

# REVUE

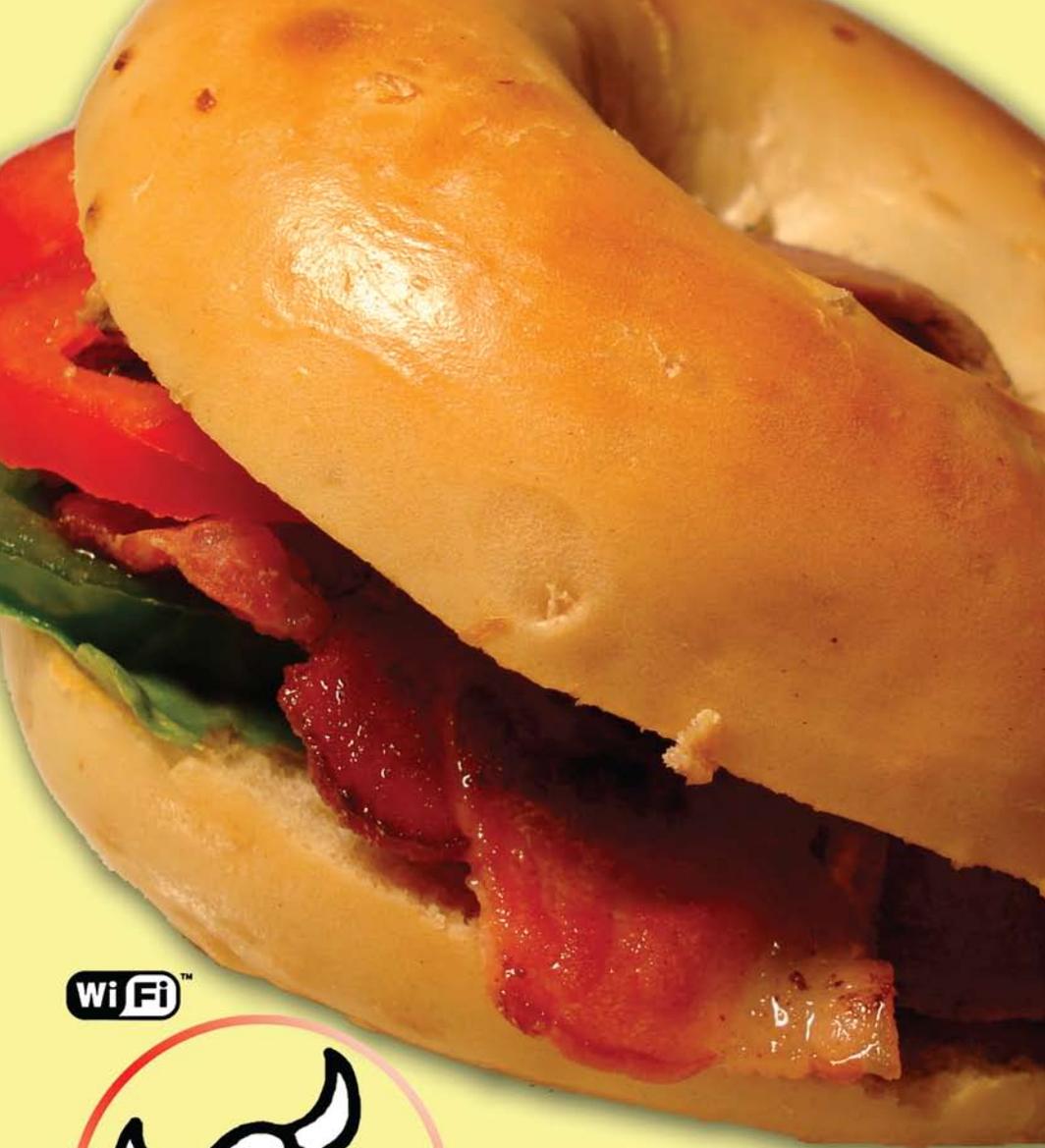
Guatemala's English-language Magazine  
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December 2009  
Year 18, No. 10

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A small inset image showing a sports field with people playing basketball.

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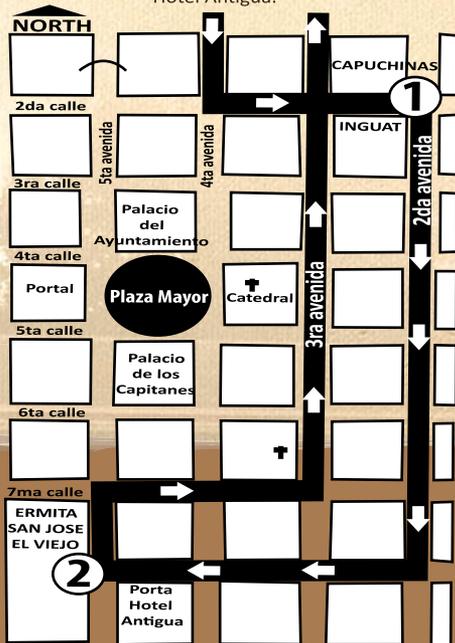


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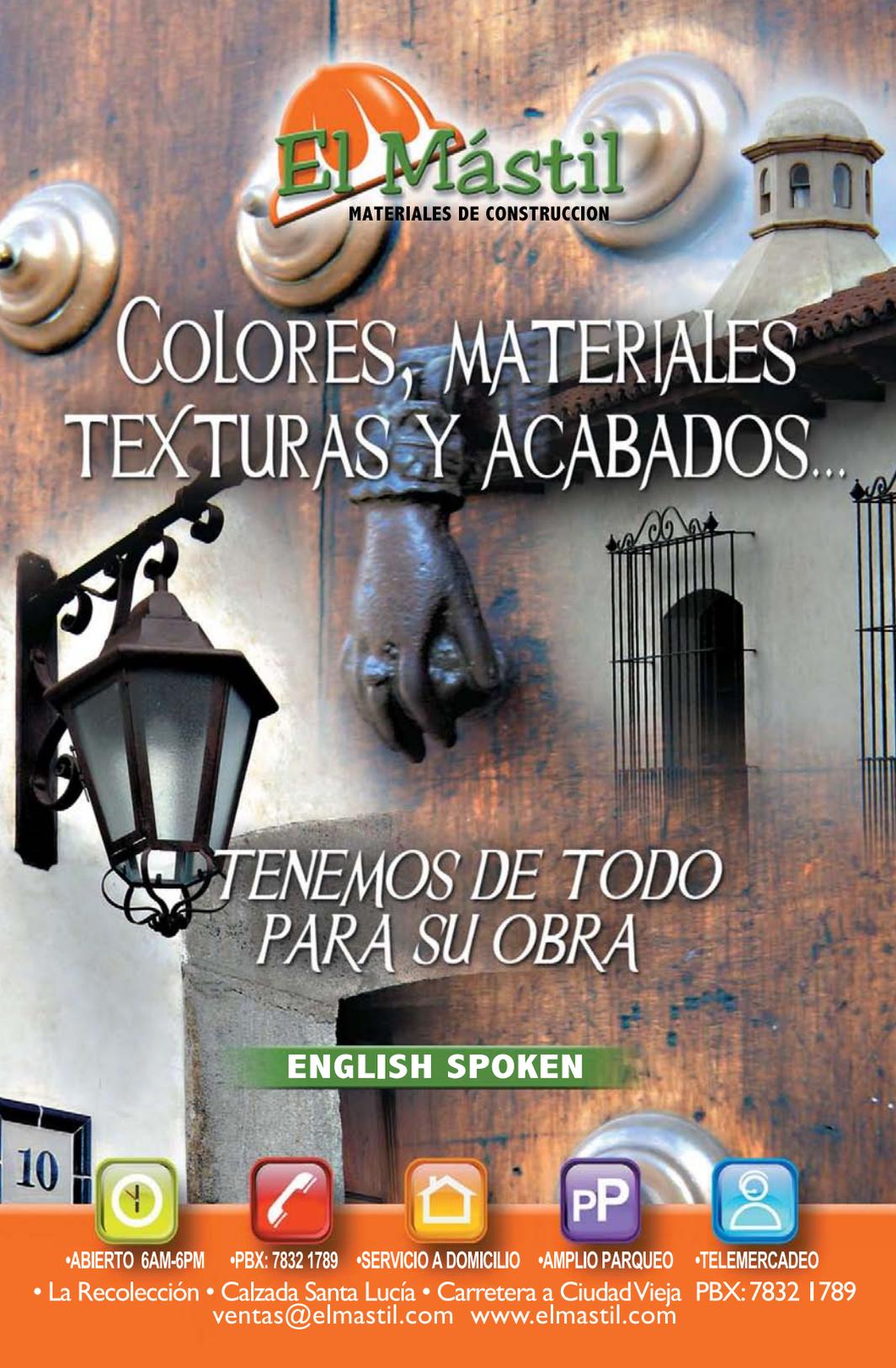
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**Tradiciones al rojo vivo**

*Photo by Ricardo Gándara*

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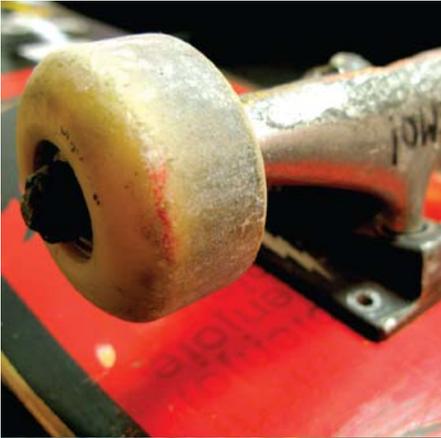
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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

We are excited to bring you this Christmas potpourri starting with the cover image taken by photographer Ricardo Gándara. We hope our annual *Guatemala Holiday Calendar* is useful; Joy Houston extends an invite to tour *nacimientos*; Elizabeth Bell highlights *Festivities in Ciudad Vieja*, accompanied with photos by Gary Kaney; there is also a host of other holiday photo ops taken by additional talented photographers; *Charlie Brown in Santiago* was penned by humorist Dwight Wayne Coop and Ken Veronda's monthly "Sensuous Guatemala" is the delicious *Holiday Scents*.

In keeping with December traditions, DateBook includes a Christmas bazaar; a theatrical performance of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; listings for *Quema del Diablo* (Burn the Devil), celebrations and parades to honor the *Virgen de Concepción*; Christmas concerts, an opportunity to be a part of a *Posada Navideña*; and *Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe celebrations*. In addition there are art shows, lectures, musical events, workshops and much, much more.

For book lovers we have "Book Alerts;" "People and Projects" presents *Thirteen Threads*; and Anthony Brindisi gives us some holiday gift buying possibilities—all handmade by the women of San Rafael Chilascó.

There's still more, "Great Escapes," the final in the El Pilar series; "Sports"—and how giving, gives back; "Health Issues" reports on devastating statistics that are offset by dedicated people and their organizations who've found some workable solutions.

We dedicate this edition to *Dr. John Cheatham*, 1940-2009. He leaves the world a better place and forever an example of selflessness and service.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

**ALL OF US AT REVUE WISH ALL OF YOU A WONDERFUL 2010!!!**

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### Publishers / Managing Editors:

John & Terry Kovick Biskovich editor@revuemag.com

**Copy Editor:** Matt Bokor

**Staff Writer:** Dwight Wayne Coop

**Art Director / Graphic Design:** Rudy A. Girón

**Photography:** César Tián

**Proofreader/Translations:** Michael Hopkins

**Contributing Photographers:** Harris/Goller, Smith/Riegel, Club Fotográfico de Guatemala: www.clubfotografico.org

**La Antigua Manager:** César Tián

**Production Coordinator:** Mercedes Mejicanos

**Administrative Assistants:** Alma Diaz Castillo

**Systems:** José Caal, Luis Juárez, Diego Alvarez

**Distribution:** César Tián, Oscar Chacón, Luis Toribio

**Maintenance:** Silvia Gómez, Irma Jiménez, María Solís

**Sales Representatives:** Ivonne Pérez, César Tián, Denni

Marsh, Fernando Rodas, Lucy Longo de Pérez,

Lena Johannesson, Patricia Rosenberg

**Revue Webmaster:** Rudy A. Girón

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### REVUE OFFICES:

**LA ANTIGUA** ventas@revuemag.com

**(Central Office) 6a calle poniente #2**

**PBX: (502) 7931-4500**

### GUATEMALA CITY

Av. La Reforma 8-60, z.9, Edif. Galerías Reforma,

1 level, Of. #105 Tel: (502) 7931-4500

**SAN CRISTÓBAL:** Denni Marsh Tel: 2478-1649 Fax: 2485-5039

**EL SALVADOR** revue.elsalvador@gmail.com

**El Salvador Regional Manager:** Lena Johannesson

Col. Centroamérica Calle San Salvador #202, San Salvador

TelFax: (503) 2260-7475, 2260-1825 Cel: 7981-4517

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## *Over Five Years of Empowering Maya Women*

text and photo by Maya Moore

**T**hirteen Threads (TT), a Maya women's education and empowerment project based in Panajachel, Lake Atitlán, proudly completed its first five years of operations this year. What began as an 18-month pilot project designed to provide resources to 16 groups of artisans working with two fair-trade organizations, Mayan Hands and Maya Traditions, has turned into a valued organization in its own right. Today, TT serves over 400 Maya women from 21 rural Guatemalan communities.

