took over but goodwill still prevailed. Everyone was living it up!

Then I saw a young boy point up at the sky and exclaim, “Look mama, it’s snowing!” And it was indeed snowing ... but the “snow” was black! Black ash was raining down upon us—not volcanic ash, but ash created by the nearby ingenios, the sugar refineries where cane juice is boiled down to make the white granules so beloved by humans everywhere.

Nearly all big industrial operations, whether manufacturing plants, big agro or energy producers, are involved with what ecologists call “externalization.” Externalization occurs whenever the industry dumps toxic waste products into the environmental “commons.” Industries must be competitive while at the same time generate profits for their owners and shareholders. The core mandate of industries worldwide is to earn maximum profit. Therefore, every time an industry dumps poisonous substances into the environment instead of paying the price to clean up these pollutants, the operational costs are less, and their earnings are more. Virtually no industry cleans up its act independent of citizen pressure.

The point of why I am mentioning this phenomena is that Guatemala has some of the most beautiful skies anywhere on Earth. The rainy season stops in September or October followed by intensely blue skies with huge bil-



lowy clouds. This is the best time for taking scenic photos. How many times have people insisted that I must be retouching the skies in my photos? I try to tell them that I do not, that the Guatemalan skies are really that amazing; but people from Los Angeles or Berlin find it difficult to believe.

Then one day, in late November or early December everything changes as a thick bank of smoke rolls up the Pacific slope and covers the Highlands. This smoke is being generated by the sugar industry, and it is getting worse and worse every year as the industry expands.

First, before the harvest, the cane fields are burned. Later, even more smoke is generated as the cane juice is boiled down to make sugar. The huge boilers are largely fueled by burning the cane itself after all the juice has been extracted. Logic dictates that this smoke is contaminated by quantities of chemical pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers.

Is it possible to produce sugar without filling the skies with smoke? The answer is yes, but it would certainly raise the production costs, possibly making the Guatemalan product uncompetitive in the international marketplace. The sugar producers will also argue that their industry provides jobs for more than 35,000 workers. But the bottom line is that millions of people who live in Guatemala have to breathe that smoke, day and night, for months. There is no question that this causes physical illness in many susceptible or sensitive people, especially



infants and elders. It's like being forced to smoke a pack of cigarettes every day.

Eventually a solution will be put into place by international environmental laws that prohibit industries from engaging in externalization. The only way for the inhabitants of Earth to enjoy physical vitality and health is to make sure that the environment is healthy, too. It all comes down to each and every one of us making the decision that we will no longer tolerate the destruction, pollution and defilement of our Mother Earth.

The great work of the 21st century will be healing the Earth, and by healing our planet we will heal ourselves. 🌍

Before the harvest, the cane fields are burned, and then even more smoke is generated as the cane juice is boiled down to make sugar.



A Taste of Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day brings people and the community together in celebration of love and friendship, especially in Guatemala. I have fond memories of celebrating Día del Cariño (Day of Affection) with friends and colleagues in simple and special ways as a young adult living and working in Guatemala.

Holding my first serious job after graduating from school, I worked for a company that felt more like home than a place of work. My co-workers were an extended family to me, and I looked forward to going to work every day. During special celebrations, good wishes, donuts and coffee were delivered from desk to desk and throughout the day people stopped by to express their appreciation, saying "Feliz Día de la Amistad y del Cariño" (Happy Friendship and Affection Day).

Valentine's Day's origin is uncertain. In ancient Rome, the Romans celebrated the spring feast of Lupercalia on Feb. 15, a fertility festival dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture and to the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus, which the Christian church disliked. Around

the end of the Fifth century, the story goes that the church declared Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Day to celebrate Christian martyr St. Valentine in an effort to Christianize the pagan fete. The romance associated with Valentine's Day may come from the medieval belief that birds mate in the spring. Although Valentine romantic greetings were popular in the Middle Ages, written notes did not begin to appear until after the 14th century in England. It was also in England where the custom of sending flowers, chocolates and candy was born, and the celebration gained momentum in the 19th century when printed cards began to appear in England and America. Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide; in the U.S. it is one of the largest celebrations, along with Christmas and Halloween, and is a multi-billion dollar industry.

In Guatemala as in other places, Feb. 14 is not only a special day for lovers and friends, it is gaining speed in commercialization. Valentine's Day is a great opportunity that businesses and companies are using to capture market share with creative strategic marketing campaigns. Jewelry stores, restaurants, flower shops, candy and

chocolate houses and other businesses compete for consumers' attention around this special day, which has grown in consumerism in the past few decades augmented by the power of social media.

Often times we miss the true meaning of things in the midst of a sea of megacampaigns that bombard us in every which way via digital technology blinding us to the fact that the purest matters in life are free, like love, friendship and affection. How about a simple love note, phone call, romantic home-cooked meal and a sweet "I love you"? What is the intent of all the highly commercialized celebrations honoring family, love and peace? There is nothing more precious than family. We can rescue the intended meaning of Valentine's Day. We just have to make a simple effort to get closer to our loved ones, drop the technology for a bit, pay attention and reach out and actually touch and hug someone.

Speaking of simple things, here is an easy recipe for a fun, delicious and festive cocktail to enjoy with your special Valentine. ¡Feliz Día de San Valentín!

Fresh Tropical Fruit Cocktail

COCTEL DE FRUTAS

Serves two to four people

Jugo de Frutas (fruit juice)

- 1 cup freshly squeezed tangerine juice
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup dark rum or sweet wine (optional)

Cubos de Frutas (fruit cubes)

- 1 cup diced papaya (½-inch cubes)
- 1 cup diced pineapple (½-inch cubes)
- 1 cup diced kiwi (½-inch cubes)

Adorno (garnish)

- 2 to 4 skewers (3 to 5 inches long)
- Strawberries and blackberries
- Mint sprigs
- Edible flowers

*Combine the tangerine and lime juice

with the sugar and whisk well to dissolve. Add the cinnamon and rum or wine and whisk to combine. Chill.

*In a bowl, combine the fruit cubes. Chill.

*Divide the fruit into 2 to 4 attractive cups and pour equal amounts of the juice on top of the fruit.

*Skewer the fruit as desired and garnish the fruit cups with the skewers, mint sprigs, and/or edible flowers.

Amalia's Note

If you like, serve this dessert with berry coulis. Serve the coulis on the side or pour it into the cups after the juice but before the fruit cubes (similar to a tequila sunrise). To make berry coulis: Purée ½ cup blackberries, 2 teaspoons sugar and 1 teaspoon lime juice, then strain the mixture.



EXHIBITION

Contemporary Huipiles

Huipiles Contemporáneos

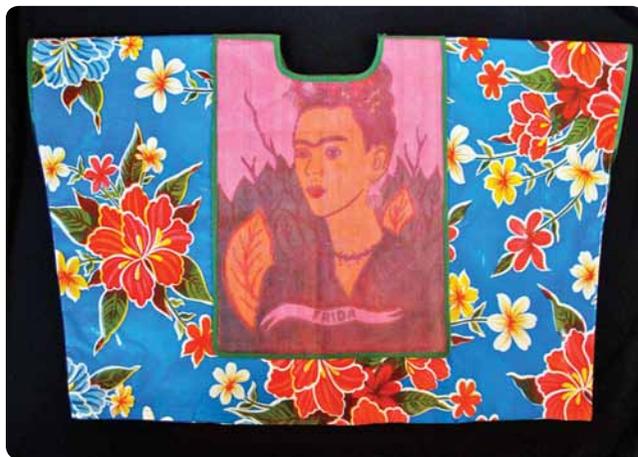
Many people who travel to Guatemala become enchanted with the colorful blouses woven and worn by indigenous women. Artist Lena Bartula of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, says she became a *huipilista* when she met Mercedes, a weaver from San Antonio Aguas Calientes who was selling her wares on the streets in Mexico City. That encounter, almost 20 years ago, led to Bartula's fascination with huipiles. A *huipilista*, then, would be one who falls in love with the magic and mystery of that textile tradition, to the extent that she buys them, wears them, trades to acquire them, travels to find them and weaves her life around them in any way she can.

After studying the intricacies of the weavings and the stories they tell, Bartula realized that these are the chronicles of women everywhere, throughout “herstory.” From that awareness, she began to create homage huipiles to honor female figures, whether human or mythological, individual or collective.

For example, she created her first huipil for Santa Lucía, whose feast day was, before the Gregorian calendar, the same day as the winter solstice. As a goddess, Lucía was known to wear a wreath of candles on her head to bring light in the darkest time of the year.

Ten years later, Bartula's most recent piece pays homage to Guatemala's beloved poet/writer Aláide Foppa, who disappeared in 1980 for her involvement in the struggle for human rights.

More than a dozen huipiles make up the exhibition “Contemporary Huipiles / Huipiles Contemporáneos,” which include commemorative works for garment workers, femicide victims, saints and sinners of all kinds; there is no shortage of material to inspire this artist. 📍



The exhibition will open at the Museo Ixchel, Guatemala City on Feb. 3rd thru the 15th. *Sat. 8, 2pm — Meet the Artist Reception

A shuttle will make it easier for those living in La Antigua to attend the public reception; please contact the artist (lenabartula@gmail.com) for more information. Additional references: www.lenabartula.com <http://lenabartulascontemporaryhuipils.blogspot.com/>

FILM PREMIER

MAXIMÓN – Santo o Diablo

A documentary



Ajax Films' new documentary "MAXIMÓN–Santo o Diablo" will make its world premiere in La Antigua Guatemala at the Cooperacion Española, 6a. av. norte (between 3a y 4a calle) on Wednesday, **Feb. 5**, at 6 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. There will be a reception and the filmmakers, Robert Flanagan and Suzan Al-Doghachi, will be present for questions and answers. The documentary is 66 minutes long, in Spanish with English subtitles, filmed and produced entirely in Guatemala.

"MAXIMÓN-Santo o Diablo" explores the controversial Mayan deity who personifies good and evil simultaneously. Maximón, also known as San Simon, or the drinking and smoking saint of Guatemala, is a mixture of ancient Mayan beliefs and Christianity. The movie focuses on the people who surround Maximón with their strong personalities, opinions and faith. Maximón is honored and loved because he performs miracles, but he is also feared and despised because he is used to cast curses that purportedly can result in death. Giving viewers a rare glimpse into the rituals and fiestas honoring Maximón, the documentary leads us on a journey that is both joyous and terrifying. Ultimately Maximón transcends the duality of good and evil, reflecting the Mayan cosmivision in which everything in the universe co-exists.

"MAXIMÓN-Santo o Diablo" was produced over a 10-year period. The filmmakers chose La Antigua Guatemala for the premiere because it is a cultural center in Central America. Maximón is part of the Guatemalan

folk tradition and naturally the filmmakers want to share it with the Guatemalan audience first.

"The mystery that surrounds Maximón played a large part in the creation of this film," explains Flanagan. "Twenty-five years ago I was living in London. For no apparent reason I created a figure out of old clothes and a mask. I gave him a cowboy hat, I gave him sunglasses, I gave him a cigarette and I gave him a beer. At this point I knew nothing about Maximón. It wasn't until 25 years later on my first trip to Guatemala that I walked into the casa de Maximón in Zunil where I immediately recognized the figure sitting on his throne as the same one I had constructed in London. I really had no choice but to make this film. This began our journey with Maximón."

About the filmmakers

Robert Flanagan – director, producer

Robert Flanagan is a filmmaker and visual artist. He has been making movies since childhood, starting with claymation in Super-8, continuing with feature films in 16mm and currently making documentaries on video. In 1990 Flanagan founded AJAX FILMS in New York City and has been working in Central America since 2000. All of his films and paintings are guided by his personal vision and his interest in bringing the mystical into the light of day.

In his third feature "Bird in the Sky," Flanagan explored the relationship between good and evil. He has taken this theme even deeper in his current documentary "MAXIMÓN-Santo o Diablo." ...continued page 85

datebook

FEBRUARY 2014 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

1 Sat., 5pm

— MUSIC:
Piano recital by Seth Montfort and friends. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**



3 Mon. through Sat., 15 — EXPO: *Contemporary Huipiles/Huipiles Contemporáneos* by artist Lena Bartula; **Sat., 8, 2pm** — ARTIST RECEPTION. Note: Shuttle service available from Antigua on day of the inauguration, contact lenabartula@gmail.com for more info; also dates for pending workshop. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City** See article on page 20.



Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the MARCH 2014 edition by Feb. 10

3 Mon., 9am-5pm — *Tantra, The Path of Sacred Union*. additional info., visit: www.yogaretratguatemala.com/tantra.html. Earth Lodge, **La Antigua**

5 Wed., 6pm — FILM: AJAX films presents its new documentary *MAXIMÓN – Santo o Diablo* (Spanish with English subtitles). There will also be a reception and the filmmakers, Robert Flanagan and Suzan Al-Doghachi, will be present for questions and answers. The documentary is 66 min. long, produced and filmed entirely in Guatemala. Free, open to the public. Cooperación Española, 6a. av. norte (between 3a y 4a calle), **La Antigua** See article on page 21. ▼



8 Sat., 11:55am — OPERA FOR ALL: *Rusalka* with American soprano Renée Fleming. Live in HD; Q130/Q105, students with carnet. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**

6 Thurs. through Sun., 9 — ORCHID EXHIBIT: *Orquídeas y su habitat*, organized by Asociación Guatemalteca de Orquideología. Salón Social José Mariano Arzú Castillo de Cervecería Centro Americana, 3a av. 17-16, z.2, Finca El Zapote, **Guatemala City** ▼



8 Sat., 6pm — ART: *A través de mis ojos*, a collection of paintings (vignettes) inspired by the culture, environment and beauty of La Antigua Guatemala. Artist Melissa DeTroy chose wood as her surface to bring forth the element of nature and as metaphor for our common "roots." Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua** ▼



8 Sat., 6:30pm — EXPOSITION: *Cuando el río suena... es porque piedras lleva* (When the River Rumbles ... It's Because it Carries Stones). Open through May 10. Paseo de los Museos de Santo Domingo del Cerro, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**. Related info., see page 32.



