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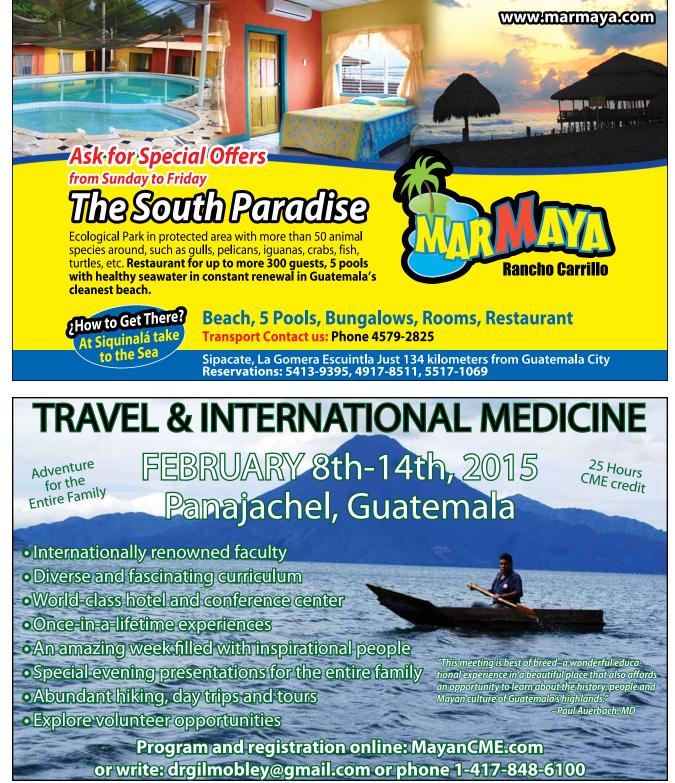
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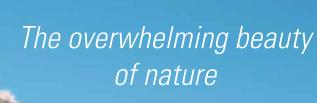
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1st PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, March. Theme "Traditions" Congratulations to José Arturo Sic on his photo titled "Tradiciones Ancestrales" Quetzaltenango. Prize: Q300 at **La Peña de Sol Latino**.

2nd PLACE by judges vote "Mayan Ceremony" Cobán, A.V. by Eli Orozco. Prize: Carved Jade Pencil Holder from **Jades Xibalbá**

Honorable Mention by judges vote "Black Salt" Río Hondo, Zacapa by David Currier. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt







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Cayalá • Antigua



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from the publishers

his month Revue marks its 22nd year of publication. Revue's longevity and growth comes with great appreciation to its advertisers, readers and a hardworking staff.

As well, we offer a big round of applause to a wonderful group of talented writers whose work graces Revue pages month after month, year after year. In this edition Benjamin Reeves reveals the story of "The Tragedy at El Calvario and the Paintings of Tomás de Merlo," and Elizabeth Bell takes us back to "Antigua Over the Years." Tara Tiedemann beckons Guatemalan travelers to "Explore More and Go Deeper," and Thor Janson tells of the "Magic of Tactic." Benjamin Reeves also offers "The Giant Head of San Juan La Laguna."

Two documentaries are highlighted: Shannon McCullough writes a thoughtful overview of "La Camioneta," and Linda Conard gives us the background on "¡Poder!" Its Guatemalan premier is scheduled for March 28 in Concepción Chiquirichapa, however readers can view it online beforehand on March 13.

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard gives us a perspective of Guatemalan fare in "A Timeless Cuisine," and Natalie Rose offers an inside glimpse of the Antigua's Curry Club in "Curry Fever." Going back in time Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth makes a case for returning to an ancient diet in "Food of the Maya."

The subject of time is covered in two articles, Sri Ram Kaa and Kira Raa contemplate it "In the Blink of an Eye" —and Ken Veronda, Sensuous Guatemala, explains how we can tell "Time" by using our five senses.

Cultural events and activities fill Datebook; the highlight is covered by Linda Conard who features the work of Guatemalan artist Hugo González Ayala.

For U.S. citizens living in Guatemala, Stateside taxes are soon coming due, read more about it in The Tax Corner!

Thank you for reading the Revue, we hope you enjoy this edition.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich



ON THE COVER

1st Place by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest, March "Quemando al torito" by Ronald Pérez



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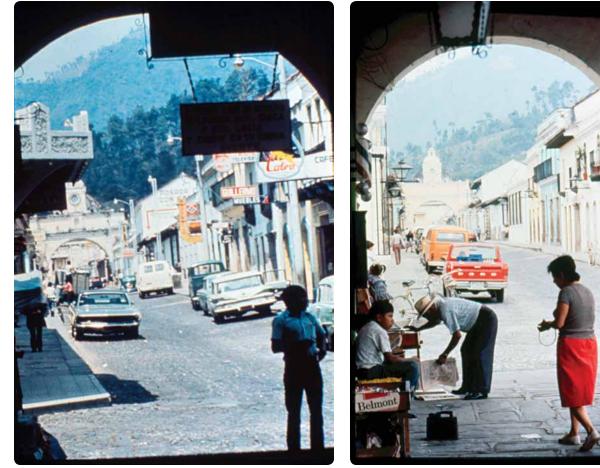


Since 1992, much effort has been dedicated to preserving Antigua with an eye toward finding a balance between preservation and economic development. It is sometimes difficult to remember how abandoned the city

truly was. After the 1773 earthquake, most residents did not want to move to muddy empty lots in Guatemala City during the rainy season. It took a royal decree prohibiting business and religious processions to force the move; afterward only a few residents remained in what was then called "La Antigua Guatemala." Balconies, doors, furniture and art were taken and the city remained somewhat dormant for decades.

While coffee cultivation was introduced in the valley in ...cont. page 38

Before (1971) and after (1973) photos of 5a avenida, La Antigua showing how prevalent the business signs were



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Empty frames remain on the church walls outlining the theft of six precious paintings

The tragedy at El Calvario and the paintings of Tomás de Merlo

he white walls of El Calvario church in La Antigua are almost bare; virtually their only ornamentation is the skeletons of picture frames, appropriate, perhaps for the biblical Calvary but now only a stark reminder of the church's former artistic glory. Unknown hoodlums absconded from El Calvario with six paintings by the 18th century colonial artist Tomás de Merlo on Feb. 7.

The art thieves arrived at the church late on a Friday as the sunlight was beginning to wane. Two of them tied up the church's groundskeeper, Feliciano Chavez. They then **14** entered the church and, using ladders, cut the paintings from their frames one by one.

"There are two main problems in Guatemala with our cultural history. First, it's very valuable and it's very vast," Miguel F. Torres, academic fellow of the Guatemalan Academy of Geography and History, said. Second, "The colonial art was dedicated for the church—it was done for the church—and for that reason it is kept in the church," where security precautions, and the necessary resources for them, are often lacking.

While the stolen de Merlo paint-

ings are conservatively valued at around \$300,000 each, Torres, an expert who organized the restoration of the paintings, said this number is "ridiculous" and could be much higher because "the paintings are also a part of our history."

The six paintings are part of a cycle depicting the Passion of the Christ. *El Tesoro de El Calvario*, a book on the art history of El Calvario edited by Torres, describes the effect the paintings would have had when they were new: "After having made the pious journey along the Street of the Steps, meditating on each of the Stations of the Cross, residents of 18th century Santiago [de los Caballeros] de Guatemala, now La Antigua Guatemala, would be able to cross the threshold of the El Calvario chapel, where they were greeted by a pictorial series charged with expressive force and dynamism that, besides complementing and confirming the mental images arising from their profoundly religious spirit along the way, elevated their piety to a point where it was possible to enter into intimate contact with the supernatural."

Even now, at least before their theft, de Merlo's paintings made it clear that entering El Calvario represented the beginning of a spiritual moment. The paintings were also a highly visual, visceral tie between modern Guatemala and a distant colonial history.

De Merlo, the son of a painter, was born in 1694 near Santiago de Guatemala and became famous for his portraits and his religious art. The most prominent example of his portraiture is a seated depiction of Pope Benedict XIII from approximately 1724. De Merlo's most important religious art is arguably the cycle from El Calvario. The cycle in El Calvario was commissioned to replace a series of paintings of the Passion by Antonio de Montúfar y Vivar Quiñónez, which were destroyed by the San Miguel earthquakes in 1717.

The commission for the paintings made the goal of the series clear: "Señor Doctor Don Joseph Suncin de Herrera ... led by affection and devotion for what has been and is the Passion and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with Christian zeal, determined that in the church of the Sacred Calvary should be placed a painted history so that the faithful may possess a representation that is not only as alive as before but might also move the flame of the fire of divine love in their hearts and that it should incite a greater devotion than pious contemplation would bring about before the paintings were lost."

Not surprisingly, de Merlo occupies a special place within the world of Guatemalan art history. Art historian Guillermo Monsanto told Prensa Libre that the thieves "stole the heart of Baroque Guatemala." Oscar Mora, general director of cultural and natural patrimony at the Guatemalan Ministry of Culture and Sports, said the theft "not only damaged the cultural patrimony, but also broke the inheritance." UNESCO likewise repudiated the crime.

Interpol has been alerted, as have major art auction houses and collectors worldwide. Anyone with information about the paintings should call the authorities at 2239-2100.



One of the paintings that was stolen: "La oración en el Huerto" by Tomás de Merlo, 1737 (PHOTO COURTESY OF MIGUEL F. TORRES)



Destinations by Tara Tiedemann travel writer www.vivaadventures.com

Great

Explore More and Go Deeper

elcome back to my final five recommendations for deep travel adventures. Take advantage of the dry season and sunny skies to get out and explore. The reward for seeing and experiencing incredible locations that most will miss will be worth it!

Las Guacamayas Biological Station This is an unforgettable trip deep into the jungles of the Petén, along the San Pedro River, in the biodiverse Laguna del Tigre National Park. A bird-watcher's dream, this Guatemalan treasure is home to howler and spider monkeys, tapirs, crocodiles, jaguars and more. The Spanish word *guacamaya* means scarlet macaw, and this park holds the largest count in Guatemala.

Given the park's remote location, a private tour with a guide is highly recommended, as you'll be traveling in a 4x4, boat and on foot to reach the biological station in the heart of the jungle. In addition to learning about the station's important work, you can trek through the jungle to a viewpoint where you might spy the rare scarlet macaw in its natural habitat. Seeing a flock of these magnificent birds soaring through the sky will remain in your memory for years.

Nebaj, Quiche

In the Ixil region of Quiche, high in the Cuchumatán Mountains at 2,000 meters, is the indigenous town of Nebaj. This town is known for its talented weavers, evidenced by the beautiful *huipiles* (blouses) the local women proudly wear. Much time can be spent at the local artisan market. Not only are the weavings beautiful; in addition



photos by Julia Harriman

the surrounding mountain majesty makes it a hiker's paradise.

The Guias Ixiles (www.nebaj.com) offer some excellent hiking tours throughout the trail system. Shorter options include a half-day walk to the waterfalls and a tour of the sacred sites where the local Maya still practice their religious traditions. For the most hardy, those who really want to get off the beaten path, take the three-day guided hike from Nebaj to Todos Santos Cuchumatán. This 35-55 kilometer trek is mostly through the mountains and highland plains at an altitude of over 3,000 meters. Getting there can be up to an 18hour hike. The scenery, overnight stays with local families and stories from the guide will make it a memorable experience.