The mission of Thirteen Threads is to empower organized groups of indigenous women to bring about changes, through their own efforts, that will alleviate the adverse effects of poverty and improve their quality of life. To this end, TT offers trainings and workshops in four focus areas: new and improved artisan skills; democracy and group organization; health and well-being; and small business skills, including micro-credit loans.

Participants consistently express sincere appreciation for the skills and knowledge that TT has given them. Over the past year, TT has offered sewing classes, a soap-making workshop and rug-hooking training using recycled *cortes* and *huipiles*. TT's three community facilitators continue to make monthly visits to each group. This year, the focus has been on group administration



for self-sufficiency, including themes on division of responsibilities, management of funds and resolution of conflicts.

TT, as an organization, is growing, as well. An ambitious proposal for the next three years has been developed, presenting a variety of innovative ideas for transitioning into a more democratic and sustainable operation. TT hopes to continue to inspire others and is thankful for all of the dedicated support that it has received for this ever-evolving project.

### **Wish List**

Used laptops, projector, funds to make a film about the project.

For more information on how to volunteer or donate, please visit the Thirteen Threads website, [www.oxlajujbatz.org](http://www.oxlajujbatz.org). You can also find the latest project updates on Facebook and Twitter. 

## CELEBRATIONS



December 7, Burning of the Devil (César Tián)



Folkloric dancer, Ciudad Vieja (Gary Kaney)

# Guatemala Holiday Calendar

**A**ll year he hides under the bed or in the junk piled up in the corner, casting misfortune or worse on helpless mortals. But on Monday, **Dec. 7** at 6 p.m. sharp, the devil gets his comeuppance, as he is tossed out of the house along with the trash and set ablaze in the *Quema del Diablo* (Burning the Devil), a tradition in many Guatemalan towns that literally sparks the beginning of the Christmas season. —*Juan Carlos Ordóñez*

**Dec. 7 & 8:** Celebrations honoring the *Virgen de Concepción* featuring elaborate celebrations in Ciudad Vieja with parades and processions, fireworks and folkloric dances and dramas. Traditional food for sale includes *estofado* and *pepián*, a traditional Mayan meat dish made with a spicy sauce of *chile gaugue* and *pasa*, cilantro, tomato, onion, toasted sesame and *pepitoria* seeds. The favorite dessert on this holiday is crab apples (*manzanillas*) prepared *en dulce*. See related article on page 29 and photo spreads on pages 72 and 76.

**Dec. 8** is also the official day for setting up *nacimientos* (nativity scenes) which is a strong family tradition in Guatemala that requires skill and a lot of patience. The scenes include Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus (who is covered up until the 25<sup>th</sup>), also shepherds, a mule, an ox, sheep and three late-arriving Wise Kings. The finishing touch, an aromatic chamomile ring, creates the wonderful scent of a typical Guatemalan nativity. Nativities will not be put away until Feb. 2 when the traditional Christmas season comes to an end. —*Desirée de Ceballos and Karla Ceballos (Casa de Artes, La Antigua)* See related article on page 18.

**On Dec. 12** the *Virgen de Guadalupe* is celebrated throughout the country. Many children dress in indigenous clothing and participate in parades and church blessings. One such procession begins at the La Merced Church in Antigua.



**Dec. 12, Children's parade** (César Tián)

**Dec. 15** marks the beginning of nightly *Posadas* in a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Pilgrims accompany them, singing carols, beating turtle shell drums and playing other typical Guatemalan instruments. They knock on doors seeking shelter but are turned away until they reach the designated home where everyone is invited inside. As the holy couple is bedded down in solemn ceremony, the pilgrims scramble for refreshments. The journey continues to another house the next night, for a total of nine nights.

On the **24<sup>th</sup> of December, *Noche Buena / Christmas Eve***, many are doing last minute Christmas shopping, visiting friends, catching buses bound for home. At 10pm the midnight Mass/*Misa de Gallo*) begins, celebrating the birth of Jesus. When the clock strikes midnight, *Navidad / Christmas Day, Dec. 25*) is celebrated with prayers, fireworks, good wishes, and traditional food is shared and enjoyed throughout the night. With the dawn comes time for rest, the day is quiet—with the exception of more fireworks and *bombas* at noon.



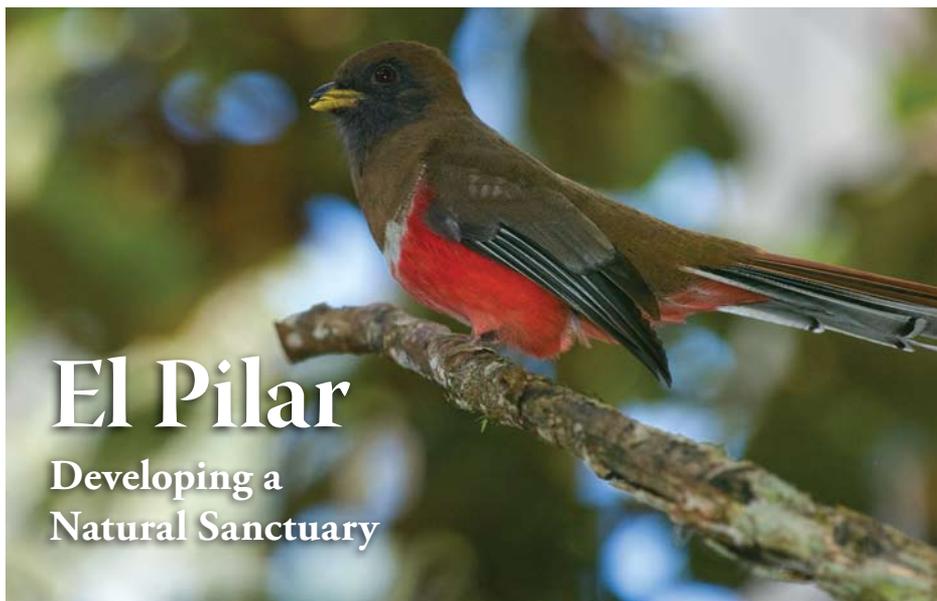
**The Virgen de Guadalupe procession** (César Tián)

**The traditional Christmas Eve dinner** is tamales and of course punch that includes papayas, pineapple, crab apples, prunes, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and shredded coconut, served hot or cold when friends or family come to call. Hot chocolate is another holiday treat, as are *buñuelos*, fried puff pastry fritters served with syrup of molasses or brown sugar, anise and cinnamon.

**Jan. 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010**



HARRY DIAZ WWW.FLICKR.COM/HARRYDIAZ



# El Pilar

## Developing a Natural Sanctuary

*The final article of a three-part series exploring El Pilar—a raw and wild reserve where the proprietors have a vision for developing it into a sustainable resource for valuable research and first-rate birdwatching.*

“**W**hen you preserve a place with a natural ecosystem you preserve all the biodiversity that lives in there,” Juan Rivera asserts.

Rivera is the manager of Finca El Pilar, a quiet natural retreat just 3.5 kilometers from La Antigua’s central park near San Cristóbal El Bajo. He says properly developing this wild haven into a tourist-friendly reserve is critical for enabling the invaluable research of a fragile and threatened ecosystem found within the grounds of the farm.

“We have some remaining cloud forest on the top. A cloud forest is a mix of conditions. You have to have a certain altitude above sea level—generally it’s above 1,800 meters. You have to have an ocean relatively close, the mist from the ocean forms clouds that fill the forest. You also have to have specific wind patterns that guide the clouds into the forest.”

Rivera estimates that about 30 percent of his farm constitutes a cloud forest and, without proper conservation, it could easily diminish to nothing.

“For the last four years, we’ve had a fire every year. Two years ago we had some big fires in the upper part near the houses and it burned all the forest soil.”

Rivera recalls that one fire was particularly devastating.

“It burned maybe 20 percent of the cloud forest that was on the top of the mountain. And you know a cloud forest is very, very wet, so it was a big fire. ... We have to be monitoring constantly. In the dry season we have a water tank with a big hose attached on the back in case we need to put out fires.”

Fires aren’t the only threat. Global warming is another issue that Rivera says pressures the fragile environment.



Margay

“Global warming is a threat because ... as it becomes hotter, maybe by 10 degrees, the forest can only find colder temperatures if it goes up. But, it doesn’t have any way to go up because there is no more land. So it’s starts to die.”

Research suggests that it takes between 500 and 600 years for a cloud forest to re-grow, and Rivera says “with the global warming that’s not going to happen.” Thus, the farm manager has just one option: “I can only preserve what I have left.”

What’s left still proves to be quite much. El Pilar is believed to be the home of one of the most diverse bat populations around Antigua. Other wildlife includes grey fox, snakes, porcupines, skunks, opossums, raccoons, frogs, lizards and more. But what at-

tracts Rivera most is the plentiful population of birds. More than 130 species can be spotted flitting throughout the farm’s treetops.

“I want to build a place that is bird-watcher friendly. Maybe build a lodge farther up the mountain and a scientific station for visitors and students from around the world who are getting advanced degrees and want to come here to do research.”

Yet, Rivera wants to keep the reserve as wild and natural as possible.

“I want to make it very low-impact. We have a lot of potential with birdwatching tourism, the eco-system is very good. We can also make some trekking and mountain-biking.”

Rivera says El Pilar has already hosted international birdwatching ...continued on page 44

*El Pilar is located about 3.5 kilometers from the central park. Begin by walking south toward 7a calle until you reach San Francisco Church. Walk past the church and behind it to find the path leading to Santa Ana. Look for El Calvario Church and INVAL, the institute for men. When you reach the landmarks, cross to the left to find the end of a path. You will be able to see the Church of San Cristóbal El Bajo. Walk up the path, past the church until you reach El Pilar. The walk is about 20 minutes. A ride in a tuk tuk or taxi will take less than 10 minutes.*



# FÚTBOL: Barrio Norte Style

**L**as *Manos* (The Hands), *Los Cuates* (Buddies), *Talleres* (Metal Workers), *Areneros* (Sand Diggers), *Las Muñecas* (The Dolls), *Los Dragones* (The Dragons), these are a few of the 36 soccer teams participating in the Barrio Norte Soccer Project. Every Saturday and Sunday the raucous cheers and thuds of the games can be heard throughout the barrio. There are 350 boys and girls (ages 11-17) and young adults involved, thanks to Willy Lynch, sports lover and patron, and Robin Rodríguez, manager, and Juan of All Trades, himself a former second division professional soccer player and father of four.

Three years ago, after Hurricane Stan decimated Barrio Norte in Panajachel, Lake Atitlán, Willy became concerned that there was nowhere in the barrio for the kids to play and most were just hanging out and headed for trouble. He talked to Don Meme Pablo de León about using some of his land for a soccer field. Don Meme agreed to lend the land, and the locals started moving boulders, tree trunks and other debris left by the flash flood. They hired earth movers to carve out a space 40 by 28 meters (smaller than a regulation playing field). The men raked and leveled as best they could.

Willy provides trophies, medals, chalk for lines, soccer balls and nets, as well as celebratory pizza and sodas after the tournaments. The men, mostly fathers of the kids, maintain the field and provide volunteer referees. If they don't work, they forfeit their games. What began as a barrio project now involves teams from Jucanyá, Patanatic and other areas, but all the work is done by the people of Barrio Norte. By now most teams have their own uniforms; there are loaner uniforms for those without. Willy hopes to see more fields in other parts of town. The problem is getting land, most of which is privately owned.

This year Willy started a basketball program and held a free basketball clinic when his daughter, Lauren, a physical education teacher in New York City's Bedford-Stuyvesant area, came for a visit. Sixty kids attended. Lauren plans to

return in December because she was so impressed with the kids. “They were respectful, they listened, they were well behaved. There was no arguing or fighting! What a change from up North. Sixty kids up there would have been total chaos!” They now have 10 to 15 teams with both boys and girls (ages 8-15) on the same teams. Annette García, from Australia, is their coach.

