

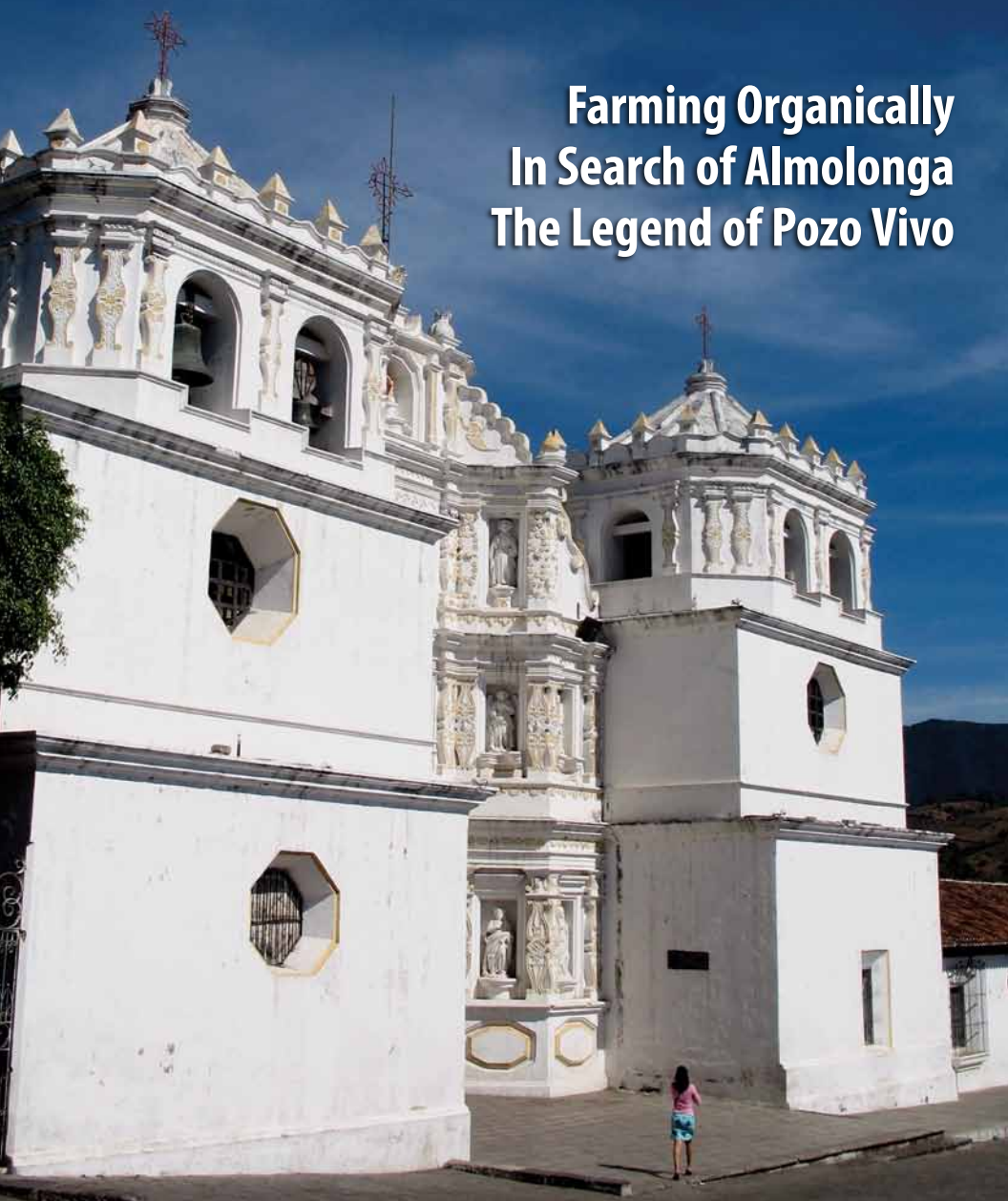
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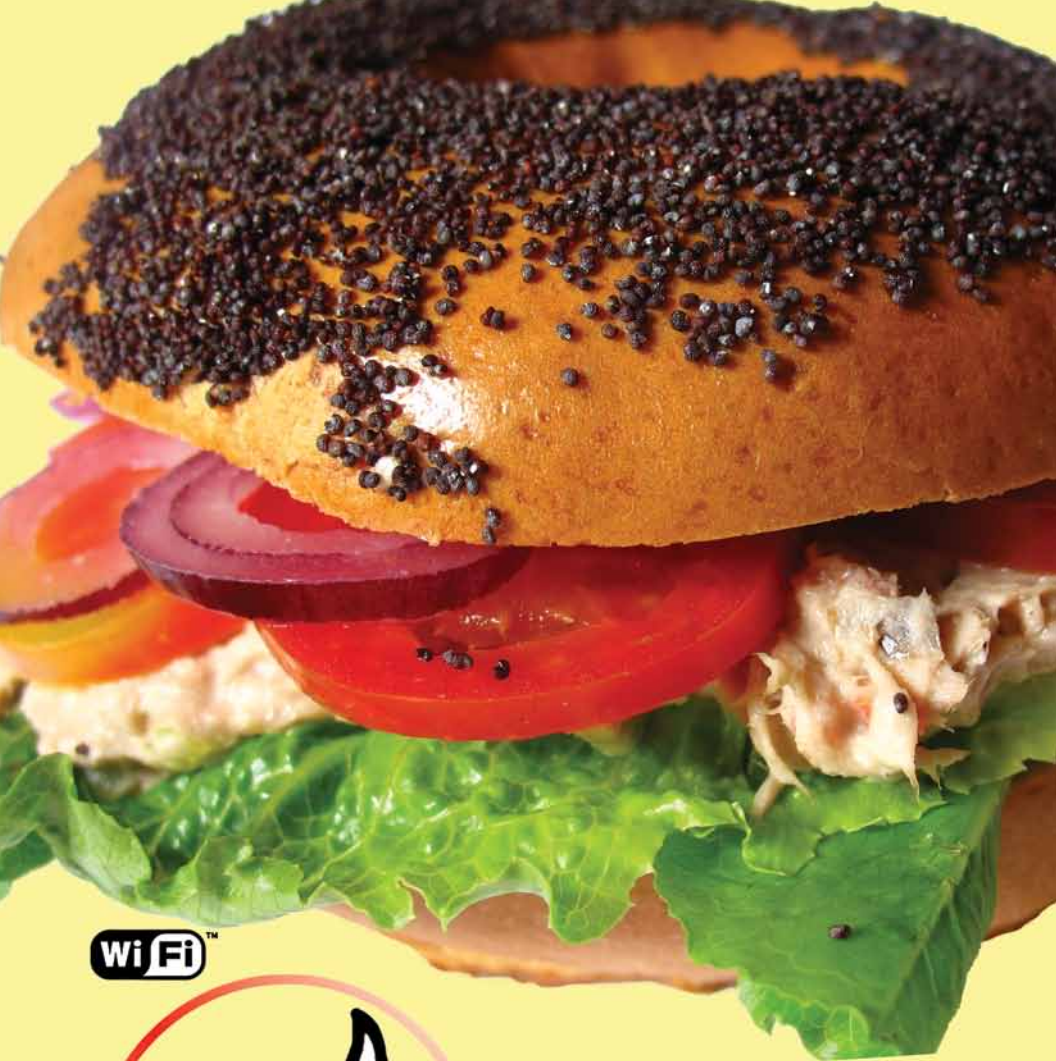
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August 2010  
Year 19, No. 6

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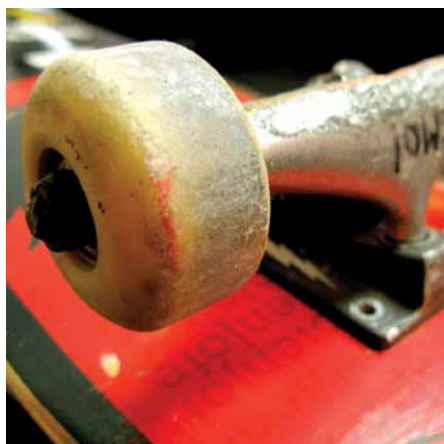
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**Deadline for the  
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**\*\*An apology and a retroactive photo credit goes to  
Verónica de León de Howard for the photo that  
appeared in the May issue on page 70**



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## FROM THE PUBLISHERS

And so August is upon us. As we look for our joy this month, our Joy Houston looks for the center of old Santiago. With new analysis techniques, recent excavations and research, it appears that Ciudad Vieja is probably not the true Old Town as traditionally thought. Full story on page 12. Our cover photo this month by Rudy Girón is of the Ciudad Vieja Cathedral.

We have some other great Photo Ops this month, three of our favorite photographers share with us their special views. Iván Castro at Lake Atitlán; Mario Beaulieu at Monterrico and Harry Díaz in Quetzaltenango.

Farming organically has become a standard option these days. On page 62 you can read Diane Carofino's interview with local organic farmer, Alex Kronick, and find out what exactly are the requirements to sell "organic" produce. Free recipes included.

Also in this month's pages: we find out why there are mermaids in Antigua; why Tapachula seems like it's a part of Guatemala; what Oliver Thornwhistle's favorite tree is; why John Heaton misses the old days; and why we should take heed of the Legend of Pozo Vivo.

Check out DateBook for some great art show inaugurations as well as plenty of theater and musical events. The 2nd Festival de Música Antigua will be at various venues from August 14 through 22.

August 15th is Guatemala City's patron saint day. All month the city will be celebrating in honor of the Virgen de la Asunción, including many events in the historic center.

We truly hope you enjoy your August.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

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**ASK  
ELIZABETH**

by Elizabeth Bell

# Why do we have “mermaids” in La Antigua Guatemala?

**M**ermaids appear in literature much after the fountain in Central Park was built by Diego de Porres in 1738. While today we might think of Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* (1836), the fountain clearly pre-dates the fairytale.

In using the Spanish word “*sirenas*,” we find sirens originally in Greek mythology that are often portrayed in later folklore as mermaid-like figures. While mermaids have appeared more recently throughout the 20th century (Casa del Conde, for example), there are also three favorite examples in colonial architecture.

Antigua's architecture was originally inspired from the architecture in Seville, Spain (the only port of entry to the Old World), and is referred to as Roman-Arabic architecture. The Moors/Muslims were in Spain for eight centuries and left their influence there. Fountains are a key component to Antigua's architecture.

