

REVUE

Guatemala's English-language Magazine
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October 2011
Year 20, No. 8

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- 
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 - ◈ Bartenders Without Borders
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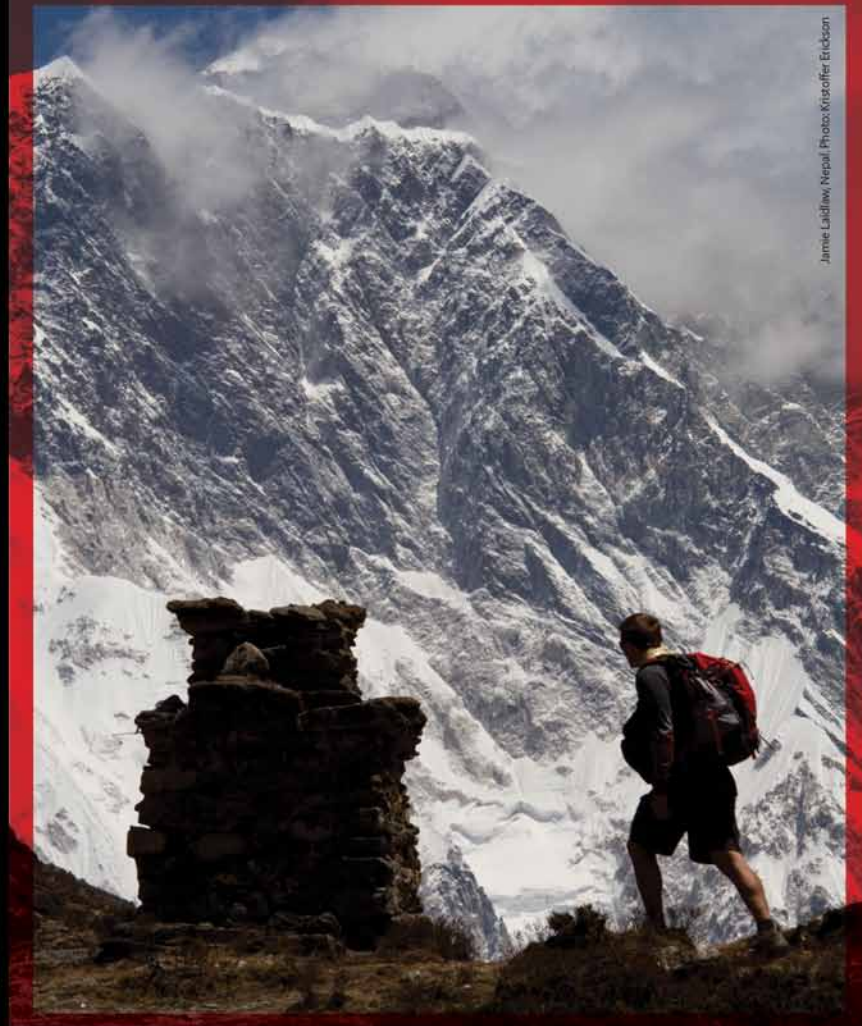
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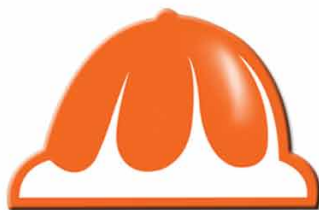
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*Laguna
Lachúa*

by
*Helena
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**Deadline for the
November 2011 issue » Oct. 10**

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From the Editor

October's arrival should give us more confidence to venture out without umbrellas as the rainy season yields to more sunshine and more reasons to enjoy Guatemala's treasures.

Looking for getaways? With a mirror-like cenote surrounded by a rainforest, Laguna Lachuá in Alta Verapaz is a stunning destination (p16). Meanwhile, San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta in San Marcos offers a quetzal refuge, waterfalls and more (p86). It will be especially thriving this month with its annual *feria*.

Everyone has a unique story of what makes La Antigua Guatemala special. Did you know that American author and playwright Gore Vidal bought a place in Antigua 65 years ago? Joy Houston explains on page 64.

As for community service, the Integral Heart Foundation (p14) is making a big impact only two years after its founding. And let's raise our glasses to a year's worth of good work by Bartenders Without Borders (p108).

Meanwhile, the new Antigua International School, catering to children of Antigua's diverse cultural and socio-economic population, is set to welcome its first students (p19).

This issue also honors a genteel old friend and longtime Antigua resident, Dr. Johnny Long, who passed away last month. Read about his remarkable life and legacy on page 80.

For celebrations and cultural events, check out the DateBook listings, and plan to celebrate Day of the Dead on Nov. 1.

With year-end approaching, the REVUE team is mapping out our annual photo issue for January 2012. Photographers are invited to send their best Guatemala images—see page 32 for details.

—Matt Bokor

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A supporter of the Integral Heart Foundation, Anabella E., meets her sponsor child, María Emilina, for the first time in San Mateo.

(MICK QUINN)

Empowerment Through Education

The Integral Heart Foundation provides a safe place to learn and grow

In the 1990s, Mick Quinn was an Irish immigrant living in New York City. Founder and CEO of several multimillion dollar companies, Quinn left New York after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Now at the top of his game, he began to realize that there was more to life than money. Already an avid spiritualist, he wanted to further explore the deeper meaning to life. Leaving his life in the U.S., he moved to a remote area of Portugal where he spent his days meditating and produced his best-selling book *The Uncommon Path*. It was at this time that he met his wife Debora, and at his publisher's request, they moved to the United States to promote the book.

However, Mick and Debora missed the Latin culture and in 2009 traveled to La

Antigua Guatemala for a holiday. Little did they know this would not only change their lives, it would impact the lives of many.

As many visitors do, the couple fell in love with Antigua and its history, beauty and charm. It was what most people overlook, though, that really caught the Quinns' attention. Driving in the Guatemalan countryside one early afternoon, they could not help but notice the number of children roaming about. The couple wondered why these kids—poorly clothed, many without shoes and obviously malnourished—were not in school. After further research, they discovered some staggering statistics. Approximately 75 percent of Guatemalans live below the poverty level, with over half of Guatemalan children ...continued page 34

No es solo un destino en Guatemala,
es la oportunidad de viajar en el tiempo

AVIANCATACA

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Origen/ Destino	Salida	Llegada	Frecuencia
Guatemala - Flores	6:30	7:40	Diario
Flores - Guatemala	8:05	9:10	Diario
Guatemala - Flores	18:20	19:30	Diario
Flores - Guatemala	19:55	21:00	Diario

TRAVEL text/photos by Helena Oswald (flubisworld.com)

Off the beaten path:
Laguna Lachúa





In this mostly untouched area, part of the Laguna Lachúa National Park, there are many animals to be seen and heard. Not only is it home to a multitude of birds, snakes and insects, it's a crocodile habitat, too.

With warm, crystal-clear water, Laguna Lachúa is easily one of the most wonderful destinations in Guatemala. The lagoon itself is actually a 4-square-kilometer *cenote*, a type of water-hole found in the lowlands of the tropical jungles in northern Guatemala and the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico. It is a perfect place to swim—and its slightly sulfuric water is a real joy for your skin, too.

What makes this lagoon so special is that it has the form of a huge, perfectly round mirror that reflects its surroundings when the water is tranquil. It is an amazing view,

especially at sunset! This mirror effect is the result of a karst stone subsurface and a shallow water level, though the depth extends 220 meters.

In this mostly untouched area, part of the Laguna Lachúa National Park, there are many animals to be seen and heard, especially between sunset and the early morning hours. Jaguars, pumas and ocelots still roam the surrounding forest, and the sound of howler monkeys up in the treetops adds a special ambiance to the verdant landscape. Not only is it home to a multitude of birds, snakes and insects, it's a crocodile habitat, too.

...continued page 40



If you do want to stay at the lagoon overnight (highly recommended) there is a lodge, a kitchen and a rancho.



Crocodiles, caimans and alligators in Mayan art & mythology of Guatemala

There are two species of crocodiles and one species of alligator in the Mayan regions of Guatemala, Belize, Honduras and Mexico.

Caiman crocodilus is a caiman, but considered an alligator (not a crocodile) despite its name “crocodilus.” The pattern of scales on this creature is very distinctive: no spikes or sharp spines but lots of raised bumps in a regular parallel pattern. The caiman has more color on its body than other crocodilians in Mesoamerica.

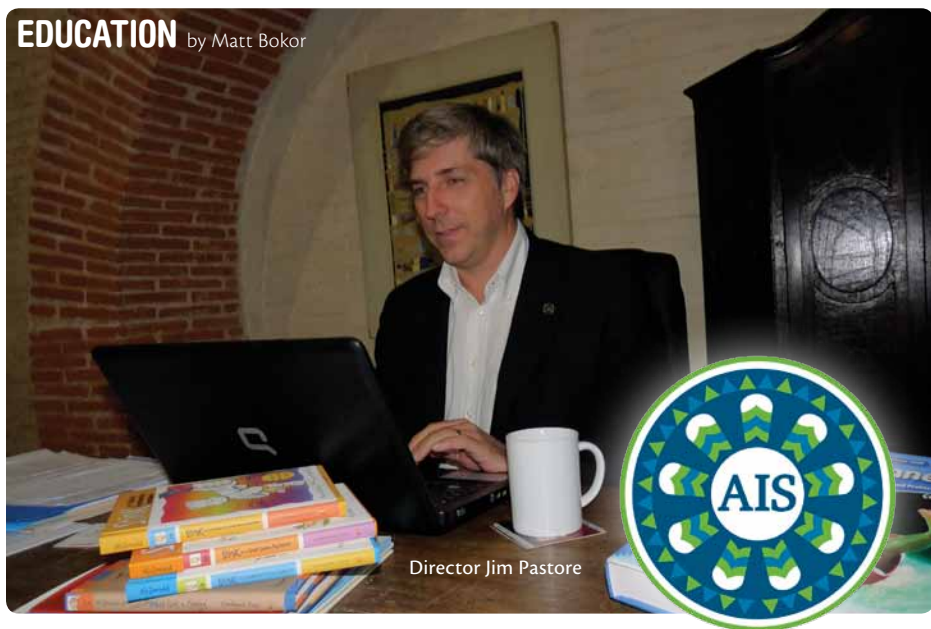
Crocodylus acutus can be found from the USA south through Mexico and Guatemala, so they would have been known to many Mesoamerican cultures. This is clearly

one of the creatures that is the model for the crocodile tree.

Crocodylus moreletii has fewer bumps and spines than the others. Its habitat is only in Mexico, Belize and Guatemala.

