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April 2014
Year 23, No. 2

FREE

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Photo Contest: Volcanoes
Caves of Guatemala*



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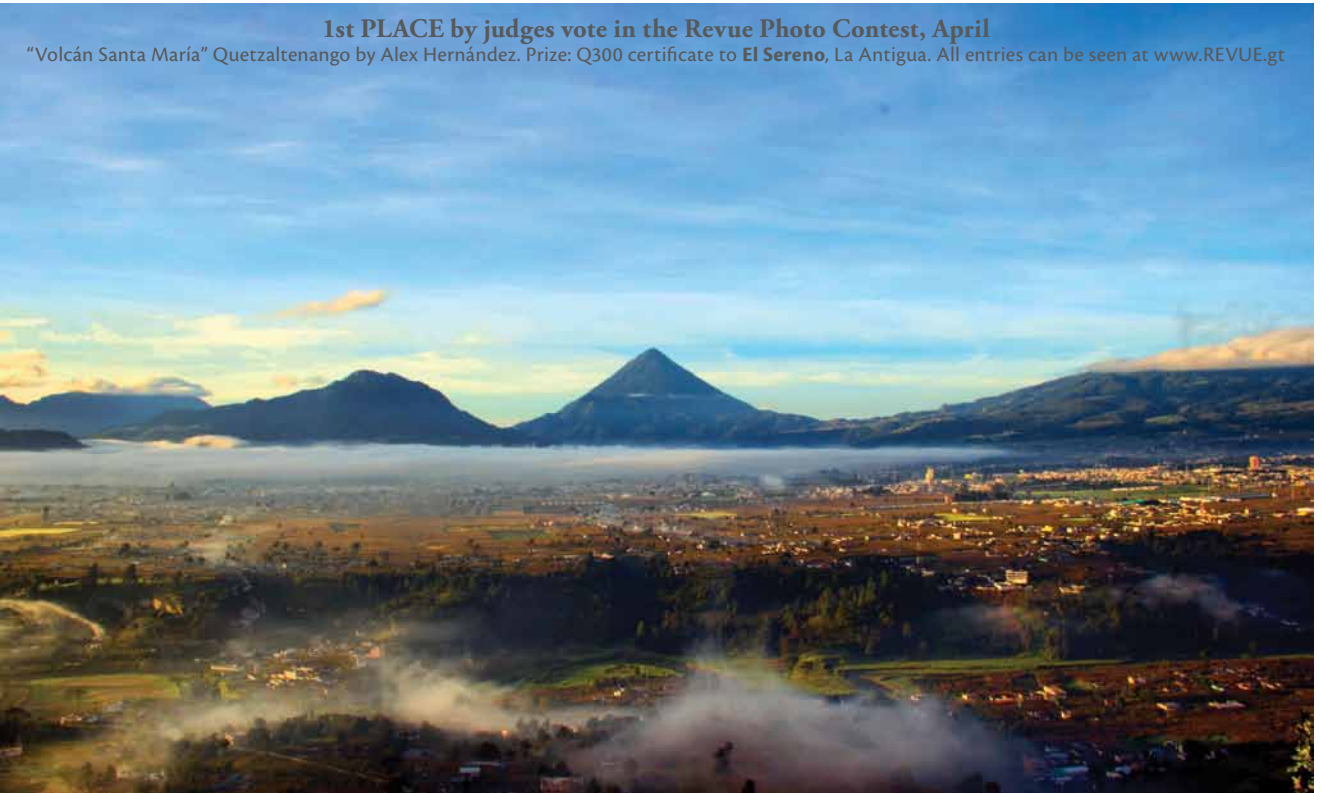
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1st PLACE by popular vote in the
REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, April
"El pequeño poderoso" by David Pérez
Prize: Q250 Brunch at **Mesón Panza Verde**.



APRIL REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Volcanoes of Guatemala

1st PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest, April
"Volcán Santa María" Quetzaltenango by Alex Hernández. Prize: Q300 certificate to **El Sereno**, La Antigua. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt





Legendary Moments



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by Elizabeth Bell

Lent and Semana Santa

The largest Easter Week
celebration in the world



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from the publishers

Elizabeth Bell's *Lent and Semana Santa* provides a historical background and notes the largest Easter Week celebration in the world is in La Antigua Guatemala. Next Natalie Rose takes us on a culinary tour of San Juan del Obispo, followed by Linda Conard's introduction to master jade carver Francisco Zúñiga who conducts jade carving workshops in the same town.

The adventure features include Thor Janson's *Subterranean Sojourn*, and Tara Tiedemann tours the *Western Highlands of Belize*. The food highlights—Amalia's Kitchen, *Savoring Cuaremas*; Shannon McCullough gives us an overview of *Los Tres Tiempos*, followed by a new column on Wines and Spirits by Alessandra Esteves. Her offering this month is *Golf, Volcanoes and Wine*.

Akaisha and Billy Kaderli provide some valuable tips on *How to House Sit*. Sri Ram Kaa and Kira Raa share their thoughts on *Discovering Passion in Guatemala*.

A Safe Passage for Children by Ben Reeves explains how this organization has brought literacy to the children who live in the neighborhood of Guatemala City's garbage dump.

Datebook is full of events; the feature is the exposition of recent work by William Kalwick Jr at La Antigua Galería de Arte.

Sensuous by Ken Veronda explains how to tell time without looking at your watch. In the *Tax Corner* John Ohe untangles the details of expat U.S. citizens' IRS filings.



On a personal note, we would like to dedicate this edition to a beloved Antigua resident, Pablo Swezey (1959-2014). Pablo's memory will live on in the lives of his family, his friends and his many admirers. He was a gifted artist and innovator who lived his life to the fullest, every day.

—John & Terry Kovick Biskovich

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ON THE COVER

Locals and visitors
creating a processional carpet
in Antigua Guatemala
by
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Lent and Semana Santa

Antigua recently surpassed Seville, Spain as having the largest Easter Week celebration in the world today!

In 1524 the conquerors had barely set foot in Guatemala when they introduced their traditions for Lent and Semana Santa from Seville, Spain. These have evolved over the centuries and Antigua recently surpassed Seville as having the largest celebration in the world today!

Carpet making is everyone's favorite part of the season. It can be traced back to the seventh century in the Canary Islands, and to 10th-

century Barcelona, where they made carpets out of dyed earth. Indeed, many cultures prepare sand paintings and other ephemeral forms of artistic expression for religious and spiritual traditions.

The first carpets in Guatemala—made in the 16th century—were made from pine needles and flowers. Eventually dyed sawdust was introduced and about 15 years ago vegetables and fruits became popular. Corozo—the large pod of a fragrant

palm tree found on the Guatemalan south coast—has been popular for some time. Carpet makers are extremely creative in incorporating the most incredible designs using flowers and other local plants. If a procession passes by your house (there are 25 processions during Lent), friends and family will often invite themselves over to make a carpet. You are free to choose your materials and designs (although using your business logo is frowned upon by locals), ...cont. pg 92

Lenten vistas
(NELO MIJANGOS)

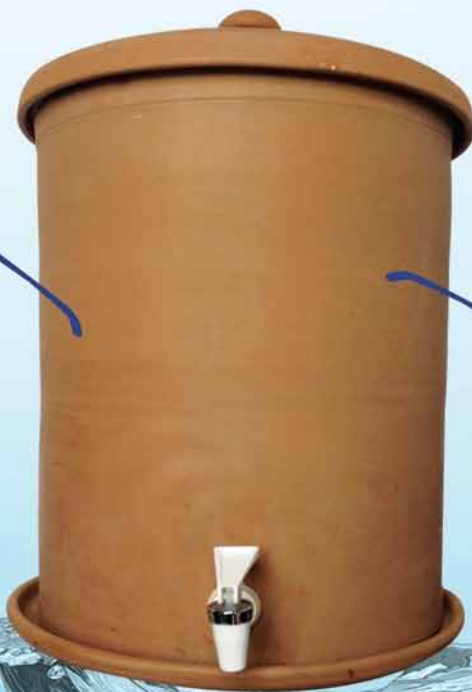


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HECHO EN SAN JUAN

A culinary tour through San Juan del Obispo's homemade and local delicacies.

A horde of chickens gathers at Gerson Ordoñez's feet. Each one jockeys for position near his blue boots, nipping at the dirt-crusting rubber. It's a fresh morning, the haze of cooking fire smoke is beginning to dissipate after the breakfast rush, and the bells in San Juan del Obispo's historic church just finished their "9 o'clock" alert (the *aldea* of San Juan is 15 minutes south of La Antigua). Ordoñez and I are in one of eight chicken pens set up on the property he shares with his wife Tessa of Tess Unlimited and their 25 rescued dogs. In this enclosure chickens outnumber humans 25 to 1, but they are pleasant hosts. The hens are a burnt shade of toffee with a white petal pattern blooming down their necks onto their backs. Aside from Ordoñez's boots, they take particular liking to the red polish on my toenails, testing them curiously with their beaks. It tickles. The chickens roam around their space happily, perhaps making their way over to the grain feed to snack, or heading into the coop to lay one of hundreds of eggs the gaggle will produce today.



Savory morning fare: Fried eggs with house-made utz pin pin salsa and chorizos

As Ordoñez informs me about all things chicken, he bends over and strokes one particularly needy hen. She's been vying for his attention all morning. He pets her with affection, so much so that the other chickens ruffle their feathers in jealousy. It makes me wonder who else in the pueblo treats their wards with such care? Who still maintains traditional production methods in an age when mechanization is the norm? Who else takes such pride in their products that turning a profit falls far below integrity and transparency of their processes?

What follows is a list of my favorite *criollo* (home-made, home-grown) producers in San Juan del Obispo, of which there are quite a few. Some even sell their wares outside the pueblo, so you can try them for yourself. Whether it's a well-known company like Chocolate San Juan or an individual you happen to find on



Who still maintains traditional production methods in an age when mechanization is the norm?

the street, each producer takes great pride in making his or her goods and is eager to share. *Buen provecho!*

Chocolate San Juan

When Doña Josefa of Chocolate San Juan passed away last year, a nephew and four of her children took over the family business. Today, they operate out of the family house on 2a avenida norte in San Juan where production has been helmed since Doña Josefa's mother started in 1915. This generation takes the same care as those before it. Each cacao bean is tested by hand for weight, quality and taste, then roasted, ground, added to sugar and pressed into perfectly round discs. It makes the most splendid hot chocolate when mixed with milk or water. Local tiendas sell the chocolate in flavors like arroz or canela for around Q18 a pound, and you can also find it in La Antigua at La Bodegona.

