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photo contest:

Pets of Guatemala

All of the Oct. entrants can be seen at fb.com/revuemagazine. Here are the winners

- **14** Jose Fares
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- 40 William Montepeque
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- 86 Annaly Castillo de Villatoro

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From the publishers



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The flavors of Guatemala are represented by Thor Janson's *The Coffee Harvest*; Amalia Moreno-Damgaard presents *Boquitas: Guatemalan Tapas* and Ken Veronda's "Sensuous Guatemala" offers up *Cinnamon*.

Community news includes Linda Conard's coverage of Impact Hub: Antigua's New Space for Synergy; Elizabeth Bell's "Guatemalan Insight" is Adopte Un Kilómetro; in "The Tax Corner" John Ohe asks the question, Are you Compliant?" Matt Bokor explains why the New U.S. Ambassador isn't new to Guatemala.

Plan ahead alerts include a heads-up for Nov. 1: A Kaleidoscope of Color and Tradition by Kerstin Sabene and Galería Panza Verde's photographic exhibit inauguration on Nov, 5, *Wide Awake and Feeling Mortal* by Leslie Claxton Wilson.

Lastly, a welcome back to Robert and Carmen Prince and The Antigua Players. The live-theater season kicks off in October with *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, see "DateBook" for details.

Thank you for reading the Revue, wishing you a pleasant month.

-John & Terry Kovick Biskovich



ON THE COVER

Amigo Fiel San Juan La Laguna, Sololá by Gerardo Elías Cotuc Pérez



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The Coffee Harvest

fter a sack of coffee beans is weighed the picker dumps his days harvest into a giant feeder bin. Here the picker and the picked part company but this is far from the end of the road for the coffee bean. It must now go through a complex train of events including processing, grading, wheeling and dealing with traders, transport, export and final roasting and toasting before it eventually ends up in your steaming cup of joe that braces you, invigorates you, and

comforts you on some cold, drizzling day in the Pacific Northwest. Like by magic, coffee conveys to the sipper the feeling, as if it contained the memory, of its warm equatorial origins; brightening your day even in the middle of the gloomiest of northern winters.

THE WORKDAY BEGINS just after midnight when plantation foreman Chahíl opens the door to the mill. A half-dozen kitchen assistants are already waiting to get in, each hefting a heavy sack of corn, **16**



which they had boiled and soaked in lime water since the previous afternoon. The mill is powered by water rushing down a flume, turning a waterwheel that is attached to a long belt, which drives the mechanism. The contraption makes quite a racket. The sacks of macerated corn are emptied into the feeder and out the other end emerges thick dough.

Once ground, the corn dough or *masa* is stuffed back into their *costals* and the men trudge back to their respective kitchens under the starry sky. By now Victoria Bernal, her mother and sister have arisen, splashed some water on their faces and are busy stoking the wood fires heating the huge clay griddles and a humongous pot of water and coffee.

The Bernal family is from the town of Nebaj in the province of El Quiche and has been contracted by the plantation to provide all the food for its





team of 50 coffee pickers, all also from Nebaj. Patting out and grilling tortillas for 50 people takes several hours. The morning ration consists of a stack of tortillas containing black beans and a cup or two of sweet coffee.

By 3:30 a.m. the workers, who sleep in a large dormitory, are beginning to stir. As they amble out into the twilight one of the Bernal sisters hands them a cup of coffee and greets them in the Ixil language. Soon the kitchen area is abuzz with activity amid jovial laughter as they savor their humble breakfast. By 4:30 a.m. they begin their trek to work. It is nearly a two-hour walk and 2,000 feet up the flank of volcán Atitlán to the area known as La Chusita.

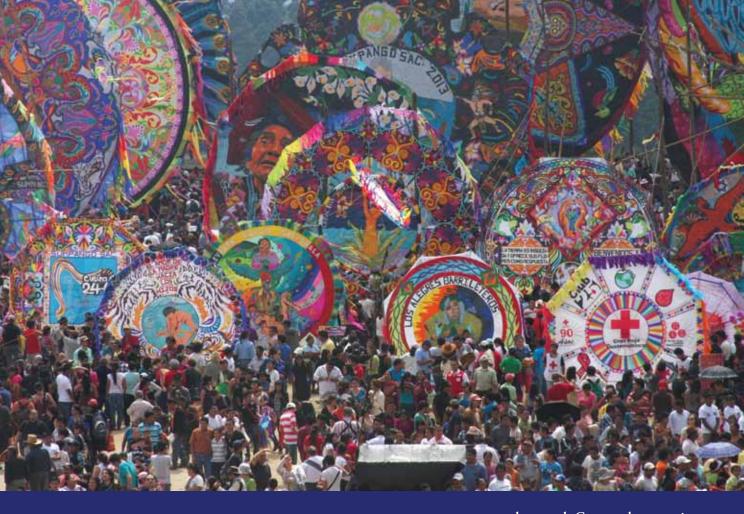
This is the upper plantation where the coveted, high-elevation Arabica beans will be harvested. Coffee beans do not ripen at the same time, which is why coffee must be handpicked. The pickers must return to the same field three or more times over several weeks until all the coffee ripens and is harvested.

A large percentage of the pickers working on the plantations, which drape the upper Pacific slopes of volcanoes Atitlán, Tolimán and San Pedro, come from the northern province of El Quiche, where little remunerated work is available. The

> By 4:30 a.m. they begin their trek to work. It is nearly a two-hour walk and 2,000 feet up the flank of volcán Atitlán to the area known as La Chusita.

campesinos of El Quiche are able to grow most all of their own food corn, beans and squash—and raise few domesticated animals, including chickens, turkeys and pigs. But for cash they have to migrate to other regions where they can work for wages. A man from Nebaj may have to ...continued page 72





A Kaleidoscope of Color and Tradition

returned to La Antigua Guatemala last October because I so enjoy living among the ancient ruins and architecture that give this city its stunning colonial atmosphere. I especially love the Guatemalan people and their many sacred traditions and was excited to experience for the first time the colorful celebration of gigantic kites text and photos by Kerstin Sabene

—barriletes gigantes—on All Saints Day, Nov. 1.

I was traveling with a small but eclectic group of visitors by minivan to Sumpango, a Mayan village less than 10 miles north of Antigua. The day was magical from beginning to end. "Sumpango means 'Place of the Skulls,' explained our tour guide, Manuel, as our bus navigated rugged Guatemalan terrain. Thousands of people from all over the country as well as foreigners descend on Sumpango to witness these magnificent Mayan masterpieces that community groups from all walks of life have been working on tirelessly for months. One of our companions, a woman from California, had traveled to Guatemala specifically for this event because it had been a life-long dream to view the resplendent kites.

Many of the kites on display in Sumpango can be as large as 20 meters in diameter and are constructed by barilleteros, professional kite architects and builders. All of the The Maya believe that on All Saints Day, souls of the departed come to the festival and are freed.

materials are natural, including the glue, which is made of yucca flour mixed with lemon peel and water. While woven stalks of castilla—a plant similar to wheat —form the skeletons of smaller kites, frames for the larger kites are made from bamboo, and then tied with hemp and wire to form a polygonal shape in a process called lunada del barrilete. The larger kites, which are not flown, are hoisted up by rope, sometimes requiring over a dozen men.

After an easy, 15-minute hike uphill past the Sumpango cemetery, we arrived at the periphery of a vast soccer field where, towering in the distance, the kites stood on display in all of their magnificence. It literally took my breath away! From this vantage point, it seemed as though the kites were giant paintings when in fact, they were made purely of tissue paper. Barilleteros, with the assistance of many different groups of people, work for months cutting and meticulously pasting colored tissue paper to create these brilliant works of art. I was especially struck by some

...continued page 54



Amalia's Kitchen text & photos by

chef and author Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Boquitas: Guatemalan Tapas

"Mini-replicas of Guatemalan popular and traditional foods like chiles rellenos (stuffed peppers)..."

n a recent trip throughout northern Spain, I had the pleasure of tasting the most amazing food, including tapas and pintxos. Popular throughout Spain, tapas in general are snacks or bread served on small plates with a variety of toppings. The origin of tapas is unclear. Pintxos, born in the Basque country, are the cousins of tapas served specifically in that region. The main difference is that pintxos — from the Euskara language meaning pinchos in Spanish and skewers in English — are small portions of food held with small skewers. Tapas and pintxos bars are a social way of life in Spain where small groups usually gather to eat casually standing at a bar and around hightops. The term "tapear" refers to a tapas-eating and bar-touring experience allowing visitors to sample a variety of treats in different bars in one evening.

In Guatemala, bars and restaurants always accompany cocktails, wine and beer with boquitas (literary meaning little mouths), the tapa equivalent. Because of the fusion of cultures during colonial times, it is likely that this custom came to Guatemala with the Spaniards. However, just as Spanish foods were adapted to local tastes in other Latin countries, tapas became boquitas and a custom closely linked to Guatemalan culture. Boquitas vary depending on setting and occasion. At social events at home and prior to a meal, people often serve easy and light boquitas, such as poporopo (popcorn), papalinas or plataninas (artisan or commercial potato or green plantain chips), manías (Spanish peanuts), chicharrones (spicy barbecue pork cracklings) and other ready-to- eat snacks along with alcoholic drinks. At bars and restaurants, boquitas can be more elaborate and are often mini-versions of mercado (market) fast foods, casual or street fare, such as mini-tostadas (crunchy tortillas with a variety of toppings), caldo or soup (small cups of broth or soup), ceviche (seafood and vegetables marinated in citrus juice) and more.

Boquitas are also a booming business in Guatemala. Hotels, restaurants and caterers tailor boquitas to the taste and budget of customers ranging from simple and casual to more elaborate and fancy. As opposed to the U.S. norm, boquitas rarely constitute the only food at a party or gathering and usually precede the main meal. During a reception, people drink and eat a variety of boquitas from light to heavy, sweet and savory. Many "bares de mala muerte" (hole in the wall bars) in Guatemala City that have been around forever share a special boquita culture and are famous for their specialty. For my wedding celebration in Guatemala City some time ago, I hired a neighborhood boquita catering business that delivered the prettiest, most delicious and sweetest bites presented in basket trays lined with banana leaves. They were a hit! These were minireplicas of Guatemalan popular and traditional foods like chiles rellenos (stuffed peppers), chuchitos (tamales in corn husks), rellenitos (ripe plantain dumplings), huevos con salsita (quail eggs in home-style tomato sauce) and others.

