

REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine
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May 2014
Year 23, No. 3

FREE



*Protecting the Orchids of Guatemala
Photo Contest: Mothers and Children
Rotary Club: Upgrading the Basics*



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1st PLACE by popular vote

"Me diste por educación tu ejemplo" by Denis Hernández
Prize: Q300 certificate for La Peña de Sol Latino. View all entries at www.REVUE.gt



MAY REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Mothers and Children in Guatemala

2nd PLACE by popular vote

"Tu Mirada...Mientras duermo acurrucada en tu regazo" by May Ramírez
Prize: Carved Jade Paper Weight from Jades Xibalbá.



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▲ **Honorable Mention by popular vote**

"Amor Eterno" by Leonel Cuc.
All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

◀ **1st PLACE by judges vote**

"El amor puro y sin límites" by Sheryl Depker
Prize: Q300 certificate to **El Sereno**, La Antigua

▼ **2nd PLACE by judges vote**

"White Love" by David Ascoli
Prize: Carved Jade Pencil Holder from **Jades Xibalbá**

MAY REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Mothers and Children in Guatemala





Legendary Moments

CAYALÁ • ANTIGUA



Casa
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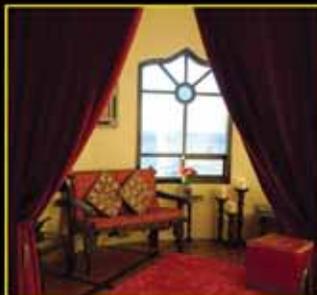


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as well as locations in El Salvador and Honduras.

A beautiful orchid is the star of this month's cover, read all about these special flowers in "Protecting the Orchids of Guatemala" by Tara Tiedemann. Elizabeth Bell brings us "Antigua Mermaids" with a challenge to spot as many as you can as you traverse the city. Community service highlights three worthwhile endeavors: the "Rotary Club Project" by Tono Valdés, "Patch Adams in the House" by Benjamin Reeves and "Habitat for Humanity" by Tom Ross. Profiles include "Elena" by Jan Theberge and Linda Conard introduces "René DeLeon Carney," owner of Las Palmas Restaurant, celebrating its 10th anniversary. Thor Janson's adventure epic is "Central America's Capital of Faith," featuring the history of Esquipulas, the Black Christ and a visit by Pope John Paul II. Ken Veronda praises "Heno, Sensuous Guatemala" and Nicholas Hellmuth offers a bang with "Explosive Seed Pods." Also in this issue, of interest to U.S. citizens, "The Tax Corner" by John Ohe. Travelers will enjoy the special sections on international destinations: El Salvador and Mexico. Congratulations to the May Revue Photo Contest winners, next month's theme is "Trees of Guatemala."

Thank you for picking up your copy of the Revue, we hope you enjoy this month's edition.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

ON THE COVER

Prosthechea baculus Orchid
by Murphy Byrne
murphybyrnephotography.com



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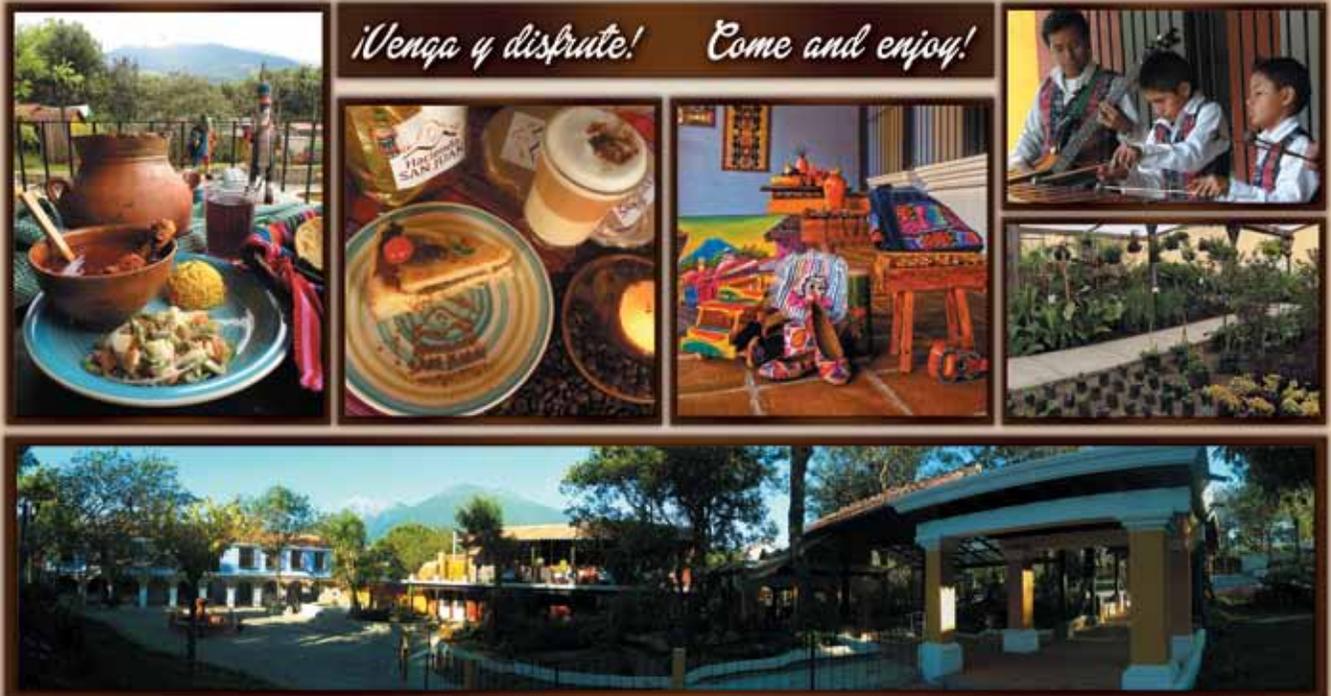
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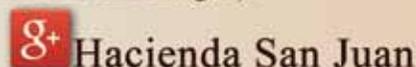
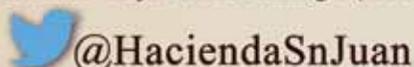
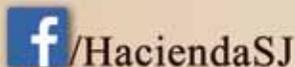
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Antigua Mermaids

There are many “hidden” mermaids throughout town, can you find them?



The most famous mermaids are those on the Fountain of the Mermaids in the Central Park originally built by Diego de Porres in 1739, inspired from the fountain of Neptune in Bologna, Italy. As reported by Dr. Miguel Torres in his recent research on the topic, there are many more “hidden” mermaids throughout the city!

Mermaids—or sirens—date back to Greek mythology as creatures who used their enchanting voices to lure and shipwreck sailors; they are found

in many Greek stories, including “Homer’s Odyssey” and Euripides’ play “Helen” (167), with various counts of two to five depending on the author. According to “Ovid,” the sirens were young Persephone’s companions (daughter of Zeus and Demeter, the queen of the underworld). Demeter gave them wings to search for Persephone when she was abducted. Thus, sirens were believed to be a combination of women and birds, represented in early Greek art. Orpheus is the first to drown out the sirens with his chant and lyre. Ro-

man poets place them on an island surrounded by cliffs, possibly Capri.

Medieval art (XI-XII) transforms bird-sirens to fish-sirens that represent temptation, lust and sin while bird-sirens remained in Spain due to Muslim influence. Sirens with mirrors and combs, representing vanity and lust, were popular in the 16th century. Christopher Columbus refers to sirens in his letters of 1493; these have been identified as manatees. There are also two-fin sirens with fin-holding hands prevalent in the Renaissance ...continued page 50



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Great Destinations

by Tara Tiedemann
TRAVEL WRITER
WWW.VIVAADVENTURES.COM



Guatemala—an orchid-lover's paradise, a gardener's paradise. Did you know that the *Monja Blanca*, Guatemala's national flower, is a member of the orchid family? In Guatemala wild orchids flourish in many microclimates. With climate change and deforestation increasing, local orchid lovers have formed a group dedicated to orchid protection, and I recently had the opportunity to meet with one of its members, Luis Molina.

Molina is a member of the Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala (Orchid Association of Antigua Guatemala). The association will be showcasing a variety of beautiful orchids from private collections on **May 7-11**, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Museo Arte Colonial, 5a

Protecting the Orchids of Guatemala.

calle oriente, No. 5, Antigua. While the event is a wonderful way for the public to view a variety of orchid species and meet the members, the goal of the association is much greater: to promote the conservation of wild orchids in natural habitats.

“...deforestation is a major threat to the unique animal and plant life that inhabit these areas.”

The president of the association is Estuardo Archila, a biologist with years of experience in orchids. Archila's two brothers, Fredy and Francisco Archila of Orquigonía in Cobán, are also involved in the association, and all are well-known orchidologists in Central America.

When asked about the biggest threats to orchids, they listed three main themes: deforestation, reforestation with non-native species, and poaching.

As we all are aware, deforestation is a major threat to the unique ani-

mal and plant life that inhabit these areas. Luckily, awareness is increasing and groups dedicated to conserving these environments are taking action. One of the important keys is conferring with a local biologist before replanting a deforested area. Oftentimes, well-meaning groups have come in and replanted with trees that were non-native to the area, and they used only one or two varieties of trees. These areas are often called “green deserts.” In what used to be lush and diverse cloud forests, rows of pine trees or eucalyptus grow, with not much in between. These areas are also void of orchids and other native plants and animals. The good news is this can be avoided with some thoughtful planning with biologists and a diverse selection of trees and bushes for replanting.



The other topic is orchid poaching. I’m sure you have seen vendors on the side of the road, exiting Antigua, or along any of the highways in Guatemala. Sure, these are beautiful specimens that often can be purchased at rock-bottom prices; however, they were harvested illegally and purchasing them contributes to the deforestation and disruption of natural habitat here in Guatemala.

Please buy orchids to brighten your home through authorized dealers who do it right and cultivate orchids in their greenhouses. In Antigua, Vivero Escalonia has a number of beautiful species. You can also visit Vivero Botanik or Orquideas SyM in the capital.

Antigua has a wonderful climate for growing orchids. Attend the expo and ask the experts for advice. You’ll see a number of different varieties – from the exquisite mini-orchids that can present a flower as small as 1 mm to those that produce giant flowers as big as your hand.

If you grow orchids, you can enter them in the May 7-11 show—bring them by Monday, May 5. There will be prizes for the best orchids in a variety of categories and educational workshops on Saturday and Sunday,

May 10-11. Learn from the experts and take advantage of this rare opportunity to see an assortment of incredible orchids all in one location.

With about 25 members, the Orchid Association of Antigua Guatemala is open to anyone with a love of orchids. To join, call Ing. Estuardo Archila, 5308-2615 or Facebook at Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala. 📍



Upgrading the Basics

Rotary International spearheads improvement projects in Sumpango's elementary schools



Guatemala's Sur Rotary Club has taken on several projects of great benefit to communities throughout Guatemala. Under a new model called Future Vision, Rotary International has concentrated its efforts in the town of Sumpango, aiming to create a development model that can be replicated elsewhere.

The project covered nine elementary schools in each village of Sumpango, Sacatepéquez, 26 miles (42km) from Guatemala City. Over 4,000 children will benefit. The primary objective

was to equip each school with adequate sanitary facilities, potable water, toilets, sinks and proper sewage disposal. Kitchen improvements were made so mothers can prepare their children's snacks for school.