The fountain in the Central Park was originally built by architect Diego de Porres in 1738. Diego de Porres was inspired by Italian Renaissance books brought from Italy

through Spain to Guatemala. He was particularly inspired by the Neptune Fountain built by Giovanni Bologna in 1564 located in the Piazza del Nettuno, Bologna, Italy. This fountain has the central figure of Neptune (god of the seas), which does not appear in Antigua, nor do the fish spouting water. The nymphs/mermaids with breasts spraying streams of water, alas, do appear in the fountain in Antigua! The original sirens' torsos are located in the ...continued on page 76



**Antigua's main fountain was inspired by this Neptune Fountain located in the Piazza del Nettuno, Bologna, Italy.**



**Church and plaza of San Miguel Escobar, facing west; probable vicinity of the second Santiago and possible site of its cathedral.**

# In Search of Almolonga

**T**ropical storm Agatha raged throughout Guatemala in May, *déjà vu* of 9/11/1541 for the hard-hit area east of Ciudad Vieja. Weeks later, the church of San Miguel Escobar still sheltered people from some of the 80-plus homes that were lost along the river that cuts through a crevice on the skirts of Volcano Agua. Logs and limbs dumped by the water had been collected and piled in front of the church. Front loaders still scooped up all sorts of debris left by the storm.

Residents there, keen on their history, readily relate the story of that night 469 years ago when a similar storm rained torrents of

water, dislodging boulders, uprooting trees and tearing down walls. Some go as far as to say there has not been a storm so severe until Agatha.

There were no front loaders in 1541 to clean up Santiago, the name of the second location of the seat of the Spanish government in Guatemala, located in the Valley of Almolonga, currently Ciudad Vieja and San Miguel Escobar. The destruction resulted in moving the town in short order to what is now La Antigua Guatemala. But exactly where was the center of old Santiago? Traditionally the honor has been assumed to



**Monument on Ciudad Vieja church plaza depicts founding “here on this site the city of Santiago.”**

***Exactly where was the center of old Santiago?  
Traditionally the honor has been assumed to belong to the  
urban center of Ciudad Vieja, the Old City. But was it?***

belong to the urban center of Ciudad Vieja, the Old City. But was it?

According to historian J. Joaquín Pardo, “..analysis of colonial chronists and 20th century excavations and research show that is not so.” The chronists would seem to be the first source of information, and János de Szécsy read them, although with a grain of salt. “The history of Santiago was only of modest interest for the chronists, who concentrated their attention on the detailed history of Antigua,” he wrote in *Santiago de los Caballeros de Goathemala en Almolonga*. Szécsy carried out extensive excavations in

1950 and concluded, “There exists no convincing proof to suppose that the capital was in Ciudad Vieja.”

Official records of the town council of that early settlement, printed in *Libro Viejo*, include a plot of the city and names of its inhabitants. Having reached a severe state of deterioration, the originals were finally compiled as best they could be, laminated in 1968 by the U.S. Government Printing Office and remain in Washington. Analysis of those records by the Academia de Geografía e Historia concludes that Santiago “can be positioned to the east of the urban center of Ciudad Vieja, as



**Ruin said to be chapel of Beatriz de la Cueva, adjacent to Ciudad Vieja municipal building**

far as San Miguel Escobar.” Pardo recognized, “Thanks to the scientific works, the limits and center of the second Santiago are known with almost complete certainty and exactitude.”

Conquistador Pedro de Alvarado had set out from Mexico in 1524 to extend the conquest of Spain to Guatemala. The contingent, basically an army, stayed but a few months in Iximché, the first place named Santiago, but then moved on. After a brief stay in Comalapa, they reached the Valley of Almolonga, a pre-Colombian settlement long since abandoned, and said, “This is good. Let’s stay awhile.” It was beautiful, with fertile land, trees to provide plenty of fruit and wood, pastures and moderate temperatures. Volcanoes provided protective ‘walls’ for defense

as well as ways for easy in-out. Almolonga means “gushing waters,” one of the major pluses but also “a prophetic touch to the catastrophe that awaited.” (*Libro Viejo*)

“The ‘city’ was itinerant for more than two years. All the neighbors and members of the council were soldiers, so the ‘city’ was established in the military camp,” wrote Jorge Luján Muñoz in *Historia General de Guatemala*. In 1525 it became the first chore of the council to decide whether to settle in Almolonga or choose another site. They explored the area and debated. The few objections included wind, marshes and “the earth shakes a lot because of fire that the volcanoes put out,” but in the end it was almost unanimous: they would stay.

Officially founded on November 22, 1527, the second Santiago was lined out and parcels of land assigned “according to the custom established in the foundation of Spanish cities in other parts of New Spain,” wrote Christopher H. Lutz in *Historia Sociodemográfica de Santiago de Guatemala*. *Libro Viejo* records a church, public plaza, hospital and lots for civil authorities and neighbors. More than 600 indigenous people were established outside the grid, where they grew vegetables and cared for the cattle of the Spanish.

The Santiago built over the next 14 years was not elegant. The 100-or-so Spanish were people of simple preference, “of low nobility and poor in Spain,” wrote Szécsy. “I suppose Santiago was something like a beautiful 20th century village.” There were no architects or specialized workers, and no large buildings, given the size of excavated foundations.

The Franciscan and Dominican orders established monasteries at the corners of the city, the Mercedarians closer to the cathedral. And, of course, there was the palace of Pedro de Alvarado, whose wife, Beatriz de la Cueva, died in the storm of 1541 along with half the population.

The Franciscans stayed in Santiago after the move to care for the population that chose to remain there after the catastrophe, basically indigenous Mexicans who had come

**“What is said to be the palace of Alvarado turned out to be the façade of the monastery. None of the three monuments of Ciudad Vieja were found to be authentic.” Szécsy attributes the claims to ‘local legend’.**



**Plaque on wall of Ciudad Vieja municipal building claims founding of the first city of Guatemala in 1527 and its ruin by flood and earthquake in 1541.**



**ABOVE AND BELOW: Plaques outside entrance to Franciscan church commemorate founding of ‘the old city in Almolonga’ and ‘founding of the first capital of the kingdom’ on November 22, 1527.**





**Façade of Franciscan church in Ciudad Vieja, facing east, has chiseled in stone:  
1st cathedral, founded in 1534. But was it?**

with the conquistadors. The area was slowly repopulated, building over the structures of Santiago. According to historian Fuentes y Guzmán in *Ciudad Vieja*, “The Franciscan church became parish church of the new municipality.” These inhabitants adopted the name of Ciudad Vieja.

Ruins of the Santiago cathedral, the palace of Alvarado and the chapel of Doña Beatriz have been said to lie under that church and its plaza, the basis for claiming the now urban center of Ciudad Vieja as the urban center of Santiago. But studies of measurements, orientation, architectural style, geography and observation of flood patterns over the centuries fail to support the claims.

According to Szécsy, “What is said to be the palace of Alvarado turned out to be the... façade of the monastery,” adding, “None of the three monuments of Ciudad Vieja were found to be authentic.” He attributes the claims to ‘local legend’.

Unfortunately Szécsy’s studies were suspended due to lack of funds. “The foundations of the majority of public buildings, like the cathedral, the Mercederian monastery and the Royal House probably would be discovered if more excavations were done.” The Palace of Alvarado, the Dominican monastery and perhaps even the center of Santiago are believed to be buried now somewhere under private coffee farms. “It is logical ...cont. on page 68

ANTIGUA RETRO WITH

## *John Heaton*



**Traveler, collector, Central America correspondent for *Travel+Leisure*, founder-owner of Quinta Maconda, awarded Nat.Geo.Traveller 50 Tours of a Lifetime 2008, Heaton's Guatemala projects have been acknowledged by the international press for over two decades.**

### **How many years living in Guatemala?**

Almost a quarter of a century.

### **Why the move to La Antigua?**

Guatemala was terra incognita: wild, unfashionable, yet terribly alluring and void of Western habits. Mostly, I was drawn to experience the vibrant indigenous Mayan culture. It was a unique privilege—*Maltiox chech alak!* Antigua was the ideal base from where to explore this country then considered the Bhutan of Latin America. An ideal climate, an extraordinary setting of old stones, myths and legends, close to an international airport, yet a world away from civilization.


For those who fell under her spell it couldn't get any better. And, believe it or not, the civil war had an appealing edge that drew a small but interesting group of adventurous individuals.

### **Antigua's best time?**

Early morning walk and the puffs of Fuego!

### **What has changed, for the better or the worse?**

Being "out there" in Central America was very seductive. Antigua exuded a culturally authentic sense of place, and something unique and magical was always in store. It was unpretentious, its commercial ambitions unobtrusive and was graced by poetic imperfections and centuries-old patina that made Antigua a very special place in the world. Communication was expensive and unstable and delicacies were rare, making the arrival of a post card or a bar of Toblerone feel like a gift from the gods!

In the past decade a whirlwind of circumstances has transformed Antigua into a backpacker mecca, a petri dish for fast food and culturally invasive commerce where the "Miami Colonial" is replacing the baroque and making Antigua a caricature of itself. Even its ghosts are fleeing the fumes 'n tunes of the fast stuff. A waste of potential and valuable opportunities. 

# OLIVER THORNWHISTLE ON— ARAUCARIA MY FAVORITE TREE

I feel fortunate that my vocation offers me low-altitude air travel to the four corners of Guatemala. When I'm in a helicopter or small plane, or even at a window on an upper floor of a Zone 10 high rise in Guatemala City, I invariably carry away two impressions: *Quauhtlemallan*, from the 16th century *Nahuatl* for "land of trees," is still verdantly heavily forested, despite the sickening depredations in the Petén; and there is a spectacular dominant tree throughout the Highlands.

Chances are you have seen one or, if living anywhere in the Highlands, you have one within blocks of your house: Its genetic material has survived intact for 23 million years, since the early Miocene era, through ice ages, asteroid strikes and drought.

It flourishes in New Zealand and Chile and as far north as the Faroe and Queen Charlotte Islands. And right here in Guatemala.

Its seed pods weigh up to 20 pounds. There are boy trees and girl trees, although they have to wait for their 40th birthday to make little trees.

There are distinct species within the family, and the family has its very own non-conformist Bart Simpson.

Chances are you have known the *araucaria*, my favorite tree, by a common name such as star pine, Norfolk Island pine, etc.



The araucaria has spread throughout Guatemala and distinguishes itself through perfect symmetry, branches radiating from the trunk in perfect order. Since it grows routinely to 100 feet or more, it is not hard to spot, and its habit of bifurcating, or splitting its trunk, makes it often even more visible.

