

# REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
with El Salvador, Honduras & Belize sections

June 2008  
Year 17, No. 4

FREE

- 
- ▶ Interview with Raúl Figueroa Sarti
  - ▶ Potable Water Rights
  - ▶ Property Registration Options

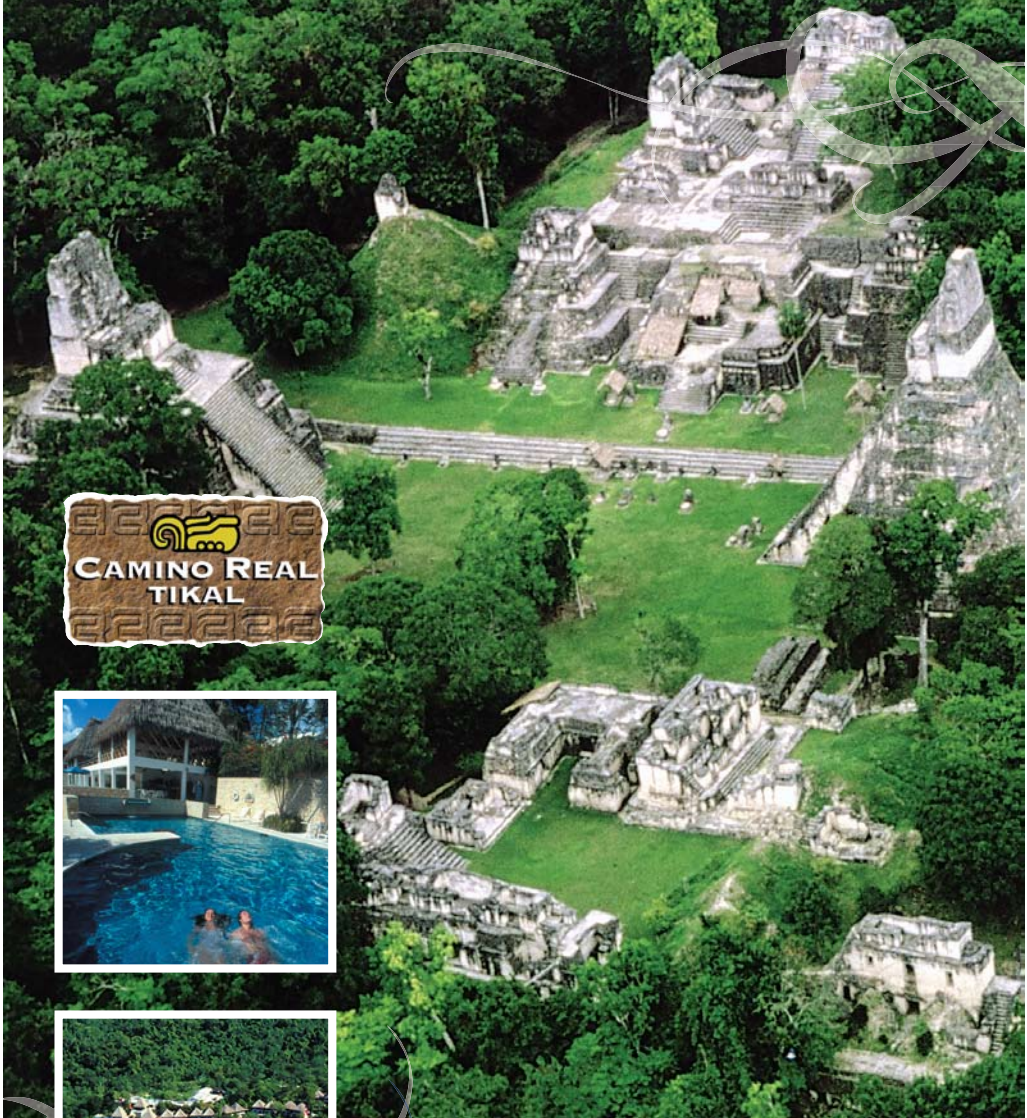


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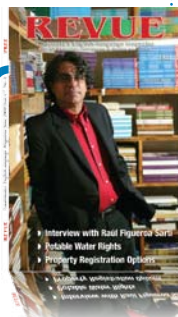
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**Raúl Figueroa Sarti**  
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photo by  
**Daniel Chang**

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**DEADLINE for JULY 2008 ISSUE is June 10**



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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

*There is no substitute for books in the life of a child. —Mary Ellen Chase (1952)*

The fifth Feria Internacional del Libro (International Book Fair) will be held in Guatemala City from July 25 to August 3. This is such an important event we dedicated the cover photo to the president of the organizing committee of the fair and the founder of F&G Editores, *Raúl Figueroa Sarti*. It is also our pleasure to present, in Spanish, an interview with him by Esperanza Huerta.

*Ruins Reborn* recounts the incredible “life” of the Compañía de Jesús in Santiago de los Caballeros, now La Antigua Guatemala, and its illustrious native son Rafael Landívar, author of “Rusticatio Mexicana.”

*Water Rights* highlights the Ecofiltro, an effective and easy-to-use water filter system. At a cost of Q250, this compact device renders safe and refreshing water at a rate of one to two liters per hour. Imagine the possibilities! *Zen of (Not) Knowing* tackles two principal verbs ‘saber’ and ‘conocer’ and then there’s ‘ignorar’ ... read on. Next up in the on-going series *Real Estate in Guatemala*, *To Register or Not to Register?* brings up some pertinent issues and offers some valuable suggestions. In El Salvador, *Going Green* features an innovative eco-friendly tourist project at Barra de Santiago. For coffee lovers, Santa Ana regains its ‘Coffee King’ title, winning the honor of producing the best coffee in El Salvador.

*DateBook* for June includes listings for music, art, photography, theater, conferences, course work and films, plus information on how to vote for ‘Natural Seven Wonders of the World’ ... Lake Atitlán is on the list.

We hope you enjoy this edition: with 20,000 in print monthly, it is also available online at [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com) —JBT

# REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine

GUATEMALA - EL SALVADOR - HONDURAS - BELIZE

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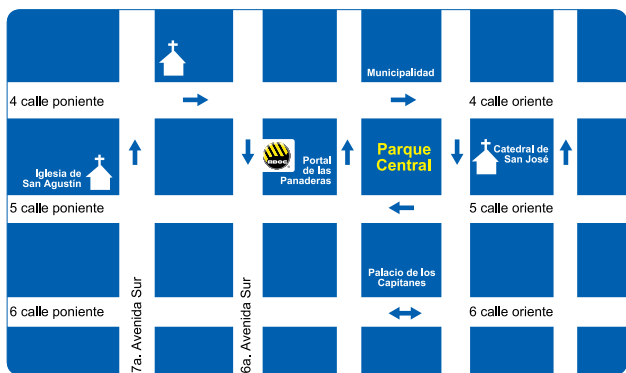
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# LO NUEVO DE F&G EDITORES

RODDY BRETT

RAFAEL MENJÍVAR OCHOA

RAFAEL CUEVAS MOLINA

Una Guerra sin Batallas:  
Del odio, la violencia y  
el miedo en el Ixcán y  
el Ixil, 1972-1983

Trece

Una Familia honorable



La crónica que aquí se hace es la de la violencia que produce muerte y provoca terror. ¿Cuándo empezó la violencia? Ella, no tiene un cero histórico a partir del cual podamos inferir la fecha en que comenzó.

Trece, del escritor salvadoreño Rafael Menjívar Ochoa, es un estudio minucioso, lúcido y a veces cruel acerca de los límites entre la vida y la fantasía, entre la muerte y la realidad cotidiana, entre lo cotidiano y la nada.

Una familia honorable puede ubicarse en el género de la literatura de posguerra en Centroamérica. Los personajes viven y actúan en los primeros años del siglo XXI, pero años atrás cada cual estuvo ubicado, queriéndolo o no.

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# Ruins Reborn

Compañía de Jesús church façade and entrance to Spanish Cooperation Training Center

## *The rise and fall and rise of the Compañía de Jesús*

by Joy Houston *photos by Jack Houston*

**T**he colonial property of the Jesuit order Compañía de Jesús in Santiago de los Caballeros, now La Antigua Guatemala, is and has been alive and well. “It was so colorful and complete,” says Antigüeña artist Annette Weld, who arrived in 1966. The property was then used as the public market, where she used to sit for hours sketching, “with the arches like a theater backdrop.”