Laguna Lachuá National Park, Alta Verapaz

This beautiful national park, highlighted by a turquoise and emerald lagoon surrounded by lush jungle, is just two hours from Cobán. It is easy to set up a guided tour with a local agency, such as Cobán Travels, or explore on your own. If you take the bus from Cobán, just tell the *ayudante* (helper) to let you off at the park entrance. If you don't arrange a private tour, remember to pack everything you would need for one or two nights camping.

From the road, it's a 4-kilometer hike to the eco-lodge perched at the edge of this spectacular lagoon. For a nominal fee, you can stay in one of the bunks with a mosquito net or camp nearby if you bring your tent. Due to the remote location, you'll have a chance to see a range of wildlife, including parrots, toucans, and howler monkeys. There is a dock at the lake but swim at your own risk – crocodiles are common. This is one of those few places where you can really relax and get away from it all.

Cuevas de Candelaria, Alta Verapaz While you're in the area, using Cobán as a starting point, be sure to continue the adventure at Cuevas de Candelaria National Park, located between Chisec and Raxruhá on Km. 309. You can take a bus directly from Cobán (approximately 2.5 hours) or drive to the site, with convenient parking right off the highway.

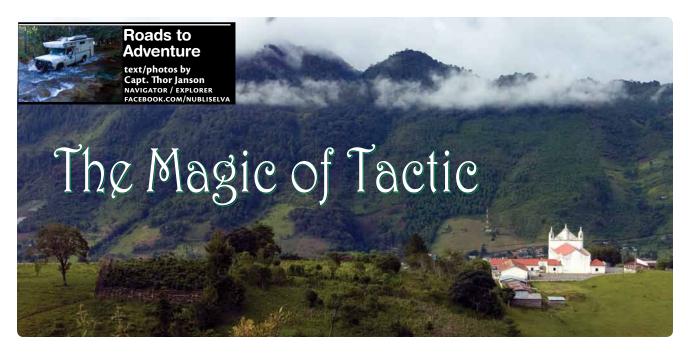
This rarely visited national gem offers one of the largest and most impressive cave systems in all of Latin America. An ecological hotspot, it is also a sacred ceremony site of the local Q'eqchi Maya. Guides can set you up on a scenic float through the caves using an inner tube and headlamp. You can also explore the formations on foot.

The best place for lodging is in nearby Chisec, especially the beloved "dinosaur" hotel, which boasts a dinosaur statue out front. Relax in the pool and enjoy air-conditioned rooms. Tours can be arranged locally at Puerta al Mundo Maya (www. puertaalmundomaya. com.gt), a member of the local community- based tourism organization Viviente Verapaz (www. vivienteverapaz.com).

Las Conchas, Chahal, Alta Verapaz If you're looking for a diverse jungle, river and cave experience, this is the trip for you. The Salazar family has opened a beautiful eco-hotel and farm called El Oasis Chiyu. Overlooking the Chiyu River, this lovely hotel features four private rooms and a dormitory and serves yummy vegetarian meals with ingredients grown at the farm.

The hotel can also arrange your guided tours. Enjoy swimming and, depending on the water level, of course, maybe leap off the 10-meter Las Conchas waterfall. While exploring the surrounding jungle, visit the Setzol Caves, a huge complex of impressive formations and natural windows looking out over the enormous ceiling and river below. To turn it up a few notches, try overnight cave and jungle trekking. You'll hit all the highlights of the Petén jungle with the unique experience of sleeping in the cave. **R**





The origin of the word Tactic is not known with exactitude but the widely held belief is that it means "Land of the White Peach."

had driven past the entrance to the village of Tactic countless times on my way back and forth between Guatemala City and Cobán, the provincial capital of Alta Verapaz, but I never took the time to explore this center of Pocomchí-Mayan culture.

Then one day something drew me into the village and I soon discovered just beyond the well-beaten path that magic was waiting and, leaving Latin America behind, I entered a parallel world, one where millennial indigenous traditions still thrive.

Today ancient Mayan rituals and practices have blended with Catholicism to create a unique hybrid where shamanistic rituals exist side by side with Christian iconography and worship. Crops are still planted in accor-**18** dance with the Mayan calendar and native spiritual guides and priests oversee all aspects of the social-economic order. For centuries Catholic authorities deemed it auspicious to maintain a hands-off strategy in order to incorporate the inherently spiritually-minded population into its structure. Nearly every day shamanic ceremonies are performed by Maya spiritual guides and shamans in front of the church that sits on a bluff overlooking the town of Tactic.

Guatemala is one of a handful of countries in the Americas where the indigenous people constitute a majority of the population. The municipality of Tactic, with an extension of 85 square kilometers, is home to around 400,000 souls, 87 percent of whom are Pocomchí; the rest are

mestizos and people of European ancestry. Most of the Pocomchí are dedicated to subsistence agriculture, farming the Three Sacred Sisters: corn, beans and squash, along with a variety of fruits and vegetables. The Pocomchí also grow excellent broccoli, cabbage, beets, cauliflower, sweet peas and potatoes, which are later shipped out and sold in the markets of Guatemala City. In recent times, numerous cattle ranches and dairy farms have been established by newcomers, and it can be said without exaggeration that the region produces some of the best cheese in all of Guatemala, which can be purchased at many locations around town.

Before the arrival of the European colonists the town of Tactic did not exist, but the area was an important

ceremonial center. Archaeologists have uncovered many monuments and ceremonial altars at sites like Chichén, Guaxpac, Patal, Pansalché and Chi-Ixim (Chixim) scattered around Chiabaatz, the Valley of the Monkeys. The valley itself is nestled between the Sierra de Chamá and the Sierra Xucaneb, which reaches an elevation of 2,550 meters and is where we find the headwaters of the mighty Cahabón River at a site called Patal. The valley was the seat of power of the Pocomchí and a commercial center where trade was conducted in such valuable items as jade from the Motagua region, copal incense and the famously delicious chili peppers. We can be quite sure that it was the Pocomchí and other Verapaz Highlanders who sold the exquisite and resplendent quetzal feathers to traders who represented the aristocracies of the northern city-states.

In the mid-1500s Dominican friars arrived to bring the word of the Christian Lord to the yet unconquered province of Tezulután. According to church records, on July 2, 1545, the first Pocomes were baptized and the Parish (Parroquia) of Tactic was established. The origin of the word Tactic is not known with exactitude but the widely held belief is that it means "Land of the White Peach," and indeed the region produces delicious peaches.

Things to do here include simply hanging out with the residents and marveling at the beauty of the exquisite hand-woven apparel, some of the

finest in all Guatemala. The local cuisine is a treat to behold-especially the regional specialty "tayuyus"thick corn tortillas flavored with delicious big piloy beans, ground squash seeds and spicy chili, served with a dollop of tomato-herb sauce. If you are looking for an extraordinarily delicious lunch. I recommend a visit to the La Colina Ecological Farm (located adjacent to the town). The farm raises rainbow trout of superb quality and a gourmet meal, direct from pond to plate, can be arranged either "al vapor," sautéed with garlic or "bacha" style. It would be wise to call the owner, señor Calos Cáceres, beforehand so he can prepare a meal for your party: 5993-6783.

You can also visit the spring-fed bathing pools at Chamché—they are filled with crystal clear water gushing icy and brisk from …continued page 102

PHOTOS, TOP TO BOTTOM: 1. Selling peaches at the central park of Tactic. 2. Girl celebrating at the annual saint fair 3. Moveable marimba on parade







THE JOURNEY OF ONE AMERICAN SCHOOL BUS

nyone living in or visiting Guatemala knows that the majority of camionetas are converted U.S. school buses. While traveling through Guatemala as part of his Latin American studies, filmmaker Mark Kendall became intrigued with the transformation process after having a conversation with a camioneta driver. It was in that moment he became inspired to share the story of the camioneta. He persuaded his professor to let him make a documentary as his thesis to complete his degree in Latin American studies.

"La Camioneta" is an emotional documentary that follows the driver of a school bus from an auction in the United States to the streets of **20**

Guatemala, where he now provides public transportation. Surprisingly, as we learn in the opening of the film at a bus auction just outside of Nashville, the buses are not nearly as old as one would imagine. Typically they are 8-10 years old or the speedometer has reached 150,000 miles. Is this a sign of U.S. prosperity and wastefulness? However wasteful the practice, the buses bring a small form of prosperity to many families here in Guatemala. The young man who purchased the bus that is featured in the documentary has dreamed of having his own bus since age 13. Most of the buses from the auction (selling for a mere \$2,000 or less) then find their way to Central America or Africa.

Kendall's documentary follows the journey of one man who every

15 days drives a newly purchased bus from the auction in the U.S. through the dangers of Mexico to Guatemala. Once the bus arrives it is repaired, repainted and transformed into a brightly-colored camioneta.

After its successful commercial run in more than 40 U.S. cities, this critically acclaimed and awardwinning documentary has, at last, found its way home. It is here in Guatemala that the film will be truly understood and praised for the humanity it shares in nearly every frame of the film. It is a film that belongs to the Guatemalan people, as it is their story. The story lives in the heart of every family who drives, refurbishes, travels and experiences camionetas on a daily basis. ...continued page 34



A TIMELESS CUISINE

ocated in the heart of Mesoamerica, Guatemala is the cradle of the Mayan civilization and as such it was an important agricultural and cultural hub. Many key species of crops emerged, including corn, tomatoes, chilis, squash, beans, potatoes and chocolate.

Guatemala has specific styles of cuisine, each with its characteristic group of cooking ingredients. These include indigenous, traditional/home cooking and Garifuna, along with a vibrant street food scene.

Guatemalan indigenous cuisine incorporated the food of the ancient Mayas prepared according to rustic techniques, most often over an open fire.

With the arrival of the Spanish and new ingredients, prepared meals transformed into what is known today as traditional/home-style cooking with both Spanish and Mayan influences.

With the influx of the Garifuna (Afro-Caribs), Guatemala's Caribbean region heralded yet another twist to Guatemalan cuisine.

Street food (fast food) eventually emerged in response to the country's economic challenges.

Guatemalan cuisine groups remained relatively stable until a world-wide food renaissance was triggered by the "foodie revolution." In the past 10-15 years culinary schools began to flourish, innovative chefs and food channels came to the forefront.

In a competitive effort to stand out, professional chefs started to refresh the cuisine, and reinvention began to take place. To appeal to the taste of the elite, native and foreign cooks began fusing local fare with the cuisines of other countries.

This new food dynamic continues to influence Guatemalan cooking.

With the renewed interest in all things to eat and drink, a wide array of businesses expanded and flourished. The first local winery and an interest in wine tasting emerged. Distilleries and breweries adapted to changing tastes. Coffee growers are abundant countrywide; artisan and commercial chocolate production continues to grow; and new formal and informal cooking schools have surfaced. Gourmet food and specialty stores that cater to a variety of tastes have emerged, local TV cooking shows and cultural programs have become popular, and the list goes on.

Recent trends indicate that the food craze will continue to mutate cuisine into many forms, and will be stimulated by new internal and external interest in Guatemalan food, luxury cruise ships visiting, and the government's tourism marketing campaign. Despite this, there continues to be a need to elevate the culinary scene to even higher standards. New opportunities for food companies will emerge in local and international markets as Latin American cuisine positions itself as the new group of hot cuisines in the world.