For your next gathering, I encourage you to explore Guatemalan boquitas. It will be a fun experience for you and your guests. To get you started, below I share a couple of easy yet scrumptious delights that are as pleasing to the eye as the tongue. To create a boquitas menu of your own, observe street food vendors and visit local mercados to see what foods they offer. Ask questions, make a list of easiest ones, and use your imagination to bring your boquitas to life. Stock your bar with Guatemalan beer, such as Gallo, Monte Carlo and Dorada, in addition to awardwinning rum Zacapa Centenario, and let the party begin!

¡Salúd! (Cheers!)



TOSTADAS GUATEMALTECAS Crispy Corn Tortillas Topped with Guacamole, Beans and Salsa

Tostadas are one of my family's favorite dinners at home, especially when we have very little time to prepare a full meal. Tostadas are not only fun to prepare, but also delicious to eat. They can make dinnertime fun for kids. Set up a tostada bar and have the kids form a line and assemble their own tostadas. To make the tostadas more substantial, add store-bought rotisserie chicken, carne asada, roasted pork, or any other protein to the traditional ingredients listed in this recipe. In Guatemala, tostadas are sold on the street at sidewalk shacks, festivals, fairs, church atriums, plazas and parks. This is my healthy version, which uses baked tostadas instead of the traditional fried ones. To make boguita-size tostadas, buy either small tortillas at the market, or cut mini-tortillas according to size from larger ones using a plastic cup or round cookie cutter.

Serves 4 to 6 people

12 to 16 corn tortillas

1 batch salsita de tomate ciruela (quick plum tomato sauce, recipe follows)

1 batch guacamol para tostadas (Guatemalan guacamole, recipe follows)

Adorno (Garnish)

1 cup thinly julienned red or yellow onion 1 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley Guatemalan queso seco (or cotija cheese), crumbled ...continued page 64

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

2 Thurs., 5:45pm — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Tesoros, recetas con historia* by Euda Morales. Museo Ixchel

3Fri. — DINING at KIDS Restaurant: Resv: kidsrestaurant@gmail.com; tels: 4550-7798 or 5251-0202. **5pm**: shuttle in front of Cafe Condesa (5a av., central park, Antigua), **San Gaspar Vivar**

Sat. — BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Animals are brought to churches on St Francis' feast day because of his love for animals as expressed in his "Canticle of Creatures." This day is an opportunity to teach children about endangered, abused and homeless animals and what can be done to help them. This feast coincides with **World Animal Day**

Sat.,9am-2pm — COUNTRY FAIR: Join in for a fun-filled morning with food, arts & crafts, door prizes, contests and fellowship. Free. Tickets for food, games, etc. available for purchase at the door. Union Church, 12 calle 7-37, z. 9 (tel: 2361-2037), Plaza España, *Guatemala City*



5 Sun., 9am-8pm — STAR FANS GT: 2014 Saga Star Wars fans celebration. Expositions of Star Wars collectionists, stands with souvenirs and toys for sale, also lots of surprises. info@starfansguatemala.com Q25. Hotel Camino Real Antigua, Salón La Conquista, *La Antigua*

Tues., 5.30pm — (English) TALK: La Escuelita-San Pedro Las Huertas provides academic help for children from low-income families, aiding in their chances to progress to the next class grade. Find out about this wonderful extra-curricular school. Suggested donation Q25, directly to the NGO. Info. & reservations, tel: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, La Antigua

Tues., 6:30pm — ART: Watercolor exposition by Asociación de Damas Italianas. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2366-8394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

8Wed. through Nov. 26th, 9-11am — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: *Mis colecciones, mis tesoros ¿Cómo conservarlos?* conduced by eight experts in this field. Q1,000/Q750, students & tour guides Q750. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City* 8 Wed., 6pm — (English) PRESENTA-TION: Antigua: Behind the Walls with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour slide show of Antigua and its heritage through vintage and contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Q30 per person. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Join us at Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, La Antigua ▼



9 Thurs., 7pm — ART FESTIVAL: Festival de Arte Antigua, enjoy a moving concert by Coro Capella Cantorum. Q80. Museo de Arte Colonial (former Universidad de San Carlos), La Antigua

4Sat. through Nov. ART: Abstracciones, featuring 12 new oils by acclaimed Guatemalan artist Víctor Hugo Valenzuela. This collection displays intensity in the strokes, the composition and his creative intention. The artist will be present at the opening. La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, La Antigua



11 Sat., 6:30-9:30pm — WINE TASTING PARTY: Open to members of the American Society of Guatemala as well as non-members. Don't miss this delightful evening of wine tasting, delicious food, meeting friends and making new ones. Q150 incls. admission, a glass of wine or other beverage, boquitas and music. Proceeds for charity TBA. Tickets available at the restaurant and from society members. Los Tres Tiempos, Calle del arco, (5a av.) # 41, *La Antigua*

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

13 Mon., through Sat., 18 — GASTRONOMY: Semana del sabor. Alianza Francesa and Francophone businesses celebrate Flavor Week, featuring regional dishes from France, Switzerland and Belgium participatants incl. Metiz Delicatessen, Chocola Iala, El Rincón del Conquistador, Luna de Miel, Como Como, Le Petit St. Malo, Tartines, Chez Christophe and El Sitio. La Antigua

14Tues., 5:30pm — (English) TALK: Sonidos para la Vida is a local non profit with the mission to teach music to children & youth from low income families, or those at risk. Enjoy a performance by some of the students. Through music, they have an opportunity to transform their lives. Suggested donation Q25, directly to the NGO. Info. & reserv., tel: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

14TATION COURSE: *Meditación, una experiencia de libertad*. Free. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

14Tues., & 15 Wed., 8pm — MU-SIC: Capella Cantorum. Q50; tels: 2470-3415 & 2470-3416. Museo Miraflores, 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, *Guatemala City*

15 Wed., 3pm — (English) TOUR: Open Windows Learning Center, San Miguel Dueñas; join David Dean on a visit to this educational and community development foundation. Meet in front of the Cafe Condesa, Central Park; return by 4:40pm. FREE! www.openwindowsfoundation.com, *La Antigua*

15 Wed., 6:30pm — PHOTOG-RAPHY: A return to the golden age of film photography by Juan Pablo Ramírez; twelve exposures per roll, the subject, Cuba where much has been frozen in time. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

16Thurs., 7:30pm — MUSIC: Piano concert by Domenico Codispoti. Info., tel: 2366-8394. Auditórium J.B. Gutiérrez, Universidad F. Marroquín, *Guatemala City*

16Thurs., 4pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *El gobierno de José María Reina Barrios (1892-1898)* by María Lorena Castellanos. Q30/Q15, students & tour guides. (Info., http:// casapopenoe.ufm.edu/el-gobierno-dejose-maria-reina-barrios-1892-1898/ or historia-ufm@ufm.edu) Tel: +502-2338-7959. Casa Popenoe, 6a calle oriente #16, *La Antigua*

17*Fri.,* **4:30-7:30pm** — EVENT: *10 años de agradecimiento,* Constru Casa will be celebrating 10 years of building better lives in Guatemala with its partners and supporters in Antigua. More info., a formal invitation or to RSVP please email oficina@construcasa.org or call 7832-8348. Los Tres Tiempos, 5a av. norte #31, *La Antigua*

18Sat., 7pm — GASTRONOMY: Cocktail, closing of *Semana del Sabor*. Alianza Francesa Antigua, 2a av. sur #25, *La Antigua* **18Sat., 5pm** — MUSIC: Piano concert by Domenico Codispoti. Info., tel: 2366-8394. Museo de Arte Co-Ionial, *La Antigua*

18Sat., **10am-1pm** — OPEN HOUSE: Jardin Infantil Mundo de Juguete (bilingual) invites you to its open house where individualized instruction is based on multiple levels, children age 1 to 4 years. Also, day care & vacation course. Tel: 3026-7482. Colonia Candelaria #14-A, *La Antigua*

20^{Mon.} — HOLIDAY: *Revolution day*. Most banks and businesses closed. Plan ahead. *Countrywide*

21 Tues., **5.30pm** — (English) TALK: Community Center EducArte, a Guatemalan NGO promoting social justice through education and art; serving families that face severe socioeconomic limitations in Ciudad Vieja (near Antigua). EducArte believes that education is the basis for social development and everyone has a right to education. Suggested donation Q25, directly to the NGO. Info. & reserv., tel: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

21 Tues., 22 & 23, 6pm — (Spanish) WORKSHOP: Photo lighting, by members of the Club Fotográfico de Guatemala. Museo Ixchel, (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

21 Tues., 6:30pm — MUSIC: *Two Hot Daltonics*, guitar concert. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2366-8394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

21^{Tues.,} through Nov, 7th, 9am-5pm — PHOTOGRAPHY: Una calle, una historia en La Antigua within the celebration of the XXXV anniversary of the declaration of La Antigua as Cultural Heritage Site. Compañía de Jesús, La Antigua

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the NOV. 2014 edition by Oct. 10

22Wed., 9am — WINE: Vino, las variedades regionales by Accademia Italiana della Cucina. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2366-8394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, *Guatemala City*

22*Daltonics*, guitar concert. Info., tel: 2366-8394. Convento de Capuchinas, corner of 2a calle & 2 av., *La Antigua*

23^{Thurs., 6:30pm throuth Nov.} **a** collective exposition by Fundal. Galería Guatemala, z. 9, *Guatemala City*

23Thurs., 7pm — MUSIC: National Chorus of Guatemala, Bellas Artes, within the celebration of the declaration of La Antigua as Cultural Heritage Site. Convento Capuchinas, La Antigua