The market had been moved from Plaza Mayor to the Jesuit ruins at 4a calle and 6a avenida in 1912. “Considerable demolition was necessary to make the area safe, with the result that the convent and school buildings have been considerably altered and rebuilt, making it well nigh impossible to make out the original plan,” wrote Sidney Markman in *Colonial Architecture of Antigua Guatemala* (1966). The market relocated again after the 1976 earthquake, and in 1992 restoration of the multi-patio, square-block property began, through combined efforts of the governments

of Guatemala and Spain, the National Council for the Protection of Antigua (Consejo), UNESCO and Cooperación Española.

Until 2004, artisan shops covered with ugly black plastic filled the space alongside the church on 4a calle and the front plaza, completely blocking view of the façade. “It was one of the most colorful and splendid of the conventual churches of Santiago, . . . decorated with colors on plaster, using red, green, yellow, brown and black, which resulted in an effect completely different from any other church in the city.” (Annis, *Architecture of Antigua Guatemala, 1543-1773*, 1968)

Today the complex houses a cultural training and exhibit center, including a library. The Escuela Taller Antigua for local students age 16-20 enjoys newly constructed facilities on the west side and workshop areas in the nave of the church ruins. The school teaches skills in carpentry, construction, ironwork, electricity and plumbing for use in restoration projects to protect cultural heritage.

It seems a fitting rebirth of the property of the Jesuit order *Compañía de Jesús*. “The role of the Jesuits...was of great importance for the city and the Kingdom,” wrote Jesús María García Añoveras in *Historia General de Guatemala, Vol. II* (1994). “The Jesuits dedicated themselves in Guatemala exclusively to educational work...and did not participate in works of evangelization of the *indígena*.”

Yet even Bishop Francisco Marroquín’s petitions to the royal Spanish powers that were for funds to establish a public school had been turned down. In his last letter, written to the king in Spain in February 1563 before his death in April of that year, he reviewed his work and achievements but reminded of the lack of a “...school for all sciences...of which I have written many times.” (*El Licenciado Don Francisco Marroquín*, 1964). Perhaps there was concern that the Jesuit order have sufficient funds to sustain the monks and the school, because of their custom to give the teaching free.

Apparently in 1582, the Jesuits began some primary classes of reading and grammar without waiting for support from the king, there being no lack of local philanthropists. Finally in 1607, two priests of *Compañía de Jesús* came from Mexico to formally establish the monastery, church and *Colegio de San Lucas*. As other religious had done, they lived in thatch huts while they waited for construction.

There were 14 priests by the time the first small, permanent church structure was completed in 1626. It was rebuilt 20 years later with a generous donation. By 1640, then teaching arts, philosophy and theology, the *Colegio* had “acquired great fame and had no rival...There came the most select of society of Santiago.” (*Historia General de Guatemala*) By the end of the 17th century the Jesuits had founded the *Colegio*

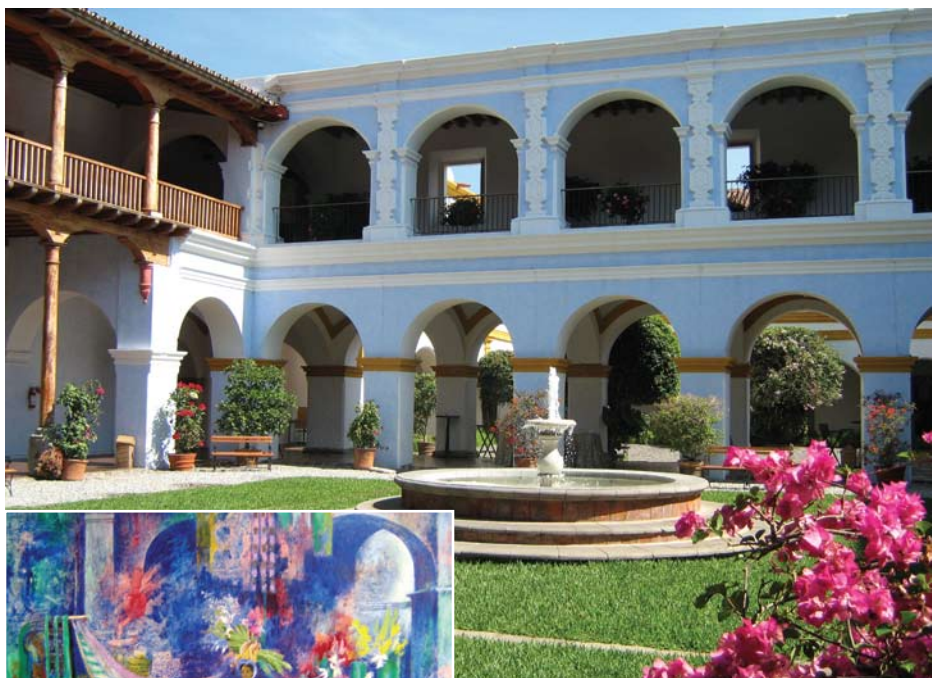
de San Francisco de Borja, across the street from the monastery complex. And, the church having been destroyed in the 1695 earthquake, an entirely new building was inaugurated in 1698, the remains of which stand today, on the site where conquistador historian Bernal Díaz de Castillo lived.

Another earthquake struck in 1717 and another in 1751. While the Jesuits patched up, continued construction, repaired again and expanded, they also acquired lands on which to grow crops to sustain the schools. Later, proceeds were sent to sustain the Jesuits in exile.

In the same year construction was finally complete, the order of King Charles III for the expulsion of the Jesuits from all Spanish territories reached Santiago. For some time there had been fear that, as a result of the free education of the Jesuits, an elite class would develop from the farmers and laborers, “...elevated above their cradle rights,” according to *Memoria para la Reforma de las Universidades* (1667). The *Compañía de*



**Colorfully painted arch over church entrance**



**LEFT: Painting by artist Annette Weld of public market, when it was on former Jesuit property**  
**ABOVE: Current photo of patio where the public market was held**

Jesús was seen as a center of social and educational power. The Jesuits had shown no disrespect for the Crown or the Papacy. But their intellectualism brought independence, which, whether real or perceived, together with a “myth of incredible riches” posed a threat, even in the Age of Enlightenment. Studies later showed the riches were not as great as thought, and income had been well managed for its intended use. (*Historia General de Guatemala*)

The townspeople were devastated when, on a July morning in 1767, the dozen or so monks were ushered by armed guards to the coast, where they boarded a boat and sailed away, never to return. Their abandoned monastery, church and school were hit again by earthquake in 1773, remaining walls but echoes of past splendor.

**A**mong the echoes is one of Santiago’s finest, Rafael Landívar, born in 1731. He had entered the Jesuit order in 1750 in Mexico and returned to Guatemala to teach where he had learned as a boy, in the Colegio de San Lucas and then as rector of Colegio de San Francisco de Borja. Landívar undoubtedly enjoyed one of the grand and spacious apartments within the monastery, which housed very few compared to the hundreds within the contemporary monasteries of the Franciscans, Dominicans and Mercedarians.

After sailing from port to port, being turned away by papal order, the Jesuits settled in Italy, where Landívar lived out his life. In his journey as a youth from Guatemala to Mexico and later on to California territory, on foot of course, he thrilled to nature’s beauty and ...continued on page 72

# Water Rights

*Local organization develops a solution to the age-old challenge of providing clean drinking water.*



by Christine Keilhauer photos by Darcie Beyer

Up the dusty hills of San Felipe, just five minutes outside of La Antigua Guatemala, Silvia González has running water in her home, but often, she says, “it is thick and dirty.” From drinking it, her children would suffer from frequent stomach problems. But today, you won’t find her little Janet getting severe diarrhea anymore. Unlike the 1.3 million young children around the world who die from contaminated water each year,<sup>1</sup> the González children now have access to clean drinking water, thanks to the Ecofiltro, a clay-based filter produced in La Antigua.

The Ecofiltro is the brainchild of Dr.

Fernando Mazariegos, a Guatemalan chemist who was given the challenge of finding a way to purify water in an effective, ecological and affordable manner. After 800 prototypes, he developed a gravity-based ceramic filter made from clay and sawdust and coated with colloidal silver, a natural anti-bacterial. With its controlled pore size, the Ecofiltro allows water to pass but traps bacteria, parasitic cysts, fecal residues, smell and color.

