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www.flickr.com/photos/wancastroguatemala/
THE FIRST EDITION OF THE ANTIGUA CLASSIFIEDS (AKA REVUE) HIT THE STREETS ON MARCH 27, 1992. AT THAT TIME IT WAS A WEEKLY 12-PAGE PUBLICATION, WITH 500 BLACK AND WHITE COPIES DISTRIBUTED EVERY FRIDAY. THAT WAS 16 YEARS AGO. WE'VE HAD SOME MAJOR AND MINOR CHANGES ALONG THE WAY, GOING FROM A WEEKLY TO BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION AND FINALLY MONTHLY … 12 PAGES IN BLACK AND WHITE TO OUR PRESENT 132 PAGES IN FULL COLOR, AND THE BEST PART, A DISTRIBUTION OF 20,000 MAGAZINES A MONTH THAT TRANSLATES TO 240,000 REVUES PER YEAR.

SINCE THE BEGINNING WE'VE OPERATED UNDER A PARTNERSHIP OF SORTS, WITH OUR CLIENTS, READERS AND STAFF. AS SUCH, IT IS OUR GREAT PLEASURE TO PREsent AN ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE, HIGHLIGHTING A REVUE TEAM MEMBER DENNI MARSH, AS TOLD BY HER DAUGHTER.

IVÁN CASTRO PROVIDED THIS MONTH’S COVER FEATURING A UNIQUE AND HAUNTING IMAGE OF SEMANA SANTA. THE FLEDDERJOHN PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTS A LOVELY COFFEE-TABLE BOOK TITLED SIMPLY ANTIGUA, PRESENTING 87 COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA, INCLUDING CELEBRATIONS DURING HOLY WEEK.

REMEMBERING WILSON POPENOE IS BOTH ABOUT THIS ILLUSTROUS FIGURE WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TROPICAL AGRICULTURE, MOST NOTABLY THE AVOCADO, IS LEGENDARY AND THE BRONZE STATUE OF HIM CREATED BY LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA ARTIST RAE LEETH. THE ZEN OF GIVING WORDS DELVES INTO ONE OF THE MOST USED VERBS IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

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La Antigua Guatemala
When it’s the dark night of the soul what do we turn to? Or does the darkness obscure all light? Kahlil Gibran said, “Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother.”

Hardship can be easier to bear if we have hope that tomorrow will be better. As Emily Dickinson described it: “Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without words, and never stops at all.”

Nevertheless, hope can be an obstacle. Francis Bacon said, “Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.” Hope is a desire with expectations of obtainment, which often leads to despair and reproach. “Hope is the worst of evils, for it prolongs the torments of man,” said Friedrich Nietzsche.

Hope is all about the future. If energy is spent hoping, there is not enough to be present. The energy is far better directed to the present moment. After all, the future is made up of present moments. Thich Nhat Hanh pointed out, “We have more possibilities available in each moment than we realize.” Whereas hope is passive and costs nothing, faith is active and carries a price. Unlike hope, faith is not simply a patience that suffers until the tornado passes. Faith is about belief and bold trust. As the skeptic Mark Twain said, “Faith is believing what you know ain’t so.”

For example, if we step back from life’s storms, we can begin to sense that there is something far greater than ourselves out there of which we are an intrinsic part. In moments of stillness, particularly when in nature, we can feel our connectedness with everything. From this we believe we exist within a universal framework, and despite the mysterious ways in which it operates, we trust that we are not alone and that whatever evolves is part of the grand scheme. This is not blind faith; William Wordsworth described it as “passionate intuition.”

Wherever you choose to place your faith, do it with an inner attitude, a deep conviction and a trust in something greater than yourself. So that when fear knocks at the door, faith will answer, and no one will be there!
Guatemala City native whose father was an avid photographer, Alex Fledderjohn grew up knowing of cameras, film and dark-room solutions. In high school he took his first photos using a hand-me-down Olympus OM-1, but he didn’t start pursuing photography as a career until age 25.

Less than 10 years later, Fledderjohn is the artist/author of Antigua, an extraordinary coffee-table book containing 87 color photos capturing the essence of La Antigua Guatemala. More than the ruins, churches and volcanic imagery of the community, Fledderjohn captured people in their unique context.

Through four years of work, Fledderjohn, 34, got to know his subjects, who often introduced him to others as his artistic exploration of the community, its people and traditions deepened.

“Photographers are always chasing the good light. The best time to shoot is early in the morning and late in the afternoon. The sunlight has a beautiful warm color,” he explains. “It is also at more of an angle and creates a nice interplay between light and shadow. Most of the outdoor photographs in the book were taken during this ‘golden hour.’”

Fledderjohn snapped thousands of images on his trusty old Leica M6 as he assembled a veritable library of photos from La Antigua. He didn’t quite know when he had “enough” pictures for the book. “You never have enough photographs!” he says. “I just had to draw the line somewhere, but taking pictures in Antigua is something that I enjoy immensely and go back to do every year.”