The challenge is to take the Mayan renditions of crocodilians and identify which species has the supraorbital plate and which species gave rise to the exaggerated curled snout of pre-Columbian renditions.

In other words, if you have to choose between saying the Maya featured crocodiles or alligators, I would vote for crocodiles. This is a polite way of saying that any article or monograph that uses the word “alligator” (without footnoting at least ...cont. page 94



Director Jim Pastore

Antigua International School

Teaching kids how to think, not what to think

As the founding director of a new, international school in La Antigua Guatemala, longtime educator Jim Pastore is confident that the 21st century curriculum will launch kids on a lifetime of learning that will prepare them for the jobs of the future, those that may not even exist today.

“My concern is that our students will be over-prepared for the universities of the future—and that’s a nice worry to have,” said Pastore, who next month will welcome an initial 60 students to Antigua International School.

Eventually to enroll some 400 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, AIS caters to children of Antigua’s diverse cultural and socio-economic population of entrepre-

neurs, local Antigüenos, ex-pats and “internet warriors,” who can easily telecommute from Guatemala with clients worldwide, Pastore explained.

Among the new students will be the three children (ages 8, 11 and 13) of Ellen Mueller, a 15-year Antigua resident who expects AIS to deliver the same type of top-notch education she received growing up outside of Boston.

“I love their motto—‘teaching kids *how* to think, not *what* to think’—so they will strive to be creative, critical thinkers,” Mueller said. “I feel relieved that AIS is opening in Antigua, it’s the answer to my children’s needs.”

...continued on page 54

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DATEBOOK

OCTOBER GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

1 Sat., through Sat., 29 — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Fotografías* by Erich Leeth (USA). Salón del Coleccionista, Galería El Attico, 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City.** ▼



1 Sat., & Sun. 2, 7am-5pm — GRAND BAZAAR benefit for AWARE: Featuring motorcycle wear, various other articles and delicious food. Centro Comercial Villa Bella, #18-A, km. 15, Carretera a Ciudad Vieja, **La Antigua.**

1 Sat., 6pm — DANCE: *Evolution Tango*, as part of the Festival Paiz. **6pm**, Milonga, **7:45pm**, Show. Auditorio Juan



Francisco Gutiérrez, Universidad Francisco Marroquín. Q200, includes Milonga and show. Tickets for sale at todoticket.com, Galerías Primma, Centro Comercial Eskala, ArteCentro Graciela Andrade de Paiz. **Guatemala City.**

3 Mon. — 2nd annual HUIPILES CONTEST, Museo Ixchel and Hilos Anchor present *Descubre con Anchor los Colores y Valores de Nuestra Identidad Cultural*. Reception: **Mon., 3 through Sat., 8 at 2pm**; Awards will be **Thurs., 13 at 2pm**; Huipiles will be exhibited at the museum **Fri., 14 through Sat., 29**. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, 6a calle final z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City.**

Through Wed., 5 — PHOTOGRAPHY: *Rostros, Arquitectura y Tradiciones en Fotos de Oscar Palencia*. Salón de Exposiciones Temporales, Museo Capuchinas, 2a av. norte & 2a calle oriente, corner, **La Antigua.**

4 Tues. — CELEBRATION: Cultural and religious activities honoring San Francisco de Asís (St. Francis of Assisi). San Francisco La Unión, **Quetzaltenango**. See page 88 for events in Panajachel, **Lake Atitlán.**

4 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *Alternatives to Violence Project*, presented by representatives from Africa, Colombia, Guatemala and the USA. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**. See DateBook Highlight on page 56.

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the NOV., 2011 edition of the REVUE by Monday, Oct. 10

4 **Tues., 6:30pm through Tues., 11** — ART: *Annual exhibit* of works by students from Colegio Montessori Internacional. Free. Parking Q30. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, 6a calle final z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

7 **Fri., through Sun., 9** — SECOND BIENNIAL CONFERENCE: *Futuros Colectivos*. Visit www.futuroscolectivos.com for more information. **Patzún**.

8 **Sat., 11am** — (Spanish) TEATRO: *El Monstruo de la Basura*, el monstruo con la ayuda de su mamá (La Bruja Piruja), intenta conquistar el mundo pero alguien ayuda a que la gente cambie los malos hábitos y saque al monstruo. Gratis. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

8 **Sat., 4pm** — MUSIC: Accordion recital by Jorge Herrera de la Cerda.



Free. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

10 **Mon., through Fri., 28** — ART: Recent works by Guatemalan photographer Werner Vásquez (Quetzaltenango). Sala Principal, Galería El Attico, 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**. ▼



11 **Tues., 5:30** — TALK: *Partnering with the Poor: Inequality, Education and Opportunity in Guatemala*, presented by Common Hope/Familias de Esperanza. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

12 **Wed., 5pm** — ART: *La Ecuación del Ser* with works by Brielle DuFlon. Galería Panza Verde (tel: 7832-2925), 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**. ▼



13 **Thurs., 4pm** — (English/Spanish) NETWORKING: The Guatemala NGO Network invites NGOs and non-profits to exchange current information and needs. Speakers need to call Judy 7832-9871 to reserve time. Q50 includes beverages and snacks. More info call Judy or La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**.

14 **Fri., 8pm** — BAND DUEL FUNDRAISER: Four bands will perform, followed at midnight by a DJ playing salsa and cumbia with a dance contest. Proceeds benefit Niños De Guatemala (tel: 7832-8033). Donation Q40. La Sala Restaurante Bar, 6a calle poniente #9, **La Antigua**.

15 Sat., 6pm — ART: Inauguration of the gallery with a collective exposition by numerous artists. Andante Art Gallery, 8a av. 12-19, z. 1, Centro Histórico, **Guatemala City.** ▼



16 Sun., 11am — MUSIC: Festival Mosaico, ArteAntiqua Project presents *Nuestra Música, Nuestra Historia* by Capilla de la Asunción. A journey through classical music of the XVII century in Guatemala. Donation Q75. Advance tickets at Cargo Room, corner 6a calle & 6a av. Email arteantiqua@yahoo.com for more information. Centro de Convenciones Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua.** ▼



17 Mon., 5:30pm — FILM SERIES: Democrats Abroad Film Series 2011, *Gasland*. Donation Q30. Information John Chudy (tel: 7832-4581) or mayadems@yahoo.com. Donation Q30. Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle oriente #41, Calle Concepción, **La Antigua.**



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

Through Mon., 17 — ART: *Orgánico Pétreo*, sculptures by Mónica Arrivillaga. Galería Guatemala, Fundación G&T Continental, 6a av. 9-08, z. 9, **Guatemala City.** ▼



18 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *Oxlajuj B'atz'* (Thirteen Threads) is a non-profit indigenous women's empowerment and non-formal education organization based in Guatemala since 2004. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua.**

18 Tues., 7pm through Sat., 29 — EXHIBITION: *Primeros Cinceles* (The First Chisels), stone sculptures. Cocktail. Free. Parking Q30. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, 6a calle final z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City.**

19 Wed., 11:30am-8pm — FESTIVAL ATITLÁN: *Blues and Jazz Cruise and Gourmet Food Festival*. Great music. Very limited seating. More info: www.festivalatitlan.com/cruise/cruiseeng.html. Q150 includes boat cruise and music, **Lake Atitlán.**



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—Terri Guillemets

Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures.
—Henry Ward Beecher

The discovery of song and the creation of musical instruments both owed their origin to a human impulse which lies much deeper than conscious intention: the need for rhythm in life... the need is a deep one, transcending thought, and disregarded at our peril. —Richard Baker



Live

La Cueva de Panza Verde

tel: 7832-2925 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua

Wednesdays — Jazz Duo
Grand Piano & Double Bass.

Thursdays — Latin Trio featuring Denis Medina on Cubano Tres and Coloso Gudierre on congas.

Fridays — Cuban Night: Buena Vista de Corazón featuring Ignacio Perez on congas and Aniet Gonzáles on flute.

Saturdays — Guest artist
Nightly cover: Q35

La Peña de Sol Latino

tel: 7882-4468 5a calle poniente #15-C, La Antigua

Mondays — 7-10pm: The magic guitar of Carlos Trujillo, Latin Jazz/Salsa, with Bill on congas. Free.

Tuesdays — 7-10pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana, with Bill on congas. Free.

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



Sundays — 12:30-3pm: Ramiro plays Trova Cubana, with Bill on congas. Free.

Gaia Restaurante

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

Thursdays — 7pm: Live music.

Fridays and Saturdays — Belly dancing.

Como Como

tel: 7832-0478 6 calle poniente #6, La Antigua

Wednesdays — 8pm: Accordion music by Jorge Herrera.

Rainbow Café

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

Mondays — 7:30pm: Don Ramiro will serenade you with some beautiful Latin folk music. Free.

Tuesdays — 7:30pm: Gustavo plays Latino classics, western tunes with some harmonica.

Wednesdays — 7:30pm: *Open Mike Night*: come along and show your skills. Free drink for anyone who performs!

Thursdays — 7:30pm: Kenny and Friends, some of Antigua's best loved local musicians will amaze you with some great music.

Fridays — 7:30pm: Segio, this talented local plays a mix of music including lots of reggae!

Saturdays — 7:30pm: A variety of bands!

Sundays — 7:30pm: Kenny and Friends, some of Antigua's best loved local musicians will amaze you with some great music.



La Posada del Pintor—Circus Bar

tel: 7832-1033 4a calle oriente #10 (2nd level), La Antigua

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays — 8pm:
Live music, featuring a variety of artists.

Las Palmas

tel: 7832-9734 6a av. norte #14, La Antigua

Wednesdays — 8pm:
Bossa, soft rock and blues.

Saturdays — 8pm:
American folk music.



CHECK DATEBOOK CALENDAR LISTINGS FOR MORE CONCERTS AND SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS

Music



Ocelot

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

Thursdays — 7-9pm: Mike Mcarthy plays some mean blues.

9pm: Mike & Moriah, piano & vocals.

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

Saturdays — 7-9pm: Malcolm Oakley sings and plays guitar.

9:30pm: Mercedes, guitar blues/rock/folk.



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

Fridas

tel: 7832-1296 Calle del Arco #29, La Antigua

Wednesdays — 7:30pm: Latin music.

Thursdays — Ishto Juevez, swing & Mexican.

La Casbah

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Tuesdays — Live music: cover band

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El Cadejo Tapas Bar

tel: 2337-4365 5a av. 16-49, z.10, Guatemala City

Wednesdays — 7:00pm: Entrevoz

Thursdays — 7:00pm: Acoustic jam

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.