The Ecofiltro is not only effective but simple to use. The user has only to pour water into the container, and the water filters at a rate of one to two liters ...continued on page 96



Local family uses the Ecofiltro in their home for potable water



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# REVUE

# DATEBOOK

JUNE Guide to culture & upcoming events

Compiled by Elizabeth Bell & Mercedes Mejicanos


**Mon., 2nd through Sat., 7th-9am-4pm**—**COURSE:** *Basic Backstrap-Loom Weaving* with expert weaver Ramona Pérez; \$120 includes \$50 lab fee and a manual. Indigo Artes Textiles (7888-7487) inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

**Tues., 3rd-5:30pm**—(English) **LECTURE:** *Niños Autistas* (Autistic Children), in collaboration with Escuela Pablito Ruiz, about a new organization formed to help these children, and their parents, who rarely receive special attention. Q25 benefits this project. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**Wed., 4th through Sat., July 12th**—*Otro Reino* by Mónica Torrebiarte. Carlos Woods, Arte Antiguo y Contemporáneo (tel. 2366-6883) 10 av. 5-49, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**Thurs., 5th-5:15pm**—(English) **PANAJACHEL LECTURE SERIES:** *Sustainable Development and the Earth Charter* by Valentina Ricca. Adults, Q20; students, Q5. Solomon's Porch, Centro Comercial El Dorado, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

 Just tell 'em: "Lo vi en la revista Revue"

**Fri., 6th-5:30-7:30pm**—(English) **MEETING:** *Democrats Abroad Guatemala—Unity and Harmony Reception* (cash bar) meets to *Unite for Victory in November*. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

**Fri., 6th-8pm**—(Spanish) **THEATER:** *Flor de Ampompo: son jarocho tradicional* with music from southern Veracruz, Mexico. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sat., 7th-7pm**—**ART:** *Tauromaquia: el camino del torero* with paintings by Rolando López Tróchez (Honduras). Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



**Sat., 7th-10am**—**ART:** A reception to inaugurate *Mitades* featuring work by Rosamaría Pascual de Gámez. El Attico, galería de arte y centro de documentación (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, **Guatemala City**.



**Sat., 7th-7:30pm**—**MUSIC:** *La Casa de Kello* in concert playing a mixture of latino, salsa, blues and pop. Join the fun and dance the night away! Free. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**Sun., 8th-6:30pm**—**SUNDAY ART FLICKS:** *The Impressionists: The Other French Revolution*, Vol. I. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**Mon., 9th through Sat., 14th-9am-4pm**—WORKSHOP: *Color Magic*, natural dye workshop for cotton and vegetable fibers by expert dye artist Olga Reiche. \$120 incls. \$50 lab fee and a manual. Indigo Artes Textiles (7888-7487) inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

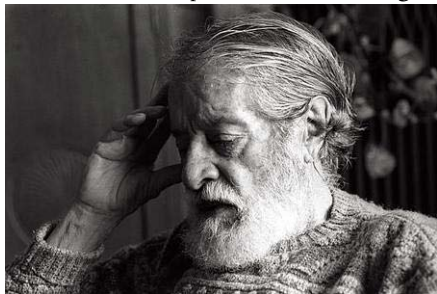
**Tues., 10th-5:30pm**—(English) LECTURE: *Casasito*, the on-site history of an ex-combatant from the civil war in Guatemala. Join us and learn more about Alberto 'Tino' Ramírez's experiences as a guerrilla and the development of Mujb'ab'l Yol, an association of community radio stations. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**Wed., 11th-5pm**

—ART: *Axis Mundi*, guache on Mexican bark paper by artist Annie López. Free. Galería Panza Verde (7832-2925) 5a av. Sur #19, **La Antigua**.



**Thurs., 12th-6pm**—(Spanish) FILM: *Vida y obra de Mario Monteforte Toledo*, directed by Alejo Crisóstomo, Guatemala. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



**Thurs., 12th-5:15pm**—(English) PANAJACHEL LECTURE SERIES: *Modern Latin America: The origins and evolution of a 'dysfunctional society'* by Sid Eschenbach. Adults, Q20; students, Q5. Solomon's Porch, Centro Comercial El Dorado, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

**Fri., 13th-8pm**—(Spanish) THEATER: *Sabores* with classical and contemporary Spanish music and a touch of Arabic music, presented by Sara Diéguez (song & dance), Renata Valdez de Laparra (Danza Arabe Shalim), Estuardo Monterroso (guitar & director) and Fernando Puac (percussion). Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sat., 14th-7pm**—MUSIC: Latin jazz with a performance by Fernando Pérez and his band. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.



**Sun., 15th-6:30pm**—SUNDAY ART FLICKS: *The Impressionists: The Other French Revolution*, Vol. II. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**Mon., 16th through Sat., 21st-9am-5pm**—WORKSHOP: Weavers design journey, basic and intermediate foot-loom weaving course with expert in weaving and design Maddalena Foncella (Italy). \$200 includes \$50 lab fee and manual. Indigo Artes Textiles (7888-7487) inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

**Mon., 16th-5pm**—MAYAN CULTURE: Come and learn about the Mayan culture while viewing an authentic ceremony. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

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



DateBook online: [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com)

**Tues., 17th, 9am-1pm**—RUMMAGE SALE: Union Church (tel: 2361-2037) 12 calle 7-37, z. 9, Plazuela España, **Guatemala City**.

**Tues., 17th-5pm**—(English)—LECTURE: *Weaving Women in Cotzal*, how traditional textiles adapted to a newer and fairer market brought change to Ixil women in Cotzal, Quiché. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.


**Wed., 18th-8pm**—MUSIC: Reggae concert by the German band Caramelo Criminal on tour throughout Latin America. Q50. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

**Thurs., 19th-5:15pm**—(English) PANAJACHEL LECTURE SERIES: *Adventure Tourism in Guatemala* by Victor Ferrell. Adults, Q20; students, Q5. Solomon's Porch, Centro Comercial El Dorado, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

**Thurs., 19th-6pm**—(Spanish) FILM: *Augusto Monterroso en su jardín*, directed by Claudio Isaac, Mexico. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sat., 21st-7pm**—PHOTOGRAPHY: Photos from the Club Fotográfico's yearly contest, co-sponsored by Club Fotográfico de Guatemala. Free. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**. ▼



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**Fri., 20th-8pm**—(Spanish) THEATER: *La Herencia de McCritch* by Francisco Gutiérrez Carbajo & *La celosa Concepción* by Guillermo Monsanto. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sat., 21st-11am**—(Spanish) FILM: *Fresa y chocolate*, produced in Cuba, Mexico and Spain. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino (tel. 7832-0231) 1a av. norte #23, **La Antigua**.

**Sun., 22nd-6:30pm**—SUNDAY ART FLICKS: *The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci*. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**Mon., 23rd through Sat. 28th-9am-4pm**—WORKSHOP: *Tradition and Revival*, basic backstrap-loom weaving with expert weaver Ramona Pérez. \$120, includes \$50.00 lab fee and manual. Indigo Artes Textiles (7888-7487) inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

**Tues., 24th-5:30pm**—(English) LECTURE: *Teach a Man to Feed a Fish: Economic development in Guatemala* with As Green As It Gets, a non-profit organization supporting coffee farmers, artisans and other small producers from disadvantaged communities in Guatemala. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. Sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**Wed., 25th**—SCHOOL HOLIDAY: Teacher's Day is celebrated with most schools on holiday. Guatemalan schools, which began the school year in mid-January have a full week off for a mid-year break.

**Thurs., 26th-5:15pm**—(Spanish) PANAJACHEL LECTURE SERIES: *Medicina tradicional maya* with Miguel Tumas/Tradiciones Mayas. Adults, Q20; students, Q5. Solomon's Porch, Centro Comercial El Dorado, **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.

**Fri., 27th-8pm**—MUSIC: El Sitio Joven presents *Arias de ópera* in two acts with music by Mozart, Recini, Beethoven with performances by María José González (soprano & cello), Ricardo Aguilar (tenor & violin) and Oscar René Díaz (piano). Q30. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sat., 28th-7pm**—MUSIC: Duo Guatemala presents *Sonata No. 1* with violin and piano performed by Alma Rosa Gaytán and Nestor Arévalo. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua**.

**Sun., 29th-6:30pm**—SUNDAY ART FLICKS: *Who Gets to Call it Art?* Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

**Mon., 30th**—NATIONAL HOLIDAY: *Army Day* commemorates not only the founding of Guatemala's army but also many other historical events that took place in 1881. Banks and many businesses are closed; also note **Tues., July 1st** is *Bank Day* and many banks are closed, making a long weekend.