8 Sat., 1pm — DANCE: Niños con Bendición from San Antonio Aguas Calientes, featuring authentic costumes, dances and music performed as a benefit to help fund their education. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

8 Sat., 5pm — MUSIC: *Más música, menos violencia*. Mesón Panza Verde proudly presents a unique musical recital by students of Sistema de Orquestas de Guatemala, (SOG). All proceeds support SOG and its programs. Suggested donation, Q150. Info. & reservations, tels: 7955-8282 & 7832-2925. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**



You can find Revue DateBook online:
www.REVUE.gt

8 Sat., — ART: *Alter Ego*, a solo exhibition by Guatemalan artist Ricardo Silva Cordero who explains, "The exhibit as a whole pretends to induce the spectator into a journey of other forms of reality, as possible, impossible, probable or improbable as they may be ... There are, nevertheless, other concepts of reality, products of imagination and creativity ... representations of our "alter ego." La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua** ▼



10 Mon., 6:30-8:30pm — (Spanish) CURSO: *El chocolate prehispánico*, impartido por Tomás Barrientos y Sandra Hernández. Cupo limitado. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

11 Tue., through Sat. March 29, 7pm — PUPPET SHOW: Every Saturday a different outdoor show by Asociación de Titeres Chumbala Cachumbala. Avenida los Árboles, Panajachel, Sololá ▼



11 Tues., 5:30pm — LECTURE: Community Center EducArte is an entirely Guatemalan NGO that promotes social justice through education and art. Aimed at a demographic of families who face severe socio-economic limitations in Ciudad Vieja (five kilometers from Antigua), EducArte strives to provide social services to these families who otherwise would not have access to it. EducArte believes that education is the basis for social development, and that every person has a right to education. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

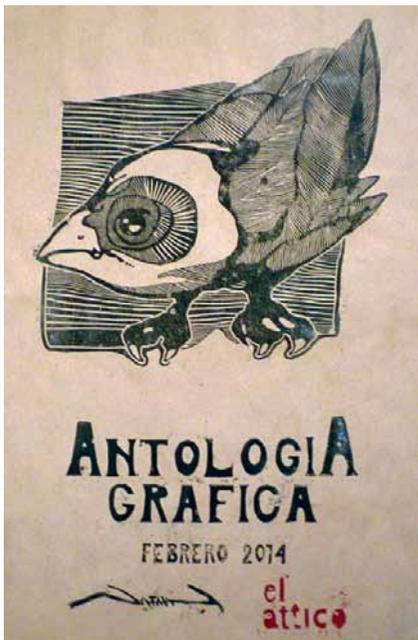
12 Wed., 6pm — Presentation: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour presentation through vintage and contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Questions encouraged.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

12 Wed., 6:30-8:30pm — (Spanish) CURSO DE DIBUJO: Para adolescentes. Impartido por Frank Santos. Reservas 2338-7896, cupo limitado. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

12 Wed., 7pm — MUSIC: Cuarteto Asturias, viola, violins and violonchelo. Instituto Italiano de Cultura, 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

13 Thurs., 4pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Urbanismo colonial hispanoamericano: La Antigua y la Nueva Guatemala a fines del siglo XVIII*. Contribución Q30. Estudiantes y guías de turismo Q15. Para más información: historia-ufm@ufm.edu. Casa Popenoe (tel: 2338 7359), 6a calle oriente #16, **La Antigua**

13 Thurs., through Fri., 28 — ART: *Antología Gráfica* by Jonathan Ardón. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City** ▼



13 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Sor Juana de Maldonado: Reescribiendo su historia*, dictada por Coralía de Rodríguez. Contribución Q30, estudiantes y/o guías de turismo Q15. Parqueo, tarifa única Q35. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

14 Fri. thru Sun., 16 — VALENTINE'S WEEKEND: *Embrace Romance*. Special packages, special menu, music and decoration. Call for more details, tels: 7955-8282 & 7832-2925. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

14 Fri., 7pm — VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE: Bob Porter's orchestra, organized by Club Rotario de Antigua to benefit the club's scholarship program and other social works projects. Cash bar. Q350 includes glass of wine. Convento de Capuchinas (tel: 4320-8292), 2a av. norte, **La Antigua**

14 Fri., 7pm — ROMANTIC DINNER: Live music, boleros, Latin jazz, Andean music by Sol Latino and others. A rose for the ladies and cocktails 2x1. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

14 Fri., 8pm — MUSIC: *Enamorados con Sinatra* with singer José Andrés Barrios & the band Germán Giordano. Q200, tickets at the entrance. (More info. www.jazz.gt) Centro de Convenciones Santo Domingo del Cerro, **La Antigua**

15 Sat., 5:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Síndrome de amor*. **7pm** — Una cena a beneficio del programa síndrome de amor, que atiende a niños y niñas con diversidad funcional y escasos recursos. Te ofrecemos una noche para conocer sobre un sistema de inclusión social. Ven, comparte y colabora con esta misión y vive un momento agradable, una noche de amor y conciencia social y música en vivo. Asociación vida, Sembrando esperanza... cosechando progreso. Encuéntranos en Facebook: /ASOCIACIONVIDA. Donación Q150 por persona, incluye entrada, plato fuerte y postre. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

17 Mon., 6pm, through Tues., 25 — (Spanish) CURSO AVANZADO DE FOTOGRAFÍA: Aprende fotografía con los maestros del Club Fotográfico de Guatemala, fotógrafos con amplia trayectoria y experiencia en la enseñanza de la fotografía a nivel profesional. 8 días de intenso aprendizaje. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

18 Tues., 7pm — CARNIVAL DINNER: Come in costume and receive a free drink. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

18 Tues., 5:30 — LECTURE: *Changing the Cycle - Providing Clean Water* to families living in rural areas in Guatemala, presented by Ariana Piazzi. Ninety percent of rivers and streams in Guatemala are contaminated. Wells, springs, tap water — it's not a good water source unless it's clean. The best way to make water filtration a sustainable solution, and not just a charitable gift, is to help people secure filters for the rest of their lives. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

19 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**. See related article, (May 2013, www.revue.gt - pg. 12)

20 Thurs., 6pm — PUPPET SHOW: Inauguration of the VII International puppet festival Titiriltán, featuring *Acquamatta* by Cinzia Corazzesi. Instituto Italiano de Cultura, 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

22 Sat., 5pm — MAYAN CEREMONY: New Mayan year, end of the Wayeb, bless the day, inner development, resurrection of life. La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

25 Tues., 5:30pm — MAYAN DANCES: Mayan Dances by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer (K'a k'a' Saqarik - Nuevo Amanecer or New Dawn), a local charity dedicated to helping more than 30 indigenous children in San Andres Itzapa. They are working hard to keep these children healthy, in school and preserving local Mayan traditions incl. language and dance which are currently being lost at an alarming rate. Come see the show! Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**



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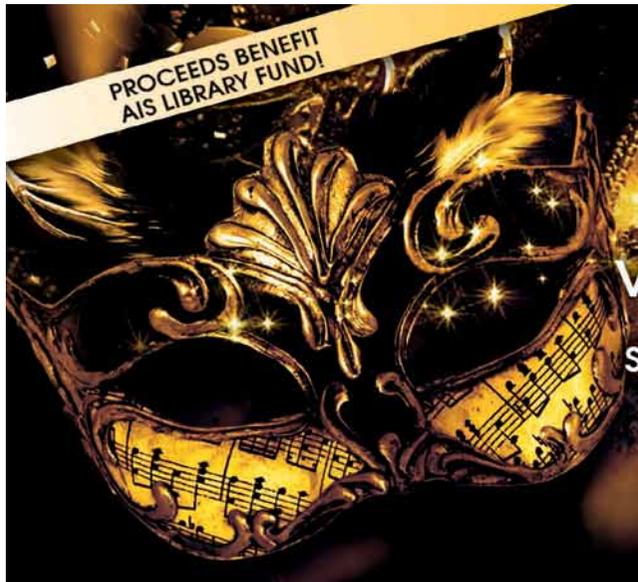
26 Wed., 6:30pm — ART: Óleos Religiosos, latest Works by Rosamaría Pascual de Gámez. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

27 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: Naachtún y las élites del clásico en el norte de Petén, dictada por Carlos Morales Aguilar. Contribución Q30, estudiantes y/o guías de turismo Q15. Parqueo, tarifa única Q35. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

28 Fri., 7pm — FISTA DE CARNAVAL: Lots of fun. Instituto Italiano de Cultura, 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

Through March 12 *Vistas de Guatemala* by artist John Maxon. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

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Mondays, 8-10pm — Nelson Lunding

Wednesdays, 8-10pm — Jazz Duo with Lisandro de Leon and Felix Torres

Thursdays, 8-10pm — Buena Vista de Corazón, Ignacio Perez on congas and Aniet Gonzáles on flute. Q35 cover

Fridays, 8-10pm — Latin Trio, Denis Medina on Cubano Tres. Q35 cover

Saturdays, 5-6:30pm — Panza Verde Presents a variety of musical adventures every Saturday Afternoon at 5 pm. Join us for a wonderfully eclectic mixture of Guatemalan and Antigua musical artists, each performing in their own style.. (suggested collaboration Q100)

Saturdays, 8-10pm — Guitarra Lainoamericana. Q35 cover

FEBRUARY 15 — Música Inmortal with Juan Gramajo (tenor) and Sofía Peralta (soprano invitada)

FEBRUARY 22 — Seth Montfort and Friends

La Peña de Sol Latino

tel: 7882-4468 5a calle poniente #15-C, La Antigua

Mondays — Charlie and his romantic guitar

Tuesdays — David; jazz and pop music

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

Sunday afternoons — Special guests play live music



Trova Jazz

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

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



Fridas

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

Fridays — World music.

Posada de Santiago

tel: 7721-7366
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Every week, usually on Fridays and Saturdays. Check *Gringos of Santiago* on Facebook for details.

Rainbow Café

tel: 7832-1919 7a av. sur #8, La Antigua

Free Live Music Nightly from 8:00pm

Mondays — Eric Fry: enjoy a great mix of western and rock music!

Tuesdays — Gustavo: this local musician plays a mix of Latin and western classics

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

Thursdays — Gustavo: this local musician plays a mix of Latin and western classics

Fridays — Bonfire Night! Different guest artists and drink specials from 8pm

Saturdays — A variety of bands and musicians!

Sundays 8pm — Kenny Molina, one of Antigua's best loved musicians plays a variety of Latin music that will make you dance!



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

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Fridays & Saturdays — Tropical salsa by Grupo Caribe

Mondays — Surprise group



OCELOT

Tel: 5658-9028 4a avenida norte #3, La Antigua

Wednesdays — 9pm: Jessy Wadeson & Bobby Darling
rock

Thursdays — 9pm: Mercedes Escobar plays folk/
blues/rock

live music

PLAN AHEAD

March 1, Sat. 6pm-1pm — PARTY: An amazing event is coming to La Antigua: *The Antigua International School Venetian Masquerade Ball!* Join us in celebrating the Venetian theme *La Natura Fantastica!* Tickets include dinner, live entertainment and a costume contest with prizes. Cash bar. Proceeds go to the AIS Library Fund. Contact aispo@antiguais.org for more information. AIS Campus, El Cortijo de las Flores, Km 48.5, Carretera a Ciudad Vieja, **La Antigua**

March 1, Sat. — OPERA FOR ALL: Prince Igor, produced by Mnitri Tcherniakov. The exuberant music by Gianandrea Noseda and featured by Ildar Abdrazakov. Live in HD; Q130/Q105, students with carnet. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City.**

March 2, Sun. 9am-4pm — ANNUAL PICNIC AT FINCA EL ZAPOTE: See article on page 36.

March 4 Constru Casa will celebrate 10 years of building better lives in Guatemala. With dedication and the support of many, in the past 10 years the dream of founder Caroline Van Heerde has flourished; Constru Casa has built 630 houses and 71 community projects for families and communities living in extreme poverty. Constru Casa's holistic approach has resulted in many successes, none of which would have been possible without our alliances with local social work organizations and the support of volunteers and donors worldwide.

We invite all who are interested to come, celebrate and learn more about **Constru Casa, 5:30pm March 4th at Rainbow Café, La Antigua.** Join us as we work toward achieving our goal of building 100 houses in our 10th year!

