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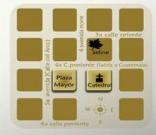
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Carrera de Charolas (page 15) by Leonel Mijangos/enantigua.com

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FROM THE PUBLISHERS

There is no doubt that people helping people is what makes the world a better place. A Smile Goes A Long Way by Malia Dewse highlights what a small voluntary project, driven by expertise and passion, can do to put smiles on so many faces.

This month's cover, the photo by Leonel Mijangos, features participants in the annual *Carrera de Charolas*. Organized by the Restaurants La Fonda de la Calle Real in La Antigua Guatemala, the race is now in it's seventh year.

The Saga Continues is an update by Joy Houston on the Convent La Concepción; she explains how researchers continue to uncover new colors, secrets and surprises.

Though many praise the merits of Guatemala's excellent cabinet makers, few would guess that these talented carpenters can also build boats. *Not Your Traditional Artesanía* tells how Ira Lewis recruited local craftsmen to build a classic wooden catboat.

November heralds an abundance of *Date-Book* events: music, art, dance, theater, workshops, lectures and films, highlights include the *Museo Ixchel's Christmas bazaar*, AGIT (Guatemalan Assoc. of Interpreters & Translators) weekend seminar, the *Carrera de Charolas*, and in celebration of Garífuna Settlement Day, is a concert in honor of Andy Palacio, an iconic Garífuna musician and cultural advocate. Plan ahead for December with performances of the *Messiah* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.

Dr. Karmen writes *Crossing Over* and how difference cultures relate to life and death. "In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes" (B. Franklin), so next up, Steve Pittser writes about *Wages vs Self-Employed* and what this means to the IRS and foreign nationals living and working abroad.

Cooking with Class, written by Dianne Caro-fino, takes us inside a delightful classroom where you can learn how to cook authentic and delicious Guatemalan meals.

Can ET call home from Guatemala? is a question pondered by Dwight W. Coop in his new column Lake Views. Find out what he thinks has changed most since his arrival in Guatemala 20 years ago ... "besides my hairline."

In international travel, we learn why we should visit *El Volcán de Salvador*.

Border Crossings: We say goodbye to Gene Inman and Bruce Barclay. This edition is dedicated to their memory. —*JBT*



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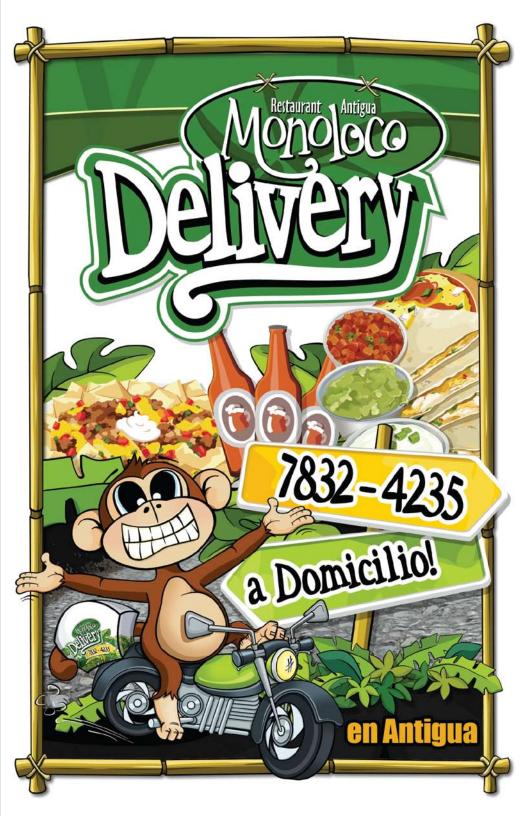
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Dental extraction aided by light from flashlight



"Open wide" for Dentist Bob

A Smile Goes A Long Way

The Emergency Dental Project is in its fourth year and going strong

By Malia Dewse photos: Nate Gerodias and Malia Dewse

The impact of small voluntary projects, driven by one or two people with a passion for what they are doing, cannot be underestimated. One such project has provided free written dental examinations, fluoride treatment and emergency extractions to over 1,000 schoolchildren in La Antigua and Jocotenango.

Dr. Bob Renner, professor emeritus at the School of Dental Medicine, University at Stony Brook in New York, had a long history of undertaking voluntary dental care when he started the Emergency Dental Project in La Antigua along with his wife Purobi Phillips four years ago. Through the encouragement and assistance of Gail Rogers, the proprietor of a local hotel, Bob and



Children waiting with examination forms

Purobi performed emergency dental care at a number of organization-run health clinics in La Antigua. That first year they treated approximately 600 children. As Purobi says with a smile, "There were very long days with very short lunches."

Today the Emergency Dental Project works in partnership with Casa del Niño, and it receives some additional support from the Municipality of Jocotenango. This year Bob and Purobi, along with five dentists and six dedicated students and non-medical volunteers, flew at their own expense to Guatemala to provide dental care to students attending six local schools and other organization-run health clinics. With assistance from local volunteers the 16-member team was the largest one to date.

Logistics and planning were challenging. Every morning long lines of soon-to-be patients were already waiting as the team arrived to set up makeshift treatment centers. All the necessary supplies, including the equipment, sterilizing materials and 1,000-plus toothbrushes for children attending the clinic, were bought and brought from the States by Bob and Purobi.

All of the other supplies and equipment were improvised fromcontinued on page 40

The Carrera de Charolas

Celebrating La Fonda de la Calle Real's 33rd anniversary with the 7th annual race event — Saturday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.

In Spain, during the Festival of San Fermín, stampeding bulls and wouldbe matadors run wild in the streets of Pamplona, and in Buñol, the Festival La Tomatina is a tomato throwing free-forall. In La Antigua Guatemala, the Carrera de Charolas features tray-carrying waiters, waitresses and bartenders racing around a pre-arranged course.

This event, organized by the Restaurants La Fonda de la Calle Real, is now in its seventh consecutive year. Participants, who work at hotels, restaurants and bars, come from far and wide, including El Salvador and Mexico.

Men and women run the course carrying a tray holding a 16-oz. bottle of soda, a sealed glass of water and a can of beer. Though everyone has a great time, it's also a competitive event. First-place winner receives Q2,200, plus additional cash prizes for second to 10th place.

Co-sponsored by Cerveza Gallo, the race starts at 9 a.m. at central park and finishes on 5a avenida norte, in front of La Fonda de la Calle Real.

Runners pay a Q25 entry fee and all proceeds are donated to the Fundación Cultural Duane Carter for its library projects in Sacatepéquez.

For more information, contact La Fonda de la Calle Real, tel: 7832-0507, email: carreradecharolas@gmail.com or visit www.lafondadelacallereal.com (1)



Photos from previous races (LEONEL MIJANGOS / ENANTIGUA.COM)

The Saga Continues

While preparing the Convent La Concepción for its reopening as the Museo de Semana Santa (Holy Week Museum) they have uncovered new colors, secrets and surprises. by Joy Houston photos by Jack Houston



ABOVE: The fountain as it was in August 2007 BELOW: New excavations uncovered steps to 18th century fountain in large, private cloister of La Concepción Convent



In June 1737 the nuns of Convent La Concepción invited the town of Santiago de los Caballeros, now La Antigua Guatemala, to a celebration. Sound strange? Yes, but the lovely young ladies of convents in the colonial city were no ordinary nuns and led somewhat different lives than what we might expect today.

La Concepción was the first convent founded in Santiago (1578), as well as the largest, richest and most sumptuous. The La Concepción nuns were especially privileged, being daughters of Spanish nobility and bringing with them hefty dowries. Life in the convent, rather than being marked by devotion, seclusion and vows of poverty, allowed these women to avoid unwanted marriages and relaxed the rules so they could pursue the arts and even carry on businesses. Festivities within the convents, with guests of family, friends and the court, were common. In fact, they became so extravagant and raucous that they brought complaints from the neighbors. The story,



Restoration techniques reveal colors of fountain decoration



Additional hand-painted tile bathtub discovered in September 2008

as reported in the October 2007 *Revue*, continues to unfold.

Since 2007 the National Council for the Protection of La Antigua Guatemala, called the Consejo, the University of San Carlos (USAC) and the Republic of China (Taiwan) have been working to prepare the convent for its reopening as the Museo de Semana Santa (Holy Week Museum). During the past year they have uncovered colors, secrets and surprises.

"The fountain in the large courtyard is the jewel of the project," beams Rocío Araujo, architect of USAC and director of the work. Unlike most fountains, this elaborately carved one was decorated in red and yellow. Colonial fountains and decorations typically are of one color—natural dye red. Rocío and her team, which includes USAC architecture student Marvin Escobar and Miguel de los Reyes, restorer and conservator of Barcelona, hold to strict rules of conservation. "The easy thing would be to say, 'Let's go buy red,' but that's not what we want to do," says Reyes. They apply extract from nopal, a cactus, and natural resins to bring out the color that has been hidden under residue of the centuries. "The fountain gives us the information, the gift of showing us the original colors."

Short stairways to the fountain have also been uncovered. A wooden platform is being constructed so visitors can appreciate the fountain at close view without touching it. The dream is that the fountain, filled with water, will function again.

Simple, square, concrete bases have been set for columns to support a roof over the corridor around thecontinued on page 116



Rocío Araujo, director of the project



Sister Juana's bathtub as it was in August 2007



Sister Juana's 17th century bathtub with revived colors

Not Your Traditional Artesanía



The author and two La Antigua cabinet makers turned boat builders next to the catboat at central park, La Antigua

Local craftsmen recruited to build a classic wooden catboat

've sailed all my life, and for years I've wanted to build a boat. I have the time. OK, so do it. But I'm not a good carpenter, and I don't have proper tools. I live in La Antigua, where there are no professional boat builders. So do it anyway.

Over the years I have dealt with some excellent cabinet-makers in Guatemala and with some wood butchers. I felt that by contracting a truly fine cabinet-maker and working daily in his shop, I could overcome my shortcomings.

I would draft the unfamiliar pieces and supervise the form, eyeballing the shape, while his tools and experience would compensate for my ham-handed carpentry. As the boat progressed, I was very happy to find that my assumption was correct.

La Antigua has no lakes, no big rivers hardly a place to build boats. But, residents of this mountain-locked, dry-land city have used the extraordinary skills of local artisans to do just that.

Several years ago, a fiberglass factory in Santa Lucía Milpas Altas produced many things, including rowboats and surfboards.

Just recently, M. Pierre Turlin, a French sailor and artist who works mostly in wood and glass, launched his 37-foot sloop in Río Dulce. He designed the boat with a centerboard and shallow draft for use in the cays. It has many other innovative features, which make it a safe, comfortable boat for extended cruising. The yacht was built here in La Antigua with local helpers who had no experience in boat building. The hull is steel, but the deck and interior are done in the beautifully finished wood for which Pierre is well known.