Memorable Shot: Of the many beautiful photos in his Antigua book, Alex Fledderjohn says the boy from the children’s Semana Santa procession stands out: “I had noticed this boy carrying the procession float. He was bit taller than the rest and, therefore, was struggling a little more than the others. I followed him for a while, trying to capture his facial expressions, when he happened to look up. I saw the light hit his face through the viewfinder. I quickly underexposed the shot slightly, pressed the shutter and hoped that I had captured it. It was a fleeting moment that was a combination of luck and persistence. It was a nice surprise when I got the film back. It’s true what they say, ‘luck favors the well prepared!’”

Memorable Shot: Of the many beautiful photos in his Antigua book, Alex Fledderjohn says the boy from the children’s Semana Santa procession stands out: “I had noticed this boy carrying the procession float. He was bit taller than the rest and, therefore, was struggling a little more than the others. I followed him for a while, trying to capture his facial expressions, when he happened to look up. I saw the light hit his face through the viewfinder. I quickly underexposed the shot slightly, pressed the shutter and hoped that I had captured it. It was a fleeting moment that was a combination of luck and persistence. It was a nice surprise when I got the film back. It’s true what they say, ‘luck favors the well prepared!’”

Ed note: Antigua is available in many bookstores in Guatemala City and La Antigua. You can also contact the author at alexfledderjohn.com

 Victor Estrada Ortiz works on a cross Jesus will bear during the children’s procession of La Merced

Procession of the Virgin Mary, La Merced
Remembering Wilson Popenoee

by Joy Houston  photos: César Tian

His image and memorabilia have their places in Carnegie Mellon University of Pittsburgh, Peabody Museum and Baker Library of Harvard University, National Geographic Society, National Archives and Columbus Memorial Library in Washington D.C. and Encyclopedia Britannica, just to name a few. Now the larger-than-life image of Wilson Popenoee in bronze finally will rest in Zamorano, Honduras, the place closest to his heart. “What we call Zamorano today is his most important legacy,” wrote Simón Malo in El Zamorano (1999).

To anyone who knows anything about tropical agriculture, Zamorano is the household word for the prestigious Panamerican School of Agriculture (EAP in the Spanish acronym). Its shortened name comes from the farm in the Honduran highlands where it was founded in 1942, financed by United Fruit Company.

Wilson Popenoee had been with United Fruit since 1926 when he became director of its Experimental Station. He and Samuel Zemurray, top executive, both thought that the company’s social obligations in the region where it operated. Popenoee was enthusiastic when Zemurray appointed him founding director and wrote, “The more I see of this school job, the more I realize that it is going to be a big one.”

Dozens of philanthropic projects such as hospitals and schools had gone unnoticed in the widespread perception of the company’s social obligations in the region where it operated. Popenoee was enthusiastic when Zemurray appointed him founding director and wrote, “The more I see of this school job, the more I realize that it is going to be a big one.”

As Rae worked the raw material, she learned about the man whose image emerged. He was an intense man, energetic, focused and perhaps eccentric but with an irrepressible sense of humor. Rae comments, “As I got to know him better, his expression softened.”

Papenoee once said, “A student who has learned to care for a cow, make cheese and butter, feed pigs, drive a tractor, protect soil from erosion, graft and prune fruit trees and cultivate potatoes will never forget how to do that work all his life, but what he memorizes for a theoretical exam will be forgotten in a few days.”

As Rae worked the raw material, she learned about the man whose image emerged. He was an intense man, energetic, focused and perhaps eccentric but with an irrepressible sense of humor. Rae comments, “As I got to know him better, his expression softened.”

At age 21 he chose a job as an agricultural explorer with the United States Department of Agriculture rather than accept a scholarship at Cornell University. His boss later said, “We wanted him to become an explorer of plants, and our fear was that he would not serve the USDA much once they filled his head with theoretical understanding.” Popenoee had an open disrespect for academic degrees and agricultural technology, spurning what he called ‘Sunday words’.

Nonetheless, Wilson Popenoee held three honorary doctorates. He hobnobbed with presidents, vice-presidents and ambassadors. He moved in elitist groups of cultural, intellectual and scientific society. But he was not cut out for bureaucratic life and was not interested in politics.

Wilson Popenoee was born in 1892. He first lived in Central America at age nine, when his family was involved in a mining adventure. There his lifelong love for tropical plants was sparked, and there he met the avocado which, wrote Frederic Rosen-}

The bronze bust of Popenoee awaits final detail-}
Sterling Foundry workers in the bronze stage of the Popenoe bust.

...continued on page 54

Denni Marsh has been a valued member of the Revue-Recrearte team for over 14 years. Denni is also a survivor. In 1977 she was shot three times after a minor road accident in Guatemala City involving two very inebriated pedestrians. The following is a loving tribute written on the anniversary of this life-changing event as told by her daughter Kristen. No doubt you will agree that we are in the company of a very special person.