March 7, Fri. 6:30pm — Degustantigua proudly presents the 5th Noche de los Chefs- *Degustantigua Annual Fund Raising Gala Dinner*, this year benefitting the T.E.S.S. Unlimited Foundation (www.tessunlimited.nl) Tickets on sale now at www.degustantigua.com, info@degustantigua.com or tel: 5944-9514. Convento de Capuchinas, **La Antigua**



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The Guatemalan board, staff and children of the Open Windows Learning Center would like to thank the many people that made the New Year's Eve benefit a huge success.

The numerous sponsors that donated; the many businesses and individuals that provided services or products for the silent auction; the graphic designer for the invitation; the coordinator and the cooks that prepared the appetizers; the generosity of the people where the party took place and the many guests that attended — thank you for helping Open Windows continue the education program and community development in San Miguel Dueñas.

For more information about Open Windows please visit www.openwindowsfoundation.com

For information about the monthly tour of the Open Windows Learning Center refer to Revue DateBook.



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Sonia Reyes "Out of sight, out of mind"

*When the River
Rumbles...
it's because it
carries Stones*



Beverley Rowley "No forced love, no tight shoes"



Rae Frese Leeth "Don't waste the present
on a past that has no future"

Following the success of Tetun Té: La piedra que habla (The Stone That Speaks) artists within Primeros Cinceles (First Chisels) and Paseo de los Museos de Santo Domingo del Cerro have joined forces to orchestrate yet another event of great significance for sculpture in Guatemala.

When the River Rumbles ... It's Because It Carries Stones features work in marble, steatite and serpentine, depicting popular wisdom that contemplates a moral character through experiences that have been passed on from generation to generation.

The exposition is Saturday, **Feb. 8** at 6:30 p.m. at Paseo de los Museos de Santo Domingo del Cerro, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo in La Antigua Guatemala. It will remain open until May 10.



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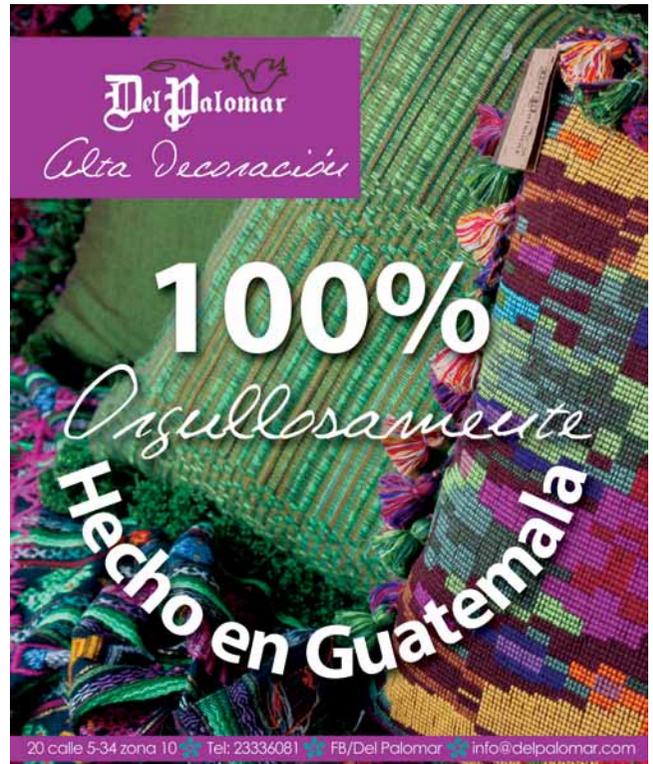


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—Ivonne Pennington



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Sue Patterson still delivers regular talks at Rainbow Cafe about the current state of affairs in Guatemala

The Rainbow Café and Guatemala's NGO community

While the restaurant itself is much older, Rainbow Cafe in La Antigua Guatemala became an important meeting place for local nonprofits and charities 10 years ago when the "NGO Talks" lecture series first began. The lecture series was started by Sue Patterson, who had been a U.S. Foreign Service officer during Guatemala's civil war and has since founded the nonprofit WINGS. Patterson still delivers regular talks at Rainbow Cafe about the current state of affairs in Guatemala, but she is now only one of many individuals who participate in the

weekly series.

The idea behind the lecture series is to help NGOs in Guatemala "get the word out," according to Rainbow Cafe co-manager Cristina Cabrera de Fraser-Harris. The lectures serve both to promote the work of charities and NGOs among travelers, tourists and residents in La Antigua Guatemala and to foster networking between organizers and employees of nonprofits.

Although turnout can vary from as few as six people to more than 60, depending on the time of year and the speaker, the results are usually positive. Every talk increases an

NGO's public exposure as well as the probability that someone attending may decide to volunteer, donate money or fundraise for the charity.

"What most of the NGOs say is even if you only have four or five people and only one person stays to volunteer ... or sponsor a child, it's still a success," said Rob Cabrera de Fraser-Harris, Rainbow Cafe co-manager and husband of Cristina.

Ideally, "the basic concept is we're trying to link up the good people doing great work in Guatemala with the people passing through who want to help," Rob continued.

The lecture series ...continued page 60

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Finca El Zapote



Those familiar with the extraordinary book “Maya de Guatemala” will recall that El Zapote was where Carmen Pettersen, at age 70 and blind in one eye, undertook the extraordinary task of painting Guatemalan native costumes to ensure that their tradition would not be lost. Her models were employees at the farm, now run by a third generation of her descendants; it is still possible today to run across some of them at the farm.

Tucked away in a remote corner of Escuintla at the



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

El Zapote has been producing cinchona for export since the 1950s when demand for the malaria-fighting substance increased dramatically after World War II. Cinchona has many medicinal and homeopathic qualities and is used to produce quinine water, paint and cosmetics.

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

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

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



▲ **Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb.**
 "Amor para siempre" by Mario Mejía

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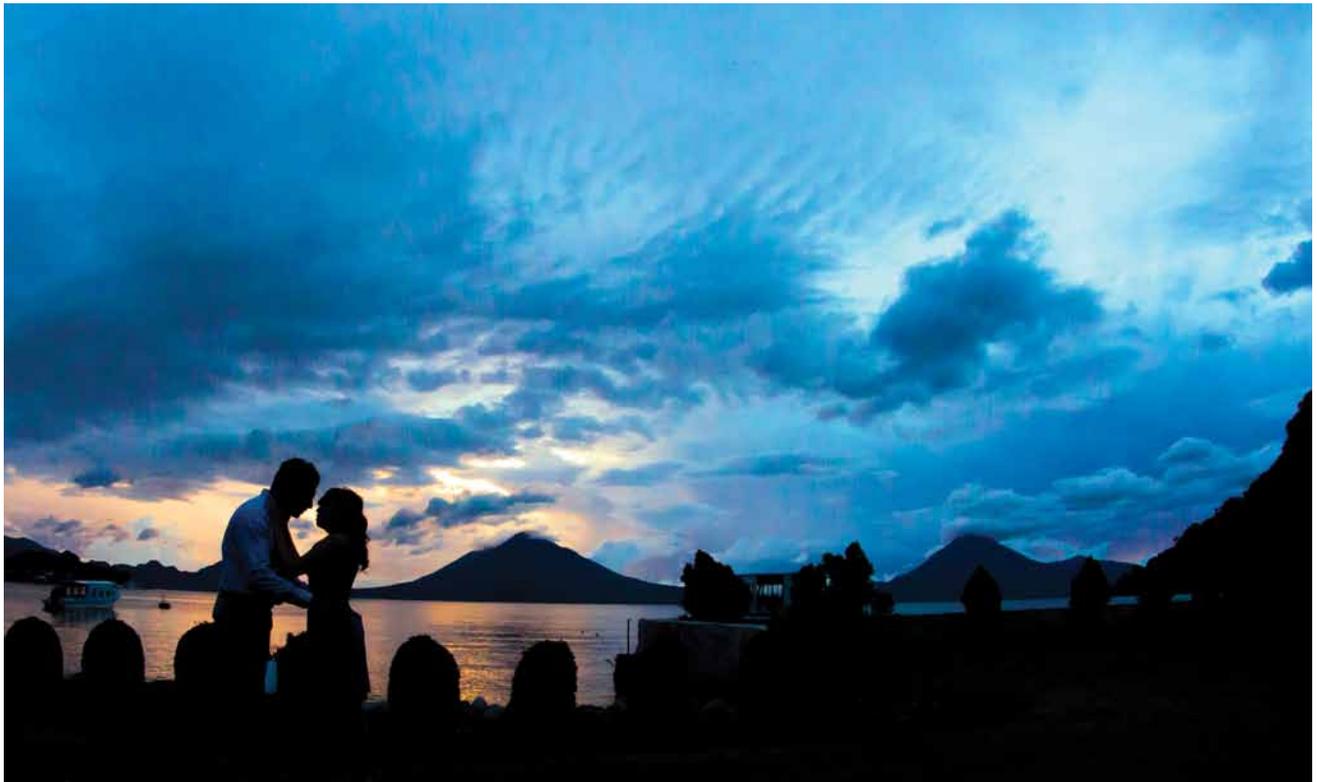
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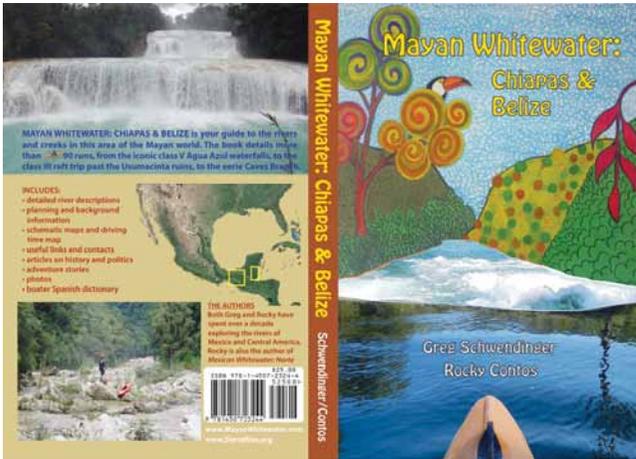
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 "La Esencia" (Lago de Atitlán) by César Rosales
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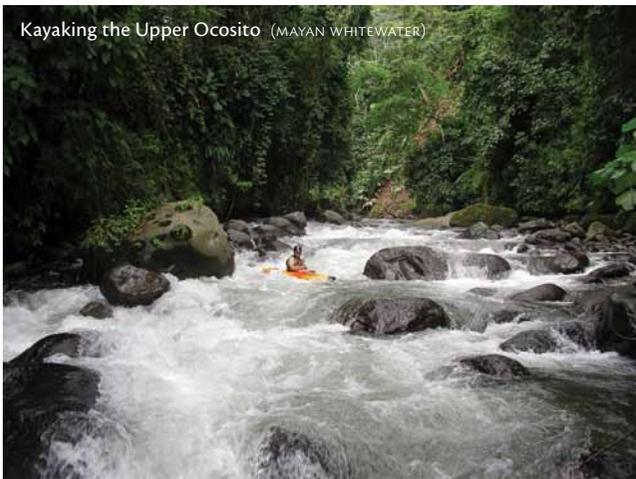




A new river guidebook is a cause for celebration in the kayaking and rafting community. **Mayan Whitewater: Chiapas & Belize** (English) covers all the known runs in these two beautiful areas. The authors, North Americans Greg Schwendinger and James “Rocky” Contos, have spent over a decade exploring the rivers of Mexico and Central America.

Along with detailed river descriptions, the book contains beautiful photographs and entertaining feature stories about adventure, conservation and politics.

The book is available through www.mayanwhitewater.com and can also be ordered by emailing mayanwhitewater@yahoo.com



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In La Antigua the book is available at Micos (4a calle oriente #7); The Condesa Bookstore (central park, 5a av.); and Gecko (5a av. norte #18); and in Guatemala City at Kiriboo children’s bookstore at Plaza Cemaco.





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—Edward Thomas

Some say that true love is a mirage; seek it anyway,
for all else is surely desert. —Robert Brault

The older I get, the less time I want to spend with the part
of the human race that didn't marry me. —Robert Brault

The heart has its reasons that reason knows nothing of.
—Blaise Pascal

If I love you, what business is it of yours?
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Come live in my heart and pay no rent.
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You should be alert to a change in your dog's water consumption because excessive thirst may indicate a medical condition such as kidney disease, diabetes, kidney infection or Cushing's disease.

