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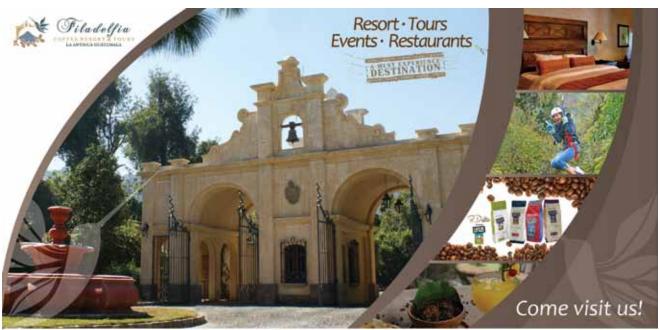
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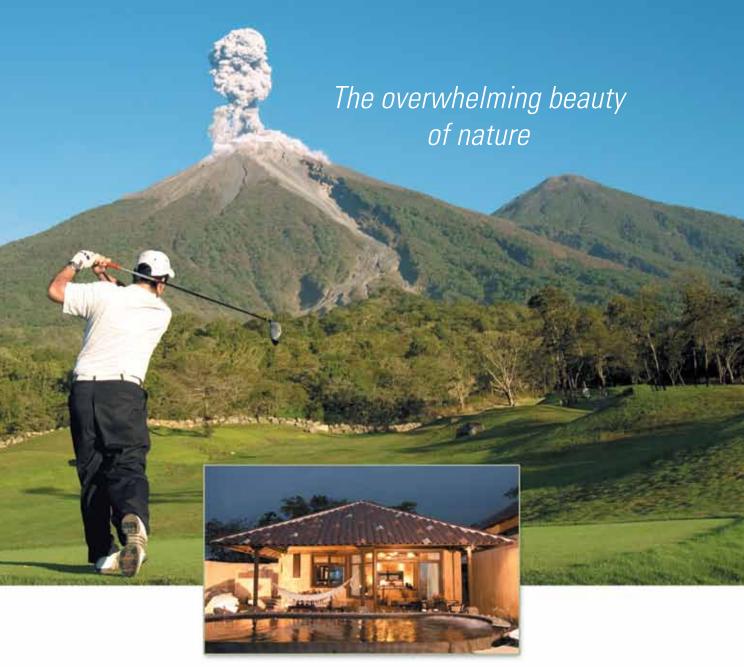


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1st Place by popular vote: "Viajando por los Cuchumatanes; Laguna Magdalena" by José Estuardo Ruiz. Prize: Q200.

FEB. REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Traveling in Guatemala







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Traveling in Guatemala

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

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6 José Estuardo Ruiz

12 Sergio González

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Deadline for the MARCH 2015 issue » Feb. 8

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<u>REVUE</u>

Guatemala's English-language Magazine

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La Antigua Manager: César Tián Production Director: Mercedes Mejicanos Administrative Assistant: María Solís Systems: Luis Juárez, Diego Alvarez Distribution: César Tián, Oscar Chacón, Luis Toribio Maintenance: Silvia Gómez, Dora Gómez

Sales Representatives: Ivonne Pérez, César Tián, Denni Marsh, Fernando Rodas, Luis Toribio, Lena Johannessen Revue Webmaster: Wil Rushmer

Printed by: PRINT STUDIO
Publishing Company: PRODUCCIONES PUBLICITARIOS

ESTRELLA ANTIGUA, S.A.

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Opinions or statements printed in the REVUE are not necessarily those of the publishers. We welcome your comments.

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and other public places in the following areas:
Guatemala City, La Antigua, Quetzaltenango, Lake Atitlán,
Cobán, Petén, Río Dulce, Lívingston, Monterrico, Retalhuleu;
as well as locations in El Salvador and Honduras.

his month we bring you three articles that center on the word "service" and how it can move lives forward, a village forward and repair the environment from ravages done by nature and humankind. We are pleased to present *It Does take a Village* by Kerstin Savene, *Juan Pablo Romero, Guatemalans Helping Guatemalans* by Elizabeth Bell (cover feature) and *Amigos del Lago de Atitlán*.

For a story that reads like a campfire chat in the jungle, Thor Janson offers *The Dragons of Ixlu*, a tale of discovery and deep respect for creatures who thrive in their natural habitat.

The arts are highlighted by two exciting February events: *Urban Portraits* by photographer Carlotts Boettcher who documented extraordinary scenes from San Francisco in the 1970s, Matt Bokor recounts the history of *The Antigua Players* and its return to the stage under the direction of Robert Prince.