As Latin America grows in importance in the U.S. and the world, cooking will be at the forefront for culinar-

ians, and Latin editorial and publishing

houses will see an increase in food-related literature and published cookbooks, which historically have been few in comparison to other food vibrant regions. These changes could serve to entice even more home cooks to better appreciate, embrace and cultivate the cuisine of their homeland.

The cultural richness brought on by these changes is a wheel that will continue to turn for many generations to come. In Guatemala let us accept change, but let us not forget our roots!

Happy 22nd anniversary Revue! Here is a recipe (*page 54*) worthy of celebration—easy, healthy and delicious!

¡Buen Provecho!

MARCH 2014 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun., 9am-4pm — ANNUAL PICNIC AT FINCA EL ZAPOTE: A day with family and friends, bring your picnic basket and bathing suit. Located on the slopes of Volcán de Fuego, beautiful tropical gardens, a spring that feeds a natural swimming pool and four lakes, as well as an abundance of flora and fauna that make Finca El Zapote a spectacular place to visit. Activities include birdwatching, swimming, fishing and picnicking and other diversions. Adults, Q150; kids (two to 12), Q65. For more info., map, etc., please call 2361-8081. Organized by Museo Ixchel. Finca El Zapote See article, Revue Feb. 2014, www.revue.gt

2^{Sun., 5pm} — Music: Celebrating the "Month of France," Annick Cisaruk interprets the songs of the famous French singer Léo Ferré, accompanied by David Venitucci on the accordian. Free. Atrium of the Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte (between 3a & 4a calle), *La Antigua*

4Tues. — CARNIVAL: Celebrations, parties and costumes! *La Antigua and countrywide*

Tues., 5:30 — TALK: As we celebrate 10 years of building better lives we invite you to come and learn about Constru Casa. With dedication and the support of many, the dream of founder Caroline Van Heerde has flourished: Constru Casa has built over 630 houses and 71 community projects in Guatemala for families and communities living in extreme poverty. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

5 Wed., 7pm — ART: Latest works by Alba Escalón. Info: www.alianzafrancesa.org.gt Facebook: Alianza Francesa Guatemala. Alianza Francesa (tel: 2207-5757), 5a calle 10-55, z. 13, *Guatemala City* **5** Wed. — ASH WEDNESDAY: Begins Lent, with the holy vigils and processions, *La Antigua & countrywide*

6 Thurs., 4pm — (Spanish) CONFER-ENCIA: *El reino Kaanal y La Corona: la geopolítica maya en el periodo clásico*. Conferencista: Marcello Canuto. Más información historia-ufm@ufm.edu - tel: 2338-7959. Q.30/Estudiantes y guías de turismo Q.15. Casa Popenoe, 6a calle oriente, #16, *La Antigua*

7 Fri., 6:30pm — EVENT: 5a Noche de los Chefs, Degustantigua Annual Fundraising gala dinner, this year



benefitting the T.E.S.S. Unlimited Foundation (www. tessunlimited. nl) Tickets, www. degustantigua.com & info@degustanti-

gua.com or tel: 5944-9514. Convento de Capuchinas, *La Antigua*

7Fri., 8pm — MUSIC: Within the Jazz Festival, a concert by David Venitucci and Annick Cizaruk. More info. www.alianzafrancesa.org.gt / Facebook: Alianza Francesa Guatemala. Q50. Teatro Dick Smith IGA, Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, *Guatemala City*

Sat., 10am — ART: Inauguration cocktail, collective work *Artista y Punto*. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City** ▼



Sat., 10am — ART: Inauguration cocktail, *Tinta-Papel* by Juan Isaac Escobar. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, *Guatemala City* **•**

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS



Sat., 3-6pm — EVENT: International Women's Day Party & Recycled Apron Fashion Show, featuring designs by Lisa Simms; recycled paper jewelry by ADISA handicapped vocational center; live music by Na'ik Madera. Food & beverages available. Free. Posada de Santiago's lakeside palapa, Santiago Atitlán ▼



You can find Revue DateBook online: www.REVUE.gt

8 Sat., 5pm — MUSIC: Más música, menos violencia. Mesón Panza Verde proudly presents a unique musical recital by students of Sistema de Orquestas de Guatemala (SOG). All proceeds support SOG and its programs. Suggested donation, Q150. Info. & reservations, tels: 7955-8282 & 7832-2925. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua* ▼



Sat., 11am — U.S. VOTER REGISTRA-TION: Members of Democrats Abroad Guatemala will be available to help you register for the 2014 mid-term elections. 11am to 2pm, Conexion, 4a calle oriente, comercial La Fuente #14, La Antigua. Contact John Chudy at mayadems@yahoo. com with questions. *La Antigua*

12Wed., 5pm — ART: Still Moments, paintings and works on paper by Jenifer Kobylarz. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7955-8282), 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua



1 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Tejidos Cotzal is a group of 42 Maya women from San Juan Cotzal, Quiché, who are all passionate weavers. Cotzal was hit hard by the civil war in Guatemala which left so many families without fathers, brothers or husbands. The women had to take the initiative and unite to guarantee the survival of their families. They support each other and do their best to send their children to school, paid for by the sale of their weavings. In this presentation they will share how the cooperative works, the eco-tours, and show you the special weaving techniques of their beautiful products. Donation O25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antiqua*

12Wed., 6pm — Presentation: Antigua: Behind the Walls with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour presentation through vintage and contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, *La Antigua*



13 Thurs. thru Sat. 15 — (Spanish) MOVIE FESTIVAL: Festival Internacional de Cine FIC Puebla en Quetzaltenango with more than 20 international film screenings. Free. For info. & volunteering, ficpguatemala@gmail. com www.ficp.mx Venues: Universidad Mesoamericana, Café Red and Casa Noj, **Quetzaltenango** ▲

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the APRIL 2014 edition by March 10

13thurs. thru Sun. 16 — YOGA MEDITATION RETREAT: With Rae Ishee. More info., write to raeishee@ yahoo.com Villa Sumaya, Santa Cruz la Laguna, Lake Atitlán.



15Sat., 10:55am — OPERA FOR ALL: Werther, featuring Jonas Kaufmann and Elina Garanca. Live in HD,Q130/Q105 students with carnet. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1, 4-05, z.4, Guatemala City

15 Sat., 8pm — MUSIC: Mercedes Escobar on the guitar featuring blues, jazz and swing. Suggested donation Q100. Mesón Panza Verde (tel: 7955-8282), 5a av. sur #19, *La Antiaua*



15 Sat. thru April 14 — ART: Grandes ideas y pequeños formatos with work by Hugo González Ayala. This new collection captures the beauty of rural landscapes, patchworks of cultivated fields, colorful village homes and birds-eye views of the picturesque towns of the Guatemalan highlands. These enormous scenes are captured in small format paintings in oil. More than 20 new pieces will be on display. La Antigua Galería de Arte (tel: 7832-2124), 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua**. See related article on page 32. ▼



17Mon. through Sat. 22nd — Animated Films within Celebrating the "Month of France." Showings at **7pm**. Q10 students Q5. Casa del Río. Also, Sat. 22nd—Closing the week of events, free: **5pm**—Storytelling with making orgami; **7pm**—Concert: Maf the Francophone. French Alliance of Antigua, 2a av. sur #25, La Antigua

18Tues., **5:30pm** — ARCAS: Res-Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association (ARCAS) is the leading advocate for the rights of wild animals in Guatemala. In the Department of Petén, it manages one of the largest and most successful wildlife rescue centers in the world, receiving 300-600 animals of 40+ species per year, the majority confiscated from wildlife traffickers. Presentation includes wild (non-releasable) animals. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua* **19**Wed., 2pm — TOUR: Open Windows Learning Center, San Miguel Dueñas; join David Dean on a visit to this educational and community development foundation. Meet in front of the Cafe Condesa, Central Park; return by 3:30pm. FREE! www.openwindowsfoundation.com, *La Antigua*. See related article, May 2013, www.revue.gt

22Sat., 10:30am-midnight — FESTIVAL ATITLÁN 2014: Donation Q125 per person/children under 10 years, free. Profits benefit Asociación de Padres y Amigos de personas con discapacidad de Santiago Atitlán. More info., visit www.festivalatitlan.com or call 7721-7328. Santiago Atitlán, Lake Atitlán

22Sat., 7pm — FUNDRAISING dren Foundation (Escuela Proyecto La Esperanza) Spring Fundraiser. This is a wonderful opportunity to party and have some fun outdoors! Education is a huge part of breaking the cycle of poverty, but at the same time, a hungry child learns nothing. Help us raise the money needed to feed the kids! Tickets Q150, available at the door or online at www. facebook.com/Educationforthechildrenfoundation/events Azotea Coffee Farm, *Jocotenango*

22Sat., 8pm — MUSIC: Piano with Diego Noack. Suggested donation Q100. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua* ▼



Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Life in **LD**Guatemala: Brief History and Current Conditions presented by Sue Patterson who is a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer, a former U.S. Consul General in Guatemala and served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is also the founder of WINGS, a non-profit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning in Guatemala. Sue is the recipient of numerous awards for her work, most recently the 2003 Sargent Shriver Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Service from the National Peace Corps Association of America. Donation O25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

29^{Sat.,} 8pm — MUSIC: TANGO! A lecture on the history of the tango and a demonstration. Q100. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua* ▼



There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good. —Edwin Denby We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. —Japanese Proverb There are short-cuts to happiness, and dancing is one of them.

—Vicki Baum







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PHOTO CONTEST concurso fotográfico

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO de abril 2014 con el tema **VOLCANES DE GUATEMALA**. Enviar UNA (1) foto en ALTA RESOLUCIÓN con el título, lugar donde fue tomada, su nombre y el sitio web para el crédito a: **fotos@revue.gt**

Habrán premios para las fotos ganadoras, incluye cena para dos en **Mesón Panza Verde**. Para más información **Revue.gt**

Serán elegibles las fotos que se reciban hasta el 10 de Marzo de 2014. We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST

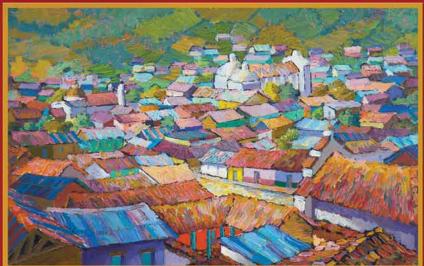
for April 2014 with the theme **VOLCANOES OF GUATEMALA**. Please send ONE (1) HI-RES photo with caption/location and your name & website for the credit line to: **photos@revue.gt**

There will be prizes for winning photos including dinner for 2 at **Mesón Panza Verde.** More information at **Revue.gt**

Submissions entered by the 10th of March will be eligible.



"Grandes Ideas y Pequeños Formatos"



by

Hugo González Ayala

Opening: March 15th, 2014 4 - 7 pm

4a. calle oriente no. 15 La Antigua Guatemala Tels. (502) 7832 2124 / (502) 7832 5911 info@laantiguagaleria.com / www.laantiguagaleria.com /artintheamericas@gmail.com / www.artintheamericas.com





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tels: 7955-8282, 7832-2925 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua -- Q35 cover

 Mondays, 8-10pm — Nelson Lunding. Q35 cover
 Wednesdays, 8-10pm — Jazz Duo with Lisandro de Leon and Felix Torres. Q35 cover
 Thursdays, 8-10pm — Buena Vista de Corazón, Ignacio
 Perez on congas and Aniet Gonzáles on flute. Q35 cover
 Fridays, 8-10pm — Latin Trio, Denis Medina on Cubano Tres. Q35 cover

Saturdays, 5-6:30pm — Panza Verde Presents a variety of musical adventures every Saturday Afternoon at 5 pm. Join us for a wonderfully eclectic selection of Internatinional and Guatemalan musical talent, each performing in their own style.. (A contribution for the musician is encouraged) Saturdays, 8-10pm — Guest artist. Q35 cover

March 15, Sat., 8pm — Mercedes Escobar on the guitar featring blues, jazz and swing. Suggested donation Q100 March 22, Sat., 8pm — Piano with Diego Noack. Suggested donation Q100

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

Friday Concerts — Call for schedule: Live music Thursdays through Saturdays.