Fri.-8pm, Sat., 25th-7pm, Sun. 26th-6pm — (English) THEATER: On stage The ANTIGUA PLAY-ERS presents Picasso at the Lapin Agile. Written by Steve Martin, it is a brilliantly funny play about the evening Picasso walks into his favorite café and walks out a changed man. Community cast members: Shawn Michael, Turlough Cott, Brendan Byrne, M. Catherine OliverSmith, Juan Pablo Therreaux, Julio Benard, Reinhard Prosch, Carmen Prince, Mindy Grantham and Ricardo López. Directed by Robert Prince. (Ticket info., visit www.facebook.com/AntiguaPlayers.) El Sitio, (just west of 7a av.) 5a calle poniente #5, *La Antigua*

You can find Revue DateBook online: www.REVUEmag.com

Fri., 5pm — EVENT: Celebrate **4** the 10 year anniversary of the Oxford Bilingual Montessori. The good people at Troccoli along with new friends at Baco, are providing a beautiful roof-top terrace over looking three volcanoes, and will host a sunset wine tasting from around the world. Please join us for a wonderful evening and a bit of "education" for us adults. All proceeds go to build the new Oxford Montessori children's playground. Ticket incls. wine tasting and pairing & a raffle to win excellent prizes provided by many favorite businesses in Antigua. Tickets at Oxford in Guatemala City or Antigua, or call to reserve a ticket, tels: 7832-5969 or 2368-1332. Almacen Troccolli, calle del arco (5a av.) & 3a calle poniente, La Antigua

25 Sat. — TRAVEL: Guided visit to San Cristóbal Totonicapán & Salcajá. Details, tel: 2338-7836. Museo Popol Vuh.

25Sat., 10am — DEMONSTRA-TION: *Textiles Dye with indigo and Sacatinta* by Olga Reiche. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final , z. 10, *Guatemala City*

25 Sat., 3-5pm — MUSIC: Marimbas join together within the celebration of the XXXV anniversary of the declaration of La Antigua as Cultural Heritage Site, featuring Marimba del cuerpo de ingenieros del Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional, Marimba del Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social, Marimba de Bellas Artes and Marimba del INGUAT. Central Park, *La Antigua*

26^{Sun., 6:30pm} — EVENT & MU-SIC: Closing of the celebration of the XXXV anniversary of the declaration of La Antigua as Cultural Heritage Site; 7:30—*Marimba los Nazarenos* & launching of globos. Plaza Central, *La Antigua*

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

28Tues., **5.30pm** — DANCE: Performed by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn), a charity dedicated to helping more than 30 children in San Andres Itzapa. Its programs focus on health, education and preserving local traditions, including language and dance which is being lost at an alarming rate. Enjoy the show and learn more about this project! Suggested donation Q25, all goes directly to the NGO. Info., & reserv., tel: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*

28Tues., **6:30pm** — (Spanish) BOOK PRESENTATION: *Plantas Tintoreas de Guatemala* by Olga Reiche. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final , z. 10, **Gua**temala City

29Wed., 6:30pm — "DEAD" DAY CELEBRATION: Legends Night, lights out at the museum; flashlights and caramel-milk skulls workshop, incls. narratives by Antonio González. Fun for kids 8 to 14 years. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final, z. 10, Guatemala City

30 Thurs., **7pm** – (Spanish) ASsional telescopes with a group of experts, experience the thrill of observing lunar craters; also, a short talk about lunar geography. Q30. Info & tickets: tels: 2470-3415 & 2470-3416. Museo Miraflores, 7a calle 21-55, z. 11, *Guatemala City*

30 Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONFERENCE: *El Itacayo: Un ser sobrenatural de las selvas peteneras* by Weagly Casasola. Q30/Q15, students. Museo Popol Vuh, *Guatemala City*

30^{Thurs., 7pm — PHOTOGRA-PHY: Monthly contest of the Club Fotográfico de Guatemala. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final , z. 10, *Guatemala City*}

31 Fri., — Halloween Party! Live music, special offers, prizes for best dressed and more! Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, *La Antigua*





When Democrats vote, Democrats win! If you'll be abroad during the elections, you can still use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) at www.votefromabroad.org

Email us if you need help at da_guatemala@democratsabroad.org

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

IMPACT HUB (candidate) 1 av. norte #12, La Antigua All events open to the public (English & Spanish). www.ImpactHubAntigua.net See article on page 56 **Thu., 2**: BBQ w/Burger Innovation Labs

Sat., 11: Impact Hub Launch Party Mon., 13: Official Opening Sat., 18: Hueristica Meet Up Fri., 24-Sat., 25-Sun., 26: 3-Day Startup! A successful global bootcamp pro-

up! A successful global bootcamp program to accelerate your business idea. Applications due Oct 7th. Info., http:// guatemalacity.3daystartup.org/

Through Oct. 12

— ART: *llusiones a terracotta sculpture* exhibit by Oscar Ríos Ochoa. La Antigua, Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, *La Antigua*



All Month: ANTIGUA FOOD & WINE: Exclusive Syrah wine pairing specials in 28 restaurants in Antigua organized by Degustantigua and the Spanish School of Sommeliers. (see page 68) Info & details visit degustantigua.com



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

Mondays, 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* Thursdays., 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 — DOCUMEN-TARY: Wings presents *Blessed Fruit of the Womb: The Fight for Reproductive Rights in Guatemala.* Free. The Bagel Barn, 5a calle poniente #2, *La Antigua*



PLAN AHEAD on page 34



Written by Steve Martin, a brilliantly funny play about the evening Picasso walks into his favorite café and walks out a changed man.



Live, onstage at El Sitio 5a calle poniente #5 (west of 7a av.), La Antigua

For ticket information visit facebook.com/AntiguaPlayers

Community cast members: Shawn Michael, Turlough Cott, Brendan Byrne, M. Catherine OliverSmith, Juan Pablo Therreaux, Julio Benard, Reinhard Prosch, Mindy Grantham, Carmen Prince and Ricardo Lopez. Directed by Robert Prince. (presented in English) REVUE Photo Contest

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRÁFICO de noviembre 2014 con el tema Comida de GUATEMALA. Enviar UNA (1) foto en ALTA RESOLUCIÓN con el título, lugar donde fue tomada, su nombre y el sitio web para el crédito a: fotos@revuemag.com

Habrá premios para las fotos ganadoras, incluye **Q200 para los dos primeros lugares.** Para más información **www.Revuemag.com**

Serán elegibles las fotos que se reciban hasta el 10 de OCTUBRE de 2014 We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for November 2014 with the theme Food of GUATEMALA. Please send ONE (1) HIGH RES photo with caption/location and your name & website for the credit line to: photos@revuemag.com

There will be prizes for winning photos including Q200 for both 1st place categories. More information at www.Revuemag.com

> Submissions entered by the 10th of OCTOBER will be eligible.



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La Cueva de Panza Verde tels: 7955-8282, 7832-2925 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua

Thursdays, 8-10pm — César Barrios, Latin American guitar. Q35 cover Fridays, 8-10pm — Latin Trio, Denis Medina on Cubano Tres. Q35 cover Saturdays, 8-10pm — Sergio Zepeda, guitar. Q35 cover

Oct 11, 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





Saturdays, 8-10pm Sergio Zepeda, guitar. Q35 cover

Fridas

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

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



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

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

Fridays — World music.

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

Rainbow Café

tel: 7832-1919 7a av. sur #8, La Antigua Free Live Music Nightly from 8:00pm

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

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

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



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

Sundays — 1 to 4pm: Live marimba band

TRATTORIA LA NONNA

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

Las Palmas tel: 7832-9734 6a av. norte #14, La Antigua Mondays & Tuesdays, 7-9pm — Noches de boleros en guitarra Wednesdays & Thursdays — Bossa, soft rock & cuban Fridays & Saturdays — with Caribe



Los Tres Tiempos Tel: 7832-5161 5a av norte: #31, La Antigua Sundays — 2-5pm: Live music: Bolero

Elú Restaurant (El Convento) Tel: 7720-7272 2a av norte #11, La Antigua

Thursdays — 6:30-9:30pm: Enjoy free flowing from our soul with some jazz music.









Exhibition featuring the work of renowned artist Ramón Ávila



Galería Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua G. Through Nov., 2.



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The Gift of Non-verbal Communication

Cience is catching up with intuition! A study published Aug. 19 by PLOS ONE documented the first direct brainto-brain communication. The words "hola" and "ciao" were sent between two people thousands of miles apart.

"The evolution of civilization points to a progressive increase of the interrelations between human minds, where by 'mind' we mean a set of processes carried out by the brain."

"We were able to directly and noninvasively transmit a thought from one person to another, without them having to speak or write," stated coauthor Dr. Alvaro Pascual-Leone, a neurologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and Harvard Medical School professor.

The excitement this study created offers greater insights into the way we communicate with each other and especially our "non-speaking" friends of the animal kingdom.

Animals are bound by their nature and as this study suggests, the "mind" is a set of processes carried out by the brain. Animals do not carry judgment about how they speak with us so are not limited by belief or nonbelief in telepathy.

Living with animals of any species, one rapidly learns that they are communicating through the processes of their own brain. There is the

Sri and Kira have authored several books and are the owners of TOSA La Laguna. email: office@tosaspa.com www.LakeAtitlanSpa.com knowing that comes from eye contact or the way a head is held. Body language is a communication language all unto itself and most veterinarians will admit a large part of diagnosis comes through reading body language and other non-verbal cues from the animal.

Ultimately the greater question is not if the ability to communicate non-verbally exists, it is simply: Are we listening?

When we listen with our heart and our eyes, along with our ears, we discover a vast language that is speaking clearly and loudly. Our animal friends have mastered this language, a beautiful dance that integrates all of the senses.

As you take in the sights of La Antigua Guatemala, myriad animals are speaking to you. Birds in the Parque Central dance to

photos by: Renaud Ruhlmann (ABOVE) and Laurel Baker (BELOW)



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What great thing would you attempt if you knew you could not fail? —Robert H. Schuller



meet a seed or piece of bread as the horses breathe and sigh ever aware of their surroundings.