Before the project began, most schools had unhygienic facilities, some without water, others with contaminated water and/or an irregular water supply. One school had no bathrooms, water or electricity. Some of the drains had been released into the ravine. Latrines and toilets were in disrepair. The kitchens were

dark and poorly ventilated, allowing smoke to fill the room and making breathing difficult. Inefficient traditional stoves used excess amounts of wood. Even though, mothers were accustomed to this environment, which is common in rural villages throughout the country.

What have we achieved? In seven of the schools where the project has been completed, there is an adequate, uninterrupted water supply, and water filters have been added. The bathrooms are now adequate, and all have standard working toilets and sinks. The kitchens now have a *pila* for washing dishes and pots. With new

If you would like to contact the Sur Rotary Club about its projects please write to: crguasur@gmail.com

windows and in some cases plastic windows, there is ample illumination. The stoves are all eco-friendly, so firewood consumption as well as cooking time has been significantly reduced. And, smoke no longer accumulates in the kitchen.

To what do we attribute the success

The municipality provided development plans, skilled laborers and supervision.

The Rotary Club visits the schools weekly to check on progress, the quality of the work and for decision-making, taking into account feedback from teachers and mothers. Regular



“The Rotary Club visits the schools weekly to check on progress, the quality of the work and for decision-making”...

of this project? The fact that all who were involved have helped throughout the project is probably the most important measure of success. Those involved have been the municipality of Sumpango, the mayor and council, deputy mayors, school principals, teachers, parents, Cocodes, Rotary Village Corps Group Sumpango, members of the Rotary Club of Guatemala (Sur Rotary) and District 6440 Chicago, Ill. Their involvement began at the planning stage and continued until completion. The community provided unskilled workers.

meetings are held with the mayor and council. Rotarians from District 6440 Chicago have also visited.

Besides bathroom and kitchen improvements, education has been needed on the proper use of and maintenance of the bathrooms, the washing of hands, and the use of soap.

The schools' infrastructure was improved so that learning can take place in an adequate environment. Initially, plans were made to buy desks and tables, but we were able to repair most of them. What would have been scrap was recycled into

new desks. Bookshelves were also provided for the classrooms.

Then there was the lighting factor. Windows had been open, and plastic windows replaced the galvanized metal sheets. All electrical wiring was checked, the lamps were fixed, and fluorescent tubes or incandescent bulbs were replaced with energy-saving bulbs.

As for roofing, the metal laminas in poor condition were replaced and all leaks were plugged, windows were repaired and any broken glass replaced.

Of the nine schools only one had a functional computer classroom. Another school had computers but no electricity, which we were able to provide. At the other schools we installed an average of six computers per classroom with the proper electrical installations. A projector and a sound system were also installed.

Finally, together with parents, teachers and Rotarians the whole school was painted.

We tackled other tasks simultaneously in Sumpango, coordinating with organizations such as the Foundation Ramiro Castillo Love, Conalfa, Link, MAGA and others. Additional projects are about to start. With this effort the entire population of Sumpango has been benefitted so that its townspeople can be better educated, healthy, productive and self-sufficient. ®



Elena

Fresh organic produce available every Saturday

Elena Tujal Cocón has been selling her organically grown vegetables for more than three years on the patio at Fernando's Café in La Antigua Guatemala. You can find her there every Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., standing behind a table heaped with a beautiful assortment of organic vegetables, greeting her customers.

Elena lives in Patzún with her 2-year-old daughter Helen and her 23-year-old son Eduardo inside a family compound that includes her 81-year-old father and three brothers.

She begins her day at 5 a.m., first caring for her family, then she tends

her garden, which is located on a nearby small, leased plot of land. All of her hard work results in a magnificent array of vegetables that include broccoli, cauliflower, zucchini, lettuce, radishes, celery, carrots, leeks, beets, güisquil, spinach and cabbage.

On Saturdays Elena, carrying her young daughter and toting heavy bags of her produce, begins the three-hour trip to Antigua. At 7 a.m. they board a *camioneta* in Patzún that will take them to Chimaltenango. From there, it's a change of camionetas to Antigua, completing her journey by *tuc-tuc* to Fernando's Café. Repeating this trip late in the afternoon, she and Helen arrive back in Patzún at 4 p.m. ...continued page 60

“Despite the often back-breaking work, Elena loves farming.”

Fernando's Café is located at
7a avenida norte #43-D, La Antigua

Patch Adams and accomplice



Clowns “Invade” Local AIDS Orphanage

Doctor Hunter Dogberty “Patch” Adams in the house

There are few phrases more depressing to hear than, “AIDS orphanage.” Yet the Hospicio de San José in Santa Lucía Milpas Altas is anything but a place of sadness, although it is the home for many acutely ill children and adults.

The hospicio was established in Guatemala in 1989, although the organization has its origins in a UK-based Catholic aid organization

Information about the hospicio and how to make donations is available at: www.hospiciosanjose.org/home.html

“By creating small moments of enjoyment for the sick, people find they like themselves more.”

founded in the early 1960s. Now, however, the hospicio receives no aid from the church and instead relies on some public funding and a lot of private donors to care for the 70 children living within its walls. The hospicio also offers healthcare services to over 300 adults suffering from HIV/AIDS.

The children living at the hospicio, by and large, contracted AIDS at birth. While they are referred to as orphans, this is a bit of a misnomer. Many of them are orphans—their parents are either dead or they were abandoned as babies—yet some are victims of economic circumstances. Their parents can’t afford their medical care, and thus they come to live at the hospicio.

An estimated 81,446 are infected with HIV/AIDS in Guatemala, and the number grows at a rate of 24 new cases every day. For the hospicio, the cost of treatment, medicines, psychological counseling and nutrition, among other things, averages around \$1,800 a month for each resident.

Soft, fresh breezes usually bathe
...continued page 94



René of Las Palmas

When René DeLeon Carney took over Las Palmas in 2004, it came with a three-bedroom inn, a small café and a ghost. The staff often quit without notice after seeing a mysterious woman appear and disappear in the kitchen; witnessing pots, pans and office machines moving by themselves; or finding picture frames rearranged. Alone one night after closing, René experienced his own ghostly encounter when the stereo repeatedly blasted salsa music moments after he tried to turn it off to leave. “I told the ghost, ‘Look, I have to go home – I’m tired!’ Then it stopped...I got out of there!” he says. Over

time, the strange occurrences dwindled and finally ended. “I think the ghost loved this place, and she knows I love it too,” says René.

Today, the ghost may not even recognize Las Palmas, originally a large

...continued page 66

“...it came with a three-bedroom inn, a small café and a ghost.”

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MAY 2014 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

1 Thurs., 7pm — EVENT: *Niños de Guatemala's Fundraiser* to furnish its new classroom in Ciudad Vieja. 20% of all sales go directly to the school plus all the tips! Reilly's Café 2000, **La Antigua**

2 Fri., 16th & 30th — DINING at KIDS Restaurant: The only restaurant run by KIDS. They learn cooking, English and computer skills at the Education Center of TESS Unlimited. Every month the KIDS restaurant is assisted by an Antigua restaurant. **Fri., 2nd- 5:30pm**, La Toscana; **Fri., 16th-5:30pm**, TBA; **Fri., 30th-5:30pm**, TBA. Reservations: kidsrestaurant@gmail.com or tels: 4550-7798 or 5251-0202. **5pm**: Our mini chef will wait for you in front of Cafe Condesa (5a av., central park, Antigua), where you will be picked up at by our shuttle service to bring you to the KIDS Restaurant in **San Gaspar Vivar**. (See related article, pg. 54, May 2013, www.revue.gt)

2 Fri., thru Sat., 31st — PHOTO EXHIBIT by Eadweard Muybridge. Q35; students, Q15; children under 12, Q10. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

3 Sat., 12-2:30pm — VOTER REGISTRATION: Members of Democrats Abroad Guatemala can help you register before the 2014 mid-term election. Questions: Linda Conard, sonrisa1122@gmail.com. La Chinita's, Calle Santander, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**

6 Tues., thru Fri., 23rd — ART: *Nuestras iglesias en tinta*. Sala Principal, El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**

6 Tues., thru Fri., 23rd — ART: *Fragmentos* by Jean Michel Guezennec. Sala Principal, El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**

7 Wed., 9am-5pm through Sun. 11th — ORCHID SHOW: Presented by the Asociación de Orquideología La Antigua Guatemala. Nominal entrance fee. Museo Arte Colonial, Universidad de San Carlos, 5a calle oriente #5, **La Antigua**. See related article on page 14.

7 Wed., 4-5pm — THE DREAM ACT: *Leaving No Student Behind*, a non-partisan exploration of the DREAM Act's current status and uncertain future. Led by Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in Washington DC, via live streaming simulcast to Guatemala and Mexico. Hosted by Democrats Abroad Guatemala. Questions: mayadems@yahoo.com. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Numa, 7a av. norte #17 (between 4a & 3a calles), **La Antigua**. See page 38

8 Thurs., 7pm, through Fri., 23rd — ART: *Negativo-Positivo*, paintings by Noel Mérida, opening inauguration cocktail. Sala Principal, El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**

8 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Muybridge en el Museo Popol Vuh*, dictada por Aníbal Chajón. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

9 Fri. - through Sunday 11, — MEDITATION COURSE: *Be Here Now* by Lama Ole Nydahl, as part of the Budismo Camino del Diamante. www.budaguatate.org, budaguatate@gmail.com. Finca La Loma (km.55.5), **Chimaltenango**

10 Sat. — MOTHER'S DAY: She might love the gift of a beautiful orchid! See related article on page 14.

10 Sat. 11am-2pm — U.S. VOTER REGISTRATION: Members of Democrats Abroad Guatemala can help you register before the 2014 mid-term election. Questions: John Chudy, mayadems@yahoo.com. Conexion, 4a calle oriente, comercial La Fuente #14, **La Antigua**

10 Sat., 10:55am — OPERA FOR ALL: *La Cenerentola* with Joyce DiDonato. Live in HD; Q130; Q105, students with carnet. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**

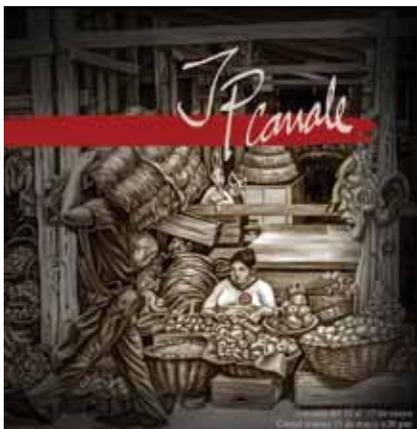
10 Sat., 5pm — MUSIC: *Más música, menos violencia*, a unique musical recital by students of Sistema de Orquestas de Guatemala, (SOG). All proceeds support SOG and its programs. Suggested donation Q150. Info. & reservations, tels: 7955-8282 & 7832-2925. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**



11 Sun., 8am — CARRERA ARCOIRIS: Run or walk 5 kms., bring your kids and pets. Organized by Club Rotario. Q70, all profits will be donated to Unidad Nacional de Oncología Pediátrica, providing treatment to children with cancer. **La Antigua**



Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the JUNE 2014 edition by May 9



13 Tues., 7pm — ART; Expo-sale of *Diálogos del subconsciente* by artist Juan Pablo Canale, in collaboration with Art Harvest and Museo Ixchel. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**

13 Tues., 5:30pm — MAYAN DANCES: performed by the children from Nuevo Amanecer. K'a k'a' Saqarik-Nuevo Amanecer/New Dawn is a local charity dedicated to helping more than 30 indigenous children living in San Andrés Itzapa. The work includes keeping them in good health, maintaining their education and preserving local Mayan traditions. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

14 Wed., 9am — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Costumbres de Guatemala*, dictada por Alfredo Mackenney. Q30; estudiantes y guías de turismo, Q15. Parqueo tarifa única Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

14 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)

14 Wed., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *Huipiles ceremoniales mayas de Guatemala*, por la antropóloga Barbara Knoke de Arathon. En esta conferencia se darán a conocer los cambios que se han dado en los huipiles y sobrehuipiles ceremoniales desde inicios del siglo XX. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**

15 Thurs., 4pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *La iglesia de Santiago Zambo, Suchitepéquez*: la arquitectura colonial en el Suroccidente de Guatemala. Conferencista, Loren Lemus Molina. Q30; estudiantes y guías de turismo, Q15. (Para más información tel: 2338-7959 or historia-ufm@ufm.edu) Casa Popenoe, 6a calle oriente #16, **La Antigua**

15 Thurs., 7pm — DESIGN FESTIVAL: Inauguration, exposition CAPIUSA. Alianza Francesa de Guatemala (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13 Finca La Aurora, **Guatemala City**

15 Thurs., 6:45pm — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Nuestras Guerras* de Jorge Antonio Ortega Gaytán. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**



16 Fri., 8am — ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE: Antigua International School invites you to an open house. Visit the campus and meet the staff and teachers. www.antiguais.org. El Cortijo, Km 48.5 Carr. a Ciudad Vieja, **La Antigua**

17 Sat., 9:30am — LADIES TEA: Celebrating women. Make your reservations. Union Church (tel: 2361-2037), 12 calle 7-37, z. 9, Plaza España, **Guatemala City**



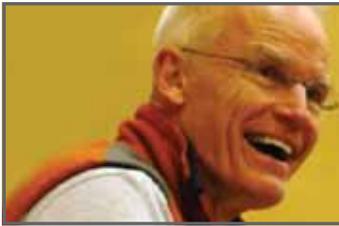
17 Sat., 4-7pm, through June 16 — ART: *Once Upon a Time* by Guatemalan artist Doniel Espinoza. Visit the mythical and colorful land that lives in the imagination of Doniel Espinoza. A new collection of more than 30 new acrylics, watercolors and sculptures will be on display. La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**

18 Sun., 10am-2pm — BAZAR DU LIBRE: Used books bazaar. Alianza Francesa de Guatemala (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13 Finca La Aurora, **Guatemala City**

19 Mon., 9am-5pm — CELEBRATION: International Day of the Museums. Free entrance. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

19 Mon. through Thurs., 22nd & Mon., 26th & Tues., 27th-6pm — (Spanish) PHOTO WORKSHOP: 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. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**

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20 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *Helping One Family at a Time* by Diane Morton. Starting in 2011 with one indigeous family from San Andrés Itzapa, Diana helped them link to health, employment and educational services. She accompanies visitors on weekly trips (35 min. from Antigua by bus) to their home to enjoy a delicious typical lunch (Q100), all proceeds go to the family. Find out how you can be part of this adventure, assisting this family and others living in San Andrés Itzapa. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

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

22 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *El antiguo mito de las sirenas y su presencia en el arte de Santiago*, dictada por Miguel F. Torres. Q30; estudiantes y guías de turismo, Q15. Parqueo tarifa única Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

22 Thurs., 6:30pm through June 23 — ART: *Visiones del Centro Histórico*, oils by Eduardo Giraldo García. Galería Guatemala, 6a avenida 9-08 zona 9, lobby Banco G&T Continental, **Guatemala City**

23 Fri., 5-10pm — EVENT: *Noche de los Museos del Centro Histórico* celebrating the Month of Museums. Galería Guatemala, 6a av. 9-08, z. 9, lobby Banco G&T Continental, **Guatemala City**

24 Sat., 10am — (Spanish) CHARLA: *Apiterapia, una forma natural a través de la apitoxina de las abejas*. Alivia y sana muchas molestias y dolores que afectan nuestros huesos, articulaciones, musculaturas y sistema nervioso central, así como enfermedades autoinmunes. Entérese como se aplica esta práctica y otros productos como la miel, polen, propóleo y jalea real. Conferencista Vicente Arévalo. Vivero y Café de la Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final #36- C, **La Antigua**

27 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *La Escuelaita - San Pedro Las Huertas*. This education center provides academic help to children from low income families, increasing their chances to progress successfully to the next class grade. Come and find out more about this extra-curricular school. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

28 Wed., 6:45pm — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Ixcán en Tiempos de Guerra* del Coronel Fernando Alfonso Castillo Ramírez. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**



28 Wed., 9am — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: *Zaculeu: Historia de un asentamiento Mam*, dictada por Victor Castillo. Q30; estudiantes y guías de turismo, Q15. Parqueo tarifa única Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

29 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIA: Salinas de los nueve cerros: Un centro industrial maya de la época clásica, dictada por Brent Woodfill. Q30; estudiantes y guías de turismo, Q15. Parqueo tarifa única Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

29 Thurs., 7pm — CONCURSO MENSUAL FOTOGRÁFICO: Por el Club Fotográfico de Guatemala. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**

31 Sat., 9am — YOUTH FUNDRAISING RUMMAGE SALE: Bring lots of cash for you will find many of treasures. Union Church (tel: : 2361-2037), 12 calle 7-37, z. 9, Plaza España, **Guatemala City**

31 Sat., 9:30am — (Spanish) TALLER PARA NIÑOS: *Día Nacional del Popol Vuh*. Q25. Parqueo tarifa única Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**

31 Sat., 5-6:30pm — MUSIC: Nelson Lunding, jazz and blues from New Orleans. All original compositions. Suggested collaboration Q100. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

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



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And don't miss "The DREAM Act: Leaving No Student Behind" on May 7, 4-5 p.m. at Numa, 7a av. #19, La Antigua. See DateBook

Need help?
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and Panajachel at La Chinita's
May 3, 12-3pm



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

Serán elegibles las fotos que se reciban hasta el 10 de Mayo de 2014.

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for June 2014 with the theme **TREES OF GUATEMALA**. Please send ONE (1) HI-RES photo with caption/location and your name & website for the credit line to: photos@revue.gt

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

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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, 8-10pm — Sergio Zepeda, guitar. Q35 cover

May 10, Sat., 5pm — MUSIC: *Más música, menos violencia*, a unique musical recital by students of Sistema de Orquestas de Guatemala, (SOG). All proceeds support SOG and its programs. Suggested donation Q150



May 31, Sat., 5-6:30pm — Nelson Lunding, jazz and blues from New Orleans. All original compositions. Suggested collaboration Q100.

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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH



Art: *Exposición Primer Aniversario LA AGENDA* qué hacer en Guatemala featuring work by Moises Barrios, Jorge de León, Jonathan Selechnik, Lily Acevedo, Mónica Torrebiarte, Francisco Tún, Rubín Solórzano, Luis González Palma, Tegg, Edwin Bixcul, Lourdes de la Riva, Karla Higueros, July Ajín, Eadward Muybridge and Eny Roland Hernández. 9am-5pm Monday through Friday. (Closes May 9) Municipal Center Art Gallery & Culture (Post Office building) 7 av. 11-67, z. 1, **Guatemala City**

ART: *Espiritualidad*, a collective of work by contemporary artists in Antigua uniting forces and sharing a common passion. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**



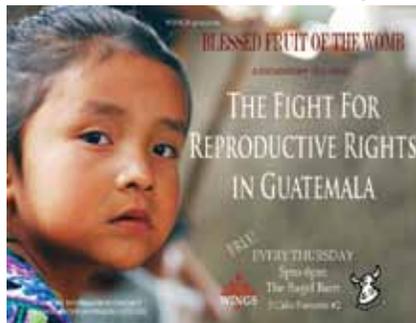
ART: *The Transformed Trash Art series* with work by Barbara Hardaway. Through May 25. Sala del Artista del Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua**

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

Mondays, 10am & Thursdays, 2:30pm: Common Hope offers a free two-hour village tour, learn about its education, health care & housing programs. Meet at the fountain, central park; also private tours avail., tel: 7922-6600. Visit www.commonhope.org. **La Antigua**

Mondays, 4:30pm; Tues., 3pm; Wed., 3pm — **DUPLICATE BRIDGE:** Asociación Guatemalteca de Bridge. Info., Eva: 7832-4327 or Denni: 2478-1595. Vista Hermosa, z. 15, **Guatemala City**

Thursdays, 5-6pm — **DOCUMENTARY:** Wings presents *Blessed Fruit of the Womb: The Fight for Reproductive Rights in Guatemala*. Free. The Bagel Barn, 5a calle poniente #2, **La Antigua**



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

Saturdays, 5pm — **MUSIC:** A variety of musical adventures. Join us for a wonderfully eclectic selection of international and Guatemalan musical talent, each performing in their own style. A contribution for the musician is encouraged. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

PLAN AHEAD

Wed., June 4, 8pm — **OPERA-NOCHE DE GALA:** *La Traviata* from G. Verdi, to benefit Sistema de Orquestas de Guatemala. Performed by Karin Rademann (Violetta), international invited artists include Edgar Gurtiérrez (Alfredo) from México and Carlos Jimeno (G. Germont) from Venezuela. Music performed by Orquesta Filarmónica Ars Tempo, directed by Martín Jorge Coro Divertimento (Uruguay). The stage direction by a young Guatemalan director, Giovanni Meléndez, who has experience in films and theater. Donation Q580, includes toast. Also, **Fri., 6 & Sat., 7-8pm** — General performances, donation, Q280. (Tickets at todoticket.com) Teatro Lux, 6a av. 11-02, z. 1, **Guatemala City**



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The Guatemala Experience: Sincerity or Frustration?



“...the energy of frustration is a signal that your needs or desires are not being met.”

Why is it that when you are frustrated, other frustrations come along that seemingly take your life on a downward spiral?

Frustrations appear in many forms and predictably come forward at the most inopportune moments. First, recognize that the energy of frustration is a signal that your needs or desires are not being met.

During these moments it is valuable to discover (or re-discover) your ability to laugh. Take a moment right now and smile. Notice that when you smile your entire attitude or energy shifts.



Laughter offers detachment. Take a deep, conscious breath. Then step back from your frustrations and smile at the misalignment between your expectations of the way something “should be” versus the way it

currently appears. This recognition will reconnect you to your sincerity.

For instance, long bank lines are an invitation for patience. Or, there is that moment of inner enthusiasm when you see that there is no one in

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line and you perceive that it will be a quick trip ... or will it? You can be the only person waiting and still there will be a delay. Expecting that this may happen offers the opportunity to notice the sincerity from those who are working. They are not delaying you; they are simply doing their jobs.

This is an example of the power of sincerity vs. frustration. Sincerity offers peaceful flow while frustration offers anxiety. These two experiences influence the quality of our life experiences.