—JBT / Editors

Anniversary Tribute

My mom recently marked the 30th anniversary of her survival. She celebrated by bringing cake to her weekly bridge get-together. I’m not sure whether she told everyone why she brought cake, but she celebrated this date. So did I.

Although it has been 30 years, it feels like it was just yesterday when our lives turned upside down, and we almost lost her. I often think about how my life would have turned out if she were not part of it after that day.

With two major brain surgeries at a hospital in Guatemala City and months of recovery, I often wonder what would have happened had she had the wealth of resources a head trauma patient has in the U.S. She recovered without the benefit of physical therapy, language therapy, psychological help to piece things back together, support groups and weekly counseling.

Little by little, she herself recreated new brain function, carried her little book where she wrote down everything she knew, created new brain function, carried her list of private and corporate donors.

The school might be...continued on page 104

Popenoe wrote that his life as an agricultural explorer was like Jekyll and Hyde. It was part of the job to meet with ministers and officials. In Quito he wrote that after primitive conditions in the field, he returned "to the brilliant lights of the city, to fine clothes, to food served on a table with a cloth, with soft carpet under foot, sparkling glassware and silverware everywhere."

Wilson Popenoe loved the splendors of colonial times as well as the beauty of indigenous cultures. He "was a long-time admirer of local styles, stressing that they were the natural and logical result of several centuries of trial and error," wrote Malo. Believing that the Spanish colonial style belonged to Central America and that its preservation was a matter of practical pride, he held firmly to the design in his supervision of construction at Zamorano, and the style has been retained through extensive expansion.

In La Antigua Guatemala the name Popenoe means the 17th-century house of Wilson and Dorothy Popenoe, purchased in 1930 and restored authentically. It remained the family home as well as a museum open to the public until August 2007, when title and administration transferred to the University Francisco Marroquín.

Wilson Popenoe retired in 1957 after 16 years of leadership at Zamorano. In spite of some rough years, growing pains and keeping up with the modern and academic worlds, the school has retained its distinctives, primarily Popenoe’s insistence that “acquiring practical abilities is the principal objective.”

Zamorano continues on triple its original property size, 700 students and now offers a masters’ degree in conjunction with Cornell University. It is primarily supported by governments of the United States, Germany and Honduras as well as an impressive list of private and corporate donors.

The school might be...continued on page 54

...continued on page 104
Welcome

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Compiled by Elizabeth Bell & Amparo Carranza

MARCH Guide to culture & upcoming events

For more cultural event listings in Spanish pick up this month’s copy of RECREARTE+

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the April 2008 edition of the REVUE by Mon. March 10

Revue is not responsible for event cancellations or date/time changes.
Sat., 15th-7pm—ART: Agresiones with paintings by Erick González. El Sitio (5a calle pon. #15), La Antigua.

Sat., 15th-7pm—(Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION & CONVERSATION: Ronald Flores will present La montaña infinita by Fernando González Davidson. Centro Cultural de España (vía 5, 1-23, z. 4, Tel: 2385-9066), Guatemala City.

Thurs., 20th-7pm—MAUNDY THURSDAY: Commemoration of our Lord’s Last Supper. Union Church (12 calle 7-37, z. 9, Tels: 2361-2037 & 2331-6904), Guatemala City.


Sat., 22nd-6am—EASTER SUNRISE: Come & enjoy a time of praise & worship. After the service we will have a light breakfast, please bring something to share. Beverages will be provided. Christian Academy of Guatemala (8a av. 09-60, Lote 3, San Cristóbal, z. 8, Mixco, Tel: 2368-0853), Guatemala City.

Wed., 26th-7pm—(Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION & CONVERSATION: Ronald Flores will present La montaña infinita by Fernando González Davidson. Centro Cultural de España (vía 5, 1-23, z. 4, Tel: 2385-9066), Guatemala City.

Sat., 29th-11am—(Spanish) LECTURE: El paisajismo en Guatemala by Guillermo Monsan- to. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino (1a av. norte #23, Tel: 7832-0231), La Antigua.

Sat., 29th-5pm—(English) LECTURE: Open Your Eyes! Instead of unhappiness, awaken to peace & joy by Dr. Carmen Guevara (holistic Buddhist-centered psychotherapist). Free. Mandala (4a calle o. #43, Tel: 5543-5062), La Antigua.
Sat., 29th-7pm—MUSIC: Rony Hernández & guest musicians present Trovajazz. El Sitio (5a calle pon. #15, Tel: 7832-3037), La Antigua.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays, 6:30pm—DHRAMA FLICKS: 3rd—Deepak Chopra: The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success (80 min.); 10th—Deepak Chopra: Overcoming the Fear of Death (35 min.) & Explorations into Consciousness (35 min.); 17th—Deepak Chopra: The Way of the Wizard; 24th—A Meeting with Eckhart Tolle (30 min.); 31st—Feng Shui (60 min.). Free. Mesón Panza Verde (5a av. sur #19, Tel: 7832-2925), La Antigua.