A 20-foot outboard launch is under construction by Sr. Elmer Monzón, who has a fiberglass shop in Jocotenango. He is also laying up a peddle-powered boat, which will incorporate a transmission.

And now, my classic wooden boat, built here, is almost ready to launch. This minicruiser is a 15-foot catboat, a design developed in Cape Cod, Massachusetts around 1850 for fishing. Since catboats have a wide beam, usually almost half their length, this is not a small dinghy. She will happily carry six adults day sailing and has bunk flats in the cuddy cabin, where two can sleep. Another distinguishing feature of catboats is the large, single sail set on a mast very near the bow.

She is being built in the cabinet-makers shop of Sr. Jorge Samayoa Paniagua on Calle Rubio, behind the Hotel Santo Domingo. I discussed my idea with him, explaining that I needed a place to build, proper tools and one or more skilled carpenters to cut the pieces to my patterns and

by Ira Lewis

help me assemble them. I showed him the scale model I'd built of cardboard (4 cm to 1 foot) and explained the method of building. He replied, saying essentially, "If it's built of wood, we can do it." We made a hand-shake contract.

Sr. David Ramírez was assigned as my fulltime helper. He and Sr. Samayoa constructed a sturdy, completely level building platform which became the base line for all measurements. The bottom plank with a rocker of 7 inches at the bow and 8.5 inches at the stern was tacked to the platform with dry-wall screws. The centerboard slot was precut, and the reinforcing logs on each side helped maintain the correct curve in the bottom.

The stem, bulkheads and stern were carefully aligned and epoxied in place. The boat is built of marine plywood using the "tack and tape" method. Joints are epoxied together and reinforced with two strips of fiberglass tape. This gives a very strong joint with no screws to rust inside the wood over the years.

Some longitudinal bulkheads and the centerboard trunk added between the bulkheads gave more rigidity than the sheer clamps, where the deck joins the hull, were put on. The three wide planks of each side of the hull were attached, the deck laid and the cabin and coaming built. Ah! It's a boat —not quite.

David and I had worked four months to get to this point. To speed things up I added Sr. Francisco Vásquez Ramírez, "Chico," to the crew to help finish the seemingly endless details involved in making a sailboat sail.

We built the mast from a bent aluminum spinnaker pole salvaged from a larger yacht. After trimming it to the right length we sheathed it in a 3/4-inch layer of ash, a strong, light wood, to achieve the proper diameter and for added strength.

The myriad details, including fiberglassing the exterior of the hull, ...continued on page 80



The bottom plank with the centerboard trunk stiffeners in place being screwed to the building platform by David Ramírez



The first topsides plank, the cabin sides and part of the first bilge planks are fastened



"Chico" adds trim to the centerboard trunk



The boat leaves the shop



NOVEMBER Guide to culture & upcoming events Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

3 Mon., through Thurs., 27th — ART: *Exposición pictórica* by Guatemalan painter Mario Méndez Estrada (photo insert on contents page). Vanguardia Galería de Arte (tel: 7761-4364) 3a calle 6-23, z. 2, *Quetzaltenango*.

4 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: *A Road Map for Successful Social Entrepreneurship* with "As Green as it Gets," an NGO 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*.

6Thurs., 6pm — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Lu*-*Ces de Xelajú* by Harry Díaz. The exhibition covers architecture, tourism and traditions in Quetzaltenango (open through Nov. 15). Universidad Francisco Marroquín, Edificio de la Biblioteca, first level (cocktail). Final 6a calle, zona 10, *Guatemala City*. ▼



6 Thurs., 8pm — MUSIC: Concierto de Clausura Temporada Oficial with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional. Q30 & Q50. Gran Sala Efraín Recinos (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81 z. 1, Guatemala City.



6Thurs., 4:30-6:30pm — (English) NET-WORKING: *The Antigua Network*, bringing people and organizations together to speak about projects that work towards improving the lives of others. Everyone is most welcome, including those looking for volunteer opportunities. Q50 incls. beverage, boquitas. La Peña Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle p. #15-C, *La Antigua*.

7Fri., 8:30pm — MUSIC: With percusionist Fernando Pérez and his Latin jazz group presenting his most recent production, *Jazz de Luna*, featuring 20 musicians including Cubans Bobby and Roberto Carcassés and Orlando Valle 'Maraca'. Q260. Casa del Águila (tel: 5856-2271) Ruta 3, vía 5, z. 4, al sur de Cuatro Grados Norte, *Guatemala City.* ▼



Tridays and Saturdays through the 29th, 8pm — DANCE: *Lamberinto* performed by dancers from the contemporary dance company Momentum. Q25 & Q50. Teatro Dick Smith IGA (tel: 2422-5555 ext. 606), ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

Sat., 5pm — DANCE: Traditional folk dances presented by Niños de bendición, donations to pay their school expenses. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente # 5-C, *La Antigua*.

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

Sat., 11am — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Itinerario Cubano* by Guatemalan photographer Francisco Giracca. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino (tel: 7832-0231) 1a av. Norte #23, *La Antigua*.

8 Sat., 7pm — DANCE: *The 44th International Choreographers Showcase* with national and international choreographers presenting original dance performances. Gran Sala Efraín Recinos, Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

Sat., 7pm — ART: *Nocturno primero* by Faustino Pablo Bautista. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*. ▼



10^{Mon., 5pm} — MAYAN CEREMONY: Presentation of an authentic Mayan ceremony. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*.

11 Tues., 3-7pm — TEA and CHRIST-MAS SHOPPING: Pre-opening of the annual *Christmas Bazaar* (see Wed., 12th) featuring beautiful and unique gift items and specially planned activities. Q40, includes parking. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2331-3638) Centro cultural UFM, 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the DEC. 2008 edition of the REVUE by Monday, November 10 **11** Tues., 4-7pm — (English/Spanish) NETWORKING: For NGOs and private projects, offering a place for people who have or are working on projects to present and share ideas. Everyone is welcome; tea and snacks. Stuardo's Place (tel: 7832-3160) Calle Chipilapa #9-A, *La Antigua*.

11 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: *Educarte*, a local and independent NGO that runs a primary school in Ciudad Vieja; its goal is to build a better future for Guatemala's poorest children, who normally do not have access to education. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

11 Tues., 8pm — DANCE: Noche de Danza with students from the Academia de Danza Gladys García performing classic, neoclassic, polka, tarantella, cha-cha, and Latin dances. Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

11 Tues., 8pm — DANCE: Spanish dance festival *Por Amor al Arte* performed by the Academia Pilar Galiano dancers. Gran Sala Efraín Rosales (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z.1, *Guatemala City*.



12Wed., 5pm — ART: Inauguration of Long Divisions, mixed technique by artist Ivy Mix. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua.



DATEBOOK

12 Wed., through Sun 30th — CHRIST-MAS BAZAAR: tablecloths, handicrafts, candles, sculptures, pillow cushions, antiques, 100% pure-cotton textiles, Pro-Teje cards, books, cookies, candies, homemade jelly; also, the museum's 2009 calendar "Mosaic of Smiles" and in person, several Guatemalan artisans who've brought their hand-made products including wooden handicrafts, belts, purses and more. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2331-3638) Centro cultural UFM, 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City.* ▼



14 Fri., and Sat 15th — SEMINAR: Aso-Traductores, AGIT, (Guatemalan Association of Interpreters and Translators) announces its annual seminar, *SEMAGIT 2008*, to be held at Molino Helvetia a Private Natural Reserve, located 3kms outside of Tecpán Guatemala. Active and student members, Q600; non-members, Q750, includes round-trip transportation from Guatemala City, conferences, recreational activities, meals, and lodging in double and triple room accomodations, limited to 25 participants. For information, contact Alcira García-Vassaux at 2250-0219 or AGITaciones@gmail. com See DateBook highlight on page 26.

14Fri., 6pm — ART: Celebrating Rainbow Café/Reading Room's 16th anniversary with an exposition of recent work by Lisset López; 7:30—MUSIC: Clandestino, featuring reggae. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

15Sat., 9am — EVENT: Carrera de Charolas, celebrating La Fonda de la Calle Real's 33rd anniversary, featuring tray-carrying waiters, waitresses and bartenders racing around a pre-arranced course for cash prizes. Runners pay a Q25 entry fee, proceeds are donated to the Fundación Cultural Duane Carter for its library projects in Sacatepéquez. Central Park, *La Antigua*. See DateBook highlight on page 15. **15**Sat., 5pm through Sun., 30th — RUNWAY: *Recuerdo de nuestra boda*, a collection of bridal dresses by Guatemalan artist Jessica Laguna. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte entre 3a y 4a calle poniente, *La Antigua*.

15Sat., 5pm — (English) THEATER: Darwin's Theory and the Unnecessary Hell It Has Raised, a drama, a comedy, it's educational and amusing. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, La Antigua.

15Sat., 7pm — DANCE: Celebrating Rainbow Café/Reading Room's 16th anniversary with a salsa show by Martín Cabrera from the La Salsa Dance Company, music by La Casa de Kello. Cocktail. Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

15Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: *Noche Mexicana*, Mariachi music and all you can drink tequila. Q100. Estudio 35, Calle del Arco #35, *La Antigua*.

15Sat., 8pm — MUSIC: In concert, PRIMMO, *Project Jive*, a mixture of funk, hip-hop and acid jazz. Tickets on sale at Saúl E. Mendez, Q100/Q150 the day of the event. Dembossa (tel: 5204-1546) Avenida Las Américas 17-10, z. 13, *Guatemala City*.

16Sun., noon to 6pm — ANNIVERSARY after your meal compliments of the Rainbow Café; 7:30pm—MUSIC: La Raiz, plus other surprises! Rainbow Café (tel. 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

16Sun., 10am-3pm — KARATE: A karate tournament organized by Elite Kenpo Karate, with the participation of several karate schools. Q20. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, *Guatemala City*.

18 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) LECTURE: Survival in the City Slums, Chris Rice speaks about the work they do to keep children from living on the streets of Guatemala City. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

19 Wed., 8pm — MUSIC: Soave Sía il Vento, a lyrical recital. Q50 & Q25. Teatro Dick Smith IGA (tel: 2422-5555 ext. 606), ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

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4a. CALLE ORENTE #15 LA ANTIGUA GUATEMALA (502)7832:2124 - FAX(502)7832:2866 WWW.ARTINTHEAMERICAS.COM AANTIGUA@ARTINTHEAMERICAS.COM ARTINTHEAMERICAS@GMAIL.COM

A Tribute to Andy Palacio

The "Garífuna Settlement Day" celebration will travel from Belize to La Antigua Guatemala for a performance at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at Santa Isabel (Carretera a San Bartolomé Becerra)

This celebration marks the arrival of the first Garífuna to Belize in 1832 and is celebrated throughout Belize and Central America. Produced by Planeta en Ritmo, the event will pay **tribute to the Garífuna culture and their musical ambassador, Andy Palacio**. In Belize, Mr. Palacio was nationally known

as both a musician and an advocate for Garífuna culture. The performances will include the Garífuna Collective; Umalali, featuring Garífuna women from Guatemala; and Las Chupacabras. Additional bands will perform, and fireworks will light up the sky. Proceeds will benefit the NGO Niños de Guatemala (www.ninosdeguatemala.org)

For more information contact Wendy Wever (502) 4387-0516 wendy.planetaenritmo@gmail.com

DATEBOOK



La Cueva de Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*

Wednesdays, 8-10pm — Latino Jazz Trio. entrance: Q25.