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Sundays — Latin ensemble.

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Fridays and Saturdays

— Guest musicians.

www.trovajazz.com



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tel: 2331-1114 Av. Reforma 13-89, z.10, Guatemala City

Wednesdays — 8:30pm: Victor Arriaza on piano, Alejandro Alvarez, bass and Julio García on drums.



19 Wed., through Nov., 8 — ART: Collective exposition *Trazos de Luz 2012*, coordinated by FUNDAL. Galería Guatemala, Fundación G&T Continental, 6a av. 9-08, z. 9, **Guatemala City**. ▼



19 Wed., 8:30pm — MUSIC: *Rock a la Mexicana* by Kenny y los Eléctricos from Mexico. A modern rock concert with Mexican music touches. Concert opening by Guatemalan singer Estefani Brolo & What the Funk Band. Q50, includes one drink. La Casbah Antigua, 5a av. norte #30, **La Antigua**.



20 Thurs. — HOLIDAY: *Día de la Revolución* (Revolution Day). Banks and some businesses closed, plan ahead.

22 Sat., 3:30pm — (Spanish) TALLER DE FOTOGRAFÍA: Aprende los conceptos básicos de la fotografía y a usar su cámara, impartido por Ricardo Benavides. Donación Q100. Vivero La Escalonia (tel: 7832-7074), 5a av. sur final #36-C, **La Antigua**.

22 Sat., 11am — (Spanish) TEATRO: *Osos en el Bosque*. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

25 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Los Patos: *Forming Leaders for Guatemala*, a group that builds relationships between different cultures of Guatemala and the rest of the world. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

27 Thurs., 7pm — GALA DINNER: Includes a presentation of the book *Guatemala, People of Tradition* by photographer Santiago Albert. Proceeds benefit projects by Museo Ixchel. For more information call Museo Ixchel, 2361-8081. Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, 6a calle final z. 10, Centro Cultural UFM, **Guatemala City**.

29 Sat., 7pm — SILVER ANNIVERSARY PARTY: Mesón Panza Verde celebrates its 25th anniversary featuring cameo acts by performance artists throughout the evening with a Cuban jazz band providing dance music. Q100 entrance covers drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**. See page 60 for details.

31 Mon., 7:30pm — HALLOWEEN PARTY: Live music, a free Creepy cocktail, bonfire & marshmallows, prize for the best dressed and much more! Come shake your pumpkin and be part of the fun! Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**.

31 Mon., 8:00pm — HALLOWEEN PARTY: "Casbah's Inferno" dance all night, incredible prizes for the best costumes! La Casbah (www.lacasbahantigua.com), **La Antigua**.





"Girl from San Antonio Palopó" by William Kalwick Jr.

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ART: Ongoing show of the works of prominent Guatemalan and international artists.
La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**.

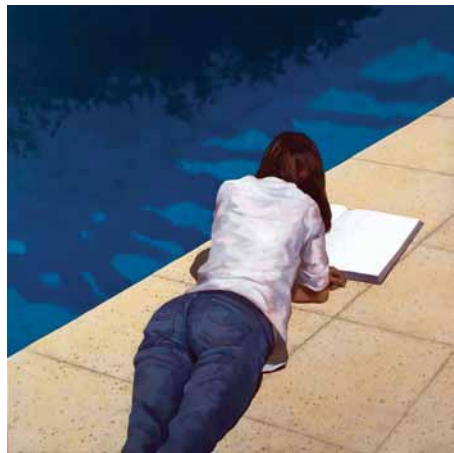


Open through Nov. 7 — PHOTOGRAPHY: Paiz Festival presents *Un grito en el Cielo*, as part of the Foto30 photo festival. Free. Arte Centro Graciela Andrade de Paiz, 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, **Guatemala City**. ▼



Open through Nov. 7 — PHOTOGRAPHY: As part of the Paiz Festival, *Fotokids 20 años capturando sueños*. Free. Arte Centro Graciela Andrade de Paiz, 9a calle 8-54, z. 1, **Guatemala City**.

ART: Contemporary works by renowned Guatemalan and international artist Anibal López, Alfredo Ceibal, Juan Manuel Díaz Puerta at Galería Documento – Arte Contemporáneo. By appointment 5297-5481, arteantiqua@yahoo.com ▼



PLAN AHEAD

1 Nov. — CELEBRATION: All Saints' Day. Guatemalans prepare *fiambre* and visit cemeteries to honor departed family members and friends. Special celebrations in different towns, including Santiago and Sumpango Sacatepéquez, feature huge kites. Most banks and businesses will be closed. See related article on page 68.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: If you would like to participate in the 9th ANNUAL PHOTO ISSUE of the January 2012 REVUE, please send three of your HI-RES photos with caption/location and your name and website for the credit line to: photos@revuemag.com no later than December 10, 2011.

First weekend every month — BAZAAR: To benefit AWARE, motorcycle wear, a variety of articles and great American-style hamburgers and hot dogs. Centro Villa Bella, km 1.5 road to Ciudad Vieja #18-A, **La Antigua**.

DATEBOOK continues on page 36

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Retreat, hell! We're just advancing in another direction. —Oliver Prince Smith

I can't say as ever I was lost, but I was bewildered once for three days. —Daniel Boone

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Integral Heart cont. from page 14

under the age of 5 suffering from chronic malnutrition. They had to do something.


So the Integral Heart Foundation was formed. With its focus on helping children and their families, the organization is making a huge impact after only two years. “Our goal is to empower the resource-poor through advanced education,” Mick Quinn says.

The Integral Education Program teaches self confidence, responsibility, social skills and alternatives to crime, and provides a safe place to learn and grow—teaching the kids not what to think, but *how* to think.

“We also help with more immediate needs, providing food and clothing in addition to access to education. We are very excited about the Solar Home Light Project. We want to supply as many families as possible that do not have electricity with a solar

power lighting unit that provides five hours of light each night,” Quinn explains. “Imagine going home at night, and not having any light to cook or read by, no television or computer. This light allows the children to read school books and the parents to cook and do other chores.”

Working alongside the God’s Child Project and CasaSito, the Integral Heart Foundation is off to a good start: It has already found sponsors for 50 children; 37 students attend weekly Integral Education classes; and 19 solar units have been installed.

“We want to create sustainable change, showing the younger generation that they can break out of the cycle of poverty that they were born into,” Quinn explains. “Now, with cell phones and computers, we can introduce the resource-rich outside world to them for the first time so that together they can co-create a better life for themselves and for future generations.” 

For more information or to donate, visit www.integralheartfoundation.org, e-mail info@integralheartfoundation.org or call 7934-6190

The moment one gives close attention to any thing, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself.
—Henry Miller





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Is the glass half empty, half full, or twice
as large as it needs to be? —Wayne Jones



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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**.

Wednesdays, 5pm (Spanish) FILMS: A different film every week. Cooperación Española, (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

Wednesdays, 8pm — MUSIC: Entrevoz, acoustic band; Ladies Night 5-10pm. El Cadejo Tapas Bar (tel: 2337-4365), 5a av. 16-49, z.10, **Guatemala City**.



After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.

—Aldous Huxley

Thurs., 4-6pm — (English) SEMINARS: **6th:** *Manipulate Time*; **13th:** *Clairvoyance and Clairaudience*; **20th:** *Enjoying Change*; **27th:** *No Worries, Mate!* All classes are guaranteed. Contact Joy, tel: 4407-1221 email: experiencejoy.com Lutheran Center, 1a av. norte #35, **La Antigua**.

Saturdays, 2-4pm — RUGBY CLUB: Workouts every week, come and join us. Q15. Visit <http://rugby.com.gt/antigua> for more information. Centro Los Luteranos, 1a av. norte final, **La Antigua**.




Saturdays 4pm — (Spanish) CHILDREN'S MOVIES: Cine infantil. Cooperación Española, (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

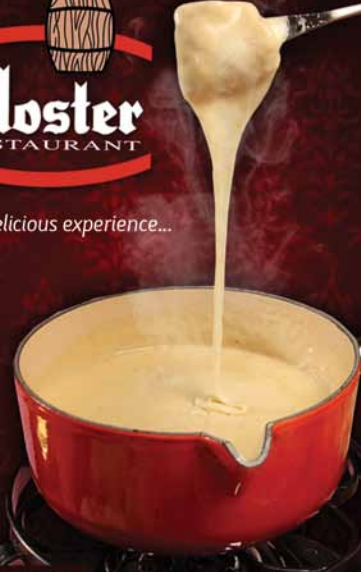
ALL MONTH — *Transnacional(es)*, as part of the festival Foto30, showing works by numerous photographers. Cooperación Española (tel: 7932-3838), 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle poniente, **La Antigua**.

PLAN AHEAD

1 Dec., 11am-10pm —FESTIVAL: Celebrating the renovation at the Museo La Cus-tre. The museum features pottery and stone works brought up from a sunken Mayan ceremonial center that was originally an island in Lake Atitlan. The festival will include daily activities, conferences on underwater archaeology, multi-media presentations and more. Info: www.eventosantiguaguatemala.com. Calle Santander (Posada de Don Rodrigo), **Panajachel, Lake Atitlán**.



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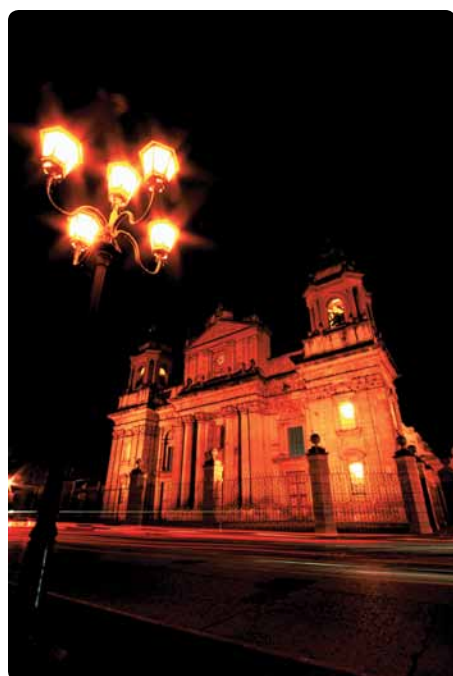
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(above) *Catedral Metropolitana* (below) *Caballos de la Plazuela* —Oscar Velásquez
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—Marcel Proust

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If one man offers you democracy and another
offers you a bag of grain, at what stage of
starvation will you prefer the grain to the vote?