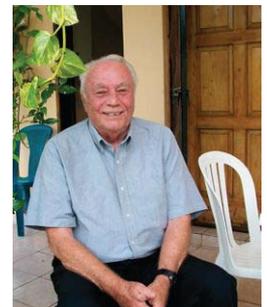
Willy, too, comments on the behavior of these youngsters: “There’s no getting into trouble, no smoking, no drinking, no pot. They’re well spoken, polite and they listen. There are no fights in the games and, so far, no injuries. They play rough, but there is no intentional fouling. They are good sports and they have a lot of fun.”

I interviewed some of the kids and found them surprisingly open and forthcoming. Brian, 11, who has been in the program for two years, says “I like to make goals. I have no bad grades, my favorite subject is math. I want to be a computer expert.” Josue, 11, likes being a striker (forward). He gets 60s and 70s in school and wants to be a doctor. Henry, 13, also a striker, says his grades are “some good, some bad.” Spanish is difficult for him. He wants to be a PE teacher. Mario, 13, likes defense. His grades are “satisfactory.” His favorite subject is math and he wants to be a teacher.

The referee that day, Minor, also a former second division player, says it’s very important for kids to play and not get into trouble. “They get very enthusiastic, they don’t want to lose. If the ref is demanding and calls fouls, they listen. If he doesn’t know what he’s doing, they ignore him.” Minor volunteers because sports are important for the community. “If people do only what they are paid to do, you lose the spirit of sport. It’s for the good of the community.” He has been supportive of kids’ sports for the past 15 years.

Robin is the key person, says Willy. “He does all the organizing, schedules, contacts everyone to remind them of games, keeps track of the volunteer commitments—everything, for free. He is also a referee.”

Willy says volunteer coaches (Spanish speaking) are needed, even for a couple of weeks at a time, as well as money for soccer balls (100-150Q), uniforms (100Q), and shoes for those who can’t afford them. And space to play, even if only for a few years. If you are interested in participating, please email: [Willy34@msn.com](mailto:Willy34@msn.com) After all, he says, “It’s fun, good for the kids. I meet lots of people. When you retire to Guatemala, you need to find a passion, a purpose, a way to become a real part of your community. Otherwise you just die.” 📌



Patron Willy Lynch

Last May, Emma, a 35-year-old mother of nine, passed away from cervical cancer, now considered a sexually-transmitted disease. Her premature death was a terrible and preventable tragedy. After hearing a radio announcement about a WINGS-sponsored screening in Chimaltenango, she came for her first such screening two years ago, but the test revealed Emma had advanced cancer.

Feeling helpless at first because she couldn't afford any treatment, Emma found great support from WINGS' staff members, who arranged for her to be seen by a doctor and to receive available treatment, including radiotherapy, from INCAN, the Guatemalan Cancer Institute. Unfortunately, Emma's cancer was very advanced by the time it was discovered, and the treatment was unsuccessful.

During her lifetime Emma, like 60 percent of Guatemalan women, had never used any contraceptive method because she believed, as do so many people here, that contraceptives cause cancer. After attending the cervical cancer clinic, she learned that this widespread belief was actually a dangerous myth. Until her death, Emma continued to spread the word to other women in her community that all women are at risk for cervical cancer and that cancer is not caused by family planning methods. She encouraged all the women she knew to be screened, telling them that the test could save their lives.

## Cervical Cancer

### A killer in the developing world

**C**ervical cancer has a major impact on women's lives worldwide, particularly in developing countries where it is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women. According to the latest global estimates, 493,000 new cases of cervical cancer occur each year, and 274,000 women die of the disease annually. Because the disease progresses over many years, an estimated 1.4 million women worldwide are living with cervical cancer, and two to five times more—up to 7 million worldwide—may have precancerous conditions that need to be identified and treated.

If it is not detected and treated early, cervical cancer is nearly always fatal. The disease, which affects the poorest and most vulnerable women, sends a ripple effect

through families and communities that rely heavily on women's roles as providers and caregivers. Four out of five new cases, and a similar proportion of deaths, occur in developing countries where screening programs are not well established or effective.

In Guatemala, cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women of reproductive age, with 3.77 million Guatemalan women currently at risk for this potentially fatal cancer. Over 60 percent of female cancer cases attended by the National Cancer Institute in Guatemala are cervical cancer, which accounts for more than breast, skin, ovarian and stomach cancers combined.

Cervical cancer is a slow-growing cancer, easily prevented through regular screen

ing and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, which can reduce incidence and mortality by as much as 90 percent. Unfortunately, Guatemala, like most developing countries, has no effective national screening program, and hundreds of Guatemalan women continue to die unnecessarily each year from this preventable disease. Women in poor, rural areas are at especially high risk for cervical cancer due to factors such as unfaithful partners, early initiation of sexual activity, high fertility, poor nutrition and lack of access to health services. More than 75 percent of the women living in Guatemala's rural areas and poor urban communities have never been screened for cervical cancer.

At least two organizations are working to address the widespread lack of cervical cancer screening services in Guatemala. The Women's International Network for Guatemalan Solutions (WINGS), an NGO based in La Antigua Guatemala with a mission to create opportunities for Guatemalan families to improve their lives through family planning education and reproductive health care, operates a mobile cervical cancer detection and treatment program. Because many women are not aware of the risks of cervical cancer or methods for prevention, WINGS also conducts educational outreach to expand knowledge and increase demand for screenings. Women who attend WINGS' talks or clinics are encouraged to share information about cervical cancer with their friends, relatives and neighbors. In 2008, WINGS screened more than 4,300 women at its mobile clinics.

Faith in Practice is an NGO that aims to improve the physical, spiritual and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical and dental mission trips and health-related educational programs. Last year, Faith in Prac-

In Guatemala, cervical cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women of reproductive age, with 3.77 million Guatemalan women currently at risk for this potentially fatal disease.

More than 75 percent of the women living in Guatemala's rural areas and poor urban communities have never been screened for cervical cancer.

tice screened almost 3,000 women and provided training for Guatemalan doctors and nurses who went on to screen over 12,000 women at public health clinics.

Both WINGS and Faith in Practice utilize the low-cost VIA/Cryo method (visual inspection of the cervix with acetic acid and same-day treatment using cryotherapy), also called the "see and treat" method or *la prueba rápida*. This technique is especially appropriate for low-resource settings because results can be given the same day, and up to half of abnormalities detected can be treated immediately using cryotherapy, a simple procedure which involves freezing the surface of the cervix. VIA/Cryo greatly diminishes the need for return visits, which are often prohibitively difficult or expensive for women in isolated or low-income areas. In addition, when the result of a screening is negative, the test only needs to be repeated every three years, whereas Pap smears should be repeated annually because of the high prevalence of false negatives with the Pap smear test. VIA/Cryo can be performed by any trained healthcare provider, not necessarily ...continued on page 46



DANIEL CHANG



RIDY GIRON

# Touring the Nacimientos

*La Antigua's nativity scenes are as beautiful as they are varied*

For centuries, all over the world artistic expressions of the birth of Jesus have touched people of all ages and stages, the right and the poor, the merry and the melancholy, the proud and the profane. Surely you find yourself in there somewhere. So this month treat your senses and your spirit to a do-it-yourself tour of the *nacimientos* in the churches of La Antigua Guatemala.

If you say, "They're all the same," you might be surprised. The basic group includes Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherds ... whoops! Not all have shepherds. Surely there's always a sheep? Nope.

Angels? Not always. Cattle lowing, a star on high, wise men from afar? Maybe, maybe not.

Visiting *nacimientos* in Antigua's churches provides a very pleasant and provocative pre-Christmas pastime. Because we tend to overlook what is common to us (who visits a museum most, a tourist or a local?), it could be easy to take a look at one *nacimiento*, the

closest or most convenient and no more. Hint: Do yourself a favor; look a little further this year.

Antigua church *nacimientos* reflect the economics and culture of the particular parish. In years past the cathedral's *nacimiento* could have been called elegant, Escuela de Cristo's pastoral and Hermano Pedro's simple—and simply painted, while life-size figures at the cathedral and San Francisco were luxuriously robed. Escuela de Cristo had a country scene with three large, fluffy sheet and no kings, but two women drawing or carrying water. The three kings at Hermano Pedro rode horses.

Calvario had 10 animals in a setting that gave a sense of an open plain. San Francisco offered a walk-through cave complete with waterfall, while a music box played "We wish you a Merry Christmas."

The action was in the sky at the cathedral with great-winged, flying angels, some playing trumpets.

Yet more life-size angels at the cathedral



were standing or sitting on bales of hay, but no shepherds, no animals. And all the faces were pale. La Merced also had flying angels, completely gilded, hovering over the nacimiento given the most prominent place of all, just behind the altar.

A second nacimiento at La Merced, toward the back of the church, included a model of the town of Antigua with a river flowing around it. Water played a role in several nacimientos, and most sparkled with tiny, twinkling lights. Other materials used were pine needles, strings of crabapples, palm branches, moss, sand, lace, velvet, sheets of heavy brown paper, crumpled and molded, then painted or gilded.

The nacimientos are beautiful, creative gifts of love of each congregation. They invite you to come and see. Stay awhile, long enough to look intentionally. The rest is up to you.

Seen one, seen 'em all? Not so with the nacimientos.

Don't miss viewing them this Christmas season! 

### **La Merced (Nuestra Señora de Las Mercedes)**

6ª avenida norte & 1ª calle poniente

### **San Francisco El Grande**

7ª calle oriente & 1ª avenida sur

### **Escuela de Cristo**

Calle de los Pasos & Calle de Belén

### **La Ermita de el Calvario**

Southern extreme of Alameda de El Calvario (the road leads farther on to the villages of San Cristóbal El Bajo, San Gaspar Vivar, San Juan del Obispo, & Santa María de Jesús).

### **Obras Sociales Hermano Pedro**

6a calle oriente #20 (between 3a and 4a avenida), across from Parque de la Unión

### **San José Catedral**

Central Park



## Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

# Charlie Brown in Santiago Atitlán

*Or, How the Peanuts gang finds relief from the big northern syndicate this Christmas*

When I was a child, the holiday season's shortest half-hour passed during the broadcast of *Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown*. That, and the other seasonal *Peanuts* specials, were always over too quickly. These cartoons enraptured everyone—even grownups who otherwise despised cartoons, like those vapid *Flintstones*.

I might have been 6 when my mother explained to me Linus VanPelt's remark (to Charlie Brown) that "Christmas was controlled by a big eastern syndicate" (which might today be identified with Wal-Mart). The theme of *Merry Christmas* was the search for meaning among the crass consumerism that bred Linus' complaint. The *Peanuts* gang goes on to discover meaning in the rescue of an anemic Christmas tree found, allegorically, among a lot of garish tinsel trees flocked with fake snow.

If Linus grew up to become an expat in Guatemala, he would find the consumerism more tolerable here, especially if he limited his TV and radio time. Certain broadcasters begin the countdown in September by announcing, several times hourly, that *Sólo faltan 106 días para la navidad!* If you listen to the radio with some regularity, then you hear this reminder thousands of times between Labor Day and Christmas. Like they don't want you to forget, or something. I

could wish this "reminding" system were operative for lost keys.

Although Charlie Brown does find meaning, he remains resigned to the pervasion of Linus' big eastern syndicate. But Linus may have been right in ways he could not have known, since another big eastern syndicate began spreading Christmas in Guatemala for centuries prior to its "introduction" in the early 1500s. For while the big eastern syndicate of medieval Catholicism deserves partial credit for promoting the holiday in the New World, there is evidence that a still older big eastern syndicate, first-century Christianity, was the original herald.

Fortunately, it is rare these days to hear Columbus called the discoverer of the New World. I have to wonder how my Apache ancestors felt when, newly confined to the reservation, their white schoolteachers described him thus. Columbus was only the latest in a series of rediscoverers, and even then only eurocentrically speaking. His landfall was Western Civilization emerging from a fugue and "discovering" a hemisphere it had long influenced, but had not known, since the exchanges and diasporas had been one-way propositions. Migrants had crossed the Bering Strait, sailed the Atlantic or ridden the ...continued on page 106



The children's choir "Escolanía Luterana" will perform a benefit concert.

# Concert of Sacred & Christmas Music

*Sunday, December 13, 4-6pm*

*Convento de Capuchinas, La Antigua, 2a av. & 2a calle*

**A**t the age of 10 Jorge Pellecer Badillo began formal music and piano lessons. Five years later he founded a choir in his church. At 17, he graduated from high school with honors and began his studies in medicine. He went on to specialize in psychotherapy and music therapy.