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

Mondays— Charlie and his romantic guitar Tuesdays — David; jazz and pop music Wednesdays thru Sundays — 7-10pm: Grupo Sol Latino plays Andean music (pan flutes). Sunday afternoons — Special guests play live music



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

Fridays — World music.

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.

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

Free Live Music Nightly from 8:00pm

Mondays — Eric Fry: enjoy a great mix of western and rock music!

Tuesdays — Gustavo: this local musician plays a mix of Latin and western classices

Wednesdays — Open Mic Night! Hosted by different musicians; come along and show your skills!

Thursdays — Gustavo: this local musician plays a mix of Latin and western classices

Fridays — Bonfire Night! Different guest artists and drink specials from 8pm

Saturdays — A variety of bands and musicians! Sundays 8pm — Kenny Molina, one of Antigua's best loved musicians plays a variety of Latin music that will make you dance!



Kape Paulinos tel: 7840-3806 Km 87.5 Carr. Interamericana, Tecpán

Sundays — 1 to 4pm: Live marimba band

TRATTORIA LA NONNA Tel: 7840-4036 Km 86.5, Carretera Interamericana, Tecpán Saturdays — 7pm-10pm: Live music

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Restaurante Personajes

tel: 7832-3758 6a av. norte #6, La Antigua

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays — 9pm-11:30pm: A variety of live music... call for schedule



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

Mondays & Tuesdays — Música Bolera (7-9pm) Wednesdays & Thursdays — Bossa, Brazil/North American, sofa rock and boleros with Trujillo, René, Gilberto and Bryan.

Fridays & Saturdays — Tropical salsa by Grupo Caribe



OCELOT

Tel: 5658-9028 4a avenida norte #3, La Antigua Wednesdays — 9pm: Jessy Wadeson & Bobby Darling rock Thursdays — 9pm: Mercedes Escobar plays folk/ blues/rock

music

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DEMOCRATS

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You must file a new Federal Post Card Application this year to vote from overseas in the 2014 mid-term elections. Get yours at http://www.votefromabroad.org

Contact John Chudy at mayadems@yahoo.com with questions.

Need help? See us at Conexion, 4a calle oriente #14, La Antigua

March 8th, 11am to 2pm April 26th, 11am to 2pm May 10th, 11am to 2pm

Through Wed., 12th — Vistas de Guatemala by artist John Maxon. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua ▼



Daily, 2pm & 4pm — MOVIES: Las Palmas (tel: 7832-9734), 6a av. n. #14, La Antigua

Mondays, 10am & Thursdays at free two-hour village tour to learn about its education, health care and housing programs. Meet at the fountain, central park; also private tours avail., tel: 7922-6600. Visit www.commonhope.org. La Antigua

Mondays, 7:30pm: Reilly's en la esquina hosts Pub Quiz every Monday at 7:30 p.m., and each week the proceeds go to benefit a local NGO. There is a Q20 fee for each team. Come, drink some beers, show off your bar-trivia muscles and help out some great, local non-profits. *La Antigua*

PLAN AHEAD

Mon. 4:30pm; Tues. 3pm; Wed., 3pm — DUPLICATE BRIDGE: Asociación Guatemalteca de Bridge. Info., Eva: 7832-4327 or Denni: 2478-1595. Vista Hermosa, z. 15, *Guatemala City*

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

Thurs., 8:30am — TOUR: Visit Ciudad Vieja, you'll see where many *Niños de Guatemala* families work and live. Also, visit the school built by Niños de Guatemala. Q200/Q100 students. Proceeds benefit Niños de Guatemala projects. Antigua_office@ninosdeguatemala.org; tel: 7832-8033. La Antigua/Ciudad Vieja **2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:30pm** — The Antigua Curry Club meets to enjoy delicious Indian food. Visit www. cernikovsky.com/curry.htm. A membersonly club, limited memberships available. *La Antigua*

S undays, 11am — (Spanish) TEATRO: *El Árbol*, con un interesante mensaje ecológico. Q50. Teatro Dick Smith, IGA, Ruta 1 4-05, z. 4, *Guatemala City*

T-6pm — DOCUMENTARY: Wings presents Blessed Fruit of the Womb: The Fight for Reproductive Rights in Guatemala. Free. The Bagel Barn, 5a calle poniente #2, La Antigua BLESSED FRUIT OF THE WOMB a documentary film about THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA

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ART EXHIBIT

Hugo González Ayala

Grandes Ideas y Pequeños Formatos

s you approach the landscapes of Hugo González Ayala, you may feel enveloped by the streets of La Antigua Guatemala or the Highland countryside, but it is more of a gentle embrace than entrapment. Hard lines in street scenes curve inward yet remain in perfect perspective, so the viewer almost feels more balanced within the painting than in straight-edged reality.

Many of Ayala's oil paintings have an innate sense of motion, rolling like Guatemala's mountainsides or time-worn city streets. Some of his work lifts us up for a rare view from above Antigua's colonial streets or through rolling farmland. "When I was young, I would dream I was flying," says Ayala. "Now sometimes as I'm painting, I imagine that I'm still flying, viewing the landscape from that perspective as I fly... and at times there are places in the pueblos, with their old, curving roads, where you feel like you're flying."

Ayala's work radiates with color, from sun-

drenched cornfields in the countryside to the faded hues of a country pueblo, to the broad spectrum of Antigua's cobblestone streets.

"I'm very attracted to color. Painting is color. Colors are what one feels," says Ayala. "A few years ago, my paintings were darker, with fewer colors, but I am using more color now. There are rules of color, but sometimes I just paint only what I feel. Sometimes I use the colors exactly as they come from the paint tube, because they feel good."

Within the past several years, Ayala's work moved toward a focus on night scenes. "It seems that in the night, there's no color—all is black. But that's not true. There's always color, everywhere," he explains. This year he has returned to a mix of both day and night imagery.



Unlike previous shows, the March 2014 exhibit, "Grandes Ideas y Pequeños Formatos," will feature a number of smaller paintings, but the canvas size does not limit expansive scenery. "These paintings capture enormous landscapes in a small space. That's what I'm exploring now," says Ayala.

Although Ayala's landscapes rarely feature people, one does not feel their absence. Ayala explains, "I don't use people in my landscapes because I think the person in the landscape is the viewer." He draws from experience living and painting all over Guatemala, from Antigua to Petén to Zacapa and Lake Atitlan, but what still fascinates him are the Highlands of Totonicapán and Quetzaltenango.

"My experiences have given me a deep love of the land," says Ayala. "My work reflects that love."

Hugo González Ayala's exhibition of oil paintings on canvas will open on **March 15** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente, in Antigua. The artist will attend the opening. The exhibit will continue through April 4, 2014. You can see examples of Ayala's work at http://www.laantiguagaleria.com/HugoGonzalezAyala.

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Painting by Hugo González Ayala

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Never act until you have clearly answered the question: "What happens if I do nothing?" —Robert Brault

Allow yourself a moment of grief when life's misfortunes visit you. However, do not spend your days building a monument in honor of them. -Dodinsky

What a pity human beings can't exchange problems. Everyone knows exactly how to solve the other fellow's. -Olin Miller



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If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere. - Frank A. Clark



La Camioneta from page 20

I was pleased to learn that Kendall, the filmmaker, plans to make the DVD version of the movie widely available in Guatemala, as many Guatemalans can't afford to attend theaters or buy full-priced DVDs. "We're going to get it out on the streets, make it as accessible to people as possible," he said.

I must admit I have found it a bit daunting writing about this film here in Guatemala, where we live among the camionetas, and where virtually everyone understands the role of the caminoeta in the culture-as opposed to viewing it at a screening in New York. It is my personal view that here in Guatemala, the film stirs emotions that a critic in New York City or elsewhere could possibly never truly understand. However, good film reviews are coveted by filmmakers and Kendall has received critical acclaim from several influential news outlets in the U.S. Stephen Holden of the New York Times in his review wrote, "A story of resilience, regeneration and artistic imagination." Emma Bernstein from Indiewire wrote, "An insightful documentary and a poignant allegory."

After I read many positive reviews, one word that the New York Times used stuck out: resilience.

The resilience—of the Guatemalan bus drivers and the families and other passengers who ride the buses daily—is astonishing. Most people living here or visiting Guatemala find the camioneta the only means of transportation, it provides a means **34** of transportation at a cost that nearly anyone can afford. The bus drivers have families to feed and they must endure the dangers of the road, including, as we all are aware, gangs who extort money from them as they make their way through treacherous routes. These drivers, in the truest definition, are resilient as are their passengers.

When I took on this assignment to write about this extraordinary documentary I was in search of personal stories of journeys and adventures on camionetas. The stories are many and not all negative, as one would imagine. I have spoken with friends who use them to explore villages in Guatemala that the typical tourist would never experience. Most important is, the camioneta provides a means of inexpensive transportation.

One camioneta story told by a friend, who is a wonderful storyteller and has lived here in Guatemala since the 1960s, touched me, as I am certain it will you.

I asked her if, in her early years living here, she had any sense of fear or danger as she traveled on camionetas through the countryside where she was then living. The only fear she could remember was once being on an overcrowded bus on a very hot day. People around her were becoming sick as they were overwhelmed with the heat. In those days, if it was too hot, the drivers would allow passengers to sit on top of the bus to overcome the heat. The only fear was not ducking fast enough to avoid a tree branch and being knocked off of the bus. My friend also shared stories of Guatemala before the civil war, when the country was essentially free from fear. What a paradise it must have been.

Mark Kendall, too, is a wonderful storyteller and his film "La Camioneta" should be seen by everyone who lives in this extraordinary land of Guatemala. It is heartwarming, truthful and will make you think differently every time you pass a camioneta.

I remember as a boy waiting on the corner near our home for the big yellow school bus to drive me to school, always fearful of bullies who awaited me on the bus. Looking back, it was so insignificant.

http://www.lacamionetafilm.com Showings in Guatemala March 1-13: Guatemala City: Cine-Flick (3x per day) March 1-13: Amatitlan: CineFlick (3x per day) March 2: San Pedro la Laguna: Buddha Bar March 5: Guatemala City: Cinema Lux March 18: Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, Festival of Remembrance March 28 & 29: Nebaj, Quiche, Street Theater April 2: Coban, Alta Verapaz, Festival of Remembrance May 4: Xela: Festival of Remembrance May 27: Guatemala City: Festival of Remembrance * "La Camioneta" is also available for download from iTunes

dining GUATEMALA CITY



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rowing up in Concepción Chiquirichapa, where only 14 percent of girls attend secondary school and more than half give birth before age 20, Elba Velázquez knew first-hand the disadvantages faced by indigenous girls. What she did not know was that one day she would play a pivotal role in advancing the rights of girls in her community, portray herself in a short film, and deliver her message to an audience of more than 1,500 thought leaders in New York, all before the age of 17.