**July, Tues., 1st-5:30pm**—(English) LECTURE: *Los Patojos—Forming Leaders for Guatemala* with its director Juan Pablo Romero who will talk about the problems that affect young people in Sacatepéquez and how this NGO is helping to deal with and prevent these problems. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. Sur #8, **La Antigua**.

### THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Through Sun., 15th**—PHOTOGRAPHY: *Los límites de la belleza, la grandeza de los pequeños detalles* by Guatemalan artist Edgar Monzón exhibiting 15 astonishing photos highlighting details of shapes and flowers in a large format. Kalea, Diagonal 6, 14-43, z. 10, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**Through Sun., 29th**—ART: Sixty years of work by Rodolfo Abularach, sponsored by Mosaico Cultural. Sala Marco Augusto Quiroa/ Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, 3a calle oriente #28, **La Antigua**.

### THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Daily, 9am-2pm**—COURSE: offering a basic one-day course on backstrap-loom weaving with expert weaver. \$85, includes \$50.00 lab fee and manual. Indigo Artes Textiles (7888-7487) inside Finca la Azotea, **Jocotenango**.

ART: Permanent exhibit & sale of Guatemalan paintings including *Mujeres por la paz* by José Coutiño. Galería de arte Coutiño Cofiño, 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, **La Antigua**.

### VOTE

[www.natural7wonders.com](http://www.natural7wonders.com)

Dear Revue Editors:

Guatemala missed its chance to have Tikal named as one of the *New 7 Wonders of the World* last July. The winning destinations were picked by a worldwide audience in an internet-based contest. ... Chichén Itzá was chosen. A portion of the prize included money set aside for conservation.

This year a new contest is being sponsored by the same organization. Its aim is to find the *7 Natural Wonders of the World*. Lake Atitlán is on the list. I would like your magazine to invite its readers to vote for Atitlán. It is currently listed as 17 out of hundreds of other destinations. If we make an effort to vote, I believe that we can help Guatemala's tourism industry by promoting something positive in the world news about our wonderful lake.

Kind regards,  
Roberto Paiz



(HARRIS & GODLER/VIAVENTURE.COM)

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

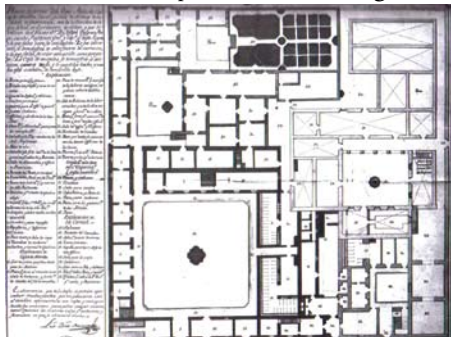
**Mondays, 7pm**—DHARMA FLICKS: **2nd**—*Peace Is Every Step*, Thich Nhat Hanh; **9th**—*The Cup*; **16th**—*Darshan: The Embrace*; **23rd**—*Art Mind: The healing power of sacred art*. Free. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



**Wednesdays, 7:30pm**—MUSIC: *Open Mike Night* hosted by Juan-Jo and friends. A complimentary drink for performers. Free. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. Sur #8, **La Antigua**.



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

**Fridays & Saturdays-8pm**—(Spanish) THEATER: *Defendiendo al Cavernícola*, a comedy that honors and celebrates the differences between men and women. Q100. Teatro Dick Smith, IGA (tel: 2400-5566) Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**.

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

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

**Sundays, 8th, 15th & 22nd-5pm**—DANCE: On stage, the Ballet Folklórico Guatemala Identidad with a performance of folkloric dances. Q50/Q25 students with carnet. Teatro Dick Smith, IGA (tel: 2400-5566) Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**.



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*There's no explaining human behavior:  
some people applaud at the movies,  
others nod at the telephone.*

*I fell asleep reading a dull book and  
dreamed I kept on reading, so I awoke  
from sheer boredom. —Heine*

*Success in marriage is much more than  
finding the right person; it is a  
matter of being the right person.*

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*When little boys grow up, they change their minds and think that teachers ought to be paid enough to live on.*

*Don't discuss yourself, for you are bound to lose: if you belittle yourself, you are believed; if you praise yourself, you are disbelieved. —Montaigne*

*There are two ways of disliking poetry: one way is to dislike it, the other is to read Pope. —Oscar Wilde*

*One can't judge Wagner's opera Lohengrin after a first hearing and I certainly don't intend hearing it a second time. —Rossini*  
*Good resolutions are simply checks that men draw on a bank where they have no account. —Oscar Wilde*



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*Golfer: "You've got to be the worst caddy in the world."*  
*Caddy: "I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence."*

*When they discover the center of the universe, a lot of people will be disappointed to discover they are not it. —Bernard Bailey*

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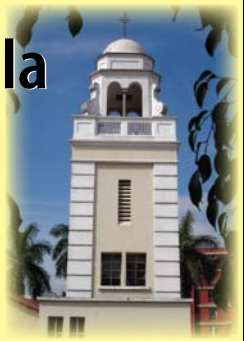
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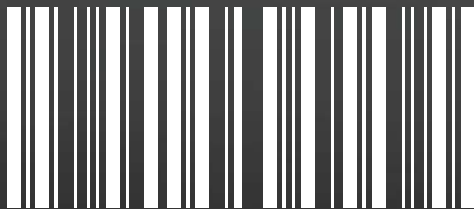


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# Raúl Figueroa Sarti

**R**aúl Figueroa Sarti nació en San Bernardino Suchitepéquez hace 52 años. Es maestro de educación primaria y cursó tres años de agronomía. La situación política de Guatemala en los años ochenta lo obligó a trasladarse a Costa Rica, país en donde comenzó una profesión que hoy lo reconoce como fundador de F&G, una de las editoriales más importantes de Guatemala, y como presidente de la Gremial de Editores de Guatemala y de la organización de la quinta Feria Internacional del Libro en Guatemala (FILGUA).

**Raúl, en 1993 fundaste F&G editores, negocio que se antoja de corta durabilidad en países como el nuestro. ¿Fue un legado de tu familia el mundo de los libros?**

No. De niño en mi casa no había libros. Cuando estaba en segundo de primaria llegué

al pueblo un vendedor de libros de matemáticas, mi profesor de primer año lo mandó a mi casa y sufrí cuando mi mamá no le compró nada. Pero lo curioso es que aunque no había libros en casa, había un cuaderno en donde mi mamá escribía los poemas que le gustaban y los leíamos; mi hermano mayor era aficionado a las historietas mexicanas y estas también eran parte de mis lecturas infantiles. Sin embargo, creo que mi ejemplo a seguir fue un primo que cuando yo tenía seis años, él ya era maestro. Lo acompañé algunas veces a su clase en un pueblo cerca del mío, en una bicicleta y sobre un camino largo de tierra; más tarde estudió pedagogía, daba clases de inglés y era árbitro de fútbol. En su casa había una gran biblioteca en donde leí a muchos de los clásicos, y fue a partir de entonces que me aficioné no sólo a la lectura, sino al peor vicio que tengo: comprar libros. ...Continúa en la página 44

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*Courage and perseverance have a magical talisman, before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish into air.*

—John Quincy Adams

*There is only one thing people like that is good for them: a good night's sleep. —Ed Howe*

*A good sermon helps people in different ways: some rise from it strengthened, others wake from it refreshed.*

*When I see something that makes absolutely no sense whatever, I figure there must be a damn good reason for it. —Peter De Vries*

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**Raúl Figueroa Sarti** viene de la página 36

**¿Has tenido la intención de escribir?**

Yo creo que todos queremos escribir. Cuando tenía 14 años escribí una novela que no sé qué se hizo, cuando tenía 17 escribía poemas... pues sí, a veces me dan ganas de escribir, pero sé que tendría que trabajar mucho para hacerlo bien, y la verdad es que cuando leo material de gente que lo sabe hacer, entonces lo pienso mucho.