Thursdays and Fridays, 8 to 10pm — Cuban jazz performed by Buena Vista de Corazón. entrance Q35. ►



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15 Sat., 7pm — *Noche Mexicana*, Mariachi music and all you can drink tequila, Q100.

Wed. through Fri., 7:30pm — Swing de Negro with great salsa and Caribbean rhythms. Free. ▼



Thurs. through Sun., 7:30pm — Son de Antigua. Free.

26 Wed., **8pm** — Piano concert by Claudia

Calderón, organized by the Colombian Embassy in Guatemala. Free with invitation. Inquire Colombian Embassy (tel: 2385-3432). Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.



Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

Mondays, 7:30pm — Don Ramiro will serenade you with some beautiful Latin folk music. Free. Tuesdays, 7:30pm — Malcolm will blow you away with some classics and his infamous tequila song. Free.

Wednesdays, 7:30pm — Open Mike Night hosted by Juan-Jo and friends. A complimentary drink for all performers. Free.

Thursdays, 7:30pm — Cuban maestro Wilfredo will charm you with his beautiful piano playing and improvisation. Free.

Saturdays, 7:30pm — La Casa de Kello gets the party going with a mixture of their own music, latino beats, blues and popular western music. Free.

Sundays, 7:30pm — La Raiz-Luis, Juan-Jo & Choko, great improvised classics. Free.



La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*. Mondays, 7:30pm — Kenny Molina hosts *Open Mike*. Free. Tuesdays, 7:30pm — Ramiro plays trova Cubana. Free. Wednesdays-Sundays, 7:30pm — Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼



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DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

Words Matter! AGIT Annual Seminar to held in Tecpán

AGIT (Guatemalan Association of Interpreters and Translators) will hold its annual seminar **November 14** and **15** in the beautiful setting of Molino Helvetia, a private natural reserve situated close to the town of Tecpán, about 90km from Guatemala City.

The association was founded in 1972 to represent the needs of its members, and to benefit the wider society by working to improve the quality of interpretation and translation in Guatemala. The annual seminar continues to meet these goals by delivering ongoing education to the Association's members, and promoting the highest standards of practice to the profession. Activities this year will include presentations by five speakers, and two round-table panel discussions on the general theme of the seminar: Terminology: Words Matter!

Non-members are most welcome to attend, and only an interest in language is needed to ensure a rewarding experience. Accommodation is available on-site for the night of November 14, with all-inclusive packages at a very reasonable rate that includes transportation to and from Guatemala City, meals, and entrance to all seminar activities. For more details on prices and any other inquiries, please contact Ana Herrerias, email: aih_518@yahoo.com. AGIT hopes to see you in Tecpán!



20^{Thurs., through Mon., 24th, 9am-6pm — (English) CONGRESS 2008 Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM). Free. Hotel Casa Santo Domingo (tel: 2385-7185), La Antigua.}

DATEBOOK continues on page 30





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I have always paid income tax. I object only when it reaches a stage when I am threatened with having nothing left for my old age - which is due to start next Tuesday or Wednesday. —Noel Coward

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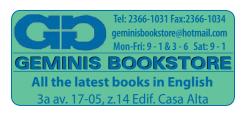
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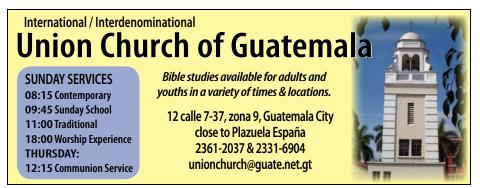




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Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe. —Thomas Jefferson

Once you get into this great stream of history, you can't get out. —Richard M. Nixon



REVUE is available as a printed magazine, web, pdf and flashpaper editions

DATEBOOK cont. from page 26

20Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFER-ENCE: *Síntesis de la ocupación prehispánica en Nakum, Petén* by Bernard Hermes. Q20/ Q10 students, guides w/carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7896) 6a calle final, z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, *Guatemala City*.

20— PHOTOGRAPHY: Inauguration of Ver o Mirar, ése es el dilema, digital photo-montages, paintings. Lobby del IGA (tel: 2422-5555 ext. 606) Ruta 2, 4-18, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

21 Fri., 5pm — DANCE: Mayan dances performed by indigenous children from K'ak'a' Saqarik (Nuevo Amanecer). Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

22Sat., 11am — MUSIC: Barroque concert by Ensamble Amarilis. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino (tel: 7832-0231) 1a av. norte #23, *La Antigua*.

22Sat., 5pm (seating), 6pm (show) — MUSIC: Planeta en Ritmo presents the *Andy Palacio Tribute*. Info: Wendy Wever, wendy.planetaenritmo@gmail.com; venue, Santa Isabel, www.antiguasantaisabel.com. Carretera a San Bartolomé Becerra (see related story on page 114), *La Antigua*.

22Sat., 7pm — ART: *Rotos y Remiendos*, exbibition representing the fight to stop violence against women. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

23Sun., 7pm — MUSIC: *Enlace Coral* 2008 by Coro Victoria. Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel

Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.



24Mon., 8pm — MUSIC: Concierto de Blues, musical compositions with banjo, harmonica and guitar. Q50 & Q25. Teatro Dick Smith IGA (tel: 2422-5555, ext. 606), Ruta I, 4-05, z. 4, Guatemala City.

25Tues., 5:30pm — LECTURE: Partnering the Poor: Inequality, Education and Opportunity in Guatemala & Familias de Esperanza with Jeff Barns. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*. **26**Wed., 8pm — MUSIC: Piano concert by Claudia Calderón, organized by the



Colombian Embassy in Guatemala. Free with invitation. Inquire Colombian Embassy (tel: 2385-3432) 5a av. 5-55, z.14, Edificio Europlaza. Teatro de Cámara Hugo Carrillo (tel: 2332-4041), Centro Cultural Miguel Ángel Asturias, 24 calle 3-81, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

28Fri., 6pm — DANCE: Celebrating its 8th anniversary, Global Dance Antigua presents *The Little Mermaid* (La Sirenita) with more that 70 dance students; choreography and direction by Licda. Claudia Baeza. Q30. Centro cultural y de convenciones César Brañas (tel: 5319-2222) 5a calle poniente #44-A, *La Antigua*.



28Fri., through Wed., Dec. 3rd — WORKSHOP: Working with the laws of accumulation and dispersion of energy, Shiatsu's main aim is to reestablish balance to the body's vital functions, thus bringing a relaxed, revitalized sensation of well being. Helmut Kreil, experienced German practitioner, will be leading a six-day introductory workshop on this ancient Japanese discipline, teaching you how to tap into strength and vitality. Info: Olga Gaitán, tel: 5741-2905 for more info. and sign-up.

29Sat., 7pm — MUSIC and Martini Party, all you can drink. Q100. Estudio 35, Calle del Arco #35, *La Antigua*.

29Sat., 11am — MUSIC: In concert, Conjunto Musical Unicornio, celebrating its 18th anniversary. Colegio Mayor de Santo Tomás de Aquino (tel: 7832-0231) 1a av. norte #23, La Antigua.

DATEBOOK continues on page 36

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Butter yellow. Flowers in the fields after the rains, corn ground to a smooth *masa*, cotton-dyed yellow to weave into blouses with multicolored designs on the yellow base, rich yellow bougainvillea and shrimp flowers spilling over white walls, and an occasional flash of a finch flying after a bug for lunch. Yellow is important on the Guatemalan palette. Yellow may be outstarred by more dramatic colors, but yellow adds a delightful touch, saffron in rice, yolk in scrambled eggs. Watch for it.

Most city-folk may not know that butter isn't always the same golden yellow. In the stores, butter includes a dye to make it the consistent shade that shoppers expect on their plates. Churned from fresh milk, butter can range from pale to deep yellow, depending on the season and the cow's diet. The fickle consumer says pale butter doesn't taste as good, then approves when the same butter is died darker. Yellow can trick us!

If you're looking for butter-yellow around the Highlands, you'll see the difference, too, from the delicate shade of dandelion to the rich butter of some gladioli. Look among the lush grasses alongside

by Ken Veronda PHOTO: HARRIS & GOLLER/VIAVENTURE.COM

streambeds, and there they are, different shades close together—bright yellow of the pistils nestled in white lilies, a darker yellow of little forsythia blossoms with their heady perfume. Long-stemmed yellow roses have a score of different shades in the hothouse rows growing for the world to enjoy.

Yellow school buses come down from the north to be painted a riot of colors, but the base yellow paint still flashes along the highways—too fast sometimes, but a streak of yellow that's striking against the greens and browns of the roadside. Mustard-yellow is a traditional paint color from Spanish Colonial days, approved for use on walls in heritage areas, though the color mix can come out pretty bright before a few days of yellow sunshine tones it down.

Perhaps yellow is the most important color in the Guatemalan heritage of tones, the color of corn kernels. *Maize* is yellow, on the cob, milled or squeezed into corn oil and corn sweeteners. And maize is the basic food of life. So maize is life, maize is the meal from which the ancient Maya tell us humans were formed. That makes yellow a tone to appreciate and enjoy.

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No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth! —Ronald Reagan



Grandilla Known as the grenada china in other regions, this small fruit comes from the passionflower vine and contains a gray, jelly-like pulp filled with small, dark seeds. All you have to do is break the rind open and dig in, but be wary of spillage—the pulp tends to clump together. Some people eat the pulp only, spitting the seeds out the same way you'd spit out sunflower seed shells. Other people chew the seeds up with the pulp. Take your pick.





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DATEBOOK cont. from page 30

29Sat., 6pm — BALLET: Dancers from the Escuela de Danza Gilda Jolás perform for this annual show. Q25. Ruinas de San Jerónimo (Calzada Santa Lucía), *La Antigua*. ▼



29Sat., 7pm — MUSIC: Voces de la Selva, with Pablo Collado and the group Armonía en la Selva. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

29Sat., through Dec. 28 — ART: Pensamiento y movimiento with work



by Guatemalan ceramic sculptors María Girón, Alejandro Leal and Arturo Maldonado. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*.