—Bertrand Russell



Laguna Lachúa cont. from page 17

With all this and more, Laguna Lachúa is one of the most beautiful and tranquil tourist-friendly lagoons in Guatemala. But its remote location can be a challenge. It is located on the border between the departments of Alta Verapaz and Petén, only half an hour from Mexico but about 400 kilometers from La Antigua Guatemala and the Guatemalan capital and 100 kilometers from Cobán. While most of the road is paved, the last part after the village of Chisec will still take you over a dirt road.

From the entrance of the park it is another four-kilometer hike through the jungle to a landing bridge, a lodge and a campsite. The entrance is also the point where you can stock up on more water, basic food supplies and mosquito repellent. A porter can help carry your things into the park.

If you do want to stay at the lagoon overnight (highly recommended) there is a lodge, a kitchen and a rancho where you can set up your tent close to the landing bridge. There are restrooms and outdoor showers. Since capacity is limited, better check for availability beforehand by calling Israel, tel: 4084-1706.

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It is not enough for a man to know how to ride; he must know how to fall. —Mexican proverb



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PRESS RELEASE



RUSK shares technological development with instructors at INTECAP

Last month, RUSK shared its latest technological developments with 17 instructors from INTECAP (Technical Institute for Training and Productivity).

Over a three-day period of hands-on classes, RUSK stylist and educator Juan Pablo Ordóñez demonstrated what's new in colorimetry and hair texture transformation. RUSK has an international line of products using natural, active botanical ingredients with a focus on design and full protection for hair.

Sonia España, brand manager for RUSK, explained that the purpose of working through INTECAP was to train Guatemalan professionals in this new technology so they can pass along the knowledge.

Classes included the use of marine extracts, ammonia-free products, texture creation and hydration techniques.

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I am at the moment deaf in the ears, hoarse in the throat, red in the nose, green in the gills, damp in the eyes, twitchy in the joints and fractious in temper from a most intolerable and oppressive cold. —Charles Dickens

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—Dawn French

Everybody is a genius. But, if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life believing that it is stupid.
—Albert Einstein



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



Question: We have a 4-year-old grandson and our daughter allows her dog to lick his face, eat food off of his fork, etc. We are concerned that the dog could transmit a disease to our grandson. What is your opinion?

Although our dogs are members of our families, we have to remember that their concept of hygiene is different from ours. Dogs can and do pick up and transmit parasites and other germs that can harm children. Even in their own secured yard, dogs can come into contact with feces, dead animals, rotten food, etc. While this doesn't mean that children should avoid dogs and all the wonderful benefits of the human-dog relationship, it does mean that we should teach our children to practice good hygiene when they live with dogs. This includes not sharing contact with the same food items and avoiding intentional contact with a dog's saliva. Any person, and especially children, should wash their hands after playing with a dog before eating.

Guatemala, the land of the eternal spring, is also the land of the eternal parasite. Climate conditions are so perfect that parasites of all types abound. Puppies and young dogs are the most prone to parasites and should be dewormed every two months, especially important when children are present. Adult dogs imported from another country should be dewormed every three months because they do not have inherited or acquired protection against the local parasites. Adult dogs, born in Guatemala, should be dewormed every six months. If your dog has the habit of eating dead things, he will need more frequent dewormings.

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—Phyllis Diller

Just because you're miserable doesn't mean
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Whenever I feel like exercise, I lie down until
the feeling passes. —Robert M. Hutchins

I really don't think I need buns of steel. I'd be happy
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It doesn't hurt to be optimistic. You can always cry later. —Lucimar Santos de Lima

Some people are so fond of ill-luck that they run halfway to meet it. —Douglas Jerrold



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—Nicholas Murray Butler

Pessimist: One who, when he has the choice of two evils, chooses both. —Oscar Wilde



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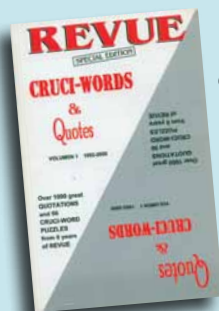
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 —Imbisi's Conservation of Filth Law

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International School cont. from page 19

The new school also fills a void in the community, she added. “Antigua is so rich in culture, people and history, but what’s been missing is a high-quality education. AIS promises to offer a world-class educational experience with excellent teachers, challenging curriculum and an integrative learning process.”

It was the opportunity to launch an innovative, diverse school that lured Pastore back to Antigua—he taught at Colegio Maya in the 1990s. “One of the reasons I came here was because I already knew what Antigua was like,” he said. “No one’s really done a true 21st century school that’s student centered and focused on active learning.”

With oversight from a well-traveled, highly educated and passionate board of directors, AIS will be a student-driven, bilingual learning center built on a foundation of robust communication among parents, teachers, students and staff, Pastore said.

“I’m built on the four ‘Fs’—fair, firm, flexible and fun,” he added.

Fluent in English, Spanish and Italian, Pastore amassed his expertise over the years as a teacher and administrator at international schools in the Americas and Europe. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English and education from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s in administration from the College of New Jersey. Pastore spent nine of the past 11 years in Italy as a headmaster and principal; he’s also been a school principal in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and most recently on the island of Antigua in the West Indies.

At AIS, the core curriculum consists of


math, science, social studies and language arts taught in English with a strong emphasis on Spanish language for 25% of the academic day. Community service will be emphasized, and the arts and athletics will be incorporated directly into the curriculum.

“We also want to make sure the children know where they live and appreciate all the good things about Guatemala,” Pastore said. “Kids may hear a lot of negatives, but there’s a lot of good. ... As they get older they can apply Guatemala as the base for the rest of the world.”

In short, Pastore and the international team of teachers want to create memories—the good kind that will last long after a pyrotechnic science experiment, a role in a school play or an amazing field trip.

“We want to see the kindergartners and first-graders lined up wearing big rubber boots and planting trees and shrubs and then watching them grow, taking data over 12 to 13 years, and showing them off after graduation,” Pastore said.

During its opening year, Antigua International School—a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) institution—will be housed in El Cortijo de las Flores, five minutes from Antigua on the road to Ciudad Vieja. Opening day, Nov. 7, will begin with a festive welcome for students, parents and visitors before students file into their classrooms.

The permanent campus will be built at Finca Medina on the outskirts of Antigua, in time for the 2012-2013 school year. 

*For more information: www.antiguais.org,
email info@antiguais or call 7832-0168*

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October 2nd to 8th

International peace-building group now in Guatemala



(SASKIA SCHUITEMAKER)

An international gathering of facilitators for the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) will be held **Oct. 2-8** in La Antigua Guatemala at Posada Belen. Approximately 100 attendees from 20 countries are expected, and the gathering will be fully bilingual (English and Spanish).

AVP began in 1975 in New York's Green Haven prison, where inmates requested the assistance of Quakers (members of the Religious Society of Friends) in developing workshops to help them decrease prison violence. AVP developed as a series of experiential three-day workshops that are now offered in over 50 countries, in prisons, churches, schools, community groups, etc. Active in Guatemala since 2003, AVP is expanding its reach through partnerships with NGOs and other groups that want to promote peaceful resolution of conflict and improved human relationships.


There are around 15 Guatemalan facilitators and a coordinator, Saskia Schuitemaker, who is an international volunteer living in Antigua. An international NGO, Friends Peace Teams, supports much of the AVP work in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Colombia in addition to Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Congo. AVP's African counterparts

have developed workshops to reconcile communities after violence, and this program of community-based trauma healing has been translated and adapted to Latin America, starting in Colombia. Last year these workshops began in Central America.

"All that we learned, I can apply in my home because I have a very difficult living situation. But thanks to this workshop, I learned that things can be solved without violence, and with love," said an AVP participant from San Lucas, Toliman, Guatemala.

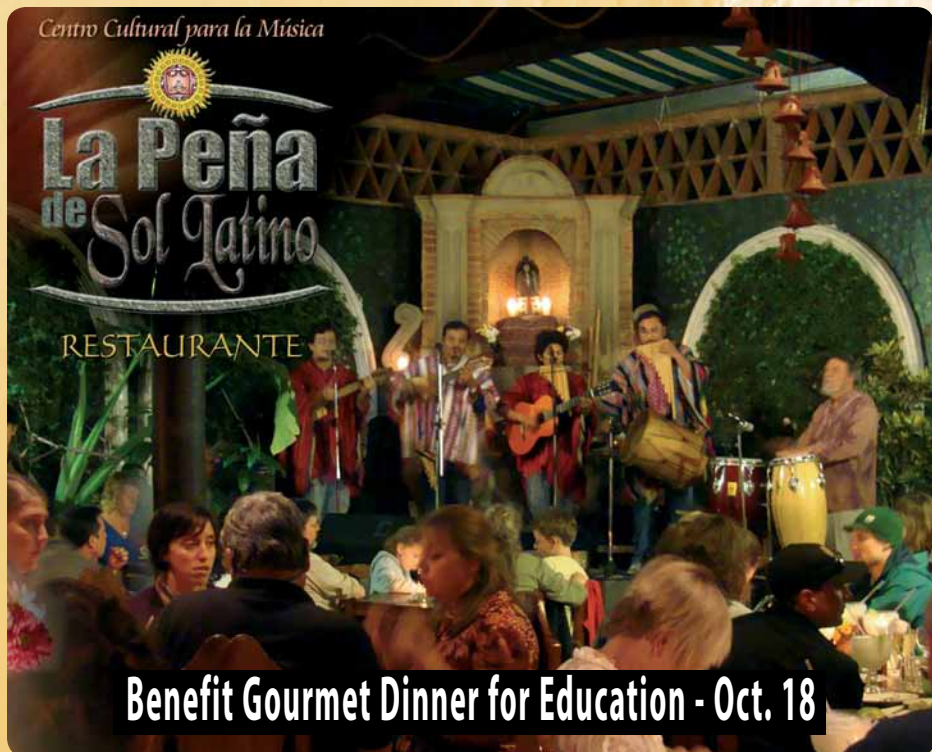
The general public may attend the afternoon and evening sessions on Oct. 5. There will be a poster session/project fair (where AVP groups will be available to talk to individuals about the work in their countries) followed by a program for visitors that will include an international panel of speakers. In the evening there will be a panel, "Transforming Our Communities," on peacemaking work with displaced people, civilian resistance and preventing violence related to elections.

There will also be an AVP presentation at **5 p.m. Oct. 4** at Rainbow Café in Antigua.

To attend the Oct. 5th public sessions, contact Val Liveoak at 4650-6800 or Saskia Schuitemaker at 4086-5314. RSVP is required by Oct. 3. For more information visit www.avpinternational.org. 

