

FREE

April 2011 Year 20, No. 2

Tips to enjoy Semana Santa
 Hermano Pedro's Saintly Beginnings
 The Cucurucho Cloud Forest



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photo by Leonel [Nelo] Mijangos (nelo.ws)





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Deadline for the May 2011 issue » April 11

People & Projects by Joe Collins





LEFT: From Houses to Homes replaces cornstalk shacks with concrete and metal houses. CENTER: A young girl decorates her family's new home. RIGHT: The new medical clinic that will be dedicated April 7, in Pastores.

From Houses to Homes

From Houses to Homes was founded in September 2004, and we began operations in Guatemala in January 2005 under Asociación De Casas A Hogares. From Houses to Homes aims to strengthen community harmony in Highland Guatemala by building lasting, healthy homes, improving access to health care and education, and inspiring participation between the poor and civil society.

Accomplishments

We have built 412 homes for the less fortunate in the communities surrounding La Antigua Guatemala. Each house costs approximately \$1,750. We build a 13x19 foot home, made entirely of concrete block, with cement floor, corrugated metal roof, skylight, a metal door with lock, and a metal-framed window with glass. The home is stuccoed and painted inside and out with colors chosen by the homeowner. We are now including a bunk bed in every home. Every week we welcome volunteers to assist with this very important work. As one volunteer said, "The hardest thing they asked me to do was leave."

Thanks to a very generous donor, we will dedicate Clínicas Médicas San José in

Pastores on April 7. The clinic will provide health care, dentistry and education for "our" families and for the community of Pastores.

We are in the planning stages for our next project, a new green school for the children of Santa María de Jesús.

How to help

Besides our ongoing need for financial support we also need medical supplies, specifically antibiotics and an X-ray view box, school supplies, and, of course, volunteers to assist with building.

Contacts

• Joe Collins, founder & executive director, 7832-5074

• Oscar Mejía, De Casas a Hogares, project director, Calle del Hermano Pedro #9, La Antigua, 7832-5074, cell 4063-9881

• Kristen A. Hettrick, Clínicas Médicas San José, administrator, 2a. calle 1-19 A, Pastores, 7831-0178, cell 4265-2211

• In the U.S., Judy Baker, From Houses to Homes, director, P.O. Box 85, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878-0085, cell 973-214-1119

• Website: www.fromhousestohomes.org

FROM THE PUBLISHERS

here is a lot of bustle going on in La Antigua. Matt Bokor notes some noisy, noticeable events unrelated to Semana Santa, and it's true-though horn honking has been (effectively) banned, every weekend central park is set a flurry with noisemakers and music makers, helicopters buzzing overhead, "bombas" and firecrackers bursting and snapping at the ground, church bells ringing, some clanging-plus, this month, all the preparations for Semana Santa 2011 come to fruition. In Sensuous Guatemala Ken Veronda describes the yearly event as Kaleidoscopic Days. See DateBook for more activities, from a musical performance on high at the Capilla de Santo Domingo del Cerro, to art exhibitions, with a "don't miss it" suggestion on The Universe of Carlos Mérida.

Not only does Antigua host the largest Easter celebrations in the Americas, it was here that Pedro Betancur would transform into Hermano Pedro; in 2002, he was canonized and became Santo Hermano Pedro, the first saint of Central America as well as the Canaries. This edition features his incredible story from shepherd to saint, researched and written by Joy Houston.

People and Projects spotlights From Houses to Homes and Niños de Guatemala—two organizations providing homes and education, two critical steps toward a future full of possibilities.

There is much more to read about this month in the Revue, both in print and online at www.revuemag.com.

-John & Terry Kovick Biskovich



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People & Projects by Lidia Climent Martínez

Niños de Guatemala

NGO that was founded in 2006 by Dutch students and Guatemalan residents to contribute to a better future for Guatemala through education. It tries to achieve this goal by starting or supporting small-scale community projects, with a focus on education and other youth-related projects.

Our vision

We approach our projects from three perspectives:

• Education: We use a broad universal concept that includes not only general knowledge but also values and skills to allow each child to develop as a full and independent individual.

• Local community: NDG's strength is that its projects seek the involvement of the whole community, not only the children at school.

• **Self-sufficiency:** NDG's objective is the independence of all its projects.

School in Ciudad Vieja

Our main project is a school in Ciudad Vieja. Only 15 minutes from La Antigua, Ciudad Vieja is a whole different story. There are only two public schools for its 32,000 inhabitants and a great part of the population lives in slums on the volcano slope. The illiteracy rate is high and most of the children can't go to school since they have to help bring some money home.

NDG's school, Nuestro Futuro, offers quality education during the morning and



artistic programs in the afternoon, so the children don't have to stay in the streets. We also offer adults literacy courses and activities for the whole community.

We have recently opened our library and community center, which we hope will become a space for dialogue and opportunity for all.

How to help

You can become a *padrino* and sponsor one of our children. That would pay for his/ her tuition, all the materials and part of the teacher's wage. But, most importantly, you could be the encouragement that these kids lack at home, since their parents do not know what the challenges of studying are.

You could come and enjoy our weekly "Experience Guatemala" tour, where we will take you to our school, the slums where the families live and two of the most important businesses in Ciudad Vieja: a mechanical shop that refurbishes buses and an handmade coffin shop. The tour finishes with a snack prepared by the mother of one of our students.

You could become a volunteer and help us at the office in Antigua or at the school.

Contact

Lidia Climent Martínez, tel: 5416-3078, lidia@ninosdeguatemala.org, or stop by our office at 4a calle oriente #41, La Antigua (inside the Casa Convento Concepción), tel: 7832-8033. You can also learn more at www.ninosdeguatemala.org



Do you have tips for enjoying Semana Santa?

Δςκ

ELIZABETH by Elizabeth Bell

JTHOR/HISTORIAN

ent and Holy Week celebrations in La Antigua Guatemala can be a /bit overwhelming at best. Over the years, I have learned some great tips to enjoy the more than 50 activities during this time of year. Some of them are:

• Plan ahead and allow plenty of time. Know the times and locations of the *velaciones* and processions. City Hall provides free pamphlets for all the Sunday Lent and Semana Santa processions. Available at booths in Central Park, the pamphlets give the times and processional routes.



photos by Leonel [Nelo] Mijangos (nelo.ws)

• I usually allow for a couple of hours to see the carpet making before the procession leaves its church. The most beautiful carpets are often closest to the church that hosts the procession. There are usually carpets all along the procession route, so I can also catch some carpet making later in the day. Then take a break.

• Processions usually take about 12 hours. Depending on the time of day or night, I locate a good corner and get on the righthand side of the Christ figure. The sculpture is best appreciated when He looks at you. All Christ figures (except in the children's procession from the cathedral) look to the right-hand side. Corners are great so I can see the carriers (men called *cucuruchos* and women called *cargadoras*) change turns with precision. It usually takes a full hour to see the entire procession go by and then, instead of trying the beat the crowds, I can easily walk away from the procession.

• Do not take anything of value to *velaciones* or processions. Pickpockets work the crowds seamlessly. No passports. No credit cards. I usually put a camera around my neck and pack a few quetzales and then go back to my home or hotel afterward when I decide to go out again for a meal.

The advantage of staying in Antigua to enjoy the largest celebration in the world is that I can pace myself. It is truly an incredible time of the year!



Sacred Animals and Exotic Tropical Plants by Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth



Macaws and Parrots in 3rd-9th Century Mayan Art

he most remarkable deity in the ancient Mayan myth of the *Popol Vuh* is "Seven Macaw." In reality this preening bird-creature is pictured in Classic Mayan art as a snake-eating raptor. So in most renditions in murals and pottery, Seven Macaw is a hawk-like composite creature without very many features of a macaw (other than an overall, spectacular strutting posture). This giant bird monster is also called the "Principal Bird Deity."

Primarily at Copán, Honduras, in association with the ball courts, is a giant mythical bird pictured with primarily macaw characteristics. Indeed at Copán you get the concept of "Macaw Mountain." Ironic that in a highland area you get such a concentration on macaws whose natural habitat is more in the rainforest lowlands. Whereas an ornithologist could perhaps tell the difference between Mayan portraits of parrots and Mayan renderings of macaws a thousand years ago, I will bunch them together for this article.

In the Museo Nacional de Arqueología, in the Museo Popol Vuh and other museums, you can see highly stylized macaws in profile on the sides of Early Classic basal flange bowls. This class of ceramics is from the Tikal, Uaxactun, Holmul area of Central Petén, but examples can be found elsewhere, including Belize and potentially at Copán, since the ceramics of Honduras were also influenced by styles from nearby Guatemala and Belize.

In the museum of glass and archaeology in the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo in La Antigua Guatemala, you can also see macaw effigy vessels (again we use the word "macaw" as a generic term; some of these may be large parrots).

A few centuries later you also find macaws as ballgame *hachas* (hatchets). A vulture is more common, but macaws, bats, deer and feline heads are also stylized to form a ballgame hacha. An hacha was worn on the special ballgame belt, especially during decapitation ceremonies and ritual portraits of the players posing with the giant ball.

Although there are several macaw species in tropical Latin America, the one you see most often in Guatemala is the scarlet macaw, *Ara macao*.

The most remarkable renditions of Seven Macaw are from the pre-Classic murals of San Bartolo, Petén. But this giant bird deity is, as mentioned, primarily a snake-eating hawk composite, despite its name as a macaw in the 16th century Quiché Highland Mayan version of the Popol Vuh, which is the version that has come down to us.

Macaws are commonly pictured in Mayan art from about the 2^{nd} century onward, but on ceramics are most common in the early Classic Petén region of Guatemala. For sculpture, the most common place to find representations of macaws is Copán, Honduras.

Otherwise, hummingbirds, water birds, vultures and raptors (hawks and eagles) are the birds most commonly pictured in Classic Mayan art. Overall more than a dozen species, or even 20, could be itemized, but you soon notice that certain species are pictured more often than others. You can see photos of some of these birds on our website, www. maya-archaeology.org.