When we interact with sincerity we call forth the energy of attraction, and it is like a magnet. Your banking miraculously concludes in minutes. The people who you meet are helpful and sincerely want to assist you. Sincerity is magic and sincerity attracts.

Conversely, when we bring the energy of frustration to our daily routine we become magnets of repulsion. Frustration is a friction that impedes flow and repels that which we seek. A frustrated person sends the subconscious signal of "stay away."

Simply: Sincerity attracts and frustration repels.

Perhaps in this month of May you can ask yourself, am I living in sincerity or frustration? An examination of your life will reveal the answer. 

"Sincerity offers peaceful flow while frustration offers anxiety."



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Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it. —Mark Twain



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*Esquipulas: Mecca of Meso-America
The Black Messiah*

Long before the European conquerors arrived in North America the valley of Izquitzuchil had been settled by the people who became known as the Ch'orti'. They are thought to be descendants of Toltec settlers who arrived from the north during the second millennium. The Nahuatl word Izquitzuchil means "land abounding with flowers," and indeed the valley is very fertile and produces an abundance of grain and fruits which supported a large population. "Yzquipulas" (modern day Esquipulas) has been a very important ceremonial center from remote times and the epicenter of pilgrimages for thousands of years. Visitors came from distant parts of the Mayan world to perform sacred ceremonies and to trade for the miraculous white tablets made from clay quarried from secret springs in the area. These sacred clay tablets called *akipula* are believed to possess great healing power; they are produced and sold by the Ch'orti' to this day.

In 1525 Pedro de Alvarado sent a contingent to subdue the local population and initially was successful, but the indigenous tribes were not happy with alien subjugation and began a series of uprisings. In 1530 the great Ch'orti' chiefs Copanti and Galel led a major revolt. Alvarado sent reinforcements including 60 soldiers, 400 allied Indians and 30 horses to reconquer the zone that culminated in a final bloody battle lasting three days. Many men were lost. Finally the chief



Pilgrims pay homage at the Basilica (ABOVE) to the Black Christ (BELOW)



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of Izquitzuchil surrendered to the Spanish, saying that he was doing so “more for the tranquility of the public than because of fear of the Castilian arms.” Thus began

the Spanish colonization of the area, eventually leading to the establishment of the Villa de Esquipulas in 1560. Concurrently Roman Catholic missionaries arrived to evangelize the conquered Indians.

By now Esquipulas had its own church and in 1594, after an abundant harvest of cotton, the local faithful decided to use some of their earnings to commission a sculpture of the crucified Christ. A Portuguese artist by the name of Quire Catani, who was living in Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala (what is now La Antigua Guatemala) was appointed to carve the figure. It was completed in October of the same year. A commission was sent from Esquipulas to bring back the crucifix. On the return journey many people along the way so admired the new crucifix that they asked permission to accompany the group, some all the way back to Esquipulas. This was the beginning of what has now become a major annual pilgrimage to the Valley of Flowers.

According to investigations, the Christ image was originally light in color, but after years of exposure to the smoke of incense and innumerable candles, as well as the caressing touch of literally millions of pilgrims, the wood sculpture attained its present dark color. It is now universally referred to as the Black Christ.

Such is the fame and sanctity of this object of adoration that Pope John Paul II visited it in 1996. Numerous replicas of the Cristo Negro have been produced over the years and now reside in important sanctuaries throughout the Americas. El Santuario de Nuestro Señor de Esquipulas located in Chimayo, New Mexico, for example, is a renowned pilgrimage destination where faithful from around the world gather to venerate a Christ figure brought there by Guatemalan monks centuries ago.

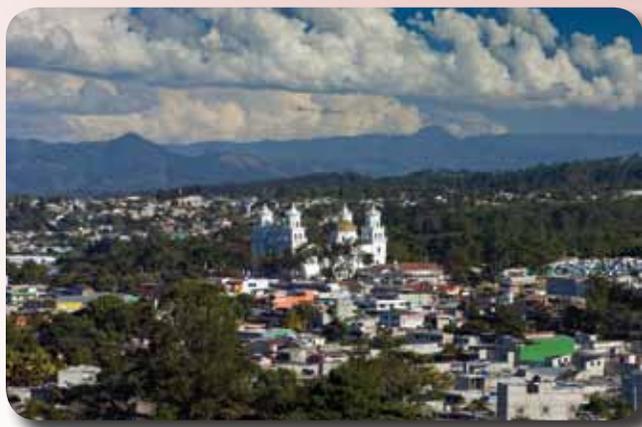
I was encouraged by friends to be present for the historic visit of Pope John Paul II. The townspeople of Esquipulas had gone all out to prepare for what would be a massive influx of pilgrims. Pastures were converted into campgrounds and food vendors made ready for the



Pilgrims at prayer



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The city of Esquipulas in the valley of Izquitzuchil



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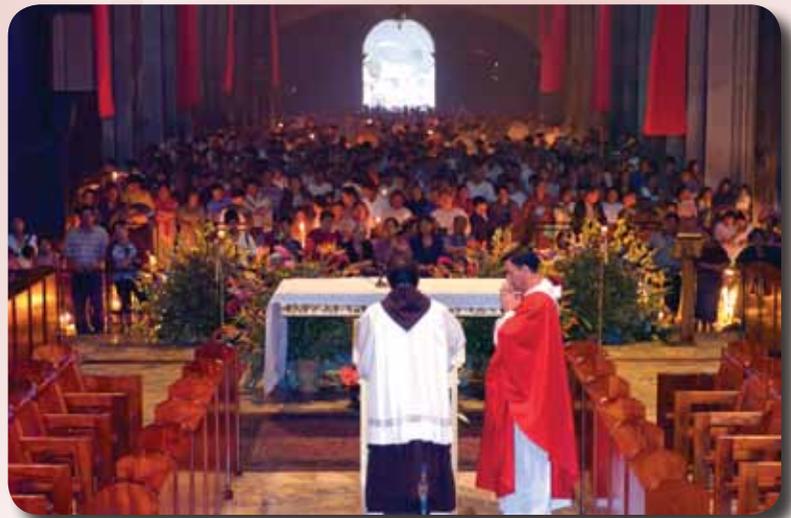


arrival. After obtaining our press credentials and security clearances we were assigned to a special platform reserved for the press, which commanded a perfect view of the stage and was located right beside the parade route. It was here where the Pope was to descend from his helicopter to consecrate Mass for the multitudes. And multitudes there were! People of every description, color and persuasion amassed peacefully to await the papal commission, and the atmosphere was festive.

As the morning wore on, instead of getting warmer as you might expect, the temperature grew evermore icy and the sky became dark. Finally a big chopper zoomed overhead to massive cries of approval, and a few minutes later the diplomats, dignitaries, priests and pious filed past toward the stage. To shouts of joy Pope John Paul II came into view. John Paul was unquestionably the most beloved Catholic Pope of our time, and the assembled crowd showered him with affection and fragrant flower petals. All around me people were weeping, and even I was deeply moved by the palpable feeling of faith and affection pervading the dreamlike space. I felt as if I had been magically transported to a place of remote antiquity and was in the presence of a great king.

Everything about the Pope and his entourage was of the most exquisite quality, beginning with the kingly robes of the Pope himself. I mark it down as one of the most impressive cultural experiences that I have ever had. During the Mass the sky above the distant mountain backdrop became ever darker, almost black, and lightning flashed ominously as an unearthly cold chilled the air. No one

who was there will ever forget that exceedingly strange confluence of effects. After the Mass the papal entourage made its way out for a private meeting with Basilica officials. I hung around the field for a while chit-chatting with the folks who were literally gaga after their close encounter with divinity. ...continued page 80



Church service at the Basilica in Esquipulas

VIDEO DISCUSSION

The DREAM Act: Leaving No Student Behind

“Almost a million people will miss out on the American dream over the next decade—not because of anything they’ve done, but because of the actions of their parents,” National Association of Student Financial Aid



Justin Draeger

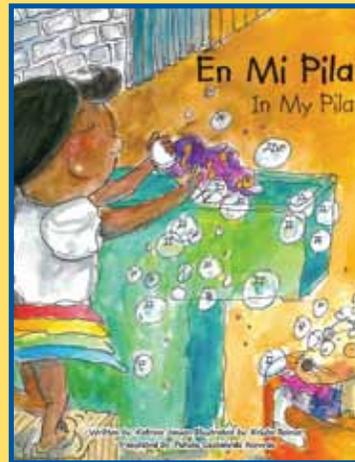
Administrators President Justin Draeger told the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security in 2011. “The DREAM Act seeks to rectify that injustice by giving illegal immigrants’ children, who had no choice in being brought into

this country, legal residency status and a chance at higher education if they meet certain minimum requirements.”

On Wednesday, **May 7**, Mr. Draeger will lead a non-partisan live streaming video discussion, “The DREAM Act: Leaving No Student Behind” simulcast from Washington DC to La Antigua Guatemala and several sites in Mexico. Sponsored by Democrats Abroad Guatemala, this presentation will help participants distinguish the facts from the rhetoric; review the Administration’s “deferred action” mandate; consider how this issue may play out in the near future; and respond to participant questions. Don’t miss this thoughtful exploration of a topic that will only grow in importance as we move toward the 2014 mid-term and 2016 presidential elections.

Mark your calendar: May 7, 2014, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Numa Restaurant (<http://restaurantenuma.com/>), 7a avenida norte #19, La Antigua, Guatemala. In English. Admission free; food and beverages available for purchase. Arrive early for best seating. For more information contact Linda Conard, Democrats Abroad Guatemala, at sonrisa1122@gmail.com.

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En Mi Pila

This bilingual book contains content, language and images relevant to Central America. It features a young Spanish girl and her day to day adventures with her “pila”—a common water and wash basin, but here it is transformed by the playful habits of an imaginative and somewhat accident prone little girl!



“En Mi Pila” was written to meet the niche market of Spanish/English books for Latin American children. The book is a non-profit initiative with all profits funding literacy projects in Guatemala.

Available in La Antigua Guatemala at La Casa del Conde bookstore (central park, 5a avenida) and worldwide at Amazon.ca and Amazon.com

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He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass. —George Herbert

Some forgive and forget, more forgive and remember, most forgive and remind. —Robert Brault

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. —Mahatma Gandhi

Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast. —Marlene Dietrich



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

Question: My 6-year-old spayed female golden retriever was diagnosed with a urinary tract infection (UTI) and her veterinarian said that because she also has diabetes mellitus, she is at higher risk for having a UTI and might get another or reoccurring infections. Is there anything that we can do to prevent this?

Answer: Any dog can get a urinary tract infection. However, females are at high risk because their urethras are shorter and closer to the anus. During grooming or defecation the urethra can be infected with E. coli, the most common bacteria involved in canine UTI. Other risk factors include diabetes mellitus, which provides a "friendly" environment in which the bacteria in the urine can grow more easily. Bladder stones, tumors or other conditions can damage the bladder lining and cause secondary bacterial infection. Excess skin over the vulva in females can promote bacterial growth. And any disease that suppresses the immune system like Cushing's disease can increase the risk.