He plays various wind instruments and directs the Brass Choir of "Cristo Rey" Church, where he is the chapel master. Dr.

Pellecer founded and directs the Antique Music Ensemble "Ars Nova de Guatemala" and has made an important rescue of Guatemala's colonial music, documented in three CDs.

In 2004 Dr. Pellecer founded "Escolanía Luterana," to awaken the musical talent and appreciation among the young children of the congregation.

This holiday performance of Sacred and Christmas music benefits JOEL (Jóvenes con Espíritu Libre) a program that promotes values and principles to teenagers who attend public schools.

Q75 per person: advance sales please call 2360-6425 during office hours; tickets also on sale the day of the event. 



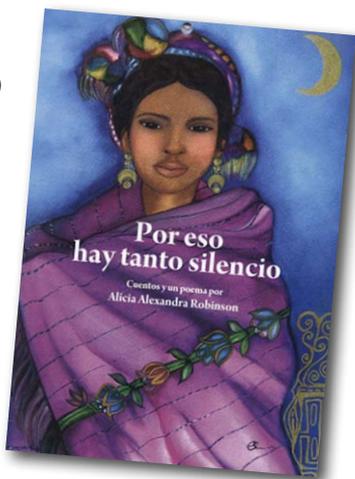
Dr. Jorge Pellecer Badillo

## *Por eso hay tanto silencio*

**Author** Alicia Alexandra Robinson  
**Illustrations by** Claudia Tremblay  
**Published by** Magna Terra, August 2009  
**Spanish language, 52 pages**

### *About the author:*

Alicia Robinson, was born in the United States in October 1990 although she spent much of her young life in Guatemala. Alicia moved to this country in 1998, two years after the Peace Accords were signed, with her mother who worked with the UN peacekeeping mission, MINUGUA. That is why since she was a child Alicia was exposed to different social realities, peoples, cultures and ideologies that accompany many developing countries or those that have gone through armed conflict. While attending high school near Lake Atitlán, Alicia was exposed to Latin American literature through her courses with Professor Francisco Guzmán, a well-known Sololá artist and writer. This inspired her to create her own stories. Alicia is now a student at Stanford University majoring in international relations and aspiring to have a career in international law.



### *About the book:*

The best description of this book is found in the last story, *Por eso hay tanto silencio*, which is the title of this brief collection of stories. The author's concerns in the face of poverty, social inequality, discrimination and exploitation, transferred to prose, give voice to that which is often silenced. The themes, angles and perspectives are quite varied and have been divided by those that address the innocence of children, through the bitter corruption that contributes to this social, political and economic silence. The challenge is to submerge oneself in these short stories and discover our own silence. 📖



**The author at one of her book-signing events**

*This book is available in Guatemala at Sophos Bookstore (Plaza Fontanella), Guatemala City; Casa del Conde Bookstore, La Antigua; Librería del Lago and the Bus Stop Bookstore, Panajachel, Lake Atitlán.*

# AnEcho First Anniversary Celebration

by Betsy Cerezo

AnEcho is celebrating its first anniversary! La Antigua's Educational Cultural Home Office is much more than a conventional community center. Because of Antigua's international populous, AnEcho has been able to weave a multi-faceted program to include not just our retired and semi-retired foreign nationals, also our Antigüenho neighbors, tourists, *Salvemos Antigua* members, and even Guatemala City dwellers.

In 2010 AnEcho will be continuing its weekly activities of tai chi and NIA, Al Anon meetings and bridge and tango classes. A "Brown Bag Lunch" weekly movie will be added with an open discussion afterward. We've planned workshops of jewelry making, writing your memoirs and relieving stress through art. We're looking forward to art/history lectures, book review meetings, more discussion series and study groups, a "Yankee Swap," and even Guatemala City excursions. We're anxious for your feedback for other ideas and interests. And any and all leaders and facilitators, get on your soapbox!

Our success this past year is due to our many participates in all our varied activities. We'll be toasting to AnEcho's continued success and to the Antigua community who have wholeheartedly joined in the fun. Thanks, everybody! 🍷

*The first anniversary celebration will be  
Wednesday, Dec. 9, 5-7 p.m. at  
AnEcho, Casa Convento Concepción,  
4a calle oriente #41, tel: 7882-4600*

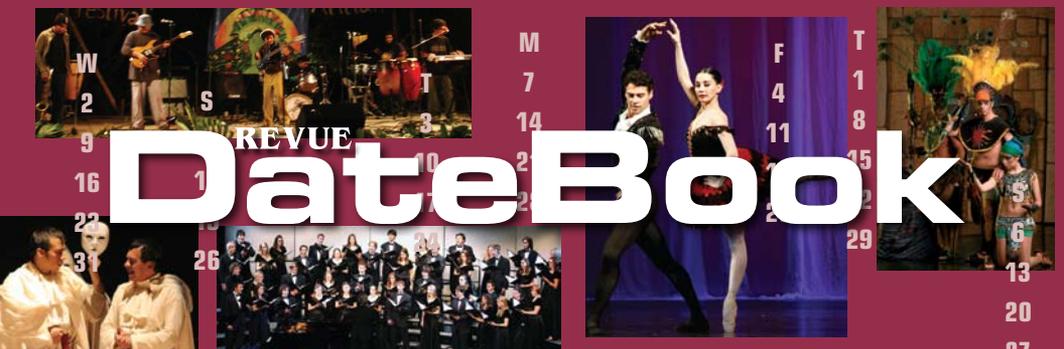


## *Joy to the World*

*An evening of piano music  
with Roman Rudnytsky*

**Tuesday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Teatro Dick Smith, IGA, ruta 1,  
4-05, zone 4, Guatemala City  
Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy  
Admission free**

Roman Rudnytsky is an American concert pianist of Ukrainian background and a graduate of the world-renowned Juilliard School for music, dance, and drama, in New York. As of 2009, Rudnytsky has played in more than 90 countries. He is a prizewinner of 10 national and international piano competitions and has performed as soloist with many orchestras around the world. He has given concerts and master classes under the auspices of U.S. embassies in 35 countries over 25 years. Rudnytsky is a professor of music at the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, and is the recipient of a "Distinguished Professor Award" from that institution. 🍷



# REVUE DateBook

**DECEMBER** Guide to culture & upcoming events Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

**1 Tues., through Sat 19th** — ART: *Dibujos de Colección años 90*, a collective exposition by artists from El Salvador, México and the U.S. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City.** ▼

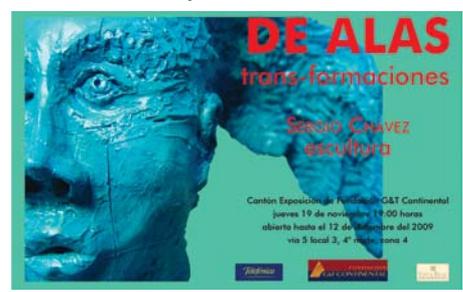


**1 Tues., 6pm** — (English) SLIDE SHOW: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* by Elizabeth. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.**

**Through Wed., 16th** — ART: *Vías Fluviales*, wood engravings by Moisés Barrios. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City.** ▼



**Through Sat., 12th** — ART: *De Alas, Transformaciones*, sculpture by talented artist Sergio Chávez. Cantón exposición de G&T Continental, 4 Grados Norte, vía 5, local 3, z. 4, **Guatemala City.** ▼



**Through Sat., 12th, 4pm** — (Spanish) THEATER FOR CHILDREN: *Rodolfo El Reno de la Nariz Roja* by Sociedad Estética Teatral. Q40. Teatro Dick Smith, IGA (tel: 2422-5555), **Guatemala City.**

**2 Wed., 3:30pm** — (Spanish) CHESS WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN: Kids will learn basic skills in order to play this game. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10 La Plaza, local 15, **Guatemala City.**

**3 Thurs., & Fri. 4th, 9am-4pm & Sat., 5th, 9am-2pm** — CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Featuring unique and creative gifts, plus weavings, and arts and crafts from all over Guatemala. Indigo Artes (tel: 7888-7847) inside the Centro Cultural la Azotea, **Antigua/Jocotenango, Sac.**

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

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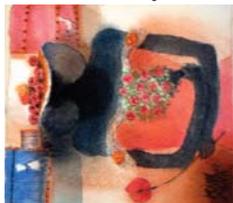
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**4 Fri.,** — II ECO-FESTIVAL with the organization Pura Vida, featuring its new recycling manual, also lectures and the sale of ecological and organic products. Visit [www.puravidaatitlan.org](http://www.puravidaatitlan.org) or [puravidaecofestival@hotmail.com](mailto:puravidaecofestival@hotmail.com). **Tzununá, Lake Atitlán.**

**4 Fri., 5pm** — THEATER: A performance for children of all ages, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* adapted for ballet by Johnny Long, produced by Paloma Pérez-Templado, choreographed by Bette Van Luterén, scenery and costumes by Deborah DuFlon. The production features local children, pupils of the Gilda Jolás Academy of Ballet and members of the National Ballet of Guatemala. Adults: A donation to Nuestros Ahijados (God's Child Project); Children, free. Also, free transportation leaves at 4:30pm from the Cathedral and returns after the performance. See related article on page 78. Nuestros Ahijados #106 road to San Felipe, **La Antigua.**



**5 Sat., 11am** — ART: Inauguration of *Miniaturas* featuring works created by a group of talented artists. Galería El Túnel (tel: 2367-3266) Plaza Obelisco 16 calle 1-01, z. 10, **Guatemala City.**



**5 Sat., 10:30am** — (Spanish) STORY-TELLING: *Cuenta Cuentos*. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10 La Plaza, local 15, **Guatemala City.**

**5 Sat., 5-7pm** — MUSIC: *Villancicos Navideños* by Capella Cantorum, a group of 16 talented singers, ranging from sopranos to altos, tenors, baritones and bass; directed by Carlos Salazar. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, **La Antigua.**

**7 Mon., 2pm** — CULTURAL EVENT: A celebration in honor of the Virgen de Concepción with a parade of floats (a *convite*), that leaves the cathedral and travels through the town of **Ciudad Vieja, Sacatepéquez** (5 km. south of La Antigua). See related article on page 10 and photo feature on pages 72-76.

**7 Mon., 6pm** — CULTURAL EVENT: A pre-Christmas custom: *Quema del Diablo* (Burn the Devil) a ceremony that eliminates evil spirits and clears the way for Christmas celebrations. Barrio de la Concepción, 4a calle oriente, **La Antigua.**

**8 Tues., 4pm** — CULTURAL EVENT: *Rezado*, a procession of the Virgen de Concepción with fireworks and folkloric dances and dramas performed throughout the route, **Ciudad Vieja, Sacatepéquez**. See related info and photos on pages 10, 29, 72-76

**8 Tues., 4pm** — (Spanish) WRITING WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN: *Taller de Escritura*. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10 La Plaza, local 15, **Guatemala City.**

**8 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TUESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES: *Rescuing Guatemalan Wildlife*, with The Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS), the leading advocate for the rights of wild animals in Guatemala. In the Department of Petén, it manages one of the largest and most successful wildlife rescue centers in the world, receiving 300-600 animals of 40+ species per year, the majority confiscated from wildlife traffickers. The presentation includes an introduction to wild (non-releasable) animals. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), **La Antigua.**



Just tell 'em, "Lo vi en la revista REVUE"

**8 Tues., 6pm** — (English) SLIDE SHOW: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* by Elizabeth Bell. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

**8 Tues., 7pm** — MUSIC: *Alegría al Mundo*, piano concert by Roman Rudnytsky,



sponsored by the U.S. Embassy and IGA (see page 23). Free. Teatro Dick Smith del IGA (tel: 2422-5555) Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

**9 Wed., 5-7pm** — ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: AnEcho's first year anniversary, toasting members of the Antigua community for their contributions, making AnEcho's first year so successful. Hats off to all for your participation! See related highlight on page 23. AnEcho (tel: 7882-4600) Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle oriente #41, *La Antigua*.

**10 Thurs., 5:30pm** — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Entre Cuento y Cuento*. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10 La Plaza, local 15, *Guatemala City*.

**17 Thurs., 4pm** — POSADA NAVIDEÑA: Enjoy participating in a real posada, sing Christmas carols, listen to traditional sounds like the totugas, chinchines and whistles. On sale, *ponche*, typical dishes and sweets; a contribution of a present which will be donated to children will be welcome. Donation Q25. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) Centro Cultural UFM, 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*.

**11 Fri., 5pm** — (English) LIVETHEATER: Students of the Robert Muller LIFE School present the play *Frosty the Snowman*. Free. Information at [www.lifeschoolweb.com](http://www.lifeschoolweb.com) or 7762-2615. *Salón Municipal, Panajachel, Lake Atitlán*.