Military macaw (Ara militaris), Macaw Mountain Bird Park & Nature Reserve, Copán, Honduras (Nicholas Hellmuth)



Macaw-inspired ballcourt marker, Museo de Escultura, Copán, Honduras (Nicholas Hellmuth)

Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). For more information visit www.digital-photography.org

HISTORY by Joy Houston photos: Jack Houston



Monuments of Santo Hermano Pedro are rare on Tenerife, but there are several in La Antigua: (LEFT) at the entrance to town, (CENTER) in the garden of San Francisco Church, outside of the tomb where his remains lie, (RIGHT) at El Calvario Church where he first lived in Guatemala

Saintly Beginnings

Where did Hermano Pedro come from?

oung Pedro de Betancur, age 22, left his home on the Canary Island of Tenerife in 1649 and sailed to the New World. Many ships were crossing the Atlantic at that time, with Tenerife a geographically necessary port of call between Europe and America. They were filled with adventurers lured by the promise of gold and silver in abundance. Not Pedro. Humble and devout, he was inspired to join evangelizing efforts. It seems safe to assume that he really didn't know what he would face.

For those who like to read the end of the story first, here it is. Pedro became Hermano Pedro and then Santo Hermano Pedro, the first saint of Central America as well as the Canaries. Pope John Paul II canonized him in Guatemala City in July 2002. Backing up briefly, the young Pedro landed first in Cuba, then Honduras. From there he walked, arriving in 1651, after two years of travel, in Santiago de los Caballeros, the Spanish seat of the government at that time, now La Antigua Guatemala. He held neither title nor prestigious connections nor Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro, La Antigua, carries his name and continues his work. Currently it is home to almost 300 persons with severe challenges and where every year 270,000 patients of limited resources receive medical attention.





The cave near Granadilla, Tenerife, where the boy hid himself and his flock from harm at the hands of English pirates and African Moors who had been known to snatch youngsters like him and carry them away as slaves. (PHOTO: JUAN FRANCISCO D. GÓMEZ)

do we know of anything else he had to offer—except his compassion and devotion. In his zeal for the priesthood he entered the Jesuit school in Santiago but just couldn't make the grade. Pedro was accepted into the Third Order of the Franciscans and worked at the Church of El Calvario. In his offhours he focused on caring for the poor, the sick, the homeless, the uneducated. He took 'justice for all' seriously.

Pedro declared, "Here I have lived and here I will die." And so he did in 1667, his remains now lying in La Antigua's Church of San Francisco. But when the young man thought of home, what did he think about? Now for the rest of the story.

Tenerife was formed by a volcanic eruption. Pedro was born in the peaceful and pastoral town of Vilaflor on the slope not far from a still active volcano. Just as in Santiago, he was probably familiar with occasional volcanic rumbles. And with a climate not unlike that of Guatemala, bright bouganvilla thrive on Tenerife, just as they do here.

Pedro was a poor boy. ...continued on page 68

TRADITION by Dwight Wayne Coop

Muleback Hosanna in Guatemala

The Oddkins-Bodkins odyssey of how La Antigua's patron image left town

> Jesús Nazareno de la Merced PHOTO: © JOSÉ CARLOS FLORES L.

Your drive from La Antigua to Guatemala City retraces a procession trod in 1778 by the foremost Antiguan of the day. Being a mute statue, he raised no objection to the move. But so many others did object that the authorities making out his ticket proceeded with anguished caution.

Jesús Nazareno de la Merced was also the oldest Antiguan. Over a century had passed since his sculpting by Mateo de Zúñiga and his "fleshing" by painter José de la Cerda. Their bill to the town council of Santiago —today called La Antigua—was 65 pesos.

The killer quake that rattled Panchoy Valley (La Antigua) in 1773 led to the founding of a new capital in Ermita Valley in 1776. But even then, most Santiagans refused to move. Similarly, after Hurricane Hattie ravaged Belize in 1965, the government of Belize founded Belmopán—only to see the population of Belize City stay put.

The job of moving La Antigua's masons, maids, porters and wet nurses to Ciudad Real (Guatemala City) fell in 1778 to viceroy Martín de Mayorga. His biggest card was



the bond that Santiagans felt to Jesús Nazareno and to another wooden statue, Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes. Move these images, Mayorga reasoned, and you move the people.

Jesús Nazareno de la Merced owned many superlatives even in Mayorga's day. It was the first baroque object crafted in Guatemala.¹ In 1717, it became the first image consecrated by a bishop in the Americas. Four years later, authorities named it patron of Santiago. Today, many call it Guatemala's most sublime portrayal of the Passion.

After watching the Easter processions, Mayorga prudently allowed the after-burn of Semana Santa to cool. By June, Jesús Nazareno and Nuestra Señora were again veiled in their altars. This was their usual state, except on Sundays and holidays.

On June 25, Mayorga assigned the parish priest—a man named Acuña—the sad chore of announcing the move. This tiding, following Mass, caused every countenance in town to drop.² The townsfolk sought the intervention of the *cofradia* (town council), who secured an order to unveil …continued on page 64

ARTE por Guillermo Monsanto

CARLOS MÉRIDA



1891-1984

ste creador nació en un momento estratégico para el desarrollo de las artes visuales de Guatemala. Tanto en lo político como en lo práctico se estaban gestando las condiciones para una estética que terminaría abriendo las puertas al modernismo nacional. Durante la gestión de José María Reyna Barrios (1892-1898), un presidente atípico por su sensibilidad, se fortaleció la cultura creativa como nunca en el pasado y como no se ha vuelto a hacer hasta el presente. Actitud que redundaría, iniciándose el siglo XX, en una nueva y potente generación artística que aportaría tanto en lo escénico como en lo plástico con nombres y obras perdurables.

La primera exposición de Carlos Mérida se efectuó en 1910. Hasta donde se tiene conocimiento aquel catálogo se constituyó con piezas de carácter académico. Hacia 1912 es que ya se nota un cambio en su empaste. El retrato que realizara a Carlos Valenti es un buen ejemplo de ello. En aquel año partiría con el citado artista a París para continuar su formación, viaje que vería interrumpido por la Primera Guerra mundial.

A su regreso propondría, ...a página 104



"Proyecto para los murales del Crédito Hipotecario Nacional" Mixta sobre papel, 40 x 34 cm, 1963



"Boceto para el Retrato de Lily" témpera sobre papel, 32 x 24 cm, 1950



APRIL Guide to culture & upcoming events Compiled by Mercedes Mejicanos



1 Fri., through Sun., 10 — PUPPET FESTIVAL: *IV International Puppet Festival Titiritlán*, organized by Chúmbala Cachúmbala with performers from France, Nicaragua, Mexico, Argentina and Guatemala. Venues in *Sololá Department and La Antigua*. For details, visit www.chumbalacachumbala.org. Highlight on p.30.

Sun., 11am — FAIR: *Feria de Sevilla*, activities for the whole family. Live music. Entrance Q25 adults, Q5 children. Club Centro Español (tel: 2377-2600), Calzada Roosevelt km 13.5 40-20, z. 7, *Guatemala City*.

5Tues., **5:30pm** — (English) TALK: *Quetzaltrekkers*, founded in 1995 to support a school for street children in Quetzaltenango, is now supporting Primeros Pasos, a medical clinic outside the city. Learn more about this innovative program and help the children succeed. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the MAY, 2011 edition of the REVUE by Monday, April 11

5 Tues., through 5 Fri., 29 — ART: *Personajes* by artist Germania. Galería El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, *Guatemala City*.



5 Tues., **7:30pm** — ART: Inauguration of +plu+, works by Luisa de Ayau. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, *Guatemala City*.



Wed., through Fri., 15 — PHO-TOGRAPHY: Featuring work by wellknown artists. Galería de Arte Alianza Francesa, 5a calle 10-55, z. 13, Finca La Aurora, *Guatemala City*.

6 Wed., 3pm — CULTURAL EVENT: A glimpse at indigenous culture, a Maya sacerdote (priest) performs an authentic ceremony/ritual. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

Thurs., **7pm** — ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Music, surprises and lots of food. Ubi's Sushi (tel: 7832-2767), 6a av. sur #12, B-2, *La Antigua*.

8Fri., 7:30pm — FUNDRAISER: Music and benefit night for *Niños de Guatemala*, featuring live Latin music, raffle and surprises. Have fun for a great cause. Q25 entrance includes a drink. La Esquina, corner of 6a calle poniente & 5a av. sur, *La Antigua*. See related article on page 13.

9Sat., 1pm — BENEFIT DANCE: The *Niños de San Antonio Aguas Calientes* dance and play the marimba, flutes and bombas. Free. Donations to benefit educational pursuits. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), *La Antigua*.

Sat., through May 14 — ART: *Corazón sin Coraza*, paintings by Lucía Morán Giracca. El Attico, Salón del Coleccionista (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, *Guatemala City*.

9Sat., 7pm — THEME DINNER: Medieval dinner, come dressed in costumes of the period. Donation Q150, does not include beverages. Club Centro Español (tel: 2377-2600), Calzada Roosevelt km 13.5 40-20, z. 7, *Guatemala City*.

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



9Sat., through May 8 — ART: La Antigua Galería de Arte presents *Obras Plumeadas* (Feathered Works), an exhibition of the latest watercolors by North American artist Dan Davis, who skillfully depicts birds in their natural habitat in Guatemala. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*. ▲

13Wed., 6pm — TOUR: Meet Elizabeth Bell for a photo tour of *Lent and Holy Week in Antigua* with tips on how to enjoy the largest Holy Week celebration in the world. Q30 benefits educational programs. El Sitio (tel: 7832-3037), *La Antigua*. ▼



13Wed., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CON-FERENCIA: Arte Hispano Guatemalteco en el Corregimiento de Chiquimula de la Sierra y Acasaguastlán. Q30/Q15 estudiantes con carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, Guatemala City.



13Wed., 5pm — ART: Inauguration of Panza Verde Private Collection. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua*. ▲

13 Wed., 7pm — ART: Inauguration of *El Amor en los tiempos de la Liquidación*, high-quality works by well-known artists like Mónica Nájera and Pablo Bromo, among others. Exhibition includes contemporary art, installation, painting, photography, sculpture and illustration. Centro Cultural Casa Roja, 3a av. 6-51, z. 1 (across from Fátima bookstore), *Guatemala City*. ▼



R DateBook online: www.REVUEmag.com

14 Thurs., 4:30pm — ART: Inauguration of *Tiempos del Bosque* by artist Ana Lucrecia Sunum. Vessica Galería de Arte (tel: 5381-4232), 3a av. 7-35, z. 1, *Quetzaltenango.* ▼



17Sun., through Sun., 24 — CUL-TURAL EVENT: *Manos Mágicas* (Magic Hands), live demonstrations of indigenous Guatemalans and their crafts. Three weavers associations and other handicraft associations are participating. Traditional dress will be presented at 10am and 3pm daily during Holy Week. Museo Casa del Tejido (tel: 7832-3169), 1a calle poniente #51 (behind San Jerónimo Ruins), *La Antigua*.