And then, there are the dogs, offering the opportunity to hone your non-verbal communication skills through a variety of communications. Everything from the one that breaks your heart as it is seeking food and care, to the one that is happily dancing by its owner eager to please. There are also the ones that are clearly saying "stay away."

Engage a lively conversation with a Mayan elder on the subject of "talking animals" and he will share story after story of the power and accuracy of these communications.

Ultimately it is our ability to want to listen to our animal partners that is awakening our inner awareness.

Collectively humanity has arrived at the moment where we must gaze within at the correlation between human survival and global deterioration. Our animal partners are quickly losing habitat and perhaps it is our animal friends who hold a powerful key to our future.

One aspect of this key is the gift of non-verbal communication that cannot be manipulated; a rare gift of clarity and focus inviting us to remember the best that we can be.

So as you take that stroll through the Parque Central, why not take a moment and communicate with the animals that are speaking to you. Have fun and discover a world that has always been there, all you have to do is listen.

GUATEMALA CITY dining



DATEBOOK ...continued from page 26

Sat., Nov. 1 — CELEBRATION: All Saints Day, Guatemalans prepare fiambre and visit cemeteries, bringing flowers to honor departed family members and friends. Special celebrations in many towns, including Santiago and Sumpango Sacatepéquez feature huge kites. See article on page 18. Most banks and businesses will be closed. **Countrywide**

Sun., Nov. 2 through the Sat., 8th — Sacred Journey Writing & Yoga Retreat: On the shores of Lake Atitlán we invite the four shamanic directions to inspire our meditation, yoga and daily self-exploratory writing. Mystical Yoga Farm. aimee@thestorytellerwithin.com or www.thestorytellerwithin.com)

The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls. —Pablo Picasso

PLAN AHEAD

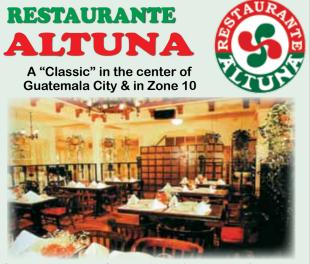
Wed., Nov. 5 — PHOTOGRAPHY: Wide Awake and Feeling Mortal by Leslie Wilson, proceeds from the sale & live auction to be donated to the AIS scholarship fund. See article on page 46. Galería Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua ▼ Sat., Nov. 8, 2pm — OPEN HOUSE: Oxford Bilingual Montessori, families welcome! (Info., tel: 7832-5969; Email: oxford.montessori@olcenglish.com) 1a av. norte #35-B (enter Centro Luterano), La Antigua





dining GUATEMALA CITY





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ADOPTE UN KILÓMETRO!

t the end of a year in the late 1990s La Antigua Guatemala was full of street trash and potholes, and many of us complained to the mayor. Victor Hugo del Pozo kindly advised that the city had no funds. We sent a "spy" over to the treasury to, indeed, find that the meager budget in those days had run out for that year. The private sector has always been VERY active in the city – whether through civic committees like Salvemos Antigua or "fiesta committees" and education programs. At that time Fundación para la Conservación de La Antigua Guatemala, founded in 1986, took the lead and set up a clean-up committee with paid workers. Many of us





contributed with small and large donations to keep Antigua clean with its campaign "Pasemos a La Antigua en Limpio."

During the last administration, the city began to do a much better job as Mayor Vivar increased the municipal work force from 400 to about 1,000 employees. Fundantigua began working on the road to Guatemala City – Ruta del Orgullo - in July 2007, and today it IS one of the nicest roads in Guatemala! After planting more than 700,000 plants (and counting), today we have 32 full-time workers, one water truck, two garbage trucks and take pride in the project. We clean the road beginning in Antigua and continuing through Magdalena Milpas Altas, Santa Lucía Milpas Altas, San Lucas and Mixco. Meager budget? Don't think so with Q2.6 million budgeted for this year.

"Adopte un kilómetro" was set up for corporate Guatemala to contribute, and some of us contribute with smaller donations. We appreciate the contributions from the mayors of San Lucas and Mixco and through local companies where guests may add a contribution to their bill. **Contact the project at the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo/tel: 7820-1220.**

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New U.S. Ambassador isn't new to Guatemala

by Matt Bokor



familiar face is returning to the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City. This rime, Todd D. Robinson will carry the title of Ambassador.

Robinson, a career diplomat with extensive experience in Latin America, served as deputy chief of mission in Guatemala City from 2009 to 2011.

President Barack Obama nominated Robinson in June to succeed former Ambassador Arnold A. Chacón, who served since August 2011. The U.S. Senate confirmed Robinson by a voice vote on Sept. 16.

In his remarks to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in July, Robinson said:

"Guatemala is at a critical moment. While the nation has made significant progress since the signing of the peace accords in 1996 that ended a three-decade long internal conflict, significant challenges remain. Trafficking of humans, weapons and drugs; high rates of violence; impunity and corruption; poor education and employment opportunities; and chronic malnutrition are all serious issues and all particularly damaging to Guatemala's youngest, most defenseless citizens. ...

"The United States and Guatemala are already making some progress.

Guatemala has made advances in the fight against trafficking in persons and is committing additional funding in a constrained budget environment to its anti-trafficking efforts. There has been strong cooperation on counternarcotics, judicial strengthening, and maternal and child health issues," he continued. Since his transfer from Guatemala in 2011, Robinson served as deputy assistant secretary in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in Washington, D.C. Previously Robinson served as consul general in Barcelona, Spain, and was chief of the political and economic section in the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania.

Before that, he served at U.S. Embassies in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2000-03); La Paz, Bolivia (1997-99); the Holy See, Vatican City (1995-97); Rome, Italy (1993-95); San Salvador, El Salvador (1989-91); and Bogotá, Colombia (1987-89).

Originally from New Jersey, Robinson joined the Foreign Service in 1986, one year after his graduation from Georgetown University.





The Valle Verde School in Guatemala City held its annual photo contest (2014) -- here are the top 3 entrants.

www.valleverde.edu.gt



Third Place: "Pez tigre" by Carlos Rivera, 4th grade





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In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit. —Albert Schweitzer



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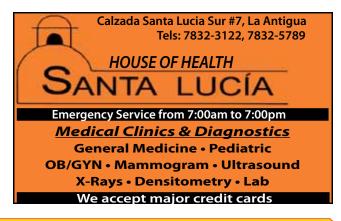
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Those who are quite satisfied sit still and do nothing; those who are not quite satisfied are the sole benefactors of the world. —Walter Savage Landor If we had no faults of our own, we would not take so much pleasure in noticing those of others. —François VI de la Rochefoucault





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Plan Ahead: Photographic Exhibit at the Galería Panza Verde

"Wide Awake and Feeling Mortal"

eaturing photography by Leslie Claxton Wilson, plan ahead to attend this new exhibit at Galería Panza Verde on **Nov. 5** benefiting the scholarship fund of the Antigua International School (AIS), which is celebrating its third anniversary.

The exhibit, "Wide Awake and Feeling Mortal," is a collection in black and white that showcases Leslie's particular eye for beauty in the details. She has worked as a photographer for more than 40 years, lives in northern California but grew up in Guatemala City in the 1950s. During this time, she developed a lifelong love of Guatemala, its culture and its people. "The visceral influences of Guatemala, its heritage and its people, have had a profound and lasting impact on my work as a photographer," Leslie says.

Her photography has been shown at design studios in San Francisco and New York and has received awards in juried shows in Northern California at the Bedford

Gallery and Piedmont Center for the Arts. Her work is in private collections in the U.S. and internationally.

Most recently Leslie has become a supporter of AIS, which was co-founded by her friend, Christine Wilson. AIS is an independent, not-for-profit school established in 2011 committed to **46**





teach children how to think critically so they may reach their highest purpose and make a meaningful contribution to Guatemala and the world.

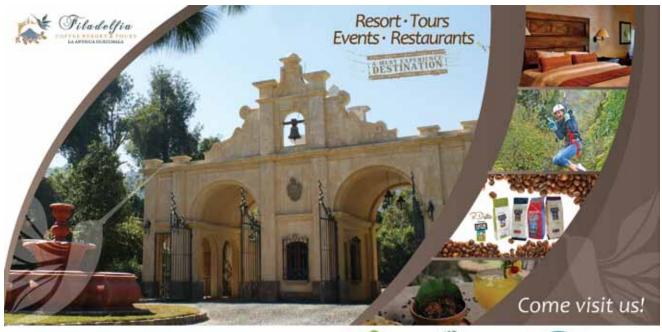
Now completing its third year, the school has a student body of 165 in grades K-10, with a faculty of 21. Seventy-five percent of the students are Guatemalan; the remainder represents 18 other nationalities. Half of the student body receives scholarship funds. Leslie is generously donating the proceeds from the exhibit and is actively working on the capital campaign for the new AIS campus set to open August 2015

The opening reception on **Nov. 5** will include a sale and live auction of photographs. All proceeds from evening sales, as well as through the month-long duration of the exhibit, will be donated to the AIS Scholarship Fund.

"Wide Awake and Feeling Mortal" opens at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Galería Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antigua Guatemala. The restaurant at Mesón Panza Verde offers a 20 percent discount that evening for dinner guests who attend the reception. The exhibit runs through Dec. 7.

For more information about the artist, visit leslieclaxtonwilsonphotography.com and for the school, antiguais.org.

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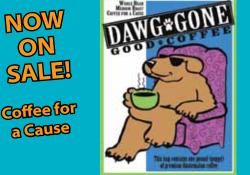
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It is an important and popular fact that things are not always what they seem. For instance, on the planet Earth, man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much — the wheel, New York, wars and so on — whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins had always believed that they were far more intelligent than man — for precisely the same reasons. —Douglas Adams

If a rabbit defined intelligence the way man does, then the most intelligent animal would be a rabbit, followed by the animal most willing to obey the commands of a rabbit. —Robert Brault

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A Kaleidoscope of Color and Traditon cont. from page 19

of the elaborate images and messages that the kites portrayed. Manuel explained that because of advances in technology, some of the artists use computers to more easily create intricate images that can then be transferred to the tissue paper. The kites now send important political and social messages addressing issues such as protecting the environment and women's rights. "One kite may take as many as 20,000 sheets of tissue paper to decorate and can cost upwards of \$5,000," Manuel added.