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Oct 18 - Gourmet dinner prepared by our new Chef Pierre to benefit CasaSito's education programs. Menu on page 25.

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Community Action Press Release:

Democrats Abroad, La Antigua Guatemala

We held a successful Labor Day picnic on September 3rd. Around 50 members and guests attended. The food was good picnic fare, the drink was plentiful, and the friendship and fellowship even more plentiful. We were also treated to some excellent weather with but a few drops of rain before midday and a nice clear day for the remainder of the event.

Some inspiring and motivating words about the important role labor unions have played in making the USA the great country it is were shared by our chair, Mary Lou Ridinger. Mary Lou also led us in singing a few bars of union lyrics, to commemorate the day even more.

The Executive Committee of Democrats Abroad Guatemala wishes to thank everyone for their support.



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Mesón Panza Verde's Silver Anniversary



“**Y**ou can buy it as your house or buy it as a business—either way it’s the same price!” said Hartmut Zersch, the previous owner. With that agreed to, Mesón Panza Verde, La Antigua Guatemala’s first European-style bed and breakfast which opened in 1986, had two new owners: Laurel Jacobson and Bruce McCowan.

For the first half dozen years after assuming ownership in October 1992, Laurel (who decided to keep it running as a business) was in charge since Bruce was still commuting to New York City, trying to escape the buzzing sound of Wall Street.

They raised two beautiful girls, Tara and Kendra, and built a successful business, which is now known as an Antigua institution. Throughout all this time Antigua has always been home, and either Laurel or Bruce or both were very much in evidence.

As anyone who has been to Panza Verde knows, its signature is good design and good taste. Laurel was the principle designer, but Bruce lays claim to the stone stairways and Park Avenue-style glass doors in La Cueva, which was a major addition to the original building in 2002.

La Cueva created one-third more restaurant space plus a stage for music several nights a week. Laurel’s interest for art and yoga inspired the yoga studio/art gallery, where monthly art shows and daily yoga classes take place. Also at this time the hotel was doubled by adding six beautiful new suites, each with extraordinary baths. The ambiance is eclectic Spanish Colonial, with

a marked Moroccan influence. As one friend notes, “the newest part looks the oldest.”

Their latest undertaking is Villas B’alam Ya, a beautiful four-villa property that opened last December at Lake Atitlán. Located lakeside at Km 4 on the road to Santa Catarina Palopó, it is the perfect weekend or weeklong, full-service getaway. Each villa has unobstructed views of the lake and the surrounding volcanoes. Visitors can swim, kayak and learn to row a sculling hull or simply relax in a tropical garden with numerous private spaces to read, enjoy the abundant bird life, do yoga or meditate.

For Laurel, the business is all about creative design, compelling atmosphere, good food and service. For Bruce, his passion is really about Panza Verde’s great food and the fun. They are a good team!

In honor of the 25th anniversary, Panza Verde will have specials on wine, gourmet dishes and hotel rooms throughout October.

Every day of the month there will be a free appetizer offered so diners will get to know different items on the menu. In addition, there will be a grand anniversary performance-art party on **Oct. 29** starting at 7 p.m. This will be a fun event where many performance artists will have cameo acts throughout the evening. A Cuban jazz band will provide dance music. The Q100 entrance fee covers drinks and hors d’oeuvres. The staff of Panza Verde thanks all of you for 25 years of patronage. 🍷

Check www.panzaverde.com for specials or more information.



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In 1946 Gore Vidal purchased the property adjacent to the elaborate façade of the Church of El Carmen

Mystery tantalizes the memory of Amelia Earhart, who disappeared somewhere over the Pacific during her attempted flight around the globe in 1937, piloting her twin-engine plane with only a navigator aboard. The world watched and waited as communication broke, came again, broke again and eventually fell silent. In the early days of aviation, Earhart's gutsy solo flight across the Atlantic in 1932 and support of women aviators and other feminist causes won her popularity.

That popularity and tantalizing memory would find its way into a colonial church ruin in La Antigua Guatemala.

Amelia Earhart's public was devastated that July night in 1937, but none so much as the boy who called himself Gore. Born Eu-

gene Luther Gore Vidal at the United States West Point Military Academy Hospital in 1925, he chose to be called Gore after his maternal grandfather, Thomas Gore, democratic senator from Oklahoma. Growing up in Washington D.C., young Gore often read aloud to his grandpa, who was blind, while absorbing political philosophies.

Amelia Earhart also became very special to the boy. Gore's father, according to biographer Susan Butler, was the great love of her life. They never married, but the pair worked together to further passenger air travel, while their romance sizzled. During that time, the boy Gore became fond of Amelia and found in her a substitute mother. Gore's mother, an ...continued page 84



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Fridas celebrates 16 years



Fridas owners Lola Aycinena and Maggie Mondragón

What started out as a tiny neighborhood taqueria with only two tables celebrates its 16th anniversary this month as well as a prestigious honor from Trip Advisor.

Now a dining favorite with 30 tables in La Antigua Guatemala, Fridas Cocina Mexicana & Bar serves authentic Mexican cuisine seven days a week in a spacious location at Calle del Arco #29, just a few steps north of the Santa Catalina Arch.

Indicating positive reviews from its patrons, Fridas last month received a Certificate of Excellence for 2011 from Trip Advisor.


Long before Frida became a pop icon, the artist-wife of muralist Diego Rivera had already been a favorite of restaurant co-founders Maggie Mondragón and Lola Aycinena. In fact, they used Frida posters and memorabilia from their own homes to decorate the original location on 4a calle poniente when it opened in 1995.

“We opened a small bar with stools down each side, two tables in the center and the grill in back where we cooked the beans and made the tacos, burritos and nachos,” Lola recalled.

“Like most people opening a business, we never knew what to expect. But we were

really packed—of course, it was small, it was easy to be packed,” Maggie said. “Maybe it was our margaritas, maybe it was our enthusiasm, maybe it was our lucky star, but after the first three months, we were counting the money and we said, ‘Wow, we sold a lot of margaritas last night!’”

In 1996, about a year after opening, Lola and Maggie moved Fridas to its present location near the landmark arch. In 1998, they opened El Atico lounge upstairs in the same location. The place looks better than ever after remodeling in 2010 following a fire that affected neighboring Nim-Pot and the former Librería el Pensativo.

Just as seating has expanded, so has the menu, still offering mouth-watering tacos but also such cuisine as cochinita pibil, mole poblano and crepes with huitlacoche (a real Mexican delicacy), with home delivery available, too. There’s live music on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and Thursdays come with an added bonus—two-for-one margaritas and mojitos. There are different *ofertas* all the other weekdays, too. The kitchen usually opens at 11 a.m. *Salud!* 

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Day of the Dead brings a Guatemalan spectacle

The month of November begins with one of Guatemala's most colorful traditions, *El Día de Los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), celebrated in large and small scale throughout the country in connection with the Catholic holidays of All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2. In one Highlands community, a unique horse race adds a festive element to the holiday.

For over 100 years, one of the biggest celebrations has taken place on Nov. 1 in the predominantly Kaqchikel town of Santiago Sacatepéquez, 25 kilometers from La Antigua Guatemala, where giant circular kites, up to 15 meters (50 feet) in diameter, along with hundreds of smaller ones, take flight.

With intricate designs and color, the kites symbolize communication between the living and their deceased ancestors and illustrate the devotion of Guatemalan families to traditions and customs.

Teams of kite makers started working weeks ago, gathering bamboo and other raw materials that become the round frame, to be finished off with delicate tissue paper and long tails, which are said to scare away evil spirits. Prizes will be awarded for design, themes and much more.

In contrast to the grand display at Santiago Sacatepéquez, modest observances take place across the country, as families gather in local cemeteries to honor their departed loved ones. Relatives bring flowers, beads, candles, ornaments and other decorations in a day of reflection and togetherness.

As their kites flutter aloft, the families also share the traditional meal *fiambre*, a cold dish that is served only on this occasion. Some recipes call for more than 50 ingredients, including a variety of meats, fish, cheese, eggs and an assortment of vegetables cured in vinegar.

A related tradition occurs in the Western Highlands community of Todos Santos Cuchumatán on Nov. 1 when the drunken horse race takes place. Don't worry, the horses are totally sober—it's the riders who imbibe.

After every lap, the costumed riders stop for a quick drink of sugar-cane distilled alcohol. The race continues either until the jockeys' injuries get out of control or simply the last man remains standing while his competitors are thoroughly intoxicated.

In whatever community you choose, make sure you experience the rich traditions occurring in early November. **R**

Dándole sabor a las tradiciones antiguas



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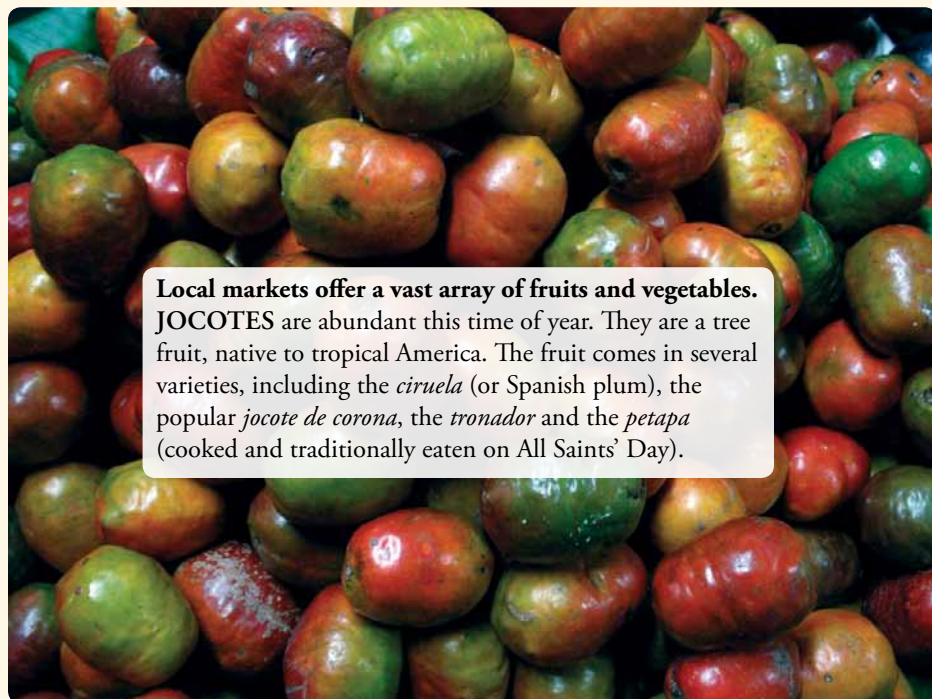


Coffee makes me invincible. But when the cup is empty, I return to mere mortal. —Terri Guillemets

Sleep is a symptom of caffeine deprivation. —author unknown

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. —Alex Levine

At the Mercado



Local markets offer a vast array of fruits and vegetables. JOCOTES are abundant this time of year. They are a tree fruit, native to tropical America. The fruit comes in several varieties, including the *ciruela* (or Spanish plum), the popular *jocote de corona*, the *tronador* and the *petapa* (cooked and traditionally eaten on All Saints' Day).