**11 Fri., 5:30pm** — CULTURAL ACTIVITY: Mayan dances performed by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer, K'a k'a' Saqarik, a locally set-up charity dedicated to helping more than 30 indigenous children in San Andrés Itzapa. They are working hard to keep these children in good health, to educate them and to preserve the local Mayan traditions such as the language and dance which are currently being lost at an alarming rate. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), *La Antigua*.

**11 Fri., 8pm** — (Spanish) PUPPET SHOW: *Brevarios, Titeres Corpóreos* presented by Rodolfo de León and Larraitz Iparragirre. Q50. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

**12 Sat.,** — CULTURAL EVENT: *Día de la Virgen de Guadalupe*, throughout the country children dress in typical clothing, paying homage to Juan Diego of Mexico and the Virgin of Guadalupe (see page 10). One such procession begins at La Merced Church, outside the church you can purchase typical food and desserts, *La Antigua*.



**12 Sat., 4pm** — PHOTOGRAPHY: Inauguration of work by Julio Zadik. Galería Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-4581) 5a av sur #19, *La Antigua*.

**12 Sat., 7pm** — MUSIC: *Lui Donis en Radio Acústico*, rock concert. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), *La Antigua*.

**13 Sun., 4-6pm** — MUSIC: Concert directed by well-known Guatemalan musician Dr. Jorge Pellecer. Q75 per person, benefits JOEL (Jóvenes con Espíritu Libre) a program that promotes values and principles to teenagers attending public schools. See highlight on page 21. Convento Capuchinas, 2a av norte & 2a calle oriente *La Antigua*.

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Author of Antigua Guatemala and other publications

[www.antiguatours.net](http://www.antiguatours.net)

**ANTIGUA TOUR:** Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat at 9:30am with Elizabeth Bell \$20  
Meet at the fountain in the main square

**SLIDE SHOW:** Tuesdays at 6pm at El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #15 Q30

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## MUSIC

## MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

**Wednesday** (dinner) — Live Jazz Trio. Q35.

**Thursday** (dinner) — Cuban Jazz. Q35.

**Friday** (dinner) — Estasis, Trio, Salón Latino, Tango. Q35.

**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-Saturdays, 7:30pm-Sundays, 7pm** — Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼



**Sundays, 1pm** — Ramiro plays Trova Cubana during the Sunday Buffet. No cover.

**La Casbah Discoteca** (tel: 7832-2640)  
5a av norte #30, *La Antigua*

**17 Thursday** — 15th ANNIVERSARY PARTY: Come help us celebrate! Welcome cocktail 8-10pm. Bring this invitation.

**31 Thursday, 7pm til dawn** — NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: A big welcome to the new year. Q100 cover includes one drink, party favors, glow stick, confetti, punch, great DJ music and many more surprises.

**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 & Fridays, 7:30pm** — Sergio, reggae music

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

**Thursdays, 7:30pm** — Güicho will astound you with his guitar skills and improvisation of Latino and pop classics.

**Saturday 7:30pm** — At.One.Ment. Come and listen to Luke and his band. You cannot miss it. Enjoy a few drinks and relax to some classics.

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



**Theatre El Chapiteau** (tel: 5044-1144)  
Avenida de los Árboles, *Panajachel*

**5 Sat.** — 21st anniversary celebrations, a circus group performing on the streets of Panajachel, musicians, actors, artists and people in customs are welcome; **8:30pm** — Margen de Error and a multimedia show by Natalia;

**12 Sat., 9pm** — music concert by Tavito BamBam; **18 Fri., 8:30pm** — Flamenco dance show by Mama Amapola and Rene Zimzik;

**25 Fri.** — Variete Circense Cortocircuito; **30 Wed.** — Los Habanos, get up and dance to these great Cuban rhythms;

**31 Thurs.** — Say goodbye to 2009 and a champagne welcome to the New Year 2010!

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

# MUSIC

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Circus Bar** (tel: 7762-2056)  
Avenida de los Árboles, *Panajachel*

**Mondays** — the fabulous piano master Chris Jarnach plays jazz and favorite tunes; Circus Bar Latin Ensemble plays boleros, salsa, son cubano and other latin rhythms

**Tuesdays** — Nayno Flamenco, Rumba and Latin Ensemble, Trova del Lago

**Wednesdays** — Nayno, Latin Ensemble

**Thursdays, 7:30pm** — Carlos and Carlitos, swing and Latin rhythms. Trova del Lago, trova

**Fridays** — a fascinating show of Circus Bar Allstars

**Saturdays** — Los Vagabundos, hot rhythms in a fusion of rumba flamenco and Guatemalan traditional elements

**Sundays** — Latin Ensemble

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## Ask Elizabeth

by Elizabeth Bell

**We were told not to miss the celebrations and festivities in Ciudad Vieja this month. Are they really worth the visit?**

Guatemala, well known for its patron saint fairs, has a large variety of traditional dances. Since Mayan culture has been handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth, it is difficult, mostly, to really understand what was influenced by Spain and what has been incorporated from Mayan tradition. Regardless of origin, these remarkable folkloric dances have survived through the ages.

Of my favorite celebrations, two are happening this month in Ciudad Vieja. First, **Burn the Devil\*** on **Monday, Dec. 7**. Starting in the afternoon is the *convite*, which is a colorful and exciting procession with floats and costumed participants, plus a performance of the *Dance of the Devils and Death*. **Tuesday Dec. 8** is the **Día de la Virgen de Concepción**. After the 10 a.m. Mass there is a performance of the *Dance of the Seven Virtues and Seven Vices* in front of the church and accompanied by plenty of fireworks. Most dancers are men although they may play women parts. (pages 72, 76)

\*In La Antigua, the Burning the Devil ceremony is performed at 6 p.m. in front of the La Concepción Church. Traditionally, this ceremony makes way for a safe Christmas holiday. The Christmas cycle begins on Dec. 8 and ends Feb. 2 with Candlemas Day.

**14 Mon., and every Monday through February 1, 8am to 7pm & Tuesdays - Fridays, 8am to 5pm, through February 1, 2010** — NATIVITY SCENE: on display, an authentic Guatemalan *nacimiento*; donations accepted to help support the education of more than 2,700 affiliated students. Free. Fundación Familias de Esperanza (tel: 7922-6600) Carretera a San Juan del Obispo, km. 2, *La Antigua*. ▼



**15 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TUESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES: CasaSito strives to increase the educational opportunities in rural areas of Guatemala while supporting community infrastructure and adhering to high standards of human values, ethics and economic efficiency. CasaSito works with over 4,000 children in 11 communities in Guatemala. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), *La Antigua*.

**17 Thurs., 7:30pm** — MUSIC: *Concierto Navideño* by Capilla del Valle de la Asunción. Cantón exposición de G&T Continental, vía 5 local 3, 4 Grados Norte, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

**18 Fri., 8pm** — MUSIC: DJ Daniela Carpio presenting a fusion of electronic music and global sounds. Q60. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

**19 Sat., 1pm** — FOLK DANCES: Niños de Bendición from San Antonio Aguas Calientes present traditional folk dances. Free, though donations gratefully accepted with funding to support for school expenses. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

**20 Sun., 9am-5pm** — ART FESTIVAL: Presented by CasaSito, in collaboration with El Consejo Nacional para la Protección de La Antigua Guatemala and Casa del Niño. The opening ceremony and interactive artistic activities by local NGOs will begin at 2pm, followed by the debate competition final among CasaSito Scholarship students. The goal of the festival is to promote art in associations and communities around Antigua. CasaSito wants to show that art is a powerful way to give a voice to people who struggle to be heard. The art festival will be an interactive celebration of creativity and self-expression. Convento de Capuchinas, 2a av norte & 2a calle oriente, *La Antigua*.

**21 Mon., 5pm** — CULTURAL EVENT: Presentation of an authentic Mayan Ceremony. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

**22 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TUESDAY EVENING LECTURE SERIES: *Life in Guatemala: A Brief History and Current Conditions* by Sue Patterson, a former U.S. consul general with the U.S. embassy in Guatemala, she also served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is the founder of WINGS, a non-profit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. See related article on page 16. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), *La Antigua*.

**24 Thurs., noon** — CHRISTMAS EVE: Last minute holiday preparations, gift wrapping and cooking; **10pm** — Christmas Mass, *Misa de Gallo*; **midnight** — fireworks, families and friends gather to celebrate the birth of Christ and Peace on Earth; **26th** — Banks and businesses open again.

**25 Fri.,** — CHRISTMAS DAY: Traditionally a quiet day, with the exception of firecrackers and *bombas* booming at noon.

**31 Thurs.,** NEW YEAR'S PARTIES: Everywhere, including the traditional celebration at Calle del Arco, live music and lots of fun, *La Antigua*.

*Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. —Janice Maeditere*

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the JAN. 2010 edition of the REVUE by Thursday, Dec. 10

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

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*I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. —Maya Angelou*



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## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**ART:** *Guatemalan Landscapes* by renowned artist Hugo González Ayala. Twenty new oils are representative of the Highlands; geometry, color and composition play an important role in González Ayala's work; he is considered one of Guatemala's premier impressionist-expressionist. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*. ▼



**M**ondays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 9:30am-1:30pm — **TEXTILE WORKSHOP:** *Taste of Weaving*, learn this ancient art of the Mayan backstrap loom from an indigenous master weaver; includes backstrap loom prepared for weaving and instruction manual. Indigo Artes, also offering a day trip to Comalapa, (tel: 7888-7847) inside the Centro Cultural la Azotea, *La Antigua/Jocotenango, Sac*.

**M**ondays, 3pm — **STAR SCRABBLE CLUB:** Meets in different locations. See <http://www.starscrabble.com/> for locations and how to join. *La Antigua*.

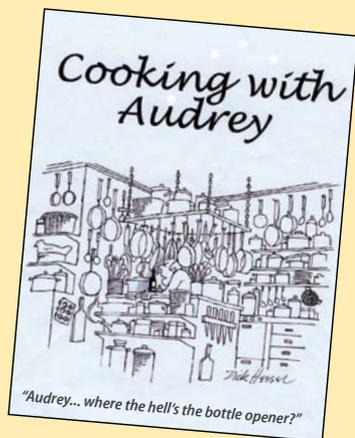
**D**AILY — **INTERACTIVE EXPOSITION:** *¿Por Qué Estamos Como Estamos?* A not-to-miss exposition of a tour through history and current life in Guatemala, presented through photography, videos and interactive games. Bodega #1 Centro Cultural Museo de Ferrocarril (tel: 2254-8727) 9a av A, 18-95, z. 1, *Guatemala City*.

**WORKSHOPS** — Reading club, literary composition, puppet theater and painting for children and adults. Centro Cultural Augusto Monterroso (tel: 7761-4352) 8a av 5-19, z. 1, *Quetzaltenango*.

## BOOK ALERT

### *Cooking with Audrey*

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*Cooking with Audrey* is available for purchase through the author, email [abud@intelnett.com](mailto:abud@intelnett.com); in Antigua at La Casa del Conde, 5a avenida norte #4, central park and Revistas Hamlin and White, 4a calle oriente #12-A.