It must wait about 40 years to reproduce. I can imagine an in-search-of ad, *"Boy/girl tree seeks girl/boy mate. Must be at least 40 and perfectly symmetrical. Object, long life together, millions of offspring."*


When I say "long life together" I refer to the fact that scientists now believe that the araucaria can live to 1,000 years of age. As a family it has already lived for 23 million years, so what's a few more? There are many species, as many as 15 possibly in Guatemala, and one variety can reproduce only with a mate from the same. Trees are pollinated by the wind, birds and insects, and the task of finding a suitable same-sex/same-species mate seems daunting—lots of takeoffs and landings only to find that the target is the wrong variety or sex.



The odd man out, as if it says "Symmetrical? Not me," which I think of as the Bart Simpson of the family, is the bidwilli or Bunya Bunya, whose complete disregard for symmetry earned it the moniker the Monkey Puzzle tree. (Only a monkey could sort this out.)

Araucaria seed pods weigh 15 to 20 pounds, and can easily take out a car windshield or your own pate. Bugs eat the individual seeds, as do squirrels, birds and aborigines.

Where to find araucaria in Guatemala? Step out the door, chances are there is one in sight. But the absolutely primo spot is Guatemala City's general cemetery, where the trees drop cones in June.

My dream is that a reader will plant a stand of araucaria, similar species in rows to further the dating game. I'll help provide the breed stock. 





## Lake Views

by Dwight Wayne Coop

# Guatemala Reconquers the Cute Lid

“Cute Lid City” might be what U.S. truckers would name Tapachula if they drove down this far. Why? Well, a tapa is a lid, and chula means cute. Long before truckers existed, the city was called the Pearl of Soconusco. You may or may not agree with this labeling. But if you are reading this, you have probably been to Tapachula, or you will go sometime. And if you are like me, you are stricken with the presence of this isle of prosperity surrounded by a sea of blighting recession.

Each time I visit—which is often—I learn more of the secret of Tapachula’s success. Most recently, this happened when I absentmindedly made a purchase with a Q20 bill, instead of a 20-peso note. The change was in pesos, but it seemed that the cashier had given me too much. When I pointed this out, she did not give me an “oh-thanks-for-catching-the-mistake” look, but a “what’s-your-problem-and-can’t-you-see-I’m-busy” look.

“You gave me Q20, right?” she asked. Yeah, I wanted to say. But aren’t we in Mexico? “Oops,” is what I really said. “Never mind.” This took place in a big store with an obvious appetite for Guatemalan currency. But small stores, hotels, taxis and internet cafés also take it. Even beggars seem to know how to put your quetzales to work.

I have come to think of Guatemala, rather than Tapachula itself, as the thing that is chula. Not that this city itself is not chula; it kind of is. But it is also the lid that federal Mexico puts on Central America. This is why the immigration officials at the border want to know where you are going. Just Tapachula, or some point beyond? If only the former, then you need not fill out a tourist card if you are from, say, the U.S. or Belgium or Australia. Guatemalans must do a little paperwork, but not much, considering they are entering a country that makes extreme efforts to keep the tapa on Central Americans who would go north, sneak into

the United States, and compete for jobs there with Mexican nationals.

So that is why my friend Raquel Eunice Barrios, when asked if she has ever traveled abroad, responded, “No. I’ve only been to Tapachula, nada más.” She is only the latest Guatemalan to tell me this. But going to Tapachula really is legally going abroad, if not by much.

Owing to Mexican pragmatism, Tapachula has been put within reach of everyday Guatemalans. The Guatemalans can set foot in another country, and maybe buy something there, without going farther or—as it were—leaking from the “lid.” For them, it is a token foray into something mildly extraordinary.

In parallel fashion, my own father-in-law (also a Guatemalan) discovered years ago that he could experience a boat ride for a nominal fee. He was past 80 and had never been on a boat, but for Q5 he could enjoy a 23-minute lancha pública cruise that crosses Panajachel’s small bay and back. This is day tourism in Lake Atitlán, designed expressly for people like himself. Well, now he’s been here, done that.

So it is, then, with visits by Guatemalans to Cute Lid City. Maybe I will take my father-in-law there, too.

But the perception that Tapachula is Guatemalan—in the sense that going there is not quite going to Mexico (or not quite leaving Guatemala)—goes deeper than

wiping one’s feet on the welcome mat put out by Mexican pragmatism. Tapachula is, or once was, itself Guatemalan—sort of. And Guatemalans are today reclaiming it.

The city is de facto capital of a region of Chiapas State called Soconusco, a slab of territory, about half the size of El Salvador, in the extreme southeast of Mexico.

Following the war of independence from Spain in 1821, all of Central America was briefly part of the Mexican Empire. But only Chiapas was ultimately absorbed by Mexico. Yet Soconusco, via plebiscite, attempted to annex itself from Chiapas (and Mexico) to Guatemala in 1824. Guatemala accepted this, but in another plebiscite in 1840, Soconusco reverted to Chiapas.

**The perception that Tapachula is Guatemalan goes deeper than wiping one’s feet on the welcome mat put out by Mexican pragmatism. Tapachula is, or once was, itself Guatemalan—sort of.**

Guatemalan teachers still tell kids that the voting was irregular, and thus Soconusco was wrongly wrested from their country. Possibly all true. And yet Soconusco, conquered province that it might be, is today one of the most prosperous parts of Mexico. Indeed, it is a counterpoint even to the rest of Chiapas, which is consistently near the bottom among Mexico’s ...continued on page 58



# REVUE DateBook

**AUGUST** Guide to culture & upcoming events

Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos

**3 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** Cultural Survival is partnering with Guatemalan NGOs to strengthen a network of 140 community radio stations across the country, many of which broadcast in one or more of the country's 23 indigenous languages. The stations provide news, educational programming, health information and traditional music, all reinforcing pride in Mayan heritage. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**3 Tues., 6:30pm** — **ART:** Inauguration, *Explosión Multicolor*, featuring spectacular oil paintings by Rosamaría de Gámez. Open through Friday 13. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**4 Wed.,** through Sept. 8, **9:30 - 11:30am** — (Spanish) **CURSO:** *Artes Visuales y Música a través del Tiempo*, por el Dr. Dieter Lehnhoff. 6 sesiones, una cada miércoles. Adultos Q720/Q540 estudiantes con carnet. Parqueo Q30, tarifa única por sesión. Museo Popol Vuh, II nivel (tel: 2338-7836) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**4 Wed.,** through Tues., 31st — **ART:** Recent works by Colombian artist Rafael Dussan with mixed techniques on carton and fabric. Sala Principal, El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the Sept. 2010 edition of the REVUE by Wed., August 10

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


**5 Thurs., 7pm** — ART: Inauguration, exposition of paintings by Dulce María González. El Tunel (Tel: 2367-3266) Plaza Obelisco 16 calle 1-01, z. 10, **Guatemala City.** ▼



**6 Fri., 8pm & Sat 7, 7pm** — (Spanish) THEATER: *El Huésped*, directed by Guillermo Monsanto. Q60. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua.**

**5 Thurs., 4pm** — (English) NETWORKING: NGOs present current work and future needs. All presentations translated, Español/English. Everyone is most welcome. Q50 covers the cost of boquitas, a beverage and a plenty of time for conversations following the presentations. For more information call Judy Sadlier 7832-9871. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468) 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua.**

**10 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) TALK: Learn about the problems facing the people of Guatemala and the ways in which Nuestros Ahijados is working to solve them. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

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

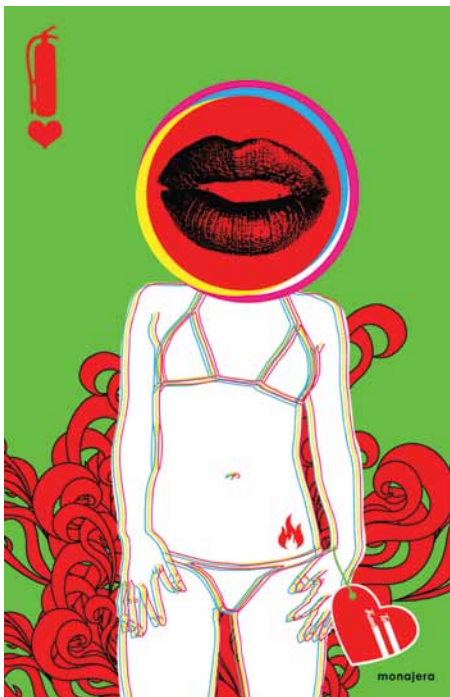
**11 Wed., 5pm** — ART: Inauguration of *Líneas Oscuras* by artist Kendra McLaughlin. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925) 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua.** ▼



**12** **Thurs., 4:30pm** — **BRIDGE TOURNAMENT:** *Welcoming Tournament* organized by Guatemalan Duplicate Bridge Association. Need a partner or more information? Call Denni 2478-1649, Lucy 2369-0103 or Eva (La Antigua) 7832-4327. 12 Av. 2-59, z. 15, Colonia Tecún Umán, **Guatemala City**.

**12** **Thurs.,** through Sat., 28 — **ART:** *Enigmas* featuring sculptures by artist Alvaro Castellanos. Salón del Coleccionista, El Attico (tel: 2368-0853) 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**.

**15** **Sun.,** through October 9 — **DIGITAL ART:** *Precaución! El Amor Puede Causar Serios Daños a su Salud* featuring high-quality full color photos with special framing by artist Mónica Nájera. La Casa Azul (tel: 2368-2178) Diagonal 6, 14-83, z. 10, Edificio Oakland, Local #3, **Guatemala City**. ▼



**14** **Sat., 1pm** — **CULTURAL EVENT:** A glimpse at indigenous culture as a Mayan sacerdote (priest) presents an authentic ceremony/ritual. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), **La Antigua**.

**14** **Sat., MUSIC:** The Dirección General de las Artes del Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes and Hotel Casa Santo Domingo present the *2nd Festival de Música Antigua*, for details see highlight on page 27.

**14** **Sat., 7pm** — (Spanish) **COMEDY-MUSICAL REVUE:** *Se nos va la Orquesta*, performed by Mónica Sarmientos, Wilfredo González and Denise Meneses. Q60. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**15** **Sun.,** — **HOLIDAY:** Celebrations honoring Virgen de La Asunción, patron saint of Guatemala City. For calendar of activities and more information visit [www.cultura.muniguatate.com](http://www.cultura.muniguatate.com). **Guatemala City**.

**17** **Tues., 5:30pm** — (English) **TALK:** *Arcas: Rescuing Guatemalan Wildlife*. The Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS) is 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. This presentation includes an introduction to wild (non-releasable) animals. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.