17Sun., 11am — MUSIC: Within the Festival Mosaico/Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo: *A Musical Offering for Palm Sunday*, a collection of early and baroque music composed for Holy Week services, performed by Ensemble Amarillis featuring Diana Ramírez, soprano; Lourdes López, cello; Carolina Palomo, harpsichord. Q100. Info: confluenciasproducciones@gmail.com Free Shuttle from Hotel Casa Santo Domingo. Capilla de Santo Domingo del Cerro, *La Antigua*.



For a DateBook daily event listing, check out "REVUE NEWS TWEETS" www.revuemag.com



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I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. —Mark Twain

Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army. —Edward Everett







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2

823

Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire. —William Butler Yeats



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

Mondays — Blues and Bossa Nova.

Wednesdays (Lunch & Night) — Classical Piano, Classic Jazz Trio.

Thursdays — Buena Vista de Corazón, Cuban Jazz by Ignacio.

Fridays — Latin Trio.

Saturdays — Guest artists.

Sunday Brunch — Classical music. Nightly cover: Q35

La Peña de Sol Latino tel: 7882-4468 5a calle poniente #15-C, La Antigua

Mondays — 7-10pm: Buena Vista de Corazón, Cuban Jazz/Salsa. Ignacio and the band with fun Cuban music. Free.

Tuesdays — 7-10pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free.

Wednesdays thru Sundays — 7-10pm: Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Free. ▼



Sundays — 12:30-3pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana. Free.

April 29, 30 & May 1, 6, 7, 8 — 2nd Annual Andean Music Festival with nine bands on stage at La Peña.

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

TUE

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.



Throughout the week — Jorge Herrera plays international music on the accordion.

Wednesdays, 8pm: Como Como (6a calle pon. #6) Saturdays, 8pm: Las Conchas (5a av sur #1) Sundays, 2pm: Café Opera (6a av norte #17)



Sundays, 7pm & Tuesdays, 8pm: Café Flor (4a av sur #1)

Music

Ocelot tel: 5658-9028 4a avenida norte #3, La Antigua

Thursdays — 9pm: Mike & Moriah, Piano & Vocals.

Fridays — 7-9pm: Ron Fortin, Saxophone; 9:30-11:30pm: Nelson Lunding, New Orleans Piano.

Saturdays — 9:30pm: Mercedes, Guitar Blues/Rock/Folk.



Ocelot Pub Quiz hosted by Brendan Byrne; Sundays at 6:30pm

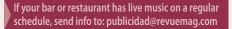
Gaia Restaurante tel: 7832-3670 Calle del Arco #35-A, La Antigua

Thursdays — 7pm: Live music. Fridays and Saturdays — Belly dancing.

Posada de Santiago tel: 7721-7366 1 km south of Santiago Atitlán, Lake Atitlán

Every week, usually on Fridays and Saturdays. Check *Gringos of Santiago* on Facebook for details.

Sundays — Noon: Sundays are for relaxing, and Angie Angie is the perfect place to do so while enjoying a real Texas ribs barbecue with live music in an open-air garden. 1a av. sur #11A, La Antigua.



Circus Bar

tel: 7762-2056 Avenida de los Árboles, Panajachel

Mondays — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock. 8pm: Marco Solo and friends, Pana's Carlos Santana. Rock, blues and jazz. 9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

Tuesdays — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock. 8pm: Rockiris, alternative rock. 9pm: Latin ensemble.

Wednesdays — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock. 8pm: Latin ensemble. 9pm: Carlos Rangel and son, swing, Cuban and rock.

Thursdays — 7pm: Chris Jarnach, classic music, jazz and rock. 8pm: Latin ensemble. 9pm: Norte, contemporary trova.

Fridays — 7pm: Flamenco by Marco El Messina. 8pm: Latin ensemble. 9pm: Trova del Lago.

Saturdays — Los Vagabundos, hot rhythms in a fusion of Rumba, Flamenco and Guatemalan traditional elements.

Sundays — Latin Ensemble.

Trova Jazz tel: 2334-1241 Via 6, 3-55, zona 4, Guatemala City



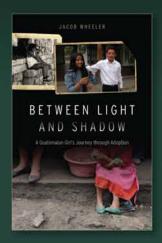
Thursdays — 9:15pm: Nueva Trova and alternative music by the Rony Hernández group.

Fridays and Saturdays — Guest musicians.

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Between Light and Shadow

A Guatemalan Girl's Journey through Adoption JACOB WHEELER Foreword by Kevin Kreutner

Veteran journalist Jacob Wheeler puts a human face on the Guatemalan adoption industry, which has exploited, embraced, and sincerely sought to improve the lives of the Central American nation's poorest children.

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*For a complete description and to order, visit us online!



19 Tues., 5:30pm — (English) TALK: Partnering with the Poor: *Inequality, Education and Opportunity in Guatemala* with Jeff Barnes, Common Hope/Familias de Esperanza, which partners with over 2,600 students and their families to break the cycle of poverty. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

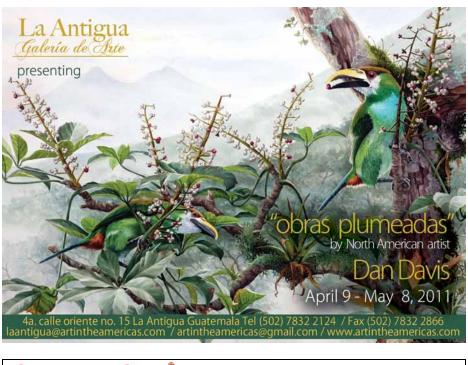
25 Mon., 5:30pm — (English) FILM: Democrats Abroad Guatemala Film Series 2011, *Fox Attacks! We (Brave New Films) Reply*. Donation Q30. Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle oriente #41, *La Antigua*.

26*Oxlajuj B'atz'* (Thirteen Threads), an NGO guided by the principles of harmony, democracy and sustainability, helps Maya women artisans to improve their quality of life. Come and learn how the group empowers women and inspires change. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*.

28Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CON-FERENCIA: *Cien Años de Cambios en los Tejidos Indígenas del Lago de Atitlán*, impartida por Rosario Polanco. Q30/Q15 estudiantes con carnet. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*.

29thru May 8, 6pm — MUSIC: 2nd Annual Festival de Música Andina. Nine Andean bands playing throughout the week (see page 25 for group names and days) with a big finale concert on May 8 (4pm at the Cooperación Española). La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), La Antigua.

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





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

Inquire about other tours and travel arrangements in Guatemala Offices: *3a calle oriente #22 and *inside Casa del Conde (main square) Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat-Sun 9-1pm Tels: 7832-5821, 7832-0053

Through May 12 — ART RETROSPECTIVE: Within the XI Festival Internacional de Cultura Paiz 2011, *The Universe of Carlos Mérida*. Sala Quiroa, Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo, *La Antigua*. See highlight page 21 (Spanish).

> "Five Little Pigs" 32 x 22 cm, 1940, private collection





17–11am Palm Sunday: Procession of Jesús Nazareno from La Merced Church.

18— *Holy Monday*: Holy Vigil of Jesús Nazareno from La Merced, La Merced Church.

19— *Holy Tuesday*: Holy Vigil of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, San Francisco Church.

20—*Holy Wednesday*: Holy Vigil of Jesús Sepultado, Escuela de Cristo Church. **2pm** — Children's Procession from La Merced.

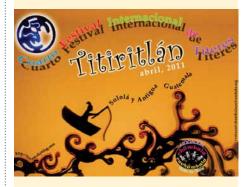
21 – *Maundy Thursday*: Procession of Jesús Nazareno de la Humildad, San Cristóbal el Bajo Church. 1pm – Processions of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, San Francisco El Grande.

22_Jesús Nazareno from La Merced Church. 2pm — Procession of the Burial of Christ from Escuela de Cristo Church. 3pm — Procession of the Burial of Christ from San Felipe de Jesús Church.

23 – Saturday of Glory: Procession of Virgen de Soledad from Escuela de Cristo and San Felipe churches.

24— *Easter Sunday*: Procession of Jesús Resucitado from Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro.

DATEBOOK HIGHLIGHT



Títeres + Atitlán = Titiritlán

I think I know the secret about kids and puppets: If children are small enough, they react to puppets with even greater fascination than they would to the world's tiniest human. And if these miniature creatures return the attention, all the better; children become enrapt.

Títeres (puppets) with positive messages take Sololá department and La Antigua in force **April 1-10** with the *4° Festival Internacional de Títeres*.

Six troupes (including Quetzaltenango's famous Armadillo) from four countries will entertain at **Panajachel, San Pedro, San Marcos and other basin towns through April 6**. The festival moves to **La Antigua April 8-10**.

Hosting the event is Panajachel's own whimsical Chúmbala Cachúmbala. My own sons, who prefer instruction from puppets to instruction from me, refuse to miss this.

For show times and venues, go to titeres.skyrock.com and click the Titiritlán rectangle. —*Dwight Wayne Coop*

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Spitters, Scratchers & Snappers Pet Q's & A's by Cynthia Burski, DVM

Question: Our 4-year-old male shepherd, Sam, was recently taken to the veterinarian because he couldn't urinate. The veterinarian cleared the blockage and said that Sam most probably had "bladder stones" and needed X-rays and maybe surgery. What are the chances that his "blockage" will reoccur?

Urolithiasis is a disease caused by uroliths (stones) or calculi (excessive amounts of crystals) in the urinary tract. The disease is referred to by many names, including cystitis, urethritis, urinary calculi, bladder stones or kidney stones. As in humans, these stones and crystals can form anywhere in the urinary tract of the dog, including the kidney, urethra or, most commonly, the bladder. These crystals or stones irritate the lining of the urinary tract, causing changes in the lining, blood in the urine and often pain. In some cases the crystals or stones will block or partially block the flow of urine, making urination painful or impossible.