Goat Milk

Between 8 and 9 o'clock every morning, Ezequiel Rojas walks his most prized possessions, three at a time, up and down the throughway between the Calvario in Antigua and San Juan, their udders swaying as they keep pace. Along the way he calls out, "Leche de cabra, leche de cabra". His goats—shades of cream and browned butter and chocolate—graciously yield to Rojas when he leans in to fill a Styrofoam cup with the sweetest, grassiest, frothiest goat's milk you've ever tasted. It will cost you Q5 for about eight ounces, which you can take in your morning coffee or make the best dulce de leche on earth.



Natalie Rose is a freelance writer who lives in San Juan del Obispo where she happily stuffs her face with local products.

La Cocina del Obispo

If it's a lazy Saturday morning and you aren't in the mood to cook, then Cocina del Obispo is where you should head, where Armanda Chacón Guilló de Sarceño and her husband run a homey yet thriving restaurant on the weekends. Open since 2003, Chef Armanda turns out delicious breakfasts starting with

coffee, sweet breads and homemade strawberry preserves, then mosh—a sweet oatmeal—fresh juice, and a plate of savory morning fare, like fried eggs with house-made utz pin pin salsa and chorizos. Most breakfasts are under Q45, and for the amount of food, they're worth every centavo. Del Obispo also serves up excellent típica later in ...cont. page 46



Make a right while rolling yourself out of del Obispo and you'll find Domingo Díaz Ch. and his home-made wine against a backdrop of women from Santa María de Jesús sudsing up their laundry at the San Juan pilas.

Francisco Zúñiga

FOTO: Zúñiga teaches a group of students how to create their own jade sculptures

When visitors come to Francisco Zúñiga's jade jewelry workshops, he always offers them the same simple advice: "When you work with jade, you must feel at peace and very happy." From the joy Zúñiga expresses in his work, it's clear he's a man who lives by his words.

Zúñiga, whose long beard, glasses and warm smile recall everyone's favorite grandfather, sculpts jadeite, the Guatemalan jade considered sacred by the Maya peoples. He conducts jade workshops in his home in San Juan del Obispo, just outside of Antigua, where he and his wife Odilia treat visitors like family. Instead of passively watching a demonstration, workshop participants get hands-on experience creating their own

original designs, selecting a piece of jade, and performing virtually every step of transforming it into a unique piece of jewelry.

Zúñiga tells participants, "Do the work 50 percent with your hands and 50 percent with your heart. If you make the piece with love, it will be reflected in your piece and you will enjoy it for your whole life."

It's hard to imagine a better jade-sculpting teacher than Zúñiga. For 44 years, he's worked with jade at every level—from searching for it in the mountains, cutting and hauling it back to Antigua, creating jewelry, and sharing his knowledge with others. He is featured in publications like the National Geographic Magazine (September 1987), and the book "Jades of Mesoamerica" by Fred Ward.

Zúñiga began working with soapstone and jasper in childhood, "but when I discovered jade, I found my passion," he says. That passion soon drove him high into the mountains in the Alta Verapaz and Zacapa regions of Guatemala to search for raw jade where the ancient Maya first found it.

"I call the place 'Close to God' because there's a divine peace in this mountain," he says. "You don't want to leave when you're searching there ... it's beautiful."

On countless excursions, Zúñiga and his three-man team spent days and nights searching the mountains for jadeite rock of the desired color. For wealthier clients, the team occasionally used helicopters to transport up to a ton of jade from the mountainside to trucks ...continued page 72



**2014
Spirit**
by
Sri Ram Kaa
& Kira Ra



Discovering Passion in Guatemala

“Mar de Morado” by Raúl Illescas Palomo

Passion! A word that evokes many differing images with diverse expressions of the experience. April is the month in Guatemala where passion ignites its richness with a cacophony of events, emotions and experiences that are here for you to discover.

When we live from our passion we experience a richer life. It is a richness that cannot be counted with currency or explained on a financial statement. It does not reflect in our home or our job, our clothes or our car.

It is an experience of our life force from a place of joy that transcends the mundane. Passion is a vital energy that can be happy, sad, intense or light. It can be enjoyed alone or shared with others,

yet, in the end, it is a wholly singular experience.

Of course, there is the Passion of Christ, a rich tradition that is beautifully celebrated in Guatemala throughout Lent (starting on Ash Wednesday) and culminating with Semana Santa (Holy Week). Many of the devoted, dressed in purple and white, carry huge *andas* (floats) in processions that weave through the streets of La Antigua Guatemala.

And alongside this powerful display you can discover those who are just as passionate about their commitment to animal rescue, indigenous rights, education, quality medical care, food distribution and so much more.

In Guatemala there is an abundance of energies to inspire you and so many activities that invite passionate action. The day-to-day “grind” of earning a living can silently destroy our passion if we are not careful. How many people do you know who wake up each day dreading going to work or putting off the vacation of their dreams for another day?

Passion can be considered a dirty word based upon your perspective. Perhaps your passion is only achieved through intimacy or connection with another. Perhaps your passion has been hidden for so long that you are not sure where it went. ...cont. page 50

*Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna.
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Roads to Adventure

text/photos by
Capt. Thor Janson
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Subterranean Sojourn

I received a call from a man who introduced himself as a friend of a friend; he wanted to know if I would help him find a cave or two in Guatemala's northern Petén province. The caller, by the way, was Gordon Quattlebaum, a man destined to become known as one of Meso-America's foremost cave explorers. Buddy, as everyone calls him, is also a pioneer of one of the world's most dangerous sports—cave diving.

Two weeks after Buddy's call I arrived at Poptún and hiked from my camp to Ixobel Lodge. I was walking across the expanse of pasture that surrounds the visitor's center when what looked like a red meteor flashed down directly at my head, causing me to fall prostrate on the grass in an attempt at self-preservation. The raucous laughing-cry of the demonic feathered

prankster immediately reminded me that I had forgotten about Ixobel's signature attack macaws, a pair of crimson parrots that delight in terrorizing unsuspecting tourists. They sit in the high trees just waiting for their "prey" to blunder into their territory. Carol Devine, Ixobel's proprietress, was walking toward me with a big grin on her face. "You've been away too long," she exclaimed. "Too-true!" was my chagrined reply.

The next day Buddy arrived, having driven from his base near Tulum (Quintana Roo, Mexico). After perfunctory greetings we headed out to Ixobel's own cavern, known as the "45-minute cave"—it's a 45-minute walk from the lodge. Buddy had all the gear necessary for serious cave exploration: ropes, rechargeable lamps,

special helmets and kneepads, and even his own experimental mini-scutuba rebreathing device.

The cave, although small, was very beautiful. It featured amazing stalagmite and stalactite formations and a mirror-like reflecting pool. We spent the afternoon there, Buddy testing his equipment while I experimented with taking photos illuminated by a combination of brilliant-white magnesium flares and remote flash assemblies.

Then it was back to Finca Ixobel, world famous for sumptuous dinner buffets always replete with a huge mixed salad fresh from its organic garden. After dinner Buddy brought out a well-worn map. He smiled as I tried to figure it out.

"This is a speleologist's treasure map," he confided. "Serious spelunkers are a hermetic brotherhood," he



We rigged up a magnesium flare, and, an instant later, we were treated to an incredible sight. The cavern was spectacular and huge beyond any possible expectation.

continued. “We do not reveal the whereabouts of the caves we discover until there is reason to think that the local authorities will adequately protect the cave. Marauding curiosity seekers can quickly destroy what took nature many thousands of years to create. Therefore the caves must be kept secret.”

Then and there Buddy gave me a choice: Either I swear to keep our subterranean discoveries a secret or else the whole show was off. “I swear,” I said. Buddy showed me the sites on the map that he was looking for ... some of the discoveries having been made by other spelunkers decades before. Buddy’s dream, the spelunker’s El Dorado, would be discovering one of the world’s largest and most extensive cave systems.

At dawn the next day we were jolt-

ing along a jungle track in Buddy’s vintage 4X4 power wagon heading east toward the Belizean border. The trip took eight hours, as we had to use the winch repeatedly to drag the vehicle through mud or to clear a fallen tree. The only people we met along the way were a few “xateros” collecting coveted palm leaves (xate), which are extracted from all over El Petén by hardy jungle men and exported to the States. Supposedly used for ornamental flower arrangements, the leaves, as rumor has it, are really used for making paper similar to that of real currency, or perhaps as an ingredient of some pharmaceutical product.

We made camp by a small water hole or cenote. “The GPS reading confirmed that we are right on target,” Buddy proclaimed. We were in a

no man’s land on the border between the Maya Mountains on one side and Belize’s Chiquibul basin on the other. I made a Belizean-style dinner of stewed beans and rice, and then we hunkered down in our tent for the night. The jungle was blaring with the symphonic sounds of a multiplicity of insects, frogs and hooting owls, and I marveled at how the complex sonic atmosphere felt like nectar for my soul.

The next morning we were able to find the mouth of a cave that was marked on the treasure map. We cleared as little bush as possible then rappelled 10 meters to the floor below. Strapping on Buddy’s “old-school” helmets, equipped with brass carbide lamps, we slowly made our way into the darkness along a low gallery. The

ceiling was adorned with the most beautiful and delicate miniature stalactites. One careless wave of the hand and hundreds of these fragile natural works of art would be destroyed.

While Buddy's focus was locating and mapping cave systems, my main interest was photographing animals. Cave residents are divided into two main groups. The troglophiles are animals that live in the twilight zone near the cave's mouth and often spend part of their lives outside the cave. These are comprised of a large variety of species, including bats, amphibians, fish and insects. Deeper inside the cave are the creatures that have totally adapted to perpetual darkness and they are usually completely blind. These are the troglobites, eyeless cave fish, crustaceans and insects.



Cave cricket

Up ahead Buddy was shining a powerful underwater spotlight on what looked like a small water puddle. He then proceeded to take off his pack and gear and stripped down to his shorts. "I'll be right back," he assured me, and jumped into the shallow water where he discovered a tube leading down into the rock. I could see his form disappear and then all was silent, except for the never-ending drip, drip, drip of water from innumerable stalactites. He was gone

way too long, and I was becoming very concerned. Finally, I saw a faint light and a few moments later Buddy broke the surface with a gasp and a big grin on his face. "This looks very promising ...!" he declared. I was still somewhat upset at what seemed to me reckless daredevilry on his part. I was soon to learn that what might be reckless for most was normal for Buddy.



Mayan bat carving

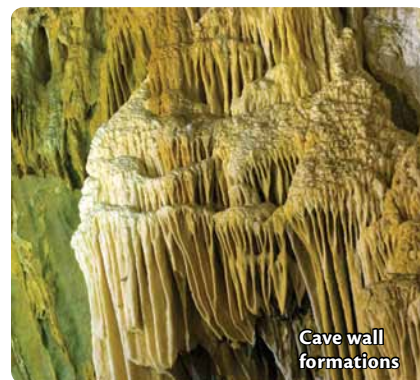
Part of my job was to trail a nylon string that was attached to a branch at the cave's entrance. Never, EVER explore a cave without this failsafe means of getting out again. It is incredible how easy it is to get turned around and lose one's way in an unknown cavern. This is exactly what makes cave diving so perilous.