It Started with Advocacy

Elba's journey began when she and 14 other girls started a campaign for improved education and healthcare for girls. With the guidance of Juany García Pérez from the Asociación de Investigación, Desarollo y Educación (IDEI) and the support of Let Girls Lead, they organized forums with local officials, community dialogues about domestic violence and girls' health, radio programs about teen Denise Dunning and Elba Velázquez with Melinda Gates



Global Girls Conversation

Last fall, more than 120 girls around the world participated in the Global Girls Conversation, an online contest designed to shift the global conversation away from girls as victims to girls as leaders and powerful agents of change. Each girl submitted a 1-2 minute video describing how she is creating change for herself and her community. You can see all of the videos at www.letgirlslead. org or check out a new video every Monday on The Huffington Post's "Social Impact and Global Motherhood" blog at www.huffingtonpost.com/ news/global-motherhood/ The winners will be announced when "¡PODER!" premieres on March 12.

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pregnancy, and more. Finally, in 2011, the mayor of Concepción Chiquirichapa listened to their concerns and allocated more than Q200,000—0.5% of the total municipal budget—to open a Municipal Office of Childhood and Adolescence and provide other services for girls.

Then the Movie Cameras Arrived

In July 2013, the Let Girls Lead network brought Emmy award-winning director Lisa Russell to Guatemala to create a short film of the girls' inspiring story, "¡PODER!" Elba and her friend Emelin Cabrera portrayed themselves in the film, shot on location, which features narration by NoVo Foundation founder Jennifer Buffett. The girls took advantage of the excitement surrounding the filming to educate even more community members about girls' rights. "¡PODER!" will premiere at the meeting of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women on March 12.

Its Guatemala premiere on **March 28** in Concepción Chiquirichapa will give the girls a highly visible opportunity to reach even more community members with their message.

Suddenly, Thousands Were Listening

Just two months after shooting the film, Elba found herself on a plane, headed for New York City to address Mashable's 2013 Social Good Summit alongside notable presenters like Al Gore, Barbara Bush, Melinda Gates and many more. It became a whirlwind of firsts—first flight, first visit to New York, first time addressing an enormous international audience. She and her co-presenter, Let Girls Lead Executive Director Denise Dunning, were photographed with Melinda Gates in the green room just before their presentation. To avoid making Elba more nervous, Dunning waited until after the presentation to tell Elba whom they had been photographed with. At first Elba didn't know who Gates was. Then she said, "You know, you could have told me. If I can talk to my mayor, I can talk to her too."

Elba may not have known Gates, but Gates and thou-



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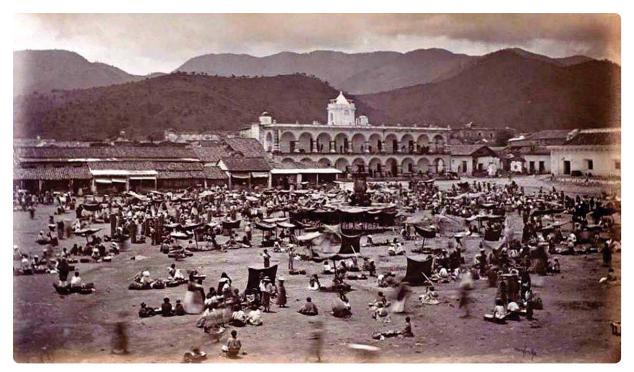
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sands of others worldwide now know Elba, what she's achieved, and what she stands for. Before the crowd of more than 1,500, Elba put all of her leadership to work, delivering a strong, clear message to the crowd that "girls have rights and we are equal." The film "¡PODER!" is important, she explained, so that adolescent girls will know "we have voice and we have vote and we are able to achieve what we set out to do." Clearly, Elba and her friends are doing just that.

You can view "¡PODER!" online on March 13 at www. letgirlslead.org/poder. For more information, go to www. letgirlslead.org or see Revue's September 2013 article at www.revuemag.com/2013/09/lights-cameras-advocacy/.

Who will tell whether one happy moment of love or the joy of breathing or walking on a bright morning and smelling the fresh air, is not worth all the suffering and effort which life implies. —Erich Fromm

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. —Frederick Blackburn



La Antigua Central Park, 1875. Photo by Eadweard Muybridge

Over the Years cont. from page 12

1881, finca owners continued to live in Guatemala City and there was no real economic base for the old colonial capital. In the photos by Eadweard Muybridge taken during this period (1875), we see the market in the Central Park and La Merced with lawn sofas in front of it on weekends.

La Antigua became an educational center for the region with the dawn of the 20th century. The market was moved out of Central Park in 1912 and the city was declared a National Monument in 1944. The monuments, however, remained mostly abandoned and many of the houses had not been renovated. It became a somewhat popular place to visit in the 1940s when Gore Vidal lived in town and Antigua was emerging on the tourism map! Tourism continued to grow and Spanish-language schools began to proliferate in the early 1970s; in 1969 the Guatemalan Congress passed a law calling for the protection of historical Antigua. But preservationists had no architectural plans of the city and only written histories to guide them. Study efforts began to learn more about this historical gem, which was included as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. Although the city does not request funds from UNESCO, Guatemalan experts did receive training.

Business signs were taken down with the Sign Ordinance of 1973 and electrical wires were put underground after 1982. Windows were turned into doors for storefronts and Spanish students stayed with local families, adding to the city's income. Meanwhile the tourism industry began to thrive. Houses became hotels, storefronts became cafés and art galleries. Zoning was implemented for commercial and residential corridors and Antigua established its own Urban Development Department at the municipality.

So...during the 22 years since the Revue began with its first publication, Antigua has emerged as THE tourism destination in Guatemala and, now, we are the wedding destination for the entire region. The Titanic job of preservation that began in earnest in the 1960s, and which has borne such wonderful fruit to date, will require continuing fervent effort as Antigua grows even more.

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Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced. —James Baldwin

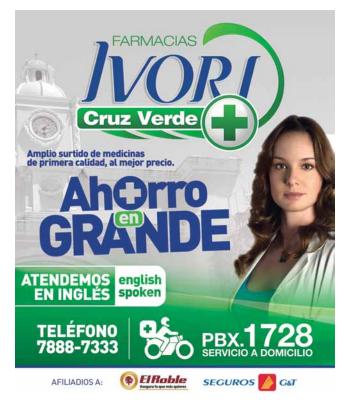
It's not easy taking my problems one at a time when they refuse to get in line. —Ashleigh Brilliant

Success will never be a big step in the future, success is a small step taken just now. —Jonatan Mårtensson

As I grow older I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do. —Andrew Carnegie

When it seems that something can't be done, start it, and see if the rest of it can be done. —Robert Brault

People may doubt what you say, but they will believe what you do. —Lewis Cass









We should be taught not to wait for inspiration to start a thing. Action always generates inspiration. Inspiration seldom generates action. —Frank Tibolt

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

Question: I just rescued a white female kitten with blue eyes. My friend told me they are always deaf. Is that true?

Blue-eyed white cats are not always deaf. However, there is indeed an increased incidence of hereditary deafness in these cats. The gene for deafness is in close proximity to the gene for white hair color and for blue eyes on the cat's genome. Sometimes, when one gene is passed on to the offspring, the other nearby genes are passed on as well. This syndrome sometimes is referred to as Waardenburg syndrome. Interestingly, odd-eyed cats (cats with one blue eye and one green eye) have an increased likeliness of being deaf in one ear: the ear that is on the same side as the blue eye.

To find out if she is deaf, the easiest way is to see if you can rouse her from a deep sleep by making a startling sound like clapping. If she is deaf, keep in mind that deaf cats are at a disadvantage in that they cannot hear cars or predators and therefore should never be allowed outdoors. You also might consider placing a bell on her collar to help you locate her.







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There are so many things that we wish we had

done yesterday, so few that we feel like doing today.

I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely

miserable, but through it all I still know quite certainly

that just to be alive is a grand thing. - Agatha Christie

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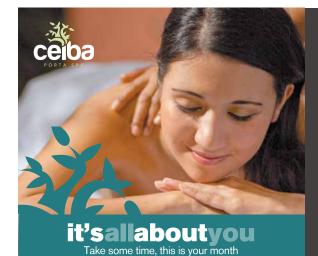
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The problem is not that there are problems. The problem is expecting otherwise and thinking that having problems is a problem. —Theodore Rubin





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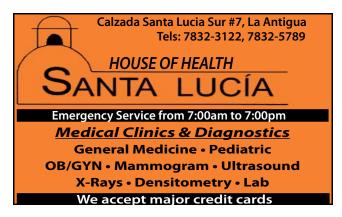


Better bread with water than cake with trouble. —Russian Proverb



When life gives you lemons, please, just don't squirt them in other people's eyes. —J. Andrew Helt

The gem cannot be polished without friction nor man without trials. —Confucius



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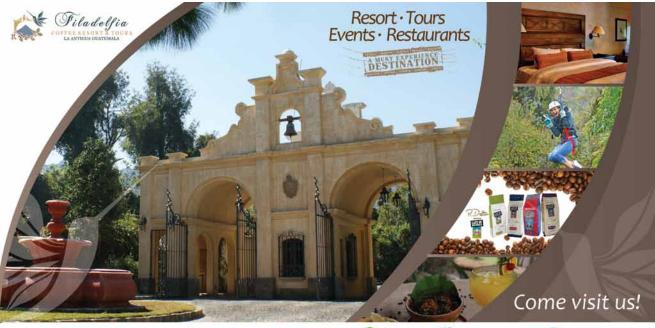
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When we commit to action, to actually doing something rather than feeling trapped by events, the stress becomes manageable. —Greg Anderson

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. —Peter Marshall

Trust only movement. Life happens at the level of events, not of words. Trust movement. —Alfred Adler



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Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us. —Voltaire



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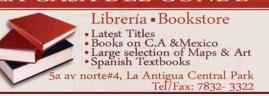


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Recipe from Amalia's Kitchen (see page 21) CEVICHE DE PESCADO

Fish with Cucumber in Garlic-Lime Sauce

Ceviche de pescado is easy to make. Use a firm fish that doesn't flake easily when cooked, so that it can hold well during marinating. Mahi mahi, sea bass and tuna are all good choices. The lime juice tends to break down the fish even more, so choosing the right texture of fish is a must for the best flavor, texture and appearance. Serve with soda crackers and pair with beer—preferably Guatemalan beer.

Serves 1 person

1/3 cup bite-size pieces of mahi-mahi (or any other firm white fish)

Salted water

tablespoon roughly chopped onion
 teaspoon roughly chopped garlic
 roughly chopped cilantro stems
 bird's eye (Thai) chili, stem removed
 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice
 tablespoon olive oil
 tablespoon kosher salt
 Freshly ground black pepper

1/3 cup thinly julienned unpeeled, seeded cucumber1 tablespoon thinly julienned red bell pepper1 tablespoon thinly julienned green bell pepper1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro leaves

Adorno (Garnish) cilantro sprigs

Blanch the fish in salted hot water until opaque, about 2 minutes. Remove from the water and chill immediately in the refrigerator to keep it from cooking further.



With a mortar and pestle, gradually pound the onion, garlic, cilantro stems and chili to a fine paste. Add the lime juice, oil and seasonings and stir with the pestle to form a saucy mixture. (Or purée the mixture in a blender or food processor.)