For a DateBook daily event listing, check out "REVUE NEWS TWEETS" [www.revuemag.com](http://www.revuemag.com)



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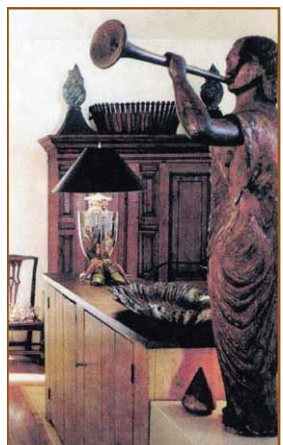


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## MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**La Cueva de Panza Verde** (tel: 7832-2925)5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua***Mondays** — New Orleans Blues with Nelson Lunding. Piano & vocals.**Wednesdays** — Live Jazz Trio; sax, piano, bass.**Thursdays** — Buena Vista de Corazón; Cuban Jazz. Conga and vocals by Ignacio.**Fridays** — Latin Trio; guitar, conga and piano.**Sundays** — New Orleans Jazz with Nelson Lunding. Piano & vocals.**La Peña de Sol Latino** (tel: 7882-4468)5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua***Mondays, 7-10pm** — Carlos Trujillo, Classical & Latin Guitar music to complete your intimate dining experience. Free.**Tuesdays, 7-10pm** — Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free.**Wednesdays through Sundays, 7-10pm** — Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼**Sundays, 12:30-3pm** — Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free.**21 Sat., 6pm** — ANNIVERSARY PARTY: 5 hours of live music, door prizes, t-shirts, plenty of fun and good food. La Peña de Sol Latino, *La Antigua*.**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.**Saturdays, 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.**Posada de Santiago** (tel: 7721-7366), 1 km south of Santiago Atitlán, *Lake Atitlán***Fridays, 7:30pm** — Mark Weinstein's Marco Trio will perform a variety of jazz, blues & rock 'n' roll.**Saturdays, 7:30pm** — La Trova del Lago featuring Juan Sisay, Carlos Rangel and Noe Vásquez.*If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind whom should we serve?*

— John Adams

If your bar or restaurant has live music on a regular schedule, send info to: [publicidad@revuemag.com](mailto:publicidad@revuemag.com)

CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

# MUSIC

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**Circus Bar** (tel: 7762-2056)  
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**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.

## DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT

# Festival de Música Antigua

The Dirección General de las Artes del Ministerio de Cultura y Deportes and Hotel Casa Santo Domingo present the 2nd Festival de Música Antigua starting **Saturday August 14 through Sunday 22.**

The festival features the musical groups Capilla de La Asunción, Coro Nacional, Ensamble Barroco de Guatemala, Dúo Galante from Mexico, Ganassi from Costa Rica and Santiago Players from the United States.

Free admission to all events at the following venues *Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo* & where noted, *the Santo Domingo del Cerro, La Antigua.*

**Sat., 14, 5pm** — Inauguration: Ensamble Barroco de Guatemala, *Sala Quiroa.*

**Sun., 15, 10am** — Capilla de la Asunción, *Sala Quiroa.*

**Tues., 17, 7pm** — Coro Nacional, *Capilla.*

**Wed., 18, 7pm** — *Catación Guitarra* by Santiago Players, *Capilla.*

**Thurs., 19, 7pm** — Ganassi, *Atrium 3 and 4.*

**Fri., 20, 7pm** — Dúo Galante from Mexico, *Sala Quiroa.*

**Sat., 21, 5pm** — Ensamble Barroco de Guatemala and Ganassi, *Sala Quiroa.*

**Sun., 22, 7pm** — Ensamble Barroco de Guatemala and Santiago Players, *Sala Quiroa.*

### Festival Workshops (Spanish)

**Tues., 17, 3pm** — *Neo Baroque Composition* presented by the Santiago Players. *Teatro de Cámara.*

**Wed., 18, 3pm** — *Luteria* presented by Juan Carlos Soto. *Sala de Exposiciones, Santo Domingo del Cerro.*

**Thurs., 19, 3pm** — *Propuesto* by Dúo Galante from Mexico. *Sala de Exposiciones, Santo Domingo del Cerro.*

**19 Thurs., 6:30pm** — (Spanish)  
**CONFERENCIA:** *El Arte y la Escritura de Cotzumalguapa* por el Dr. Oswaldo Chinchilla. Q30/Q15 estudiantes con carnet. Parqueo Q30, tarifa única. Museo Popol Vuh, II nivel (tel: 2338-7836) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**19 Thurs.,** through Sep. 19 — **ART:** Ingrid Klüsmann, *Dejando Huella*, installation in cabinet by José Antonio Maldonado, as part of the XIII Festival del Centro Histórico. Edificio El Centro II level, local 218, 7a & 9a calle, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

**20 Fri., 8pm** — **MUSIC:** *De California a Santiago II, Impresiones Mágicas y Románticas*, chamber music and opera. Q60. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**21 Sat., 7pm** — **ART:** Exposition of latest works by artist Omar González. Free. Cocktails. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

**21 Sat., 9am-4:30pm** — (Spanish)  
**TALLER:** *Rompiendo Miedos Lider Iconoclasta Seguimiento*, un curso para fortalecer los sueños, el liderazgo, el triunfo y el condicionamiento al éxito para los jóvenes de hoy. Para jóvenes de 13 a 18 años, impartido por Pablo Rubio. \$65. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081) 6a calle final, z. 10, **Guatemala City**.

**22 Sun., 11am** — **DANCE:** *Al Pie del Ritmo*, showcasing tap, flamenco, contemporary and hip-hop performed by Miguel Bolaños (Colombia), Daniela Bonilla (Costa Rica), Adela Garita (Costa Rica) and Fredy Corado (Guatemala). Q70. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), **La Antigua**.

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**24 Tues., 5:30pm** — (English)  
**TALK:** Los Patojos: *Forming leaders for Guatemala*. Director Juan Pablo Romero will talk about the problems that affect young people in Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez and how Los Patojos helps them to deal with or prevent these difficulties. Los Patojos also builds relationships between varied cultures to learn and understand social group dynamics and discover how to become better world citizens. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

**26 Thurs., 6pm** — **ART:** Inauguration of *De Amores y Otras Costumbres* featuring paintings by Edgar Andaverde. Centro Cultural Gran Hotel (tel: 4749-7023) 9a calle 7-64, z. 1, Centro Histórico, **Guatemala City**. ▼



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"El secreto" by William Kalwick Jr.



**28 Sat., 10am** — (Spanish) **CONFERENCIA:** *Guateflora, Plantas Ornamentales más utilizadas en Jardines Guatemaltecos* por Ing. Carolina Benitez de Bhor. Conozca sobre esta variedad de especies que existen en Guatemala ideales para su jardín, plantas que requieren poco mantenimiento inversión y tiempo y logre así plantas saludables y floridas durante el año. Además camine por nuestro vivero y conozca plantas exóticas y silvestres que se adaptan muy bien a nuestro clima, entérese de productos 100% orgánicos que puede utilizar para cuidar sus plantas, contribuyendo a cuidar nuestro medio ambiente. Vivero y Café de la Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074) 5a av. sur final #36, **La Antigua**.

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**28 Sat., 1pm** — DANCE & MUSIC PRESENTATION: The Niños de Aguas Calientes dance and play the marimba, flutes and bombas. Donations benefit educational pursuits. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

**28 Sat., 7pm** — DANCE: *Filamentos* performed by dance group Otridad. Q60. Proyecto Cultural El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), *La Antigua*.

**31 Tues., 5:30pm** — MAYAN DANCES: K'a k'a' Saqarik (Nuevo Amenc-er)/New Dawn is a local charity that assists more than 30 indigenous children in San Andres Itzapa. The focus is health, education and the preservation of Mayan traditions that include language and dance. Come and see the show and learn more about this project and the Mayan culture. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919) 7a av. Sur #8, *La Antigua*.

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**ART:** La Antigua Galería de Arte presents the works of internationally renowned artists such as Alfredo García Gil, Hugo González Ayala, César Barrios, Alejandro Leal, Gustavo García, Gina Intveen, Pilar Ríos and Rogelio Barillas in a combination of styles, techniques and subject matter and a selection of over 100 pieces of artwork well worth viewing in a beautiful colonial setting. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124) 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*. ▼



DATEBOOK continues on page 40

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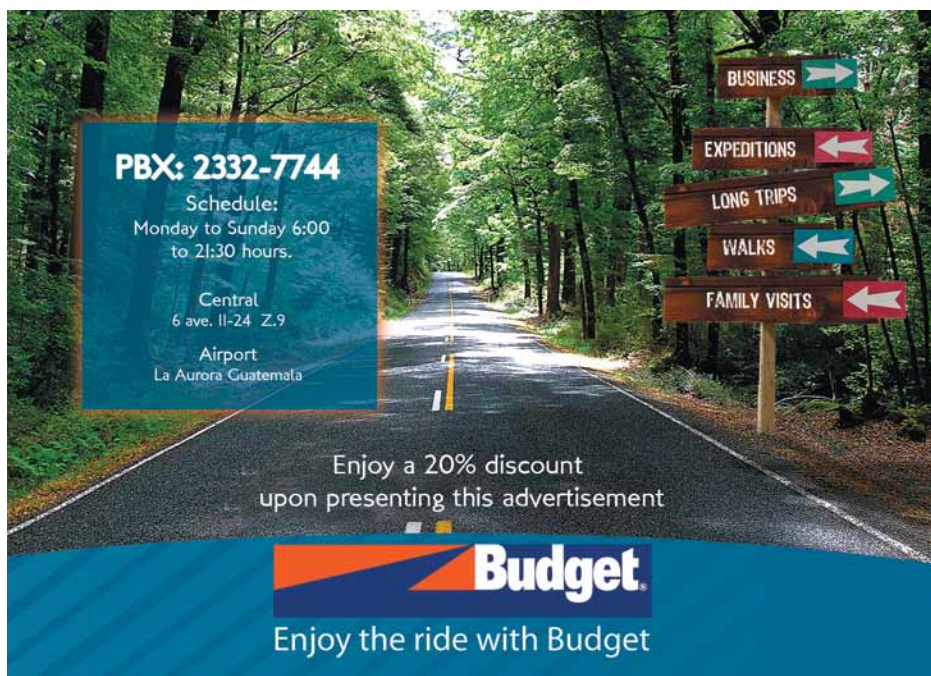
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# Brooks Buderus

1918-2010



## A TOAST IN HONOR OF BROOKS

*Offered by Mark, Matt, David and Paul Thompson, Audrey's sons (July 8, 2010)*

Brooks Buderus was a man of many loves, especially his love for his soul mate of over 40 years, his devoted wife—our mother, Audrey. Together they loved and lived life as a big adventure, an approach that brought them many delights, an awesome array of friends and experiences that many less-adventurous souls only dream of.