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Van muy bien, estamos trabajando en ella desde julio de 2007. Algo relevante para nosotros es que por primera vez vamos a contar con el apoyo del gobierno ...Continúa en la página 102

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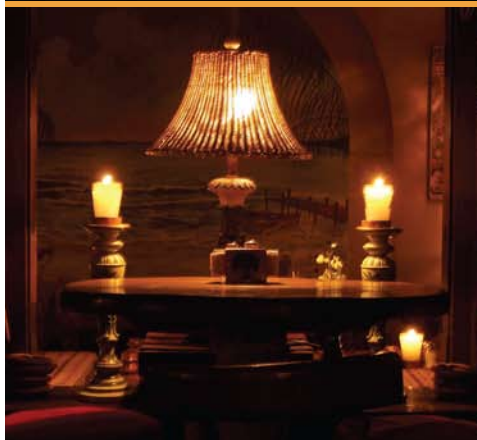
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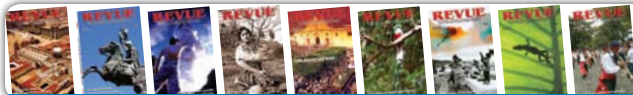
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# The Zen of (Not) Knowing

by Dwight Wayne Coop  
maddogwriter@yahoo.com.sg



Saying “know” is one of those things you start studying in Spanish 101, and then go through the rest of your life never quite mastering. If you took 101 when you were 28 (like I did), then you might hope to be wrong no more than once every hundred tries.

The two principal verbs are *saber* and *conocer*; and you soon make the unfortunate discovery that *saber* is one of the six most irregular verbs in the language. Its *yo* form (present tense) is *sé*, as in “say what?” This form is also scary for its resemblance to that most troubling word, *se*.

We would expect the form to be “sabo,” and indeed there are highland folk in Me-soamerica and the Andes who say this, including my own sister-in-law. But if you are still saying *sabo* in Spanish 102, then you’d best not major in languages (oh, and *conocer* is a little weird, too). Another *saber* difficulty is that in one past tense (imperfect), it means “knew,” but in another (preterite), it means “found out.” *Yo no lo sabía sobre Pepe y Amy, pero leugo lo supe*.

But generally, *saber* is about knowledge, and *conocer* about familiarity. If you “know” Joey—in both senses: (a) acquaintance and (b) awareness of his attitudes, tastes, or his next move (“If I know Joey”)—then you say *conozco a Pepe*. To see if someone knows

Dostoevsky’s novels, you’d ask *¿Conoces a Dostoevsky?* I worry about the people in my hometown, Panajachel, who *conocen a Elvis*.

In the African wilds, it helps to know Swahili. So if your tour bus breaks down and you see famished lions on one side and spear-toting Masai warriors on the other, how do you ask the Spanish tour guide, Do you know Swahili? *¿Sabes suajili?* If you ask, “¿conoces suajili?” this might be understood as, “have you heard of suajili?” (the answer would have to be yes, since it’s the official language of much of Africa).

To know carnally (“biblically”) is *conocer*; but keep in mind that this is a euphemism replacing an older euphemism (“to enter in unto her tent”) for coitus. To know how (to do something) is simply *saber*, not “*saber como*.” *¿Sabes preparar las albóndigas?* (Do you know how to make meatballs?)

There are times when we must choose *saber* or *conocer* where we’d not even say “know” in English. For instance, “have you been to Duluth” is not “¿has estado a Duluth?” but *¿conoces Duluth?* We even use *conocer* where in English we’d use *meet*, if the meeting is first-time. My friend, author Bonnie Dilger, almost met Castro on her trip to Cuba. So I asked her, *¿conociste a Fidel?* The expression, “Good question!” (or “God only knows!”) uses ...continued on page 94

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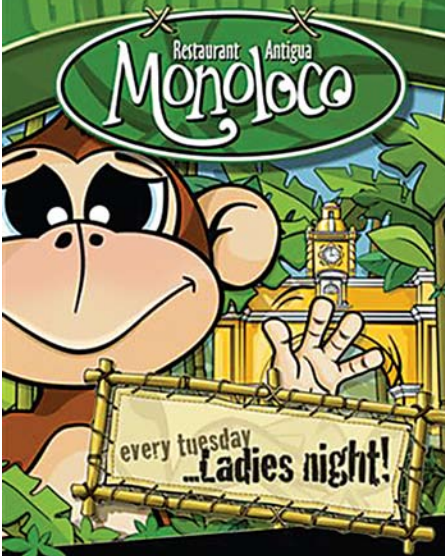


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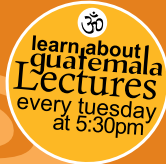
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## Compañía de Jesús cont. from page 14

the colorful, creative virtues of Guatemala's native people. In exile he expressed his nostalgia in poetry. His 5,300-verse *Rusticatio Mexicana*, written in Latin and as scientific as poetic, took the name of Guatemala "through all the literary centers of the very learned Italy of the 18th century and other European nations," wrote José Mata Gavidia (*Landívar, El Poeta de Guatemala*, 1967).

Efforts of University of San Carlos students in 1949 succeeded in the repatriation of Landívar from Italy and putting his remains to rest in a monument on Alameda Santa Lucía, adjacent to the house of his birth. His words in bronze counsel "to discover the secrets of nature." In 1961 the University Rafael Landívar was founded.

During the near-two-century rise and fall of the Jesuits in Santiago de los Caballeros, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel were making music, and Rembrandt painted. The world welcomed Mozart and Ben Franklin. Catherine the Great took the throne in Russia, and John Newton wrote *Amazing Grace*. ❀



**ABOVE: Inside monument honoring Rafael Landívar**  
**RIGHT: Rafael Landívar, Jesuit and poet of Guatemala**



**BELOW: Remains of Rafael Landívar rest in the monument built in 1950**



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# The Power of Commitment

by Dr. Karmen Guevara  
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Our lives are full of commitments. We all make commitments to have or to do certain things—to purchase a house, a new car, take a yearly holiday, find more fulfilling employment, graduate from college, marry, become a parent. All of us, at some point in our lives, have wanted something and made it happen.

The results you get in your life are due to your commitments. Just look at the life you've created. That is the power of commitment—it has given you all the things that you now have. If you don't like what you see, it's probably because you didn't consciously choose many of the things that are there.

It can be a real revelation to realize that you have unconsciously been committed to many things you really would rather not have in your life! It's worth contemplating where these commitments originated. Which ones are truly your own and which are those of other people, perhaps a parent or a spouse? How many come from deeply rooted beliefs? For example, a core belief such as "I don't deserve happiness" can become an unconscious commitment to unhappiness.

All commitments are treated equally and are manifested in our lives with the same force!

As Thich Nhat Hanh says, "There are thousands of channels in our consciousness; it's up to us to choose the channel." Therefore, free yourself to make your own conscious commitments. Instead of focusing only on external ones, remember to include those that we often overlook, like creating conscious loving relationships, increasing waves of awareness and to express gratitude for the abundance that surrounds us.

Devotion to our commitments requires uniting our bodies, our hearts and our spirits. This is what true conscious commitments are about. Deng Ming-Dao said, "Our path becomes like a crooked one made straight." So let the light of your devotion shine softly through your commitments! 

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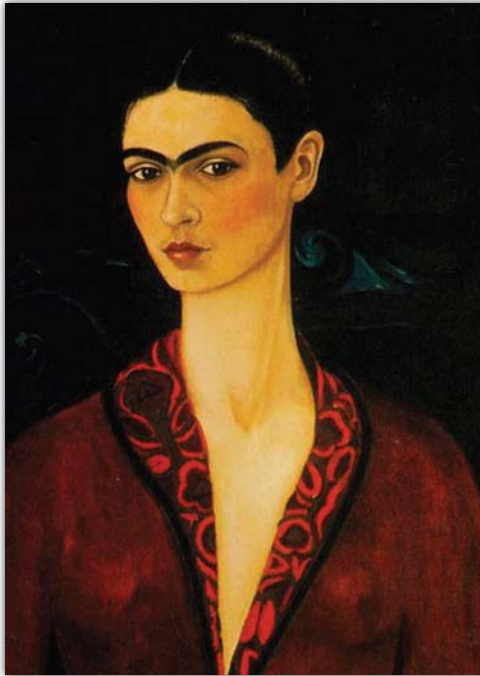
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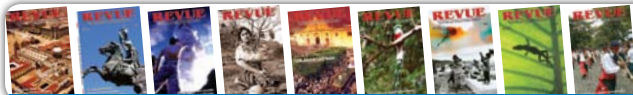
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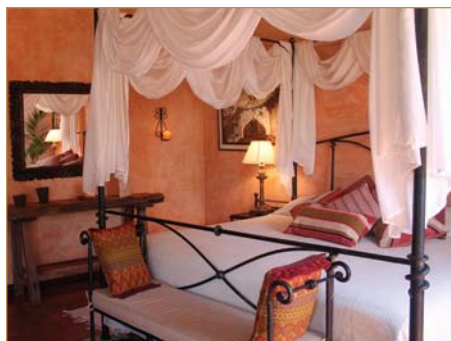
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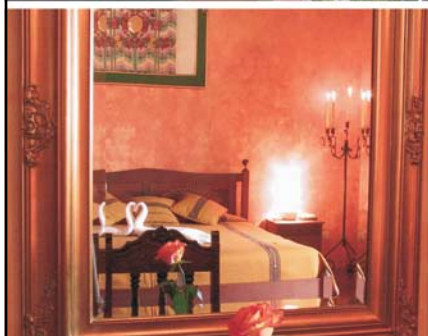
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## The Zen of... cont. from page 52

the other verb in *a saber*. Will my publishers keep me on if this column does not improve? *¡A saber!*