The most frequent symptoms include blood in the urine, increased frequency of urination and urinary "accidents" in the house. A urinalysis will check the concentration, PH and presence of white blood cells, red blood cells and bacteria. A urine culture can identify the specific strain of bacteria. Treatment with antibiotics typically lasts from 7-14 days. Dogs with reoccurring UTI may benefit from cranberry extract, which prevents E. coli bacteria from attaching to the lining of the urinary tract.



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Think what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about three o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. —Robert Fulghum

Never neglect an opportunity to play leap-frog; it is the best of all games, and, unlike the terribly serious and conscientious pastimes of modern youth, will never become professionalized. —Herbert Beerbohm Tree




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What a distressing contrast there is between the radiant intelligence of the child and the feeble mentality of the average adult. —Sigmund Freud

If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses. —Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Watching your daughter being collected by her date feels like handing over a million dollar Stradivarius to a gorilla. —Jim Bishop

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Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be at 11.30 tonight. He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.
—James T. Adams

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

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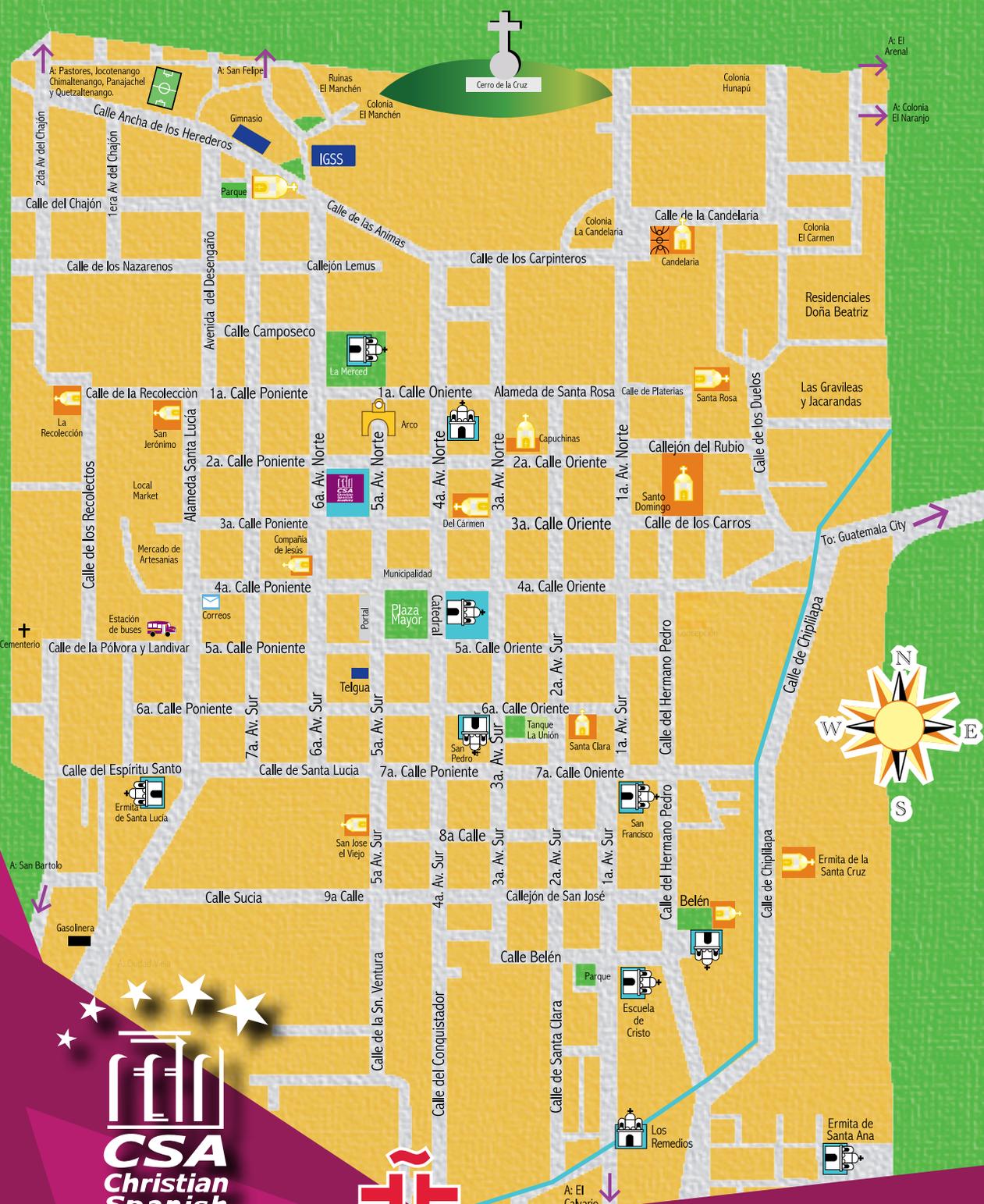
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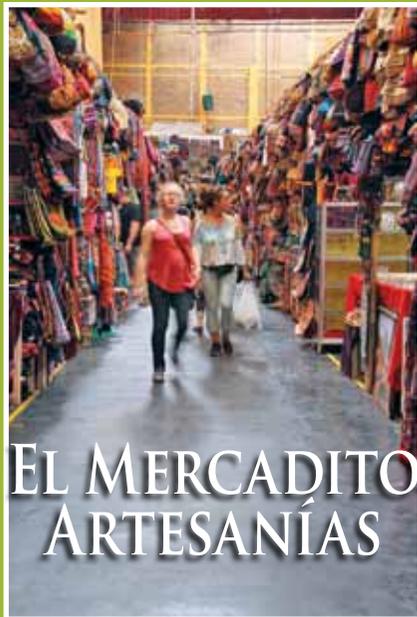
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When one bases his life on principle, 99 percent of his decisions are already made. —Walter Simms

Do not plant your dreams in the field of indecision, where nothing ever grows but the weeds of “what-if.” —Dodinsky

There is no cure for laziness but a large family helps. —Herbert Prochnov

The great advantage of living in a large family is that early lesson of life’s essential unfairness. —Nancy Mitford

MERMAIDS cont. from page 12

and Baroque art where sirens become a decorative item.

Mermaids were a symbol of virginity and chastity to alchemists. Thus, the notion of sirens appearing in convents and religious art in Guatemala connects to their meaning. For fountains, it was believed that water represented purity and the sirens represent temptation and sin that steers one away from God.

Whether all of this history about sirens was apparent in Santiago de Guatemala (now La Antigua Guatemala) is difficult to say. We do know that it was one of Diego de Porres’ signature designs. He was master architect of the city from 1703-1741 and first placed sirens on the dome

of Escuela de Cristo Church in 1730. Mermaids also appear in the city on Santa Isabel Church, Colegio Tridentino, the fountain in front of La Merced (that belonged to San Francisco Church), the fountain inside the La Merced Monastery, Casa Convento Concepcion, Casa Siliezar and Casa Chamorro, to mention only a few.

Through my studies focusing on Antigua over the years, I was astonished at the number of sirens “found” by Dr. Torres that many of us had never noticed—particularly those on the façade of Santa Clara church. Can you find them? 📍



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A banner advertisement for a makeup studio. On the left is a close-up of a woman's face with dramatic makeup. The text reads: "Maquillaje Profesional", "eventos casual productos", a Facebook logo with the number "42 182 796" above "43 081 826", a stylized "KM" logo, and "makeup studio". On the right, a red vertical banner says "CUPÓN 1 Facial GRATIS Para Mamá".

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Amalia's Kitchen

text & photos by
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To Abuelita

with Love



The movie “To Sir with Love” brings back memories of joy. When I was little, I lived for a while with my maternal grandmother in a town called Quezaltepeque in the Departamento of Chiquimula, close to the border with El Salvador. One day she said that we would take Rutas Orientales, the local bus line, to Chiquimula (also the capital) to see a newly released movie. It was on Mother’s Day.

What a fortunate childhood I had living with a loving, caring, yet strict grandmother. It was easy and pleasant being in a cozy and organic environment. Quezaltepeque’s population at that time was a small fraction of what it is today, and just about everything was within walking distance—school, church, the park, the open market, etc. Everyone knew each other and barter was common. People would give a chicken or pig in exchange for goods or services.

Abue (short for *abuelita*, meaning little grandmother) was divorced, righteous, thrifty, self-sufficient and a good cook. She was also an entrepreneur. She owned a shop featuring many miscellaneous necessary items. Her creativity had no limits. I would help her make papier-mâché flowers for funeral crowns, decorate candles for special church celebrations, weigh salt and sugar and tend the store. Thursdays and Sundays were market days and they were the busiest. Squealing pigs and church bells added to the hustle and bustle of the morning rush.

Although we don’t realize it at the time, our character is formed at an early age when we are receptive and undiscerning. I am deeply grateful for the teachings and unconditional love of my wise Abue. Love is passed on to us in so many ways. I also treasure the times I spent with my *bisabuelitos* (great-grandparents, Abue’s parents) visiting their artisan sugar mill, dairy farm and coffee plantation. These experiences shaped me early on and inspired me to want to do well for myself and for other people. The chef seed was planted in me in Abue’s kitchen. My eating and cooking philosophy, practical and healthy, comes naturally to me before and after I graduated from Le Cordon Bleu.

In honor of Abue, bisabuelas (great-grandmothers) and all mothers, I share a scrumptious recipe (*following page*) that I cherish which reminds me of the many great things I learned in a peaceful and wholesome setting in the company of people who departed only physically.

¡Feliz Día de La Madre!



...recipe on following page

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard is a Chef and award-winning author of Amalia's Guatemalan Kitchen: Gourmet Cuisine with a Cultural Flair (AmaliaLLC.com)



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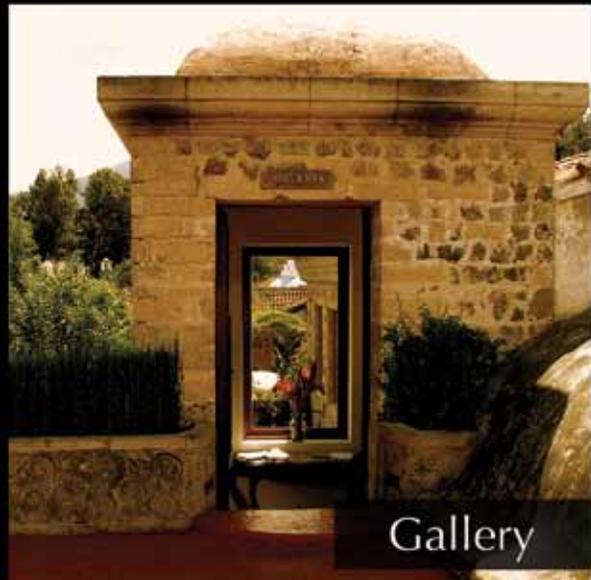
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“A very ripe plantain has high sugar content.”



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Plantains are starchier than bananas. You must cook them before you eat them. Buy plantains that are yellow and let them ripen until the peels darken almost until reaching a black color. This will take several days or up to a week. A very ripe plantain has high sugar content, and this is ideal for panfrying for this and for many other recipes. This recipe is basic and delicious and one that you can modify in various ways.