The next day we decided to camp inside the cave so that we might penetrate its mysteries even farther. After retracing our steps we set up camp deep inside the cave in a chamber with a ceiling that was at least 10 meters high and festooned with enormous formations. This would be our base for the next three days as we explored the inner sanctums of this phenomenal subterranean system.

Cave living has to be experienced

in order to be appreciated. It is a world of perpetual night. Here none of the normal cues from terrestrial existence are present. No changes in temperature. No dawn or dusk. Just endless silence and darkness—except for the incessant sound of dripping water. I was elated to be in this otherworldly dimension.

It was Buddy's turn to make dinner, and he outdid himself whipping up his piece de résistance: crabmeat soufflé accompanied by freeze-dried scalloped potatoes and freeze-dried sweet corn. I provided some cave music to accompany the chef as he worked his culinary wizardry. Using a pencil, I gently tapped on a row of stalactites, each having a different frequency ping, sounding something like a marimba. Stalactites are surprisingly resonant and my concert reverberated around the cavern. After dinner, sipping reconstituted freeze-dried lemonade, we planned our strategy.



Cave wall formations

On the third morning—without watches one would soon completely lose track of time—we set off on new explorations down through a series of tubes and corridors interspersed with a variety of chambers of ...continued page 82

Tradition and Change

Exhibition: Twenty-five Years Painting Guatemala

For 25 years, William Kalwick Jr.'s paintings have captured the traditions and colors of rural indigenous communities throughout Guatemala. He spoke to Revue magazine about his inspiration, his experiences and his April exhibition at La Antigua Galería de Arte.

Revue: Early on, you studied art in Italy and New York City. How did those experiences influence your paintings of Guatemala?

Kalwick: I'm sure that looking at work in European museums influenced my style, but I think what most influenced me were the works of Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida in the Hispanic Society of America, near the Art



Students League in New York where I studied. Sorolla painted different areas of Spain at the turn of the century because he saw that their customs and culture were disappearing. Guatemala is kind of like Europe was in that period, when different areas had distinctive costumes and dialects. When a Guatemalan invited me to visit the country in the 1980s, during Guatemala's civil war, I realized that what I was seeing would not be around much longer, and I was immediately inspired to paint what I saw.

Revue: What differences have you noticed in over a quarter century of painting in Guatemala?

Kalwick: There's been so much change. Young people who come to the U.S. to work bring back so many influences. Surprisingly, many of the traditions still exist, but I've seen traje (traditional clothing) change colors and designs over the years—some of the villages have even lost their traje. I didn't think



they would last this long, to tell you the truth.

Over these 25 years, my paintings have documented the period we're living in right now. I think that's important. Carmen Pettersen's watercolors—they have a collection at Museo Ixchel—show images of Guatemala in the 1960s and 70s. She captured that moment in time, and I feel my paintings carry on that tradition and capture the 1980s, 1990s and into the 21st century.

Revue: Your paintings seem taken directly from everyday life in rural villages. Do you set up your easel right in the markets?

Kalwick: It depends. If I see something in the market that I want to paint, I first take a photo.

But a photo never captures everything we see with ...continued page 74

"Twenty-five Years Painting Guatemala," an exhibition of work by William Kalwick Jr., will open at La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, on April 5, from 4-7 p.m. The artist will attend.

datebook

APRIL 2014 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

Thru Sun., 6 — ART: *Still Moments*, paintings and works on paper by Jennifer Kobylarz. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

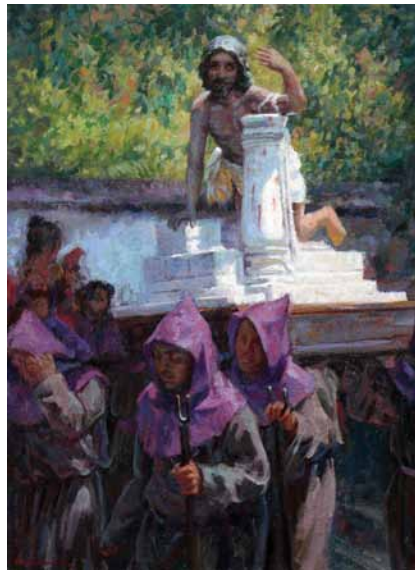


3 Thurs., 7pm, thru Wed. 30 — ART: Cocktail inauguration of *Textum* by Rafael Dussán. El Attico, Sala Principal (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City** ▼



5 Sat., 9am-12pm — COOKING CLASS: Guatemalan cuisine. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

5 Sat., 4-7pm, thru May 4 — ART: Presenting the latest work in oil by William Kalwick Jr, featuring large format processions scenes of Holy Week in Antigua and market scenes from the Highlands, dazzling with light and color. The artist will be present at the opening. La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua** ▼ See article, page 21



5 Sat., 10:55am — OPERA FOR ALL: *La Boheme* (Puccini); **26 Sat., 10:55am**: *Così fan tutte* (Mozart). Live in HD, Q130/Q105, students with carnet. IGA (tel: 2422-5555), Ruta 1, 4-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**

8 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK (English): *Combating Poverty through Education*; Safe Passage works with the poorest at-risk children of families working in the Guatemala City garbage dump. Its primary focus is creating opportunities and dignity through the power of education. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**
See article on page 32

9 Wed., 5pm — MAYAN CEREMONY: *Authentic Mayan ceremony* by sacerdotes & spiritual guides Alfonso and José. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the MAY 2014 edition by April 10

3 Thurs., 6 to 9pm — FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT: Introducing AMO (Antigua Musicos Organizados) with musicians performing Guatemala rock originals, jazz fusion, funk & reggae, New Orleans jazz piano, blues standards, Spanish flamenco, bluegrass banjos and a lot more! Come early, meet the musicians and be a part of video that will be filmed during the concert. Info., (English) tel: 4708-0281; musicians' line (Spanish) tel: 4060-0880 or email: AntiguaMusic@live.com Cooperación Española, 6a av. (between 4a y 5a calles), **La Antigua**



9 Wed., 5pm — ART: Inauguration, *Espiritualidad*, a collective of work by Contemporary Artists in Antigua (C.A.C.A.) An unconventional artists collective with an unconventional name, participants have their own distinctive style. Sharing ideas, techniques and philosophies, C.A.C.A. represents growth, not only for individual artists, but for the community as a whole. Uniting forces and sharing a common passion, C.A.C.A. is quickly becoming a much talked about art movement. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua** ▼



9 Wed., 6pm — PRESENTATION: *Antigua: Behind the Walls* with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour presentation through vintage & contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Q30 per person. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, **La Antigua**

5 Sat., 5pm — LIVE MUSIC: Ron Noecker, piano. Benefit for Nursing Heart Inc (Guatemala Esperanza). Five Chopin nocturns and more. Suggested donation Q100.

26 Sat., 5pm — LIVE MUSIC: Sergio Zepeda, guitar and percussion. Suggested donation Q100. Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, **La Antigua**

9 Wed., 6pm — DOCUMENTARY: A second showing by popular demand, *Maximón-Santo o Diablo* (Spanish with English subtitles) is the controversial Maya deity who personifies good and evil, combining a mixture of ancient Mayan beliefs and Christianity. The film concentrates on the people who surround Maximón with their strong personalities, opinions and faith. Offering a rare glimpse into the rituals and fiestas honoring Maximón, the film takes viewers on a journey that is both joyous and terrifying. Ultimately Maximón transcends the duality of good and evil, reflecting the Mayan cosmovision in which everything in the universe co-exists. Free, open to the public. (www.maximonmovie.com) Cooperacion Española, 6a. av. norte (between 3a y 4a calle), **La Antigua** ▼



10 Thurs., 6pm — PRESENTATION: A slide show, *Lent and Holy Week in Antigua* by Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy an hour of fabulous descriptions and photos of carpet making, velaciones, processions and information. Great tips to enjoy the processions! Q40 p/p. Questions encouraged and autographed books available. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, **La Antigua**



HOLY WEEK PROCESSIONS & VIGILS La Antigua Guatemala

13 Sun. — **PALM SUNDAY**, Procession of Jesús Nazareno de La Merced, La Merced church.

14 Mon. — **HOLY MONDAY**, Holy vigil of Jesús Nazareno de La Merced, La Merced church.

15 Tues. — **HOLY TUESDAY**, Holy vigil of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, San Francisco El Grande church.

16 Wed. — **HOLY WEDNESDAY**, Holy vigil of Señor Sepultado, Escuela de Cristo church; **2pm** — Childrens procession (age 10 and under) from La Merced church.

17 Thurs. — **MAUNDY THURSDAY**, Procession of Jesús Nazareno de la Humildad, San Cristóbal El Bajo church; **1pm** — Procession of Jesús Nazareno del Perdón, San Francisco el Grande church.

18 Fri. — **GOOD FRIDAY, 4am** — Procession of Jesús Nazareno de La Merced, La Merced church; **3pm** — Procession of the burial of Christ, San Felipe de Jesús church; **4pm** — Procession of the burial of Christ, Escuela de Cristo church.

19 Sat. — **SATURDAY OF GLORY**, Procession of the Virgen de Soledad from various churches.

20 Sun. — **EASTER SUNDAY**, Procession of Jesús Resucitado for Obras Sociales del Hermano Pedro.

11 Fri., 5:30pm — DINING at KIDS Restaurant: The only restaurant run by KIDS. They learn cooking, English and computer skills at the Education Center of TESS Unlimited. Every month the KIDS restaurant is assisted by an Antigua restaurant. **This month is Rafa's Bistro!** Reservations: kidsrestaurant@gmail.com or tels: 4550-7798 or 5251-0202. **5pm:** Our mini chef will wait for you in front of Cafe Condesa (5a av., central park, Antigua), where you will be picked up by our shuttle service to bring you to the KIDS Restaurant in **San Gaspar Vivar**.