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A morning without coffee is like sleep.
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Life is a shipwreck but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats. —Voltaire



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Way too much coffee. But if it weren't
for the coffee, I'd have no
identifiable personality whatsoever.
—David Letterman



I believe humans get a lot done, not
because we're smart, but because we
have thumbs so we can make coffee.
—Flash Rosenberg





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ASK ELIZABETH

by Elizabeth Bell
AUTHOR/HISTORIAN

How do the police agencies work & how do I reach them?

Authorities request that **EVERYONE** report crimes to make our cities safer. There are a few different police agencies. Here is information nationwide and specifically for La Antigua Guatemala.

The PNC—Policía Nacional Civil—is the main national police force and is within the Ministry of Government. The police commissary also reports to the governor of each department. You will see them around the country in black uniforms and black pick-ups. They are in charge of making arrests for criminal activities and working with the local civil and criminal courts for jail sentences. The PNC is also found on national highways. **Call 9734-6424 nationwide or 110 for emergencies. In Antigua, call 7934-6426 or 7934-6522.**

An important branch of the PNC is USETUR (Unidad de Seguridad Turística), which also works hand-in-hand with the Guatemalan Tourism Commission (INGUAT). **Call 2269-0041 nationwide.** They are in charge of looking for lost tourists and work with ASISTUR (Tourist As-

sistance), which has offices at the same location. **For ASISTUR call 1500 or 2421-2810 nationwide**—open 24 hours.

The PMT—Policía Municipal de Tránsito—was set up a few years ago for each city to regulate traffic. Each city's PMT is within the municipal government. Dressed in black and bright green uniforms, they direct city traffic and impose fines. They also post fines and puts boots—known as *cepos*—on vehicles but rarely tow vehicles, unless, of course, the vehicle is in the way of a procession.

Antigua's Police

There is a Security Council in Antigua with residents that meets with local and national authorities, including the mayor of Antigua and INGUAT, to deal with specific issues.

Antigua also has a special Plan Cuadrante Seguridad Preventiva program through the PNC. The historical center has been divided into 10 areas with more than 90 police officers dressed in black and bright orange vests assigned to each area. ...continued page 76

POLICÍA NACIONAL CIVIL - Nationwide Emergency Number dial 110
or call 9734-6424. For the PNC in Antigua call 7934-6426 or -6522

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As far as the Moon is concerned, he is always full.
—Terri Guillemets

There's no such thing as bragging. You're either lying or telling the truth. —Al Oliver

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Ask Elizabeth cont. from page 74

Each business should know its *cuadrante* and the emergency phone number to call. There are 10 phone numbers to assure the fastest response. **For more information call 4206-1664** and they will visit your business to provide more information.

Since Antigua is the city most visited by tourists in Guatemala, local authorities also set up the Policía Municipal de Turismo within the municipal government. This was a joint effort by the mayor and local businesses in the 1990s. They are located behind the market (Calle de la Recolección) and help in deterring pickpockets, whom they turn over to the PNC for arrest. The Policía Municipal de Turismo also works with USETUR and ASISTUR. **For the Policía Municipal de Turismo call 7968-5303, 24 hours.** 

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A light supper, a good night's sleep, and a fine morning have often made a hero of the same man who by indigestion, a restless night, and a rainy morning, would have proved a coward.

—Earl of Chesterfield

A pessimist sees only the dark side of the clouds, and mopes; a philosopher sees both sides, and shrugs; an optimist doesn't see the clouds at all, he's walking on them.

—Leonard Louis Levinson



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I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

—Betty Tangor



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Por el Amor de Milo



Milo y su familia celebran su cumpleaños.

Él llegó a mi vida una tarde de verano mientras estaba en el trabajo. Lo llevaban escondido debajo de una chumpa. Al verlo fue amor a primera vista. Se miraba tan tierno y lloriqueaba porque tenía frío. Nunca me imaginé que este pequeño labrador amarillo de dos meses iba a llegar a ser mi mejor compañía y mi inspiración. Después de que me casé, mi esposo y yo decidimos comprar un perrito para completar la nueva familia. Ese día cuando ya era nuestro, oficialmente, fuimos a gastar una fortuna al supermercado en todos los implementos que conlleva darle la bienvenida a un perro: concentrado, un plato para su comida, correas, juguetes, shampoo, cepillos, etc.

Una noche mi esposo sacó la basura y Milo salió corriendo detrás de él. Un carro que no lo vio lo atropelló. Al oír la conmoción, salí a ver que estaba pasando y al verlo debajo del carro jadeando me descompué. Nunca voy a olvidar el dolor que este indefenso animal sin duda sentía. En shock, lo llevamos de emergencia al veterinario en donde por fortuna lo curaron y le enyesaron la pata quebrada. El doctor nos indicó que debido a la fractura tan severa que tenía era posible que Milo cojeara de por vida. No importaba ¡estaba vivo! Aunque su recuperación fue lenta, Milo se recuperó y aunque

a veces arrastra su patita, es un perro sumamente fuerte y saludable.

Fue hasta meses más tarde que entendí el significado de este accidente, pero sé que tuvo un impacto muy fuerte en mí. Desde entonces no soporto ver a un perro lastimado o siendo maltratado y es por eso que ahora rescato perros de la calle. Estos animalitos indefensos son un regalo de Dios y la raza humana en su ignorancia les ha hecho mucho daño. He visto el agradecimiento de estos animales en sus ojos al ver que una mano amiga les brinda cariño, comida y un refugio. Siempre mi mirada está atenta a encontrar a algún animal en pena al que pueda ayudar.

Milo tiene ya cinco años y es un miembro importante de la familia. El fuerte movimiento de su colita y un ladrido me dan la bienvenida todos los días, llueva, truene o relampaguee. Su entusiasmo hace que mi día empiece y termine mejor. Ha sido mi amigo en los días buenos y en los malos. Su mirada me dice que entiende lo que está pasando y gracias a él puedo ser de beneficio para otros perritos en necesidad. Él me enseñó el significado de la fidelidad, el amor incondicional y la bondad. 🐾

*Quetzaltenango Animal Shelter, ref:
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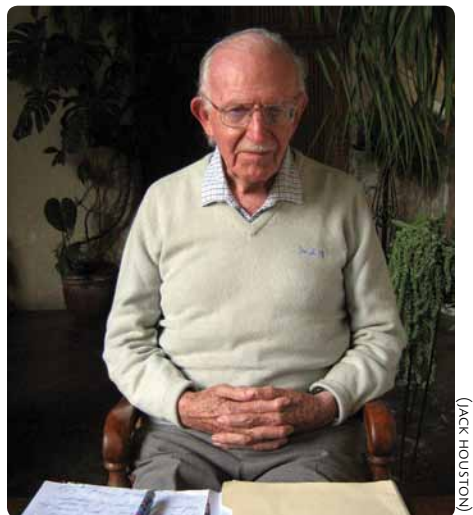
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In the long run the pessimist may be proved right,
but the optimist has a better time on the trip.

—Daniel L. Reardon

Dr. Johnny Long

1920 - 2011



To those who knew and loved him in La Antigua Guatemala, he was Johnny. It was the name coined by colleagues at Duke University School of Medicine when the name given him in 1920, Ernest Croft Long, did not easily roll off the tongue. He joined the Duke faculty in 1956, having graduated from the University of London and lectured at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School from 1954-1956. He had also served in the British Royal Air Force during World War II.

At Duke, Dr. Long studied pediatrics, taught community health sciences, was associate dean of medical student affairs, then associate dean of undergraduate medical education and chair of the Committee on International Studies, as well as director of Project Med-Aid, a Duke radio consultative program which used radio communications to assist isolated doctors in other countries.

A man of many talents, Johnny followed his interest in international health on a sabbatical year to Guatemala in 1971. As a member of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and sponsored by The Rockefeller Foundation, he worked on developing a training program to provide basic health care in remote, rural

areas of the country. He negotiated the gift of the Hospital Quiriguá, built by United Fruit Company in 1913 and abandoned in 1960, to the Guatemala Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance to be refurbished for the training center. "In many places the grass and undergrowth had risen to shoulder height...a few cows and horses were grazing in the tangle," wrote Johnny.

"It was covered in mildew and moss," adds Cynthia Burski, now a veterinarian, who also worked for USAID. "For the next seven years he became not only my mentor but a very good friend. Johnny had a 'hands on' approach to everything." She recalls an event during the process of securing the old hospital: "There he was, entertaining everybody in his dignified manner, convincing them of the need for the program, while waiters in white gloves and formal jackets served aspic in 100-degree heat!" Johnny recorded the story of the hospital in *The Beloved Doctor Macphail of Quiriguá*, published in 2006.

"The project had a tremendous impact," states Elizabeth Bell, a local cultural authority. "It revived that area of the country. He was a real pioneer." Elizabeth remembers meeting Johnny when she first came to Antigua as a teenager. Always the gentleman, "He loved to engage in ...continued page 82



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I would not exchange my leisure hours for all the wealth in the world. —Comte de Mirabeau

The real problem of leisure time is how to keep others from using yours. —Arthur Lacey



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Most people like hard work. Particularly when they are paying for it. —Franklin P. Jones

I am pushing sixty. That is enough exercise for me. —Mark Twain



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Dr. Long cont. from page 80

in-depth conversation, but not small talk. It wasn't about him; he talked about concepts and projects."

Guatemala had gotten a grip on Johnny, and he stayed. After the earthquake in February 1976, he led the USAID medical aid effort, identifying a location to serve as headquarters for treatment and distribution of supplies. He also worked for Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), expanding his efforts toward sustainable advances in healthcare education programs and humanitarian assistance.

During his medical career, Dr. Long authored dozens of scientific articles. It was only after retirement—if that word can be used honestly when speaking of Johnny—that he began to write fiction. Jane Swezey, who joined Johnny in writing groups for years, remembers the "fun and delight in his creations which gave us such joy." His book *Fiambre Chapín*, published in 2009, is a collection of those writings, to which he referred as "musings and meanderings."