29 Sat., 2pm — DEMONSTRATION: 29 JoinUp[®] with Monty Roberts, known around the world as "The Man Who Listens to Horses." Club Escuestre La Ronda Finca La Azotea (tel: 7831-1129/4366-5527, e-mail: info@montyrobertsenguate.com. *Jocotenango*. 30 Sun., 9am, 4:30pm — DOG TRAIN-ING: *Educando a mi cachorro*, learn how to train, feed, and take responsible care of your pet. Show of trained dogs, contests, trainers, vets and surprises. Q20. Museo Miraflores (tel: 2470-3415) 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, *Guatemala City*.

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

FILM RELEASE: *Gasolina*, written & directed by Julio Hernández Cordón, filmed in Guatemala. It was awarded three prizes at the San Sebastian Festival. Trailer: www.youtube.com/user/ ondamaxfilms. More info., see local theater listings. *Guatemala City*.

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

Mondays, 7pm — DHARMA FLICKS: 3rd - One Giant Leap; 10th-The Cup; 17th-Tenzin Palomo; 24th-The Illuminated Chakras. Free. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua.

Tuesdays, 6pm — (English) SLIDE SHOW: Antigua: Behind the Walls by Elizabeth Bell. Q30, benefits educational program. Fusion (tel: 4144-0171) 1a calle poniente #9, *La Antigua*.

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: *Más allá del Centro Histórico* by Lic. Miguel Álvarez Arévalo. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7896) 6a calle final, z. 10, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, *Guatemala City*.

Saturdays, 2pm — SPORTS: La Antigua Rugby Club training. Everyone welcome to join, men, women, beginners through advanced. Q10. antigua@rugbyguatemala.org *La Antigua*.

Sundays, 6:30pm (English) — SUNDAY ART FLICKS/INGMAR BEGMAN MONTH: 2nd-Smiles of a Summer Night; 9th-The Sebenth Seal; 16th-Wild Strawberries; 23rd-The Virgin Spring; 30th-Black Orpheus. Q15. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua.

CLASSES: Book binding, tie-dye cloth, textiles, weaving. Indigo Artes Textiles (tel: 7888-7487) Centro Cultural la Azotea, *Jocotenango*.

PLAN AHEAD: DECEMBER

Tues., Dec. 2 & Wed., Dec. 3 — MUSIC: the *Messiah*. See DateBook highlight on page 38.

Thurs., Dec. 11, 4pm — THEATER: A balletic presentation for all ages, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, written and adapted for ballet by Johnny Long, choreographed by ballerina Bette van Lunteren. This production by Doro-

tea, Johnny Long and musician Arturo Rosales features local children and members of the National Ballet of Guatemala. Donation, Q40 adults, children admitted FREE !! The auditorium of Nuestros Ahijados (God's Child Project), #106 on the road to San Felipe de Jesús.

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DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT





Annual production of Handel's Messiah

For the fifth consecutive year, the Messiah will be performed in Guatemala City and La Antigua

The series began as the simple expression of a community's love for one of the bestknown pieces of sacred music ever written.

After five years, tens of thousands of dollars in donations and hundreds of changed lives, the annual production of the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* has become much more than a tradition to ring in the Christmas season in Guatemala.

It has become an integral part of Christmas for music lovers in Guatemala City and La Antigua Guatemala, and it has become a means for improving the lives of those less fortunate.

"When Handel first composed *Messiah* back in 1741, it was performed to benefit orphans in Dublin, Ireland," says Executive Producer Betty Whitbeck. "We decided the very first year that the *Messiah* performances in Guatemala would also benefit children in need here."

Four projects geared toward improving the education and well being of children in Guatemala City and its surroundings have benefitted from the concerts. Guatemala City's National Theater has also received important donations in equipment and resources. Since the first performance in Guatemala in 2004, the *Messiah* production has grown to more than 100 volunteer voices, a 30-strong orchestra and top soloists from Guatemala and the United States.

Most of the choir members, soloists and orchestra members have been a part of the project from the very beginning. Soprano J.J. Hobbs, who travels each year from Tampa, Florida, to sing in the *Messiah* says that the performance is one of the highlights of her year. "It is an honor to come here to this beautiful country and sing for the fifth time," says Hobbs who will be performing two encore solos this year to make this anniversary production even more special.

Guatemalan baritone Carlos Salazar and mezzo-soprano Ana Rosa Orozco, part of the original soloists, return this year as special guests to perform encores. Tenor Samuel Lowry from New York and alto Liz Cass from Austin, Texas, will also perform. Baritone Carlos Cardona and soprano J.J. Hobbs have chosen to sing a rarely heard version of *Ave María* which was written in the 1950s by Spanish musician William Gómez as their addition to the Christmas portion of *Messiah*. ...continued on page 46

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Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them? —Abraham Lincoln

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Dental Project cont. from page 14

whatever resources were available. Tiny school chairs and desks and a few old dental chairs were set up in hallways, classrooms or the schoolyards. Order was imposed on chaos as children were channeled to those receiving examinations and then on to the application of a protective fluoride treatment. Every child received a toothbrush, and those needing fillings or X-rays received information on Casa del Niño, which provides this type dental care. Unfortunately, more than 40 percent of the children who were examined had tooth decay so severe that they needed emergency extractions.

The benefits to so many children who were experiencing pain or infection are more than just immediate improvements to their physical health. Dental health affects general well-being, development and educational achievement.

So although Bob and Purobi describe their work as performing "crisis management," they see the value of the project for both the local communities and the individual children. Moreover, for the past seven years they have been doing a similar dental program in El Salvador, and with repeated trips they are seeing a clear improvement in the overall dental health of the children whom they examine.





Dental health affects the general well-being, development and educational achievement of children.

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Bob has even broader aims: "I wanted to teach about volunteerism and open people's eyes to the needs of others in the world." The size of the team this year (three times larger than in 2007), as well as their passion, dedication and desire to return, says a great deal about his ability to bring the spirit of volunteerism into the lives of others.

There will be another opportunity next year, as extensive clinics are in the planning stages for a July 2009 trip; volunteers are much appreciated, also the group hopes to collaborate with local dentists and assistants. If the enthusiasm of those involved at this year's clinic is anything to go by, the ones next year will be an experience not to be missed.

For more information about this project, volunteering (professionals and assistants) for the 2009 trip, contact Bob Renner at rprenner@gmail.com

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G In Loving Memory GENE INMAN September 17, 1932 – September 26, 2008

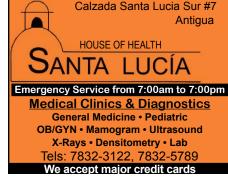
Gene and his wife Patty moved to Guatemala three years ago. They made many Guatemalan friends and quickly became a part of a larger community of retirees living in La Antigua Guatemala. He will be missed by many.





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I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend. —Thomas Jefferson The most terrifying words in any language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help. —Ronald Reagan

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Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed there are many rewards, if you disgrace yourself you can always write a book. —Ronald Reagan

HEALTH SERVICE CLASSIFIEDS ON PAGE 106

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The last laugh

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you."

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves.

"What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!"

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store. "Hey son, May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?" The boy licked his cone and replied, "Because the day I take the dollar, the game is over!"



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

nia Burski, DVM

CAUTION: Lethal Food

Question: I was reading recently about a dog who died from eating raisins. We occasionally have given our dogs raisins as a treat, and they have never gotten sick from them. Is it dangerous or not?

Yes, it is possible for a dog to go into acute renal failure and die from eating raisins or grapes. Many dog owners are unaware of this fact and have given grapes/raisins occasionally to their dogs as treats. Investigators who provide information to the Veterinary Poison Control Centers feel that as few as seven raisins or grapes could poison a dog, but they are not sure just what the toxic element might be. It is suspected that many factors are involved including the size and age of the dog, the amount of grapes or rai-

Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives. —Ronald Reagan sins eaten and the particular susceptibility of an individual dog.

In the 20 years that our veterinary clinic has been functioning, we have never seen a case of poisoning due to grapes/raisins. But it is possible that the owners were unaware that the dog had eaten grapes or raisins. Anyway, it is prudent to treat both grapes and raisins as potentially poisonous and explain to all members of the household the importance of not giving these as treats or leaving them where the dog could eat them. If you suspect that your dog has eaten grapes/raisins, seek medical attention immediately. Waiting to see if he is going to get sick or not may result in your pet's kidneys becoming so severely damaged that it is not possible to save him.

History, in general, only informs us of what bad government is. —Thomas Jefferson

Handel's Messiah cont. from page 38

"Of all the musical things I do in my life this is my favorite project of the year," says Musical Director Debby Lyttle. "It's wonderful music, to be sure, but more than that is the community we build within the choir and orchestra, bringing together people from all walks of life and then to be able to help so many worthwhile projects over the years is very gratifying." Lyttle has directed the choir and orchestra since the first year.

This year's beneficiary is Centro Vocacional San José, which provides vocational training to more than 300 children who come from some of Guatemala City's roughest neighborhoods.

Performances will be held **December 2** at 7:30 p.m. at the National Theater in Guatemala City; and **December 3** at 7:30 p.m. at the Casa Santo Domingo in La Antigua. Ticket prices are Q150 for platea, Q50 for balcón for the National Theater; Q200 for reserved seating and Q150 for general seating in La Antigua.

Tickets go on sale November 1 at IGA, Zurich, Vista Hermosa Book Shop in Guatemala City and at the theater box office on the night of the performance. In La Antigua, tickets will be on sale at Joyería Del Ángel and Casa Santa Domingo. For more information, call IGA, 2422-5555.

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I can take it. The tougher it gets, the cooler I get. —Richard M. Nixon



We have always found the Irish a bit odd. They refuse to be English. —Winston Churchill





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A matter of choice

A nerd was walking on campus one day when his friend, another nerd, rode up on an incredible shiny new bicycle.

The first nerd was stunned and asked, "Where did you get such a nice bike?"

The second nerd replied, "Well, yesterday I was walking along minding my own business when a beautiful woman rode up to me on this bike. She threw the bike to the ground, took off all her clothes and said, "Take what vou want!""

The second nerd nodded approvingly, "Good choice, the clothes probably wouldn't have fit."



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When I retire I'm going to spend my evenings by the fireplace going through those boxes. There are things in there that ought to be burned. —Richard M. Nixon Well, I learned a lot... I went down to Latin America to find out from them and learn their views. You'd be surprised. They're all individual countries. —Ronald Reagan



CROSSING OVER

by Dr. Karmen Guevara HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

Ithough death is a natural and inevitable part of the human experience, how we relate to it is largely influenced by religion and culture. The way people celebrate death reflects their attitude and philosophy about life as well as death.

Some cultures fully embrace death and engage with it through a variety of rituals. In Malaysia the body is buried, and then reburied at a future time. Between the two funerals, relatives look after the person and bring him or her a meal twice a day. Among Orthodox Jews, the bereaved remain at home for seven days. A transitional period includes 30 days of mourning dress, a year of abstinence from recreation and ends a year later with the dedication of the tombstone.