Seize the moments of happiness, love and be loved! That is the only reality in the world, all else is folly. —Leo Tolstoy

And what's romance? Usually, a nice little tale where you have everything as you like it, where rain never wets your jacket and gnats never bite your nose, and it's always daisy-time. —D.H. Lawrence



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Love is an electric blanket with somebody else in control of the switch. —Cathy Carlyle

The ultimate test of a relationship is to disagree but to hold hands. —Alexandra Penney

Poetry spills from the cracks of a broken heart, but flows from one which is loved. —Christopher Paul Rubero

Before I met my husband, I'd never fallen in love. I'd stepped in it a few times. —Rita Rudner

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Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. —Marcel Proust

What a happy and holy fashion it is that those who love one another should rest on the same pillow. —Nathaniel Hawthorne

A wedding anniversary is the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance and tenacity. The order varies for any given year. —Paul Sweeney

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Love - a wildly misunderstood although highly desirable malfunction of the heart which weakens the brain, causes eyes to sparkle, cheeks to glow, blood pressure to rise and the lips to pucker. —Avery Dispanito

Love has no desire but to fulfill itself. To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night. To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving. —Kahlil Gibran



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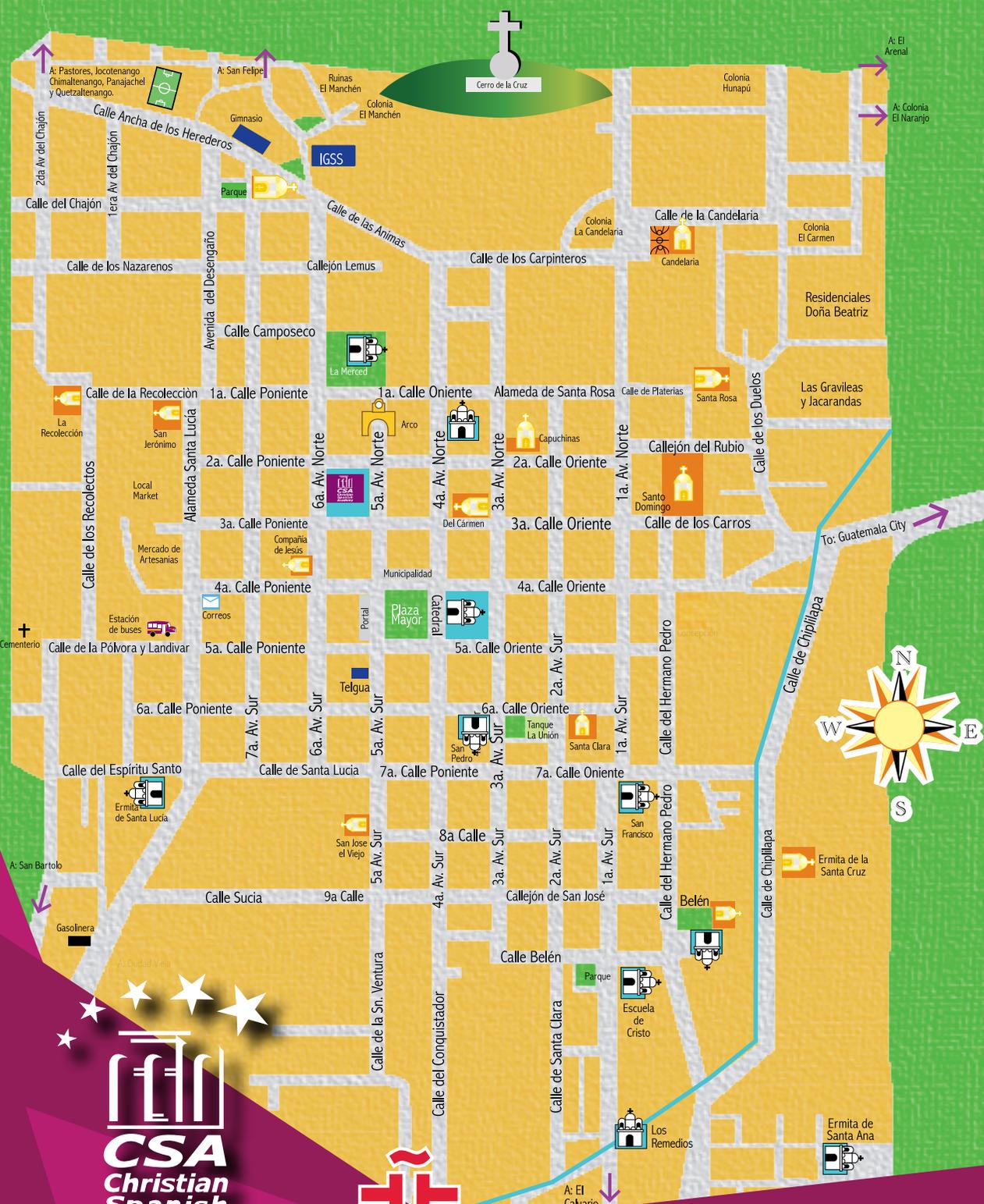
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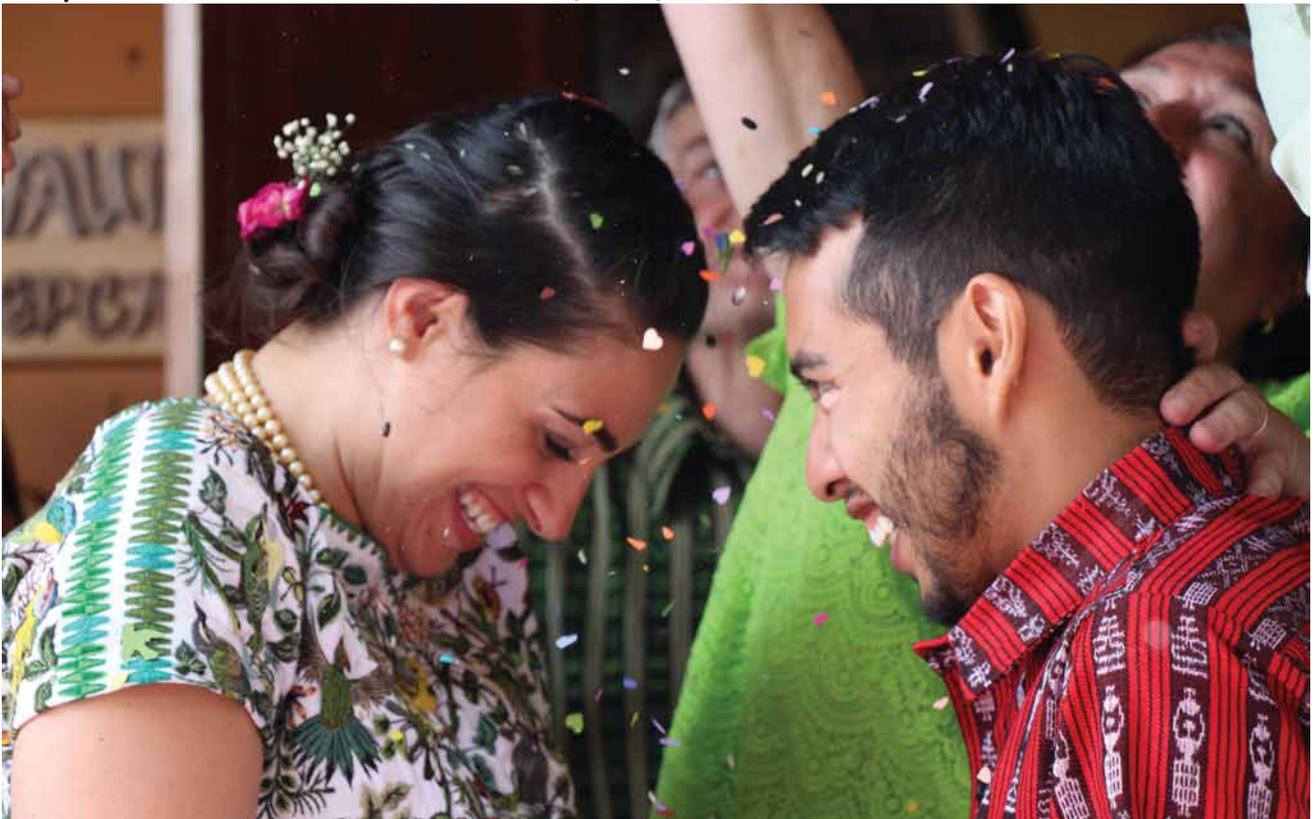
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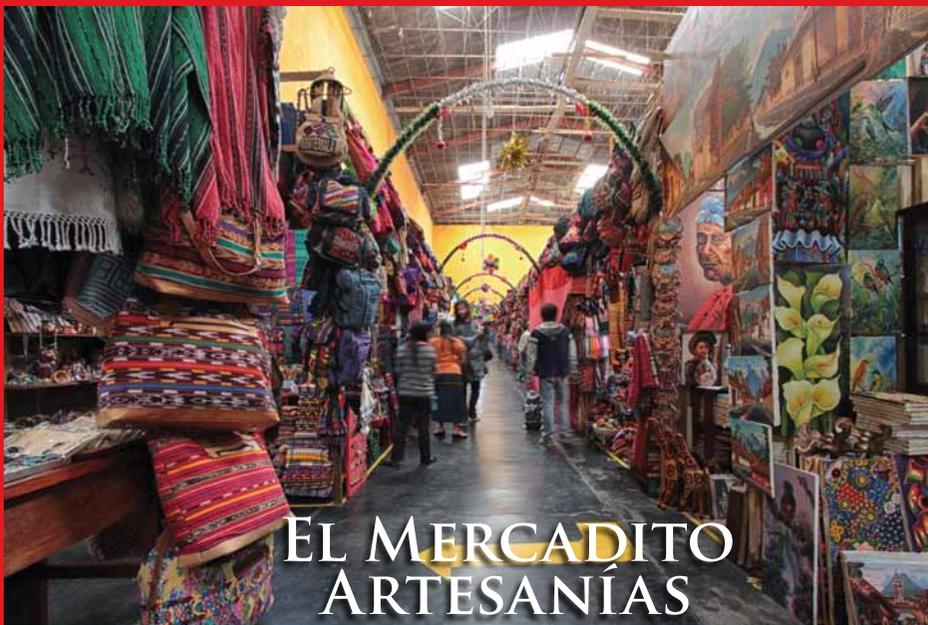
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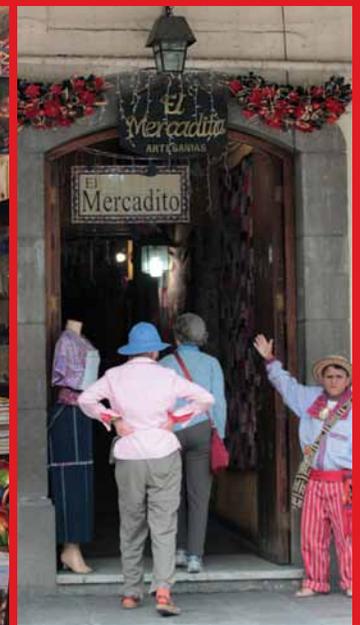
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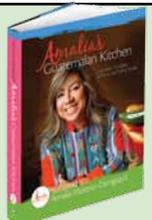
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Here's to matrimony, the high sea for which no compass has yet been invented! —Heinrich Heine

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Sacred Animals and Exotic Tropical Plants

text & photos by
Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth



Pericón has so many uses in traditional Mayan culture that it would take an entire article just to describe the benefits of this member of the marigold family: it is used in medicine, as a colorful dye in native clothing, and as a tasty flavoring among many other uses.

(STACKED FOCUS BY NICHOLAS HELLMUTH, NIKON D800E, 36 MEGAPIXEL, 60MM MACRO LENS)

Mayan Medicinal Plants

Two thousand years ago the Maya peoples had abundant sources of natural medicine from plants. It is sometimes thought that “primitive” societies had mostly witch doctors and chants for healing. But considering how the Greeks, Romans and medieval Europeans managed illness and medicine, frankly I would rather be a patient in a Mayan treatment center than anywhere in Europe!

The Maya of 2,000 years ago would be difficult to label as “primitive.” They maintained international trade relationships north through Mexico and south at least to Costa Rica. At Tikal, in the Tomb of the Jade Jaguar, the ruler had decorations of spondylus

shells (commonly called thorny oyster). Harvested by skilled divers, these shells with extremely fragile spines are generally identified as coming from lower Central America. Thus, they were traded over long distances.

This ruler also had jadeite implants in most of his teeth. So the dentists of A.D. 850 had methods to drill into the teeth and had adequate pain killer for this operation.

Being a student at Harvard in the “New Age” 1960s influenced my interest in studying subjects that were far outside my normal fields. Archi-

ecture was what I initially majored in, but after finding cacao in a ninth century vase and discovering a painting of a high-status individual enjoying smoking a cigar (in the royal tomb I found under a pyramid in Tikal), I developed an interest in studying plants. Living in the neotropical seasonal rain forests of Tikal for 12 months at age 19, and then five years working to create the Parque Nacional Yaxhá, definitely instilled me with a curiosity about plants the Maya had available.

In my list of circa 400 utilitarian native plants of the Maya peoples, I specifically did not list the medicinal plants since these have already been carefully studied and cataloged by botanist Armando Cáceres and by

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



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Tobacco flowers from the FLAAR Mesoamerica botanical garden, Guatemala City, elevation about 1,500 meters. Tobacco is a great garden flower and for the intellectually curious, there is a lot more to tobacco than merely smoking it: Tobacco is a popular medicine in many countries of the Americas.

many botanists of USAC and Universidad del Valle. There are also many well-known studies of medicinal plants of the Maya of Yucatán, medicinal plants of the Aztec, etc. So I decided to focus on edible plants and plants used for all other daily purposes: for making soap, for tanning leather, for house construction, for basketry, etc.

These themes needed much more research since the many monographs on Mayan agriculture and silviculture while helpful, remained focused, sometimes even fixated, on the standard plants that are always discussed. However, after many years of studying utilitarian plants, especially herbs and spices, I noticed how many of the plants that I was studying were also medicinal.

For example, tobacco is also considered a medicinal plant, as has already been well documented by many scholars. Not long ago I no-

ticed a tobacco plant growing in the front of a Mayan house in a village deep into the Ixil-speaking Highlands, high above Nebaj. The resident said the plant was for medicine. I have also found other medicinal plants that were added to tobacco.