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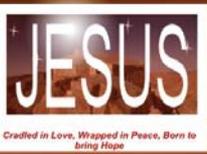
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 <p><b>JESUS</b></p> <p><i>Credited in Love, Wrapped in Peace, Born to bring Hope</i></p>	<p><b>Celebrate a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service</b>  <b>Wednesday, December 24</b>  <b>6:00 PM and 8:00 PM</b></p> <p><small>This candlelight service has become a community tradition. Hundreds of people gather in one of two services to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Nursery for children three and under provided first service only.</small></p>	 <p><b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b>              08:15 Contemporary              09:45 Sunday School              11:00 Traditional              18:00 Worship Experience</p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b>              12:15 Communion Service</p> <p><small>12 calle 7-37, zona 9, Plaza España, Guatemala City              Office: +502-2361-2037, 2361-2027, 2331-6904              Fax: +502-2362-3961              Cell: +502-5366-1343              E-mail: unionchurchguatemala@gmail.com</small></p>
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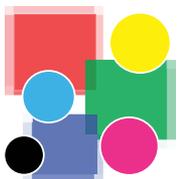
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*Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.*  
 —Eleanor Roosevelt

*He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.* —Roy L. Smith

*A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.*  
 —Garrison Keillor

*Mail your packages early so the post office can lose them in time for Christmas.* —Johnny Carson

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*What I don't like about office Christmas parties  
is looking for a job the next day. —Phyllis Diller*



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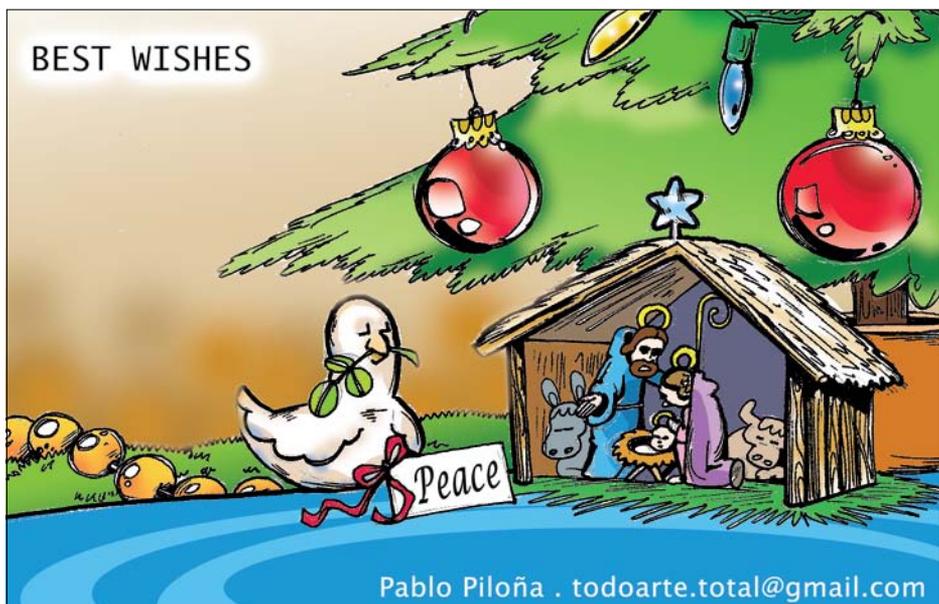
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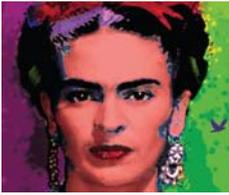
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 —John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Let's be naughty and save Santa the trip.  
 —Gary Allan



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## A Journey to Inner Space by Dr. Karmen Guevara HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST



Space isn't a concept our minds can easily wrap itself around. It's not tangible, nor can it be perceived by any of the senses. The ego, which thrives on control, is gripped by fear at the notion of boundless regions of the infinite!

This empty space—what is it? Space is to growth what air is to the breath. All living things need space in which to expand. Have you ever noticed that when an area around a plant has been cleared it begins to sprout new growth? This applies to us, too. Internal space is core to our development as human beings; however, it's often overlooked. Physical obstructions are visible—we'll eventually trip over them if we ignore them for long. Although inner obstructions can't be seen, nevertheless, they can trip us up, too!

*What crowds our space?* It should be no surprise that the mind with 60,000 repetitive thoughts daily occupies far more than its fair share! The heart competes for the space it needs to accommodate the anger, pain and regrets it clings onto. Even in the body there is often little space—it can be full of unprocessed calories, toxins and emotional residue.

*Take a journey to inner space.* Clear away the clutter and gently ask the little self and the unwelcome guests to leave. Create a sacred space where you can find your true self again and again. Remind yourself daily that you are not the same as you were yesterday. Today you have more space in which to expand and to welcome others. With open space, so much more becomes possible. As a symbol of this, put a single rose in a large vase and witness the presence and beauty that radiates in the empty space that surrounds it! 

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**El Pilar** cont. from page 13

activities attracting enthusiasts as far away as Japan. Wildlife conservationists and well-known photographer, Thor Janson, agrees that the natural reserve at El Pilar offers a prime opportunity for the local community to better connect with and understand its surrounding natural habitat.

“Apart from it being important to protect forests—all forests—everywhere, this particular forest being close to Antigua and being close to Guatemala City is a very fine place to get in touch with nature. It is part of the idea to have Boy Scout groups come out and camp here and things like that.”

“We are still building some infrastructure. When it’s all done we will start marketing and promoting. The end of the year—this is my goal.”

In the meantime, visitors are welcome to explore the wild reserve or take a dip in one of the farm’s three pools (Q10 p/p) that are filled with fresh-mountain spring water every day. 

*A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.*  
 —Franklin D. Roosevelt



El Pilar resident

Fotografía por Thor Janson

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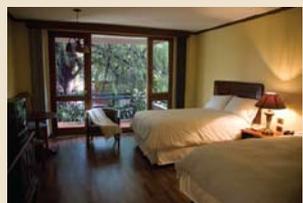
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## Cervical cancer in the developing world cont. from page 17

a physician, and costs less than \$6 per patient (including the cryotherapy needed by some 5 percent of the women). The cost per person of the WINGS program, including the follow-up treatment that WINGS pays for (colposcopies, biopsies, assistance at IN-CAN) comes to \$14 a person.

The Guatemalan government has also shown that it may soon make fighting cervical cancer a higher priority. Although government health clinics have traditionally used Pap smears to screen for cervical cancer, some public health providers have recently undergone trainings in the VIA/Cryo method in order to expand the screening services available at government health clinics. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Health announced an extremely ambitious goal to screen 85 percent of reproductive-aged women by the year 2012 and has asked

WINGS to advise it on a national screening strategy. This request provides hope that someday in the near future all Guatemalan women will have access to detection and treatment services and that the hundreds of deaths that occur annually from cervical cancer in Guatemala will be prevented. 

*About the Authors*

*Sue Patterson, the founder of WINGS, graduated from Duke University before serving in the Foreign Service for 25 years. She now lives permanently in Guatemala and donates her time to WINGS.*

*Laurel White, a graduate of the New York University School of Law, is the Development Director of WINGS and has been living in Guatemala since August 2008.*

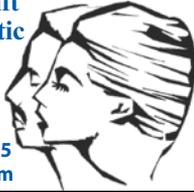
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experience can instill in us. —Hal Borland*

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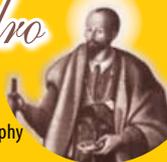
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 —John Burroughs

Good resolutions are simply checks that men  
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 —Oscar Wilde

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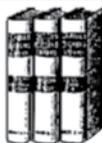


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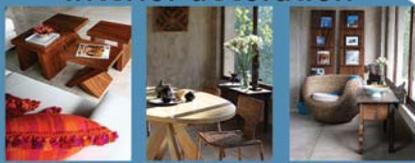
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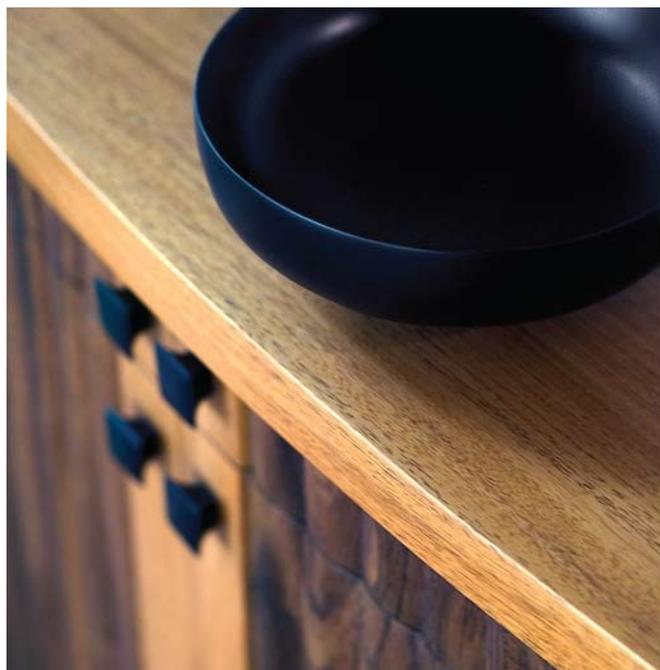
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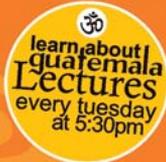


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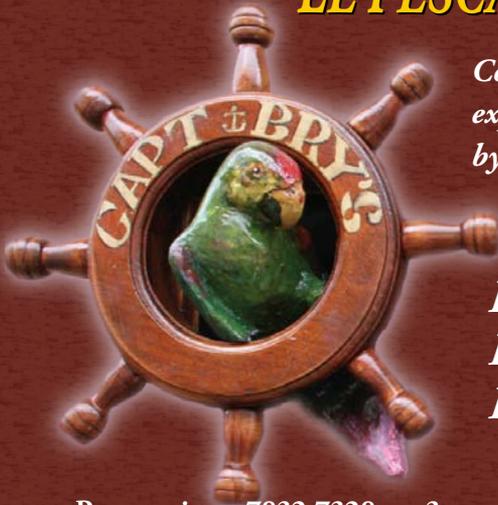
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# **T**was the night before Christmas and all through the casa,

Not a creature was stirring ;Caramba! ;Qué pasa?  
Los niños were tucked away in their camas,  
Some in long underwear, some in pijamas,  
While hanging the stockings with mucho cuidado,  
In hopes that old Santa would feel obligado,  
To bring all children, both buenos and malos,  
A nice batch of dulces and other regalos.

Outside in the yard there arose un gran grito,  
and I jumped to my feet like a frightened cabrito.

I ran to the window and looked out afuera,  
And who in the world do you think that it era?  
Saint Nick in a sleigh and a big red sombrero,  
Came dashing along like a loco bombero.

And pulling his sleigh instead of venados,  
Were eight little burros approaching volando.  
I watched as they came and this quaint little hombre,  
Was shouting and whistling and calling by nombre:  
“Ay Pancho, ay Pepe, ay Cuco, ay Beto,  
ay Chato, ay Chopo, Maruco, y Nieto!”

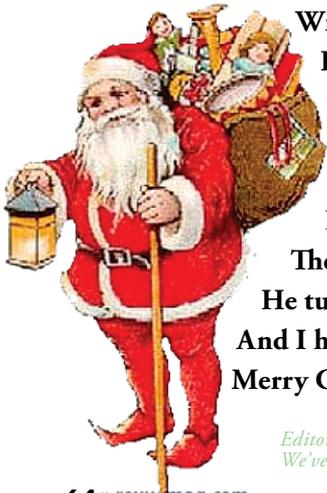
Then standing erect with his hands on his pecho,  
He flew to the top of our very own techo,

With his round little belly like a bowl of jalea,  
He struggled to squeeze down our old chimenea.

Then huffing and puffing at last in our sala,  
With soot smeared all over his red suit de gala,  
He filled all the stockings with lively regalos,  
None for the niños that had been very malos.

Then chuckling aloud, seeming very contento,  
He turned like a flash and was gone como el viento,  
And I heard him exclaim, y ¡esto es verdad!  
Merry Christmas to all, ¡y Feliz Navidad!

*Editor's note: No one seems to know for sure who wrote this Spanglish version of the poem. We've re-printed it a few times over the years, and still find it amusing.*





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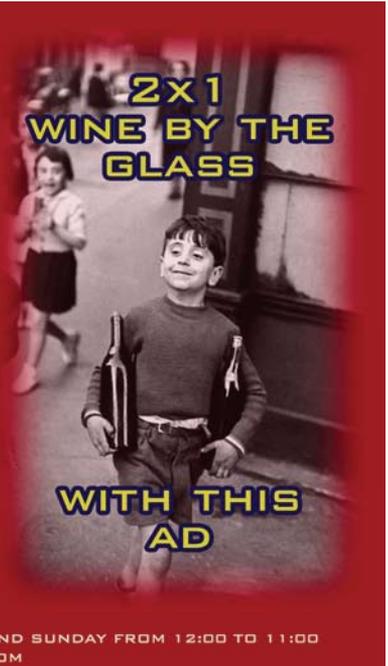
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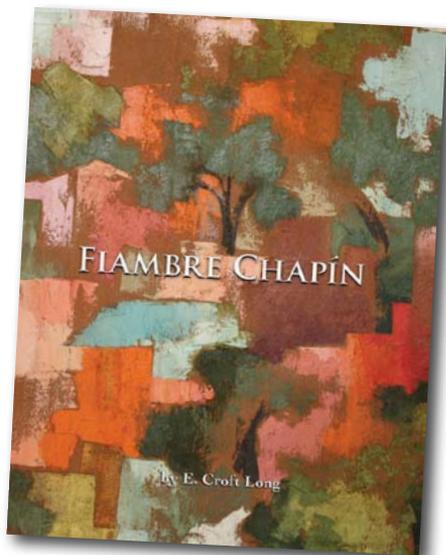
By E. Croft Long