In Latin America, on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, the memory of deceased ones is joyfully celebrated. Festivities include the preparation of special foods and gifts, for it is believed that souls return on this day. Graves and altars are elaborately decorated, and pillows and blankets are left out so the deceased can rest after their long journey. Memories of the lost ones are relived through the stories told about them on this day. Customs and rituals play an important role. Apart from the rituals that mark biological death, the rituals of mourning support the bereaved to adjust to the loss of loved ones. They provide a way for people to mourn and restore a sense of order and meaning in their lives. The rituals of social death, like the final burial in Malaysia or the dedication of the tombstone in the Orthodox Jewish tradition, provide closure for those left behind. Continuity with the past occurs through the El Día de los Muertos celebrations.

It has been said that in North America and in parts of Europe a "death-denying" society has evolved. Death has come to be viewed as a medical event and as a disease rather than a normal phase of life. The taboos around death are rooted in fear, which is reflected in how it is handled in these societies.

Without rituals people are left unprepared for the passing of loved ones. There is no social holding of the grief, and one is left to mourn alone.

Death is more about those left behind because to the soul, death is a release. It is a mystery in which the living are the bystanders. Rituals enable us to trust the mystery.

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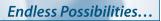
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Wages vs Self-Employed

The IRS and U.S. foreign nationals living and working abroad

ust because you are a U.S. citizens living and working abroad does not mean that you don't have to report your yearly earnings to the IRS. However, if you pass two tests and qualify for the "foreign earned income exclusion," you don't owe any tax unless you made more than \$87,500. That's if your income was earned by working for someone else or within a corporate structure.

For those of us who own businesses (or provide a service) the IRS has a different set of rules for "self-employment income." If you are self employed, then every dollar over \$400 is taxable (and, of course, you must file). The good news is that if you qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion, you still don't owe any INCOME tax, unless you make more than \$87,500.

But now the bad news: Unlike wages earned outside the U.S., self-employment income outside the U.S. IS subject to Social Security and Medicare tax (total of 15.3 percent) on every dollar above \$400. And, worse yet, the foreign earned income exclusion does NOT apply to Social Security and Medicare tax.

So, you have a little widget business and you netted \$20,000. You do qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion, so you don't owe any income tax. However, you do have to file AND send a check to the IRS for Social Security and Medicare taxes in the amount of \$2,999. (\$19,600.00 x 15.3 percent).

There are several ways to avoid this problem; one of the simpler methods is to form a corporation, have all checks made to the corporation, and have the corporation pay you as an employee. Now you are governed by the "wage" rule, not the "self-employed" rule.

I have had a person tell me that they didn't feel that was "playing fair" - that everyone should pay their "fair share" (of taxes). My first inclination was to tell them that under the present tax structure, there isn't any amount that I consider to be "fair." I believe in a flat tax system or, better yet, a national sales tax. Instead, I referred them to a quote from Judge Learned Hand: "Anyone may arrange his affairs so that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which best pays the Treasury. There is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes. Over and over again the courts have said that there is nothing sinister in so arranging affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible."

I also agree with Arthur Godfrey, who said: "I'm proud to pay taxes in the United States; the only thing is, I would be just as proud for half the money."

I would like to electrocute everyone who

uses the word "fair" in connection with income tax policies. —William F. Buckley, Jr.

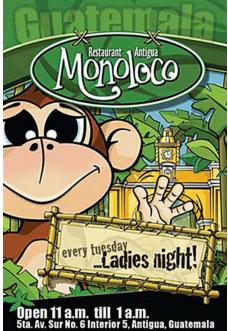
The difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion is the thickness of a prison wall. —Denis Healey

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Politics is such a torment that I advise everyone I love not to mix with it. —Thomas Jefferson

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When you can't make them see the light, make them feel the heat. —Ronald Reagan

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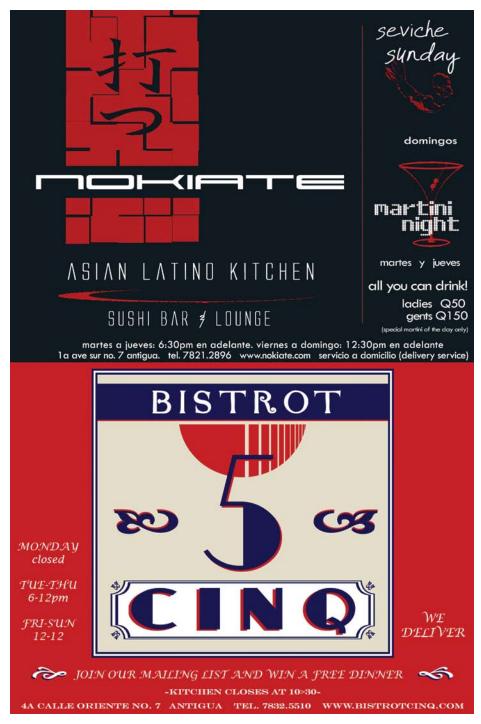


I have left orders to be awakened at any time in case of national emergency, even if I'm in a cabinet meeting. —Ronald Reagan Finishing second in the Olympics gets you silver. Finishing second in politics gets you oblivion. —Richard M. Nixon



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Dining « ANTIGUA





Instructor Militza de León teaches a new menu every day with hands-on experience

Cooking With Class Where the excuse "I ate my homework" actually works

utdoor dining at its best: under a 130-year-old avocado tree in the walled garden of a La Antigua colonial home. The menu? Traditional Guatemalan dishes: *subanik*—a four-meat stew with a spicy sauce of puréed roasted tomatoes and red peppers, white-dough tamal to soak up that rich sauce and escabeche, a cooked vegetable salad served at room temperature. More about the food later-we haven't gotten to dessert yet. On to our dinner companions: four congenial travelers and La Antigua residents sharing their Guatemala experiences-its food, its history and its traditions. A private dinner party? No. An expensive restaurant? No. The Antigua Cooking School.

Militza de León, a graduate of the Intecap Guatemalan culinary school, and Vilma McComsey, proprietor of The Antigua Cooking School, provide this setting and hands-on experience five days a week in central La Antigua. On the day I attended, by Dianne Carofino photos by Jack Houston

Militza was the instructor. She resembled a casual hostess who had invited her guests into the kitchen to chat as she prepared our meals, thoughtfully providing each of us with a copy of her recipes to take home.

Conversation first focused on Militza's preferred preparation of black beans enough for the week, unseasoned and stashed away in the freezer in small containers. The beans may then be used as needed in the preparation of any number of different dishes, including that dessert we haven't yet tackled. We sampled whole bean soup (*frijoles parados*), black bean puréed soup (*frijoles colados*), and fried beans (*frijoles volteados*) at various stages of preparation (before the addition of salt, for example) to experience the effect of additional ingredients as the dishes were prepared.

As invariably happens when guests dare to chat with the hostess in the kitchen, we were put to work. Militza gave us aprons and prepared dough and ...continued on following page

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Classmates Dianne Carofino (left) and Paige Keck (right) get pointers from instructor Militza de León

Cooking With Class cont. from previous page

demonstrated how to make the *tortillas* needed for the meal. If you are picturing yourself rapidly patting dough back and forth between your palms, like the talented ladies in the restaurants and shops of La Antigua, you may be as surprised as I was by the reality of tortilla making.

Even though I conscientiously tried to follow Militza's instructions, the dough stuck to my palms, creating holes in my tortilla; and the tortillas didn't stay in that even circular shape but had edges resembling a rocky coast line. One tortilla folded on itself like an omelet as it was flipped on the griddle. Then, with a smile, Militza did a little something and the tortillas looked like tortillas. The edges were still uneven, but they looked edible, even inviting. Of course, we all got to eat our tortillas, with frijoles volteados and the guacamole which we had watched Militza make. *Delicioso*.

Entradas over, it was time for dinner. As Militza prepared subanik, she discussed the dish to explore other interesting topics about the various cultures of Guatemala. Originally a ceremonial dish of Chimaltenango, prepared with large pieces of meat wrapped in a salt leaf and steamed in the ground, the stew is traditionally served with *tamalitos blancos*. Subanik might be loosely translated 'spicy white dough'.

Today's preparation modified the traditional on a number of counts. Three meats (tenderloin beef, chicken and turkey breasts) and the prepared sauce were steamed in *Mashán* leaves in the oven. The large leaves, which can be purchased in the market, were washed and arranged in a deep pot. The stew was then added on top of the leaves, which were tied decoratively with *cibaque*, a plant fiber used as a heavy string.

Throughout the afternoon, while Militza used natural and traditional ingredients to the delight of her guests, she carefully modified her methods, both conversationally and in her written recipes, to accommodate settings in which these ingredients might not be available. A Dutch oven, although not providing the unexpected charm of the Mashan leaves tied with ...continued on following page



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Polter



Cooking With Class cont. from previous page

cibaque, can also be used to prepare the subanik.

While cauliflower, carrots and snow peas sautéed in extra virgin olive oil infused with spices, the sizzling cooking sounds combined with the aroma; and Militza told us she was preparing her grandmother's escabeche recipe. It almost felt as if we were in her grandmother's kitchen. Paige Keck, a visitor from Jersey City, New Jersey, reflected the feeling of the group when, with a nod to the sizzling pan and its sounds, she said, "Today is the third day of my vacation. This is all my stress melting away."

Preparation for dessert, *rellenitos*, put us all to back to work, with our hands in the plantain dough. The recipe for the sauce, which is cooked inside the plantain dough and then also poured over the rellenitos, begins with a surprise ingredient: 2 cups whole, unsalted, cooked black beans. Only 2 Tbs. of grated Guatemalan chocolate is used in a recipe which serves 10. If I had not participated in preparing this delicious dish, I would have thought I had eaten much more chocolate and been surprised by the black beans. Again, delicioso!

As we left, each of the group seemed to be thinking of ways to take our knowledge home with us. Paige was mulling over the amount of black beans to prepare for the week, back in Jersey City. I was trying to decide which of the other four menus I would try next—a different menu is presented each day of the week. Perhaps *enchiladas* on a Monday, or maybe *tamales* on Wednesday. But then, *Pepián* is so traditional to Guatemala, and that is Friday's menu.

Antigua Cooking School is located at 5a av. norte #25-B (tel: 5990-3366) Online: www.antiguacookingschool.com

More Fabulous Fruit



Anona

Known variously as the sugar apple, soursop and cherimoya, this fruit grows in so many regions and varieties that information on it is contradictory. Most sources say there about 2,000 species, all high in carbohydrates, potassium, phosphorous and calcium. The local variety contains a white, custard-like pulp and clusters of dark seeds. The

flavor is difficult to describe, but people often compare it to ice cream. A staple fruit in Africa as well as Latin America, the anona is usually eaten fresh; however, you might try refrigerating it because it changes the taste somewhat. A Guatemalan technique is to let the fruit ripen on the tree, causing it to split. Picked in that state and stored at room temperature, the split scars over, and the fruit is thought to have an improved flavor.