11 Fri., 7pm — THEATRE: Three one-act plays presented by Antigua's Little Theatre (an AnEcho activity). Free. El Sitio, 5a calle pon., #15, **La Antigua**
AnEcho offers programs and activities to the community free of charge. Programing varies from theatre to bridge to discussion groups. If you're interested in joining, please contact anechoprograms@gmail.com

12 Sat., 1pm — DANCE: Children dancing to marimba music. Free. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle poniente #15-C, **La Antigua**

12 Sat., 5pm — MUSIC: *Más música, menos violencia*, 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** ▼



13 Sun., thru Fri. 18 — WORKSHOPS: Traditional handcraft: weaving, bracelets, jewelry, kites, Guatemalan food, ceramics and Mayan writing taught by an archaeologist. Price incl. materials and admission to the Museum. Tel: 7832-3169 (Facebook: Museo Casa del Tejido & www.museodeltejido.org) Museo Casa del Tejido Antiguo, 1a calle poniente #51, **La Antigua**

17 Thurs., thru Sun. 16 — YOGA & MEDITATION retreat with Rae Ishee. (info: raeishee@yahoo.com) Villa Sumaya, **Santa Cruz la Laguna, Lake Atitlán**

19 Sat., 5pm — (Spanish) CHARLA: Asociación Vida, conoce las actividades de estos jóvenes. La Peña de Sol Latino (tel: 7882-4468), 5a calle pon. #15-C, **La Antigua**

22 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: *As Green As It Gets – Generating Economic Opportunity through Coffee* and empowering Guatemalans to build profitable, sustainable businesses. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**

23 Wed., 9am — BOOK DAY: *Cuidando nuestros libros*. Free. Parking Q35. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**



23 Wed., 6:30pm, thru June 9 — ART: Inauguration of *Mariposas*, paintings by Manolo Gallardo. Galería de Fundación G&T Continental, 5a av. 12-38, z. 1, **Guatemala City**

24 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCIAS: *Camposantos coloniales: Hallazgos en el mercado municipal de Sololá* por Marielos Colorado. Contribución Q30, estudiantes Q15. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final z. 10, **Guatemala City**

REVUE is not responsible for event cancellations or date/time changes

26 Sat., 11am-2pm — U.S. VOTER REGISTRATION: Members of Democrats Abroad Guatemala are available to help you register: 2014 mid-term elections. Questions: John Chudy, mayadems@yahoo.com. Conexion, 4a calle oriente, comercial La Fuente #14, **La Antigua**

26 Sat. 6-9pm — ANNIVERSARY: Cocktail and food tasting, celebrating Ubi's Sushi's 4th anniversary. (www.ubisushi.com) Ubi's Sushi (tel: 7821-2767), 6a av. sur #12 B-2, **La Antigua**

26 Sat. 7pm thru May 31 — ART: Opening (cocktail) *Dulce Mortificación* by Eny Roland. El Attico, Salón del Coleccionista (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**

26 Sat., through May 25 — ART: *The Transformed Trash Art series* with work by Barbara Hardaway. Sala del Artista del Hotel Museo Casa Santo Domingo, **La Antigua** ▼ (highlight, pg 30)



29 Tues., 5:30pm — TALK: Oxlajuj B'atz' (Thirteen Threads), facilitating Maya women artisans to bring about change through their own efforts, alleviating adverse effects of poverty and improving the quality of their lives. It's mission is guided by harmony, democracy, & sustainability. The new Maya Women's Center & Fair Trade store, located in an historical building in Panajachel, houses a cooperative Fair Trade store, resource library, community space for meetings & special events, and provides a departure point for tours to the women's communities. Donation Q25. Rainbow Café (tel: 7832-1919), 7a av. sur #8, **La Antigua**



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Sunday 9:30am - 6:30pm



25 Fri., 8am — CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT. Esperanza Juvenil AICSA Open, Guatemala Country Club. Q750 entry fee. (see page 98) For more info: 2254-9911. **Guatemala City**



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Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRAFICO de mayo 2014 con el tema **MADRES E HIJOS EN 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 Abril de 2014.

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for May 2014 with the theme **MOTHERS & CHILDREN**. 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 April will be eligible.

La Antigua Galería de Arte

*Celebrating a 25 year
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*Opening : April 5th
4-7 pm*



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live music

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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 International and Guatemalan musical talent, each performing in their own style.. (A contribution for the musician is encouraged)

Saturdays, 8-10pm — Guest artist. Q35 cover

April 5, Sat., 5pm — Ron Noecker, piano. Benefit for Nursing Heart Inc (Guatemala Esperanza) Five Chopin nocturns and more. Suggested donation Q100

There will be no live music on Thur, Good Friday and Saturday (April 19) during Semana Santa.

April 26, Sat., 5pm — Sergio Zepeda, guitar and percussion. Suggested donation Q100

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).

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Fridays — World music.

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



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

Free Live Music Nightly from 8:00pm

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

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 classics

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

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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



live music

The Transformed Trash Art series with work by **Barbara Hardaway** is a collection of kaleidoscopic collages presented as a metaphor for Guatemala's operational efforts, both big and small, of packaging, organizing and then transporting domestic garbage for recycling and disposal.



The artist explains, "This series is a social commentary to highlight the fact that while Guatemala continues to confront the societal challenges of trash overrunning the landscape, in many instances, trash disposal operations are successful cooperative enterprises.

It is also a tribute to the thousands of people, at all levels of the trash industry, who make our lives safer, our environment cleaner and whose labor is so often taken for granted. It is my wish to bring attention to areas of the sanitation industry where garbage elimination is being addressed in order for the public to have a more measured discussion of this global problem of waste management that is a daily challenge for countries all over the world."

This collection consist of 30 pieces in addition to 11 smaller images that illustrate the process of taking the original digital picture and then hand coloring before transforming it into the final collage. (www.arthardaway.com)

A portion of artist proceeds from this show benefit the Fundación Deseo Escucharte. The foundation trains and employs deaf adults in the baking industry and provides instruction in Guatemalan sign language.

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

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

Mondays, 10am & Thursdays, 2:30pm: Common Hope offers a free two-hour village tour; learn about its education, health care & housing programs. Meet at the fountain, central park; also private tours avail., tel: 7922-6600. Visit www.commonhope.org. **La Antigua**

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**

Thursdays, 5-6pm — 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**

2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:30pm — The *Antigua Curry Club* meets to enjoy delicious Indian food. Visit www.cernikovskyy.com/curry.htm. A members-only club, limited memberships available. **La Antigua** (See *Curry Fever*, www.revue.gt, March 2014)

Saturdays — Exhibition and sale of natural dyed textiles, weavings and naïf paintings from San Juan La Laguna. Free admission. Uxlabil Hotel & Gallery, 6a av norte #56, **La Antigua** ▼



Sundays, 11am — (Spanish) TEATRO: *El Árbol*, con un interesante mensaje ecológico. Q50. Teatro Dick Smith, IGA, Ruta 14-05, z. 4, **Guatemala City**

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May 11, Sunday, 8am — CARRERA ARCO IRIS: Run or walk 5 kms, bring your kids and pets. Organized by Club Rotario. Q70, all profits will be donated to Unidad Nacional de Oncología Pediátrica which provides treatment to children with cancer. **La Antigua**. ▼



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Education First

A Safe Passage for Children in Guatemala City's Basurero Neighborhood

by Benjamin Reeves

Guatemala City's zona 3 includes the *basurero*, the city's dump. Though there is no official census, an estimated 7,000 people, which according to local residents includes approximately 1,000 children, work in the *basurero* picking through trash to find plastic and metal that can be sold to recyclers.

Ongoing efforts by the police have prevented some children from entering the dump, yet many still join their parents working alongside them every day in the hot, smoky, dangerous trash piles.

However, for around 550 children living in the basurero neighborhood, the NGO Camino Seguro/Safe Passage represents stability and hope. Camino Seguro places education first in the children's lives. Camino Seguro pays for school uniforms and supplies and provides tutoring, meals and regular medical check-ups.

To help ensure that the children focus on their studies and do not go back to work in the dump, Camino Seguro donates food monthly to the 300 families that it serves. One of the biggest triumphs for Camino Seguro has been the fact that none of the children in the program suffer from malnutrition.

"If their kids are going to be in the program they have to make a commitment not to take their kids to work with them," Andrea Marroquín, director of public relations for Camino Seguro, said.

Camino Seguro offers services to children beginning in nursery school

and continuing through high school, and the primary goal is to "teach children about other opportunities" outside of the basurero, according to Marroquín. Most of the children attend local public schools, although Camino Seguro has begun providing on-site education as well.

The NGO's efforts are not limited solely to helping the children of the basurero. Camino Seguro has established afternoon and night classes for many parents from the community. Most workers in the basurero have little education and many cannot read or write. Little by little, Camino Seguro aims to change that by offering literacy courses. One wall in Camino Seguro's office is covered with pictures of adults who have graduated from elementary school through its programs—each photograph is accompanied by a short autobiography handwritten by the student.

"I call myself Esther Castillo," reads one such biography. "I am 81 years old. I have three children and 15 grandchildren. I really like to



A wall in Camino Seguro's office is covered with pictures of adults who have graduated from elementary school through its programs.



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If you want to make your dreams come true, the first thing you have to do is wake up. —J.M. Power

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cook chicken, pepian ... and beef soup as well. The church pleases me. I go two times a week. I am in the class to learn to read and write.”

Camino Seguro was founded in 1999 by American teacher Hanley Denning. Denning died in a car crash in Guatemala in 2007, the same year that the program's first students graduated from high school, yet the organization has continued to thrive and grow, and in 2012 it opened its very own pre-school.

The most important thing about Camino Seguro's programs is that the children “are learning something different” from life in the basurero, Marroquín said. “I think that's something that Guatemala needs in general, to get the value of education.”

More information on Camino Seguro can be found at www.safepassage.org



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Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal. —Henry Ford



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Turn Right at Tikal

Exploring the Western Highlands of Belize

When you think of Belize what often comes to mind is brilliant turquoise water and a lively Caribbean vibe. Of course, Belize offers amazing white-sand beaches and enough good rum to keep any pirate ship at port for a while; however, did you know that Belize also has a rich Mayan history? Before present-day country borders were established, the Maya, in what is now northern Guatemala, often traded with the Maya who were living in what we now know as the western Highlands of Belize.

If you can, extend your visit to Tikal by crossing the Guatemala

border and head to the nearby city of San Ignacio, a perfect base for exploring western Belize.

The area has plenty of amazing jungle lodges, ranging from rustic encampments to high-end eco-resorts; a few of my favorites include Table Rock, The Lodge at Chaa Creek and the Black Rock Resort.

During a recent trip, I stayed at a jungle lodge that included evening après adventure cocktails and wine, gourmet meals using local ingredients served al fresco beneath a beautiful thatched roof—and, of course, all manner of jungle activities, including hiking, marveling at the flora and fauna, and canoeing

or tubing down the river. Your day ends with a luxurious shower in your private cabin; the décor can only be described as rustic elegance.

One of my favorite activities was a self-guided canoe trip along the Macal River, navigating the waterway in a similar manner as the Maya had done thousands of years ago. It was a quick walk to water's edge, and soon I was paddling upriver. It was complete freedom. Beautiful springs bubbled up from underground limestone chambers alongside the river, and I spotted several large iguanas, a few turtles, and some amazing birds, including the bright yellow-billed toucan. ...continued page 60

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House Sitting

How to get a house sitting gig in Antigua or anywhere.



Those of us who live in La Antigua Guatemala know its splendid offerings: photo opportunities everywhere, Mayan culture, great weather, international restaurants, music, amicable residents and natural beauty.

Still, on occasion one might want to go to the beach or travel to visit family and friends. What then do we do with our home and pets? We

could board up our house and place our pet into someone else's care, but that idea doesn't hold much appeal.