Groups that create smaller kites attempt to fly them later in the afternoon. The kites that stay up the longest and travel the farthest are declared the winners. The Maya believe that on All Saints Day, souls of the departed come to the festival



The kites that stay up the longest and travel the farthest are declared the winners.

and are freed. Many believe that the kites serve as a conduit to the spirits who wish to visit Earth on this day, and that they are assisting the souls on their journey to heaven.

"The tradition of barriletes began in Santiago, Sacatepequez 115 years ago," said Ignacio Ochoa, director of the Nahual Foundation, a think tank by and for indigenous people of the Americas. "Other towns such as Sumpango, Santa Maria Cauque and Santo Domingo Xenacoj eventually followed suit and have picked up the ritual in just the last 30 years," he added.

Prizes are also awarded for the larger kites. According to Ochoa, who has been a judge three times at this festival, the grand prize this year will be 45,000 quetzales (approximately \$5,800 USD). Prizes are based on size, innovative design and meaning of the kite.

Antigua Tours is offering a day trip to Sumpango on Nov. 1, departing Antigua at 9 a.m. For more info, go to www.antiguatours.net or call (502) 7832-2046.



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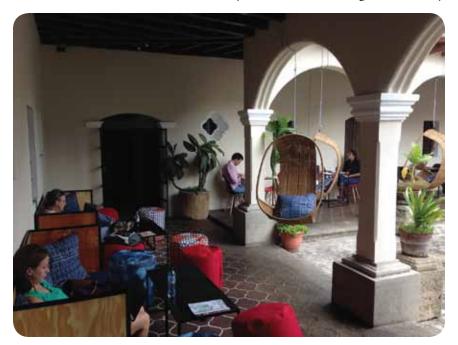
Linda Conard

Text and photos by **Impact Hub:** Antigua's New Space for Synergy

any people dream of working from a home office in beautiful La Antigua Guatemala, but the reality isn't always so dream-like. Telecommuters often deal with spotty Internet coverage, distractions, isolation and a "home" that starts to feel like "work." Even working from local restaurants and cafés has its drawbacks. Michelle Berkowitz Sultan, founder of Social

& Environmental Impact Consulting, found herself café-hopping between three or four places daily. "Every few hours I needed to change location because I didn't want to be rude to the establishment," she said, and buying something at each spot got expensive.

Worse, working alone precludes the synergy of daily office conversations - those "aha!" moments when you run into a colleague has exactly



the idea you need, or vice versa. "A workspace that is collaborative, where you can share ideas with other people, bounce ideas off each other, and have the energy of a work environment—that's really attractive to me," said Chris Barry, program director for the U.S.based Central America Health Initiative.

Creating opportunities for synergy and that "energy of a work environment" are two primary reasons that Richard Ambrose and Mark Jacobson, co-founders of the impact investment group Pomona Impact, created the new co-working space, Impact Hub Antigua (candidate). Co-working spaces allow telecommuters to save money by sharing office space, services and equipment. Impact Hub, started in London in 2005, takes it a big step further by creating co-working communities made up of professionals who promote sustainable impact. These may be social entrepreneurs and nongovernment organizations, as well as professionals in supportive roles like attorneys, accountants, graphic designers, copy editors and others. Internationally, Impact Hub now has more than

...continued on following page





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IMPACT HUB cont. from previous page

7,000 members in 54 Hub environments on six continents. Twenty additional locations, including Impact Hub Antigua, are candidates completing the approval process.

Antigua's Impact Hub is in Casa de los Milagros, a Spanish colonial building on 1a avenida norte, across from La Fabrica gym. Everything in the Hub is designed to inspire networking and collaboration, while allowing for focused, independent work. Shared office spaces, large enough to hold up to 20 people per room, open onto a central courtyard surrounded by bamboo chair swings.

Reliable 10MB Wi-Fi (the fastest speed currently available in Guatemala) is accessible from anywhere in the Hub, and members have free use of a large copier, printers, scanners and other office equipment. Rustic desks line the shared workspaces, and members can choose from office swivel chairs, beanbag seats and yoga balls.

In addition to individual memberships, a small office of two to seven people might opt to rent a "Hublet," where the team can work together in a more private, self-contained space. Members have free use of conference rooms, which nonmembers can also rent for meetings. The lunchroom and kitchen feature a fridge and microwave, plus unlimited free coffee, while an onsite café and juice bar will offer specialty coffees, smoothies and sandwiches.

After a week working in the Hub, Barry, one of the charter members, said, "The lighting is great, there's fresh air, it's a quiet space, the Internet is fast and reliable, there are plugs everywhere, there's coffee, there's a gym right across the street ... and the people running it are really are trying to create the right environment for people to interact."

Hub events—ranging from yoga workshops and Sexy Salad Days to presentations on financial management and measuring social impact—keep members informed and motivated. An upstairs terrace, with postcard-worthy views of Antigua's three volcanos, will be the site of Friday "winedowns" and other social events, making it easy to connect. After her first week, Sultan, another charter Hub member, said, "I've already met some extremely bright and motivated people here."

Although the Hub is already attracting international telecommuters, the Hub is also developing targeted alliances with local universities and institutions, and creating a scholarship program to cover membership costs for promising young Antigua-area entrepreneurs. Ambrose expects the crosspollination of international and local en-

...continued on following page





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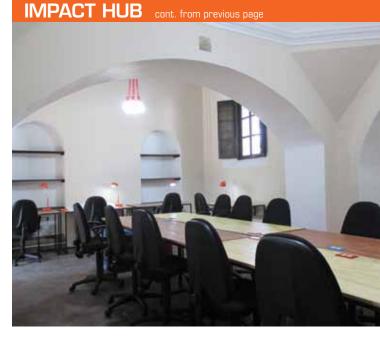
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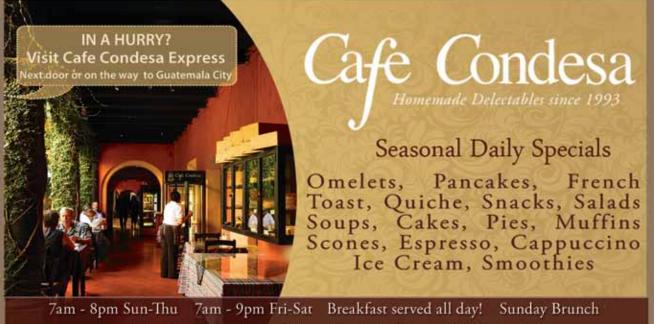


trepreneurs, NGOs, start-ups and support professionals in Antigua will be especially valuable. "There's a real opportunity to stimulate much greater collaboration in the community ... where all of these circles meet," he says. "We'd love to house that discussion. That's really part of the goal."

Both Ambrose and Jacobson hope that Impact Hub Antigua will "cultivate a new wave of entrepreneurship here in Guatemala." Ambrose adds, "It's a grassroots approach that has had a lot of success around the world, and we know can be successful here."

Impact Hub Antigua (candidate) is offering a 50% discount for the first six months for members who sign up by the grand opening on Oct. 13. For more information, see www.ImpactHubAntigua.com, or contact Flavia Ladino at flavia.ladino@gmail.com or (502) 3339-9483. 1a av. norte #13, La Antigua

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I always felt that the great high privilege, relief and comfort of friendship was that one had to explain nothing. —Katherine Mansfield A loyal friend laughs at your jokes when they're not so good, and sympathizes with your problems when they're not so bad. —Arnold H. Glasgow



Boquitas cont. from page 21

Bake the tortillas in a toaster oven at 350°F until they are crispy (5 to 7 minutes). Keep a close eye on them, as they can burn easily. Weigh them down with a small wire cooling rack to keep them from curling up. Once the tortillas are crispy, tostadas keep for days.

Prepare all the remaining ingredients.

Set up all the ingredients in salad bar fashion. Or set up all the ingredients at the table. Invite diners to assemble their own tostadas. For boquitas, make them on the spot. If you make them too soon before they are eaten, they will be soggy. Assembly suggestion: Spread salsa, guacamole or beans (if using) on a tostada. Add garnishes in the order listed. Top the tostada with your protein of choice, if you like.

SALSITA DE TOMATE CIRUELA Quick Plum Tomato Sauce

This delicious sauce is a staple in many Guatemalan homes, and its uses are endless. You can use it for tostadas, crispy rolled tacos, or fried or hardboiled eggs. Build the sauce further by adding other ingredients, such as celery, herbs, spices and chile peppers. Panfry the sauce in 1/2 tablespoon of canola oil for a twist in flavor.

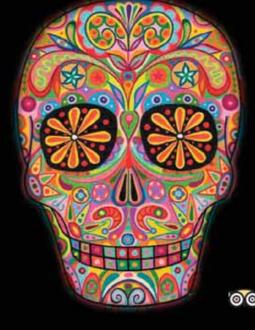
Makes a little over 1 cup

1 cup roughly chopped Roma tomatoes
 2 tablespoons chopped onion
 2 garlic cloves
 1/8 teaspoon thyme
 1/8 teaspoon crumbled oregano
 1/2 bay leaf
 1/4 cup water

Sazón (Seasonings) 1/2 teaspoon white wine vinegar 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Cook the first 7 ingredients in a small saucepan and bring to a quick boil. Lower the heat, cover, and simmer for 5 to 8 minutes.

Purée all ingredients and season them with vinegar and salt. Return to the saucepan and heat through. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed. Use the sauce immediately or save it in a jar for later. It lasts in the refrigerator for 1 week. ...continued on following page





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Boquitas cont. from previous page

GUACAMOL PARA TOSTADAS Guatemalan Guacamole for Tostadas

Guacamol is what Guatemalans call the delicious simple avocado mash known in the United States as guacamole. The secret for a perfect guacamol is in the quality of the avocados. Guatemalan avocados are thicker-skinned, rounder and darker than California avocados. The texture of a Guatemalan avocado is milky and buttery. Guatemalans often add them in chunks to soups and salads. This basic avocado purée has multiple uses in the Guatemalan kitchen as a side dish and even as a sauce. To make a sauce. add herbs, chile peppers, water and a little olive oil. This recipe for tostadas is simple because the toppings add a lot of flavor. To convert this recipe to a side dish for churrasco (barbecue), add 1/2 tablespoon of shredded onion and 1/2 teaspoon of crumbled oregano to the mixture.