Cacao was even more often used as a beverage of choice to deliver medicine to the body.

So I have begun to study medicinal plants in more detail. My primary interest is to raise awareness by finding and photographing in high resolution the flowers that identify each medicinal species. Most of the useful books on medicinal plants have only basic drawings or traditional academic-style photographs.

In addition, I am beginning to raise several local medicinal plants, such as chipilín (*Crotalaria longirostrata*), which I drink as a soup or

tea about 30 minutes before bedtime. It provides a calming, relaxing effect, and I sleep soundly. But as any plant product, we ourselves do not prescribe or recommend it to anyone without professional medical consultations because most plants have a multitude of diverse chemicals. The roots, bark, stems and flowers each have different chemicals and should only be used after appropriate medical consultation. But precisely because of the diversity of chemicals in each plant (and the thousands of plant species in the multitude of totally different eco-systems in Guatemala), there is significant potential for modern medicine.

Thus it is beneficial to move forward to learn more about medicinal plants, and to support product development together with capable Guatemalan botanists with experience in medicinal plants. 📖



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NGO Community cont. from page 34

helps to create a strong network for NGOs working in Guatemala, but it benefits from a close-knit community at the Rainbow Cafe itself. Rainbow Cafe's lectures take place in its slightly bohemian main courtyard, and the event has been cultivated attentively by Rob, Cristina and her family.

"We came in five years ago," Rob explained. "Cristina worked here before ... her mother has been working here for over 20 years." The Rainbow Cafe has been a part of Cristina's family for many years, and as the lecture series has developed, it too has become part of the family business.

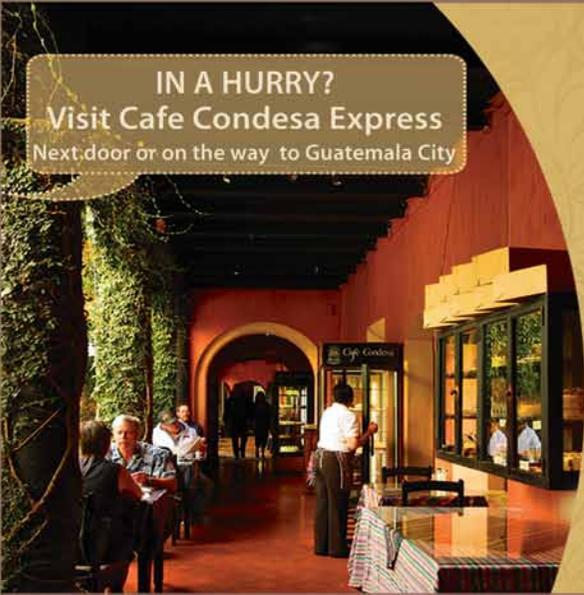
"We consider it [the lecture series] to be part of our social responsibility," Rob said. "It's always been part of the ethos of the place."

"It's not all about the business," Cristina added.

There is a suggested donation of Q25 to attend a talk, and all of the money goes directly to the presenting organization. For example, the cafe periodically hosts a group of traditional dancers from San Andrés Itzapa as part of the series, and the money raised provides the children with food for a month.

The organizations that present at Rainbow Cafe vary greatly from Patterson's WINGS, which campaigns for reproductive health, to ARCAS, which rescues and rehabilitates wild animals, and Los Patojos, which provides education and food aid to children in Jocotenango. 

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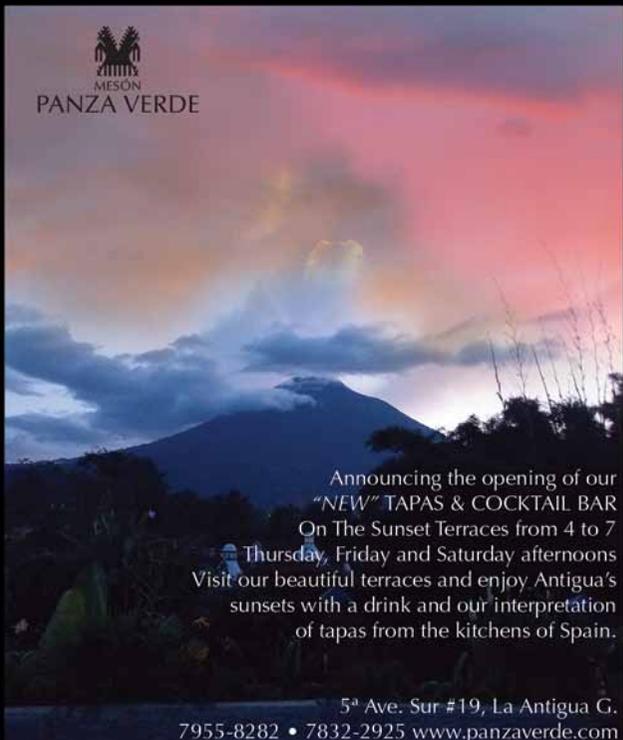


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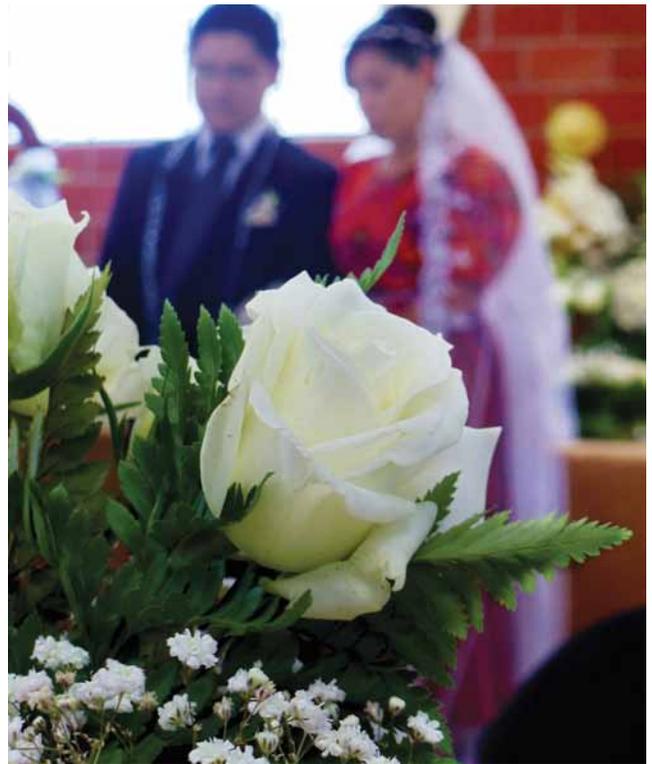
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"Ceremony of Love" by Joel S. Yok (Revue Photo Contest, Feb)

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—Francesca M. Cancian

He felt now that he was not simply close to her, but
that he did not know where he ended and she began.
—Leo Tolstoy

the ZEN of

Red Tape

Do not be fooled by this month's title. Not all paperwork and bureaucracy is hateful. And yet there are days here in the tropics when there is enough to make me want to pull my hair out—if I had any left.

Most nation-states carved out of the old Spanish Main have made recent strides in the area of streamlining. Maybe even that little Spanish-speaking state in Africa (Guinea Ecuatorial) has streamlined, too.

But if you spend any time in these places, you still encounter *mucho* red tape. In English we have, for example, forms, applications and receipts. But in the Hispanophonie, things are more complex.

The main Spanish word for “form” may be *formulario*, although their *formularios* are rarer than our forms. And what we call “applications” are usually *solicitudes*. But receipts fall into multiple categories. The generic equivalent for “receipt” is *recibo*, but this word is falling into disuse.

Things vary from country to country, but you might get a *contraseña* or

a *factura* or even both for your purchase.

The former is something we used to call a *chit* (If you bought a *bull*, then maybe this would be called a *bull chit*). “Proof of purchase” captures the idea for *contraseña*, whether it is something you get at checkout or from a cereal box top.

A *factura*, on the other hand, is proof not of purchase, but of *sale*. They have serial numbers and are the way governments monitor over-the-table transactions that generate tax revenue. Again, it varies from place to place, but sometimes you pay extra when you get a *factura* and sometimes not. When a seller offers you one, s/he is saying that value-added taxation, IVA—“eeba”—is taking

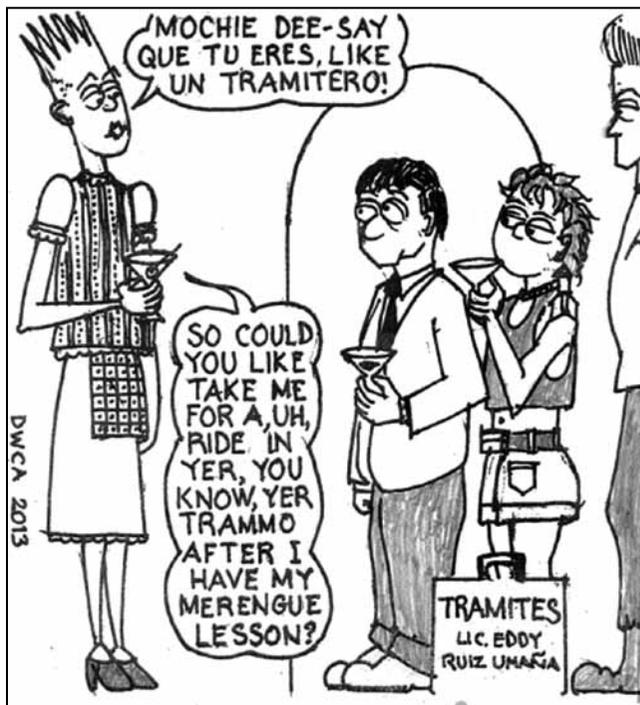
place. So a *factura* means either that you are paying more or that the seller is keeping less.

Then there is what I call the “orneriness” tax, a head tax levied (and occasionally enforced) by *municipalidades* (counties or cities). Reader, I call it this for two reasons that I think you will find logical.

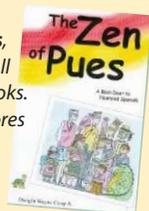
First, the form you fill out is an *ornato*. (See the resemblance?) Second, such a tax makes sense; in your community you will have at least one detractor, someone willing to label you ornery, and hence not exempt from paying your share for fixing potholes.

Moving along, a file or dossier, or what schoolteachers call a “cume file” (an *ac-cum-ulation* of records), is an *expediente*.

A Guatemalan headmistress once told me that we needed an *expediente* for my son's enrollment. I took this as a request to brainstorm with her for a loophole around some arcane govern-



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Why be saddled with this thing called life expectancy? Of what relevance to an individual is such a statistic? Am I to concern myself with an allotment of days I never had and was never promised? Must I check off each day of my life as if I am subtracting from this imaginary hoard? No, on the contrary, I will add each day of my life to my treasure of days lived. And with each day, my treasure will grow, not diminish.

—Robert Brault

Solution to this month's Cruci-Word page 70

1	R	E	A	L	E	S	T	A	T	E
10	E	N	C	A	M	A	R	S	E	
11	M	E	M	B	E	R		12	H	E
14	O	R	E		15	R	T	E	O	N
17	L	G		18	A	G	E	N	D	A
19	A	I	20	D	M	E	N		21	D
22	C	A	I	A	N		23	A	Y	E
	H		24	O	R	C		25	A	
27	A	I	D		29	I	M	P	O	S
32	S	T	E	L	A		33	O	B	R

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The ZEN of continued

ment regulation. In fact, she was merely saying that it was time to start his cume file. So *expedientes* are not “expedients.”

Another false cognate is *escritura*, which is not “scripture” but a deed or some other contractual “writing.” Holy Scripture is distinguished from these as *la Escritura Sagrada*.

The foregoing does not exhaust the list of paperwork-related nouns, but we have to move on to verbs.

One you cannot avoid is *tramitar*, which is about meeting *requisitos* (requirements) for your residency, driver’s license, etc. *Requisitos* are often printed on a sheet of paper. But many are unwritten things you must still do or pay for. One troublesome *requisito* for me was obtaining the governor of Nevada’s signature so I could marry a Guatemalan. No, I did not make that up.

Anyway, you cannot *tramitar* on your own, so you hire a *tramitero*, a paperwork specialist. This person, by profession, knows every in and out—stuff that your life is too short to discover on your own. S/he knows where to get this stamp, that seal, what lines to stand in, and whom to pay off. A synonym for *tramitar* is *hacer los trámites*.

Trámites are a part of a process called *la gestión*, a word I find hard to translate. The associated verb *gestionar* is listed in dictionaries as *to manage*, *to carry out*, etc. But it really means to execute any large task involving paperwork, minutiae and *requisitos*, written or not. *La gestión* is more than just *trámites*; and it is more prosaic than processes driven by creativity or vision, for which you need *llevar a cabo* or *realizar* instead of *gestionar*.

For example, authors *realizan* their books as creative imperatives. But publishing, copyrighting, and marketing are stuff that they *gestionan*.

And this column? *La he realizado.* ☹

I hope you have lost your good looks, for while they last any fool can adore you, and the adoration of fools is bad for the soul. No, give me a ruined complexion and a lost figure and sixteen chins on a farmyard of crow’s feet and an obvious wig. Then you shall see me coming out strong.