Cover art: Annette Weld

Illustrations: Jullie Hall Rocke

English, 128 pages

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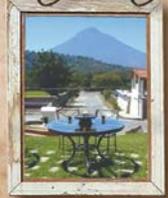
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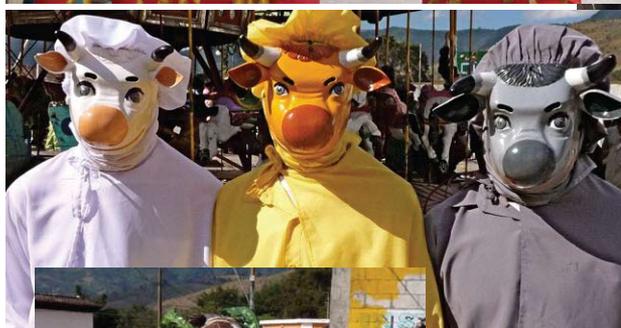
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*Youth is when you're allowed to stay up  
late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when  
you're forced to. —Bill Vaughn*

## PHOTO OP by Gary Kaney



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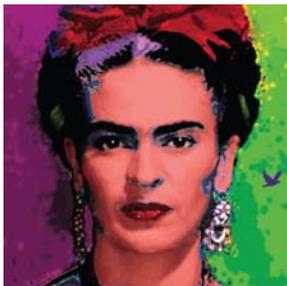
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**PHOTO OP** by Gary Kaney

Ciudad Vieja celebrations; Burn the Devil on Monday, Dec. 7., with performance of the Dance of the Devils and Death. Tuesday Dec. 8 is the Day of the Virgen of Concepción. After 10 a.m. there is a performance of the Dance of the Seven Virtues and Seven Vices in front of the church accompanied by plenty of fireworks. (pg. 29)





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—William Thomas

*I think in terms of the day's resolutions,  
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## DATEBOOK SPOTLIGHT

by Paloma Pérez-Templado

### Debra duFlon—Costuming *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

Debra du Flon, director of costume design and scenery for this season's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, is a full-time artist whose principle medium is painting, though she also works as a conceptual artist and a writer.

Her freshness and originality are represented in a profusion of bright and colorful costumes made from recycled plastic and the amusing detailed masks which dovetail with the progression of this pantomime ballet (*photo below*). More than 20 very intricate costumes were created, with the collaboration of Delfina Sec, over many months.



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**A Full Life**

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full.

They agreed that it was.

So the professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full.

They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar.

Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full.

The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things, your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favorite passions, things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be lost.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff.

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "There is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls.

The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.

Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18.

There will always be time to clean the house, and mow the lawn. "Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the beer represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

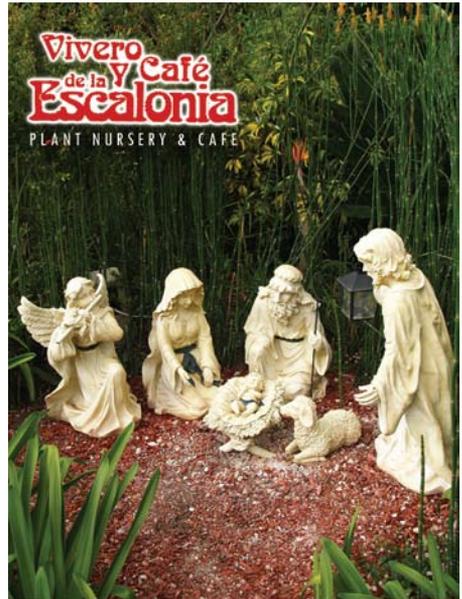
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“What is the CIRCULATION?” is the key question you must ask. How many units are printed per period? Is the circulation guaranteed and provable? This is the number that will determine your costs.

To determine the “cost efficiency” of your ad simply divide the cost of the ad by the ACTUAL circulation. The REVUE, for example, publishes 20,000 magazines every month, a verifiable amount. So, if you decide to place a Q500 ad in the REVUE and you wanted to figure out the cost efficiency, you would calculate:

$$\frac{\text{(Cost of ad) } Q500}{\text{(Circulation) } 20,000} = Q0.025 \text{ or } 2.5 \text{ centavos per unit}$$

Compare the same cost of any magazine with a smaller circulation:

$$\frac{\text{(Cost of ad) } Q500}{\text{(Circulation) } 3,000} = Q0.166 \text{ or } 16.6 \text{ centavos per unit}$$

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*A hug is a great gift—one size fits all, and it's easy to exchange. —Author Unknown*

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*A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;  
It makes no noise at all,  
But softly gives itself away.*  
—Eva Louge

*Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space.* —Dave Barry

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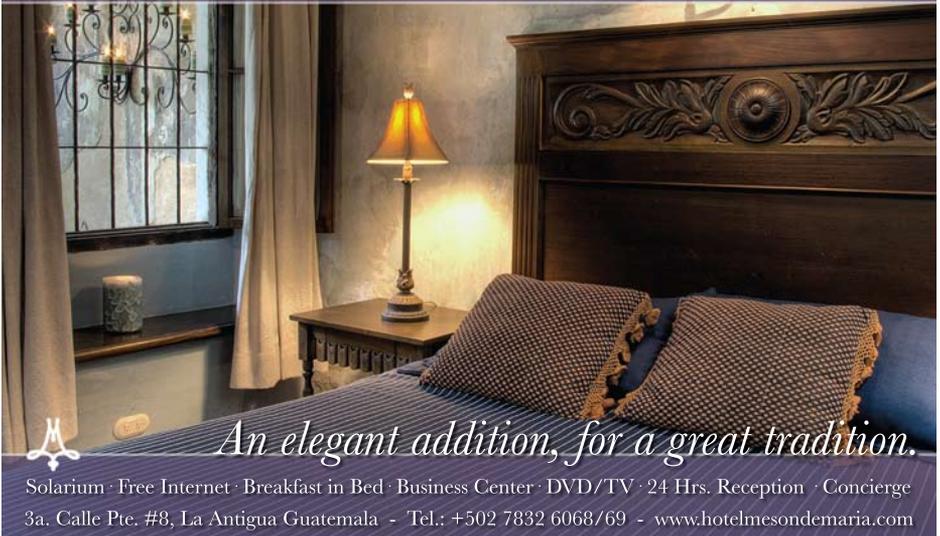
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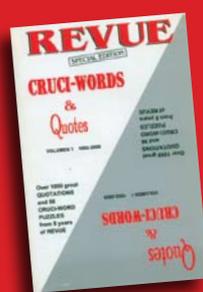
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 — Charles Dickens

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Best known for their baskets woven from pine needles, the women of San Rafael Chilascó work together

## Community Industry

*Using an abundant local resource the women of San Rafael Chilascó bolster the incomes of their families by working together*

Let us take a moment to appreciate the role of women in rural Guatemala. Outside the major cities the average number of children in a Guatemalan household is eight. EIGHT! When you add in a husband and themselves that means breakfast, lunch and dinner every day for 10; washing, drying and folding the clothes of 10; keeping the house clean, managing the day-to-day activities of the children, and often handling the family's money. Every one of them deserves a Nobel Prize or sainthood in my opinion.

On top of these responsibilities, in the *aldea* of San Rafael Chilascó some women are going a step farther. For almost 10 years now they have spent what little free time they have weaving artisan products out of dried pine needles. In the forests surrounding the community these pine needles can be found in abundance, and the women are hoping to use this natural resource to bolster the incomes of their families. By sell-

ing their goods they are able to provide the little extras for their children, and in some cases help pay for the continuance of their educations beyond elementary school.

Thanks to the help of Peace Corps and Siggý Bataille Holbik, owner of Casa de los Gigantes, 7a calle oriente #18, across from the church of San Francisco in La Antigua Guatemala, they are hopeful that this added exposure will finally enable them to sell enough of their products to realize their families' dreams. They are most famous for their baskets, but have also developed a line of Christmas tree ornaments for the upcoming holiday season. 



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### BED & BREAKFAST



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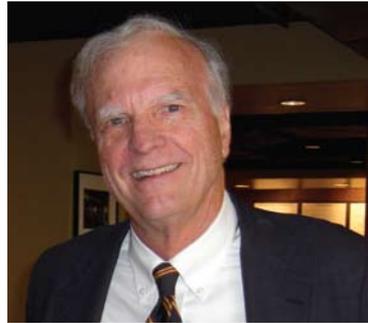
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# Dr. John Cheatham

1940 - 2009



**D**r. John Cheatham passed away Monday afternoon, Nov. 2. He succumbed to a heart attack while climbing Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia, USA. Hiking was a favorite recreational pastime. He recently climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and had made multiple trips to the Grand Canyon. This year, he completed a 50-mile hike from the canyon's south rim to the north rim and back again with his brother and hiking partner, Jackson.

John was born in Griffin, Georgia, on Nov. 29, 1940. He graduated from high school at the Westminster Schools in Atlanta. After serving his country as a sergeant in the Army Special Forces, which included a tour of duty in Vietnam, he completed his undergraduate work at Georgetown University. Not content with traditional career patterns, however, he earned a commercial pilot's license and then set out to travel the world. John frequently worked as a bush pilot in Africa and New Guinea. He seemed to show up in places of civil unrest, though always he denied any involvement in these affairs.

During this period of John's life, there was a stint as a crocodile hunter on the Amazon. While in the region, he somehow persuaded his sister, Elizabeth, to accompany him on a 2,500-mile trip down the Amazon in a non-motorized dugout canoe. The trip started at the river's headwaters in Peru and finished in Manaus, Brazil, where civiliza-

tion then began. Along the way, there was a particularly troublesome encounter with an anaconda longer than the boat.

Briefly succumbing to conventional pressures, John returned to the United States and attended Columbia University where he received an MBA degree. Then followed a financial career abroad, but one in which he never felt fulfilled. Business was never John's passion and he simply refused to live life without passion. Though John was never one to be imprisoned by what others thought he should do, it was not until his late 30s that John identified his life purpose and set out to become a medical doctor working with the poor in the underdeveloped world. He decided upon ophthalmology as a specialization, as he considered cataract surgery to be the most effective medical procedure in the poor world. He saw the opportunity to give sight to the blind who lived in areas too remote to be helped by others.

At that time, however, no one John's age was ever admitted to American medical schools and he was rebuffed in his attempts to study medicine for years. However, John refused to give up his dream and spent 10 years struggling to overcome obstacles before finally getting his medical degree. Early on, he simply bought medical books and self-taught himself enough to pass Part 1 of the national medical boards and this before ever attending medical ...continued on page 112





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Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money.  
—Ben Fielding

Even as an adult I find it difficult to sleep on Christmas Eve. Yuletide excitement is a potent caffeine, no matter your age. —Carrie Latet

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*Bloody Christmas, here again, let us raise a loving cup, peace on earth, goodwill to men, and make them do the washing up. —Wendy Cope*

*Our children await Christmas presents like politicians getting in election returns: there's the Uncle Fred precinct and the Aunt Ruth district still to come in. —Marcelene Cox*

*I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph. —Shirley Temple*

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## Charlie Brown in Santiago cont. from page 20

Pacific trade winds. They traveled light, so their cargo could include creation stories such as the accounts of universal flooding (found in cultures worldwide) and the First Noel.

Ancient astronomers, regardless of their venues, had to account for the appearance of a phenomenon, two millennia ago, that is still commemorated on Christmas cards. It is typically abstracted as a four-pointed star acting, among other things, as a beacon for wise men bearing gifts to the Messiah. Modern thinkers who corroborate the reports think it may have been a supernova. The ancient Maya saw it, and also pondered it.

But whatever the phenomenon was, within a century millions of people in the Roman Empire believed the Christmas story, with its virgin birth of a deity called Immanuel (*Manuel* in Spanish). Since we know that this belief soon became a persecutable offense, many believers fled the Roman world and carried the story, along with even earlier canonical stories, to the “ends of the Earth” (as was also prophesied in the Testaments).

The pre-Columbian Mayan version of Christmas, described by American anthropologist Vincent Stanzione in *Rituals of Sacrifice*, features a virtuous maiden named Marya who discovers a wounded hummingbird, which she tucks into her bosom. The bird disappears but is replaced by a deep warmth and the realization that conception has occurred. Eventually, MaNawal is born. The first Catholic missionaries quickly identified the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit and Immanuel (Manuel) among the cast of this story. Even today the account lives on in the Custom religion of the Tzutujil Maya, centered on Santiago Atitlán.