What to do?

Recently I was speaking with another expat living in Antigua and I mentioned opening her home up to house sitters. She gasped at the audacity of it.

"What!? Let a *stranger* into my home? How could I ever trust them?"

But let me share something with you. My husband Billy and I have house sat in Antigua and it was a win-win for everyone. The homeowners spent several months in Canada, and we were able to live in the grandeur of this colonial city.

This is how it works.

There are reputable house-sitting organizations offering memberships to sitters and homeowners alike. Homeowners list their home on the



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site, naming the benefits offered (large kitchen, wifi, close to the plaza) and the expectation of care (walking the dog, watering the plants, dealing with the maid). Then they choose from hundreds of people who have applied to house sit. These sitters have a repertoire of skills, aptitudes and experience along with letters of reference for their character and for their proven abilities to house sit. Often there is also a police background check.

Maybe you want a non-smoking, professional couple who love dogs to take care of your home and Fifi. You can then write to sitters who fit this description along with your vacation dates. House-sitting arrangements can range from long weekends to months at a time.

House sitters who are interested in staying in Antigua will write back to you and the conversation has begun. You might even choose to Skype them to get a better sense of your applicant. You may have started out as strangers, but after a few conversations, you will gain a sense of whether these people will fit your circumstances or not. Since there is a written code of conduct for both sitters and homeowners alike, the chances are more than excellent that you will find just the right people to care for your home.

Having house sat for people in various locations throughout Mexico and Central America, we have found that friendships form. Since we have done such a good job of caring for their home and pets, we have been asked to return for another sit time and again. This arrangement is good for both the house sitter and the homeowner.

If you are thinking about taking a vacation but are concerned about your home or what to do with your houseplants and pets, you might consider the option of

utilizing house sitters. It doesn't cost anything to browse, and you just might find a villa in Italy or a flat in New York City where you might want to stay yourself!

Why not open *your* life to the world of house sitting?

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Billy and Akaisha Kaderli are recognized retirement experts and internationally published authors on topics of finance and world travel. With the wealth of information they share on their popular website RetireEarlyLifestyle.com, they have been helping people achieve their own retirement dreams since 1991. They wrote the popular books, [The Adventurer's Guide to Early Retirement](#) and [Your Retirement Dream IS Possible](#)

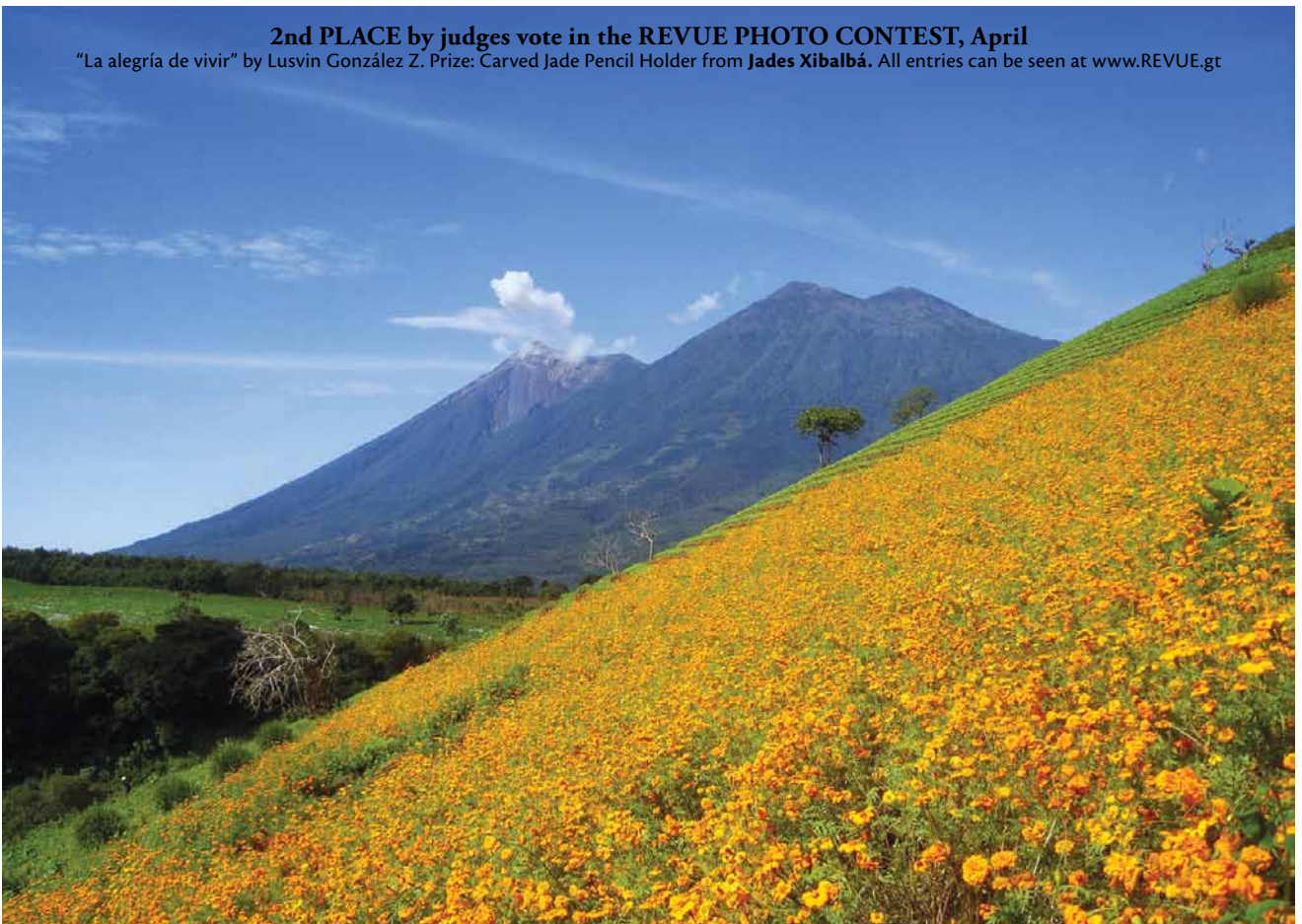


2nd PLACE by popular vote in the monthly REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, April

“Paquisis, San Pedro, Atitlán, Toliman, Acatenango y Fuego” by José Estuardo Ruiz de León. Prize: Carved Jade Paper Weight from **Jades Xibalbá**.

2nd PLACE by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, April

“La alegría de vivir” by Lusvin González Z. Prize: Carved Jade Pencil Holder from **Jades Xibalbá**. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt



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One half of knowing what you want is knowing what you must give up before you get it. —Sidney Howard

If you don't know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else. —Lawrence J. Peter

It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done. —Samuel Johnson

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go. —T.S. Eliot

Life's problems wouldn't be called "hurdles" if there wasn't a way to get over them. —Jack Orden

What to do with your one life? The same thing you would do if you had two lives, and this were the second. —Robert Brault

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Establishing goals is all right if you don't let them
deprive you of interesting detours. —Doug Larson

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




Question: After my 9-year-old cat saw another cat outside, she attacked my other, younger cat. Then about a week later I ran into the corner of a chair and cried out (quite loudly) and my cat again attacked the younger cat. I tried to break up the catfight and got scratched. They were friends before, so what can I do to help them get along again?

Your younger cat is the unfortunate recipient of redirected aggression. This happens when the primary source of the aggression isn't accessible to the cat (in this case the cat outside). Instead the agitated cat takes its anger out on the nearest cat, dog or person.

Don't use your hands to separate agitated or fighting cats. It is better to startle them apart by throwing something next to them or by making a loud noise. After they disengage, herd them into separate, quiet rooms. If possible, darken the room by closing the curtains. Don't allow them together until they have fully calmed down. Sometimes they need to be confined away from each other for hours, days and in a few cases, weeks. When reintroducing them to each other, take it slowly and always supervise their visits. Watch their body language. At the first sign of possible agitation, separate them again and start over.

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If we would only give, just once, the same amount of reflection to what we want to get out of life that we give to the question of what to do with a two weeks' vacation, we would be startled at our false standards and the aimless procession of our busy days. —Dorothy Canfield Fisher

For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life. —Fr. Alfred D'Souza



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Eventually, time takes care of everything. The trouble with procrastination is that people give up on it too soon.
 —Robert Brault

Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing.
 —Adolphe Monod

I try to treat each evening and weekend as little slices of retirement because no one is guaranteed a lengthy one at the end of their career. —Mike Hammar

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Success isn't a result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire. —Arnold H. Glasow

If you don't decide what your life is about, it defaults to what you spend your days doing. —Robert Brault

Whether it's the best of times or the worst of times, it's the only time we've got. —Art Buchwald

The more side roads you stop to explore, the less likely that life will pass you by. —Robert Brault,




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San Juan cont. from page 15

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Sabrosón - Vino de Nispero

Make a right while rolling yourself out of del Obispo and you'll find Domingo Díaz Ch. and his homemade wine against a backdrop of women from Santa María de Jesús sudsing up their laundry at the San Juan pilas. Díaz was a nispero distributor for years when he decided to concoct a

homemade brew from some rain-damaged fruit as an experiment. The product turned out surprisingly well, and he started selling vino de nispero in his home pueblo of San Juan. Tasting a bit sweet, the wine is bottled in an assortment of recycled wine bottles decorated with a shiny golden decal. The wine has character both inside and out. A bottle costs Q70.

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Back with the chickens, what started out as an experiment for Ordoñez and Tessa has turned into a rapidly growing business. There are around

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—Doug Larson

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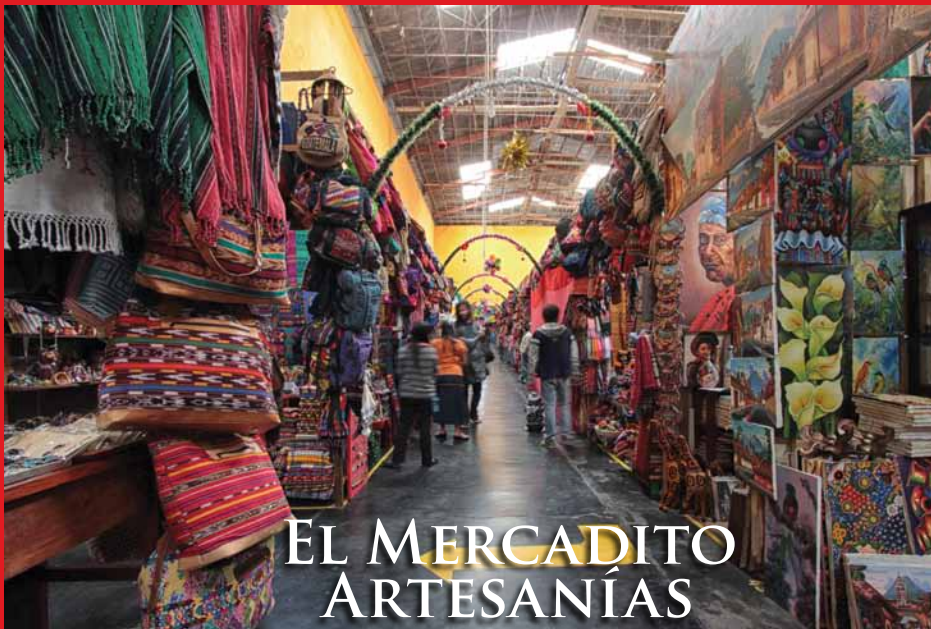



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Passion cont. from page 17

This is one of the many gifts that being in Guatemala can bring forward for you with ease. Everywhere you gaze you have the opportunity to connect with your passion...especially in April.