Plátanos Cocidos

Plantains in sugar and cinnamon water

by Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard (AmaliaLLC.com)

Serves 4 people

2 ripe plantains, unpeeled, washed, cut into 2-inch slices

½ stick *canela* (Ceylon cinnamon)

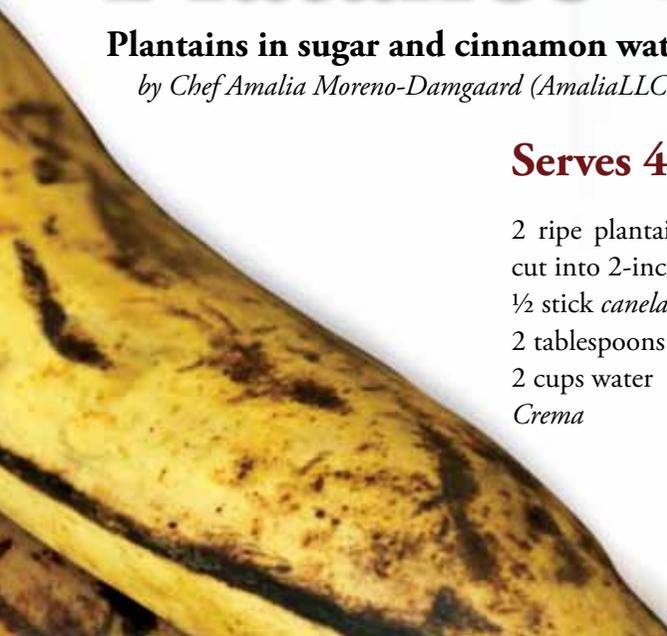
2 tablespoons sugar

2 cups water

Crema

Combine the plantains, *canela*, sugar, and water in a medium saucepan and bring to a quick boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer until the plantains are cooked (3 to 5 minutes). When cooked, the plantains look shiny and swollen.

Peel the plantains. Serve them topped with a dollop of crema or use them as a base for many other recipes.



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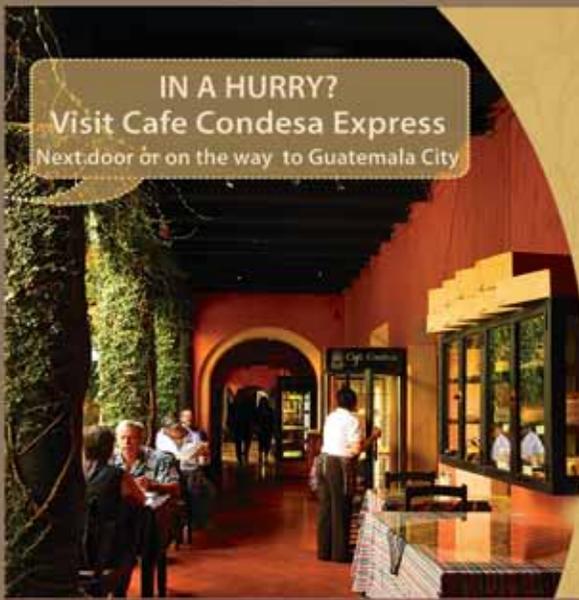
Children ask better questions than adults. "May I have a cookie?" "Why is the sky blue?" and "What does a cow say?" are far more likely to elicit a cheerful response than "Where's your manuscript?" "Why haven't you called?" and "Who's your lawyer?" —Fran Lebowitz

The older generation thought nothing of getting up at five every morning - and the younger generation doesn't think much of it either. —John J. Welsh

Elena cont. from page 18

Despite the often back-breaking work, Elena loves farming. She lovingly tends her garden, irrigating and hand weeding, and controls insects by spraying her vegetables with a solution of water and hot peppers.

She dreams and works toward providing a good education for her daughter, and one day owning a plot of land where she could expand, with the help of her son, into a thriving organic produce business. 🍅



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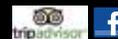
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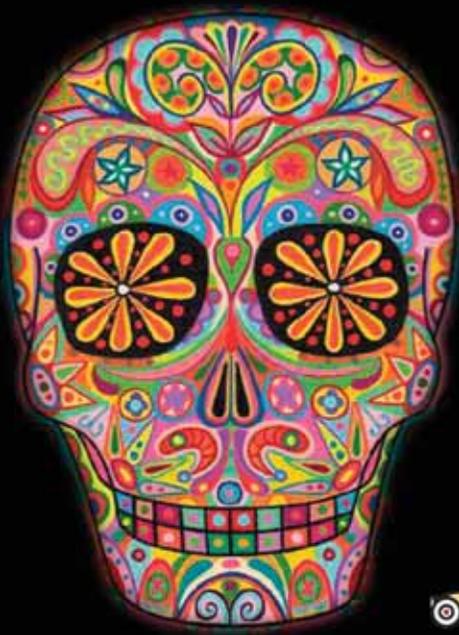
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Every mother hopes that her daughter will marry a better man than she did, and is convinced that her son will never find a wife as good as his father did.
—Martin Andersen-Nexö

You define a good flight by negatives: you didn't get hijacked, you didn't crash, you didn't throw up, you weren't late, you weren't nauseated by the food. So you are grateful.
—Paul Theroux

René *continued from page 20*

La Antigua Guatemala home that spanned a quarter of the block. The back portion of the building later became “Hotel Las Palmas,” an inn and café that René frequented with musician friends in the 1990s. After he became a partner in the hotel/café in 2003 and then the owner in 2004, he retained the name but transformed the business into a trendy restaurant and bar with a rooftop terrace.

Now Las Palmas is known for sophisticated cuisine—prepared by four talented chefs led by Head Chef Erick Zelada—that appeals to diverse palates of Las Palmas’ international

Las Palmas opens daily at noon. Live music begins at 7 p.m. Monday – Thursday, with salsa dancing Friday & Saturday starting at 10 p.m., and karaoke and wobble dancing on Sundays. Selected drinks will be at two-for-one 10th anniversary celebration prices throughout May.

customers. “Many of the dishes are recommended by the clients, so portions of our menu have actually been tailored by the clients themselves,” René explains. Some clients even go to the kitchen to tell the chefs exactly what they want that night. “I want the clients to know the chefs and feel comfortable watching how the food is prepared and describing how they want their dish. It’s just like they’re at home here,” he says.

Right now, René says his favorite dish is Tenderloin Café Paris, made with coffee and an herbed butter sauce. “It’s just so delicious. I’d eat it every day, but I don’t want to get tired of it.” Customers rave about the desserts, especially the chocolate cake.

Las Palmas is also a nightlife destination in Antigua. Customers relax to boleros on Mondays and Tuesdays and enjoy Brazilian jazz on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Friday and Saturday nights, the dance floor heats up with salsa. Starting in May,

“This restaurant is handmade—a lot of my life is here, and there’s no other restaurant like it.”

Sundays will feature karaoke and the high-energy hip-hop wobble dance.

But beyond the cuisine and live music, René feels the difference in Las Palmas is the people. “This restaurant is handmade—a lot of my life is here, and there’s no other restaurant like it,” he says. He credits the staff as the key to Las Palmas’ success. He explains, “They’re why it’s so special. All our workers love this place, and when you love what you do, only good comes of it.”

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Sacred Animals and Exotic Tropical Plants

text and photos by
Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth

Explosive Seed Pods



In the neotropical Americas there are two main species of *Hura* trees that produce exploding seed pods: *Hura crepitans* and *Hura polyandra*. Local names include *habillo*, *jabillo* and *arbol del diablo*.

In the Americas the trees are nor-

mally found alongside rivers, a fact documented by their favorite habitat in Guatemala: along the Río Jocotán; our plant scouts also found these trees near another river in Zacapa.

After I photographed its pods, I wanted to inspect the tree's inside structure. I wrapped the pod in thick cloth so the seeds would not explode in my face. I tried to pry the pod open with a screwdriver—no luck. I then tried to cut or force it open with an X-Acto knife—no luck.

Next I asked my gardener for help. When his machete hit the pod it exploded, throwing the seeds and its compartments more than five meters. The noise from the explosion was quite impressive!

We hope to video the seed explosion in the future, though we are worried that the impact might damage the camera lens (not to mention wound the videography team). But they have already volunteered for this daunting task. 📹

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research).
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To decide is to walk facing forward with nary a crick in your neck from looking back at the crossroads. —Betsy Cañas Garmon



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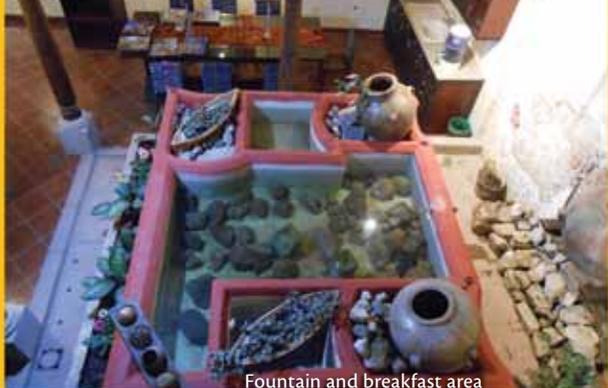


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Heno is hay. But it ain't hay. Heno in the Guatemalan Highlands is a mix of grasses and legumes; hayfields on most big North American and European farms today are mixes of alfalfa and clover. Newly mown hay up north is a uniformly pleasant green with a good enough smell and color, but the aroma and appearance are really quite bland compared with traditional hayfields. Hay on a Guatemalan farmer's tiny field looks softer, with several shades of greens and browns woven together. The odor of hay here is rich yet delicate.

Guatemalan farmlands have been divided into smaller and smaller rectangles as families split their land holdings among children. Little rectangles of color climb up steep volcanic slopes. This gives a marvelous crazy quilt of colors in a piecework of small fields, grasses in one, peanuts or beans in another, beautiful to paint or photograph.

If you paint in oils, you'll need to blend your greens and browns carefully to catch the difference between today's agricultural hay mixes and the old hayfields of Guatemala that are similar to what the French

impressionists painted. You can capture pictures of traditional European-style haystacks here too, poles around which farmers have piled hay for their animals to nibble.

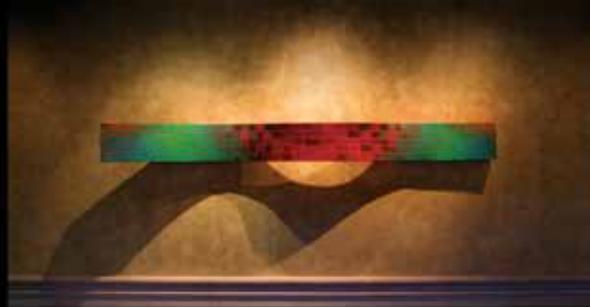
Spanish Basque farmers still plant the old hay grasses, and they've made natural soaps for centuries to capture the color and scent. Guatemalan supermarkets sell a blended soap, the same as an old Spanish soap product, called Heno de Pravia. Pravia is a small town in Asturias, a still-natural paradise in northwestern Spain. Seek it out in the stores and take home a bar or two for memories of your travels around our Highlands. 



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Q & A



This month, we discuss two topics: U.S. tax implications involving a foreign spouse; and the best way to file a tax return extension.

Question: Should I include my foreign spouse on my U.S. tax return?

To the IRS, a spouse is usually considered foreign when he or she is not a U.S. citizen and does not hold a green card. In such instances, U.S. expats can file as “married filing separately,” and exclude the foreign spouse’s income. Alternatively, they can file jointly and include the spouse’s income. There are pros and cons to each option.