Mondays, 7pm—MUSIC: Open Mike. No cover. La Peña de Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C, Tel: 7832-1668), La Antigua.

Tuesdays, 6pm—BENEFIT SLIDE SHOW: Antigua: Behind the Walls with a one-hour slide show by Elizabeth Bell. Q30. La Peña de Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C, Tel: 7832-3037), La Antigua.

Tuesdays, 7:30pm—MUSIC: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C, La Antigua).

Wednesdays thru Sundays, 7-30pm—MUSIC: Live Andean music performed by Grupo Sol Latino. No cover. La Peña de Sol Latino (5a calle poniente #15-C), La Antigua.

Thursdays—CULTURAL THURSDAYS. La Casa del Nahual (2a av. norte #6-B, ½ block from Capuchinas Convent), La Antigua.

Thursday & Fridays, 8-10pm—MUSIC: Cuban jazz. Q35. La Cueva de Panza Verde (5a cal. sur #19), La Antigua.

Saturdays, 11am-1st—Works by José Luis Álvarez; 8th—Mozart en Turquía with a presentation (Spanish) by José Ángel Lee; 29th—El Patajismo en Guatemala by Guillermo Monsanto (Spanish). Free. Colegio Mayor Santo Tomás (2a av. norte #23, Tel: 7832-0231), La Antigua.

Sundays, 6 to 8pm—MUSIC: Tune your radio to Rock en Exa FM at 101.7 in Guatemala City, 97.1; Xela, 104.3; Puerto Barrios, 102.3; Zacapa & Chiquimulilla, 106.3; Jutiapa, 90.7; Escuintla & 97.5; Mazatenango & Retalhuleu with Miguel Barrientos & Sergio Rodríguez. Sundays, 6:30pm—ART FLICKS: 9th—Romeo & Juliet (1968); 16th—the Merchant of Venice (2005); 23rd—Babette’s Feast; 30th—Black Orpheus. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (5a av. sur #19, Tel: 7832-2925), La Antigua.

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

ART: Permanent exhibit & sale of Guatemalan paintings including Mujeres por la paz by José Cuitiño. Galería de arte Cuitiño Cofíño (7a av. sur #8-C), La Antigua.

ART: Permanent exhibit & sale of Guatemalan paintings from primitive to contemporary. Centro de Arte Popular, Galería-Museo (4a calle oriente #10, interior, Casa Antigua, El Jaulón, Tel: 7832-6634), La Antigua.

ART: Retratos con alma with paintings by Paola Roldán. Tiendas Kalea (2. 10, 11 & Escala, Tel: 2254-1028), Guatemala City.

ART: Photographs & textiles; co-sponsored by the Consejo Nacional Para la Protección de La Antigua Guatemala. Convento de Santa Clara (2a av. sur), La Antigua.

ART: Escaleras al sueño with the latest works by Doniel Espinoza. La Antigua Galería de Arte (4a calle o. #16, Tel: 7832-2124), La Antigua.

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**THROUGHOUT THE MONTH**

**Through Sun., 16th—ART:** Pasos procesionales from Escuela de Cristo. Convento de Santa Clara (2a. av. sur), La Antigua.

**Through Sun., 23rd—Lent hosts velaciones every Friday & processions every Sunday in La Antigua**’s major churches through Easter.

The entire magazine at www.revuemag.com

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**Through April 30th—ART:** Exposgrabados Cobán; featuring a variety of techniques presented by Mónica Torrebiarte, Joan Stanley, Paula Estrada Dieseldorff, José Domingo Belterhon, Ernesto Argueta & Helmut Ibañez. Casa de Acuña (4a calle 3-11 z. 2, Tel: 7951-0484), Cobán.

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**Through April 10—FISHING:** Registration for 2nd annual Atitlán Bass Club Torneo de Pesca held on April 11-13. Q100, adults; Q75, children 12 & under. Tels: 7762-2428 or 5669-3923 or al stern58@yahoo.com. Panajachel, Lake Atitlán.

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—Samuel Johnson

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cuotas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunes a viernes</td>
<td>3 meses Q450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5am-9pm</td>
<td>1 mes Q180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sábado</td>
<td>3 semanas Q150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6am-3pm</td>
<td>2 semanas Q115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domingos</td>
<td>1 semana Q75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9am-1pm</td>
<td>1 día Q25</td>
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**If I were a rich man, I would employ a professional praiser. —Osbert Sitwell**

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**Progress might have been all right once, but it went on too long. —Ogden Nash**

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The difference between pride and vanity is that we have one and other people have the other.