Dogs with stones will exhibit some or all of the following symptoms: frequent urination, bloody urine, dribbling urine, straining, weakness, depression, loss of appetite, vomiting and pain. Stones can block the urine flow, prevent elimination of poisonous wastes and cause death.

Most stones occur in dogs 2-10 years of age and appear with equal frequency in both sexes. However, because the urethra of the male is longer and narrower than the female's, urethral obstruction is more common in males. Infrequent urination as a result of confinement, lack of regular exercise or low water intake can contribute to the formation of crystals and uroliths. High levels of some minerals in the diet, such as magnesium, phosphorus and sometimes calcium, have been directly linked to canine urinary bladder stone formation. A diet with excess protein can also contribute to stone formation.

In most cases, stones are made up of only one type of crystal, but on occasion, different crystals may be mixed within the same stone. Knowledge of the type of stone is important if a "prescription diet" is to be used to dissolve the stones. Traditionally, surgery is used to remove the stones, and for some types of stones it is still the only type of treatment available. Of all dogs treated for urolithiasis, 20-50 percent will have a recurrence if preventive measures are not taken. ----

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We have no right to ask when sorrow comes, "Why did this happen to me?" unless we ask the same question for every moment of happiness that comes our way. —Author Unknown What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do. —John Ruskin

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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH



Through Fri., 15 — ART: *Raices*, paintings by Mary Cielo. Galería El Túnel (tel: 2367-3266), Plaza Obelisco 16 calle 1-01, z. 10, *Guatemala City*. ▲

Daily — ART: Arte Naif by Oscar Perén. Casa del Turista (tel: 7832-3782), 2a calle oriente #11, **La Antigua**. ▼ **Through Fri., 29** — ART: *Cuaresma*, photo-paintings by artist William Santos. Salón de Exposiciones Temporales, Museo Capuchinas, 2a av. norte & 2a calle oriente, *La Antigua*.

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

Daily — PHOTOGRAPHY: La Sagrada Pasión, photos of processions from La Antigua, by William Cameros. Claustro de Capuchinas, 2a av. norte & 2a calle oriente, La Antigua.

Daily — BIRD WATCHING: Come and see over 200 Egrets return to their home tree for the night. 5:15, SHARP! The birds are never late! La Peña de Sol Latino Restaurante, 5a calle poniente #15-C, *La Antigua*.



PHOTO CONTEST Photographers of all levels are invited to submit their work (color or B&W) with the theme *Fiestas Patronales de Guatemala* (Municipal Fairs of Guatemala). The best 12 photos will appear in Museo Ixchel's 2013 calendar. Deadline Oct. 3, 2011. For more information visit Museo Ixchel Galerías in Facebook, starting Thursday, April 14. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, *Guatemala City*.

Dining « GUATEMALA CITY





BOOK ALERT

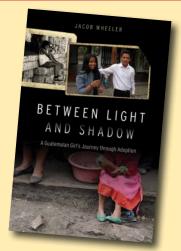
Between Light and Shadow

A Guatemalan Girl's Journey through Adoption

Author: Jacob Wheeler Foreword by Kevin Kreutner 280 pages, 27 illustrations 978-0-8032-3362-1 Publisher: University of Nebraska Press Lincoln, Neb. www.nebraskapress.unl.edu

Veteran journalist Jacob Wheeler puts a human face on the Guatemalan adoption industry through the story of 14-year-old Ellie, who was abandoned at age 7 and adopted by a middle-class family from Michigan.

Wheeler re-creates the painful circumstances of Ellie's abandonment, her adoption and Americanization, her search for her birth mother, and her joyous and haunting return to Guatemala, where she finds her teenage brothers—unleashing a bond that transcends language and borders.

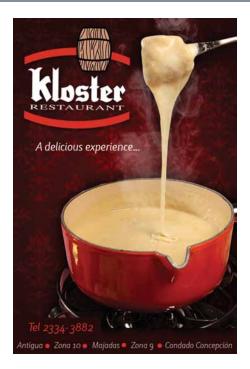


Following Ellie's journey, Wheeler peels back the layers of an adoption economy that some view as an unscrupulous baby-selling industry that manipulates impoverished indigenous Guatemalan women, and others herald as the only chance for poor children to have a better life.

"Jacob Wheeler brings some desperately needed clarity to the socially complex, morally and legally confusing issue of U.S. adoptions from Guatemala. He has done the legwork, shown commitment and courage, and the reporting in this book is diligent, heartfelt, and thoughtful."

— Francisco Goldman, author of *The* Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop? and The Long Night of White Chickens

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SHOPPING

The Art of the HANDBAG



U sing brightly colored native textiles as her media, Guatemalan artist Diana de Solares is introducing a line of fine, handmade handbags, each of which is unique.

"You won't see anything like this in the market," de Solares says. "This is a high-end product—it is totally different."

In a range of sizes, the handbags incorporate geometric and floral patterns, as well as birds and butterflies, all in an array of bright colors and distinctive designs. It can take a day or a week for de Solares and her seamstress to make just one. The products go on sale this month at her new shop, Púrpura y Té, at 1a avenida norte #12 in La Antigua (inside Casa de los Milagros).

An artist for more than 12 years, de Solares also plans an exhibition in May at her Galería Arte La Fábrica, 15 calle 7-41, zone 10, in Guatemala City, featuring three-dimensional works incorporating shapes made of organic, wood-like fibers painted in acrylics.

Whether in the form of exquisite handbags or works on canvas, de Solares' creations feature native materials.

"The world already contains too much stuff, and I believe that new and interesting and beautiful objects can be created out of already existing materials that have been used or worn—I'm speaking of reusing, recreating what already exists to make a new thing.

"I believe that Guatemala is especially fertile for producing things where tradition and ancient cultures meet and overlap with the interests of the contemporary world," de Solares says. "It is this encounter between tradition and present-day life that I'm interested in."

Lodging « GUATEMALA CITY



BORDER CROSSING by Luke Slemeck

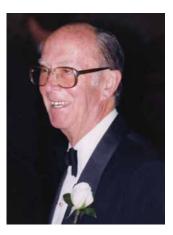
Remembering Ambassador George R. Andrews (1932-2010) one year later

n memory of my second father, loving husband of Helga, proud father of Christina and Courtenay, grandfather of Sebastien and friend of every dog and animal everywhere. A man who lived and enjoyed a rich, rewarding and fulfilling life that touched every continent on Earth.

U.S. Ambassador George R. Andrews of Baltimore, Md., died one year ago this month. George was born in Havana, Cuba, February 26, 1932, as the son of a U.S. diplomat. He had a very international upbringing in Japan, Panama, Chile, England, Poland and France.

He graduated from Princeton with a degree from the Woodrow Wilson School in 1953 and was a member of the Colonial Club. He proceeded to get his master's degree from the University of Strasbourg, where his father was stationed as the consul general. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service as a consular officer in Hamburg, Germany, helping rebuild the country and relations after the war.

It is possible that he took the job too seriously as he did meet and marry his beloved Helga von Levern Schroeder—in spite of himself and the glass of red wine he accidentally spilled on her. It was probably the best spill of his life. George and Helga's first daughter was born in Hamburg.



George served in Paris as a consular officer from 1956 to 1957 and political officer from 1958 to 1959, beginning an undying love for the city.

He returned to Washington, D.C., for service in the U.S. State Department to become desk officer for Belgium / Luxembourg. He helped organize the visit of the Duchess of Luxembourg, including a state dinner in the Kennedy White House to which he was summoned at the last minute. Helga was not pleased at having five minutes to get ready. However, the results were so dramatic that she almost rendered President Kennedy speechless—George wished she had!

George and his family proceeded to Stockholm, Dakar, Conakry, Brussels and Strasbourg where their second daughter, Courtenay, was born in a house that was formerly lived in by Winston Churchill.

Stockholm was one of their favorite posts with a house on the seashore and a small speedboat. One morning George went down to the dock to make sure all was in order before leaving for work. A smart suit, leather shoes and a wet deck do not necessarily mix well, and George found out how cold the water in Sweden really was. In his post in Dakar he was privileged enough to dance with Miriam Makeba.

George continued his service in Guatemala under Frank Meloy where the family survived and endured the catastrophic

Lodging « GUATEMALA CITY



When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. —John Muir

We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive. —Albert Einstein

earthquake of 1976.

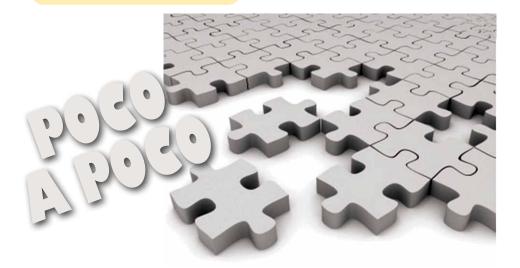
George played host to Henry Kissinger on his tour inspecting the damage the earthquake had caused in the country and organized relief supplies and assistance from the U.S. He returned to Washington and under President Reagan was appointed to his last post as U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius, a fitting reward to a life so richly traveled.

George retired honorably from the U.S. Foreign Service and became director of the World Affairs Council in Boston, successfully for seven years arranging many interesting speakers, including a former president of Mexico, prime minister of Canada and a former head of the CIA. He retired a second time with his wife to La Antigua Guatemala living in a house that was designed by their longtime friend, Charles Farrington. It is a beautiful home on the slopes of Volcán Agua surrounded by flowers and orchids.

George is survived by his wife Helga, his two daughters, a son-in-law and a beloved grandson Sebastien. His memories and life serve as true inspiration to all of us.



by Dr. Karmen Guevara HOLISTIC PSYCHOTHERAPIST

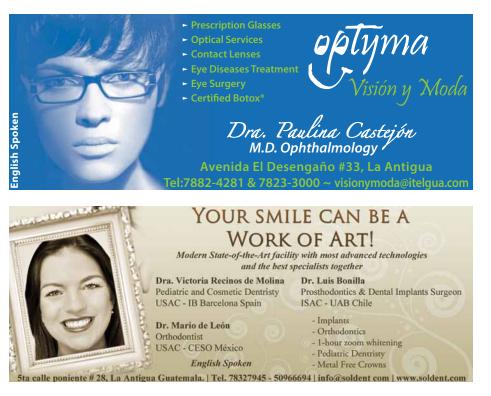


ife is often full of *canto rodados* (boulders) that stop us dead in our tracks. Those earthly problems threaten to absorb some or all emotional, physical and material resources. The meek play ostrich by sticking their head in the sand, thinking it will magically disappear; the mighty recoil in the shadow of the "procrastinator"—the Chief Constable of Manaña. A normal human reaction to being overwhelmed is to pretend it's not happening or to delve in and tackle it in one go.