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard revels in Guatemalan cuisine, detailing the evolution of traditional dishes, her recipe this month is *Hilachas*. Alberto Blanco adds an additional touch to this dish with *Wine Pairing* suggestions. Sensuous: *Sweet Time* by Ken Veronda reminds us that traditional Guatemalan confection is not only tasty, it fills the senses, a perfect Valentine gift that is always appreciated. Other Valentine Day gift ideas come from Tara Tiedemann, along with insight as to *Why Artisan Work Matters*.

Kira and Sri remind every one that there is *A Reason to Smile* while John Ohe offers suggestions for parents with children in *College Planning*.

Looking for February activities? Datebook listings include art shows, workshops, social gatherings, lectures, tours, theatre and concerts ... enjoy!

Thank you for reading the Revue, in print and online. Until next month, may your February be filled with joy in all of your endeavors.

— John & Terry Kovick Biskovich





Educator Juan Pablo Romero: CNN Hero page 16



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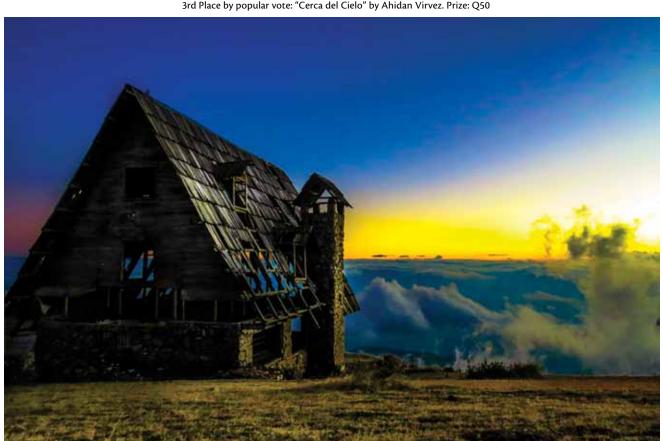
The ideal place for social and commercial events like weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, fashion shows, brand launches, etc.





2nd Place by popular vote: "Viajando sobre agua" by Sergio González. Prize: Q100.

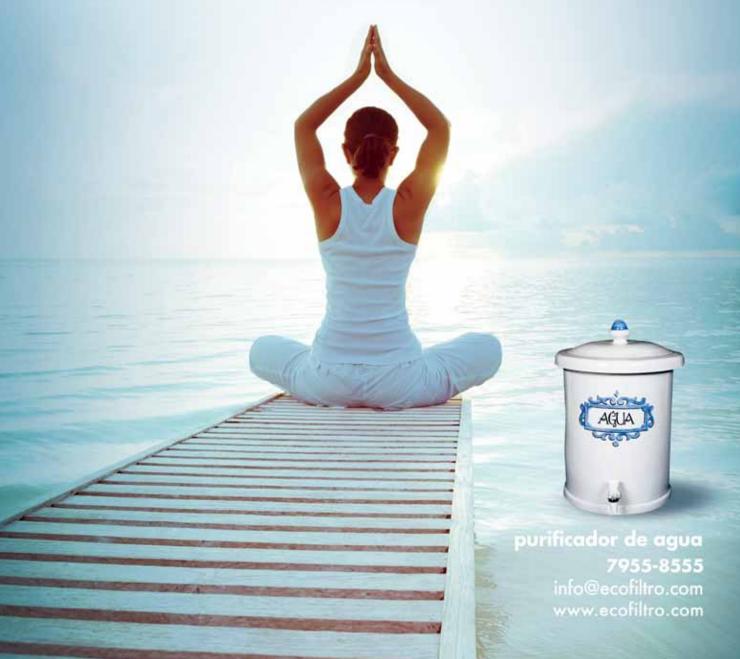
FEB. REVUE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS, theme: Traveling in Guatemala 3rd Place by popular vote: "Cerca del Cielo" by Ahidan Virvez. Prize: Q50







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It Does Take a Village

Building a community at the grassroots level

mplementing change, even when it's meant to reduce health and social disparity, can be challenging.

No one understands this better than Ignacio Ochoa, director of the Nahual Foundation, a think tank by and for indigenous people of the Americas, based in La Antigua Guatemala. Ochoa, who has been a staunch advocate of human rights since he was a teenager, has enjoyed a prolific career that includes among other things, work as an anthropologist conducting field studies with indigenous peoples in countries throughout Latin and Central America.

Having lived through decades of a tumultuous civil war and guerrilla insurgencies that swept through Guatemala and much of Latin America beginning in the 1960s, Ochoa witnessed firsthand the steady erosion of his country's social structure. "This instilled in me an even greater sense of civic



Children returning with water from nearby spring



Project manager (right) with member of the COCODES committee.