—Thomas C. Haliburton

I am not an optimist, I am a possibilist.
—Julian Huxley

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There has been lots of progress during my lifetime, but I’m afraid it’s heading in the wrong direction. — Ogden Nash

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—Truman Capote

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At twenty you blush when a man praises you;
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at forty you wonder what he wants.
—Charles F. Kettering

If you need to get the word out, the Revue is the most effective periodical around.
Many a father lives long enough to be as much a problem to his children as they were to him.

The primitive African who beats drums to ward off evil spirits is ridiculed by civilized man who blows horns to break up traffic jams. Records show that no savage people ever invented an atom bomb.

—Emerson
In Week One of Spanish school, you learn that *dar* means “to give.” As one of the most used verbs in the language, it exhibits Coop’s Law of Irregularity: complexity of conjugation increases in proportion to frequency of usage. This is why the verbs for going, having, doing, knowing, being, etc. require additional parsing. Only *ir* and *ser* out-weird *dar*; among the difficulties is that in the past tense, the *a* becomes *i* (*dI, dIsI, dIo, etc.*).

In practice, this verb has *muy poca* life of its own, being now relegated to one of two main categories of usage. One is in Dick-and-Jane sentences that call only for a verb and a few pronouns: *Se lo di* (I gave it to him/her). If the maid at your guesthouse wants to finish your laundry before Friday night, she may say, ¿me da la ropa sucia? The other category is the gazillion modismos that include *dar*. You may go all day in Havana or Guadalajara without hearing *dar* apart from these phrases. Many have only tenuous linkage to giving. *Me doy cuenta* (“I realize” or “I’m aware”) is one you cannot live without. *Me doy por vencido* means “I give up/throw in the towel.” *Me da igual* means “It’s all the same to me.” *Me doy a entender* … is not about giving, but neither is its translation, which might be “Am I being understood …” *No se me da nada* is how movie dubbers translated Clark Gable’s infamous “Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn.” Any good tutor will *darte* other essential modismos.

One phrase familiar to chicken bus travelers is *darle*. When the *ayudante* is helping the driver park, he says *dale, dale* to express “keep going” or “a little more.” Adding exclamation (*¡Dale!* changes the meaning to “Pedal to the metal, dude!” when it’s safe to pull off the shoulder or to pass Don Jerónimo, going uphill in a smoking, rust-bucket pickup weighted down with enough passengers to populate a middle-sized Dallas suburb. A synonym for *¡Dale!* in some countries is *¡Póngale!*

If I give up, not in the sense of folding my poker hand but surrendering myself to, say, the police (in my case, the literary police), the verb is *entregarse*. *Me entregué a la policía*. Transitively, the verb expresses betrayal to authorities; Jesus Christ and Anne Frank were *entregados*.

To give, in the senses of doling out or supplying, is *proporcionar*. To give back is *devolver*. To give in or yield is *rendirse*: *San-són por fin se rindió a Dalila* (“Samson finally gave in to Delilah”). With so many types of giving, it’s no surprise that languages have myriad verbs for it. The grammarian in you is advised to remember that, whatever the form of the giving, the recipient is an indirect object. ...continued on page 104
Francisco Guzmán’s family was unlike other Santiago Atitlán families who have stamped the art world. His grandmother painted, but with spoken words, not brushes. And although all four of his children can draw, they have found careers in fields from law to engineering. Nor were his parents or siblings artists. Santiago Atitlán is notable for artistic families that span generations, most notably the Sisay clan. Of the Guzmáns, only Francisco would chop a path to international renown with a brush. But he would not sell a painting until he was 26, which also set him apart from other Santiagoan artists. Many there are born into the craft, then raised in it.

“As a kid,” he recalls, “I knew about mixing colors, and I liked to draw as much as any kid. But that was it for me, as far as art was concerned.” So he became a teacher first; not of art but of the whole middle school (básico) curriculum. It was his maternal grandmother, Theodora, who put Guzmán on a visionary track.

“Yoyita, as we called her in the family, died [in 1960] when I was only six,” he says. “But she gave my imagination a lifelong stimulus. She was poor all her life. She worked at different times as a peddler, as a domestic, as a cook. She mended huipiles. We lived near the middle of town, so after a day’s work she’d set up her little stall at the edge of the mercado. And there, the two of us would sit together. For an hour or more, she’d tell me stories about everyone and everything that passed by. As near as I can tell, they were all made up.”

Yoyita somehow achieved basic literacy, which in Santiago was rare in those days; few boys, much less girls, went to school. One explanation is that Yoyita learned to read via a gift of induction, by pointing at printed words and asking others what they were, then recalling them from sight.