(1) Married filing separately (excluding spouse’s income)—Foreign spouses are not required to report their income to the IRS. Therefore, if a foreign spouse has significant income, there is little reason to include this amount in a joint filing. By excluding the spouse’s income, the foreign spouse is also not required to report foreign assets. As a possible wealth management strategy, the U.S. spouse can also transfer assets to the foreign spouse, thus providing shelter against future tax liabilities

and/or reporting requirements. Annual limitations do exist in terms of how much asset can be transferred to a foreign spouse.

(2) Filing jointly with a foreign spouse—Given the above, why would any U.S. expat include the foreign spouse in a joint tax filing? The main reason is to take advantage of the higher standard deduction and exemption amounts. This approach works when the foreign spouse has little or no income. To file jointly, the foreign spouse will have to obtain a SSN or ITIN. Important to note: Once the foreign spouse is recognized as a U.S. taxpayer, this status is not something that can be easily turned off.

Question: What’s the best way to get an extension on my U.S. tax return filing?

April 15 is the due date that most U.S. citizens are familiar with for tax filing. However, did you know that

U.S. expats automatically receive a two-month filing extension? If filing by June 15 is not possible, then one can submit an extension to Oct. 15 by completing Form 4868. The simplest way to file an extension is on-line. There are several vendors that facilitate the process. In the past, we have recommended “Official Payments” (www.officialpayments.com).

The process of filing an extension is quite easy if one does not owe taxes. However, the process is a bit tricky if there is a tax liability. One will have to estimate how much taxes are owed, and pay that amount while filing the extension. Lastly, U.S. expats who need the filing extension to qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion (for the first time) should file Form 2350, rather than Form 4868.

It is important to keep in mind that filing an extension does not exempt one from certain penalties and interest charges. When in doubt, seek professional assistance. 

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.

Disclaimer: The answers provided in this article are for general information, and should not be construed as personal tax advice. Tax laws and regulations change frequently.

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

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Always jump in the puddles! Always skip alongside the flowers. The only fights worth fighting are the pillow and food varieties. —Terri Guillemets

In my soul, I am still that small child who did not care about anything else but the beautiful colors of a rainbow. —Papiha Ghosh

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ESQUIPULAS cont. from page 37

Finally I departed, making my way back via some less-crowded back streets to where my vehicle was parked. Suddenly and without warning, the Popemobile came around the curve. Security had chosen a surreptitious route back to the helicopter to avoid getting stuck in the logjam of the multitude. For just a brief moment it was just the Pope and myself looking into each other's eyes and waving a greeting. And then they were gone in a cloud of dust.

A word about faith: Obviously, for Roman Catholics a visit to Esquipulas is much more than an excuse for an excursion. Like a pilgrimage to Mecca, a visit to Esquipulas is considered to be very auspicious for believers, and there are many Guatemalans who make the journey to venerate the Black Christ each and every year. Though not so common today, it is still possible to encounter penitents walking from Chapel Hill across the entire city toward the Basilica on their knees! This is very devout faith and visitors are encouraged to show all due respect. I have sat for hours beside the Black Christ witnessing adherents, who sometimes waited in line much of the day, as they filed by for the sole purpose of having a personal moment with the sacred effigy. The powerful feeling generated by their faith is

palpable, and I have been deeply moved by the sincerity of their efforts. Perhaps an old woman is praying for the health of her sick husband. Perhaps a young woman is praying that her estranged husband will return to his family. A young mother prays for her child stricken with cancer. And here is a man praying for a new truck so that his business might prosper. People from all over Meso-America make the journey to the Valley of Flowers, bringing with them their hopes, their cares and their profound faith. ®

ESQUIPULAS is 222 kilometers from Guatemala City and can be reached via a good, paved highway. Esquipulas is not only for Roman Catholic pilgrims—all visitors are made to feel welcome. The Basilica and its surroundings are “camera friendly” areas where everyone may snap away to their heart's content. The main festival day is Jan. 15, when the city becomes particularly crowded and accommodations can be in short supply. Another time that is particularly nice for a visit is Establishment Day on March 9, when the streets are covered with sacred carpets of flowers and colored sawdust.

Other sites to visit in the vicinity include the Cave of the Cross, where, according to popular myth, the Black Christ made its miraculous appearance. This is also an important ceremonial site for Mayan Shamen.

The region produces some of Guatemala's finest coffee, which can be purchased in the shops and restaurants.

In the mountains adjacent to Esquipulas is the El Trifinio Biosphere Reserve, the cloud-forest home of the quetzal and many other rare and unique species of animals.



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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Up Close and Personal

A new house is always much more than mere mortar and blocks. It is a vessel for a family's memories and experiences, both happy and trying. The anticipation of a family watching their home take shape is almost palpable.

This winter, my wife and I were fortunate to be part of a Habitat for

Humanity team that constructed two homes in the Sololá/San Juan Argueta Guatemala area. Most of the team, comprised of 13 members from across Canada, had participated in previous, international builds.

Beginning with the footings, we bent and tied rebar, mixed cement and hauled blocks and water under

the direction of skilled, local masons.

One house was actually completed during the two-week project, and the keys were presented to the new owners. The other house was roof-ready and soon to be finished.

I will never forget the eager, hopeful look on the faces of both young couples—one with a year-old daughter, and the other couple newly mar-



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The closing ceremony at the end of the build is always, like good Guatemalan chocolate, bittersweet.



ried. During our time in Guatemala my wife Paula and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary—I wondered if we had looked so optimistic when we were starting out?

Habitat, which has been working in Guatemala for several decades, has built thousands of houses here. Recipients must have a daily family income of Q50 to qualify, as they carry an interest-free mortgage on the house, once completed. Guatemalans perform 90 percent of the construction; the remaining 10 percent is volunteer labor from Habitat’s Global Village program. Because the mason is paid upon completion of the house, having volunteer workers increases his income, as he can complete more houses per year. The average cost of each house is approximately \$4,000.

Our local crew was absolutely wonderful to work with—patient, good humored and hard working. One young ayudante, who couldn’t have weighed more than 65 kgs, put 85 kgs of cement on his back and carried it uphill in soft earth, shunning the nearby wheelbarrow.

Canadians and Guatemalans quickly melded as a united team, intent on getting the houses built. We learned terms like *metro*, *nivel* and *martillo* while they learned the English equivalents of tape, level and hammer. Often, at quiet moments, I would hear them practicing these terms to themselves.

One of the highlights of the two weeks was a visit to a house located behind the cemetery in Sololá which was completed by a Habitat team last year. Four of our present team

had participated in that build and it was so gratifying for them to see the recipient family enjoying their new home, especially appreciating the *co-cina*.

Another highlight was burying a Canadian \$1 piece, the “loonie,” in the foundation of the home, and then singing “O Canada.”

The closing ceremony at the end of the build is always, like good Guatemalan chocolate, bittersweet. It is very fulfilling to see a young family achieve their dreams of home ownership but sad to leave behind new friendships that have been “cemented” in shared labor.

I know that next winter when cold winds and snow buffet my home in Nova Scotia, I will think of our two families safe and secure in their new homes, and it will warm my soul. 🍷

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There was no respect for youth when I was young, and now that I am old, there is no respect for age - I missed it coming and going. —J.B. Priestly

First we are children to our parents, then parents to our children, then parents to our parents, then children to our children. —Milton Greenblatt

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker. —Helen Keller

Zacapa cont. from page 64

As is common in Spanish sherry production, Zacapa uses the Solera system in the aging process, which allows the blending of rums of varying ages and personalities. Zacapa 23 blends rums between 6 and 23 years of age, and Zacapa XO, 6 to 25 years.

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Zacapa is usually served “in the clouds”—imagine it locked inside a glass container, amid a dense white smoke, reminiscent of aging in the clouds. It can be blended into cocktails or you may enjoy it neat or on the rocks. Cheers! 🍷

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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, May

“Razones para Sonreír” Huehuetenango

by Andrea Tórtola

All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt





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

I am often accused of being childish. I prefer to interpret that as child-like. I still get wildly enthusiastic about little things. I tend to exaggerate and fantasize and embellish. I still listen to instinctual urges. I play with leaves. I skip down the street and run against the wind. I never water my garden without soaking myself. It has been after such times of joy that I have achieved my greatest creativity and produced my best work. —Leo F. Buscaglia

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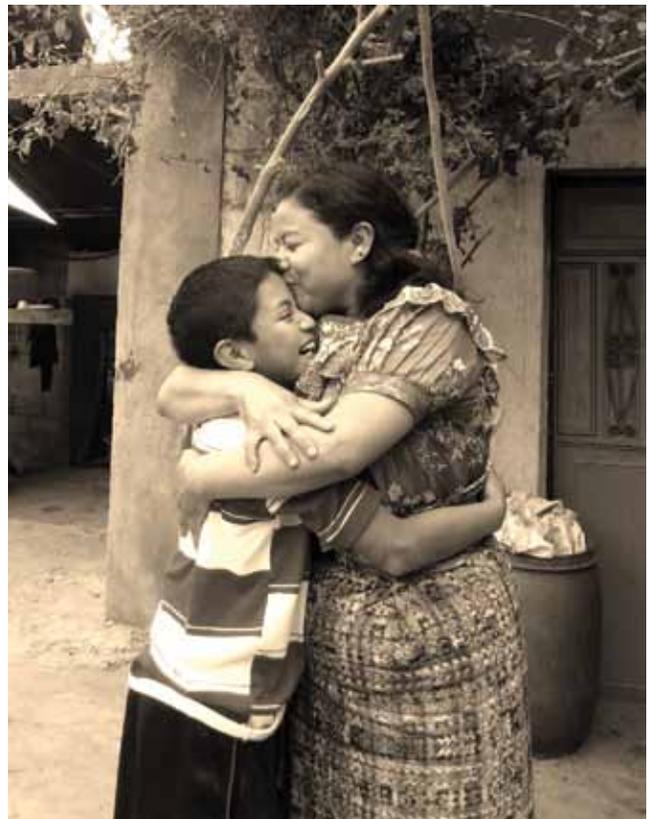
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A man finds room in the few square inches of his face for the traits of all his ancestors; for the expression of all his history, and his wants. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

Contemplation often makes life miserable. We should act more, think less, and stop watching ourselves live. —Nicolas de Chamfort

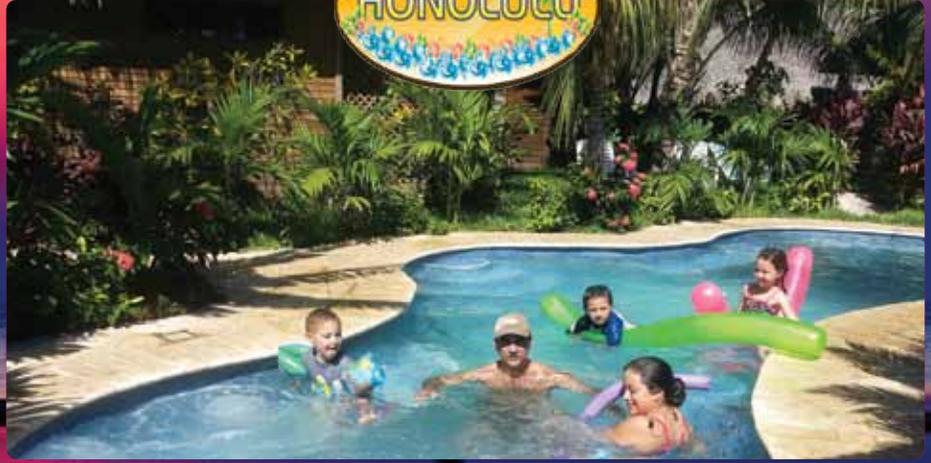


Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, May
"Shelter: Single mother and proud owner of a brand new Habitat for Humanity home" Cantel, Quetzaltenango

by Melissa Hassler
All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right. —Confucius