—George Bernard Shaw

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—Mignon McLaughlin

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You have to walk carefully in the beginning of love; the running across fields into your lover's arms can only come later when you're sure they won't laugh if you trip.
—Jonathan Carroll



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The Best of Everything

I have come to learn that what surrounds you or what you have chosen to surround yourself with, for whatever reason, is the best. How one processes the thought of “the best” will have many different subjective personal meanings. You would expect me, as a food writer, to jump into the cliché of the best food of 2013 this month; I shall not. I write of what inspires me, certainly, as a professional caterer, I am inspired by food, but here in Guatemala there is a great deal of inspiration at every turn. It is the magic that draws people here in droves.

2013, a full year living in Guatemala — in my first month, as I pitched a project idea, I remember someone saying to me, “No one will know your name for at least two years.” I was taken aback to be sure, but smart enough to know better. I was in search of the best Guatemala has to offer, and I have since learned to stop searching, as the best surrounds all of us in every moment.

Guatemala has made me aware of what really matters. Having grown up in the U.S., we use the words “the best” with a different meaning. People camping out in front of the Mac Store for two days in the cold to purchase the latest iPhone is a great example. People want the best and the newest of everything, even when what they

will last them for years. Corporations spend billions of dollars to keep people enthralled in a state of “having the best,” which could only be referred to as “ridiculous.”

I am much happier here in Guatemala, not living in the constant state of “want.” Driving a new Lexus or Mercedes-Benz here is not the best as it would be perceived in other countries. Driving around in an old car in Guatemala has no social implications.

Today I value something much better than a new Mercedes automobile, it is friendship. Ironically, one of my friends is named Mercedes. She makes me smile, and I, too, her. It is a friendship that will carry me many more miles than a car with monthly payments that could feed a family in Guatemala for months.

I have surrounded myself with friends and family without agendas, nor am I in it for personal gain. I have learned not to give up on people who cannot express their fondness of others, as I know it is their heart. I see things in people which others may not. I see behavior in some of which I can only learn something. I read a quote many years ago that said, “My friends are few, but altogether sufficient.” It is here in Guatemala I have learned these words to be true.

I have realized not to place value in things but rather in true friend-

ships. I have a special friend, and I often make my way to her office. She has a heart so full of love for people, animals and life that I could not imagine not having her in my life. She is the best, and has taught me to search for the truth in my heart. Living here in Guatemala has brought me joy in ways that I never could have imagined.

I have no need for the best new iPad, the best new car or best of anything. I see best in everything that surrounds me. Achaan Chaa, the Thai meditation master, once said, “Do you see this glass? I love this glass. It holds the water admirably. When I tap it, it has a lovely ring. When the sun shines on it, it reflects the light beautifully. But when the wind blows and the glass falls off the shelf and breaks or if my elbow hits it and it falls to the ground I say, of course. But when I know that the glass is already broken every minute with it is precious.”

Friendship, too, is precious and fragile. To the friends I have made here in Guatemala, I value your friendships. I am sure to meet more friends in the coming New Year and I am certain that even more of the best is yet to come. 

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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I'd rather have roses on my table than diamonds on my neck. —Emma Goldman

My wife tells me she doesn't care what I do when I'm away, as long as I'm not enjoying it. —Lee Trevino

What the world really needs is more love and less paper work. —Pearl Bailey

We choose those we like; with those we love, we have no say in the matter. —Mignon McLaughlin

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DOWN

1. beets
2. vitalidad; poder
3. cumbre, cima
4. taller del científico
5. an urgent matter
6. skillet, frying pan
7. toneladas registradas (abr)
8. "un trabajo de mala calidad" (3 words)
9. adolescentes
10. month
11. in; on
12. to love
13. válvula electrónica
14. de la mañana (abr)
15. pronombre
16. río italiano
17. verb ending

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	28			29		30			31
32						33			

Puzzle by Michael Hopkins

SOLUTION ON PAGE 66

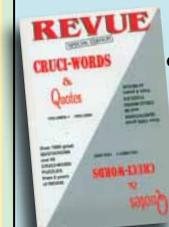
ACROSS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. bienes raíces | 15. "ruta uno" (abr) | 21. decigramo (abr) | 27. ayuda |
| 10. to put oneself to bed | 17. grande (abr) | 22. they were falling | 29. imponer |
| 11. miembro | 18. órdenes del día | 23. yesterday | 32. monumento tallado |
| 12. dobladillo; orilla | 19. enfermeros militares | 24. grampus | 33. obstetricia (abr) |
| 14. mena | | 26. hijo (abr) | |

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 tener gracia / be funny; be amusing
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 tomar el sol / sunbathe; catch some rays
 tomar en cuenta / bear in mind; keep in mind

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Q & A



U.S. expats are subject to U.S. income tax regardless of where they live and where they make their income. Furthermore, there are special requirements and issues to consider when it comes to tax planning and tax return preparation. This month we discuss a couple of topics that affect expat entrepreneurs (business owners).

Q: We own a business in Guatemala and report the income on our 1040 (Schedule C). Is it true there are additional filing requirements?

Expats with local or cross-border business interests commonly establish foreign entities (e.g., corporations, sole proprietorships). Unfortunately, many U.S. expats are caught off guard when they learn about the filing requirements associated with ownership stakes in foreign entities. The IRS wants to know how U.S. citizens who own businesses abroad are deriving their income. The premise is the same as with financial account reporting (FBAR, Form 8938).

Here, we discuss foreign corporations and foreign disregarded entities.

Foreign Corporations

A U.S. citizen who owns a 10 percent or greater stake in a foreign corporation (or who is an officer or director of a foreign corporation in which a U.S. person owns at least a 10 percent stake) must file Form 5471 along with their individual income tax return. One of the schedules within Form 5471 requires the filer to identify all other U.S. shareholders of the foreign corporation. This allows the IRS to be able to cross check names and identify people who are not compliant.

Important to note: The IRS will likely treat any foreign entity that confers limited liability as a foreign corporation—it does not matter what nomenclature the entity is referred to as in the local country.

The penalties for non-compliance are severe. The IRS can assess a \$10,000 penalty for each year that the information is not provided. If the IRS has sent you a notice regarding non-compliance and you do not respond quickly, additional penalties can reach up to \$50,000.

Foreign Disregarded Entities

A foreign disregarded entity is an entity created outside the U.S. and

is “disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for U.S. income tax purposes.” For example, single-member LLCs and sole proprietorships are disregarded (not regarded) as an entity separate from its owner for U.S. income tax purposes. When similar foreign entities are owned by a U.S. person (**see definition below*), the IRS requires Form 8858 to be filed.

The main thrust behind this filing requirement is to prevent U.S. persons with ownership in foreign corporations or partnerships from utilizing additional entities (FDEs) to mask income. To illustrate, John Smith owns 60 percent of a foreign corporation (CFC). The CFC owns an FDE that generates \$1M of income; however, the FDE does not pay dividends to CFC. Without the disclosure, John Smith could falsely report zero income.

The penalties for non-compliance are similar to those described above (Form 5471). In addition, failure to disclose an FDE could also reduce any available foreign tax credit.

Important to note: Expat entrepreneurs who have established “foreign sole proprietorships” are also subject to the FDE disclosure requirement. Many of these businesses are small in

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TAX Q&A

scale. Nevertheless, their owners are subject to the same requirements.

** A U.S. person includes: U.S. citizens, resident aliens, U.S. corporations, partnerships, trusts and estates.*

Question: How am I impacted by self-employment tax?

Self-employment tax (FICA) includes Social Security and Medicare. For most people, this tax is equal to 15.3 percent of the reported net income. Normally, employers and employees split this tax responsibility. However, the self-employed individual is both employer and employee, and therefore, is responsible for the entire amount.

For self-employed expats, the bad news is that they cannot find relief through the foreign earned income exclusion. As far as FICA tax is concerned, there is no foreign earned income exclusion—self-employed expats are required to pay FICA tax on their entire net business income.

Is there an easy, legal way to avoid the full FICA tax? Unfortunately, the answer is no. One legal, but not-so-easy approach would be to form a Controlled Foreign Corporation (CFC), and then be hired as an employee. Since the CFC is a foreign entity, the IRS cannot force it to pay the employer portion of FICA. Therefore, you could attempt to file your income as wages on Form 1040, rather than on Schedule C, and pay only the employee portion of FICA.

There are two issues with this approach. First, there's more paperwork involved (e.g., Form 5471). Second, if you are the only owner of the CFC, the IRS may find this tactic questionable. Especially for sole proprietors with small-scale businesses, it's probably not worth the hassle simply to lower FICA taxes. 

If you would like to submit a tax-related question, please email: info@holaexpat.com.

Responses are provided by John Ohe (IRS-authorized enrolled agent), who resides in Antigua.

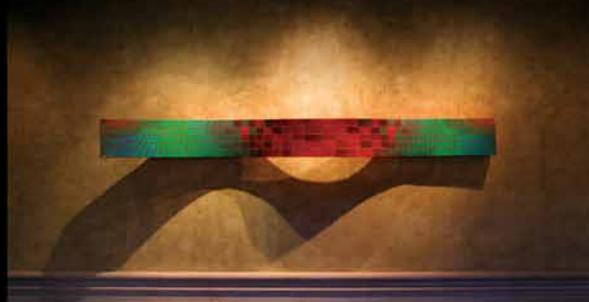
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Sweet Home Guatemala

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The takeoff on the Lynyrd Skynyrd's '70s hit Sweet Home Alabama started playing in our heads the moment we arrived home after a month's vacation in Asia.



Guatemala is truly a sweet home. The presence of amazing blue skies is one of the many magical gifts to appreciate. Our weather is easy to enjoy. No matter if you are visiting or living here, there is a sense of home that permeates everything authentic in Guatemala.

Guests at our hotel or students

who arrive for workshops often share this sentiment with open hearts and deep appreciation for all that Guatemala offers. They feel happy here. Feeling at home is actually a revelation of your state of being. You have opened your heart to let the fullness of your journey in.



Perhaps it is the strong feeling of family that makes one think of home. It could be the way children are supported to feel safe. For many, spending much of their early childhood literally strapped on their mother's back offers a fundamental sense of acceptance. You will notice many children safely playing on a sidewalk or at the park. Another "sweet home" sensation is the delicious tipica foods that each family prides itself in creating with their generations-old recipes. Families often have three generations in the kitchen.

To all of this add the multitude of fiestas, processions, fireworks and tradition; every month there is a celebration! Each festival is richly embraced by all and blanketed by the abundance of sunshine and



ever-present flowers. The sense of home with its natural beauty comes forward.

Whatever the magic combination is ... it exists here and is a joy to discover and unwrap like a precious gift from a thoughtful friend.

In February many turn their thoughts to love. The presence of love and Valentine's Day can be a wonderful way to call home, to yourself, the sense of feeling settled within. For some, the prospect of an official day of love can be ominous and overwhelming; for others it is a reason to celebrate.



Yet, when we allow ourselves to see the gift of being home in our environment while holding love and appreciation of the moment, then

*Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna.
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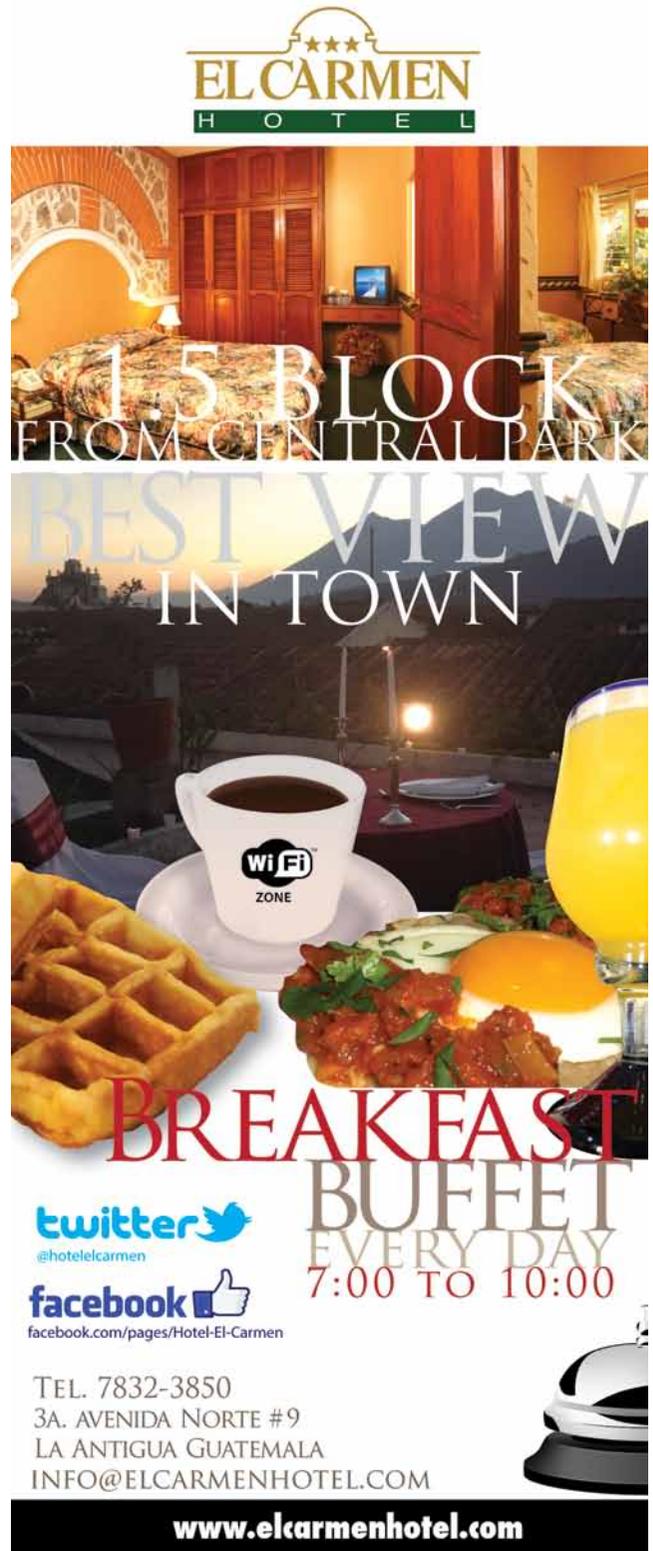
we are indeed home. And we discover that every day becomes special. With each conscious moment we have the opportunity to relax into our heart, our true home.