“Immediately after she died,” Guzmán says, “I found that I could ...continued on page 100
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I replaced the headlights in my car with strobe lights, so it looks like I’m the only one moving.
I like to pick up hitchhikers. When they get in the car I like to say, “Put on your seat belt. I want to try something. I saw it once in a cartoon, but I think I can do it.”
I was going 70 miles an hour and got stopped by a cop who said, “Do you know the speed limit is 55 miles per hour?” “Yes, officer, but I wasn’t going to be out that long...”
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Guzmán found he could have it both ways: “I could paint, which is what I most enjoy, and have it benefit others.” In 2005, a German foundation with a similar mission tapped him to do another calendar.

“Unfortunately,” he laments, “we have no system of institutionalized patronage in Guatemala for artists. Most of our successful artists were discovered or sponsored by foreigners. And art instruction in the public schools is mechanical and constrained. It can actually stifle creativity.”

Guzmán found this to be a problem even at the university level where, until recently, he taught literature and philosophy. That was one reason that he was easy pickings for Dr. John Way, headmaster of Atitlán Multicultural Academy (AMA), a private school in Panajachel.

Way told Guzmán he could write his own ticket as to method and curricula; it was an offer that all educators dream about but few acquire. So far, the biggest challenge has not been with the level of intellect at AMA, but habit and attitude. Also, it is Guzman’s first opportunity to teach students from families of some means.

“It’s a middle-class, all-English environment,” he says, “so there was little initial enthusiasm for studying Hispanic literature in the original language, since students in Guatemala don’t need literature to learn the language.” But that has changed; after only a year at AMA, he has seen a flowering of interest.

An artist knows he has achieved originality, Guzmán notes, when he is frequently asked, “How do you come up with your ideas?”

“But the question is not as silly as it first appears. It merely reflects a pattern of habitual thinking. To break from the pattern, my counsel would be to try to see without your eyes, or to ask yourself, Why do things not look the way they should? or even, Can you find a perspective from the bottom of reality, having tested all things?”

His work is most satisfying when it helps others. In 2003, the Netherlands’ Missie-Zendingskalender Foundation recruited him to illustrate their annual calendar, whose proceeds fund medical relief.
El Petén

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Catamaran Island

—Larry Miller

The discerning shoplifter

A shoplifter was caught red-handed trying to steal a watch from an exclusive jewelry store.
“Listen,” said the shoplifter, “I know you don’t want any trouble either. What do you say I just buy the watch and we forget about this?”
The manager agreed and wrote up the sales slip. The crook looked at the slip and said,
“This is a little more than I intended to spend. Can you show me something less expensive?”

There’s always one of my uncles who watches a boxing match with me and says “Sure. Ten million dollars. You know, for that kind of money, I’d fight him.” As if someone is going to pay $200 a ticket to see a 57-year-old carpet salesman get hit in the face once and cry.
—Larry Miller

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The Zen of... cont. from page 90

One rather zenny verb is *regalar*. First, because it can stray from its *apparent* meaning; second, because it can stray from its *supposed* meaning. On count one, it does not translate to *regale*, which means to amuse with antics, anecdotes or tall tales. Now to count two.

*Regalar* is still about gift- or alms-giving. *Un regalo* is something you can buy at Sears for little Pepito (whereas a gift from God or nature is *un don*). But this kind of giving is increasingly expressed not by regalar but by *hacerle un regalo* or *obsequiar*. The latter is so new that some dictionaries omit it; it seems to derive from *obsequio*, which means “gift” (noun) and “I give” (verb). *Obsequiar* is therefore a word that we beginners can use to impress our date’s parents while proffering the fruit basket: *se lo obsequio.* This outclasses a milk-tooth verb like *dar*.

But in some countries regalar also means something between handing and selling — and selling ain’t giving. In such countries, it’s widely uttered in the mercado: a shopper tells Doña Martita at her stall, *regálame unos cinco huevos* (I’ll take five eggs). If Martita is, for instance, Guatemalan, she’ll hand you the eggs and expect payment. But if she’s Mexican, she’ll say, “I’ll sell them, but not give them to you.”

Reader, gracias por regalarme your attention — or dérmela.

Anniversary Tribute cont. from page 17

for sure, and our family suffered and yet flourished despite it. Life goes on and I am grateful for that.

My mother is amazing. She has run and runs multiple small businesses, is a Central American bridge champion, coordinates the Trekkers club outings, which include volcano climbing and such, and still plays squash. It is the squash that really continues to impress me and remind me how resilient and strong she is. She has no depth perception or peripheral vision and that ball moves so fast! If I were walking in her shoes, I would have been so sad to go from women’s champion squash player to continually striking out. But she doesn’t see it that way. She keeps at it, several times a week, enjoying a good workout with the club trainer.

So, for this anniversary, I would like to propose a toast to my mother: Fly high mom, Fly high!

---

*In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice; In practice, there is.*

—Chuck Reid
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Belize Barrier Reef & Cayes

SNORKELING by Nadine Pedoe

Over 90 percent of the tourists in Belize come to see the corals, fish and other marine life of the Barrier Reef, and, of course, the best way to see them is up close. Snorkeling trips are easily arranged along the coastal areas all over the country but the best trips are from the Cayes due to their proximity to the reef. At some of the southern Cayes, you can swim from the shore to the reef, although many of these are exclusive (and often expensive) resorts.