Regardless of the nature of the challenge, there's a well-proven strategy for solving it. It's called Poco a Poco and is based on the philosophy that moving glaciers is difficult, so move ice cubes instead! Basically, this means to "bite-size" a problem by breaking it into smaller pieces. These individual chunks are manageable and can be more easily examined for solutions on a "little-by-little" basis. This makes it possible to see a problem in different lights and to explore all different solutions. "Little by little does the trick," declared Aesop, and he was absolutely right!

There is a caveat, however. Be sure you're not left surrounded by lots of bits and pieces that don't fit together! To avoid this remember to zoom out and look at the problem or situation from a broader view. This strategy moves us from our comfort level to a place where we normally don't go. Those who like to fly high above a problem must parachute down, and those who dive instinctively into the details must take a helicopter up to 30,000 feet to see the bigger picture. Regardless of your inclination, remember the Peruvian proverb, "Little by little one walks far."

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History is the short trudge from Adam to atom. -Leonard Louis Levinson

The rose has thorns only for those who would gather it. —Chinese Proverb



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We do survive every moment, after all, except the last one. —John Updike Opie, you haven't finished your milk. We can't put it back in the cow, you know. —Aunt Bee Taylor

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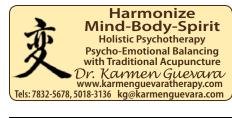
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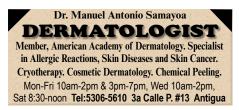
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There is so little difference between husbands, you might as well keep the first. -Adela Rogers St. Johns

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I've been married to one Marxist and one Fascist, and neither one would take the garbage out. —Lee Grant





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SHOPPING by Jennifer Rowe



Superman and amigos to the rescue



here can you find Godzilla, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and He-Man living under one roof? At a new and unique store in La Antigua—;Ay Robot! Comics.

When co-owners Dan Terzuola and Sarah Murphy moved to Antigua, they originally planned to open a hostel but soon realized there was already too much competition. When the owner of a toy museum called Xulik informed them there were no comics available in Guatemala, the inspiration for ¡Ay Robot! Comics was born.

"I saw something flash in Sarah's eyes," says Terzuola, "and I knew we were on to something."

Unlike many enthusiasts who became fans during their childhood, Terzuola didn't get into comics until his early 20s. After reading Scott McCloud's book *Understanding Comics* while a student at Hunter College in New York City, Terzuola was hooked.

"Comics make your brain work differ-

ently than regular books. It's a cerebral experience," he says.

Business has been steady.

"Antigua is an international city with visitors from all over the world. We never know who will visit the store," says Terzuola. "At least once a day we have someone come in and say how surprised they are to see comics in Guatemala."

Terzuola explains that many kids here have never seen a comic book and he is happy to introduce them to this genre. "We want to change people's minds about comics."

Not only do they have time-honored favorites like Batman, X-Men and The Transformers in stock, they also carry Japanese *manga* comics and graphic novels. And they have comics in Spanish. "It's a great way to learn a new language," says Terzuola.

The store is a mix of recent and vintage goods with prices ranging from Q20-300 and up. ...continued on page 52

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May you get to Heaven a half hour before the Devil knows you're dead. —Irish Proverb



May the holes in your net be no larger than the fish in it. —Irish Blessing



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It is always in the midst, in the epicenter, of your troubles that you find serenity. —Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

REVUE ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<u>Comic Relief</u> cont. from page 48

Currently, the inventory comes from the United States and Mexico, but soon the store will be branching into the European and Japanese markets. Shipments arrive once a month and yes, comic book fans, they do take special orders.

Says Terzuola, "If someone has read volumes one, two and three in a series and is looking for number four, we're happy to order it for them."

Comics, vintage toys, paper crafts and science fiction books aren't the only items you'll find there. The store also serves coffee, juices and snacks all while playing an eclectic mix of indie music.

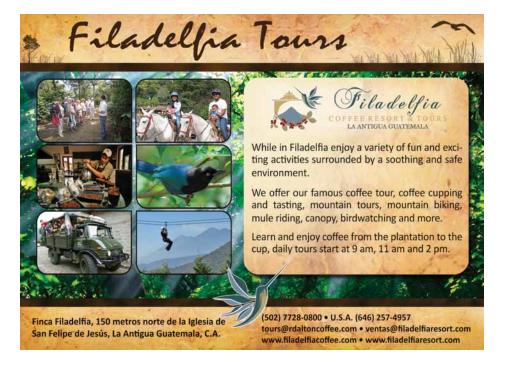
"We wanted to create something different for Antigua," explains Murphy. "Our store is a mixture of comics, coffee and kitsch." Customers are invited to chill out at the table with a cup of coffee or relax on the sofa while looking through their comics.

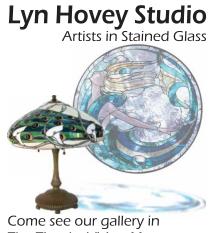
With future plans that include a weekly BYOB Sci-Fi Movie Night, there is a lot of excitement brewing at ¡Ay Robot! Comics. Terzuola and Murphy also plan to create their own publication. "We see it as a homegrown version of *Heavy Metal*—but with art and articles from people in this area."

While visiting the store, be sure to look up and gaze upon the myriad spaceships and robots dangling from the ceiling. "I love giant fighting robots," said Terzuola. And if he and Murphy have their way, you will, too. ()

Ay Robot! Comics, 6a avenida norte #34, is open 10am-8pm Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours during Semana Santa. It can also be found on Facebook.

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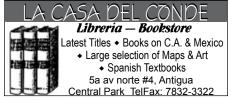
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Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites. —William Ruckelshaus



May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions. —Joey Adams



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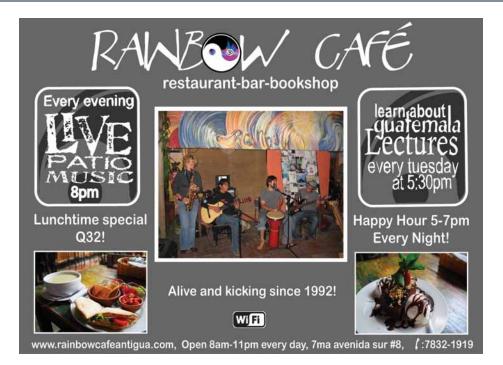
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The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition. —Carl Sagan



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It'll be a great day when education gets all the money it wants and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy bombers. —Ronald D. Fuchs The sun, the moon and the stars would have disappeared long ago... had they happened to be within the reach of predatory human hands. —Havelock Ellis





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Playing doctor

The seven-year-old girl told her mom, "A boy in my class asked me to play doctor." "Oh, dear," the mother nervously sighed. "What happened, honey?" "Nothing, he made me wait 45 minutes and then double-billed the insurance company."

Pay with a kiss

At a fabric store, a pretty girl spots a nice material for a dress and asks the male clerk, "How much does it cost?" "Only one kiss per yard," replied the male clerk with a smirk. "That's fine," said the girl. "I'll take ten yards." With expectation and anticipation written all over his face, the clerk quickly measured out the cloth, wrapped it up, and then teasingly held it out. The girl took the bag and pointed to the old man standing beside her, and smiled, "Grandpa will pay the bill."

Bears

How do you tell a brown bear from a grizzly bear? Climb a tree. If the bear climbs it and eats you, it's a brown bear.

If the bear knocks the tree down and eats you, it's a grizzly.

"Un olor a tradición" —Guillermo R. Cuyún F.







Muleback Hosanna cont. from page 20

the images for the rest of the day. By 6, the church was packed with standing-room-only mourners.

The men charged with packing the statues elbowed their way in at 8:30.³ When they removed the crown of thorns, several women untied their braids and offered their ribbons for its re-fastening. Another woman unraveled maguey fibers from her *nagua* (apron) to bundle the image in its veil. The Nazareno did have to part with one thing: his cross. Once disassembled and boxed, he was placed on a stool in the church. For a fortnight, somber devotees recited rosaries over the hallowed cargo and begged Don Martín to reconsider.

The year 2005 saw the statue making its 350th "birthday" rounds that culminated in the capital's Easter processions

But on July 7, Mayorga gave Acuña his marching orders. This priest, whose first name was Simón, doubtlessly identified with the Simón who helped lug the original cross to Calvary. But the parallels do not end there. The flesh-and-blood *Cristo* entered Israel's capital on a donkey; Acuña's wooden *Cristo* arrived in Guatemala's capital on a mule—a half-donkey.

This ignominy was blunted by reverent pilgrims joining the trek, resulting in a spontaneous procession. They reached San Lucas on the first day, where the statue was reassembled and "enthroned" in the local pastoral chair. The next day, a Wednesday, Mass was held with the Nazareno as honored guest.

An encore occurred on Thursday in 64 » revuemag.com

Mixco, today a capital suburb. There are no accounts that roadside spectators hailed the image with palm fronds as it entered the city, but this is likely. Over the next 22 years, it was adored in private ceremonies before finding permanent rest in the church at 11 avenida and 5a calle. But Mayorga's gambit worked: The patron of Santiago became the patron of Guatemala City and drew a multitude of Antiguans along with him. Consequently, the approach of Christmas saw the start of Guatemala City's earliest building boom.

The statue's old post in Santiago was filled by a second wooden image, Jesús Nazareno de la Merced de Antigua. This was not the first imitator bred by success; 356 years after the "birth" of the original, every self-respecting Guatemalan parish aspires to have its own Nazareno. The dozens now in existence include Jesús Nazareno of the Mission, of Justice, of the Three Powers, of the Sweet Vision, of the Righteous Death and of the Heavenly King.

But the original retains a quiet primacy. It was, after all, the one known to Hermano Pedro de Betancur. This Antiguan (recently sainted), apparently escorted it in Easter processions from 1657-61.⁴ More miracles are attributed to it than to any other, and it counts the most legends. In addition to the claim of stigmata (bleeding), it is said to perspire when carried past downtown Guatemala's Metropolitan Cathedral.