Now if you reverse this phrase, you get the zenny *saber a*, the way to say “to taste like.” This *saber* is effectively another verb, even though both hail from the Latin *sapere*, which had two meanings. They were—no surprise—1. to be wise or knowing; 2. to taste of. The French phrase *savoir-faire* recalls the former, and the English verb *savor* recalls the second. This is helpful to us students: *No me gusta visitar a Pepe. Su tequila sabe a almibar para la tos* (I don’t like visiting Pepe; his tequila savors of/tastes like cough syrup).

So what about *not* knowing? For that there’s the zenny verb *ignorar*. Zenny, because it’s that rare false cognate that not only differs in meaning, but is potentially opposite. Whereas *ignorar* means simply “to not know,” to ignore means “to know, but do nothing.” And, since it is about knowledge or wisdom (instead of familiarity), it is more the antonym of *saber* than of *conocer*. In first person, *no saber* seems preferred to *ignorar*, and *ignorar* seems preferred for third person. *No supimos del eclipse, y ellos también lo ignoraraban*. The adjective *ignorante* also exists. Among sociologists, this can still mean “out of the know,” but in marriage spats it can carry the negativity of our “ignorant.” And for the opposite of *conocer*, there is *desconocer*.

Reader, *espero que ahora sepas más.* ☪

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## Water Rights cont. from page 15

per hour. The water also remains refreshingly cool due to the clay.

Dr. Mazariegos' unique invention has won several prizes, including the coveted World Bank Marketplace Award for Sustainable Technology in 2003 and 2004. Utilizing Dr. Mazariegos' invention, small factories have sprung up in more than 14 countries, including Cuba and Iraq.

In 1994, the Family of the Americas Foundation (FAF), an educational NGO in Guatemala, discovered the Ecofiltro after finding that other strategies like chlorination and boiling were largely ineffective due



**Inventor of the Ecofiltro Dr. Mazariegos (left) has won several awards for his sustainable technology.**

to their low acceptance by users. As Philip Wilson, director of Ecofiltro, commented, "We found that all the work we did in health and nutrition had little value if the families we helped kept getting sick from contaminated water; we had to address that first."

Today, FAF produces over 2,000 filters a month at its La Antigua plant. Before delivery, each filter is thoroughly tested. "Each filter undergoes testing for filtration, but most importantly each month we send filters to the National Health Laboratory in Guatemala City," Wilson explained. "There, they make a cocktail of e-coli and other pathogens to test the water quality using international standards."

When the filter is delivered, recipients receive training on how to care for it as well as a comprehensive program on hygiene, child and pregnancy nutrition, the use of medicinal herbs and oral rehydration. A large study conducted by the University de Valle and MIT ...continued on page 107



**ABOVE: A class on nutrition and the use of the Ecofiltro**

**BELOW: Women return home with their filters (Lake Atitlán)**






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*There's nothing wrong with having nothing  
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**To Register or Not** cont. from page 113

advantage of anonymity, but if and when the property is sold, the sale can be accomplished by a sale of the shares in the company instead of the property itself, and there is no tax on share transfers. With the new Anti-Evasion Law this area is thorny, and it is best to consult an attorney.

**Why a Separate Corporation?**

Everything in this series of articles on real estate points to the advisability of owning property in Guatemala through a corporation. Anonymity, tax relief on sale, "nationalization," or naturalization of foreign-owned property in areas restricted to Guatemalan ownership, and finally cost point not only to a corporate ownership structure but to ownership by a foreign corporation. A Guatemalan corporation must make monthly tax filings, even if there is no activity. This is a lucrative business for the mostly high school-trained corps of accounting *peritos*, but is a nuisance that may cost a foreigner up to \$100 a month. Foreign corporations are exempt from monthly filing, and a Bahamian, Caribbean or Panamanian corporation not only costs less to establish than a Guatemalan equivalent, but can be considerably cheaper and less hassle to maintain on an annual basis.

So the answer to "Register or not to register?" is, "Yes, definitely, but preferably through a foreign domiciled corporation." 

*This article has been prepared with the assistance of Alex Baldizon, a U.S.-educated Guatemalan attorney who is bilingual, specializes in practicing contract law and teaches at the law school of the Francisco Marroquín University, [abaldizon@ufm.edu.gt](mailto:abaldizon@ufm.edu.gt)*

.....  
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 —Sydney Smith

*If nobody ever said anything unless he knew what he was talking about, what a ghastly hush would descend upon the Earth.* —A.P. Herbert

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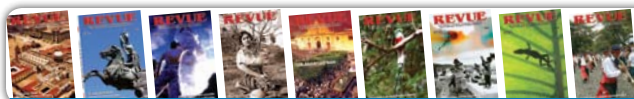
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### Raúl Figueroa Sarti viene de la página 44

para la Feria del libro. El día de la inauguración contaremos con la presencia del presidente y ministros de educación. Ya tenemos confirmada la presencia de Costa Rica y Nicaragua, y estamos terminando de negociar la presencia de El Salvador y Honduras. Queremos darle dos virajes importantes, hasta ahora la Feria ha sido cada dos años y queremos hacerla anual. Una razón es porque ha sido una inquietud de la misma gente que ha asistido a ediciones pasadas, y otra, es porque a los expositores les ha ido muy bien. En Guatemala se están publicando más de mil libros al año y la Feria permite presentar suficientes novedades. El otro viraje es que esta Feria se convierta en regional. Nos interesa que el libro centroamericano salga de las fronteras de cada país, queremos crear un mercado del libro centroamericano que nos permita conocernos y acercarnos más y queremos atraer a compradores internacionales. Se trata de convertir a la Feria de Guatemala en un referente mundial de libros de Centroamérica.

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Regional Centroamericana, habrá grandes eventos como el *Encuentro de escritores centroamericanos* y la *Conferencia internacional sobre literatura centroamericana contemporánea*. Contaremos con la participación de los escritores Sergio Ramírez Mercado (Nicaragua), Horacio Castellanos Moya y Jacinta Escudos, entre otros (El Salvador), Enrique Jaramillo Levi (Panamá), Roberto Quesada (Honduras), Ana Cristina Rossi y Tatiana Lobo (Costa Rica), Carlos Monsiváis, quien estará a cargo de la conferencia inaugural y Heraclio Zepeda (México). Y la invitación está abierta a todos los escritores de Guatemala.

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turistas y nacionales que quieren encontrar libros sobre Guatemala y Centroamérica. Es un evento para ir a conocer gente y cosas nuevas, para encontrar libros que jamás se encuentran en una librería. Y como es época de bono 14, los invito a invertir en un objeto que no pasa de moda, que puede servirle a toda la familia y que es un regalo único. Los

libros que se expondrán serán en castellano e idiomas mayas y todos estarán a precios de descuento. Además, y por qué no, es una oportunidad para adelantar los regalos de navidad. Tenemos trazada una meta de 50 mil visitantes, pero confío en que la rebasaremos. ☘

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

**Question:** My mother has a 14-year-old German shepherd named Max who has taken to pacing the floor in her bedroom at night. He has slept in her room most of his life, and she loves him dearly and wants him in her room. The problem is that with his constant night pacing, he is keeping her awake, and she is worried that something might be wrong with him. We have taken him to our veterinarian, and there is nothing physically wrong with him other than the normal bodily changes one would expect with an older dog. What do you advise?