The northern Cayes of Ambergris and Caulker offer the best value trips and are geared toward water tourism. For snorkeling, Caye Caulker is arguably the better of the two for value and time spent in the water instead of traveling. The well-known Hol Chan Marine Reserve was Belize’s first in 1987 and can be visited from either Caye but is closer to the main town of San Pedro on Ambergris Caye. It is well preserved, but its popularity can make it busy, and there are plenty of other interesting sites to visit, too.

Another popular tour is the manatees at Swallow Caye Reserve. Although you can’t get in the water with them as they are protected, you have an excellent chance of spotting them from the boat as they surface for air. It is possible to arrange tours from here to the outer atolls, too.

Snorkeling at Turneffe Atoll is an experience not to be missed. The atoll is exceptionally bio-diverse and with snorkel stops with names like “aquarium,” the marine life is wonderfully accessible. Dolphins frequently play around the boats on the outward and return journeys.

While it helps to be an experienced snorkeler, beginners are easily accommodated, and lessons can be taken prior to the trip with most companies. A good guide will make all the difference and will explain how to snorkel without damaging the reef. This precious and fragile environment takes tens of thousands of years to form and may disappear within 50 years worldwide, according to some estimates. To enjoy the reef without damaging it, follow some simple guidelines:

- Don’t touch. The oils on your skin will kill anything that you touch, which may have taken thousands of years to grow.
- Watch your feet, flailing legs can easily damage the fragile corals.
- If taking underwater photos, get someone to spot you. It’s easy to drift into coral heads when you’re concentrating on something else.
- Wear a T-shirt and bio-sun cream. The oils in ordinary sun cream attack the corals.
- Don’t remove anything or buy marine souvenirs. Every little shell is used by a marine creature in some way.
- Don’t leave rubbish. Bits of plastic are often ingested by marine creatures and will kill them.
- Don’t feed the animals. It upsets the natural balance and may attract large fish, including sharks.

Trunkfish, Belize Barrier Reef (NADINE PEDOE)

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El Salvador is synonymous with seafood … this is something I had heard often in my 13 years of living in Central America, but never had the opportunity to find out. Leafing through the El Salvador section of *Revue* Magazine, I discovered an advertisement of a hotel with just the right combination of luxury (air conditioning and pool) and roughing it (thatched roof) to suite my fancy. I decided it was time and to give the El Salvador seafood synonym a chance.

I was on my way to El Salvador on a myth busting quest, and just to give it the benefit of the doubt, I went to a fishing village.

**Los Cóbanos Beach** in Sonsonate, near Acajutla, is a small fishing village on the banks of the only coral reef in the Central American Pacific Ocean.

A walk on the beach is reminiscent of a scene from a boot camp obstacle course. You may find yourself dodging mooring lines tethering fishing boats that rise and fall with the waves as they are made taut and then relax on the sand.

Shortly after six in the morning, the first wave of fisherman return with the catch of the day as the rising sun preheats the sand. The fishermen offer beachcombers an early bird’s selection of the day’s catch. Los Cóbanos is one of El Salvador’s most important natural resources; the beach sand is made of tiny shells and coral particles in combination with volcanic rock formations that offer many tide pools and protection to the reef animals in their primary stage.

Kudos to the Salvadoran Ministry of Environmental and Natural Resources for declaring Los Cóbanos area the first protected coastal region in El Salvador. Hopefully it is the first of many, Los Cóbanos was literally rescued in the nick of time. The ex-minister, who is responsible for the environmental protection of El Salvador’s ecosystem, had authorized the dredging of this fragile area for the construction of a pier that favors developers building resorts in the area. Salvadoran conservation groups lobbied to stop the dredging. This coastal region, which includes a vast amount of lava rock formations on the ocean floor, is nearly 180 km². With an important biodiversity of vertebrates and invertebrates typical of the reef formations, this area becomes unique in Central America, having only counterparts in Baja California and Panama. The importance of this region is evident and saving it is a no-brainer. Los Cóbanos is not a volleyball beach; the volcanic rocks and tethered boats make it more conducive to sun bathing and relaxing. Kayak and boat rentals are available on the beach, diving and snorkeling is limited only in the dry season (November thru March) because the water is often murky due to the rainy season. But when conditions are perfect, the marine life is out of this world. El Salvador Divers arrange dive trips to this site and provide multilingual guides.

In a common characteristic of the people in El Salvador, the fisherman and local residents are friendly ...continued on page 123
It is very safe,” our guide Salvador assures us at the briefing point. I look around at my traveling posse, Cocoa and Kyle, and the three other Apaneca Canopy Tour guides, Edwin, Wilson and Elmer. We are all wearing crash helmets, harnesses and fire-retardant gloves.