In 1888, composer Santiago Coronado was visiting the image's home in what is today zone 1. In a dream he ...continued on page 84







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Courtyard of municipal building in San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Tenerife, resembles colonial structures in La Antigua Guatemala.



Sign on house off plaza of Belén Church, La Antigua, identifies a home of Hermano Pedro.

Hermano Pedro cont. from page 19

He was a shepherd, tending a small flock in a place called Granadilla, a little down from Vilaflor, toward the sea on the southwest of the island. He helped his struggling family with four brothers and sisters. It must have been of some comfort to him to have landed in a place remarkably similar to his homeland.

More than five centuries ago today's capital town of Santa Cruz of Tenerife was born and developed around its port. Although traces of the town's origins remain, Tenerife's real history is in the original capital of San Cristóbal de La Laguna, high up on the hill and safely away from pirate activity on the seas at that time. The urban design of San Cristóbal de La Laguna modeled that of many cities founded in the Americas by Spanish colonists, including Santiago de los Caballeros. The Franciscan church and monastery there were built in the late 1400s, over 100 years before young Pedro left home. The town is now the ecclesiastical and university center, but being at the northeast end of the island, it is not known whether Pedro was ever there.

Today in Santa Cruz, with a bustling commercial seaport, intense traffic of cruise ships and several good beaches, tourist business is booming. A recent law allows construction of only five-star-and-above hotels. Apartment buildings as high as 15 stories fill the town, painted in soft colors like the colonial shades of La Antigua. San Cristóbal de La Laguna, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage city, is a 30-minute winding ride up the hill by a sleek, modern tram. The two towns make up the most populous area of the island, with a total of almost 400,000. It is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins.

On Tenerife, Hermano Pedro's history is told very briefly. Among the little left of those beginnings are his natal home and a cave that has become a popular pilgrimage site. The house has been reconstructed and now includes a church and convent of the Bethlemites, the women's Order formed in Santiago by his followers. The cave is where the boy hid himself and ...continued on page 72

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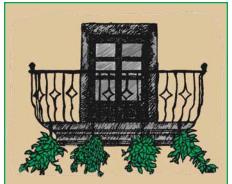
Support your right to arm bears. —Cleveland Amory No one goes there nowadays, it's too crowded. —Yogi Berra

Blame someone else and get on with your life. —Alan Woods

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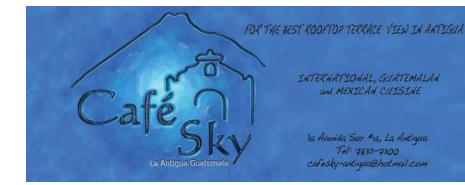
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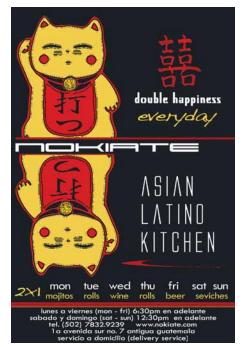
Just because something is unbelievable does not mean you shouldn't believe it. Put another way, some things are worth believing in whether they're true or not. —Jeb Dickerson



I have no doubt that we will be successful in harnessing the sun's energy... If sunbeams were weapons of war, we would have had solar energy centuries ago. —Sir George Porter



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If all mankind were to disappear, the world would regenerate back to the rich state of equilibrium that existed ten thousand years ago. If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos. —Edward O. Wilson

Hermano Pedro cont. from page 68

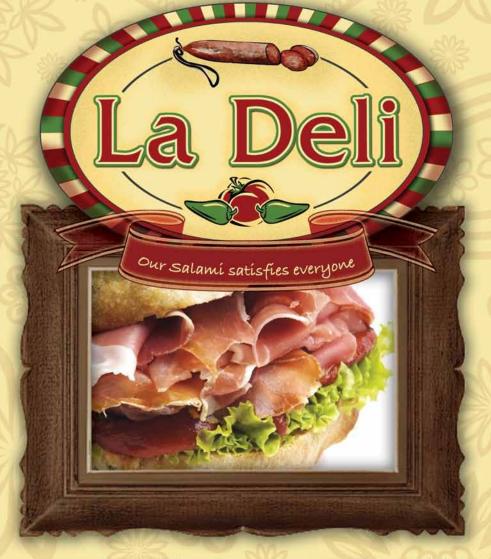
his flock from harm at the hands of English pirates and African Moors who had been known to snatch youngsters like him and carry them away as slaves. Although the process toward canonization began in 1698, collecting information about his life, little is known that can be verified of the young Pedro.

The rest of the story is well-known in La Antigua, where the name and work of the fine young man from Tenerife live on. Just one example is Las Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro, home to almost 300 persons with severe challenges and where every year 270,000 patients of limited resources receive medical attention. 'The Obras,' as it is known, also has facilities to care for children and senior citizens and provide addiction rehab. Friends and relatives on Tenerife who knew Pedro the boy may never have had opportunity to know about Pedro the saint.

Curiously, while Pedro simply carried out kindness and acted justly in Guatemala, John Milton in England wrestled with causes and consequences of good and evil. Milton went blind in 1652, just after Pedro arrived in Santiago and before dictating his 10-volume *Paradise Lost* to his daughters. It was published in 1667, the year Hermano Pedro died.



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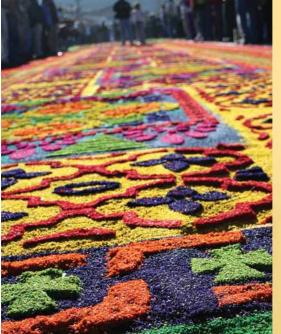


It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them. —Pierre Beaumarchais



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Man is a blind, witless, low brow, anthropocentric clod who inflicts lesions upon the earth. —Ian McHarg

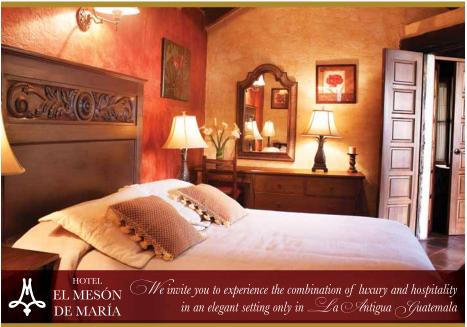




If a group of beings from another planet were to land on Earth—beings who considered themselves as superior to you as you feel yourself to be to other animals—would you concede them the rights over you that you assume over other animals? —George Bernard Shaw

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In an underdeveloped country, don't drink the water; in a developed country, don't breathe the air. —Changing Times magazine



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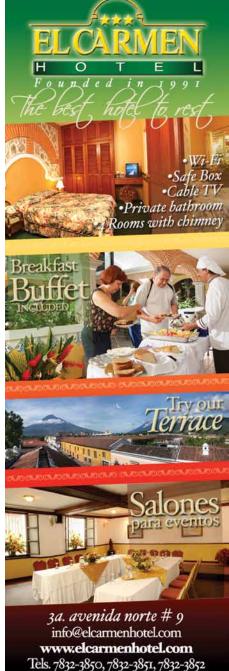


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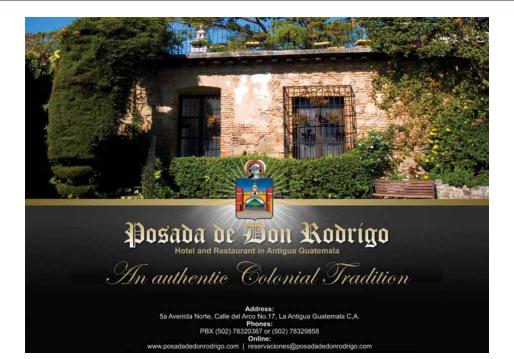


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Muleback Hosanna cont. from page 64

noticed the Nazareno missing from its usual spot. Worried, he searched inside the church first, then outside. At this point, according to the account Coronado gave his grandson,⁵ he saw the statue emerge from a grave in the chapel cemetery. "Hey, Santiago!" it exclaimed. "Where is my march?" Coronado quickly finished a march he had been working on and named it *The Grave*. This composition became the Nazareno's official accompaniment.

Another legend is contemporary. Devotees testify that things go awry when Jesús Nazareno wore the "Dove Shroud" (a cloth of unknown whereabouts). A warehouse, La Paquetería, allegedly burst into flames as the shrouded image passed in front of it. The 1976 earthquake is said to have struck when the image donned the cloth, and in 1998 its *anda* (carrying platform) caught fire when shroud and image made contact.⁶

The year 2005 saw the statue making its 350th "birthday" rounds that culminated in the capital's Easter processions, but Jesús de Nazareno and his clones will be out again this Easter. And at any other time of year you can still go downtown and, six blocks from the National Palace, find the image that started it all.

- Miguel Álvarez Arévalo, official chronographer of Guatemala City (interview).
- Luis Gerardo Ramírez Ortíz, oral historian and member of the modern cofradía.
- 3. M. Álvarez A., Historia Instantánea, No. 3, pp. 66-69
- 4. Ingrid Roldán M., Prensa Libre, Jan. 24, 2005
- 5. L. G. Ramírez Ortíz.
- 6. I. Roldán, Prensa Libre.

Lodging « ANTIGUA





Some noisy, noticeable events unrelated to Semana Santa

The carpets, floats and sorrowful dirges of Semana Santa carry centuries-old tradition reserved for the holiest period of the Catholic calendar. But, in Guatemala during this special season, you're also likely to encounter sights and sounds that are common year-round.

Before you panic thinking there's a shootout down the street or a UFO hovering nearby, here's a brief rundown of what's happening.

Pistols at dawn

Sounding like an all-out gun battle, those firecrackers and *bombas* that sometimes erupt at dawn are happy noises. Really. For birthdays, anniversaries and other special events, a family member or a close friend will set off long strands of high-octane firecrackers and perhaps launch a rocket or two outside the honoree's home. Not to worry, your hotel is not under siege—it only sounds like it.

Red-light district

No, you're not walking past a brothel. That red light glowing beside many a front door or window on Friday and Saturday nights means that the homemade tamales inside are fresh, hot and ready to eat! Knock on the door or ring the bell, buy a few and savor a Guatemalan favorite.

Who needs helium?

While enjoying nighttime views from one of Antigua's rooftop terraces, you might notice a shimmering, orange sphere rising slowly into the sky. It's a *globo*, a miniature hot-air balloon, powered by the heat generated by a candle burning inside. Launched for a variety of special occasions, globos carry prayers, hopes and good wishes into the heavens.