Also in retirement he became the first actor to speak on the stage of the cultural

center El Sitio. *The Importance of Being Ernest* opened with Johnny's back to the audience. "He kept the audience waiting while he featherdusted a portrait on the wall, then took his time picking up a handkerchief and finally slowly turning around—capturing everyone's attention. He loved doing things like that!" laughs his wife, Annette.

In fact, "His sense of humor" is Carole Wilson's response when remembering Johnny. She quickly adds a list of other attributes and tells of Johnny's dedication to the group in which they worked together to establish a library in Antigua in the mid 1990s. "He did all the computer work and was a daily presence." The Duane Carter Library continues to function, a valuable resource for students. Carole also notes that Johnny was a good cook and names his mango chutney as outstanding.

Johnny took cooking classes from Audrey Buderus in Antigua and had many favorites. But her chocolate mousse recipe became his specialty.

Among his recent passions were the December productions of *El Grinch*, to bring the British tradition of pantomime to Antigua. Debora du Flon, Johnny's longtime friend who worked with the team of Antiguénos, says, "When the children heard the news they said, 'Christmas won't be the same without Johnny.' He made the season so special." Johnny himself summed it up best: "The message of *El Grinch* is clear. Good triumphs over evil, and humor lightens the load of life."

Words to live by. And he did. Johnny, Dr. E. Croft Long, passed away peacefully on September 2, 2011, but his memory will live on for a long, long time. 

Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome. —Isaac Asimov



The image shows a cozy interior space with stone walls, a wooden coffee table with a vase of white flowers, two wooden chairs with striped cushions, and a colorful patterned rug. A large potted plant is visible on the left. A circular logo for 'Casa Quinta Hotel Boutique' is overlaid on the top left. A circular seal on the bottom right reads 'JACQUES NAST JOHANNES RECOMMENDED'.

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The image shows a bedroom with a large bed featuring a black metal headboard and a red blanket. There are several pillows, a small sofa, and a large stone bathtub in the background. The walls are painted in a warm, earthy tone. The logo for 'Hotel Los Pasos Antigua Guatemala' is on the left. Contact information is on the right.

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Lured to La Antigua from page 64

actress and socialite, had divorced his dad in 1935 to marry wealthy stockbroker Hugh Auchincloss, later stepfather of Jackie Kennedy.


Gore grew up and, after serving in World War II, began to write novels. In 1946 he moved to Guatemala and bought a piece of property adjacent to the ruins of the Church of El Carmen, including what was the sacristy. Little is known of the church's history, but a simple hermitage built to shelter an image of the Virgin Mary was destroyed by earthquake in 1717 and replaced with an elaborate baroque structure, the façade of which remains one of the most photographed in La Antigua Guatemala. Royal edict declared that the convent for the Capuchin nuns

would be established there. But the place was deemed unsuitable when the nuns arrived in 1726, and a new site was purchased.

Vidal hired architect and artist Pat Crocker to make the place livable. Crocker's paintings are well-known in Antigua, and he also edited one of Vidal's novels. Among Gore Vidal's orders was a fireplace 'with no flat surfaces', so the typical straight line Antigua style was scratched for a flamboyant curvilinear design. A later owner, who bought the house from Vidal, told this writer that Gore wanted to be sure there was no mantle for a photo of his mother.

Gore Vidal lived and wrote in his Antigua house from 1947 to 1949. He then turned to the more lucrative writing for screen, stage and then booming TV. He flirted with politics, returned to novels and became an outspoken and controversial essayist, historian, analyst and activist. His family provided a wealth of political and social connections to feed his prolific writing. After spending years in his Italian villa, he lives today in the United States.

Meanwhile, scientists examine findings on a remote island in the Pacific. Could Amelia Earhart have landed and lived out her life there?

Gore Vidal, who brought along his own intimate and affectionate memory of Amelia Earhart, represents the stream of writers and artists, archeologists and anthropologists, historians, adventurers, diplomats, freethinkers and just plain nice folk who have been lured by Antigua. 



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Every man regards his own life as the New Year's Eve of time. —Jean Paul Richter

If you cry "Forward," you must make plain in what direction to go. —Anton Chekov



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La Trinidad waterfall (left) and El Refugio del Quetzal (right) are both near San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta.

San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta

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Lying at the base of the Sierra Madre mountain range, San Rafael, a small community founded in 1850, also has much to offer year-round, including:

- El Refugio del Quetzal (Quetzal Refuge), an 8,000-square-kilometer preserve owned and managed by ...cont. page 92

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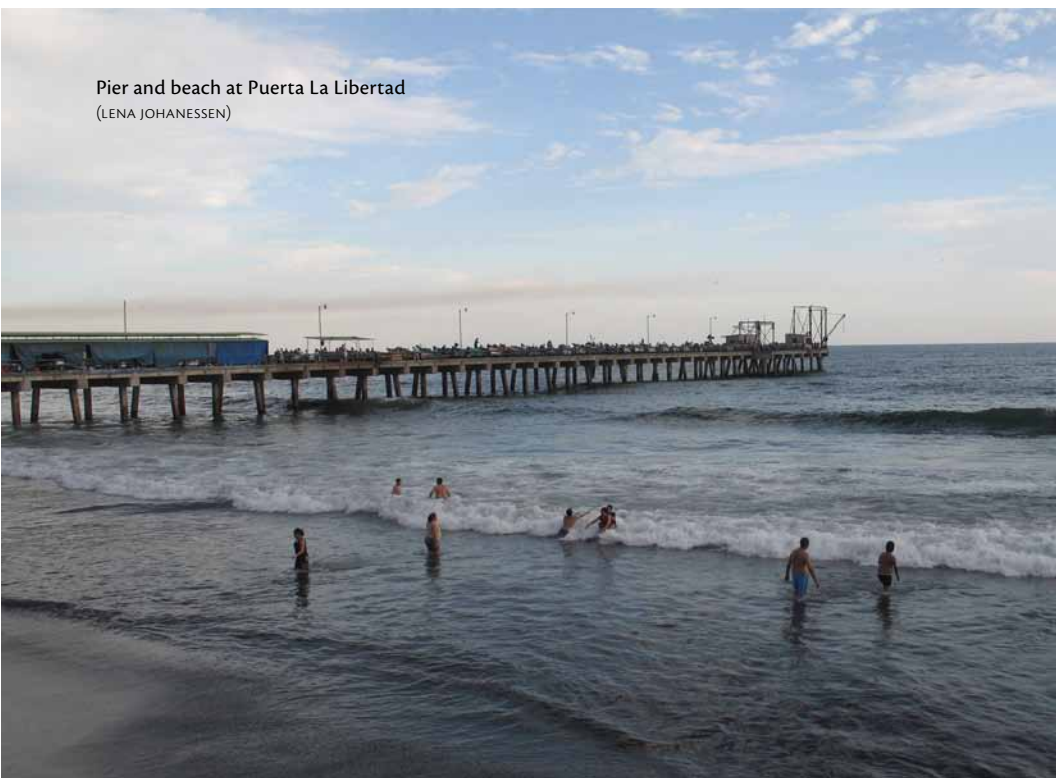


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Fun at the Fair

Panajachel to host patron saint festivities in October

St. Francis of Assisi was, among other things, the patron of animals and the environment. So it is fitting that fair week in the city named for him, San Francisco Panajachel, will include a ceremony to bless the animals. The environment will also be a theme, with many organizations involved in the reclamation of Lake Atitlán maintaining booths to disseminate literature about their activities and to recruit volunteers.

Although *chingolingo* (carnival games) and confectionary booths have been going up since Sept. 17 (the date St. Francis attained the stigmata), the fair is only fully

under way beginning **Oct. 1**. The saint's own day, Oct. 4, is the height of the festivities; the final full day is Oct. 7. Plenty of lodging choices are available; the same is true for shopping and dining, a special plus given that Panajachel has at least one of every kind of restaurant.

There will also be an abundance of *feria* traditions, including the art and beauty contests sponsored by Dr. Gerardo Barroero. Ferris wheels and other rides, games of chance and skill, *típico* sweets and cuisine, and open-air entertainment (including deer dancers) are all on the program. 



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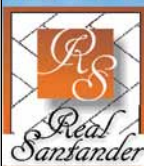


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—George Gordon Byron

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San Rafael cont. from page 86

the community. A birder's paradise, the refuge is just a 10-minute ride from San Rafael and is home to more than 70 avian species. To visit, call Saúl Sandoval, park manager, a day in advance: 5885-1287.

• La Trinidad waterfall, a scenic *catarata* that plunges 125 meters or more down a mountainside. After about a 20-minute hike up a mountain trail, visitors can enjoy a scenic vista overlooking a lush valley across to the falls.

• Coffee fincas galore. Some 35 major coffee fincas export to Canada, Japan, the United States and elsewhere. One of the oldest, Finca Santa Julia, provides 45 cottages for employees and their families, as well as a quaint, colorful chapel.

San Rafael is also home to a new, modern hotel, Hotel Victorias, with amenities including an inviting swimming pool, bar and restaurant. The comfortable, air-conditioned rooms have private baths, hot water and cable TV. 



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Sacred Animals cont. from page 18

the binominal of caiman) is using the typical North American fantasy that since there are alligators in Florida and crocodiles in Africa, that the Maya had only alligators in the region.

Other misidentifications

Since most Mayan scholars don't live with a crocodile or caiman in their home, it is not surprising that these reptiles are often innocently misidentified. Several of the supposed crocodiles in Mayan murals are much more likely iguanas or other lizards.

Part of the cause for misidentifications is that many creatures in Mayan art are composites: part of one creature with attributes of another.

Yes, you can find surprisingly realistic crocodiles or caiman (the crocodile trees of Izapa, Chiapas, are pretty naturalistic for the body scales), but most crocodiles have distorted scrolled snouts and exaggerated

supraorbital plates. Actually, "dragon" is a term that is not always inappropriate.

Pejelagarto

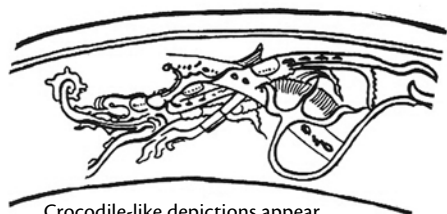
The pejelagarto, alligator gar fish, *Atractosteus tropicus*, looks more prehistoric than anything in Classic Mayan art. Fish do occur in Early Classic and Late Classic art (usually nibbling on a water lily pod), but I would be hard put to recognize a pejelagarto in Mayan murals or vase paintings.