Santiago is famous, of course, for its open-throttle celebrations, but of Easter. Christmas is a comparatively minor holiday, but all three local professions—Custom, Catholic and Protestant (*evangélico*)

—mark it. The *costumbreros* have never allowed themselves to be co-opted by the consumerist pandemonium of the big cities, where the influence of what expat Linus might today call the big *northern* syndicate (again, being Wal-Mart or whatever) is most felt. The *católicos* in Santiago still hold a Christmas procession, but it is solemn and dignified. The burgeoning evangélico sector, out of either deference or simple inertia, has also, to its credit, shunned the tinsel commercialism. The faithful of all three stripes acknowledge MaNawal (albeit with varying Christology) but they are less enthusiastic about Santa Claus, and less so still about the god of seasonal commerce.

“Hi, Chuck,” Linus VanPelt says when Charlie Brown answers the phone one day early in December. “Sally and I want to have you down to the lake this Christmas.” The lake in question, naturally, would be Atitlán. The Sally in question would by now be Mrs. VanPelt, Chuck’s sister. Linus and Sally are grant writers living in Panajachel. (Linus also does musical gigs and Sally midwives).

Chuck, now in his 50s, must think about this. His job as bookkeeper at a lumber yard will wait for him, but Guatemala may be a bit exotic for a guy who has never been more than 50 miles from Cleveland. Can he even carry a suitcase through customs? After decades, his back still ails from innumerable crash landings, owing to the devilry of his football-snatching future sister-in-law, Lucy (by now an under-medicated, five-time divorcée who manages a boiler room for a telemarketing agency).

After some talk, Chuck relents.

“Good grief,” he says to Snoopy IV after hanging up. “What have I agreed to?” But then he sighs and smiles tentatively. Linus promised to take him to a place called Santiago, where some true meaning awaits rediscovery. *Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!* 



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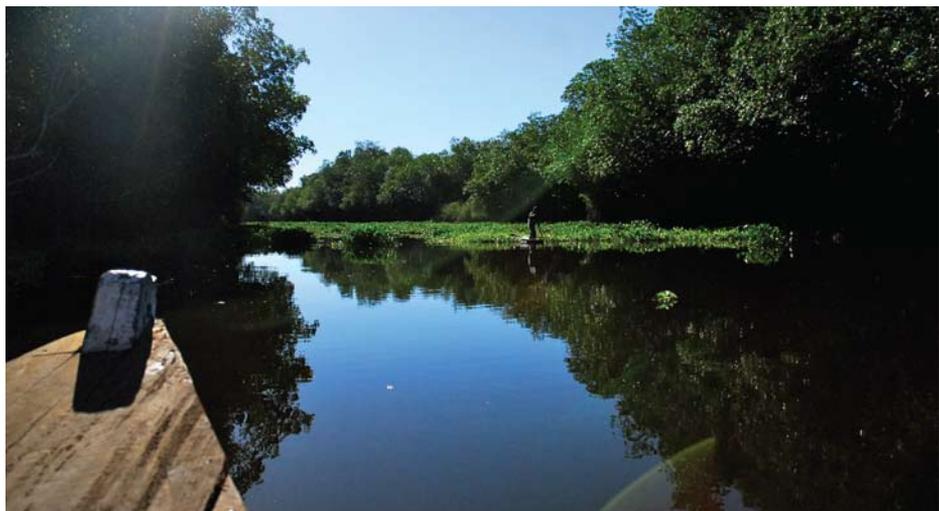


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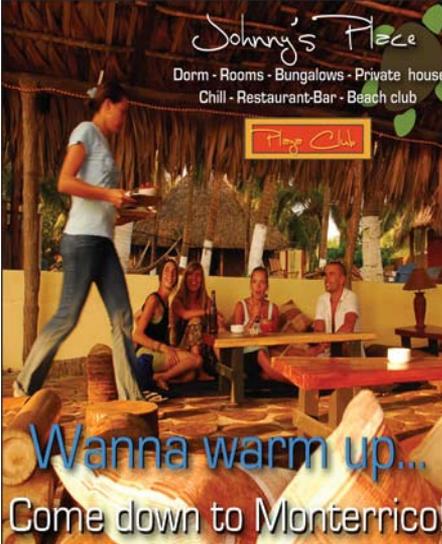
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From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it.  
—Katherine Whitehorn

I do like Christmas on the whole.... In its clumsy way, it does approach Peace and Goodwill.  
But it is clumsier every year. —E.M. Forster



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*New Year's eve is like every other night; there is no pause in the march of the universe, no breathless moment of silence among created things that the passage of another twelve months may be noted; and yet no man has quite the same thoughts this evening that come with the coming of darkness on other nights.*

—Hamilton Wright Mabie



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*A good conscience is a continual Christmas.*  
—Benjamin Franklin



Tools of the trade (see page 82) ANTHONY BRINDISI

## John Cheatham cont. from page 92

school. Then there were years of multiple schools in multiple countries, with his study of medicine including elements in French, Spanish, English and Portuguese. Eventually, two influential people recognized what John had to offer the world and took up his cause. They managed to bend rules to have him admitted to the Medical College of Georgia where he excelled. Quite likely, John is the only graduate of that school who never completed a single pre-med course.

**John went on to practice ophthalmology for 20 years in the underdeveloped world. In that time he never received a dollar of salary nor charged a patient for the surgery received or for the all-important logistics that made the surgery possible. John had taken the time to learn the needs of the poor; he walked amongst them. He understood how difficult it was for the poor and blind of remote areas to find their way to medical facilities. Instead, he went looking for them, always contending that the surgical aspect was the easiest part of giving sight to the blind. John knew it took a lot of mud on the boots as well as well as good medical skills, and he was prepared to give both. Though he certainly never kept score, it seems safe to say that over 20,000 people regained their sight due to his efforts and the team he led.**

John's other interests over the years included flying, parachuting, judo, scuba diving, travel (people would try to name a country that he hadn't visited), languages (he spoke 11 and many fluently), hiking, reading and the study of history. In May of this year, he embarked on his greatest adventure of all when he persuaded his longtime companion and often co-worker, Dr. Anne Schlueter, to marry him.

Many have said that John strongly influenced their lives. We know that his life example inspired quite a few people into medicine. Others considered him to be their mentor. All who crossed his path found him encouraging. Being around John just left one with the feel-

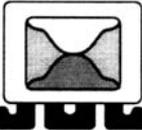
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ing that they could do better in their own lives and with the desire to want to try.

Throughout it all, John lived a simple life. He did not own a home, a car, or a cell phone. His possessions consisted only of a closet full of items at his mother's home and that which he carried with him when he traveled. Yet with so few accessories, he accomplished so much. People often marveled at John's life and asked if he would ever write an autobiography. This question he would laughingly dismiss, saying that too many people write books while too few read books. However, he did say once that should he ever change his mind, the book's title would be *A Life without Furniture*.

On Friday, Nov. 6, in accordance with John's wishes, he was cremated and his ashes scattered without ceremony or memorial. He wanted no flowers to be sent or donations made on his behalf.

A simple life produces much radiance when

that person follows his dreams, tries to do what is right and refuses to let obstacles stand in the way. John Cheatham did all that. The world is better for his having lived. We are better for having known him. Though his life may have ended too soon, it was a life complete in so many ways.

John is survived by his wife Anne, mother Elizabeth, sister Elizabeth, brothers Jackson and Harvey, nieces Lizzie and Anne-Marisa, and so many here and abroad who called him friend. 

*Publishers Note: This obituary was obtained at [www.missioneyes.net/latest-news/1/457-a-life-without-furniture-john-cheatham-md-1940-2009](http://www.missioneyes.net/latest-news/1/457-a-life-without-furniture-john-cheatham-md-1940-2009) where you can read postings honoring Dr. John Cheatham from friends the world over. Friends in Guatemala can also add remembrances.*

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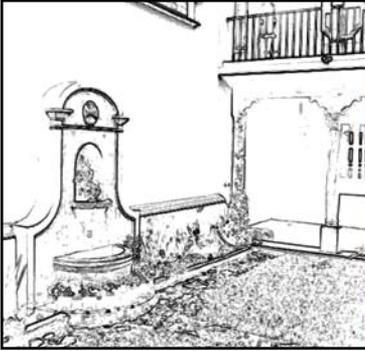
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—Julia Peterkin, *A Plantation Christmas*, 1934



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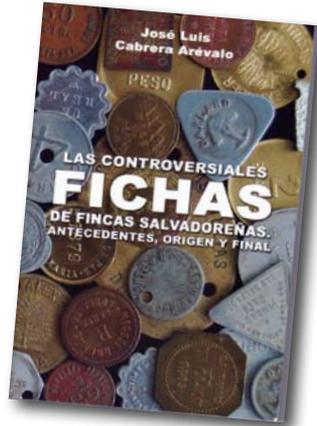
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# Fichas de Fincas Salvadoreñas

**Author José Luis Cabrera Arévalo**  
**Printed by Tecnoimpresos S.A. de C.V.**  
**Spanish language, 176 pages & numerous photographs**  
**Available at Editorial Clásicos Roxil, and the Universidad Tecnológica de El Salvador (UTEC), San Salvador**



**E**l Salvador is a country with many traditions and a heritage deeply rooted in the coffee industry. During the coffee boom from the 1860s until the 1930s there was a shortage of local currency, so the coffee farms created an internal payment token called a *ficha*. The worker would be paid according to the amount of work units completed, such as one day, one task or even one dinner or one ration of water. The tokens had value only in the store at the same farm or hacienda where the worker had received the payment, so the very existence of this monetary system was sometimes denied or at least disputed.

The fichas were abolished in 1920, but it was not until the creation of the Banco Central de Reserva in 1934 that the circulation was officially prohibited. With the arrival of new payment units these tokens disappeared, but these small coins of bygone times became a part of Salvadoran history.

Author José Luis Cabrera Arévalo, well known in archaeological and philately circles in El Salvador spent several years researching and collecting fichas which has now culminated with the publication of

*Fichas de Fincas Salvadoreñas*, the first thorough study of the farm token system in El Salvador. Cabrera is a founding member of FUNDAR (Salvadoran Archaeological Foundation) and has had a lifelong interest in Salvadoran history and culture.

...continued on page 125



**A sampling of fichas used by various farms**

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ded in future projects.

This project is being executed with the coordination of PROMECAFE and the financial support of BID (Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo), the Cooperación Técnica de la Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional and AECID (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo). The project is within the framework of the Regional Coffee Quality Program, whose goal is to strengthen the competitiveness of the coffee industry in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic.



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**BOOK ALERT** cont. from page 123

Some tokens photographed for the book are on display in the Anthropological Museum of UTEC (Universidad Tecnológica) in San Salvador. *Fichas de Fincas Salvadoreñas* is available at UTEC, Editorial Clásicos Roxil (Santa Tecla) or through the author. 📖

For more information, tel: (503) 2221-1986 or e-mail [confiteria@integra.com.sv](mailto:confiteria@integra.com.sv)



An exhibition of fichas from the 1870's



Author José Luis Cabrera Arévalo



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Many people look forward to the new year for a new start on old habits. —Author Unknown

Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money. —Arthur Eisly

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Stopping your advertising to save money is like stopping your watch to save time  
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*I think all those people  
I did stories about  
measured their own  
success by the joy their  
work was giving them.*

—Charles Kuralt



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## HOLIDAY SCENTS

**T**hese days of celebrations bring colorful treats of greens, reds, golds and other holiday shades. All the senses enjoy December, with its rich foods to taste, velvet cloths to touch, carols to hear. The laughter of children, the ringing of the bells, the singing in the streets, all the sounds of the month join the colors and savors to enjoy.

But please take a few minutes each day this month to enjoy the scents of these holidays, all by themselves.

Some scents are easy and common: the fresh pine needles scattered on floors, the kitchen-pots bubbling with *ponche* and many other goodies, the pungent cups of chocolate.

Some scents are more subtle, such as fresh fruits simmering in sugar on the stove. Some are less pleasant but strong: the smoke from the fires of the day of the devil, the whiffs of powder from exploded firecrackers of the celebrations.

Roses are a year-around scent to en-

joy in the Highlands, unlike colder areas where they bloom in shorter seasons. Our rose bushes bud and bloom all year, and armfuls of long-stemmed blossoms can be bought and enjoyed any day in the markets. This is the eternal spring country, remember, not like those places with four seasons and roses to smell during just one of them. Fresh rose scent is a holiday delight in Guatemala, as it is all year.

Sure, evenings can be crisp this month, and lighting your fireplace may be needed to cut the chill. But that brings its own pleasant scents, from the crackling pine or—richer and better—cedar logs, if you have them.

Advent, Christmas, New Year's, wonderful days and evenings to enjoy, each day a treat for all the senses. But we regret the REVUE has no scratch-and-sniff panels, at least yet. So it's up to you to seek out those special scents of these holidays, and find pleasure from them daily. 

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