Relax and allow yourself to be inspired by the processions and the depth of the expression of passion.

Invite yourself to connect with the locals and discover their passion for sharing this beautiful country with you. Indulge in the local cuisine, and notice if your passion ignites while drinking some of the best coffee in the world or with your first taste of a

uniquely Guatemalan fresh tortilla. Passion!

Ultimately, only you can offer yourself the experience of passion that is uniquely yours to claim and express. If your passion has been hiding then take this moment to remember that it is not a "sin" to be passionate. Remember that passion is a gift, and it is through your passion that your life becomes abundantly richer and richer.

And, if you still feel you need an excuse, then simply acknowledge it is April in Guatemala and passion is your birthright. 



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text & photos by
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Savoring Cuaresma

Lent (Cuaresma), the time leading up to Holy Week and Easter, is celebrated by about 1.2 billion Christians worldwide. In Guatemala around 60 percent of the population, or 8.2 million Roman Catholics, observe it in a very solemn manner. This is especially so in La Antigua Guatemala, where you'll find the largest celebration of Semana Santa in the world.

Here, celebrations of the life of Christ up to his death and resurrection are taken to a high level with dramatic processions carried by *cucuruchos*—devotees dressed in purple or black and shouldering huge *andas* (heavy wooden floats)—who walk over elaborately colorful sawdust carpets that are made, especially on Good Friday, by local neighborhoods. Churches and streets come alive with the scent of incense and *corozo* (a type of aromatic palm flower from the tropical Americas).

Lent and spring have a close relationship. “Lencten” in Anglo-Saxon

terms means spring, a time of rebirth and renewal of all living things. Spring is also the subtle transition from winter to summer and as such gives us the opportunity to cleanse our homes and spirits. Birds chirping and mating, budding trees and shrubs, vibrant green foliage and grass, and colorful flowers come back to life like magic as we are awakened to new life and, through prayer, a new spiritual beginning.

Renewal can also be a time of introspection or self-analysis. From time to time, it can be healthy and wise to examine our hearts and souls to determine what needs change in our lives. As we grow older, we change and so do our tastes and habits. Replacing unproductive ways with energizing ones can help us get a fresh perspective on life. We can also pay it forward and help others in our own way. The needs out there are

endless. We can be mentors, volunteers or support good causes.

Along with Cuaresma comes fasting and observing tradition through food. Fish and seafood take precedence over meat, and abstinence from favorite treats challenges us in unique ways. Creativity in the kitchen evolved as a need to abide by the rules of the church. The Guatemalan kitchen offers a delicious range of flavors during Cuaresma, from savory and tart to sweet and spicy. Favorites include: *pescado en escabeche*, pan-seared fish topped with a pan sauce made with onions, garlic, bell peppers and spices and finished with a splash of vinegar (recipe below); *empanadas de sardina*, sardine-stuffed pastries; *batido*, a fruit, wine and spice hot drink; and street foods such as *corbatas*, fried sugared pastries shaped like large bow ties, and many more.

With this recipe (on the following page), I invite you to savor the season in a quick, easy and delicious way.

¡Buen provecho!

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard is a Chef and award-winning author of Amalia's Guatemalan Kitchen: Gourmet Cuisine with a Cultural Flair (AmaliaLLC.com)



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Pescado en Escabeche

by Chef Amalia Moreno-Damgaard (AmaliaLLC.com)

Pescado en escabeche came to Guatemala and Latin America from Spain. Escabeche is of Arab origin and can have varying ingredients depending on each country and recipe. It is a quick and easy pan sauce finished with vinegar. The crusty fish contrasts deliciously with the vinegary sauce and is perfect during Lent.

For 4-6 people

4-6 (4-5oz.) cod or Atlantic salmon filets

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tbsp. olive oil

Escabeche (chunky pan sauce)

3 tbsp. olive oil

1 cup onion (julienne)

1 cup green and red bell peppers (cut in strips)

1 tbsp. garlic (minced)

¼ cup sliced olives stuffed with pimentos

1 bay leaf, ½ tsp. thyme, ½ tsp. oregano

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

2-3 tbsp. white wine or champagne vinegar

Rub the cod or salmon with the oil and season with salt and pepper on both sides.

Heat a skillet over medium heat. Sear the fish 3 minutes on one side to form a light brown crust and 1 minute on the other side. Transfer the fish to a platter and keep warm.

In the same skillet make the escabeche. In the oil, fry the onion, bell peppers, garlic, olives and spices for 2 minutes. Season and taste. Add the vinegar and fry for 1 more minute.

Top the fish with the chunky pan sauce.

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Great Destinations cont. from page 34

The best part of the river experience for me was the complete solitude, filled only by the sounds of nature. During my four-hour voyage I only saw two other canoers. As you travel the river you can take a break for lunch at other jungle lodges. For a small fee The Lodge at Chaa Creek will allow you to take a dip in the infinity pool. It is the perfect combination of nature with a modern twist. If canoeing isn't your thing, there is caving at Barton Creek, or exploring the Mountain Pine Ridge Reserve with a local naturalist.

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You know you are getting old when it takes
too much effort to procrastinate. —Leslie Burns

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How poor are they that have not patience!
What wound did ever heal but by degrees?
—William Shakespeare

How can a society that exists on instant mashed potatoes,
packaged cake mixes, frozen dinners, and instant cameras
teach patience to its young? —Paul Sweeney



It is a great pleasure for me to be part of the Revue family with my first column highlighting wine.-A.E.

Golf, Volcanoes and Wine

La Reunion Golf Resort delivers all three in a spectacular fashion

La Reunion Golf Resort is one of the best resorts in the country, and I was fortunate to visit it twice. Wine is so present in this hotel that all suites have a private wine cave (and a private pool, too). So imagine choosing between red or white in your own room with stunning views to the volcanos. Unforgettable!

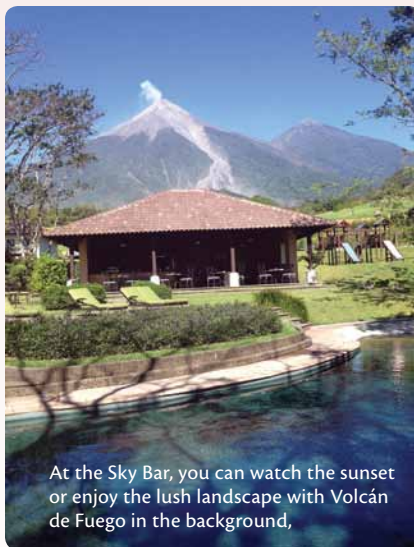
The hotel has also more than 870 bottles of wine in its cave, with 98 different labels. There is also a wine shop at the hotel, Vinoteca, selling wines, champagnes and spirits, including Ron Zacapa, the world-famous rum produced in Guatemala. In Vinoteca you can buy wine to drink at the hotel or to take home with you, as the prices are the same



The hotel has more than 870 bottles of wine in its cave, with 98 different labels.

as in the shops in Guatemala City.

The Mirador Restaurant has views to the golf course and the Volcán de Agua. It has a very complete wine list, with wines from Chile, Argentina, Spain, France, Italy, United



At the Sky Bar, you can watch the sunset or enjoy the lush landscape with Volcán de Fuego in the background,

States, New Zealand and Australia.

One of my favorite meals at the Mirador is the beef fillet with coffee and Zacapa sauce. Absolutely delicious! Try to pair it with a full-bodied red with lots of flavor, such as an Australian Shiraz or a California Cabernet. And if you are celebrating something, you can order Dom Pérignon or Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame.

At the Sky Bar, you can watch the sunset or enjoy the lush landscape with Volcán de Fuego in the background, sometimes spewing orange lava. Enjoy this breathtaking panorama with a glass of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc or a Chilean Chardonnay.

Cheers! 🍷



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Food for Thought

by
Shannon McCullough
CULINARY PROFESSIONAL

Los Tres Tiempos

An innovative twist on Guatemalan cuisine



I lived in Europe for many years prior to moving to Guatemala, and I have always enjoyed the distinctive food cultures and cuisines that are built on the traditional use of local ingredients.

Every country has a specialty and any well-traveled person can think back to his or her favorite cuisine that stimulates memories of good times traveling abroad.

Guatemala is no exception, although the traditional food has taken me longer to understand and appreciate. Many times, as I have walked

through the market or past a street food vendor, I have been intrigued, but for the most part, I never try the food. I have many friends who have lived here for years who do not share my insecurities and enjoy the local street food.

Los Tres Tiempos, a newly opened restaurant in La Antigua, features Guatemalan cuisine made from recipes that have been passed down for generations. It is a team effort among the four owners, Pablo Velásquez, Harris Whitbeck, Andrea Osoy and Patrick Delarosa

As I entered, I was taken by the innovative use of hand-woven textiles and contemporary designs. Under the direction of industrial designer Diego Olivero, nearly 100 Guatemalan families benefited from working on the hand-made designs that are dispersed throughout the restaurant, and

the result is simply stunning.

When my friends and I arrived, we were warmly greeted by general manager Karla Cordero. Her gregarious and personable style makes her a great asset to the restaurant. After a tour of the warm and inviting colonial ambiance, we sat down and delighted at the menu selections. We decided to order a variety of food, looking forward to sampling the diversity of flavors.

The main dishes are innovative and well prepared. The food was beautifully presented and the taste sensations were incredible. The stand-outs on our table were “Camarones Livingston”—coconut-breaded shrimp served with a side of rice and beans and salsa caribeña—and the “Tenderloin Churrasco,” which was cooked to perfection.

In addition to traditional Guatemalan cuisine, Los Tres Tiempos has also included traditional street “fast” food with an upscale approach. These were my favorite items on the menu. I have longed to taste chuchitos, and the elote selections were ...cont. page 78



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If you could just persuade people of this, but they
insist on amassing information. —Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Use your health, even to the point of wearing it out.
That is what it is for. Spend all you have before you die;
do not outlive yourself. —George Bernard Shaw



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If you woke up breathing, congratulations!
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—Terri Guillemets



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—John Quincy Adams

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by
Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth



tén, Belize and Campeche (Mexico; hence its name, Palo de Campeche).