Frankly, there is nothing on this fish (other than a long snout full of teeth) that even vaguely reminds me of an alligator. The spots are more feline-like than crocodilian.

Crocodiles in the Popol Vuh

Zipacana was the reptile who was one of the offspring of 7 Macaw (the false sun bird deity). This crocodile or alligator is already well known and the entire story is available in the many translations of the Popol Vuh.

...continued page 96



Crocodile-like depictions appear in Mayan myth and artifacts.



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Sacred Animals cont. from page 94

Crocodiles in the stone sculpture of Copan, Honduras

Stela C at Copan clearly shows the top of the entire head with snout and teeth of a crocodile or caiman. Also the Copan Altar T has one or two crocodile-like creatures. Plus, there are several three-dimensional sculptures that have traditionally been considered as stylized crocodiles.

Crocodile sculptures along the Rio Usumacinta: Piedras Negras and Yaxchilan

At Piedras Negras, the natural rock outcrop that overlooks the Rio Usumacinta is in the form of a large saurian creature. At Yaxchilan you can also find representations of crocodiles or caimans, not surprising since Yaxchilan also fronts the Rio Usumacinta, a river filled with reptiles.

Crocodile remains found in royal Maya burials

Early Classic Burial 10 at Tikal included the remains of a crocodile and turtles. If you are a zooarchaeologist, surely you know the location of more archaeological finds of crocodilian remains in caches or burials.

...continued page 98

A child on a farm sees a plane fly overhead and dreams of a faraway place. A traveler on the plane sees the farmhouse below and dreams of home.

—Robert Brault

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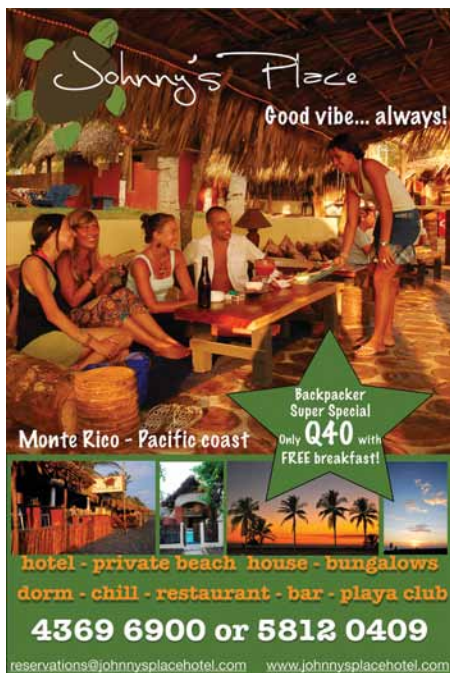
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Beyond passion...

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—Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach

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—Bern Williams

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Sacred Animals cont. from page 96

Crocodile monsters as ceramic figurines

Louise Belanger, illustrator for the Lamanai Archaeological Project in Belize, has done many drawings of crocodilian figurines from the Mayan site of Lamanai. This Mayan city is next to a river that would have been filled with crocodiles 1,000 years ago (rivers in Belize still have crocodiles today). Indeed the name of the site is considered to mean "Submerged Crocodile."

Heritage of crocodiles in the pre-Mayan art of the Olmec

F. Kent Reilly, Professor of Anthropology, shows examples of Olmec art with crocodilian representations. So it is not surprising to find crocodilians in the art of the Izapan culture, which is geographically and in time roughly partway between the Olmec and the Classic Maya. However, I am not convinced that the alligator gar fish is present in Olmec or Mayan art. 🐊

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). To view the list of sacred animals visit www.maya-archaeology.org or contact Dr. Hellmuth at frontdesk@flaar.org

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An optimist is someone who figures that if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's the bluebird of happiness. —Robert Brault

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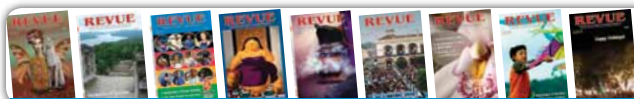
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1 Acre = .4047 hectare

1 Acre = 4047 mt²

1 Acre = 5645.4 varas²

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1 mt² = 10.764 ft²

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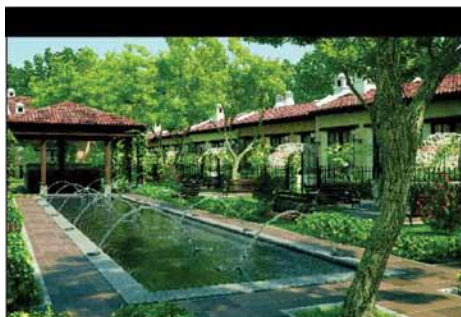
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Too many people miss the silver lining because
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Here's to Bartenders Without Borders

Scrambling into the back of a pickup truck, wielding a machete and setting off into the Guatemalan countryside to build stuff: Now *that* sounds like an excellent way of spending a Saturday in La Antigua Guatemala. Or, at least, the local bartending population certainly seemed to think so.

Trading shot glasses for shovels and cheeky behind-the-bar-banter for an even cheekier off-the-clock variety, Bartenders Without Borders assembled when word went out that there was work to be done.

An informal initiative set up by 27-year-old Stephen Kelly, Bartenders Without Borders was originally conceptualized in May 2010 as an emergency response to Tropical Storm Agatha, which devastated a number of villages with landslides and flooding.

After the need for immediate disaster relief had subsided, Kelly recognized that the bartenders, who had been so ready to help in the wake of the storm, represented a young, able and socially minded workforce that wasn't fully being taken advantage of. Here was a body of people with time on their hands, ready and willing to volunteer in the name of positive contribution with a free beer waiting at the end of a hard day's digging.

At the time, Kelly was working with As Green As It Gets, a non-profit organization that focuses on economic development and environmentally sustainable agriculture in Guatemala. It is an NGO that operates with only a very small core staff and doesn't traditionally take on full-time volunteers.

So Kelly launched Bartenders Without



FAR LEFT: Bartenders Without Borders volunteers at school site in Ciudad Vieja. LEFT: Hanna Wallace Bowman at school site. RIGHT: Bartenders Without Borders founder and organizer Stephen Kelly.

Trading shot glasses for shovels

Borders as an ingenious extension of As Green As It Gets. When the NGO required additional manpower for some of its ongoing construction projects, the bartenders were called to action via Facebook alerts.

Attendance varied according to the extent of the previous night's festivities and people inevitably showed up a good 15 minutes to an hour late. But once mustered, this merry band presented a force to be reckoned with. Two projects were the focus of the past year's activities: construction of a school, which will combine a more traditional education with training in progressive agricultural techniques, and a community greenhouse, both in Ciudad Vieja.

It was sweaty and rewarding work, with a lot of hacking at tree trunks with machetes and bumping around on dirt roads with

the sun shining down on grinning faces and wind in the hair. No matter how many (or few) hours of sleep they had, nor at what time last call came, each one of the volunteering bartenders put his or her back into it.

By the time they rolled back into town, dust covered and bound for El Muro or Ocelot for a well-deserved free beer, they were aching but contented.

Bartenders Without Borders was a simple idea, effectively executed, representing everything that volunteering could and should be. A cocktail of fruity conversation, manual labor and a hefty squeeze of giving something back: bottoms up! 🍷

For more information on the initiatives of As Green As It Gets, email info@asgreenasitgets.org or visit www.asgreenasitgets.org

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Dare to turn life on its end, and you may find that topsy-turvy is a truer perspective than turvy-topsy.

—Robert Brault

It can be said of optimism that while sometimes mistaken, it is never sadly mistaken.

—Robert Brault



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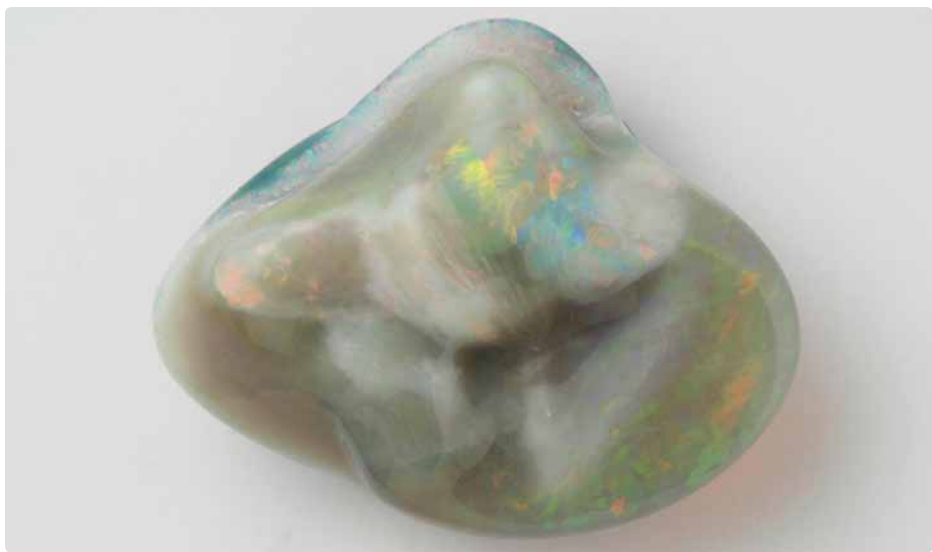
Efficiency is intelligent laziness.
 —David Dunham

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October's opal birthstone treats the eye with an explosion of colors refracted through the soft stone, just as Guatemala's gardens explode with magnificent rainbows of flowers bursting vigorously as the rainy season eases. Guatemala rock hounds find significant deposits of precious opals here, but you can enjoy their bright bursts of color everywhere in the country without having to get your hands dirty in digging—just look around you.

Opals range from white and gray through red, orange, yellow, green, blue, magenta, rose, pink, slate, olive, brown to black. Those vibrant colors are displayed throughout this land of eternal spring, in the hillsides, farms and gardens as well as in the Mayan weavings, colorful walls and bright coastline.

We're told that opals are just sand, created by Paleolithic hot springs. Opals are soft, up to 30 percent water, each gem reflecting specific wavelengths. The clear and clean air of the Highlands doesn't fuss with such limited wavelengths. Rainbow opal

colors are everywhere here, changing like the gemstone in the range of light each day from dawn to dark.

And ah, that dark of Guatemala each night, if you get away from the big city. Around the lakes, along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, throughout Highland farmlands and hillsides, the velvety dark on moonless nights is as rich as any black opal. Drink in the soft colors of the night and the brilliant shades of day. You'll see why another word for Guatemala is the opalescent land. 🌈



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