Whether you are traveling the world or traveling the mysteries of your own life, there is a strong

sense of home that ultimately drives the journey. Love is a powerful connector to this home environment and the amount of love we consciously express to our given home returns in a multitude of magical ways.

Perhaps the age-old expression, "home is where the heart is," offers the key to unlocking this mystery. As we look for the beauty, look for the love and feel gratitude, we then find this home.

This February as your thoughts turn to love and as your home environment calls to you to be ever more appreciative, we simply invite you to open your heart, take in the blue skies and let yourself experience the beauty of our sweet home, Guatemala. 📍



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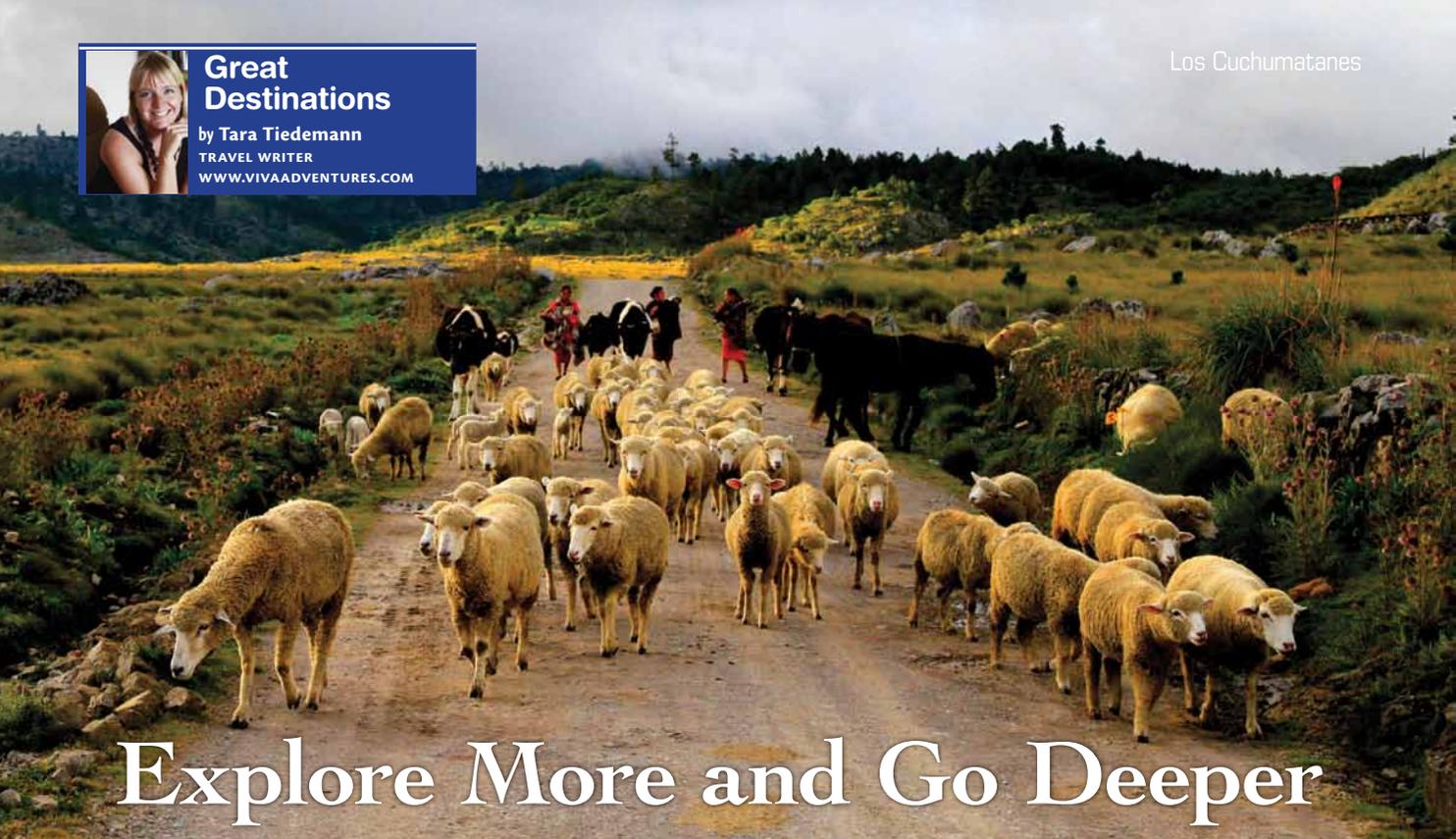
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Explore More and Go Deeper

Welcome to 2014! It's a time of year when we're thinking of our goals and aspirations for the year to come. I'm encouraging everyone to go deeper while traveling. Sure, it's great to visit the well-known spots; they are featured in magazines and newspapers for a reason. However, every time I take that extra step or bus ride and journey deeper into the culture, jungle or ocean, I'm rewarded with unforgettable experiences. Guatemala is an incredible country for a "go-deeper" mission.

Rio Dulce – the Association Ak' Tenemit

Take a trek through the jungle and cross the river to the Q'eqchi' Maya Association, Ak' Tenemit, run entirely by the local Q'eqchi' com-

munity, with founder Steve Dudenhofer serving as the chief technical advisor. The association is involved in a variety of projects, ranging from education and healthcare to a sustainable community tourism



photos by Willy Posadas

Río Dulce

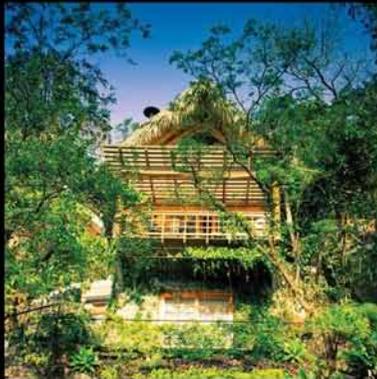


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initiative. Enjoy a nice lunch at the community and check out some of its beautiful handicrafts as well. (www.aktenamit.org)

Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Huehuetenango

Wind your way up through the beau-

tiful and mountainous Highlands to the village of Todos Santos, which sits at over 7,000 feet above sea level. It is a wonderful area for hiking and for taking a glimpse at life in an indigenous village, where its male inhabitants are recognizable by their brightly striped *traje* (typical dress).

San Andrés Xecul

Located an easy drive from Quetzaltenango (aka Xela), this small town has set up a great community tourism program with lively guides eager to show you around. Check in with the tourism office next to the brilliant yellow church in the main square where you can learn how the church façade blends a mix of Mayan and Christian symbols, every symbol explained in detail. You'll also meet local weavers and skilled embroiderers, who is still turning out the beautiful San Andrés women's *huipiles* (blouses). End the tour with live marimba and a sample of the village's renowned hot chocolate and a traditional snack. This remains one of my personal favorite villages in Guatemala.

...continued on following page



Pacific Mangroves



MAP BY ELVIRA MÉNDEZ



Maximón cont. from page 21

Flanagan's films have been shown throughout the USA and internationally.

Suzan Al-Doghachi - producer, editor

Suzan Al-Doghachi has lived in New York City, Iraq, Germany and is currently working in Central America. She started her career working as an editor for German public television. In 1993 she moved to New York City, producing, directing and editing feature films, shorts and documentaries. She also has been on the jury for the Chicks with Flicks Film Festival NYC 2002–2006.

Being very interested in different cultures Al-Doghachi has collaborated with Robert Flanagan on several documentaries in Central America, "THE GARIFUNA—An Enduring Spirit," "THE MAYA OF TOLEDO—Ancient Culture, Modern Lives," "SAVING PARADISE, River to Reef" and currently "MAXIMÓN—Santo o Diablo." 

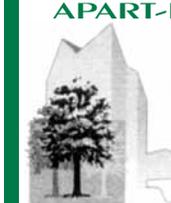
For details about the film including the trailer please visit www.maximonomovie.com

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Explore More... cont. from page 84

Laguna Chicabal

While you're in the Xela area, take a rather strenuous hike up to the sacred caldera (crater lake) of Laguna Chicabal. This cobalt blue lake serves as the center of the Cosmovision Maya for the local Mam indigenous people. Your guide will tell you more about various ceremonies that take place around the lake's edge. If you go up early, you'll likely catch a glimpse and hear the thundering eruption from nearby active volcano Santiaguito. (Note: Please give this area your utmost respect, no fishing or swimming in the lake, as it is a sacred site of the Maya Mam community.)

Tilapita

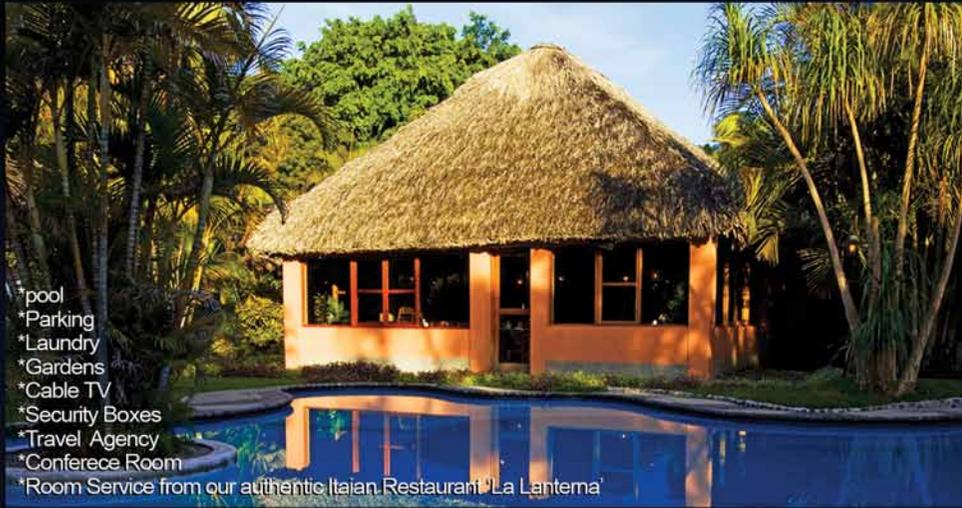
Check out this remote beach on the Pacific side of Guatemala. It is quite the drive or bus ride, heading out near the Mexican border through the towns of Coatepeque and Tilapa, finishing with a boat ride to Tilapita. There is only one hotel and there are a couple of houses to rent as well. Pass the day in your hammock with a cold Gallo or talk with the locals to arrange a tour though a well-developed mangrove system and try your luck at fishing—the old-fashioned way with hook and line, using a bit of wood for the spool. The stargazing here is also some of the best in the country.

Have fun exploring and check out the March issue of Revue to round out the rest of my 10 favorite destinations. Travel lighter and explore deeper. Buen viaje!