**Answer:** Behavioral changes in an older dog can be signs of a medical condition known as cognitive dysfunction syndrome, thought to be caused by physical and chemical changes in the brain. As the syndrome advances, dogs may show signs that are similar to senility in humans. This can include changes in the sleep-wake cycle, activity levels and interaction with family members. Dogs may

also become disoriented, agitated, start to urinate or defecate in the house, or have impaired learning and memory.

As the pet ages and cognitive dysfunction becomes more severe, dogs can actually experience an increase of activity resulting in aimless wandering and pacing, especially at night. Studies have reported that 75 percent of dogs 7 years and older have at least one sign associated with cognitive dysfunction.

The best thing to do is to talk with your veterinarian to rule out any other medical condition and start by supplementing your dog's diet with antioxidants and essential fatty acids either through an improved senior diet or through supplementing the existing diet. When necessary, there are prescription drugs available. Although genes play a role in determining which dogs will eventually develop cognitive dysfunction, you can keep your pet's brain active and healthy by providing a good diet and environmental enrichment activities, such as food puzzles and other games.



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

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**Water Rights** cont. from page 96

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For more information contact Maribel Ixajoc, tel: 7934-6208 or visit [www.ecofiltro.org](http://www.ecofiltro.org)

<sup>1</sup>Ref: 1-“People and the Planet” UN World Water Development Report, 2003

<sup>2</sup>Ref: 2-“Contra la Morbilidad infantil: Filtros Artesanales y Educación” Estudios Sociales. Revista No. 53. IV Temporada. Universidad Rafael Landívar. Guatemala, 1993-94.

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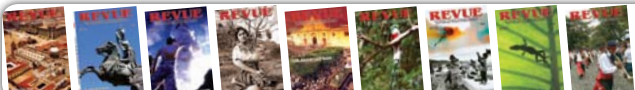
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# To Register or not to Register?

## *That is the question*

### *The pros and cons and options of property registration*

by Carlisle Johnson

**W**illiam Shakespeare may never have been confronted with that question, but if you are a property owner in Guatemala you certainly are. The answer is a resounding “Yes! ... But!”

There are basically two levels of property registration, the General Property Registry (Registro General de la Propiedad) and the Municipal Cadastral or Catastral Municipal (Catastro Municipal). A municipal cadastral, which is essentially a land survey, may not exist, especially in the smallest of Guatemala’s 330+ municipalities, with the function delegated to a hopefully nearby larger municipal center. The General Property Registry is chiefly concerned with ownership information such as mortgages, easements, usufruct grants etc. The cadastral is chiefly concerned with location and valuation for local tax assessment.

There is a third registry, called OCRET (Oficina de Control de Reservas Territoriales del Estado), which is a separate entity dealing with registry (and taxation) of waterfront and other properties with state restrictions on ownership, access or development. OCRET is currently engaged in an aggressive enrollment campaign.

A property owner cannot be compelled to register a property on the General Registry, but there are compelling reasons to do so. Registry is required if the property is to be used as collateral for a mortgage or other loan, and registry may turn out to be

a crucial deciding factor should an ownership dispute arise. Municipal “registry” is mostly used for real estate tax assessment and is not binding legally in the event of a property dispute.

In existence since 1871, the General Property Registry still has only two offices, one in the capital and one in Quetzaltenango. Initial property registration is a relatively simple process, with proof of title, usually in the form of an *escritura pública* (a notarized purchase and sale agreement) as the primary document. There is only a modest cost for registration, usually at a rate of Q 100 plus Q1.5 per thousand on the value of the contract. For example if you sell a property for Q100,000 the registration fee would be about Q250. Or if you put a mortgage on it for Q50,000, it would cost about Q175. This is the general rule, although there are operations that cost less. For example, once you pay the mortgage and you want to cancel it, it would cost about a quarter of the original fee.

Since the General Registry has historically been, and continues to be a vehicle for chicanery—albeit at a lower level of activity than in prior years—if you entrust your property to a third party to effect the registry that party must be of your utmost confidence. The initially registered value (if applicable; see below) will constitute the tax basis for the application of VAT at a current rate of 12 percent if the property

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*Registry is required if the property is to be used as collateral, and may turn out to be a crucial deciding factor should an ownership dispute arise.*

subsequently changes hands. The cadastral registration is a relatively simple document basically concerned with boundary description. As in places like New England, much older descriptions may make use of local landmarks for reference. (I have a property in New Hampshire that uses an 18th century stone wall, still standing, as a reference). GPS is not used at present, although more modern initial and updated measurements use azimuths.

There are other pertinent issues in registering, many of which doubly apply to foreign owners of property. Chief among these is anonymity. Do you really want casual researchers to know your name and the name of property(ies) you own? If the answer is "probably not," then it is advisable to convey the property to a corporation and register it in the name of the corporation. This not only has the ...continued on page 98

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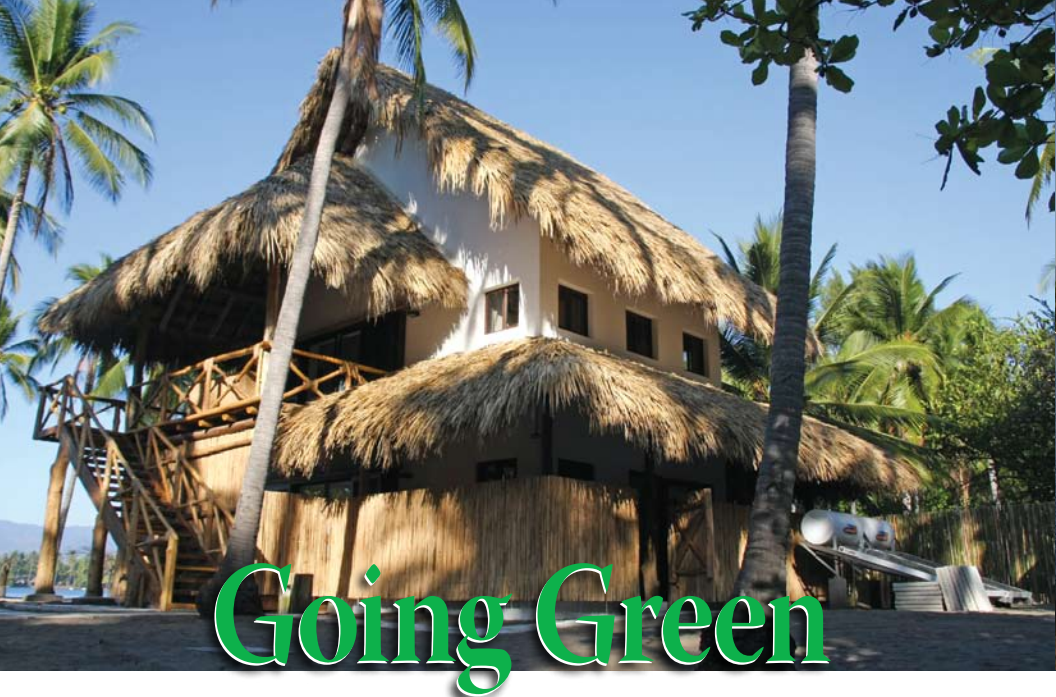
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# Going Green

*Prime Eco-Tourism project opens in El Salvador at Barra de Santiago*

by Lena Johannessen

As the tourism infrastructure improves, El Salvador's emerging tourist industry continues to experience an increase in the growth of new hotels and restaurants. But rarely do we find a place that takes the extra steps to make the least possible impact on nature, while engaging the local community.

Barra de Santiago is a long peninsula covered with palm groves, separated from the mainland and mangrove forests by a beautiful estuary. From the banks of the estuary you see an impressive volcanic mountain range stretching from Volcan de Agua in Guatemala to the Izalco Volcano in the west. The lush mangroves are home to a wide range of birds, fish, shrimp and crab species.