Makes about 1 3/4 cups

3 ripe avocados, mashed to a chunky texture

2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and mix them well. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed. ⁽¹⁾



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The Coffee Harvest cont. from page 17

make do on an annual income of 8,000-10,000 quetzales, which his family spends on essentials not produced at home, such as clothing, shoes, school supplies and perhaps a sheet or two of galvanized, corrugated metal to plug up a persistent roof leak in his primitive cottage. It is worth noting that Maya men often spend 2,000 quetzals or more per year on their wife's and daughter's traditional costume (traje) even when cheap, used clothing from the States, at the ubiquitous paca, is abundantly available. Against all odds the colorful and unique Mayan textile tradition continues to survive; for how long, no one knows.

Toot toot! Toot toot! "Donde, caporal, donde?" Each cuadrilla, the group of pickers, is overseen by a plantation foreman (caporal) whose job it is to move the harvesters from one field to another where the coffee is puro cereza, pure cherries, alluding to its bright red color when ripe. The caporal has a little silver horn, which he toots to tell the people to come his way. Some of these horns are heirlooms, being passed down from father to son. One such horn we saw was stamped "Made in England" and dated 1895! The picking proceeds at a leisurely



El Caporal and his silver horn.

pace, each worker with a basket slung from his waste, pacing himself, for the day is long and because rushing is unpleasant and can even lead to mistakes. The caporal keeps a close eye especially on the young pickers, quick to chide them if he sees too many green beans in their baskets.

Only the red-ripe cerezas are to be picked. A few *camaguas* or semi-ripe beans are allowable but take care not to mistakenly pluck too many green ones, as that will incur a fine. When the field is full of red cherries, the workers are very happy because that means a productive day.

The pickers are paid by the pound and when a field yields but a few ripe beans the mood can turn rather sour, as the disgruntled harvesters work hard for meager results. Suddenly, someone screams: "*Caporal! Una cul-* Suddenly, someone screams: "Caporal! Una culebra!" A SNAKE!

ebra!" A SNAKE! Sure enough, when the caporal arrives he finds a meterlong coral snake, deadly poisonous to be sure, having cobra-like venom. The foreman dispatches the reptile with a swift swipe of his machete and buries it as the excitement quickly fades. Snakes and a variety of biting and stinging critters go with the terrain.

Late in the morning there are more shouts in the distance: "*Muerzo... Muerzo*!" The shouts sound rather comical as the man's voice ascends into the upper registers of falsetto. Lunch, he is shouting. It's Peter Bernal who had trudged up the

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Eggs and oaths are easily broken. -Danish Proverb

Promise little and do much. —Hebrew Proverb



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Promises are like the full moon, if they are not kept at once they diminish day by day. -German Proverb

Promises are like crying babies in a theater, they should be carried out at once. -Norman Vincent Peale



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Are You Compliant?

Prensa Libre article on FATCA predicts more foreign bank account regulations

n September Prensa Libre reported that roughly 110 countries either have Foreign Account Tax Compliant Act (FATCA) agreements in place with the United States or are in discussions. Thus far, Guatemala has not yet signed an agreement. But the recent article in Prensa Libre leads us to believe that FATCA, a reporting requirement that is part of a broader effort by the U.S. government to combat offshore tax evasion, is coming soon to Guatemala.

The newspaper article positioned FATCA as if an agreement has already been signed. Our guess is that the Prensa Libre may have knowledge on certain internal discussions within the Guatemalan government. Simultaneously, local banks have begun collecting W-9s from U.S. citizen account holders. The key information on a W-9 is the Social Security number. When Guatemalan banks begin transmitting bank account information along with a SSN, the IRS will be able to easily pursue U.S. citizens and green card holders for not reporting foreign earned interest.

Technology is making the world a lot smaller. Computers will be able to instantly flag many delinquent taxpayers. Prior to FATCA, expat tax returns were largely based on an honor system. With FATCA, the IRS has the ability to electronically reconcile expat tax returns with foreign bank account information. It may take the IRS several years to actually pursue someone, but that is clearly not a desirable situation. Along with penalties for not reporting interest income, there may be penalties for not filing the Foreign Bank Account Report or Form 8938 (if applicable).

Our best guess is that Guatemala will become a FATCA-compliant country within the next 12 months. For U.S. expats living in Guatemala, it's a good idea to get compliant before FATCA becomes effective. @

If you would like to submit a tax-related question, please email: <u>info@holaexpat.com</u>. Responses are provided by John Ohe (IRS-authorized enrolled agent), who resides in Antigua.

Banking, I would argue, is the most heavily regulated industry in the world. Regulations don't solve things. Supervision solves things. —Wilbur Ross You can't overestimate what happens when you encourage regulators to believe that the goal of regulation is not to regulate. —Joseph Stiglitz

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to feel at home."

Entry in the Revue Photo Contest: Pets "First day in the garden" by Katrin Neuhaus

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mountain with a heavy backpack laden with food for the cuadrilla. Time for a break, a little rest and a nice lunch of corn tortillas and black beans. Most of the workers carry with them a bottle of *pozól*, the fortifying drink of choice, which is simply water with a fist full of corn masa mixed in. Some may have brought a boiled egg or a can of sardines to complete their meal. For the campesinos in Guatemala their daily menu may seem pretty Spartan, and it is. But they truly are *hombres de maize*, men of corn, and they love their simple tortillas *con frijoles*.

Many little fires are ignited around which recline the workers, toasting their tortillas to crunchy perfection. Cold tortillas just will not do! Lunch might last an hour or less after which it is back to the fields for more picking. By 2 p.m. everyone turns to sorting his take. All the mistakenly taken green beans and semi-ripe comagua must be separated from the red cerezas. Each sack of coffee is scrutinized at the weighing station down below. If there



are more than a few irregular beans, the worker will be castigated and his sack of beans disqualified. He will have to go back outside and re-sort them again. So the sorting is an important duty that each picker must take very seriously.

Eventually the processed green coffee beans will be inspected by foreign buyers and the highest quality must be maintained. By 3:30 p.m. the plantation tractor, pulling a ramshackle cargo trailer, arrives and all the bags of coffee are piled on. Thankfully the people don't have to carry down their own sacks, some weighing more than 150 pounds. This is not the case at more remote mountain plantations, where it is not uncommon for a man to have to carry the heavy burden for hours down slippery and muddy trails to the headquarters.

One worker has been busy with his own assigned tasks, primarily gathering firewood to take back to the kitchen. A few lucky souls will get a ride down the mountain lounging on the coffee sacks in the trailer. For the rest, they will have another long walk down the volcanic slope to arrive at the weighing station around dusk. A line is formed and one by one each worker hefts his sack onto the scales, where a farm administrator marks down in his ledger the exact weight.

When the harvest is good the mood is very festive as one might expect after a good day's work. When the harvest is poor and weights are low, the atmosphere can be downright dismal.

After a sack of beans is weighed the picker ...continued page 92

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I care not much for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it. —Abraham Lincoln

Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar. -Bradley Millar

Man is rated the highest animal, at least among all animals who returned the questionnaire. -Robert Brault

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If all the beasts were gone, men would die from a great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth. -Chief Seattle of the Suguamish Tribe



2nd PLACE by judges vote in the **REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Oct.: Pets**

"Gato y la luna" by Marixa Sánchez Sagastume Prize: Q300 certificate to El Sereno, La Antigua

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SELAINE D'AMBROSI with Princesa

hough homeless, sick, injured or starving dogs and puppies are still conspicuous in villages surrounding Lake Atitlán, the situation has been greatly improved by the tireless efforts of Selaine d'Ambrosi and her animal welfare organization Ayuda Para La Salud De Perros y Gatos.

She explained how Ayuda helps these dogs and puppies as we walked down Panajachel's main street. Recognizing most of the dogs we passed, she also filled me in on Ayuda's success in vaccinations, spayings and neuterings at Ayuda-sponsored clinics.

Ayuda

Ayuda for the Health of Dogs and Cats in Guatemala

REVUE: How did you get started in animal activism and welfare?

d'Ambrosi: My formal education was in human health, as a nurse. I later got involved in notfor-profits in the States, and finally I worked with a large animal welfare sanctuary in the southwest. But I have loved and had animals since I was a girl.

After arriving to Guatemala in 2006, I became involved in various initiatives to improve the domestic animal welfare situation in the Panajachel-Lake Atitlán area and ultimately founded Ayuda in 2009. We are a registered Guatemalan association that is funded through grants and private donations. We get a lot done with a very small amount of money because we are an all-volunteer group. One of our strongest supporters remains the Fondation Brigitte Bardot.

REVUE: What is Ayuda's primary focus and philosophy?

d'Ambrosi: We are focused on the health and well-being of needy dogs and cats around Lake Atitlán. We provide monthly sterilization clinics in four major villages: Panajachel, Sololá, San Marcos and Santiago Atitlán. We also sponsor as-needed clinics in several other lake villages.

The Ayuda standard care package includes sterilization, rabies and combo vaccinations as well as internal and external parasite treatments. The package is offered at a low cost or for bartered services to pets with families which qualify along with our roaming, community animals.

In 2013, we provided vaccinations for around 1,000 dogs and cats and the same number were dewormed and treated for parasites; 486 animals were sterilized.

"Catch, treat, release, maintain" is the essence of our strategy when working with roaming community animals. I have learned from experience that animal shelters just don't work. They are often bottomless pits that don't encourage people to take responsibility for solving the problem—out of sight out of mind. That being said, there are always exceptions! When a situation arises where a dog or cat does need long-term



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Ayuda cont. from previous page

recovery in a shelter, we call on our trusted partners at Unidos Para Los Animales.