Palo de Brazil grows along the highway toward Puerto Barrios from Guatemala City; several thousand trees can be seen between about km. 60 through 100. Although less plentiful, the trees begin to appear at about km. 46. You can also find the trees alongside the highway from El Rancho northward toward Baja Verapaz, up the steep hills. But soon you reach the oak and then pine forests of Baja Verapaz.

Palo de Brazil blooms profusely from January onward, month after month. A single tree will have thousands of flowers. Since the tree size is stunted due to the solid rock, or rocky soil, plus lack of rain eight months out of the year, the branches are low enough so you can easily see the flowers.

Thousands of logwood trees along the rivers of Belize were a valuable commodity for British pirates and exploiters centuries ago. Dye derived from the trees was used to color wool and other materials that began to be mass-produced during the Industrial Revolution in England. But today almost no one is making any use of Palo de Brazil in Guatemala. Since the Motagua Valley is one of the poorest areas of Central America it is possible for the trees to be cropped for a useful purpose (and planted to replace what has been destroyed) — to provide jobs and income for deserving local people. Many of these trees are bulldozed and clear-cut when areas are cleared for plantations. ◀

Dr. Nicholas M. Hellmuth is director of FLAAR Reports (Foundation for Latin American Anthropological Research).
Contact: frontdesk@flaar.org www.maya-ethnobotany.org



Almost unknown in archaeological literature, and rarely mentioned in studies of dye sources for colorants, is the *Haematoxylon brasiletto*. The trunk and branches of *Haematoxylon brasiletto* are absolutely identical and indistinguishable from that of the *Haematoxylum campechianum*. However, Palo de Campeche can be three times larger, and “higher” than Palo de Brazil. That is to say the tree rarely grows straight up; along rivers and swamps the Palo de Campeche grows horizontally or diagonally.

It is amazing that two essentially identical-appearing trees grow in such totally different eco-systems. Palo de Brazil grows on solid rock cliffs. Palo de Campeche grows only in rich soil, not often from a rocky cliff. Palo de Brazil tends to grow straight upward. Palo de Brazil grows in the driest desert-like area of Guatemala in the Río Motagua Valley while Palo de Campeche grows in the seasonal swamps and alongside many rivers in El Pe-

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START TO FINISH:

photos below show some steps of creating a jade sculpture. 1. raw materials. 2. design. 3. carving and polishing. 4. finished product



Francisco Zúñiga

cont. from page 16

waiting below. But they usually transported smaller rocks down the mountain on the backs of three donkeys or horses that each carried about 75 pounds. The men themselves sometimes carried additional, especially beautiful rocks down the mountain on planks supported on their shoulders, rather than try to cut it on the mountain.

“I’ve found some rocks that really make me think about God and creation. I immediately imagine how lovely the person will look wearing what I’ll make.”

But such beauty comes with challenges. Team members often slept beneath rocks as their only protection against rainy season storms and mudslides. They suffered from falls or other accidents and kept vigilant for snakes and other animals. “In the end, though, the animals aren’t the danger,” says Zúñiga. “The danger is in other places.”

That “other” danger often appears in human form. More than once during Guatemala’s civil war, military forces found and questioned the men, took their food and backpacks, and left them tied up in the mountains. More recently the danger has been cocaine and heroin traffickers who pass through the mountains on their way north. Although they have

not harmed Zúñiga and his team, he knows of other innocent people who have been killed there.

Beyond any external threat, it is diabetes that has prevented Zúñiga from searching for jade recently. While he hopes to return to the mountain, the workshops keep him in touch with both the jade he crafts and the people who will wear it.

“I’m here so that people feel the jade, work with it, appreciate it, and we can share like a family. It’s not simply a matter of come, buy, and leave. I want to have the pleasure of talking to the people who come here, leave satisfied, and want to return to Guatemala and visit our home again. ...It doesn’t give me a lot of money but it gives me peace and lots of happiness.”

You can learn more about Francisco Zúñiga and his jade jewelry workshops at <https://www.asgreenasitgets.org/antigua-tours/artisan-workshops>. You can also call Zúñiga at 7830-6476.



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You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. —Franklin P. Jones

Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you and scorn in the one ahead. —Mac McCleary

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People knock me over or want to watch and talk to me. Once a man looking over my shoulder said, “It’s like a camera, only slower.”


William Kalwick Jr. cont. from page 21

our eyes—especially color—so I’ll then start working and see how much I can get done. I use a direct painting style—I don’t draw with a pencil and fill in, I just start painting, working on the design and the light and shadow. For me, the light is very important to the mood of the particular scene that I’m trying to capture.

It’s hard to complete something in a market, though. People knock

me over or want to watch and talk to me. Once a man looking over my shoulder said, “It’s like a camera, only slower.” But I can’t get much done that way, so I sometimes take my work back to my studio to finish, or use it as a study for an entirely different, larger painting.

Revue: Is the upcoming exhibit a retrospective or are these new works?

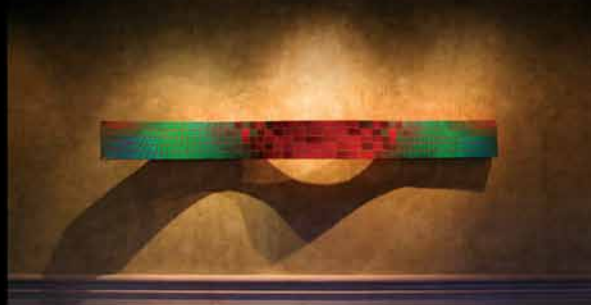
Kalwick: Subconsciously, all of my experiences traveling in Guatemala go into my paintings, so this exhibit reflects 25 years, but all of the paintings are from 2014. This year, I’m including larger paintings and several paintings of processions in Antigua. My procession paintings have usually been from small villages, so this will be something new for this show. 



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Q & A



QUESTION:

Is foreign real estate treated differently than U.S. real estate on my taxes?


From a tax standpoint, buying and selling foreign real estate is not much different than in the U.S. At the present time, there are no reporting requirements when purchasing foreign real estate. However, U.S. expats should be aware that if one transfers money to a foreign bank to facilitate a real estate transaction, and the balance exceeds \$10,000, then this would trigger a requirement to file a Foreign Bank Account Report, now called FinCen 114 (discussed last month).

Property taxes are deductible on your tax return. So are mortgage interest payments, including home equity loans. The same restrictions apply as in the U.S. (e.g., acquisition debt limited to \$1M, home equity debt limited to \$100,000). One can deduct mortgage interest on up to two homes. Keep in mind that deductible amounts paid in local currency will need to be converted to USD for tax reporting purposes.

When it comes to selling foreign real estate, the tax-related similarities continue. If the home has been one's primary residence for at least two out

of the past five years, then one can exclude capital gains up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly).


Similar to the real estate deductions, amounts denominated in local currency will need to be converted to USD.

From a non-tax standpoint, there are a number of issues to consider. Property rights differ by country. Transferring money should be conducted carefully—fees and low foreign exchange rates can be costly. It may be wise to seek professional guidance (e.g., a reputable real estate broker). 

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



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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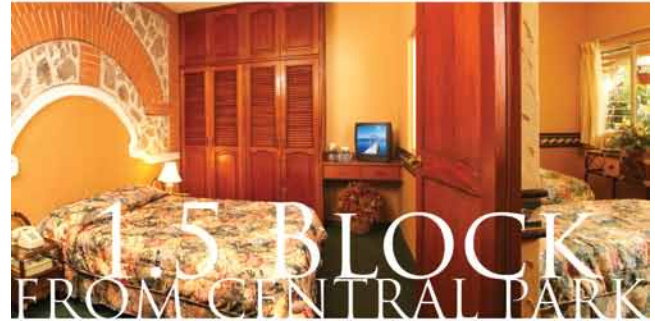
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Family life is a bit like a runny peach pie—not perfect but who’s complaining? —Robert Brault

The world is full of cactus, but we don’t have to sit on it. —Will Foley

What is possible? What you will. —Augustus William Hare

Make somebody happy today. Mind your own business. —Ann Landers

Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine. —Robert C. Gallagher

Los Tres Tiempos cont. from page 66

in a word, awesome! Try the “Elotes Asados”—grilled corn dressed with lime and salt—or “Elotes Locos”—boiled corn on the cob dressed with mayonnaise, ketchup and white farmer’s cheese. Or indulge in the shuquitos, enchiladas, tacos or the most intriguing, the “Pikarones de chancol”—deep fried pikarón-breaded chancol cheese wedges served with a spicy cobanero sauce on the side.

Los Tres Tiempos has allowed me to embrace the local cuisine and has deepened my relationship with the country and its culture.

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Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of. —Charles Richards

Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear. —Jimmy Franks

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Sometimes the path you're on is not as important as the direction you're heading. —Kevin Smith

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"El que madruga..." Los Cuchumatanes by Gilberto José Ramirez Figueroa. All entries can be seen at www.REVUE.gt





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A group of spelunkers watch a flyover by a local cave dweller

SPELUNKING cont. from page 20

different sizes. The largest I would estimate at 50 meters long by 20 meters wide. Buddy was discovering features that had escaped my detection. He was looking for hidden entrances, sinkholes and passageways. He found a crack in a wall that was a passageway. Sliding sideways, requiring him to pull his belly in, he inched forward. As his lamplight faded into darkness, I began feeling very antsy. We maintained verbal contact for a while, but 10 minutes later I could no longer hear his shouts. Two hours later he emerged with the biggest smile on his face.

“I think we’ve hit the mother lode,” he exclaimed. “About an hour in I found a cathedral-like gallery that was so big I could not even survey its size! Tomorrow we will go together and use some magnesium flares to see how big it really is.”

I protested that there was no way that I was going to shimmy through that crack for an hour. But Buddy is a convincing kind of dude, and he promised to hold my hand all the way. The rest of the day was used to move our camp to the site of the crack’s entrance, and we busied ourselves with the usual camp chores: purifying water, maintaining equipment, making tea and cooking meals.

Day Four. Buddy went first and I reluctantly followed. Although I don’t know myself to be unusually claustrophobic, I had to use mental effort to breathe calmly and not allow my being wedged into the narrow crack to cause panic. Buddy was joking the entire time, which did make me feel more comfortable. Along the way there were some small chambers

where I could breathe comfortably. Being confined in a small space can be tortuous if your mentality does not provide for an emotional escape valve. Buddy’s constant joking and teasing was exactly that escape valve, and I recognized him then as a born leader, one who has the ability to instill courage and optimism in those following him. “Come on you scared little baby ...” he taunted. “We’re almost there. Pull in your stomach now, you silly son of a gun, this last bit is really quite narrow!”