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Once you make a decision, the universe conspires to make it happen. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

Reconsider, v. To seek a justification for a decision already made. —Ambrose Bierce



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A peacefulness follows any decision, even the wrong one.
 —Rita Mae Brown

It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are. —Roy Disney

petén



Anticipate the day as if it was your birthday and you are turning six again. —Mike Dolan

The reluctance to put away childish things may be a requirement of genius. —Rebecca Pepper Sinkler

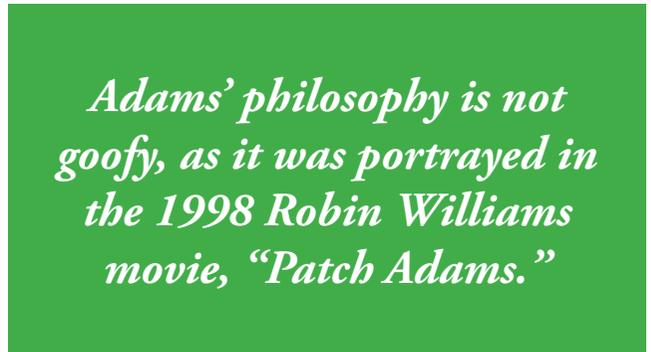
Patch Adams cont. from page 19

the mountaintop site of the hospicio, and the clean, low-slung buildings are surrounded by grassy yards and flourishing gardens. On one particular afternoon in March, the day-to-day activities of hospicio—dispensing medicines, carting children to and from school, finishing homework, playing games—was disrupted by a bunch of clowns.

Doctor Hunter Dogherty “Patch” Adams—clown, social radical, once-roughly-depicted-in-a-movie-by-Robin-Williams—was in the house. Adams spends 300 days a year traveling around the world to places like the hospicio with the goal of easing the psychological pain of illness for patients. This afternoon found Adams patting a gigantic yellow balloon back and forth with Víctor, a 30-something man, confined to bed, unable to drink fluids, dying of AIDS. He seemed to be enjoying the game, though.

Adams explained why he invades hospitals and homes like the hospicio with clowns: The worst part of being sick can be the terrible boredom that comes with it. He aims to break it, and if Víctor’s declaration that he wasn’t bored and enjoyed playing with the balloon can be taken as proof, Adams is successful. Yet Adams believes his international organization of volunteer clowns gains as much from helping patients as the patients themselves gain.

“The loving self is the part you love the most,” Adams said. Basically, by creating small moments of enjoyment for the sick, people find they like themselves more. It can



be transformative.

Adams’ philosophy is not goofy, as it was portrayed in the 1998 Robin Williams movie, “Patch Adams.”

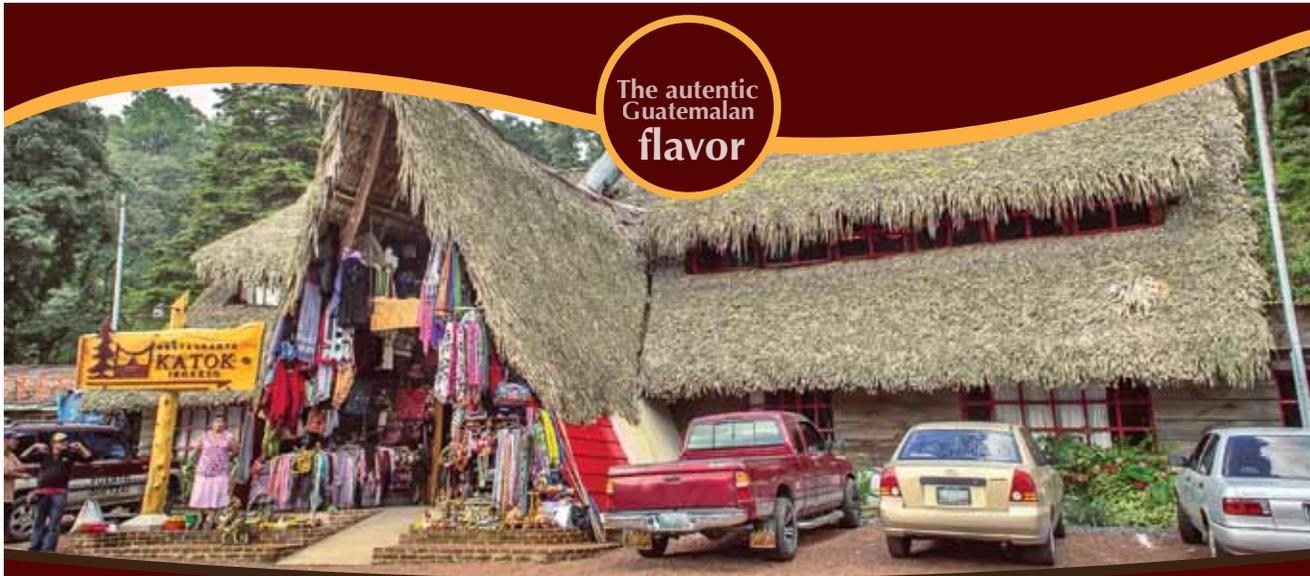
“Our country [the U.S.] is the number one mass murderer in the world,” Adams declared in between launching the balloon into the air. He sees his mission to help the sick, through fun and affordable healthcare, as hackneyed as that may sound, as part of a larger political movement.

It’s doubtful that anyone at the hospicio cared about Adams’ politics, though, least of all him. His visit served to improve an afternoon for the sick and raise the profile of the hospicio.

At the end of the day, the center’s director, Elena Clavijo, hurried about checking on the status of medicines to be dispensed and homework being completed. According to her, the number one need at the hospicio now is a new bus to take the kids to school. 



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The impossible is often the untried. —Jim Goodwin

Goals are dreams with deadlines. —Diana Scharf Hunt



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My childhood may be over,
but that doesn't mean
playtime is. —Ron Olson

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He who can no longer
pauze to wonder and stand
rapt in awe is as good as
dead; his eyes are closed.
—Albert Einstein

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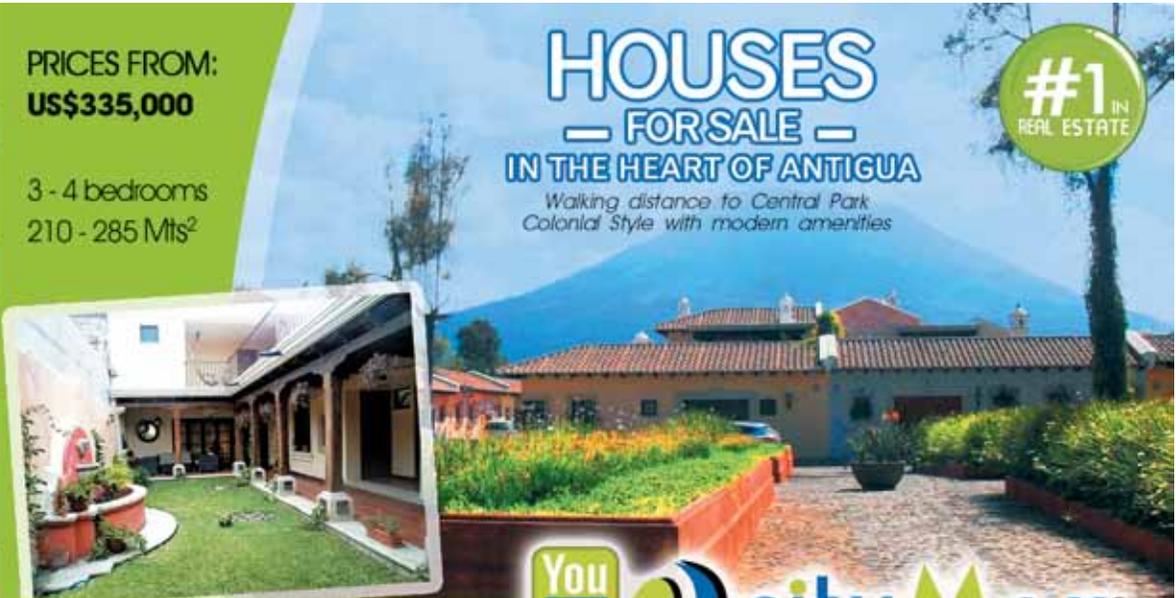
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Santa Tecla *A new hub for tourism*

by Lena Johannessen

On the outskirts of the capital city of San Salvador, by the slopes of the San Salvador volcano, lies the city of Santa Tecla. It could be mistaken as being a part of San Salvador, as the division between the two might be deceiving—but Santa Tecla is a city in its own right.

Under the direction of the city's previous mayor Óscar Ortiz, who is currently the newly elected vice president of El Salvador, Santa Tecla has been transformed from a partially abandoned, high-crime area into a thriving city with growing businesses, safe streets and a center for both trade and tourism.

The creation of the pedestrian walkway Paseo El Carmen (named after the city's gothic-style church) and the restoration of several historical buildings ushered in the

community's renaissance, which has renewed interest in this now-charming place.

New bars, restaurants and coffee shops keep popping up, and residents from San Salvador flock to this bohemian setting for nightlife, gourmet dining and more. The tranquil streets, lined with small shops, bakeries, arts and crafts, are great to stroll along, and the atmosphere is both quaint and modern.

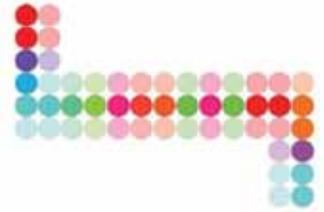
In the heart of Santa Tecla are two beautiful parks, Daniel Hernández and San Martín, plus a municipal market touting an excellent food court.

New hotels in Santa Tecla beckon to those who want to spend more than a day in this delightful community. Nearby are amazing natural settings and cultural experiences, which will be described in future editions.



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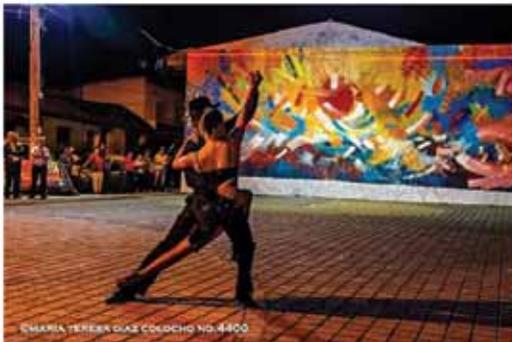
Santa Tecla historical center:

Paseo El Carmen, Palacio Tecleño, Nuestra Señora del Carmen Church, Municipal Market, Museo Tecleño, San Martin and Daniel Hernandez Parks, Plaza de la Cultura.



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—Andrew J. Holmes

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—Whitney Moore, Jr.

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