Along with the "catch, treat, release, maintain" philosophy, we utilize foster homes for those who are too young or too sick to return to the streets while we seek proper homes. Last year Ayuda was responsible for homing 42 lucky dogs and 11 cats.

Volunteerism is at the heart of Ayuda. We are all volunteers. Ayuda has always been a community project or not at all.

REVUE: What about animals who have owners but are not receiving proper care?

d'Ambrosi: First of all, it is humane to treat other living creatures kindly. It is also sensible because animal health directly affects human health. Humans are susceptible to all sorts of zoonotic diseases and parasites.

Not only does Ayuda find ways to treat sick animals, we teach their owners about good hygiene and how to take proper care of their animals, and we are available for ongoing consultations.

REVUE: So the animal welfare conversation inevitably leads to other interconnected discussions?

d'Ambrosi: Absolutely. As educators, our responsibilities spill into so many areas. For instance, it is often necessary to explain that, in most cases, the animal does not have the disease, it is simply carrying the problem. A tick, flea or worm can be eradicated without eradicating the dog or cat! This may sound like an exaggeration but poisonings (mass or individual) are not uncommon, although less so these days.

Recently in one of our villages, roaming animals were getting into the rubbish left on the streets so the council used strychnine to kill them en masse. It was devastating.

In this case (after the incident), we proposed a design for animal-proof concrete rubbish bins with lids. But the council was not interested because they were concerned this solution would interfere with garbage collection revenue ... We have to undo this sort of pretzel logic all the time and just keep the conversation going. Poisoning any animals is absolutely unacceptable. It is cruel, inhumane and defines a society in less than flattering terms.

REVUE: What are the most vivid lessons from your decades of promoting and working in animal welfare?

d'Ambrosi: There have been so many lessons. One of my biggest was recognizing the best way to approach the subject of animal welfare with people and that is the intrinsic con-....continued page 107



SELAINE D'AMBROSI with Princesa

LAKE ATITLÁN





LAKE ATITLÁN



Lots of people talk to animals. Not very many listen, though. That's the problem. —Benjamin Hoff

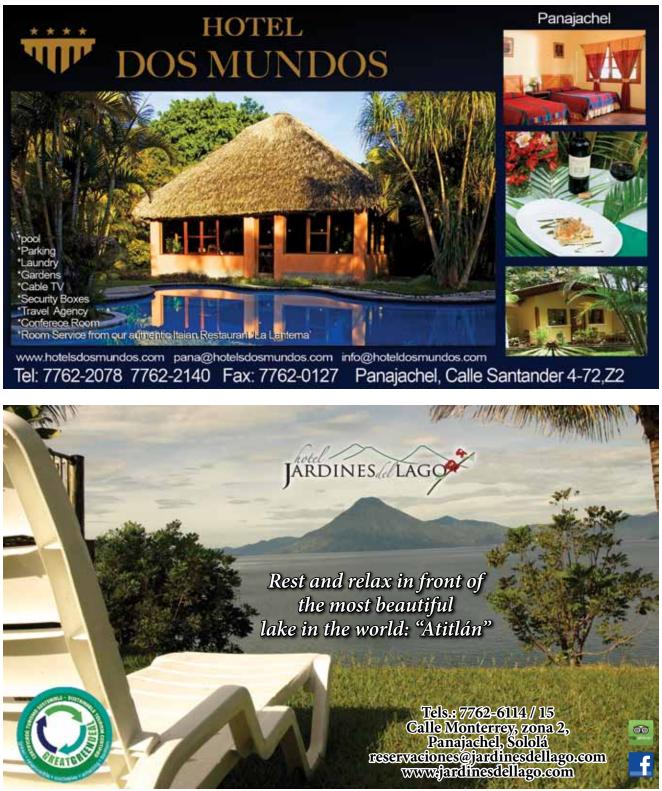
Hunting is not a sport. In a sport, both sides should know they're in the game. —Paul Rodriguez

Third Place by judges vote in the REVUE PHOTO CONTEST, Oct: Pets of Guatemala

"Nosotros" by Annaly Castillo de Villatoro. Prize: Carved Jade Pencil Holder from Jades Xibalbá.



LAKE ATITLÁN



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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Oct.: Pets

"El rey del oro" by Israel Monterroso Villatoro All entries can be seen at fb.com/revuemagazine





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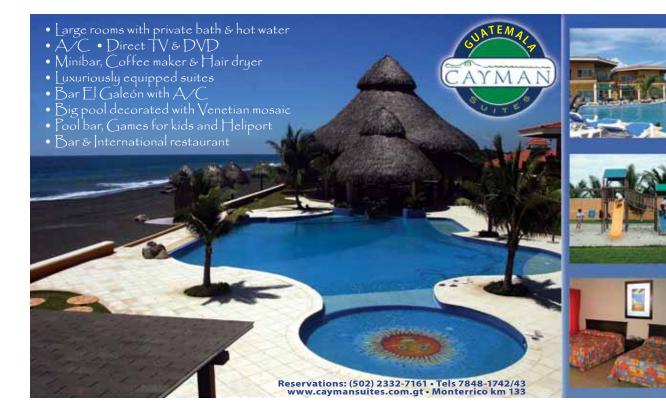






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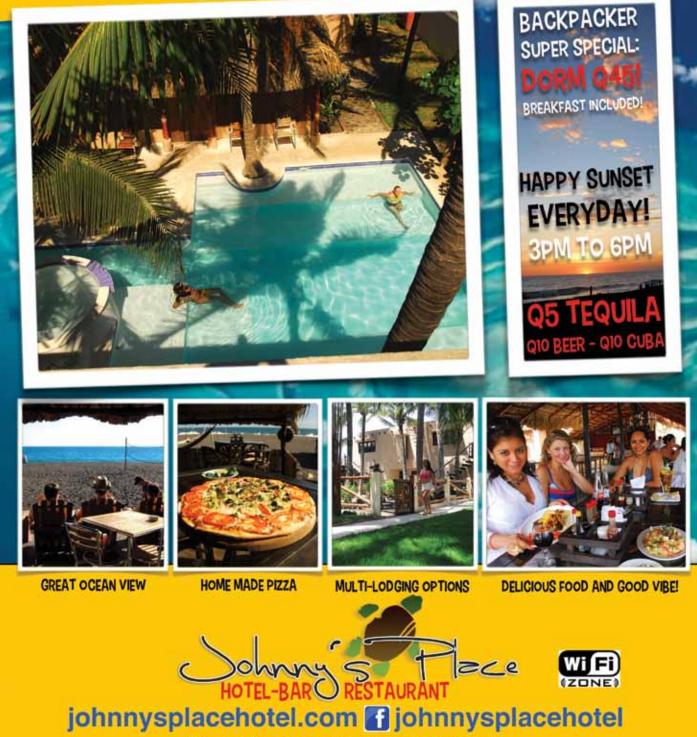


Hawai, Monterrico Tels: 5588-6747, 7821-3088, 5907-2552 ~ bramishka@yahoo.com casabellamonterrico.com · casabellaguatemala.com When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth. So what the hell, leap. —Cynthia Heimel

If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use a pile driver. Hit the point once. Then come back and hit it again. Then hit it a third time - a tremendous whack. —Winston Churchill



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The Coffee Harvest cont. from page 78



TARRALES COFFEE FINCA AND NATURE RESERVE

For coffee aficionados who would like a more intimate look at coffee production in Guatemala, many plantations welcome visitors and offer coffee tours. Certainly one the most interesting and accessible plantation is Tarrales Farm, located near San Lucas Tolimán on Lake Atitlán. Here a guide will take you for a walk and explain the entire procedure from grove to dried bean ready for export. The harvest is in high gear from October through December, and this is the best time to visit. Tarrales still uses a 19th century vintage steam engine to run its wood-fired drying kilns.

Finca Tarrales was established around 1870, and its first owner was a Belgian immigrant, Don Pedro Latour. A little later the farm passed into the hands of Don Saturnino Blen, originally from Spain. It was at this period that the farm first began producing sugar cane and coffee. The coffee and boiled-down bricks of raw sugar called panela were transported by oxcart to San Lucas Tolimán on Lake Atitlán to the farm depot and pier, where a steamboat would pick up the cargo and take it to Panajachel.

...continued following page

dumps his day's harvest into a giant feeder bin. From there the beans fall into a trough of rushing water conveying them to the pulper, where the bright red fruit is removed. From the pulper the coffee continues on to machines that do initial grading by size.

Then on to the fermentation vats, where the coffee rests. This process removes all remaining mucilage adhering to the bean. At dawn the next day the clean beans are raked onto the drying patios under the bright sunlight for drying and curing.

During the day beans are continually being raked to evenly expose all sides to the drying sun while quality control inspectors, working on hands and knees, comb through them picking out any defective beans. The coffee must be dried to exacting standards.

On days when the sun is insufficient **92**

the beans are transferred to giant woodfired kilns, which slowly rotate, drying the coffee to perfection. Throughout all this process a parade of national and international inspectors visits the farm to see how things are going.

Officials from the National Association of Coffee Producers (ANA-CAFE) tour the plantations not only to ensure quality standards are being maintained but also to offer technical advice and assistance to the growers. Samples are taken to be test roasted and sampled by outside experts. Representatives from international certifying agencies also visit the farms to make sure workers are being treated fairly and that no children are working among the pickers; this leads to producers getting the coveted "fair trade" stamp of approval demanded ever more by discerning consumers. ®

PACIFIC COAST / MONTE RICO







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<u>EL PETÉN</u>



Tarrales Nature Reserve from previuos page



From there large wagons, pulled by mules, took the products to Guatemala City. In 1922 Tarrales was purchased by the Gordon & Smith Company of London whose purpose was to supply the coffee houses of Europe. In 1940 an American entrepreneur from Tennessee came to Guatemala looking for high-quality hardwoods. Don Joseph Burge fell in love with Tarrales and decided to purchase the farm for his retirement home. Don Joseph reforested the farm, planting many white mahoganies, Spanish cedar and other valuable wood species. Tarrales continued to prosper as the demand for coffee grew worldwide. In 1952 administration of the farm was taken

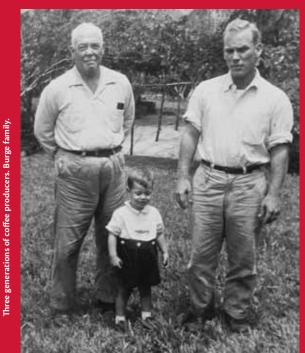
Tarrales is now part of Guatemala's growing system of private nature reserves, open to the public, Mon to Fri, 9am–6pm, Sat, 9am–1pm. To arrange for a visit or book a coffee tour, birding tour, butterfly tour or a cloud forest expedition to search for the rare Atitlán unicorn visit www.tarrales.com or call (502) 5919-8882, 2478-4606 or fax (502) 2478-4901.