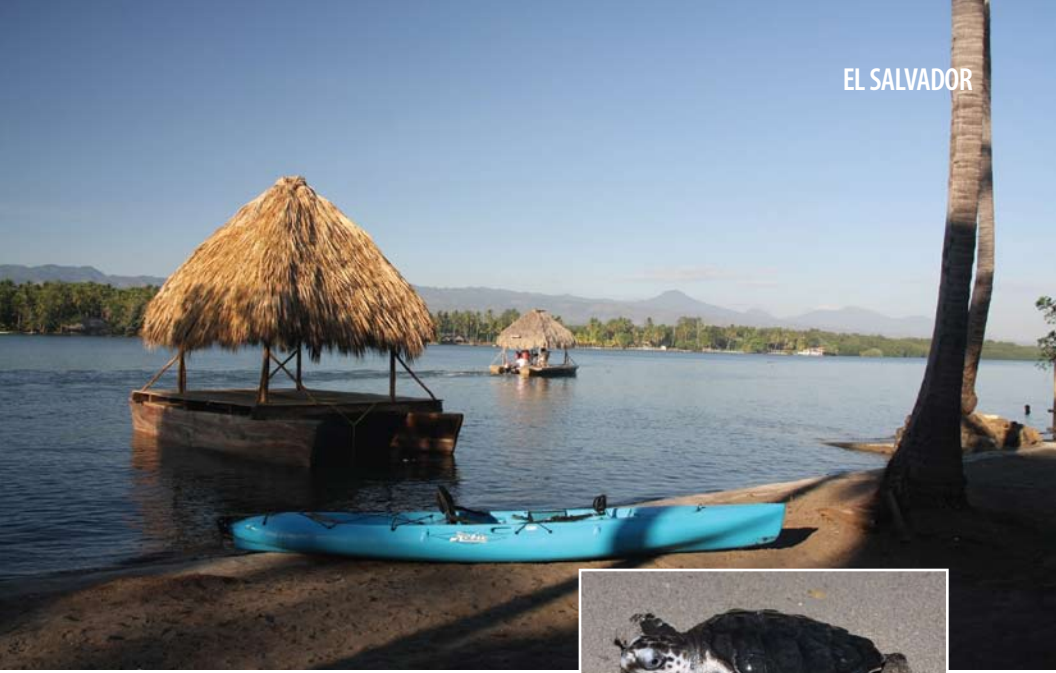
The area is also the scene of a new environmental conscience in tourism that should be a model for all establishments engaged in protecting natural resources. A stellar example is Joseph Schwab, who

came from the U.S. to recover from an often-lethal brain cancer at a friend's beach house at Barra de Santiago.

Mr. Schwab experienced a paradisiacal place at a crucial time in his life and decided to make a difference in this world. His goal was to create a recreational establishment that would have the least possible impact on nature and create projects to help make up for the destruction already caused by mankind.

He and his wife Cornelia, with the help of his Salvadoran friend, Daniel Gutfreund, created the La Cocotera resort, at the eastern side of the Barra de Santiago peninsula.

The hotel, which recently opened, has a pool that uses a special salt filter and does not contain any chlorine or other chemicals (the first one in El Salvador). The hotel has its very own state-of-the-art wastewater recycling system. The treated water is later reused to water plants on the property, and



**Eco cabins, the estuary and volcanoes, and one of the best turtle beaches enhance the La Cocotera Resort**



the organic waste is used as fertilizer. All soaps and shampoos provided to guests are natural and biodegradable; the resort uses solar panels to heat water.

Situated between the Pacific Ocean and the estuary, La Cocotera offers visitors a variety of water sports, including kayaking, water skiing, surfing and deep-sea fishing. The resort participates in the catch-and-release program of the Billfish Foundation, in which marlin (swordfish) get a microchip inserted before it is released back into the water. The microchip tracks travel patterns to study the species.

La Cocotera also supports the local community by buying kitchen supplies and local crafts, such as hammocks. Guest can get a tour of the local school and learn how to make tortillas the local way. (The fee is donated to the school.)

Barra de Santiago has one of the best turtle beaches in the country. La Cocotera safely releases thousands of Olive Ridley

turtles each year. Guests can participate in this wonderful event and set baby turtles free in the ocean.

La Barra de Santiago is also a haven for birds from all over the world. You can paddle a kayak into the estuary and spot birds from as far away as Antarctica.

Another ongoing project is the species reintroduction program. La Cocotera is the proud sponsor of El Salvador's official program to reintroduce the scarlet macaw into the country. Guests can learn all about this exciting program and meet people involved in the project.

The resort has only three bungalows and a maximum capacity of 18 persons, ensuring that the beach of Barra de Santiago is solitary and peaceful; a visit here is guaranteed to be a trip away from the crowds. 📍

*For more information contact Ricardo Umaña at (503) 2245-3691 or [operaciones.lacocotera@gmail.com](mailto:operaciones.lacocotera@gmail.com) or see [www.lacocoteraresort.com](http://www.lacocoteraresort.com)*



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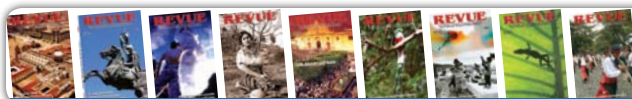
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Scarlet Macaw (PHOTO BY DR. ROBIN BJORK)

## Scarlet macaws reintroduction into El Salvador

*Scarlet macaws roamed Salvadoran territory up to the 1920s.*

Through the initiative and sponsorship of La Cocotera Resort, a feasibility study has begun to determine if it is possible to reintroduce the scarlet macaw into El Salvador.

Thanks to the resort's donation of \$50,000, this study in the El Imposible and Barra de Santiago ecological corridor is conducted by Dr. Robin Bjork, a North American specialist on macaw, parrot and quetzal living conditions and migratory patterns. Dr. Bjork, along with Dr. Oliver Komar from Salvanatura, are in charge of the project locally. A biologist and park ranger work full time tracking down trees and plants that this species needs for its survival. The feasibility study will take one to three years; if results are favorable, additional funding will allow for an expansion of the project. 📍

*For more information contact Oliver Komar at Salvanatura 2279-1515 or [okomar@salvanatura.org](mailto:okomar@salvanatura.org)*



Turtle release in Barra de Santiago

## Asociación Barra de Santiago creates new projects

In 2004 a group of neighbors in and around the villages of Barra de Santiago and Zapote (Ahuachapán) formed the Asociación Barra de Santiago, which has been promoting health, educational and environmental programs in these coastal communities.

Working with other community organizations as well as schools and health centers, the association has conducted a series of projects, including a cleanup campaign, recycling, school vegetable gardens, adult literacy and sea turtle protection. The group also promotes the production of hammocks, and arts and crafts.

Last year the association designed, financed and coordinated a project that was carried out by the local school in Zapote which won first prize in the school category in the National Prize for Environment by the Ministry of Environment in El Salvador. The hydroponic vegetable gardens of the El Zapote school produce tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers and more, with the vegetables being used for school lunches for over 300 children during the school year.



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The association's turtle farm project produced over 6,000 hatchlings by incubation last year. For \$60, you can sponsor a sea turtle nest that will be cared for by the association. When the eggs hatch you are invited to come and help release the turtles into the ocean. 🐢



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For more info on the Barra de Santiago Association contact Enriqueta Ramirez at (503) 2287-8018 or [enriqueta@yahoo.com](mailto:enriqueta@yahoo.com)

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# Santa Ana regains its “coffee king” title

After two years, Santa Ana rises again with the honor of having the best coffee in El Salvador. In late April, La Ilusión farm, owned by Juan José Ernesto Menéndez, won first place in the highly respected competition known as “Cup of Excellence® El Salvador 2008.” This competition selects the best coffees of one particular country each year, after several cuppings performed by a panel of national and international experts.

This year, 192 more farms registered to become the best coffee from El Salvador, but La Ilusión, located at 5,750 feet on the Santa Ana volcano slopes, won the crown. Santa Ana growers have won the crown four of six times the event has taken place;

Usulután won in 2006 and Chalatenango in 2007.

La Ilusión is a 3.5-hectare farm with the Bourbon coffee variety under a shade-tree canopy. This coffee received 92.67 points out of 100, with several cuppers giving it scores above 94 points.

Coming up on June 5, 35 more coffee lots from dozens of farms will be auctioned to importers and roasters around the world on an electronic platform. And who knows? This coffee might even be available in your country.



*More info on La Ilusión, the Cup of Excellence or Café de El Salvador is available at [www.elsalvadorcoee.com](http://www.elsalvadorcoee.com).*



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—Catherine Brighton

*The great thing about human language is that it  
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*If you watch a game, it's fun.  
If you play at it,  
it's recreation. If you  
work at it, it's golf.  
—Bob Hope*

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GUATEMALA

*He was like one of those men who are too shy to talk to strangers, but not too shy to hold up a bank. —Joseph Mitchell*

*Inside me lives a skinny woman crying to get out. But I can usually shut her up with cookies. —Amy Jeffries*



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