In a medium non-reactive bowl, combine the fish, sauce, cucumber, bell peppers and cilantro leaves. Using a soft spatula, mix gently with folding strokes, taking care not to break the fish. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed.

Serve the ceviche garnished with cilantro sprigs.





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Antigua's Curry Club celebrates eight years of exotic dining and camaraderie

f you've never done it, joining the Antigua Curry Club is quite entertaining. I say this as a former member, former because I moved out of Guatemala and a jovial Episcopalian minister desperately wanted my membership, which I bought and resold for Q295, or about \$40. If you're interested, visit Tomas Cernikovsky's website, where Cernikovsky (creator and founding member) maintains a page dedicated to all things curry. Once there, you can get up-to-date information on membership prices and availability as well as an archive of past and future club dinners. Cernikovsky has a bit of fun with it, informing you, "Only important Antigua people belong [to Curry Club] and only important An-56

tigua people can buy memberships." You'll also be cautioned –

**Warning:* Value of investments may go up or down. The Antigua Curry Club is not responsible for financial losses sustained by curry eaters. The Curry Club Debentures market is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Curry Commission (SECC). Complete Club Rules and Regulations are still not available, but we keep making them up as we go.

In short, being a member of the Antigua Curry Club is a great honor, and not something that should be taken lightly.

Let's back up to 2007. Cernikovsky and a few friends decided to start the Curry Club as a way to help a struggling Indian restaurant, the only one in town. He sold the first 20 memberships at one quetzal each. That one quetzal gave its owner access to special Curry Club dinner prices at the semi-monthly dinners, where attendees delight in masala-laden meals along with one (or several) glasses of wine. Interest piqued and Cernikovsky sold the next 20 memberships at five quetzals apiece, and the last 10 at Q25.

Fast forward to 2014. The Curry Club is in its eighth year and now has 50 constituents. The original restaurant intended for saving did eventually close, but in its place Antigua now has four Indian restaurants and Guatemala City has one plus a Chinese restaurant ...continued page 60





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ANTIGUA dining



Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, March "Fe, Devoción y Tradición" by Jose Manuel Maica Jimenez















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Curry Fever cont. from page 56

that has a good selection of curry dishes. Over the years memberships have been bought and sold. No longer just friends of Cernikovsky's, the group is an eclectic cast of culinarians who appreciate curry and trying new restaurants. The club doesn't necessarily stick to restaurant meals, nor is it exclusively based in Antigua. A typical event could be a dinner at Antigua curry haunt Pushkar. Or it could be a potluck with enough food to feed a raj and his whole court. Or it could be a fieldtrip to Guatemala City complete with a mall excursion, cocktail hour and dinner at JK Ming, the Chinese food joint that serves curry. Club goers enjoy curry together the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, rotating restaurants and certainly generating a fair amount of revenue for each outlet, even in the low tourist season.

A few weeks ago, the group gathered at Palacio de Ganesh, a cubbyhole on 7a avenida norte that redecorated its dining room to fit the 25-plus members who attended. No one minded being close because the wine was flowing (free courtesy of "liquid dividends") and the food was good. Curry Club meals always start with poppadums and lime pickle, and that evening the menu was vegetable pakora, veg or non-veg korma, an Indian curry (obviously). For dessert there was rasmalai, Indian cheese steeped in saffron and sugar-laced milk.

The cast of characters had changed a bit since I attended regularly, but that's part of the charm of Curry Club. For an hour or two twice a month, you find yourself chatting up whoever is across the table from you, say, a Canadian couple who found Guatemala by sailboat, a retired American woman with red coral-colored hair who has traveled the world twice over, or the jovial Texas-born, Mexico-raised minister to whom I sold my membership. You can rest assured that the conversation will always turn back to curry.

If you are interested in a membership, heed the website's advice, "Please call our India Call Center at 7832-8466," check the website at <u>http://www.cernikovsky.com/curry.htm</u> or email cernikovsky@hotmail.com.

Natalie Rose is a freelance writer who would not have survived college without Indian takeout.

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ANTIGUA dining

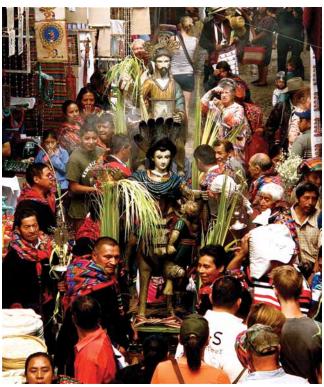




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If your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt. —Henry J. Kaiser

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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, March. "Traditions" "Fe" (Chichicastenango) by Nicolas Vanzetto Guerrero All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

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Be content to act, and leave the talking to others. —Baltasar Gracián Nothing diminishes anxiety faster than action. —Walter Anderson

Sacred Animals and Exotic Tropical Plants

by Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth

Food of the Maya

wo thousand years ago, Mayan cities, towns and villages had to feed a growing population enough food both to insure their survival and to enable the construction of the monumental stone pyramidtemples, extensive palaces and ball courts.

There were no cargo airplanes to fly in food; there were no wheeled vehicles; and there was no highway system (*sacbes* between cities were primarily to showcase [and preserve] political relations).

Obviously, there were markets. The Aztec markets left Cortés stunned; but there was no Walmart, and there were no supermarkets with frozen food bins.

And, there were more Maya living in El Petén and adjacent Campeche 64 thousands of years ago than live in these areas today. So logically the study of food is a major interest of scholars.

The FLAAR Reports list of crops and plants available to the Classic Maya includes:

- Three grains plus nine edible seeds
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- Five berries
- At least 89 native fruits

• Many edible fruits on passionflower vines, and several fruits from cacti or cactus-like vines

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research). Contact: frontdesk@flaar.org • Five nuts and several species of coconuts (plus 10 palms with edible parts)

- Six plants to produce cooking oil
- At least 11 root crops
- Over 30 seasonings, flavorings, herbs
- At least 14 or more edible flowers

• At least 10 plants that can produce alcohol

• Several dozen plants to produce drugs

• At least 19 plants to increase libido

• Over a dozen plants to be smoked (in addition to tobacco)

• Several hundred plants that can produce medicine.

Some plants have so many different parts that are edible (seeds, bark, core, roots, flowers, etc.) that a few species are in multiple food types.

In Guatemala (and Honduras, Mexico, El Salvador and Belize) many rural families do not have enough



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Mayan Food from page 64

food. This means that they do not earn enough money to buy processed food and/or that their available fields and home gardens do not produce enough sustainable crops. Since typical cuisine and food crops of the Maya are already acclimated to local conditions, in many cases it would help to bring back some of these ancient foods.

Plumeria rubra (NICHOLAS HELLMUTH)

The Motagua River area of El Progreso and a section of Zacapa are dry most of the year. In ancient times this desert wasteland had a wealth of jadeite, the trade of which supported the population. As well, though short, the rainy season turned the entire desert fully green. Nopal (Opuntia) cactus provided food; flor de mayo (Plumeria species) would have produced plenty of perfume and chemicals to increase libido. Guazuma ulmifolia can probably grow in many of these areas, as well as the vine Gonolobus erianthus, Cuchampera; and morro and jicaro grow here readily. Plus, in theory, the Motagua River valley could be used for irrigation. It would be interesting to discover if any evidence of water management remains from pre-Columbian times.

Sadly, today this area (all the way to the border with Honduras) is desolate and malnutrition is most likely rampant.

FLAAR Reports' list of the diet of the Classic Maya, as is, is more complete than in any peer-reviewed journal or any monograph on Maya agriculture.

It is available for viewing in full-color PDFs at www.maya-ethnobotany.org

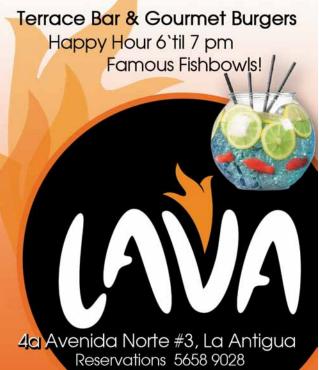
This list is based on the last six to eight years of research which in turn comes from previous decades of studies. The purpose is to help Maya villages to gradually realize that some of the foods of their ancestors can help improve their diet today.







The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps - we must step up the stairs. —Vance Havner



Note to self: finding a cool quote and writing it in your journal is not a substitute for Getting. It. Done. —Betsy Cañas Garmon



ANTIGUA dining



All know the way; few actually walk it. —Bodhidharma The secret of getting ahead is getting started. —Mark Twain



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Be it in the garden, the nursery or the bedroom, a loving touch compensates for an unskilled hand. —Robert Brault





I believe that every human has a finite number of heart-beats. I don't intend to waste any of mine running around doing exercises. —Buzz Aldrin I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on men unless they act. -G.K. Chesterton









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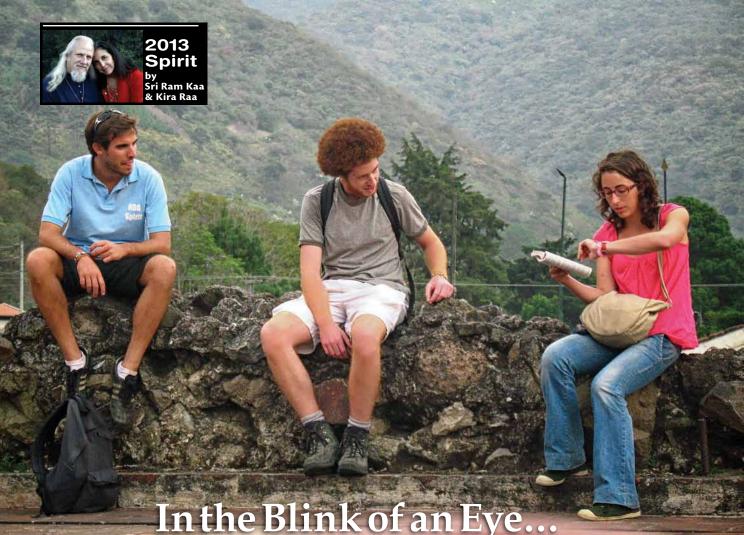


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hat is it about time that seems to permeate everything we do? Perhaps it is how we measure our achievements or plan our lives. Whatever the magical element of time is, the one thing we know for certain is that it is ever moving and fast paced.

Whenever we plan a journey either for business or pleasure it seems that the closer we get to departure, the faster time flies. When we arrive at our destination, we enter a time warp of sorts and our days become a distracting combination of fast and slow experiences. It is only when we decide to fully embrace the concept of "no time" that we have the opportunity to break through this relentless taskmaster known as time and become the master of our moment.

For example, in this moment you are reading and giving yourself the gift of expanding your perspective. This is your choice and a small yet powerful way to claim some time for you.

Every day is an opportunity to fully experience the many discover-

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ies that await if you take charge of your time and allow yourself to be conscious of how you move forward.

Starting the day with a cup of delicious Guatemalan coffee can be a hurried experience or one of "quick leisure" that sets your pace. Enjoy your morning brew in a handmade cup, take time to appreciate the quality of the coffee and smile that you are enjoying another moment of sunshine. A simple shift in the activities that you already do can alleviate

Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna. email: office@tosaspa.com www.LakeAtitlanSpa.com



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the pressure of deadlines and the demeanor you bring to the rest of your to-do list.