Lava me now or lava me not

If you awaken in the middle of the night to distant thunder—and it's a cloudless sky—you may be hearing Volcán de Fuego. Erupting moderately for a decade, Fuego has been acting up lately. Daytime racket usually masks Fuego's belches, but late at night, the rumbling sometimes drifts into town. Run out and take a look, you may see orange flares and glowing streams of lava. We're not in Kansas anymore!

How's your gas?

Now and then, a low-octave buzz crackles out of a loudspeaker mounted on a minipickup truck rolling slowly down Antigua streets. Following the momentary racket, a deep voice intones, "Zeta Gas? Zeta Gas?" Except it doesn't sound like "Zeta Gas." It's long and drawn out, with a rising inflection at the end: "setaGhaaaass? setaGhaaaass?" Meaning: A propane gas vendor is outside, in case your tank is low.



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Trogon Hunting in the Cucurucho Cloud Forest

Birdwatching and hiking at El Pilar, Antigua's little-known nature reserve

e hop out of the 4x4 truck to finish our ascent, cool in the luscious cover of the mountain vegetation until we reach the peak, a refreshing 10-minute hike. The view was incredible—I was astounded to see Lake Amatitlán with a spread of surrounding towns. I had no idea that such a remarkable destination lies just outside La Antigua.

El Pilar, a dream of founder and visionary ecologist Juan Rivera, is now open for hikers, birdwatchers and nature lovers who are looking for an alternative to Antigua's attractions and lifestyle. Located near San Cristóbal El Bajo—a long walk or short taxi ride from Antigua's Central Park—El Pilar offers trails of various hiking difficulty, from the intermediate bird-watching trail, a 2-kilometer hike which is fully equipped with staircases and hummingbird observatories, to the strenuous El Cucurucho trail, which spans to the mountain summit high above Antigua.

Other trails include Media Luna, El Cascajal and El Veral, which enter the forest on different levels on the mountain. With the differing altitudes come various climates, ranging from cool and refreshing to dry in



the cloud forest, to dry and warm at the summit. The cloud forest contains a spectrum of native Guatemalan wildlife, such as jaguarundi, coyotes, grey foxes, many species of bats, highland vipers, quetzalillo and the emerald touconette.

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Our guide for the day was Thor Janson, director of eco-tourism development and promotion for El Pilar. We were also accompanied by Celso García, the resident bird-watching guide, and Francisco "Chico" Cano, the trail guide.

Janson, whose primary involvement with the El Pilar project is to preserve the cloud forest's habitat while promoting eco-tourism as a source of sustainability, hopes to develop El Pilar into a popular destination.

Especially after the water damage El Pilar suffered from tropical storm Agatha in Skin diving & Snorkeling adventures Tels: 2331-0427, 2361-6178 excspross@turbonett.com

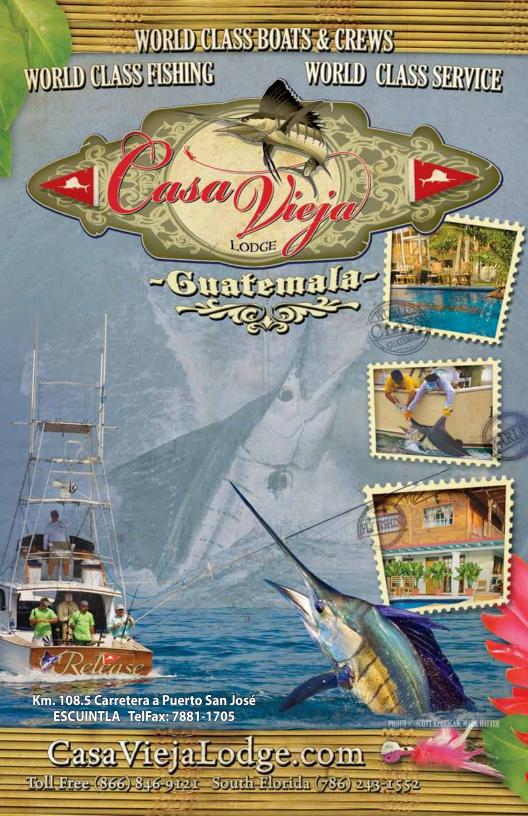


ABOVE: Trogons are arboreal birds with compact bodies, short necks, short stout bills and short legs.

BELOW: Observation decks allow visitors to view the varied wildlife of El Pilar.



...continued on following page





Trogon Hunting cont. from previous page

2010, the site faced major economic difficulty while rebuilding various wooden staircases on the bird-watching trail. Fortunately, construction is nearly completed and all trails are ready for all ranges of hikers.

Las Palmeras, one of two picnic spots at El Pilar, features an incredible view of the volcanic highlands, including occasional Volcán de Fuego eruptions. The picnic area has large sheltered areas and bathrooms, with cottages to rent for the night or for the week. It is such a peaceful place to hold family gatherings or backpacking trips, and anywhere along the trails is game for camping.

The trails are isolated, but Janson assured me that security is not an issue, since El Pilar is a family-owned reserve and finca. He also suggested arriving early in the morning, before clouds roll in.

For the amateur nature lover to the wellversed birdwatcher, El Pilar should be a must on your Antigua "to do" list. It's close, it's affordable, and it's a remarkably wellkept Antigua secret.

The main challenge for El Pilar is getting its name on the map. However, once people discover its unprecedented beauty, I am confident that El Pilar will become the new nature hot spot of Antigua. *¡Buena suerte!*

Fees: Q40 birding trail; Q10 swimming pool; Q100 per carload to Las Palmeras vista point. El Pilar is open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.



Time Is Short and the Water May Rise

Can Panajachel gird up in time for the next flooding?

From space, Panajachel resembles a fan on a long, broken rod. This fan abuts Central America's deepest waters—Lake Atitlán. It looks as though the city, in mortal fear of the lake, wants to escape up the skinny gorge that forms the broken rod.

In fact, the lake is the most benign of Panajachel's waters. But any hurricane within a thousand clicks will stir up enough water to pummel Panajachel from three other directions: the gorge runoff, the bank-jumping San Francisco River and the sky itself.

Flooding claimed property and peace of mind—and lives—during Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Hurricane Stan did the same in 2005, and a third watery whirlwind, Agatha, came in May 2010. The community was still rebuilding from Stan's visit.

Yet, Panajachel remains Guatemala's sil-

ver medalist, after La Antigua, in the race among Guatemalan towns to draw tourists. And Calle Santander remains Guatemala's most famous thoroughfare, immortalized worldwide in guidebooks and memories.

"Still," says longtime resident Dr. Richard Adams, "we can't take a hit like this every five or so years." The Michigan anthropologist and other community leaders are behind a proposal that would shield the city from what locals call "five-year flooding."

Guatemalan Nuño Jiménez and North American Molly Molander are the plan's architects. But they warn that, ambitious as it is, the proposal involves tradeoffs.

"More could be done," Molander says, "but this proposal, if executed, will allow Panajachel to sleep through an orange alert the next time we get a Mitch, Stan or Agatha." Nowadays, a few hours of ...continued on page 96

LAKE ATITLÁN







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Our children may save us if they are taught to care properly for the planet; but if not, it may be back to the Ice Age or the caves from where we first emerged. Then we'll have to view the universe above from a cold, dark place. No more jet skis, nuclear weapons, plastic crap, broken pay phones, drugs, cars, waffle irons, or television. Come to think of it, that might not be a bad idea. —Jimmy Buffett

One of the first laws against air pollution came in 1300 when King Edward I decreed the death penalty for burning of coal. At least one execution for that offense is recorded. But economics triumphed over health considerations, and air pollution became an appalling problem in England. —Glenn T. Seaborg

Atomic Energy Commission chairman

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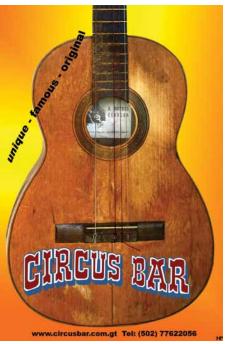
LAKE ATITLÁN











Lake Views cont. from page 92

continual rain is enough to send townfolk to the banks, standing under umbrellas as nervous sentinels.

The proposed construction would lay the foundation for additional defenses to protect Panajachel from flooding of red-alert magnitude, which is thought to come every 50 or so years. A flood of this strength struck Panajachel in 1949, enabling the river to change course and cut a new channel through inhabited areas. With sufficient rainfall, the river could again jump its final bend and slash through the middle of town. Some districts are relatively safe by dint of distance or elevation; but no part of Panajachel, all of which occupies an alluvial delta, is fully secure.

Molander explains that the construction would not only make Panajachel safer, but boost aesthetics and the quality of life. The city's anarchic layout has, she says, "made traffic flow crazy." The changes would add riverside promenades and bike paths where today there are rocky moraines and gravel beds, much of it barely manageable even on foot.

"Kids coming home from school have to dodge chicken buses and tuk-tuks," Molander says. "The streets are more clogged every year."

The promenades—flat rims atop levylike structures called *gaviones inclinados* would be strictly off limits to motorized vehicles. They would enclose a channel of nearly uniform breadth and permit the reclamation of much land that is today in a *vado* (wadi) formed during Stan and Agatha. Molander admits that residential and commercial development of the reclaimed zone should be avoided. But in this, she sees an opportunity.

"In a word, recreation. We could fill it with everything from picnic tables to volleyball, soccer and tetherball courts, with hitching posts for bikes. The people who own the land behind the gaviones could operate vending carts to provision visitors with drinks, bicycles, Frisbees, ball and roller skate rentals, whatever. This would boost the town's economy." Molander thinks that a little league-scale baseball diamond might be feasible in the zone's widest segment.

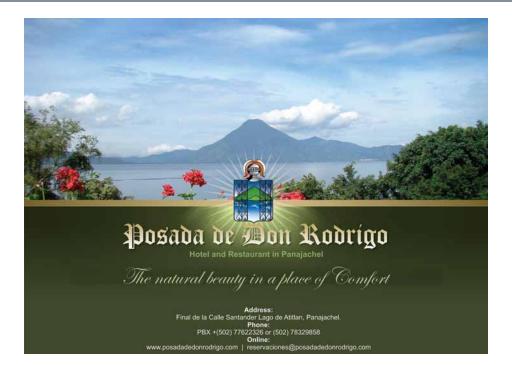
But what about the overall feasibility of gaviones inclinados in Panajachel? Is the benefit solely conceptual?