Brooks loved sports, especially the teams of his beloved alma mater, the University of Michigan. When the Wolverines failed to live up to his lofty expectations, he would become the cranky fan, spewing out a lengthy list of coaching errors and player mistakes unbecoming of a squad from the storied institution. Soon Audrey would pour him another cocktail and Brooks would slowly revert back to himself as the sting of defeat was overcome by quality liqueur. And when his team left the field victorious, he would raise a glass in celebration, secure in the thought that he had done his part to help will them to victory.

He also loved music with a passion that few of us understand. He carefully collected re-

cords, and then began converting his albums onto cassette tapes. He maintained meticulous catalogues of every recording he owned and was able to delve deeper into the music through his record keeping. Brooks would often sit quietly and intently listen to jazz or classical recordings for hours at a time. He gave the music his undivided attention in an effort to hear the real spirit, the soul of whatever piece was he was listening to.

Audrey and Brooks loved to gather with their friends to enjoy great food and drink as well as lively conversation. Audrey is the master chef and Brooks was smart enough to stay out of the kitchen, content to make sure that everyone had a full glass and that a good time was had by all. Brooks wasn't bashful about sharing his views on a variety of subjects. There was never a question of where he stood on an issue. But once you gained him as your friend, he was a loyal compatriot who would stand with you through thick and thin.

He also loved the arts, not unusual for a man who devoted his ...continued on page 84



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*The problem with the designated driver program,  
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into doing it, have fun with it. At the end of the  
night, drop them off at the wrong house.*

—Jeff Foxworthy



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*Luck is everything... My good luck in life was to be  
a really frightened person. I'm fortunate to be a  
coward, to have a low threshold of fear, because a  
hero couldn't make a good suspense film.*

—Alfred Hitchcock



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## PEOPLE and PROJECTS



Clients settle into their new wheelchairs in Totonicapán



Efrain welds a custom wheelchair frame—the workshop will produce 200 wheelchairs this year

# A Cure for Cobblestones

*Transitions creates 10 years of mobility in Antigua*

**T**ransitions Foundation, an Antigua-based organization dedicated to supporting and empowering Guatemalans with disabilities, is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its wheelchair workshop. The workshop offers employment opportunities, currently to nine people with disabilities, and produces affordable and custom-tailored wheelchairs and mobility devices for those in need.

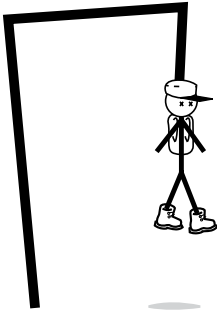
### History

The workshop was rented from Raphael Alvarez in 1997 as a dream that was made a reality two years later by a group of Canadian Rotarians, carpenters, electricians and craftsmen. A Rotary International matching grant provided the funding in 2000 for technical training by Whirlwind Wheelchair International and San Francisco State University and for the purchase of the tools and equipment. Full-scale production began later that year and in 2010 Transitions

is on target to make 200 chairs. More than 40 people, the majority of whom are Guatemalans with disabilities, have been trained in the workshop over its 10-year history, helping thousands of clients to achieve mobility and independent lifestyles.

### Visiting friends

Engineers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are tapping into the workshop's experience in production and innovation this summer to perfect and construct the internationally recognized Leveraged Freedom Wheelchair design. In August 30 chairs will be produced for local trials, making Antigua the incubator of groundbreaking innovation. Transitions is also hosting a student from Stanford University who is researching prosthetics in resource-scarce countries. The Transitions Prosthetics and Orthotics Clinic is a blossoming program that changed the lives of 36 patients in 2009. ...continued on page 54



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DATEBOOK continued from page 30

## THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

**M**ondays, 4:30pm; Tuesdays, 2:30pm; Wednesdays, 2:30pm; Thursdays, 4:30pm — BRIDGE TOURNAMENTS: Year round at the Guatemalan Duplicate Bridge Association. Need a partner or more information, contact Denni: 2478-1649, Lucy: 2369-0103 or Eva: (La Antigua) 7832-4327. 12 av. 2-59, z. 15 Colonia Tecún Umán, *Guatemala City*.

**T**uesdays, 3:30-4:30pm — (Spanish) READING CLUB: *Mi Primer Club de Lectura* for kids 4 to 6 years old, directed by Karla Arévalo. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10, C.C. La Plaza, L15, *Guatemala City*.

**T**uesdays, 4:40-5:30pm — (Spanish) READING CLUB: *Club de Lectura* for kids 7 to 9 years old, directed by Karla Arévalo. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10, C.C. La Plaza, L15, *Guatemala City*.

**T**uesdays, 6pm — (English) SLIDE SHOW: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* by Elizabeth Bell. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037) 5a calle poniente #15, *La Antigua*.

**W**ednesdays, 3:30-4:30pm — (Spanish) CHESS WORKSHOP FOR KIDS: Bring your kids and learn about this interesting game. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) Plaza Futeca, z. 14, *Guatemala City*.

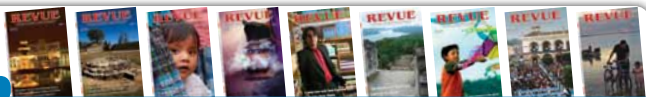
**W**ednesdays, 6pm — FILM: Every week a new movie will be presented. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (tel: 7832-1276) 6a av. norte, *La Antigua*.

**F**ridays, 5-6pm — (English) READING CLUB, also ask about the NEW BOOK EXCHANGE PROGRAM. IGA (tel: 2411-5555) 9a av. 0-31, z. 4, *Guatemala City*.

**S**aturdays & Sundays, 11am-12 noon — (Spanish) STORY-TELLING: Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Librería Infantil El Hormiguero (tel: 2368-3855) 20 calle 25-96, z. 10, C.C. La Plaza, L15, *Guatemala City*.

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*Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built.*  
—Abraham Lincoln

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## Moments of Mindfulness

by Dr. Karmen Guevara  
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# Are You Creating a Masterpiece?



**L**ife is a huge canvas onto which we can throw as much paint as we wish. A divine gift is the power to create whatever we want. It's woven into the fabric of our being. Since we're hardwired to create, we hold the brush with which to design the life we choose.

Are you creating a masterpiece? Or are you painting by numbers, or connecting haphazard dots? Perhaps you're like many people who sleepwalk right past their canvas. One day you may find it filled with graffiti or a Dorian Gray!


How have we lost sight of our gift? Despite the diversity of human circumstances the reasons are simple. It's the search for happiness through others and things, which is driven by the ego's ruthless fixation with fear and desire.

Combined with the belief that we are no more than our story, we're led into the descent of deep forgetfulness. Here we cannot

touch our divine gifts, nor connect with the essence of who we truly are—no wonder often the life we end up with is not the one we would have consciously chosen!

It's never too late to pick up the brush! Although we cannot recreate the past and start a new beginning, we can start to create a new ending. Turn the canvas away from the world and face it inward.

Here you'll find your muse. Invoke her with stillness, love and beauty. Observe the freedom and passion with which she unleashes the wings of your dreams. Watch her create a masterpiece with the heartbeat of your soul.

Henry Ward Beecher proclaimed, "Every artist dips his brush into his own soul and paints his own nature into his pictures." Life is not a dress rehearsal, so heed Oscar Wilde's words: "I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works." 



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— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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## Transitions cont. from page 38

### Our needs


The organization's North American founder, John Bell, retired in March 2010, leaving the management in very capable Guatemalan hands. A \$50,000 fundraising initiative was launched in April to usher the foundation through the transitional phase. To date \$40,000 has been raised with high hopes of reaching the goal in August and providing stability moving forward.

### Tours and Volunteering

Individuals and groups are encouraged to contact Transitions for more information about the wheelchair workshop tour sched-

ule and weekly English Night activities. English Night offers local Guatemalans with disabilities the chance to practice their language skills and gain a cross-cultural perspective. It is also a great opportunity for Spanish students to wrap their mind around the *vos* form and other *modismos*.

### Contact

For more information about Transitions, please visit [www.transitionsfoundation.org](http://www.transitionsfoundation.org) or contact Andy at [communications@transitionsfoundation.org](mailto:communications@transitionsfoundation.org) 

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## **Tapachula** cont. from page 21

32 states in social indicators. Kind of like Mississippi in the U.S., Sicily in Italy, or Mecklenberg in Germany.

The focus of this prosperity is, of course, the region's pearl, Tapachula. Unlike so many border cities, it is a draw for reasons other than its siting. I have always found ports and border towns to be grubby places, full of people you would like to avoid: smugglers, pimps, petty thieves, corrupt officials. But Tapachula, though its tourism assets remain limited, is a city with clear skin and nuclear-family domesticity. It is also, due apparently to the same official pragmatism that allows Tapachula to be open to Central Americans, a place where very many Guatemalans actually find long-term work, without being pursued by the

local Migra. As near as I can tell, the rules for Guatemalans who work there are just as lax for Guatemalans who visit. So it is that reclamation is under way. There will never, obviously, be another plebiscite, much less a political secession for Soconusco. But reconquest, on subtler levels, is under way.

A juice bar that my sons and I always visit is staffed solely by Guatemalan women. We know their names, and they ours, and they know what to make for us when we order "the usual." They always ask us about things "back home." One thing I tell them is that jobs there are not, for the moment, easy to get. They nod in a way that tells me that they will not soon be returning to Guatemala.

Then again, maybe they have never really left. 



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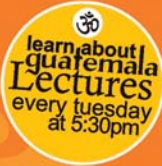
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*Temptation is an irresistible force at work on a movable body. —H. L. Mencken*

*Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment. —Mohandas Gandhi*



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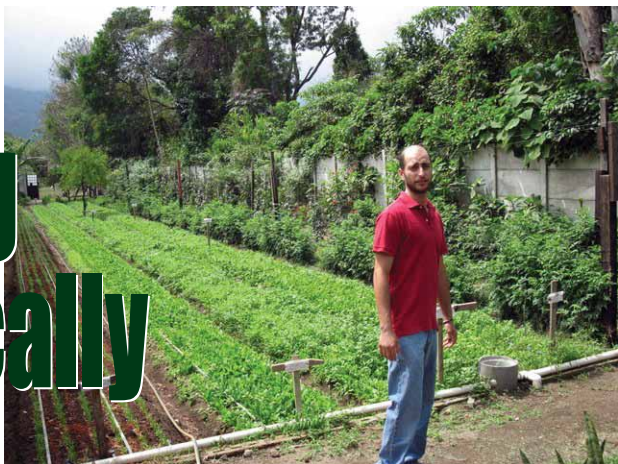
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# Farming Organically



**Kronick with some of his latest crops at Caoba Farms**

What makes a farm “organic,” one that grows organic produce? We put that question to Alex Kronick as we tour Caoba Farms, his five-acre organic farm on the outskirts of La Antigua Guatemala. Alex began his business six years ago, originally selling organic produce to one restaurant, and then quickly adding a second. He now sells to 100 hotels and restaurants and over 50 private homes in Guatemala and El Salvador.