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I reject the cynical view that politics is a dirty business. —Richard M. Nixon





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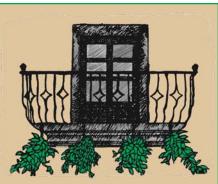


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If we love our country, we should also love our countrymen. —Ronald Reagan





I am an optimist. It does not seem too much use being anything else. —Winston Churchill

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16 Year Anniversary: A Retrospective

RAINBOW CAFÉ and READING ROOM (7a avenida sur #8, La Antigua)

Behind every successful business are people who conceived and toiled over it, fretted and rejoiced ... Philippa Meyers and Ted Lindland are two such people. Here they are, to share some memories of the Rainbow.

Philippa, at age 21, completed a clothing production course at the London College of Fashion, and "with absolutely no clue what to do in life set off to Guatemala with an unruly boyfriend for a six-month trip to Central America. After a few adventures in El Salvador, and having dropped the boyfriend, I came back to La Antigua, which I had hated the first time round, (because it was) a place where I felt I could connect with other fellow 'gringo' travelers." There she met Ted Lindland who told her about his idea to open a second-hand bookstore/ reading room (Which is a story unto itself!) The two became partners and began making plans for action.

Philippa remembers, "I returned to the UK, very excited at having found a way out of the 'rat race'. I sold my car and my few worldly possessions and flew to Philadelphia, PA, to meet Ted. We bought an old green Ford van, went from flea market to flea market picking out second-hand books. After a few weeks and many books later, we loaded the van, and we were off to Antigua and on to what would become the Rainbow Café and Reading Room."

They signed a lease in August 1992 on the property at 7a avenida sur #8 which is still the home of the Rainbow Café and Reading Room. "This was my first experience of the meaning of 'community' ... the word got out that two back-packers were setting up a 'hang-out' place, and people came knocking on our door, offering their services to help clean, paint, install electrical wiring, build bookshelves ... the feeling of community was exhilarating! Ted would play music every evening around our patio camp fire. The music scene was definitely happening, as musicians came to jam with us every night."

Ted's recollections: "I loved Antigua and decided to move here for a number of reasons ... Willie Gomez had a wonderful little place at the time called La Boheme. He played music there with his brothers, Ricardo and Jorge, and Jorge's wife, Margie. They called themselves Gato Negro, and they were fabulous! ...continued on following page





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Avoid popularity if you would have peace. –Abraham Lincoln

Governments tend not to solve problems, only to rearrange them. —Ronald Reagan



Anniversary cont. from previous page

I took to hanging out with them, occasionally playing percussion. Then I began playing folk and country music on certain nights. With a poet from New York City, Kathy Price, I organized a poetry night as well. I realized I could be happy in Antigua. But how would I make a living?"

The Rainbow Café and Reading Room opened in October of 1992. Admitting that they knew nothing about running a business, much less a café, Philippa says that coupled with locals "telling us that we were way off the center of town ... not to mention Ted's hippie persona and my youth, long hair under a knit beret and pierced nose, we were probably not likely candidates for success."

"However, locals and travelers did find us. I believe they liked the relaxed atmosphere, the inexpensive food, the great music scene and a good selection of used books, as well as Ted's friendly greeting when they arrived."

Ted says, "It took us months to find the right place and months to get it ready; we had lots of help from a hoard of international friends, who all loved the idea. Every night, even well before we opened, we'd sit around a campfire in the patio, playing music, talking, eating, drinking, sharing; what developed over the course of those months, before we opened, sustained us, and made it all much easier than it might



have been. When we finally did open, we had built-in customers, a loyal following who sustained us throughout the early years. Speaking for myself, I made friends during the early 90s at the Rainbow who remain some of my closest friends to this day. It was a magical time."

By the mid-90s, things had changed partnerships are difficult. "Philippa and I quit the partnership before it ruined our friendship. We are friends to this day. I moved to Panajachel, where I have a home. I stop by the Rainbow whenever I'm in Antigua, and I always feel like I am coming home. I can close my eyes and still see the smoky campfire, the circle of friends, hear the strains of *I Shall Be Released* and *Blowin' Down That Long Dusty Road* on the banjo and guitar, with a dozen voices joining in."

Probably the most obvious change through the years at the Rainbow Café is the clientele. Philippa points out, "No longer are we just the hippie scene, we have tourists of all ages, students, locals and families ... children are very welcome." The café's menu accommodates gluten-free diets, vegetarians and meat/poultry dishes. Desserts are rich and yummy, "my particular favorite is the Banoffee Pie, a biscuit crust, generously layered with toffee, cream and bananas."

"We have also expanded culturally, with the Guatemala Lecture Evening on Tuesday nights at 5pm, where our guest speakers talk on subjects related to Guatemala. We continue with live music every night, and the bookshop is still going strong."

"As we begin our 17th year, I want to thank the many, many people who have come through our lives and have put their personal touch on the Rainbow Café and Reading Room."

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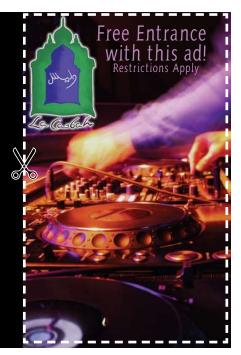
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Mr. Attlee is a very modest man. Indeed he has a lot to be modest about. —Winston Churchill

Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them. —Ronald Reagan

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Boatbuilding cont. from page 19

building a centerboard, the rudder, rigging and painting have taken longer then the basic construction of the boat.

The fittings of mild steel and brass were custom made by local craftsmen. They were curious about making pieces for a boat, but the items made were of good workmanship.

By launch date, I was very glad I chose to build my boat here in La Antigua instead of trying to supervise construction in a boat-building area like Atitlán or Puerto Barrios involving a long commute. The fine artisans of La Antigua can, very well, adapt their skills to build a sturdy, well-finished boat.



The three artisans most involved in building the boat, Alejandro Morales, Francisco "Chico" Vásquez and David Ramírez, pose just before the boat leaves the shop



The 37 foot steel yacht built by M. Pierre Turlin in La Antigua Guatemala.

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responsibility at the other. —Ronald Reagan There is no such thing as public opinion. There is only published opinion. —Winston Churchill

Aside from the murders, DC has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.—Mayor Marion Barry

As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. —Abraham Lincoln



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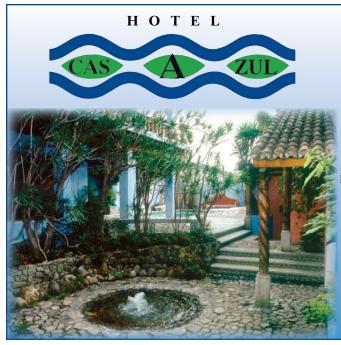
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We would like you to know about Hound Heights and why we need your help

Perhaps it's a stretch to be asking for donations in order to care for injured and abandoned animals when there are so many human needs, yet suffering is suffering, and we're all called to action in one way or another.

Hound Heights, AWARE'S no-kill animal refuge, is currently sheltering 220 dogs and 80 cats. Many puppies and kittens were adopted this year, some older dogs and cats were lucky enough to be placed in loving homes too, but the number of adult animals not suitable for adoption continues to rise. It's easy to rescue an animal ... next comes the hard part. These dogs and cats need medical attention, they need to be housed and comforted, fed and walked, brushed ... many will live out their lives at Hound Heights, cared for by human kindness. They deserve no less.

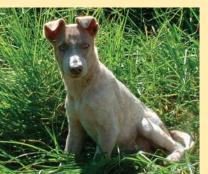
If you would like to adopt a pet, Hound Heights is open to the public every Sunday from 10am to 3pm. You may not be able to adopt a cat or dog --- but why not sponsor one? Q150 per month will provide general medical care, flea control and food.

A one-time donation is also very much appreciated. AWARE is a registered non-profit organization in Guatemala, and a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit corporation in the U.S. Donations in the U.S. are 100% tax deductible.

Wish List Includes:

- metal food/water bowls
- blankets, towels, and bedding
- dog and cat food
- dog and cat toys
- cat boxes and litter
- grounds-keeping equipment: shovels, rakes, etc.
- large plastic garbage pails with lids
- building materials
- a highway sign marker
- a sign for the main gate
- 12-hp generator
- printing of business cards and promotional material
- veterinary products including flea control, anti-parasite medications
- surgical supplies and equipment,
- humane animal traps
- and perhaps tires for our pickup.

With connections to Humane Societies in California and Florida, AWARE has been able to send puppies to the U.S. for almost immediate adoption. US\$300 covers the cost of doing the paperwork for 4 puppies. If anyone plans to travel to California or Florida, willing to accompany animals on the flight, your assistance will be very much appreciated.



Hound Heights, Aldea Pachaj, Interamericana km 40, Sumpango Guatemala Xenii Nielsen: 7833-1639, 5401-3148 xenii-2@usa.net

For donations, correspondence and shopping with proceeds that support AWARE, please visit 4a calle oriente #23, La Antigua Guatemala

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Bruce Barclay

Humanitarian, entrepreneur, and one of the founders of Modern Panajachel

Bruce Barclay, founder of a worker's paradise in Panajachel, has died. The New Yorker of Jewish heritage was 60.

After arriving in Panajachel in 1978, Barclay had a vision for the east bank of the San Francisco River, which bisects Panajachel. He purchased the upper riverside and created a magnet for impoverished Mayas seeking a better deal from life. Bruce Barclay offered them one.

These people possessed what stoneware maven Ken Edwards calls a "corporate artistic gift," a talent shared by whole communities. The local Mayas can take an introduced artistic medium and, without training, instinctively render it in new and beautiful permutations.

Anthropologists had long been fascinated by the phenomenon. But while interest was high, capital and connections were scarce. Barclay changed all this, first by launching a ceramic cooperative to produce authentic items for export.

He profited by selling what he bought from his beneficiaries to his own small chain of storefront clothiers in the U.S. and to other retailers. He did as much as anyone to bring Guatemalan *típico* into the vogue it enjoyed in the United States by the 1980s. In doing so, he helped scores of families avert the bleak privation suffered by transient seasonal laborers and sharecroppers.

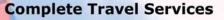
"He treated indigenous folks with deep respect," says Rosa Queché Can, who as a teen began working for Barclay in 1980. "He



looked out for our families in every way. He was always bettering our lives." Barclay even paid for the construction and staffing of a free clinic, which opened not just to his workers but to their needy neighbors—some of whom would became loyal employees.

Barclay named a parcel of his land Las Manos (The Hands) to honor the artisans' handiwork, then built houses for them on property outside of the Las Manos compound. (Eventually, the surrounding neighborhood also came to be called Las Manos.) Barclay deducted the costs for this from his workers' wages; but, at the same time, he compensated by paying them far above the required minimum, enabling them to afford their "mortgages." In effect, Barclay gave them homes even as he preserved their dignity.