Finally, THANKFULLY, we emerged from the tube, the last section of which we had to crawl through on all fours. We took a break and had some snacks of freeze-dried strawberry ice-cream and apples, washed down with cold coffee. What a relief



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The crystal clear water in this cavern creates an interesting reflection

to be in a big room. I could breathe again! Not even with our brightest lights could we see the ceiling or the far end of the huge chamber. We explored for a while as we made our way to what we thought should be the middle of the room. The floor was littered with fallen stalactites, and given the fact that no human hand had ever touched them, we inferred that ancient earthquakes must have knocked them down. I shivered at that thought! One quake or tremor and we could be trapped forever... and I began think-

ing that perhaps we should start making our way out.

We rigged up a magnesium flare, and, making sure to shield our eyes and looking in the opposite direction, we let her rip. An instant later, and for the next few seconds, we were treated to an incredible sight. The cavern was spectacular and huge beyond any possible expectation. We were amazed and speechless—until Buddy let out a hoot that reverberated and echoed

around the enormous space. He estimated that it was as big as two football fields and half again as wide. The ceiling seemed to be hundreds of meters high. We spent the next several hours surveying the area as Buddy sketched a rough diagram of the chamber. At last, we made our arduous way out again.

It is hard to express the great relief I felt as I finally squeezed my way out of the crack and emerged to the comfort of our subterranean camp. A nice cup

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- Las Minas cave, Esquipulas, Chiquimula
- Naj Tunich cave, Poptún, El Petén
- Grutas de Uaxactún, El Petén
- Cuevas del Silvino, Morales, Izabal



MAP BY ELVIRA MÉNDEZ



of hot tea, a little chit chat, and I was soon forgetting all about the creeping anxiety that I had felt for that seemingly endless hour, enduring the most extremely claustrophobic conditions, being sandwiched between slabs of cold hard limestone. As for Buddy, he was as cool as a cucumber during the entire ordeal, which for

him was no ordeal at all. He was as elated as a child in a candy store!

We spent several weeks in the area, and without revealing any secrets I can say that some of the information gathered by Buddy led to a later discovery of what would become known as one of the largest cave systems on Earth,

located in the protected Chiquibul National Park of Belize. Buddy doesn't really care about getting recognition for his discoveries; his payback is in the excitement of the discovery. His compensation is being able to experience all the wonder, amazement, awesome power and beauty that our beloved Mother Earth has bestowed upon us. 📍



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Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense. —Gertrude Stein

In theory one is aware that the earth revolves, but in practice one does not perceive it, the ground upon which one treads seems not to move, and one can live undisturbed. So it is with Time in one's life. —Marcel Proust

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"Amanecía en sepia" Santa María, Quetzaltenango
by Celia Alejandra Enríquez Alvarado
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The fishing is best where the fewest go, and the collective insecurity of the world makes it easy for people to hit home runs while everyone else is aiming for base hits. There is just less competition for bigger goals. If you are insecure, guess what? The rest of the world is, too. Do not overestimate the competition and underestimate yourself. You are better than you think. —Timothy Ferris

I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well. —Diane Ackerman

To change one's life: Start immediately. Do it flamboyantly. No exceptions. —William James

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Life is full of obstacle illusions.
—Grant Frazier

Lent and Semana Santa cont. from page 12

and people of all ages are on their hands and knees creating carpets. In English, it is considered that the carpets are “destroyed” when the processional carriers walk over them, but in Spanish, it is considered that these are just “walked over” as a gift or offering for Christ and the Virgin Mary.

How did Antigua get to be the largest celebration in the world? This was accomplished mostly through the painstaking efforts of the hermandades. The Spanish brought the religious organizations of cofradías from Spain. The oldest one founded in Guatemala, in 1547, was the Dominican Asociación Penitencial de America. By 1787 there were 1,982 cofradías and 153 hermandades registered in the country. Facing reforms introduced in 1871, many cofradías were changed to hermandades. In colonial times, one would inherit a position in the procession with turns (carrying the anda) passed from generation to generation.

After Antigua was abandoned, processions re-appeared as early as 1808, and turns could be purchased by anyone. Funds are gathered to provide the decorations and to cover expenses necessary to pay for the bands. As anyone may sign up, there has been great competition among the hermandades to get more and more carriers. With an estimated 35,000 carriers for four processions on Good Friday, we clearly see that carriers come from all over the country to participate, as do on-lookers who come from the world over. 📌

For more information, see “Lent and Holy Week in Antigua” by Elizabeth Bell for a full description, history and list of activities (available in local bookstores and on Amazon).

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Success is 10% inspiration, 90% last-minute changes. —Freddy Davidy

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—Monica Baldwin



Honorable Mention by popular vote in the
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"Reflejo" by Camilo Sarti
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Take your eyes off what you lost. —Daniel

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You'll find **GERMAN-SPEAKING CHURCH COMMUNITY "LA EPIFANIA"** on 24 calle 15-65, Zona 13 (right behind the Pope monument on av. Las Américas). Sunday services continue to be at 10 am. For more information: www.laepifania.org or facebook.

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—Rita Rudner

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—St. Augustine

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—John Dryden

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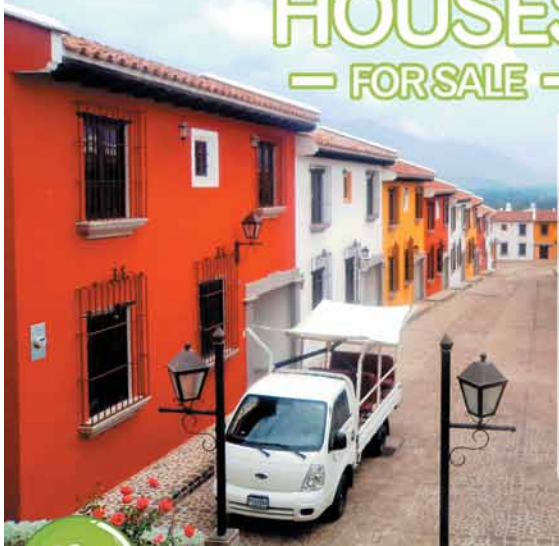
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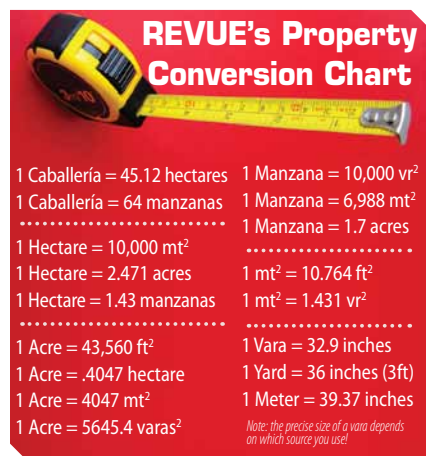
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1 Caballería = 64 manzanas	1 Manzana = 6,988 mt ²
.....	1 Manzana = 1.7 acres
1 Hectare = 10,000 mt ²
1 Hectare = 2.471 acres	1 mt ² = 10.764 ft ²
1 Hectare = 1.43 manzanas	1 mt ² = 1.431 vr ²
.....
1 Acre = 43,560 ft ²	1 Vara = 32.9 inches
1 Acre = .4047 hectare	1 Yard = 36 inches (3ft)
1 Acre = 4047 mt ²	1 Meter = 39.37 inches
1 Acre = 5645.4 varas ²	<small>Note: the precise size of a vara depends on which source you use!</small>

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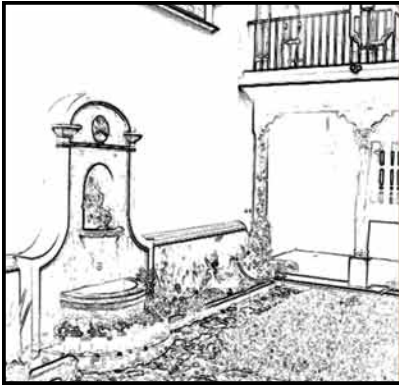
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—Mignon McLaughlin

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The man who makes
no mistakes does not
usually make anything.
—Edward Phelps

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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE Police: 120 Fire: 122 and 123

Tourist Police (Antigua): 7832-4131 Fire Dept: 7832-0234

Guatemala City Tourist Assistance: 1500 (24-hour)

Time

Time goes by so slowly, at least sometimes, but time can do so much to reach us with sounds, sights, aromas, tastes and even touch in this sensuous country of intense colors and sounds.

We hear time early in the morning, with the bells from the Cathedral first and then from each church in turn. We hear time again later in the day, ringing for evening prayers. We see time in the soft pink skies at dawn, and with the evening flutter of white wings as herons return from the cornfields to their treetop nests.

We taste time with the seasons, rich sweet flavors of the holidays, nutty flavors during Lent. Time touches us with the smooth skin of youth, and as time goes by with the rougher hands of a hard worker. We smell the time of passion when clouds of incense pass in processions, and see the time of celebrations when fireworks light the skies, especially when a New Year is welcomed with several minutes of sound and light at midnight, repeated again with noise at noon on New Year's Day.

The time of *invierno*, the rainy season, brings a sensation of pungent odor after a storm, especially when lightning has played around the volcanoes that surround us. Cool evenings bring wood smoke from *chimineas* all over town, time for families to gather at home before bedtime.


Verano, summer, smells dustier, but is spiced with the sweetness of fresh-cut grasses. A summer day at the shore has its special sea smell, just as a walk in Highland forests is punctuated by the aroma of pines.

Around La Antigua Guatemala, time can be seen in the old clocks and older sundials. A clock was placed more than a century ago on the town's much-photographed arch. The clock chimed the hours for decades until it fell silent some years ago. A well-meaning family restored it recently, marking the hours with chimes all through the night until neighbors at the convent alongside the arch managed to silence the clock after dark so they could enjoy peaceful sleep. Sometimes our senses really don't want to be reminded of the time with bells, or even to be reminded that it's morning when the smell of coffee brewing reaches our sleeping selves.



Search out some sundials among Antigua's ruins and parks. My favorite is vertical, above the doorway of a beautiful old home along Sixth Street. The shadow marks the hours on the wall of the clock, but only from mid-morning as the sun doesn't reach the house façade until then. I've wondered how the residents knew the time to go to school and work in colonial times before clocks, but I guess those who owned magnificent Antigua homes of the period didn't need to worry about punctuality with other than prayers, and the church bells would make sure they came on time for matins and angelus.

It is easy to tell the time of a workday morning by the rush of cars into and around the city, and that it's time to go home with the reverse rush that evening. Easy to tell noontime when the bright sun is overhead in our deep blue skies. Some farmers without clocks know the time to head to their fields when a regularly scheduled jet flies overhead each morning as it climbs from the city airport, and time to head home when another daily flight is on approach to land, timekeeping that's easier than wearing a watch.

It's hard to tell time by the smell of roses and other sweet flowers in our gardens and markets, as many flowers bloom all year in our eternal springtime. On the other hand, the musky odor of marigolds means it's November, and the sight of kites flying with the breezes confirms the month. Time hits each of our senses in different ways. Tune in and sense it all for yourself. 



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