As we walk through his farm with Alex, we are surprised by the amount of produce that can be grown within this contained space and delighted by the variety we encounter. There are long, neat rows of lettuce, asparagus beds, and banana trees. There are blueberry and strawberry bushes with sweet fruit that Alex picks and offers to us. There are not quite enough berries to sell commercially yet; perhaps soon. There are hens and tur-

keys laying eggs. Not yet enough eggs to sell, but, again, possibly soon.

Products that are available year round include several varieties of lettuce, such as arugula; spinach; leeks; chives; sprouts; and fresh herbs such as rosemary, basil and cilantro. Throughout the year, other produce becomes available with its growing season. Produce ranges from the familiar, such as limes and eggplant, to items like *malanga*, unfamiliar to many shoppers. Malanga is a root vegetable, similar to potato, but full of protein and containing no gluten. It is prepared in any way that a potato would be prepared.

Produce is cut either early in the day, at 6 a.m., then washed and packaged for delivery that day, or cut late in the day, between 3 and 8 p.m., refrigerated overnight and delivered the next day. While all produce

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**Alex emphasizes that when plants are healthy, they are better able to withstand pests without a great deal of support from repellent products.**

is washed, some items are washed three times and disinfected. These distinctions are clearly marked on the Caoba Farms packaging.

Frequency of orders may range from daily, in the case of larger establishments, to every two weeks, for smaller restaurants and hotels and some private homes.



Back to our original question: what *does* make Alex's produce "organic?"

He explains that there are a number of factors that contribute to this designation:

**1.** Seeds have not been genetically altered and are of high quality. Some of the seeds are produced at Caoba Farms; others are purchased from the United States and are certified as organic by the United States' Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**2.** Plants are grown in natural sunlight, as opposed to artificial sunlight.

**3.** Fertilizers are natural. Decomposed mulch from the Guatemalan mountains, as well as Caoba's own compost and organic fertilizer are used. (Caoba's organic fertilizer may also be purchased.) Earthworm casts (consisting of waste excreted after feeding) aerate the soil.

**4.** The soil is turned frequently. This prevents many types of fungus. An organic fungicide, also certified by the USDA, and actually a "good" fungus that feeds on "bad" fungus, is utilized.

What about insecticides?

The general public is perhaps most concerned with the use of these products when looking for organic produce. Alex uses natural pest repellants, such as garlic and neem oil. Neem oil comes from trees grown in India and Africa and kills the larvae of mosquitoes. Other products containing these ingredients, and certified as organic by the USDA, are also used.

Alex emphasizes that when plants are healthy, they are better able to withstand pests without a great deal of support from repellent products. His emphasis on maintaining healthy plants reduces his need to



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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mesón Panza Verde is pleased to announce that Nils Rykken, former owner and chef of renowned Nicolas Restaurant in Antigua, has become our new Executive Chef.

Nils will be in charge of our menu as well as will supervise our cooking team, led by Sous-Chefs Noé Sicán and Allan Ruiz, together with Carmen Tiño and Seung Min.

Mr. Rykken will also be opening a new restaurant, FISH, at 4 Av. 10-06, Zona 9 in Guatemala city.

This fine dining restaurant will contain a gourmet/fresh fish market, as well. Many expect FISH soon to be considered one of the best restaurants in La Capital.



"International Cuisine with a Twist"

**Some of the seeds are produced at Caoba Farms; others are purchased from the United States and are certified as organic by the United States' Department of Agriculture (USDA).**

utilize even these natural products.

Alex was born and raised in Antigua. His mother has always enjoyed gardening, particularly with flowers, and Alex, while on school vacation, began to add salad to the garden beds. During high school and college in the United States, he was introduced to organic food and found that he enjoyed eating organically. As he sought out organic products in farmers' markets, he realized that he could also garden organically, and began experimenting with this type of gardening.

Alex has a bachelor of science degree in entrepreneurship from the Sierra Nevada College in Lake Tahoe, U.S. He cites consistency—in product, price and policy—as the number one piece of advice he would give to a potential entrepreneur.

Caoba Farms prides itself on the consistency of the quality of the produce, as well as consistency in policies, such as quick delivery after cutting.

What about prices?

Alex characterizes Caoba Farms' prices as "more expensive than the mercado; less expensive than the large grocery stores."



He began Caoba Farms when he returned to Antigua after his college graduation, with the support of his father. The name, Caoba, is the Spanish word for mahogany.

With such a large variety of quality produce available at all times, a big question poses itself: What does Alex like to cook?

He mentions barbecued eggplant. "Spread barbecue sauce on slices of eggplant and grill." Another favorite is "stir-fry, with baby bok choy, spring onions and leaks. Add pasta and shrimp, chicken or crispy fish."

**For those of us who need a little more culinary guidance, we offer the following recipes (starting on page 72): one for grilled eggplant, the other a recipe similar to a stir fry. Both make use of fresh produce:**

...continued on page 72



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## Almolonga cont. from page 16

to suppose that the city founded in 1527 was on the site of San Miguel,” wrote Lutz.

San Miguel Escobar includes coffee farms and is in fact a neighborhood within Ciudad Vieja, so the claim of that municipality is technically correct. The hitch is location of the urban center and identification of the ruins.

Today the ruin said to be the chapel where Doña Beatriz and 11 ladies of her court died on the night of the storm is bordered by school classrooms, where very much alive children play, 469 years later. Life goes on, with or without answers about the past. 



Stone monument at chapel ruin states in bronze, “This is the only part left today of the Palace of the conquistadors of Guatemala. Here perished Doña Beatriz de la Cueva and 11 women of her court in the catastrophe of the city on the 8th of September of \_\_\_\_.” (year has been lost; reason for the date of ‘8th’ is unknown).



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*When I got my life on purpose and focused on  
giving of myself and everything that arrived into  
my life, then I was prosperous. —Wayne Dyer*

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*A man should do his job so well that the living, the  
dead, and the unborn could do it no better.*

*—Martin Luther King, Jr.*



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—Janeane Garofalo

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a cup of money. They said, "What for?"  
I said, "I'm going to buy some sugar."*  
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good liar.* —Jerome K. Jerome

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## **Eggplant slices with Caprese Salsa**

serves 6

*How to Grill* by Steven Raichlen

### **Ingredients:**

#### *for the Eggplant*

- 2 cylindrical slender eggplants, about 1 lb. each, cut crosswise into ½ inch slices
- about 2 tablespoons coarse salt
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- ½ to 1 tsp hot red pepper flakes (optional)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh flat leaf parsley

#### *for the Caprese Salsa*

- 1 large ripe tomato, seeded and cut into ¼ inch dice
- 1 piece fresh mozzarella cheese (about 5 ounces), cut into ¼ inch dice
- 8 fresh basil leaves, slivered, plus a few whole sprigs for garnish
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- coarse salt and black pepper
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice, plus lemon wedges for serving (optional)

### **Directions—Eggplant:**

**1.** Sprinkle both sides of the eggplant slices with coarse salt. Arrange the slices in a single layer on a large rack placed over a baking dish or a rimmed baking sheet. After 30 minutes, tiny beads of bitter juices will form on the surface of the eggplants. Rinse these off under cold water and blot the eggplant dry with paper towels. (This process is

optional, but it results in a sweeter, milder tasting grilled eggplant.)

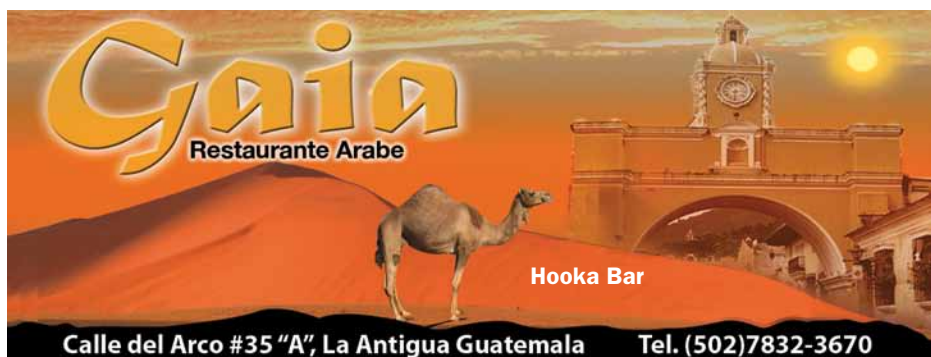
**2.** Set up the grill for direct grilling and preheat to high.

**3.** Arrange the eggplant slices on a baking sheet and drizzle 2 tablespoons of olive oil over them, rubbing the oil over the slices with your fingers or a pastry brush. Sprinkle the eggplant slices with half of the oregano, black pepper, hot pepper flakes (if using), garlic and parsley. Turn the eggplant slices, drizzle with the remaining oil, and sprinkle with the remaining oregano, black pepper, hot pepper flakes, garlic and parsley.

**4.** When ready to cook, arrange the eggplant slices on the hot grate and grill until nicely browned on both sides, 5 to 8 minutes per side. If the eggplant starts to burn before the slices are tender, lower the heat or move the slices to a cooler section of the grill. Transfer the slices to a platter and let cool to room temperature. The grilled eggplants can be kept in the refrigerator, covered, for 24 hours. When ready to serve, arrange in a single pattern on a serving platter.

**5. Make the caprese salsa:** Combine the tomato, mozzarella, basil, oil, and lemon juice in a nonreactive mixing bowl but don't mix them. The salsa can be prepared up to this stage several hours ahead and kept, covered, in the refrigerator.

**6.** When ready to serve, add salt and pepper to the salsa and gently toss to mix. Spoon the salsa over the eggplant and garnish with lemon wedges, if using, and basil sprigs.



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—Isaac Asimov

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—George Carlin



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## ***Asian Carry-out Noodles***

serves 2

by Christine L., *allrecipes.com*

### **Ingredients:**

- 1 (8 ounce) package angel hair pasta
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 skinless, boneless chicken breast half-cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
- 2 leaves bok choy, diced
- ¼ cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons dry sherry
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1½ tablespoon hoisin sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 green onions, minced

### **Directions:**

- 1.** Cook angel hair pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water until al dente. Drain.
- 2.** Meanwhile, in a large nonstick skillet, heat canola and sesame oil over medium high heat. Sauté onion and garlic until softened. Stir in chopped chicken and cook until the chicken browns and juices run clear. Stir in ginger, bok choy, chicken stock, sherry, soy sauce and hoisin sauce. Reduce heat and continue cooking for ten minutes.
- 3.** Toss pasta with chicken mixture until well coated. Season with salt. Serve warm, sprinkled with minced green onions.