Barclay built other cottages at Las Manos and rented them at below-market rates to starving artists, peddlers, volunteer humanitarians and anyone else needing a break. For all of these, and for his workers' families, he added a swimming pool. He electrified the district at his own expense, buying transformers so that not only his people but others outside of Pana's core (electrified in 1961), could enjoy modern comforts. ...continued on page 106



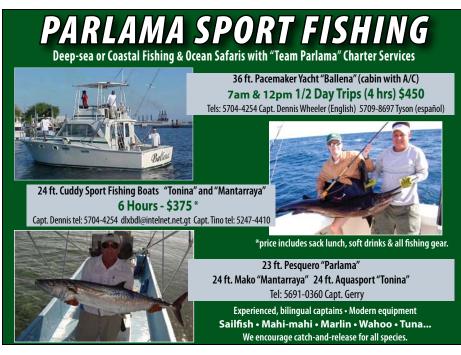
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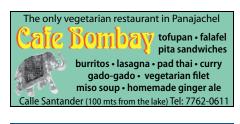
Don't get the impression that you arouse my anger. You see, one can only be angry with those he respects. —Richard M. Nixon

The best minds are not in government. If any were, business would steal them away. —Ronald Reagan

The most successful war seldom pays for its losses. —Thomas Jefferson

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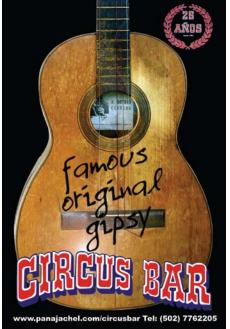
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Can ET Call Home From Guatemala?

n August I wondered, on the 20th anniversary of my arrival in Guatemala: What one thing (aside from my hairline) would be wholly unrecognizable to a time traveler from the year 1988? The answer must be: telecommunications.

Back then, E.T. would never have tried calling home from here. But since I was only calling the United States, instead of the Mother Ship, I began looking for channels after I arrived here.

Calling the U.S. from my landlady's landline was a theoretical possibility, but, in fact, you actually had to go somewhere and stand in line. That would be your neighborhood GuaTel office.

You went to the window, gave your *datos*, then sat in a waiting area. I preferred to stand and watch the operators peg their ancient switchboards and turn hand-cranks on museum-piece machines dating from the 1920s. Finally, the clerk gave you a manic wave and shouted *gabina tres* ("booth 3"). Then you went in, drew the hinged wooden door shut, and found that your party was already on line, saying, "Hello? Hello?"

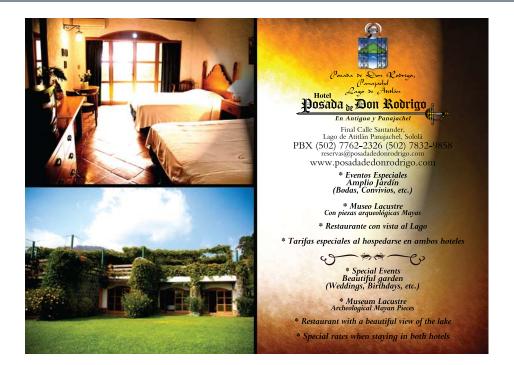
You were not always alone. Sometimes, while conversing with my father, he would ask, "So who's that woman yackety-yackin' at us at 90 miles an hour in [Spanish]?" I neither knew about nor heard what he referred to. Neither did the woman know, judging from the insouciance of her chatter, which was about real or scripted soap operas. The problem was what they called *líneas cruzadas*. The lines no longer cross, because they no longer exist. The location of my neighborhood GuaTel office has hosted a muffler shop since the *first* Gulf War, and GuaTel is now TelGua. In 1988, the penurious town of Independencia in Huehuetenango Department had 12,000 people and one —yes, *one*—telephone. It was likely not used for soap-opera updates, and the line of *usuarios* (users) was probably longer than the queue of extras waiting for Charlton Heston to part the Red Sea.

Nowadays, of course, every 9-year-old kid selling gum sports his own cell phone. Soap-opera talk is still affordable, but now it travels through atmospheric ethers rather than through copper wiring.

To be sure, there *were* mobile phones back then in Guatemala—maybe 10. In developed countries, where mobiles were more common, they were a mark of prestige and importance. They used another technology: local radio broadcasters set aside what we would now call dedicated bandwidth. Communications satellites existed, but using them required beaucoup hoops and gobs of money. A landline, on the other hand, was something almost anyone in the U.S. had. If you did not, you were a flake, a beggar, a credit risk, or all three.

In Guatemala, landlines were *not* something almost everyone had. They were still a mark of basic affluence in 1988. One curiosity that I recall from the time is that sixdigit phone numbers and five-digit numbers somehow existed side by side. It was as

LAKE ATITLÁN

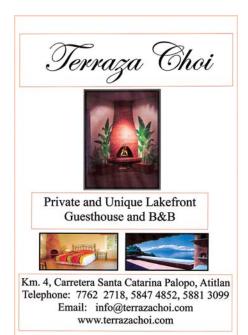


if half the utility's directors were thinking, "Oh, we'll never have to convert the whole system to six digits." My landlady had a five-digit number. No wonder that I still remember it.

At the turn of the current century, cell phones (to say nothing of touch-tone) had arrived, but they were still associated with the very well to do. If you had one before 2000, you were a good credit risk. If you had one before 1994, you also had a private chauffeur.

This prestige had an echo that has only recently petered out. A few years ago I learned, by accident, that I had made the day for a poor *joven* working in forest reclamation. At a meeting, his cell phone rang, and everyone stopped talking so he could talk to me. Pepe had been called on his cell phone! He may have had his chin up for the rest of the day.

Nowadays these interruptions are so common that dentists, even dentists with *poor* patients, hang a "turn ...continued on page 114







That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part.—Thomas Jefferson

Sure I am of this, that you have only to endure to conquer. —Winston Churchill



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Well, I screwed it up real good, didn't I? —Richard M. Nixon



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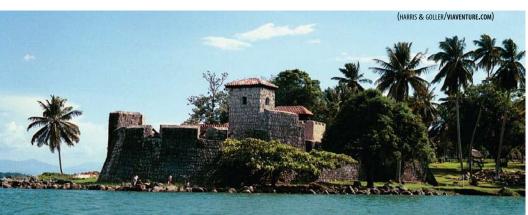
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When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal. —Richard M. Nixon





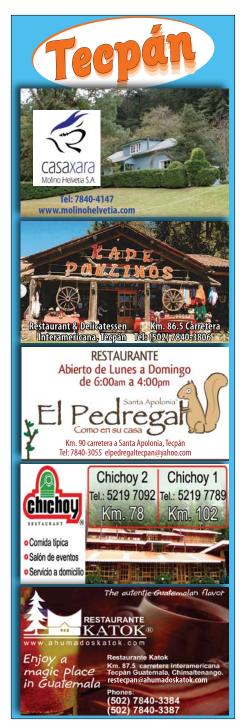
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TECPÁN



Bruce Barclay cont. from page 92

Over time, woodcraft, jewelry, tie-dye, stained-glass and other workshops joined the ceramic *taller*. Barclay also initiated Panajachel's first-ever recycling program, and established a school, now public (see Escuela Tzalá sidebar).

In 1996, Barclay chartered the Las Manos Foundation to preserve and continue his legacy. Two years later, he moved to California, but made frequent trips to Panajachel to shepherd Las Manos' industries. One trip followed Hurricane Stan in October 2005.

"The first thing Bruce wanted to know," says his longtime assistant, Rufino Caníz, "was if everyone was OK [since people were killed during Stan]. He was relieved to hear that they were." Only then did he inquire about the property. Flooding had carried off about 30% of the compound, including the pool, workshops and five houses.

"Bruce was irascible, a champion cusser, and seemingly cynical," says one Panajachel neighbor. "But his greatest joy was in seeing others make good with the hand he extended them. That restored his faith. But he was embarrassed by people's reactions to his generosity, so a lot of it was anonymous."

"He had his faults," says Californian Steve Cleaver, another friend. "But he had a big heart."

"He was way more than just a boss," adds Caníz, who will manage Las Manos. "He was my friend and father for years. A truly great guy."

"If anyone deserves to be in God's presence," says artisan Margarita Can, "it's Don Bruce. He did so much for my family. We are what we are because of him. We'll see him in Eternity someday. God bless him."

Barclay is survived by four grown children: Terra, Bella, Kenneth, Gwendolyn, and JoJo. (8) (sidebar ►)

RETALHULEU « COBÁN



The Short, Happy History of Escuela Tzalá

Many do-gooders come to Guatemala, but few leave an entire school in their footprint. Bruce Barclay was one who did.

Barclay's workers' paradise would have been incomplete without a school, so he built one on his own property. He paid all the construction costs from his own pocket, then furnished the rooms, bought teaching materials and hired teachers.

Though Barclay built the school for his artisans' children, he found that he could not turn away other kids whose families wanted them to attend a school that was not only in their neighborhood, but a cut above any other in town. In fact, Escuela Tzalá is today recognized as one of Guatemala's finest public schools, thanks to a sponsor whose generosity reached legendary magnitudes.

At first, the school offered only two grades. The plan was to add one grade per year but, by 2003, it was a full K-through-six school. After Barclay had paid teachers' salaries for five years, his assistant, Rufino Caníz, petitioned the education ministry to assume responsibility. This they did in 2003, at which time a ministry official arbitrarily renamed the school Escuela Tzalá.

The institution was moved down the street and rebuilt, but it still bears Barclay's mark and owes its genesis to him. A movement is afoot to change its name from Escuela Tzalá to Escuela Bruce Barclay.

"I'm talking to the people from the education ministry about this," Caníz says. "I think it will happen. It should!" **TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED:** Write out what you need to say and drop it off at any of our offices—or, fax or email us your ad and deposit the payment into our business account (we need a copy or fax of the deposit slip before we can place your ad). The rate for a classified ad is **Q120 for 25 words** (or less) for a month with a distribution of 20,000 magazines. Q3.00 per extra word (max. 40 words), no extra charge for <u>some</u> bold, caps or underline. Add Q50 for yellow highlight background. Please email to: classifieds@revuemag.com

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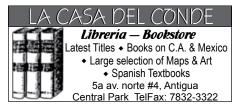
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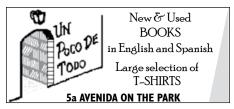






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> One picture is worth 1,000 denials. —Ronald Reagan



Planeta en Ritmo Presents the Andy Palacio Tribute in La Antigua

The Garífuna are descendants of West African slaves who were shipwrecked in 1635 off the coast of what is now called the island of St. Vincent. They assimilated into the native island population, but conflicts with Spanish, British and French rulers, who out-armed them, resulted in their migration into the western Caribbbean. Their villages speckled the coastlines of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Belize. There are now an estimated 250,000 Garífuna people worldwide, a minority culture under pressure from assimilation and coastal development.