If you are in La Antigua Guatemala, there is so much to see and do. Commonly many wonder how they will find the time. The magic is that all the time you are here is your time and your choices determine the pace you set.

It seems that our "relaxing or vacation time" goes the quickest. There are the months that build up to the journey and then, without warning, you are on the journey and suddenly you are back home.

"Where did the time go?"

A common question and one that you can gain full **74** control of. It simply begins with the recognition that you are the master of your day — this day and every day. This recognition is the cure for the feeling that things are out of your control.

Allow yourself to see through the illusion of time and be sure that your d a i l y routine is



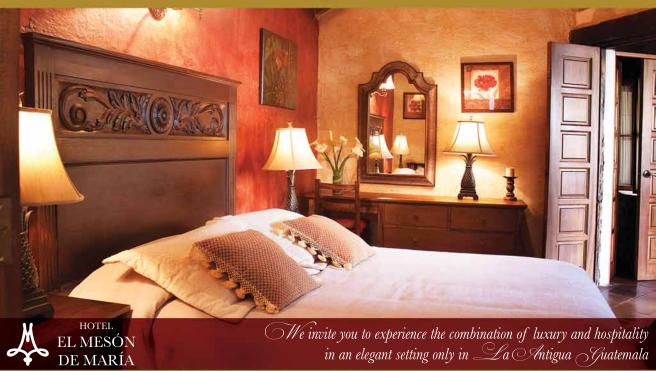
re-tooled to be your daily experience. Rather than completing your regular tasks with the same perspective, enjoy the moment and the doing.

When you are relaxing you are smiling. And when you are smiling you are relaxing. Smiling at the illusion of time opens your eyes to the greater spaciousness that has always been there for you.

Before you know it years will pass, and when you gaze back and reflect, as we are this month, celebrating 22 amazing years of the REVUE, your heart will come forward with a smile and realize that it all happens...in the blink of an eye.

Ahhh...perspective!

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5-1



n addition to filing income tax returns, U.S. citizens are required to report their holdings in foreign financial accounts. Uncle Sam is increasingly interested in knowing about foreign assets held by U.S. citizens and residents. This month, we discuss two key filing requirements that U.S. expats often ignore.

Question: If I have a local bank account, do I need to report it to the IRS?

It depends. U.S. citizens, permanent residents and legal entities with an interest or signature authority over foreign financial accounts that have an aggregate balance exceeding \$10,000 are required to file the FBAR (Foreign Bank Account Report – Form TD F 90-22.1). Foreign financial accounts include bank accounts, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, annuities, life insurance policies with cash value, and indirect interests in foreign financial assets through an entity (if >50 percent ownership).

The \$10,000 threshold is met if the aggregate balance (combining all the accounts) exceeds \$10,000 at any point during the year. The FBAR is separate from your income tax filing, and the due date is June 30 each year (with no extensions). To complete the FBAR, it is advisable to maintain records of your monthly account balances. Otherwise, the paperwork may become a difficult exercise. Account balances need to be converted to U.S. dollars, using the foreign exchange rate as of the last day of the year. Failure to report (non-willful) carries a penalty up to \$10,000. Willful non-compliance potentially raises the penalty up to \$100,000 or 50 percent of the taxpayer's foreign assets (whichever is greater).

New Electronic FBAR (FinCEN 114)

As of July 1, 2013, the FBAR has gone electronic, and is now called Fin-CEN 114. The acronym FinCen stands for Financial Crime Enforcement Network. The information required to be submitted remains the same.

Question: What is FATCA?

U.S. expats often confuse FATCA and FBAR with one another. They are two distinct requirements. FAT-CA stands for Foreign Account Tax Compliant Act, and has been around since 2010. The FATCA reporting requirement is part of a broader effort by the U.S. government to combat offshore tax evasion.

U.S. persons who receive proceeds from foreign financial accounts that have an aggregate balance exceeding certain thresholds (see below) are required to file Form 8938. U.S. persons include citizens, permanent residents and non-residents who file a joint tax return with a U.S. citizen.

Foreign financial accounts or assets include bank accounts, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, annuities, life insurance policies with cash value, and financial interest in a foreign partnership.

Foreign financial accounts or assets do not include personally owned real estate.

The threshold for U.S. citizens filing an individual tax return is \$200,000 aggregate balance on the last day of the year, or \$300,000 aggregate balance at any point during the year.

The threshold for U.S. citizens filing a joint tax return is \$400,000 aggregate balance on the last day of the year, or \$600,000 aggregate balance at any point during the year.

Form 8938 is included with your income tax filing.

The maximum penalty for failing to file Form 8938 is **\$60,000 for each foreign asset that you failed to report** (even more onerous than for the FBAR).

If you would like to submit a tax-related question, please email: <u>info@holaexpat.com</u>.

Responses are provided by John Ohe (IRS-authorized enrolled agent), who resides in Antigua.

Disclaimer: The answers provided in this article are for general information, and should not be construed as personal tax advice. Tax laws and regulations change frequently.

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Be master of your petty annoyances and conserve your energies for the big, worthwhile things. —Robert Service





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An idea not coupled with action will never get any bigger than the brain cell it occupied. —Arnold Glasow



Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, March. "Traditions" "Multiculturalidad en Procesiones" by Jorge Enrique Batz

The sun shines and warms and lights us and we have no curiosity to know why this is so; but we ask the reason of all evil, of pain, and hunger, and mosquitoes and silly people. —Ralph Waldo Emerson

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If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have a paradise in a few years. —Bertrand Russell



Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, March. "Traditions" "Fe Chapina" by Jorge Aquino. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

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People don't ever seem to relate that doing what's right is no guarantee against misfortune. —William McFee

The trouble with most of us is that we would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism. —Norman Vincent Peale







If the wind will not serve, take to the oars. —Latin Proverb



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The Giant Head of San Juan La Laguna

he aldea of San Juan La Laguna lies between two mountains on the western reach of Lake Atitlán. Overshadowed by its more populous neighbor San Pedro La Laguna, San Juan is not on the list of usual tourist destinations, although it plays host to several lovely and reasonably priced art galleries and weaving collectives. Many buildings sport colorful murals, and the overall feeling of the place is that of a somewhat dull but charming lakeside town. Of greater 82 interest, though, is the giant head sitting in the middle of a coffee finca a kilometer or two outside of town.

Although the existence of the ancient stone head is casually mentioned in *The Rough Guide to Guatemala*, the statue seems to be otherwise undocumented. The guide refers to it as a carved Olmec head, yet the style, scale and local folklore all indicate a Mayan origin. In spite of its brief mention in the guide, however, the enormous head is extremely difficult to find. Most of the denizens of San Juan do not know of the head's existence, never mind the fact that it lies just a short walk away in the campo. The usual response to queries about the head is to point tourists to the center of town and a concrete reproduction of a Mayan frieze. When I asked about "a large stone head nearby," one older woman said that the head had disappeared many years ago. Another woman said it was in the national museum. An older gentleman who mostly spoke Kaqchikel



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Between Panajachel & Santa Catarina Palopó 7762-2522 / 7955-8282 • www.balamya.com couldn't remember where the head was, but helpfully pointed in a vague way toward the lake.

At last I encountered a gallery owner closing up for the day who spoke both Spanish and Kaqchikel. He said that although he didn't know how to get to the head, he knew the man who owned the coffee farm and he could take me and my two companions to him. Late afternoon was approaching, and the boats to Santa Cruz and Panajachel would stop running in just an hour or two. However, I had already visited San Juan once in the past on my quest for the missing head, and I didn't want to turn back now that I had finally found someone knowledgeable.

We hopped in a tuk-tuk driven by the man's son and began a bumping, winding ride through the back alleys of San Juan. The family dog came along for the ride. We stopped in front of a house, and were soon joined by a short man in a cowboy hat. The man in the hat, Guillermo Cholotío, owned the coffee farm where the head resided, and he agreed to show us the way. Six people and one dog set out once more in the tuk-tuk. "I have lived here my whole life, and my great-grandparents, my grandparents, my parents. Four generations now with me," Cholotío said. His children make the fifth generation of Cholotíos in San Juan.

The head was first unearthed when the low terraces of the coffee finca were constructed in the early 19th century. The workers cleared the brush from around the head and then left it where they found it. Since then, it had been largely forgotten, except by those who work on the farm.

We reached the edge of town and continued on foot through a culvert and then into the coffee farm. Cholotío led the way at a breakneck speed. Mosquitos nipped at our ankles as sweating workers swayed by beneath their bursting white sacks of coffee beans. The path wound deeper into the farm, and soon any sight of the town and lake was hidden by coffee plants and rising shade trees. Many of the plants were riddled with *la roya*, coffee rust, and the reddish dust from the infection soon coated our clothes.

After 15 or 20 minutes we left the main path and proceeded down a row of coffee plants.

There it was, sitting coolly in the middle of the coffee plantation, staring blankly up at the canopy of trees overhead. Cholotío pointed at it—"here it is!" The dog gamboled around unconcerned.

According to Cholotío, the head was first unearthed when the low terraces of the coffee finca were constructed in the early 19th century. The workers cleared the brush from around the head and then left it where they found it. Since then, it had been largely forgotten, except by those who work on the farm.

"The people here don't even know about it," Cholotío said. "It's sad. I wish we had a museum."

But there's no money for a museum, and even if there were a museum, someone would have to pay professionals to move the head. It's too heavy and fragile for Cholotío to move on his own.

Cholotío believes the head is of

To reach San Juan La Laguna, pick up a lancha from Panajachel to San Pedro La Laguna (between Q15 and Q35, depending on the time of day, whether the boat is direct, and if the pilot is in a good mood). From San Pedro La Laguna, a hair-raising 10-minute tuk-tuk ride (Q20) brings you to San Juan.

To visit the giant head, call Guillermo Cholotío at 5822-5543 or 4268-1864. His fee is around Q100, and the cost of a tuk-tuk driver's time to go to the finca, visit the head, and return is around Q35. Be sure to ask when the last boat back to your destination leaves from San Juan and/or San Pedro before setting out to the farm.

<u>LAKE ATITLÁN</u>





Mayan origin, as it is the Maya that have inhabited the shores of Lake Atitlán dating from the Pre-classic period (600 BC – 250 AD). He also pointed to the wide, flat nose on the stone head and then motioned to his own—he said the statue had the form of the Mayan nose and face.

As we left the finca once more to catch the last boat back to Panajachel, Cholotío pointed at the mountain looming above San Juan. He said it was called "Nariz de Maya," the Mayan Nose, because the silhouette of the peak looked like the profile of the statue.

"They built this for history, so that we would remember them now," Cholotío said. "Maybe he was a king or a god."