*To order produce from Caoba Farms, tels: (502) 5119-0278 or (502) 4507-8341, call a day ahead of anticipated delivery, before 5 p.m.  
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Detail of Neptune Fountain located in the Piazza del Nettuno, Bologna, Italy.

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*I was born not knowing and have had only  
a little time to change that here and there.*

—Richard Feynman

## Mermaids in Antigua cont. from page 11

St. James Museum (first floor of City Hall) and may be seen from the sidewalk. The original heads were destroyed over the centuries and the torsos ended up in the rubble of the Archbishop's Palace. Discovered around 1944, they were used by Roberto González Goyri in his recreation of the fountain designing new heads.

Then, Diego de Porres added sirens on the facade of the cathedral, built in 1680 by his father, Joseph de Porres. These appear on either side of St. James, right above the main door and were not part of the original design.

Our third sighting of colonial mermaids/sirens in Antigua is, perhaps, my favorite and built much later. These are on the façade of the Colegio Tridentino built after the 1754 earthquakes. Its style, referred to as "earthquake baroque," has beautiful sirens above the windows. While these may have been inspired by the fountain in Central Park, it is difficult to assume. 

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# THE CUBAN CONNECTION

text and photo by Michael Sherer

There is a small corner of Cuba in La Antigua on 5a avenida, north of Los Arcos. Walk into Tabacos y Vinos, turn left at the entrance and face the glass-fronted case. Open the doors where the scents of the earthy Pinar del Rio, the Vuelta Abajo and other heady aromas of the finest cigars in the world are waiting for you.

There are colorful boxes of Romeo & Julieta, Montecristos and Cohibas. Epicures, Upmanns and many other top-rated brands, all available in various sizes and shapes. Is your favorite Cuban size a robusto or a lonsdale? There are torpedos and Churchills, as well as petite, after-dinner mini-cigars to go with the glass of cognac or espresso.

Ricardo Rueda, 42, has been in the cigar business for several years but his appreciation of the finer things of life began when he was a flight attendant for Pan American World Airways some 20 years ago, covering Latin American routes.

His stock of Cuban cigars is absolutely fresh and from the only source available for retail distribution: La Casa Del Habano, the marketing arm of Habanos, S.A. Cuba's cigar industry might be said to have begun when the Taino inhabitants offered Columbus their version of a robusto. Five centuries later the Cuban cigar continues to set the standard for excellence. About 10 years ago the government began offering franchises all over the planet, with over 100 retail outlets from Qatar to Beijing.

With cigars of quality, storage and preservation are usually concerns. However, one doesn't need a temperature- and humidity-controlled humidor here. Why not? Antigua has the perfect temperature and humidity levels, usually considered to be 70/70 — 70 degrees Fahrenheit and 70 degrees of humidity. The "Tubos," sealed in an aluminum canister, will keep their freshness longer, as long as the temperature range is kept.

If you're planning on traveling to a colder or drier climate and don't have a portable case, use a double ziploc bag, with a damp paper towel in the outer bag.

Ricardo's favorite smoke? A Hoyo de Monterey petite robusto.



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## Brooks Buderus cont. from page 34

work career to designing beautiful buildings that dazzled the eye while serving the utilitarian needs of the occupants. Brooks loved beauty in paintings, jewelry and sculptures. But if he were here right now, so

that we could ask him about the true beauty in his life, there is no doubt that his answer would be—Audrey.

Finally, he cared deeply about his children and grew to love Audrey's sons, which many say can be a difficult task. Family was important, yet Brooks yearned to live life

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on his terms. With Audrey by his side, they ventured out into a brave new world, building a life together that has deeply touched all of you gathered here tonight—as well as their families and their friends in the States. Not a day went by in recent years without Brooks thinking about his brother, whom he lost in World War II in the Pacific. He asked that his remains be placed in the Pacific Ocean, so in the end, he would be with his brother again.


Lift your glasses high tonight on Audrey and Brooks' 41st wedding anniversary, and shed no tears, for Brooks wants us to celebrate, not mourn his passing. He had a great run and surely appreciates all of you for making his life so special, meaningful and entertaining. Let us drink to our friend, Brooks Buderus, as we promise to keep his memory with us always.

Salud!!! 



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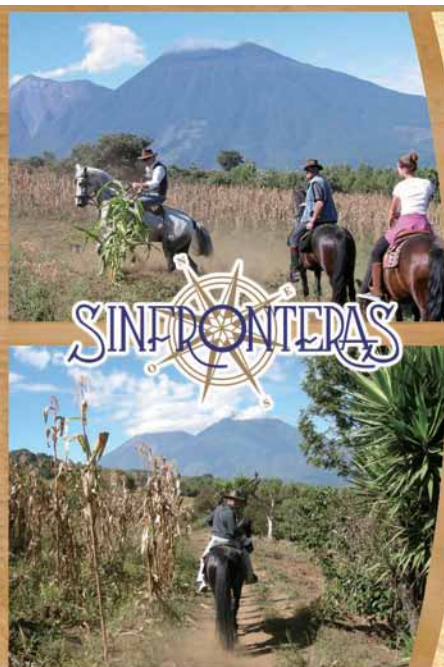
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An illustration of a marlin and a sea turtle. The marlin is shown in profile, facing right, with its long, pointed snout and dorsal fin. The sea turtle is positioned below the marlin, also facing right. A blue circular arc is drawn around the marlin's head and the turtle's head.

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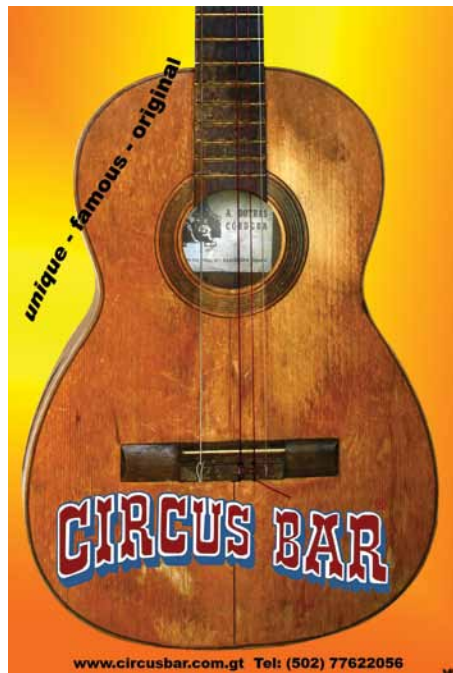


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# Dr. Lee Valenti

1928-2010



**D**r. Lee Valenti, who like Huckleberry Finn fled from American consumerism's attempts to "civilize" her, has died in Panajachel. She was 82. The former literature professor left her job at New York's Hofstra University in 1975, after long involvement in anti-war, civil rights, and environmental movements.

With her divorce complete and her children grown, she arrived in San Miguel Allende, Mexico, which, even then, was home to many expatriates. After her savings ran out, life there remained good. She whetted her lifelong interest in textiles by taking orders for, and sewing, Mexican-style drawstring pants.

This took place within a communal-living experiment, where she emerged as leader and launched a vegetable garden to feed her commune mates. These activities were augmented by tutoring, mostly of English. San Miguel changed during her years there, becoming increasingly expensive, and showing that erosion of authenticity that often comes with expat colonization; it was again time to move on.

Although Lee called herself fortunate to be born in the United States, she "never suffered homesickness." Consequently, she did not go north from San Miguel, but south. It started in 1986 with an "open-ended vacation" to the fresher expat haunt of San Cristobal de las Casas. Needing, as always, to renew her visa, it was inevitable that she

would see more of Guatemala better, although she had already visited in 1976.


Guatemala, Lee concluded, transcended Mexico. Stricken by the beauty of Guatemala and the simplicity and warmth of the people, she settled there. One draw was the Mayas' gift for textile patterning, which she called "infinte." She collected samples of these, and then entire inventories, and made frequent wholesaling jaunts to Mexico.

After Lee landed in Panajachel for good in 1990, her children began coming for extended stays; one, Laura, also made her home here and raised her own daughter, Delia, in Panajachel.


"Mom loved words," Laura recalls. "Whenever she discovered a new one, she'd run to a dictionary, like it was candy." By the 21st century, Pana had its own burgeoning expat population. And yet, as Lee often pointed out, the town retained its authenticity to a degree that San Miguel had not.

Lee herself remained a salient figure in Pana; even past 80, she took long, daily walks with her gentle Akita, Toto, reputed to be Panajachel's biggest canine. Her mind never faltered; she readily conversed with the same erudition that she commanded decades earlier in Acadème.

"Maybe what Huck and I, and others like us have done," she once remarked, "is not to escape civilization, but rather, to extend it."

Lee Valenti is survived by three children and three grandchildren. 

—D. Wayne Coop



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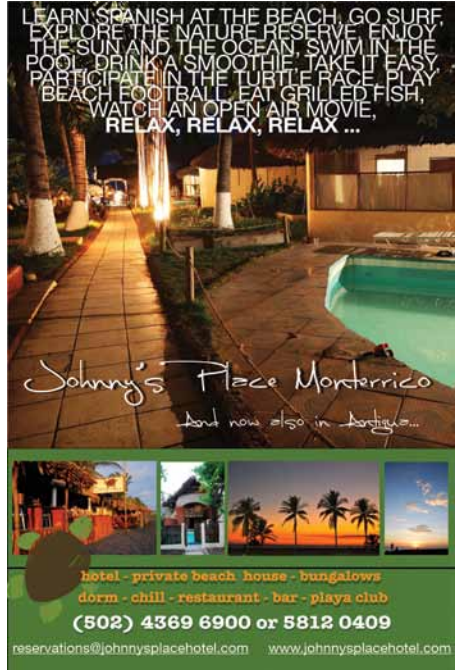
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**It is true that the Pozo Vivo is fed by an underground stream that periodically roils the water and the sand on the bottom of the pool. But whether or not this is in response to a disturbing presence must be left to each visitor's own judgment.**

**There are different versions of the legend of the Pozo Vivo; the following was told by Waldemar Godoy:**

It is said that in the 16th century what is now the valley of Tactic was ruled by a great chieftain of the Pokomchi Maya, who had a daughter named Sacumal Po (Moonbeam).