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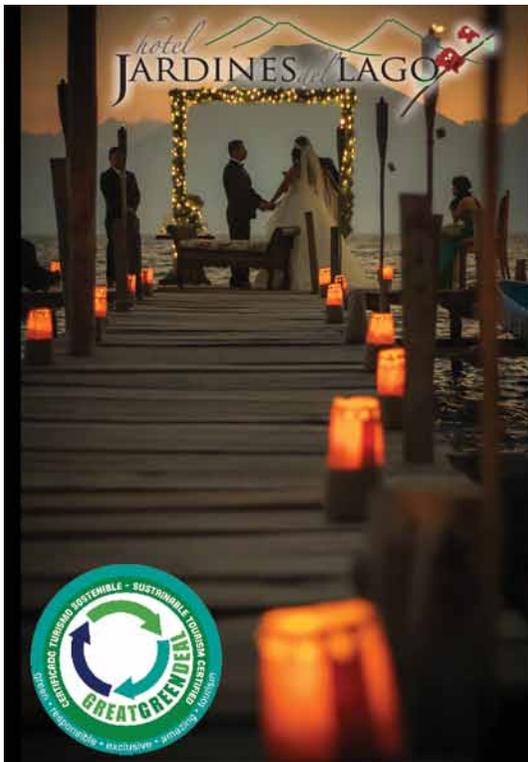
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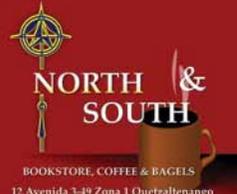


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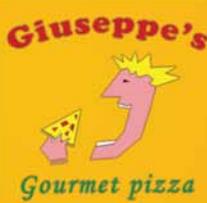
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"Luz de amor" (Cerro El Baúl, Quetzaltenango) by Yesica Torres
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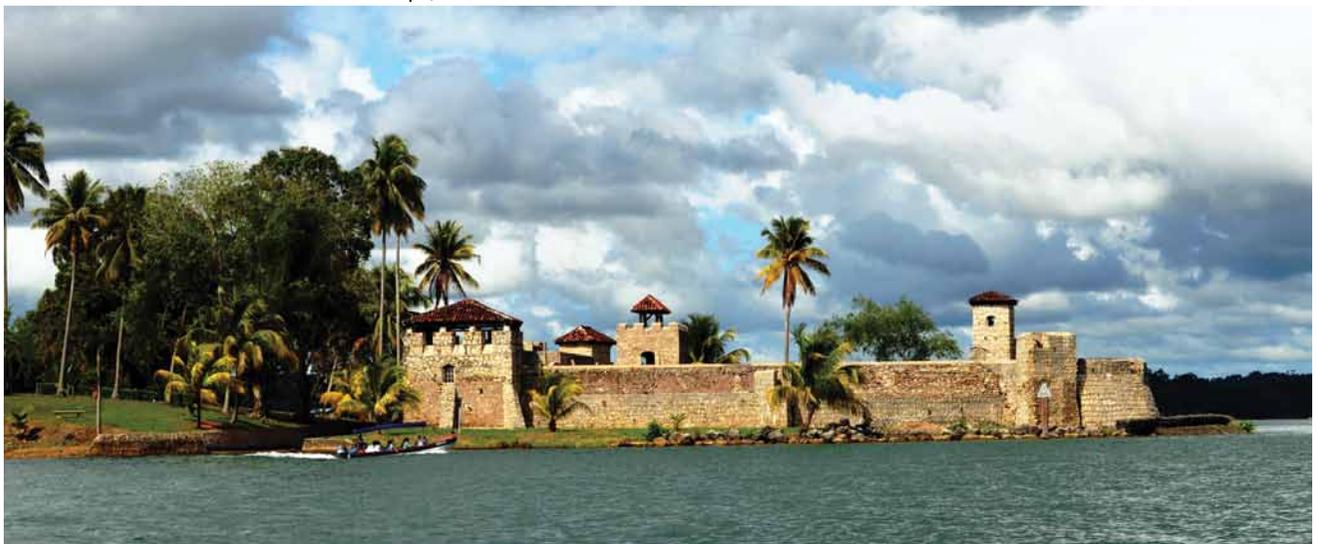
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"Lost in Love" by Sheryl Depker
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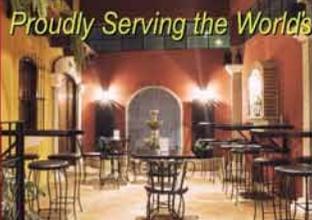
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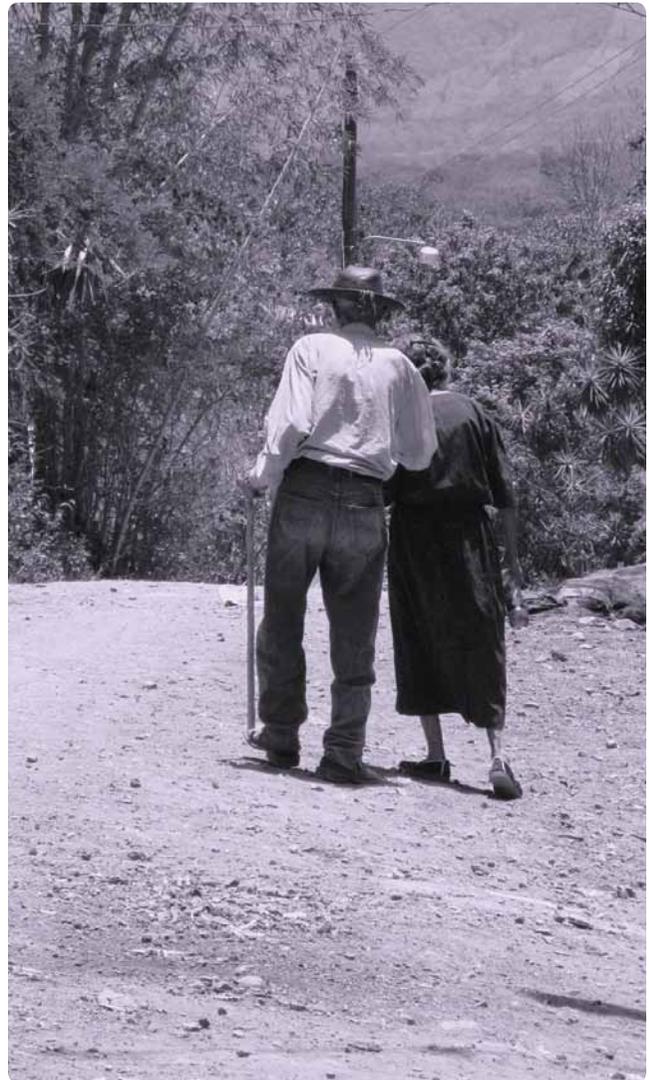
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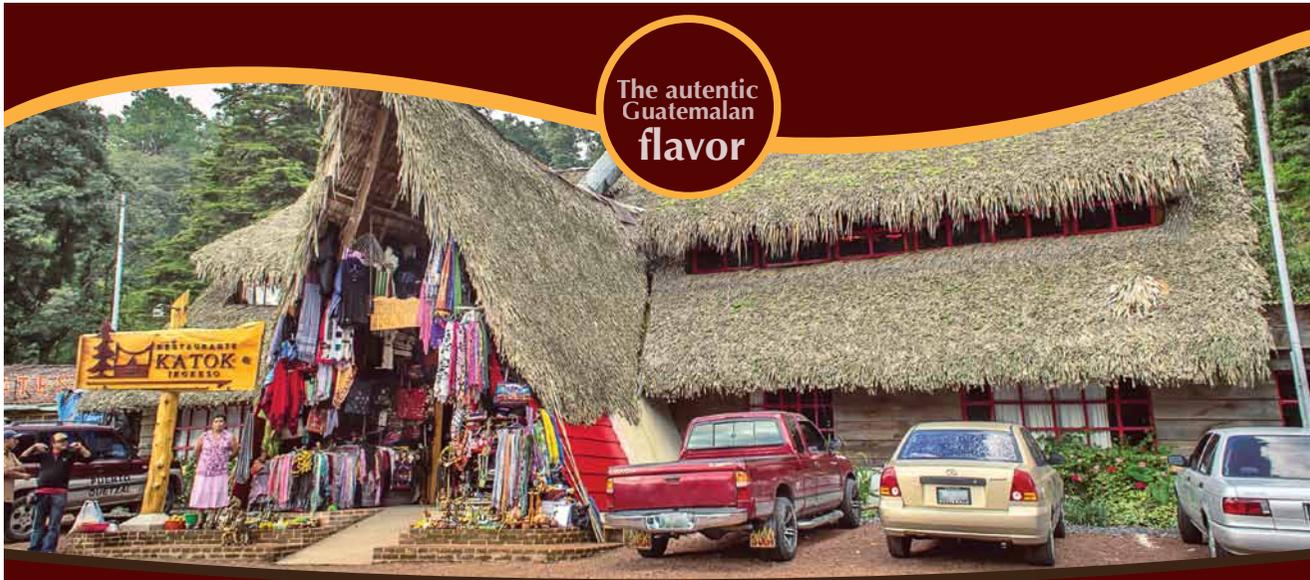


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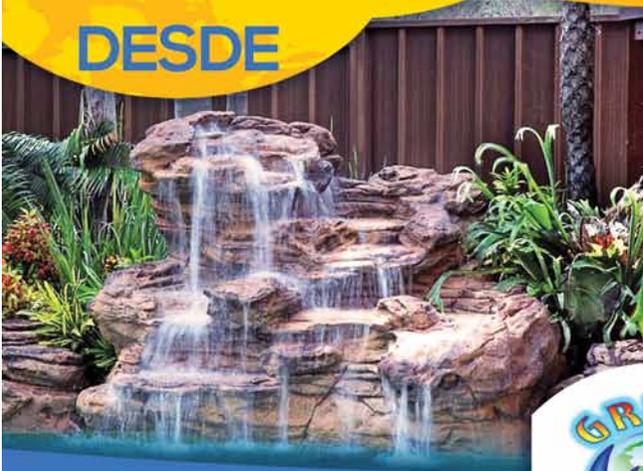
As to marriage or celibacy, let a man take which
course he will, he will be sure to repent. —Socrates

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Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without.
—James C. Dobson

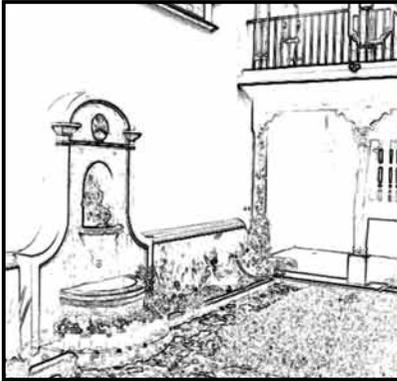
Love is a flower which turns into fruit at marriage. —Finnish Proverb



REVUE's Property Conversion Chart

1 Caballería = 45.12 hectares	1 Manzana = 10,000 vr²
1 Caballería = 64 manzanas	1 Manzana = 6,988 mt²
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Like good wine, marriage gets better with age,
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Honorable Mention by popular
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"Amor de madre"
by Mónica Mariel Rodríguez
All entries can be seen at
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FEBRUARY REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Love in Guatemala



Honorable Mention by judges vote
"Amor" by Héctor Meléndez



▲ 1st PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest

"Amor en Oriente" by Gilberto José Ramírez Figueroa.

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"Amor por siempre" by Luis Morataya

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Entry in the
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"Telas de Amor"
by Sheyla Torres

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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb.
"Amor apasionado" by German Velásquez

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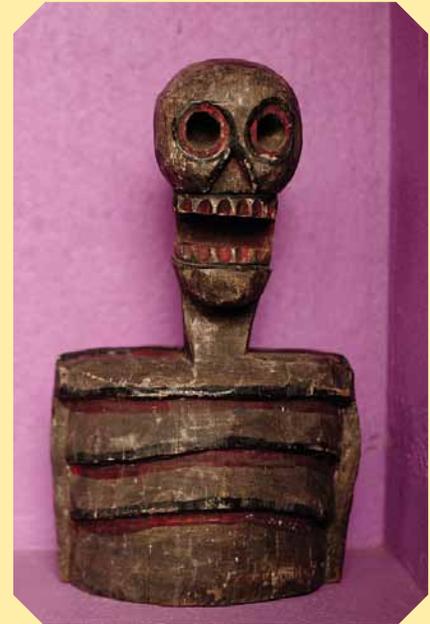
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Eventually, if you're lucky in life, you find someone with the same chemical imbalance you have.

—Robert Brault



PHOTO: GREG SILVER

TONY

Tony's tuned up and ready to begin his annual concert series for you to enjoy this month and on into May. Tony has been resting, eating well and repairing his home the last few months while studying his musical scores. Shortly before dawn one morning soon, you will hear him warming up for his season of song. You can't miss hearing him, even if you dislike classical melodies awakening you. He's loud. Though small in size, his full-throated voice carries dramatically through his concert hall, which stretches from the Rio Grande Valley of south Texas across Mexico and Middle America into Colombia.

Guatemalans know Tony as a *yigüirro*. His concerts starting in February are said to call forth the rain, and indeed Tony continues performing until the start of *invierno*, the rainy season.

Tony used to be classified by ornithologists as a type of robin, because he's the size and shape of the American robin, but now he's correctly called a thrush—a clay-breasted thrush, to be exact.

Clay isn't a very exciting color, and indeed Tony looks sort of like dried mud on a riverbank. He makes up for appearances with his superb sound quality, beautiful enough that our Costa Rican neighbors selected him from among the many more colorful types in their jungles as their national bird.

To us he's Tony, named after a handsome godson studying architecture in Guatemala. Both Tony's sing to impress the ladies. It works, at least in attracting female thrushes each year. Tony—the bird, not the godson—has built a splendid nest atop the cedar in our back yard, high enough to be safe from predators. When his concert series ends for the season, Tony rebuilds, redecorates and reuses the same nest each year.

In February Tony starts an elaborate early-morning "cheerio" melody to impress the lady thrushes. Several visit each week to inspect the real estate as well as the potential mate. Tony's lust keeps him singing loudly each morning until the perfect mother of his annual brood settles into her new home.

For a few weeks into March and early April, Tony's morning melody changes to quicker, even more joyful trills. He and his lady are obviously happy together. She doesn't sing. She doesn't do much else, either, depending on Tony to bring her succulent worms and bugs from the ground far below. She does produce four eggs, then abandons her mate and his nest and flies off to the Petén for the rest of the year. This leaves Tony alone, singing a different song to his babies, still in their shells until Tony helps them hatch. Tony is in full charge of feeding his brood, keeping them safe and of course teaching them songs.

That's a fun part. Along about late April, the little ones begin to sing, imitating dad's music but unable to handle the high notes. Little by little, they get louder and more accomplished, beginning to flutter to the ground to join dad in fetching grubs for dinner, until they're ready to fly off to build their own nests atop trees and wait to entice their own mates when February's new season begins. Tony's sensuous music is a delight, even if it might awaken you early this month. 



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