Celebrating Garífuna Settlement Day, Planeta en Ritmo brings Garífuna music and culture to La Antigua Guatemala in honor of Andy Vivian Palacio, an iconic Garífuna musician and cultural advocate. He released five original studio albums beginning in 1990 with *Nabi*. On March 14, 2007, Palacio released his last album, *Wátina*, which he considered his masterpiece. In September 2007, the Prime Minister of Belize, Said Wilbert Musa, awarded him the "Order of Meritorious Service," and in November of that year, he was named a "United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Artist for Peace." Andy Palacio died on January 19, 2008. He was only 47 years old.

Planeta en Ritmo has lined up a dynamic group of musicians for his tribute that include The Garífuna Collective; Lloyd Augustine, one of Belize's most popular young musicians; also Umalali, featuring Garífuna women from Guatemala; Los Chupacabras; guest bands and a fireworks display. Proceeds from the event benefit Niños de Guatemala, www.ninosdeguatemala.org

The concert will be held at the Antigua Santa Isabel (www.antiguasantaisabel.com), Carretera a San Bartolomé Becerra. Doors open at 5pm, the show starts at 6pm. For ticket information contact Wendy Wever, tel: 4387-0516, email: wendy.planetaenritmo@gmail.com; Jeff Anderson - jeff. planetaenritmo@gmail.com; Dave Rightmer - david.planetaenritmo@gmail.com

Call Home cont. from page 99

off your cell phone" sign in their lobbies. Such interruptions no longer arouse awe, but annoyance and even contempt.

The great irony is that people who have *only* cell phones, and no landlines, have become suspect as flaky or insolvent. If you have a landline, then you are a homeowner or you rent in a neighborhood that has sewers, electricity and playgrounds. But any squatter can have a cell phone.

And what about credit? Well, if you ask your carpenter if you can borrow his cell phone and he replies, "I can't. It's low on card time," then you might worry that your down payment will be spent on beer instead of wood for your project.

Outside of human settlement, the only place where cell phones are absent, you still see their microwave towers spangling the landscape. This means that time travelers from two millennia ago, as well as those from two decades ago, would have a new set of landmarks to deal with. The towers are not overly ugly, but they are by necessity in the wrong places: on mountaintops, where they cannot be missed.

None of this would have happened without the privatization starting in 1998 with Mexican capital and Italian technology. Italy won the contract to replace those hand-cranked machines, in part because Italian patents on new technology enabled them to underbid other countries. They used Guatemala as a lab for their newest gizmos, and, briefly, Guatemala had one of the most advanced systems on Earth. Italy overtook us, of course, after applying at home what was learned (sometimes painfully) in Guatemala. But here we are in the 21st century, after a conversion that brought eight decades of progress in eight years.

Now my father, who visits this month, can call me without the intrusion of soap-opera yacketyyack. That is progress!





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La Concepción cont. from page 17

fountain patio. Rocío explains that they found remains of the bottoms of the bases, "...so we knew they were here. But we didn't know what they looked like, so we made them very simple." Off the corridor are rooms that served various functions, including a chapel earlier thought to be the private chapel of Sister Juana de Maldonado y Paz, the most famous recluse of La Concepción Convent for her writing, theater and music.

"But Sister Juana never saw this," Reyes announces quietly. What?! Say that again! Careful research of recent months in the Archives of Central America in Guatemala City and study of construction materials and style of adornment show that the whole patio area, including fountain, are from the 18th century, not the 17th, when Sister Juana lived there. Indications are that the cloister seen today was built between the earthquakes of 1717 and 1773. "There is probably a fountain under this one that was here at that time," Reves continues. The excavation team believes there are as many as six layers of construction in the convent, each built on top of rubble of destruction of the previous.

A quick word of reassurance to lovers of the legend of the illustrious Sister Juana: the tiled hot water bathtub further back in the private cloister-within-a-cloister is indeed verified to be hers, its red richness now recovered through painstaking treatments of nopal. The system for heating the water and channeling it to run into the tub is clearly evident.

Sister Juana became Mother Superior and after her death was buried under the altar of the convent church. Her luxurious private quarters, provided by her wealthy and doting dad, were left to a trusted nun, who eventually sold them to another family of another young nun. According to the archives the quarters were two-storied, but nothing remains of the second floor.

Just weeks before writing of this article, a similar, hand-painted tile bathtub was discovered several meters from that of Sister Juana. In the same area are a washstand with two hand sinks, including original stone stoppers, another fountain, another *pila* and what seems to be an herb garden box. Studies and digs continue for more information. Records show that the convent was so populous by 1633 that the nuns urgently petitioned for and were granted more space, pushing the walls out, absorbing and rerouting the street of that time.

The Convent of La Concepción closed, like most of Santiago, after the earthquake of 1773, when the seat of the Spanish government moved to what is now Guatemala City. But its own end actually came before that, its numbers diminishing like other religious institutions, suffering from effects of declining religious dedication. It had become but a "testimonial to past glory," wrote Magda de Aragón in the *Guión Museológico para el Museo de la Semana Santa*.

"We are trying to discover the rest of the story, with three or four centuries of energy here," Reyes explains. He knows this team may not be the one to uncover everything. "We keep a data bank of information for later workers. We change nothing but only consolidate the broken parts. And in the end, it should look as if we were never here."

For more La Concepción history, see the October 2007 Revue at www.revuemag.com. The author thanks Elizabeth Bell for her assistance

Belize, Guatemala and Honduras



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Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. —Thomas Jefferson



The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were. —John F. Kennedy



If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men. —Francis of Assisi

El Volcán de San Salvador

"En armonía con la naturaleza" photo by Gerardo Porras

The magic comes without the crowds by Kelly Montes

any Salvadorans know El Volcán de San Salvador for its proximity to the capital. Just look up from almost anywhere in the city and there it is, dominating the landscape with lush green slopes and silently beckoning you to visit.

The Volcano of San Salvador is a community with a soul. The charm of this destination is waiting for you. The ribbon of road, which winds up one coffee-growing side of the volcano and down the other, is an official tourist destination named Ruta Boqueron, the route to the crater of the volcano. Calle Antigua al Boquerón (coming up from Plaza Merliot) was quickly built in response to the devastation left behind in Los Chorros after the earthquakes of 2001.

In the haste of it all, neither sidewalks nor shoulders for pedestrians were considered. Needless to say, the community spills out into the street, which actually enhances this beautiful destination. Wind slowly through the small villages with the same attention you might give a fine piece of art displayed in a museum. The multitude of different shades of earth tones in the dramatic landscape, the pure country scenery and the crisp mountain air invite everyone to admire nature at her very best. You are now a million miles and a hundred years from the hustle and bustle of the city, which is only 20 minutes away.

The crater (El Boquerón), which last erupted in 1917, has a steep wall, 1.5 kilometers wide and about 500 meters deep. The volcano made news recently when Tourism Minister Rubén Rochi dedicated the newly paved road and viewing installations. El Picacho is the prominent peak of the volcano at 1,960 meters. The gardens surrounding the crater are beautiful, as are the local women who sell berries and flowers in a small market for visitors. The Ministry of Tourism manages the crater and the surrounding gardens.

The volcano's charm can be enjoyed from any one of the four restaurants located here, each as unique as the destination itself and all off the main road.

Just before the corner where you turn off to El Boquerón sits Café El Volcán (Km 20). This is a beautiful restaurant on a large property of manicured gardens. The menu is designed with something for everyone. You may want to start off with the gourmet pupusas. Arugula and tomatoes, mushrooms or asparagus, prepared in the traditional style with cheese, are just delicious. *Open Tues-Sun., 9am-6:30pm, tel: 2306-2001.*

Café San Fernando, a converted *finca* house (Km 24), will remind you of an old-fashioned beer garden. The picnic tables are arranged on a dramatic slope so that everyone gets a breathtaking view and a refreshing breeze. The menu offers traditional grilled meats and chicken with delicious side dishes as well as seafood. *Open Wed-Sun, tel: 2288-2285.*

From this point you are now on the north side of the volcano, and there are some major differences such as its own distinctive climate. You can enjoy listening to the distant thunder of a rainstorm from the south side and be drenched in sun on this side. From this vantage you can clearly see Cerro de Nejapa, Cerro de Guazapa and the thin, shiny strip of Río Lempa. On a crisp day you can be awed by the mountain ridges of Honduras.

A great place to check out the panoramic view is the oldest establishment, Café Miranda. Built in the late 1800s, the main structures were open to the public in 2001. Café Miranda (Km 25) has beautiful gardens, a plant nursery and seating areas (indoors and outdoors) and prepares a delicious Churrasco Boquerón. If you're an early riser, make a date for breakfast, the eggs benedict, accompanied by breathtaking views, is worth getting up early for. *Open Wed-Thurs.*, 11:30am-5pm, Fri-Sun., 8am-7pm, tel: 2298-4577 & 7886-9700.

Two kilometers farther is Las Orquideas, (Km 27) a destination with a purpose. Privately owned and designed for small private, concerts to support the local arts, Las Orquideas now offers lunch amid a lush, 10-manzana organic coffee forest. Tour the organic herb garden and lemon orchard, walk the extensive trails or sip a chilled glass of wine while enjoying the weekend's live music venue. Everything is about the enjoyment of the great outdoors, with emphasis on fresh specials prepared by culinary artists using the finest ingredients (most grown on the property). A portion of the proceeds is always dedicated back to the community. Open Sat-Sun., 11am-4pm, tel: 7930-7435. 🚯

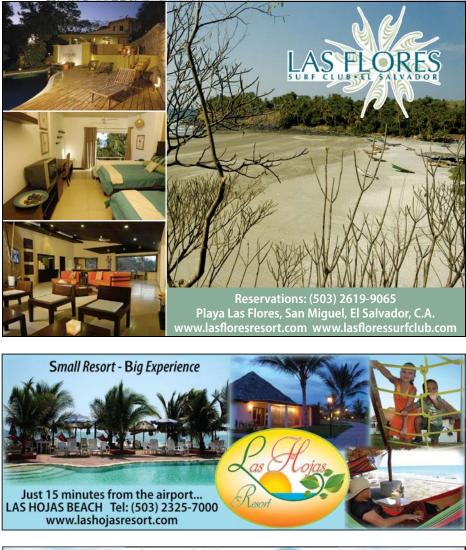


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Sure there are dishonest men in local government. But there are dishonest men in national government too. —Richard M. Nixon



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Continuous effort not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential. —Winston Churchill

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It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first. —Ronald Reagan

It is necessary for me to establish a winner image. Therefore, I have to beat somebody. -Richard M. Nixon





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