LAKE ATITLÁN

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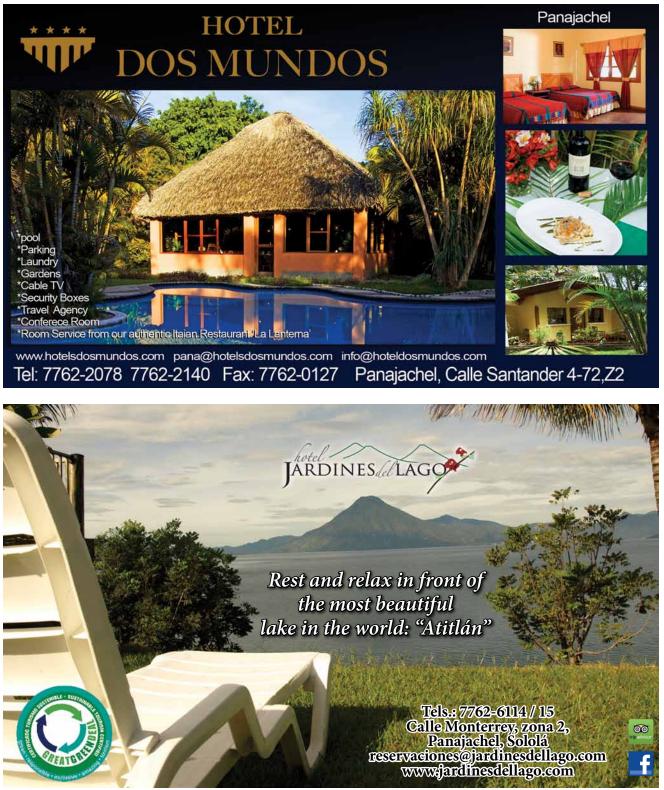
Entries in the Revue Photo Contest, March "Vuelo tradicional" by Miriam Panjoj

"Con o sin lluvia, la música no para" Panajachel, Sololá by Manuel A. Fuentes H. ▼ All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt





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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, March "Tradition in Cubulco, Baja Verapaz" by Hugo Rodríguez Hernández All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt







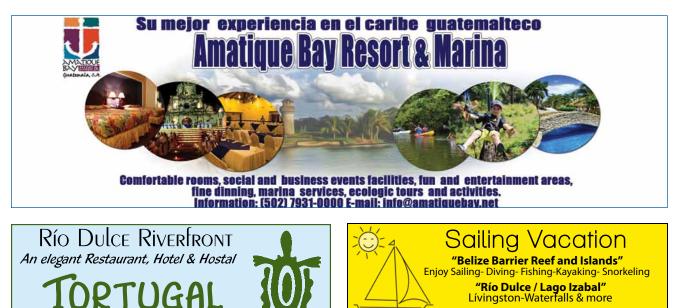


Talk doesn't cook rice. —Chinese Proverb

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When deeds speak, words are nothing. —African Proverb

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The great composer does not set to work because he is inspired, but becomes inspired because he is working. Beethoven, Wagner, Bach and Mozart settled down day after day to the job in hand with as much regularity as an accountant settles down each day to his figures. They didn't waste time waiting for inspiration. —Ernest Newman If you break your neck, if you have nothing to eat, if your house is on fire—then you got a problem. Everything else is inconvenience. Life is inconvenient. Life is lumpy. Learn to separate the inconveniences from the real problems. You will live longer. —Sigmund Wollman,

I believe half the unhappiness in life comes from people being afraid to go straight at things. $-\!William$ J. Lock

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Quetzal peeking out from his nest (PHOTO BY THOR JANSON)

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PACIFIC COAST / MONTE RICO



He who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts. —Samuel Johnson



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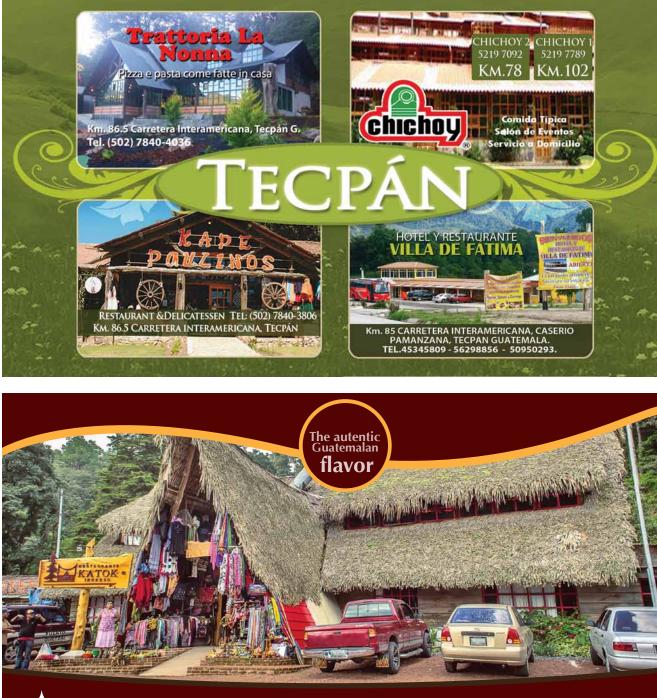




Autographed books by author, photographer, and conservationist Thor Janson are available for sale at 3a avenida sur #4-A, La Antigua



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AA OPEN MEETINGS IN ENGLISH IN ANTIGUA: Mon. 6-7pm, Discussion. Tues. 6-7pm, Big book. Wed. 12-1pm, Literature study. Thurs. 6-7pm, Steps. All at Doña Luisa's restaurant, 2nd floor rear dining room. 4a calle oriente #12. www.antiguaguatemalaaa.org Tel: 4735-8955

CLUB ROTARIO, Meets every Wednesday 7pm at Porta Hotel Antigua (except last Wed. of the month). Call 7832-7600 http://www.rotaryantigua.org/

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

ST. ALBANS EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICE IN ENGLISH, Formerly St. Marks. Sundays 12:00 noon. Casa Convento Concepción, 4a calle oriente #41. Tel: 2366-0663.

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JOURNEY CHURCH, Sundays 10am, Christian Academy of Guatemala, San Cristóbal, Mixco. Simultaneous translation. GuateJourney.org

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If God had intended us to fly he would have made it easier to get to the airport —Jonathan Winters

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Rock bottom is good solid ground, and a dead end street is just a place to turn around. —Buddy Buie

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A promise is a cloud; fulfillment is rain. —Arabian Proverb solutionsantigua@yahoo.com 3a calle oriente #15 La Antigua Tels. 5993-8844 4905-0192

TIONS

Real Estate / Bienes Raices

Doing things is not the same as getting things done. —Jared Silver





Cowgirls of Tactic

Magic Tactic cont. from page 19 the side of the mountain. It is possible to camp under the stars here, too.

Sitting on a bluff above the Valley of Tactic is the Sanctuary of Chi-Ixim, where the famous figure of the Black Christ is located. Pilgrims from all over Guatemala make their way to this sacred site to venerate the Black Christ, and many miraculous healings are attributed to Him. In front of the sanctuary is a huge cross and pre-Columbian ceremonial site where Maya spiritual guides and shamans come to perform sacred rituals called "costumbres." It is all right for visitors to discreetly sit and observe the ceremonies but, as always when we are visitors in a foreign land, discretion should be used when taking photographs. We all want to be treated with respect!

The annual fair, dedicated to the honor of the local saint, takes place **Aug. 12-15**. It is a time of celebration with live music concerts in central park, dances, beauty contests and one of the most unusual and exceptional foot races ever to be seen. Sitting on a bluff above the Valley of Tactic is the Sanctuary of Chi-Ixim, where the famous figure of the Black Christ is located.

Men carry a 100-pound sack of corn on their backs as they run up to the sanctuary then back down to the town center—a feat of unbelievable strength and stamina. Many sacred processions also take place, and special ceremonies are held at the houses of members of the cofradía, the traditional spiritual-political fraternities. Visitors are often welcomed inside and treated with a gourd full of hot, spicy cacao drink, a welcome treat especially if it is cold and the drizzling cheepy-cheepy cloud forest mist is chilling your bones.

Cofradía house in Tactic





2nd PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, March. Theme: Guatemala Traditions "Fervor y Devoción" by Gabriela T. Jerez. Prize: Carved Jade Paper Weight from **Jades Xibalbá**. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt

Honorable Mention by popular vote: "Recorrido del Niño Jesús" Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, by Alfredo Santos Lopez Yol





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MISC.

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SCHOOLS

ANTIGUA Christian Spanish Academy 45

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE Police: 120 Fire: 122 and 123

Tourist Police (Antigua): 7832-4131 Fire Dept: 7832-0234 Guatemala City Tourist Assistance: 1500 (24-hour)



marzoal Gabril

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GUATEMALA CITY / ANTIGUA COBÁN / QUETZALTENANGO



CULTURALES				
VIO14	Estados Unidos	CLAUSURE Casper College & Guests Bootcamp 17:00 hrs.	Casper College & Guests Faculty Concert ft. Imox Jazz 20:00 hrs.	I⊤a⊔a Masterclass Marco Castelli Trio
JUC	oorcamp	Iraua Marco Castelli Trío	20:00 hrs.	
mie <mark>12</mark>	Estabos Unbos Casper Coulege & Guests Boorcamp Universidad del Valle de Guatemala 9:00 a 16:30 hrs.			
marii	S Casper Cour Ille de Guatemala	Irau a Marco Castelli Trío	18:00 hrs.	
run10	Estabos Unibos Universidad del Vall 9:00 a 16:30 hrs.			
VIGOT	Francia	David Venitucci Q50.00 20:00 hrs.	Estados Unidos University of	lexas Faculty Jazz 19:30 hrs.
JUEOO	Estados Unidos	University of Texas Faculty Jazz 20:00 hrs.		
MICOS	Estabos Unidos	Taller University of Texas Facutty Jazz	Teatro Dick Smtih IGA 09:00 hrs.	
maro4	Esrabos Unipos	University of Texas Faculty Jazz Q50.00 20:00 hrs.	Guaremai a Imox Jazz	20:00 hrs.
saeoniai maro4	Guarema.a. Big Band	Guatemala Q150,00 20:00 hrs.		

15:00 hrs. Teatro Dick Smith

	*		Q
JUEOS	Estrabos Unibos Native Jazz Quartet 20:00 hrs.		CONCIENTO CASA NOJ QUETZALTENANGO
	Surza Eliana Burki 19:30 hrs	GuaremaLa 4xQuatro Q50.00 20:00 hrs	CONCIERTIO CONCIERTIO MUNICIPAL GUETZALTENANIGO
maroi@Bl mieo2	Suiza Eliana Burki 20:00 hrs		
	Suiza Proyección Nina Simone: Live in Montreaux 19:30 hrs		HENTE A CASA DURANTA COBAN, ALTA VERAPAZ
mar <mark>2</mark> 6	Méxeco Los Güeros 20:00 hrs		CONCIENTO I SOCEDAD DE BENEFICIENCIA DE COBAN ALTA VERAPAZ
Sab22	Méxtco Los Güeros 20:00 hrs		
M621	España Taller Marcelino Galân THE GIFT 10:00 - 12:00 hrs cento cultural cestorana - ccc	Marcelino Galán THE GIFT 20:00 hrs.	CONCIENTO CONCIENTO SEDE CAPCE SEDE CAPCE
JUC20	España Marcelino Galán THE GIFT 20:00 hrs	Guaremara Quatro Jazz Band 20:00 hrs	CONCIENTO CONCIENTO TEXTRO DOK SMITH GLATEMALACITY
me <mark>1</mark> 0	España Marcelino Galán THE GIFT 19:00 hrs		TALLERES PARA MUSICOS
mar18	Surza Proyección Nina Simone: Live in Montreaux 19:30 hrs	Guaremala Soltura Jazz Luis Vizcaino y Ferrocarril Jazz 19:00 hrs	1 2 2
Sab16	Guartemana Surza Imox Jazz & Proyect Invitados Nina Sii Q50.00 hrs 19:30 h	Traua Marco Castelli Trío 19:00 hrs.	GuaremaLa 4xQuatro 20:00 hrs





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