An encouraging precedent already exists in, of all places, Panajachel itself. The rugged Yellow Bridge at the north end of town, where the gorge narrows considerably, was built in 1942 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is the only crossing that survives every flooding. Yet, even it was threatened during Agatha.

Just above the Yellow Bridge, on ground where a neighborhood was swept away by Stan in 2005, Californians Sidney and Michael Eschenbach have built a community center that includes a retirement home and a theatrical venue. But it is shielded by an enormous gavion inclinado.

"The trick," says Sid Eschenbach, "is to keep the sand in place. Eighty percent of what the river deposits is fine sand. The gaviones are 'mattresses' set atop geotextile, a material that lets excess water seep through while eliminating the removal ...cont. on page 98

Panajachel « Jaibalito « Santa Cruz la Laguna « LAKE ATITLÁN





Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. —Marcel Proust







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Lake Views cont. from page 96

of the sand." The mattresses, lying at a slope of about 30 degrees, are placed over the geotextile on top of huge earthen berms.

Similar berms are being raised by the national government in the zone south of the bridge, but they are unprotected sand. The proposal favored by Jimenez, Molander and Dr. Adams would, in effect, extend the Eschenbachs' private initiative.

"The work the government is doing right now is helpful," Eschenbach says, "but how long will it take another five-year flood to chew up unprotected berms? They're like walls of sugar." They can, however, provide the perfect anchor for gaviones inclinadas.

To date, the other anti-flooding measure has been to line the channel with *gaviones mallas*, huge blocks made by filling chainlink crates with rocks. Some parts of the channel are still terraced with these. But Eschenbach favors gaviones inclinadas, because of the nature of the river itself.

"It's not some mountain stream that cuts a deeper channel with each flood. It's an alluvial river that goes through cycles of filling and jumping. Our recent experience has proved this much. Therefore, we must dredge the channel, and hem the river with structures that provide [graduated resistance] to its force, instead of something that will wash away."

The Stan disaster, in particular, bears out Eschenbach's warning. The San Francisco River, a meek, mossy tadpole hatchery for most of the year, grew into a maddening swell that dislodged and snapped some of

QUETZALTENANGO



the gaviones mallas like reeds. The exposed vertical banks were quickly undermined by erosion and liquifaction. When Agatha came along five years later, spectators watched in real time as the river pulled up huge trees by

The proposal would cost Q10.8 million, far cheaper than other solutions. No one believes that the municipal treasury can pay the entire price, but it is hoped that addi-

their roots and swallowed houses.

tional funding may come from the national government or a friendly foreign country. South Korea, which donated money for Panajachel's other car crossing, the Friendship Bridge, is one candidate.

"The rains return in May," Eschenbach notes. "We've got just enough time to get the protection in place. Otherwise, all we can do is hope that 2011 will not be another flood year."



Monterrico listed among world's "10 Best Beach Destinations"

ith its black-sand beaches, powerful waves and sea turtle nesting grounds, Monterrico has been ranked among the 10 Best Beach Destinations in the World by Yahoo Travel.

Guatemala's quaint, south coast community joins the ranks of Ka'anapali, Maui, Hawaii; Hahei Beach, New Zealand; and Sanur Beach, Bali, in Yahoo's global hit list of beaches to visit in 2011.

"When it comes to something a bit different, our readers recommend the black volcanic sands of Monterrico, Guatemala," according to the Yahoo Travel scribes.

"Located on the Pacific coast, Monterrico differs from the calm waters and soft sands of other popular vacation spots—its powerful waves are suitable for only the strongest swimmers," the description continues.

"Aside from the challenging surf, most people come to see the endangered sea turtles that use the beach as a nesting ground. You might even catch a glimpse of the newly-hatched offspring during your visit. The small fishing village of Monterrico provides plenty of options for inexpensive accommodations and restaurants."

Atop the list was Anse Lazio, Seychelles. Other destinations in the Top 10 are Playa Norte, Isla Mujeres, Mexico; Santa Rosa Beach, Florida, USA; Cas Abao Beach, Curacao; Santa Marta, Colombia; and Coronado Beach, San Diego, California, USA.

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A healthy male adult bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience. —John Updike

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When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something's suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful. —Barbara Bloom





He does not believe who does not live according to his belief. —Thomas Fuller







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PACIFIC COAST » LAS LISAS



Carlos Mérida de página 21

junto con Rafael Yela Günther, una plástica basada en elementos relacionados con el folklore cuya estructura se sostendría desde la síntesis de la imagen y su composición plana tanto en lo figurativo como en el color. A partir de ese momento abandonaba definitivamente la visión de sus correligionarios del arte, que quedaría dando vueltas alrededor del impresionismo para dar así el paso definitivo a una plástica de carácter más universalista.

Por razones personales, los terremotos de 1917 y 18, la peste de Gripe Española, la epidemia de tifoidea y los trastornos económicos del país, se vio obligado a trasladarse a la ciudad de México en 1919. Desde allí empezaría, casi inmediatamente y debido a las relaciones alcanzadas en Paris, a exponer en Nueva York y Europa. También desde México mantuvo una relación constante y efectiva con Guatemala.

Durante la década del veinte se adentró en lo que venía explorando respecto a lo folclórico. En la primera gran crisis que enfrentócomo creador rompió de golpe con ello para desembocar en una serie abstracta que, de a poco, le abrió las puertas al surrealismo y para adoptar a partir de allí, en los años cincuenta, lo geométrico. Sin duda ésta forma de expresión le brindó un camino de fertilidad que descolló en los murales del Centro Cívico y varias casas particulares.

La década del setenta lo atrapó revisando y proponiendo desde lo abstracto geométrico. Es en ese momento que regresa de lleno a la gráfica y tanto en la litografía artística como desde la serigrafía propone todo un imaginario en el que la esencia del color maya se funde con intrincadas composiciones planas. Es en este largo lapso que inicia desde los años treinta que comprende y plantea ideas tomadas desde la esencia de la cosmovisión de su pueblo la cual expresó de modo singular. La muerte lo encontró activo y produciendo en México... su corazón se quedó en Guatemala.

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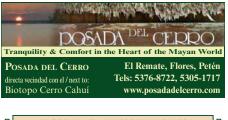


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As we watch the sun go down, evening after evening, through the smog across the poisoned waters of our native earth, we must ask ourselves seriously whether we really wish some future universal historian on another planet to say about us: "With all their genius and with all their skill, they ran out of foresight and air and food and water and ideas," or, "They went on playing politics until their world collapsed around them." —U Thant

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The old Lakota was wise. He knew that man's heart away from nature becomes hard; he knew that lack of respect for growing, living things soon led to lack of respect for humans too. —Chief Luther Standing Bear

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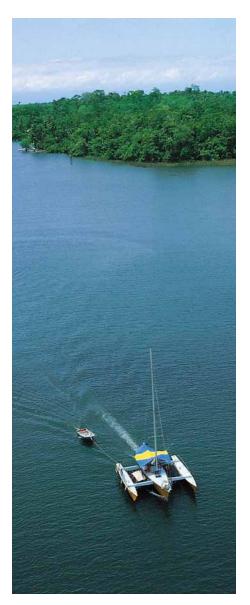


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AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA: Mon. 6-7pm Discussion, Wed. & Thurs. 6-7pm Step/Big Book (Doña Luisa's Restaurant, 2nd floor, 4a calle oriente #12). www.antiguaguatemalaaa.org

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 Sundays of the month. Contacts: 7849-5970, 7832-5653 mardugan@earthlink.net progresa3@gmail.com

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

ST. MARKS ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE IN ENGLISH. Sundays 11:15am. Chapel of Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro, corner 6a calle & 3a av., La Antigua. Tels: 5293-1076, 5492-5707.

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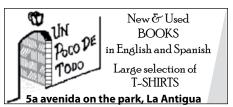
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I'm glad I didn't have to fight in any war. I'm glad I didn't have to pick up a gun. I'm glad I didn't get killed or kill somebody. I hope my kids enjoy the same lack of manhood. —Tom Hanks



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Two mothers-in-law. —Lord John Russell (on being asked what he would consider a proper punishment for bigamy)

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



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Semana Santa, 2010 (San Salvador) —Lena Johannessen

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Every man prefers belief to the exercise of judgment. —Seneca

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Mishaps are like knives, that either serve us or cut us, as we grasp them by the blade or the handle. —James Russell Lowell

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Today's Parenting Tip: Treat a difficult child the way you would your boss at work. Praise his achievements. ignore his tantrums and resist the urge to sit him down and explain to him how his brain is not yet fully developed. —Robert Brault



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IGA



Kaleidoscopic Days

fellow in Scotland coined the name and invented that mirrored tube he called the kaleidoscope, an "observer of beautiful colors." We don't need his device to see swirls of beautiful colors that form our sensuous Guatemalan kaleidoscope all year.

Color, sound, aromas, tastes and touch are especially strong throughout Lent, from confetti and fireworks at the start, then through 40 days of solemn processions, rich bunting on buildings, deep-toned robes, crowded streets, Lenten foods, all culminating with Palm Sunday, Good Friday and the Easter weekend.

Intricate *alfombras*, carpets of flowers, greens and dyed sawdust that are laid before a holy procession, and then remade for the next shuffling column of penitents in purple robes, combine every tone and texture. No kaleidoscope is required to be dazzled by the hundreds of carpets created on the cobbled streets throughout the season.

The Semana Santa kaleidoscope of Gua-

temala includes more than just the one sense of sight. Every sense becomes overwhelmed at procession time. The heavy incense, the doleful dirges, the traditional foods and the press of the crowds assault us with pungent odors, steady drumbeats, sharp tastes and close touch.

It's almost too much.

Take some quiet moments between processions back at one's home or hotel, or in a garden away from the intense assault on all senses.

Taste the acidic incense smoke in your mouth, feel the gritty dust kicked up by hundreds of shuffling feet. Breathe in the bittersweet smell of *corozo*, tan plumes from inside a large pod, an aroma that will stay with you as the fragrance of Lent in Guatemala.

You'll hear in your dreams the funeral marches of the procession bands, which will continue in your lifetime travel memories. You'll see the kaleidoscope colors again when you edit your pictures and remember what you and all your senses experienced.

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