She was a girl of striking beauty and exquisite grace, with a shy and ethereal personality. She was far happier by herself in the depths of the woods or splashing in the Cahabón River than she was being showered with the amorous attentions of the powerful suitors who flocked to ask for her hand.

She had a childlike innocence, but not a light heart. All of her life she had felt an oppressive anguish, like the presentiment

of tragedy, which kept her emotionally aloof from the society and concerns of her family and peers.

When Sacumal Po was 17, eight Spanish soldiers of fortune commanded by Capt. Pedro de Herrerías, under orders from Hernan Cortés, arrived in the valley of Tactic. They had been following the Cahabón River to its source, in the hope of finding the Fountain of Youth, which the Indians of Cozumel had told them was located in this area.

Herrerías was a bold and dashing warrior—tall, blue-eyed, ardent and impulsive.



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His troops were weary, footsore and disillusioned and on the brink of mutiny.

Exploring ahead of his men one day along the Cahabón River, he spied Sacumal Po bathing and playing in a deep pool by a waterfall. Transfixed by her beauty, he stood up and gazed dumbly at her, as if in a trance. She startled like a deer at seeing the strange foreigner, but then she too was caught up in a wave of enchantment, which flooded her being and banished all traces of her old forebodings.

In wordless words, she heard him call





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**Eight Spanish soldiers of fortune commanded by Capt. Pedro de Herrerías arrived in the valley of Tactic. They had been following the Cahabón River to its source, in the hope of finding the Fountain of Youth, which the Indians of Cozumel had told them was located in this area.**

"come." She climbed to the riverbank, modestly donned her garments, and ran to his embrace. In silence they knew—for they had no words in common—that they each had found what they were looking for.

Several hours passed and the two lovers were resting entwined in one another's arms when the main body of Herrerías' men arrived. They were abusive and tried to lay hands on Sacumal Po, but Herrerías grabbed his sword, shielded the girl with his body, and cursed his men, saying, "Back, you swine, and woe to whoever touches her because she is my beloved wife now and for all eternity!"

The rebellious men, their lust inflamed by Sacumal Po's beauty, regarded their captain's refusal to share his spoils as the last straw. They drew their swords and fell upon Herrerías, who dispatched two of them before he was himself felled by a blow from behind. The survivors turned on one another like rabid dogs, to decide who would take possession of the girl. This outcry brought the warriors of Sacumal Po's father, who rescued her

and took the remaining Spaniards prisoner.

The tribal council went into serious deliberation, finally decreeing that the Spanish soldiers would be stoned to death, and the princess, because of her sinful and traitorous behavior, was to be hurled into a bottomless crevasse. However, loathe to kill the sad beauty, they decreed that her life would be spared if there were any youth who would redeem her through marriage; in that case, they would both be banished from the tribe forever.

Of course, there was a young man Ansil Ab (Strong Arm) ready to step forward and save her life. But when she was faced with this former suitor, Sacumal Po said: "Ansil Ab is a good man and I regret that I cannot marry him, because my heart is dead. It died with the one who first illuminated it. That is my will."

So at last, Sacumal Po, dressed in her finest garments, was led to the edge of the bottomless crevasse, from which—with a smile on her lips—she leaped to her death.

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The next day, the people of the valley of Tactic were amazed to find that the bottomless crevasse was now filled with water of crystalline clarity, which roiled whenever talk or bad feelings disturbed its tranquility. It is said that on moonlit nights, the silhouettes of two lovers in an embrace can be seen shimmering in the shadows of the pool. And


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even now, right at the edge of the pool, there is a double liquid amber tree that has grown into the shape of two lovers kissing. 



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**SWEETWATER GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Meets every Saturday 12 noon & Wed. 12 noon at Hacienda Tijax, Río Dulce, Izabal. Tels: 5902-7825, 5201-5361.

**AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA:** Mon. 6-7pm Discussion & Thurs. 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). [www.anti-guaguatemalaaa.org](http://www.anti-guaguatemalaaa.org)

**CLUB ROTARIO:** Meets every Wednesday 7pm at Porta Hotel Antigua. (Last Wed. of the month, please call Flor) Tel: 7832-7600.

**THE LIGHT OF GOD IS IN EVERYONE:** Join us for silent meeting in the manner of friends (Quakers) on the first Sunday of the month. Contacts: 7849-5970, 7832-5653 [mardugan@earthlink.net](mailto:mardugan@earthlink.net) [progres3@gmail.com](mailto:progres3@gmail.com)

**PANAJACHEL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** Lake Atitlán's English-language church meets Sundays, 9am at member house-holds. Visitors welcome! More info. 7762-1581 (Wayne)

**ST. MARKS ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE IN ENGLISH.** Sundays 11:30am. Chapel of Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, corner 6a calle & 3a av., La Antigua. Tel: 5293-1076, 5492-5707.

**NEW LIFE & PEACE FELLOWSHIP:** English & Spanish Service, Sun. 10:30am, Wed. 7pm Bible studies & youth groups (Spanish). San Pedro El Panorama, Lote 10 Sección D, La Antigua. Tels: 7821-0742, 5042-0159.

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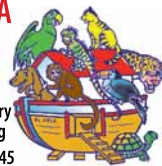
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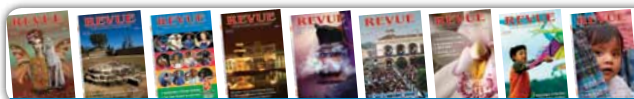
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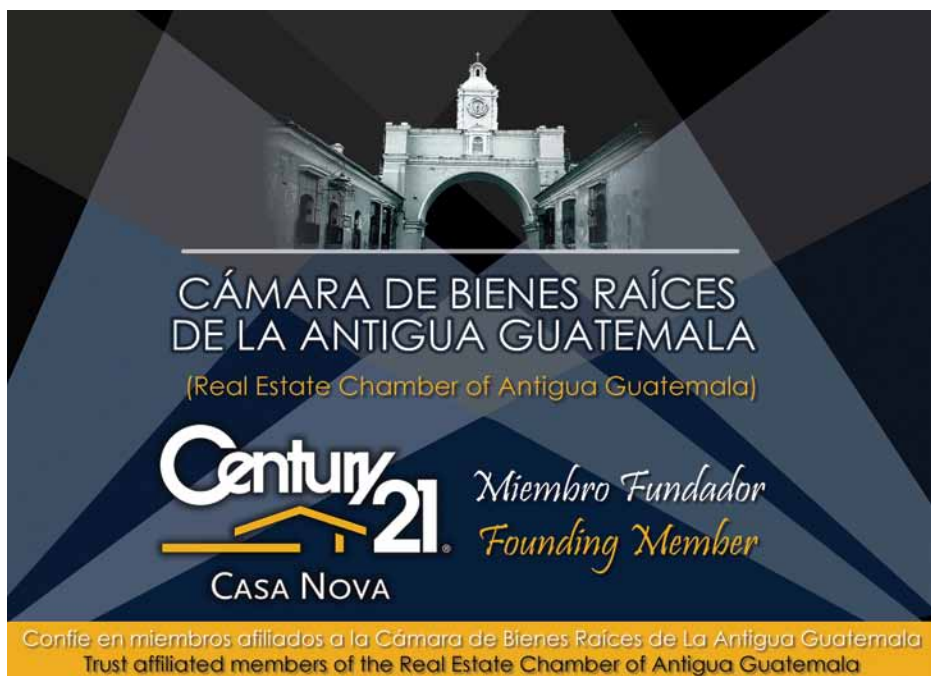
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the grease. Sometimes it gets replaced.*

—Vic Gold

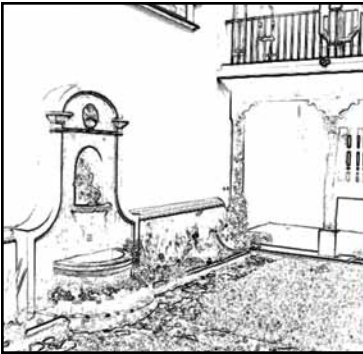
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**www.animalaware.org**

*Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not find peace. —Albert Schweitzer*

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Ballcourt and pyramid of archaeological site Cihuatan [www.cihuatan.org](http://www.cihuatan.org)

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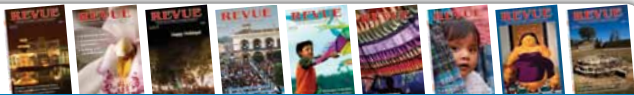
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*You have to learn the rules  
of the game. And then  
you have to play better  
than anyone else.*  
—Albert Einstein

*Only as high as I reach  
can I grow, only as far as I  
seek can I go, only as deep  
as I look can I see, only as  
much as I dream can I be.*  
—Karen Ravn

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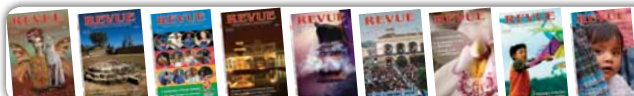
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# Sapphire

by Ken Veronda photo: Thor Janson

Sapphires sparkle all around you in Guatemala. Unlike some other gems that must be searched out, sapphires are overhead, underfoot, all around. You can easily bathe in deep, rich pools of sapphire. No, not the imported jewelry gems found in stores, but rather in nature throughout this “land of eternal spring.”

The Pacific and Caribbean coasts flanking Mesoamerica offer expanses of sapphire water, though the Highland lakes—especially deep-blue Atitlán—are gems of even deeper blue. Sapphires are scattered among the emerald grasses along highways, points of wildflower color that bloom after showers all year. In the markets, sapphire mums, lilies and statice are in floral stalls most months. Along the highway, startling sapphire storefronts are spotted while driving through villages, a paint color recently popular for schools, clinics, and even church facades. Our neighbor even painted his old pickup with the same sapphire he used to paint the front of his house.

Many of our favorite weavings by talented indigenous artisans include floral ornaments in sapphire, and some blouses around the Ixchel region are mostly rich blues. Pre-Columbian weavers found sapphire dyes in nature long before German traders began importing aniline dyes into Central America in the 1880s. They had discovered roots that gave their thread sapphire tones when boiled together.

Ah, but the richest sapphires are overhead, sometimes covered with curtains of fluffy clouds that part to unveil stunning blue skies. The heavenly sapphire of the Guatemalan sky is deep along the coasts, deeper when climbing into the Highlands, and deepest in the high mountain country of the Cuchumatanes and in Alta Verapaz. Parts of the world boast of being “big sky country;” Guatemalans accept the sapphire skies and seas as part of their year-round pleasures. Enjoy it with them whether you’ve just visiting or living in this gem of a country. 

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