We’re assembled at a picturesque, forested site, a mile above sea level, near the village of Apaneca, in the department of Ahuchapán, about 100 kilometers from San Salvador.

Wait a moment, who said it wasn’t safe? I began to wonder what exactly I had stumbled into.

The idea is this: You are clipped onto a pulley, which is then clipped onto a high-tension steel cable between two trees, then released to the mercy of gravity. “Zip-lines” some call them, or “death-slides” as they are also known.

I decided to listen to Salvador’s safety advice. There are three signals: legs up, slow down, and curiously, speed up. One retardant mitt goes on the harness, one on the wire—this hand is the brake. I politely let Cocoa go first.

After the first line, the next five breezed past from tree to tree under the cover of the forest. Above us orchids blossom from May to July, below us passed cuscus holes and armadillo sets.

It is primarily an extreme experience, though. One customer described the guide team as psychiatrists, helping her to overcome her fears. Sometimes they have to hug people as they go across the lines in tandem.

One look at the guestbook shows the broad appeal. The oldest to do it was over 80 (“what emotions for a grandmother”). The youngest was 22 months old, in a special harness with animals on it.

“Child’s play,” I agreed, gazing nonchalantly at the view. But those six lines were the little ones, 10 to 50 meters long; numbers 7 to 10 were over 250 meters long across a valley.

Before I had really finished contemplating this I was off, whistling to a mid-point pause, and the thrill of the breeze, height and suspension took hold. Then I literally hung out and absorbed the clear panoramic views before reaching the other side.

It is a very accessible extreme experience, made all the more enjoyable by the fun, professional team—still smiling jok-
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8 easy steps
to achieve a good cup of coffee

Imagine guests coming to your place for a meal that took several hours to prepare, but when it’s time for coffee to crown that fantastic meal, you serve a disgraceful, tasteless cup. Yes, that’s going to be the last impression of your meal. Don’t worry, here’s how to achieve a great coffee finale:

• Selection of beans: Taste different beans, best to use whole beans and grind some before each use. Once your bag is opened, store coffee in a hermetic dry, cool place away from sunlight.

• Understand your brewing system: There’s no best way to make coffee; each of us prefers one method to the rest. Read the manual!

• Use fresh, cold water: A cup of coffee is 98.5% water, if tap water is poor, try bottled water.

• Keep your brewer very clean: Coffee oils go rancid, use correct cleaning solutions, don’t use soap or chlorine. Cleaner should be free of taste and odor.

• Find the correct grind: The finer the ground, the less drip time required to extract flavors. If a brewer has long contact time, coarsely ground coffee is needed.

• Use the correct ratio of coffee: There are obviously preferences here, but a decent ratio is 60 grams of coffee per liter of water.

• Correct temperature of brewing: 92ºC – 96ºC / 198ºF – 205ºF.

• Serve time and temperature: Serve quickly, within 30 minutes. Never reheat coffee since it will turn bitter. Correct standing temperature is from 80ºC – 85ºC.

Los Cóbanos cont. from page 116

and accommodating in an almost perpetual attempt to satisfy the visitor. Countryman and tourist will have no problem being understood. Hotels on the beach offer accommodations by the day for changing and hanging about or overnight stays with amenities such as air conditioning and swimming pools. Some hotels offer restaurant service, which guarantee better hygienic cooking conditions and of course delicious seafood, and for those on a tight travel budget there are economic options as well. A few words with the local residents can provide you with an incredible meal at any of the nearby family-run establishments. There are a number of comedores just off the beachfront—stop by early to check out the menu, reserve your favorite fish or lobster and work up a hearty appetite. A short walk on the beach led me to an ocean-front vendor where I tried my first shrimp and oyster ceviche—delicious!

As with any fishing village, the early bird gets the worm…or the best meal in this case. It is best to seek the catch of the day early because as the sun goes down the village appears to wind down for the night, lulled to sleep by the waves and the gentle rocking sounds of the boats tethered at the beach.

So, maybe I cheated a little by going to a fishing village in El Salvador, but on my drive back home, I had a smile on my face and the memory of fresh seafood for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I was just sorry it took me 13 years to make the trip.

A child prodigy is another person’s child who is exceptionally talented, or your own grandchild who isn’t.

If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again; then quit—there’s no use being a damn fool about it.

—W. C. Fields
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Los temas políticos y sociales más relevantes del país, descubriendo y aportando soluciones. Acompaña al Licenciado Alberto de Aragon en una discusión de frente, con los protagonistas de los temas nacionales más interesantes. Jueves a las 9:30 pm.

Secretos
Acompaña a Sheyla en un programa que propone un lugar de reunión para tratar temas de interés que la mujer de hoy no debe pasar por alto. Un punto de encuentro con profesionales donde podrás resolver tus dudas. Martes a las 11:00 am.

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