Captain Thor "Bushman Ollie" Janson, ecologist, conservationist, synergetic geometrician, yachtsman and all around "bon vivant," is the author of 15 books, the founder of Guatemala's Fundacion Defensores de la Naturaleza, and was responsible for establishment of the Manatee Biotope located at Río Dulce. brotherijah@hotmail.com facebook.com/nubliselva



Tarrales is one of Guatemala's first wildlife reserves, protecting a large swath of the southern slope of volcán Atitlán.

over by Joseph Burge Jr. and his wife, Mary, also from Tennessee. The first thing the young couple did was to declare the property a nature reserve, prohibiting all hunting use of slingshots. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Tarrales is one of Guatemala's first wildlife reserves, protecting a large swath of the southern slope of volcán Atitlán. In the early 1980s the responsibility of administering the farm passed to grandson Andy Burge, who has continued the family tradition of protecting the forest and all the creatures that find shelter there. *



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Yes, risk taking is inherently failure-prone. Otherwise, it would be called sure-thing-taking. —Tim McMahon



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Masonic Lodge "Mozart #20, Antigua, is meeting twice each month. For more info, please call: 5671-9530, 3035-5700 or 5773-0085.

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

VIDA REAL TV CHURCH: Join us for an experience with God. Sundays: Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, auditorium Los Atrios, 8am and 10am; and Hotel Intercontinental, 14 calle 2-51, z. 10, 3rd level, 10am, simultaneous translation. Special program for children.

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

Would you like to donate to help animals in distress? Follow us: www.facebook.com/ UnidosParaLosAnimales



HEALTH SERVICES

DR. BOCALETTI, Family Practioner, Tropical Disease Diploma: Attention to adults & children, vaccinations, Spanish, English spoken. Pap smears done by female doctor, Mon-Fri 3pm-6pm. 3a. av. norte #1, La Antigua (behind the Cathedral). Tel: 7832-4835.

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DIANNE SENA - MSW, LISW - Psychotherapist U.S. Certified and Licensed. Treating anxiety and depression. Teaching interpersonal problem-solving skills. Encouraging personal growth. Office in Antiqua. Tel: 7937-0278.

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Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms. —George Eliot

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Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened. —Anatole France

Never wear anything that panics the cat. —P.J. O'Rourke

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BIRDING TOURS! 5am-12pm. Breakfast & lunch bags \$5 each. Offering 3 great options: Guatemala city (Parque la Democracia) \$150. - Antigua Guatemala (Finca El Pilar) \$175. - Palín (Finca El Zur) \$200. Prices include: Jeep 4x4, 1-4 tourists, small back pack. Biologist-ornithologist Fenando Aldana, mobile: 5560-0333 or fernandoaldana63@qmail.com

SAILING VACATION: Belize Barrier Reef and Islands. Sailing, Diving, Fishing, Kayaking, Snorkeling. Río Dulce, Lake Izabal, Livingston waterfalls, and more. www.sailing-diving-guatemala.com

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I have been studying the traits and dispositions of the "lower animals" (so called) and contrasting them with the traits and dispositions of man. I find the result humiliating to me. —Mark Twain

EMPLOYMENT

IT COACH/SUPPORT needed. User empowerment. Leadership. English and Spanish. Proven IT skills. Advanced level in Office (Pivot Tables, Macros, Mailshots). Problem determination and resolution, hardware and software problems, emphasis and focus on user training. Send detailed CV and cover letter to hr@viaventure.com

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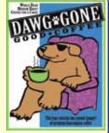
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> I saw a bank that said '24 Hour Banking,' but I don't have that much time. -Steven Wright

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CONVERSION CHART

1 Acre = 43,560 ft ²	1 Manzana = 10,000 vr ²
1 Acre = .4047 hectare	1 Manzana = 6,988 mt ²
1 Acre = 4047 mt ²	1 Manzana = 1.7 acres
1 Acre = 5645.4 varas ²	1 Vara = 32.9 inches
$1 \text{ mt}^2 = 10.764 \text{ ft}^2$	1 Yard = 36 inches (3ft)
1 mt ² = 1.431 vr ²	1 Meter = 39.37 inches

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It is an immutable law in business that words are words, explanations are explanations, promises are promises but only performance is reality. —Harold Geneen SOLUTIONS ANTIGUA Real Estate / Bienes Raices

3a. Calle Oriente # 15, Tels: 3062-8146, 4905-0192, 5285-6020 www.solutionsantigua.com

In the midst of great joy, do not promise anyone anything. In the midst of great anger, do not answer anyone's letter. —Chinese Proverb









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Living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down. -Ray Bradbury

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Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first. —Frederick B. Wilcox

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Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE Police: 120 Fire: 122 and 123

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

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nection between animal and human health. This is the most effective way to get people's attention on animal welfare issues. It is also absolutely true.

The other thing I've learned—the hard way—is that it is best to work in a methodical rather than an obtrusive way. Of course you need to let people know what you are doing, through radio, television and face-to-face. But it is equally important to wait for them to come to you. There needs to be buy-in at all levels for our program to be successful. This means the cofradias (the church representatives), the central de salud office as well as the mayor and cocodes (neighborhood leaders). There is no point in driving home a message before people, the community, are ready to hear and act on it.

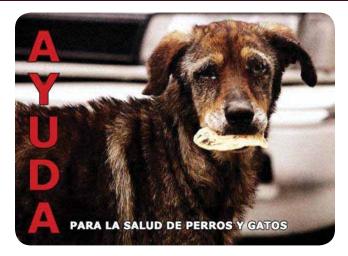
REVUE: What other strategies have you found to be effective for improving the lot of animals around the lake?

d'Ambrosi: You have to get to the women's groups. They're the ones who deal with the kittens and puppies and who understand about reproduction. The best places to get to them are on the streets, in the mobile clinics, in their homes—in situ, in the community.

We talked about the animal welfare conversation being so interconnected—I can't tell you how many times a young woman has pulled me aside and asked, "Can I get that (sterilization) done to me?"

REVUE: Have you seen significant change to attitudes or behavior in the lake region since founding Ayuda five years ago?

d'Ambrosi: Cultural change is definitely happening. Dogs used to be put on the street to roam for food but there is more of a sense of responsibility now. We have had some great partnerships in some of the villages, for



instance, with the mayor of San Marcos. We have regular clinics in San Marcos and receive a great deal of support from him and his council.

REVUE: What do you have planned for the future?

d'Ambrosi: We piloted a new internship program, the Darlena Lake Fellowship, in San Marcos in August. Funds were secured for the fellowship to run for two years. It will accommodate four newly qualified veterinarian interns to live and work in the village for a term of six months each. Students need to fulfill an internship under a licensed Guatemalan vet after their academic studies before receiving their diploma. So the model has been designed with this in mind.

The mayor and local council committed to a building for use as a small hospital facility and agreed to provide water, electricity and security for the duration of the program. The model is about exposing the next generation of vets to the rural situation and helping them understand that they are part of the sustainable solution. It has wonderful potential.

If you would like more information about Ayuda, please visit http://ayudagt.wordpress.com/

SENSUOUS GUATEMALA by Ken Veronda

Cinnamon

innamon is part of the sensuous sights, smells and tastes of Guatemala travels. Reddishbrown rectangular patches of little finca fields give color to Highland hillsides, cinnamon shades from wheat stubble, peanut plants, corn stalks and furrows of the rich volcanic soil itself. Photos of the fincas, lined up on steep mountain slopes, are iconic images of the western region. The farmland looks like cinnamon rolls from the distance of the highways, with the spicy tones contrasted against blue skies and green fields.

Cinnamon bark isn't grown here, but plenty of the sweet and savory spice is imported for use in chocolate production, to add to coffees and in flavoring candies. Richly fragrant cinnamon aroma can be sniffed around our cafes and bakeries all year, tempting a taste of the drinks and pastries on sale inside.

Doesn't everybody like cinnamon? The fragrance, the flavor, on its own or enhancing foods and drinks, a familiar spice over holidays and year-round. Several different trees produce cinnamon bark for export, most of the world's supply coming from Sri Lanka.

It's called canela in Spanish. That's because the conquistadors found a different tree around the Caribbean and the Florida Keys, the canella or "wild cinnamon," that smells and tastes pretty much like real cinnamon bark, but not as intensely rich. Colonial governments tried The fragrance, the flavor, on its own or enhancing foods and drinks, a familiar spice over holidays and year-round.

to grow the imitation plant to compete with the genuine stuff, but it didn't sell. Only the name *canela* is left, now the language's label for the genuine spice.

Once real cinnamon started coming to Guatemala, indigenous people began to use it in tea as a digestive aid, or in honey as a flavoring, or in medicines. In village markets around the Petén, stalls sell liquor bottles refilled with wild, unfiltered honey and sticks of cinnamon. Four hundred years ago, natives in the Guatemalan jungles pounded imported cinnamon bark to extract the essential oils for use on wounds, a natural antiseptic only recently adopted by some in Europe and North America. Petén villagers found centuries ago that cinnamon oils work as effective ant and insect repellants too, while adding fragrance to homes and gardens.

Memories of cinnamon taste, scent and shades of hillside colors are a rich part of the Guatemalan experience. Enjoy cinnamon in each of its sensuous forms. ⁽¹⁾



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