Installing a new water system

duty and the need to promote social justice and to advocate for human rights in Guatemala," he stated. One of the ways he sought to help citizens in rural areas begin to repair their infrastructure and prioritize their needs was through creating awareness of COCODEs, which is an acronym for Community Council Develop-

ment. "Action was clearly needed at the grassroots level and COCODEs was the perfect tool because it was already the law of the land and accessible," he said.

Enacted by the federal government in 2002, the Urban and Rural Development Council Law mandat-

...continued page 70

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Guatemalans helping Guatemalans



uan Pablo Romero is one of the 10 CNN Heroes who were selected from 150,000 candidates nominated worldwide. He started Los Patojos (The Kids) in his household garage in Jocotenango with three kids and is now a globally recognized hero! Los Patojos was created to promote hope, dignity, trust and a dialog for Jocotenango's youth. As Juan Pablo put it to CNN, "I want to inspire these kids," he said. "They are the ones in charge of writing the new history in Guatemala."

Many of Guatemala's kids are paying the price for the drug wars, as the country is on the trade route for drugs from South America for consumption in the U.S. and



Canada. An estimated 40 percent of the drug cartels' business is organized crime where gangs steal, extort and organize human trafficking. Kids are targets. With very little economy in Jocotenango, kids have few opportunities there although great potential to thrive in Guatemala's emerging economy—including nearby La Antigua Guatemala.

Juan Pablo graduated from high school from Colegio La Salle and started teaching English at Colegio Belen in Antigua. There he found his vocation as a teacher. One day, he went to visit his grandmother in Colonia Los Angeles where he grew up and remembers, "I was shocked." Many of his childhood friends had turned to gangs and alcohol. They had no good opportunities and many had died. He saved up from his salary to buy a blackboard for his garage and the first three kids who arrived soon invited another three and he quickly had more than 1,000 kids arriving at different times. He remembers that "one bathroom was a bit tight." Following all of the legal procedures, he founded Los Patoios in 2006 as an afterschool program for kids.



More information at: www.lospatojos.org.gt (updates on our projects, newsletters and reports) www.wearelospatojos.blogspot.com -- www.artesgraficaslp.blogspot.com http://es.scribd.com/LaVozJuvenil -- www.lospatojosvoluntarios.blogspot.com www.lospatojoscrew.blogspot.com -- www.shuticentrolp.blogspot.com



"He saved up from his salary to buy a blackboard for his garage and the first three kids who arrived soon invited another three..."

Visiting Los Patojos is an experience in a true community center. Kids—and now older kids—are organizing programs including a pre-primary and primary school; kitchen (last year they served 69,000 meals, including snacks and lunches); a medical clinic (he calls Dr. Hector Valle an angel);

and cultural activities in which the patojos participate (stay tuned for upcoming events).

With 26 Guatemalan employees, Juan Pablo is proud to show that Guatemalans are helping Guatemalans to emerge to greatness. He notes that listening to the kids is extremely important



in group sessions. Kids need to find hope.

Recent contributions from Give Kids a Chance Foundation/Canada, Just World International and The Mark-Kevin Samuel Family are appreciated. He will soon receive the \$25,000 prize money from CNN Heroes to furnish the program. Juan Pablo is a true hero!





The Dragons of Ixlu

I was just about to give up when I encountered three little barefoot Maya children who, finding something for their amusement, began following me from a distance.

uatemala is high on the list of the planet's adventure travel destinations, as the country boasts a unique diversity of geological and botanical zones from high cool alpine and cloud forests to sweltering lowland jungles and swamps. Guidebooks list many exotic places where nature enthusiasts can satisfy their curiosity about the tropical world as well as the perpetual cycles of indigenous cultural events for those interested in the lifestyles of the Maya. In addition to the well-known places and events, Guatemala has multitudinous nooks and crannies where intrepid explorers can step off the beaten path and step into wonderland.

Following a tip, I decided to explore the forested area adjacent to the infrequently visited archaeological site of Ixlú, just off the highway halfway between Flores and Tikal, before you



The "Anda Solo" - a variety of coatimundi

get to the turnoff for El Remate, by the shore of Lake Petén Itzá. I was interested in getting some photographs of an "anda solo." The anda solo, or "loner," is a variety of coatimundi, a medium-sized tropical mammal. The thing is, coatimundis, or at least all the ones that I had ever seen, always live in family gangs of a dozen or more individuals. Nevertheless, on countless occasions

I heard people living in the remote jungle telling me stories about two different kinds of coati-type animals: pisotes and anda solos, while scientific books refer to only one variety. A local resident told me that a big anda solo hung around the forest of Ixlú. My challenge was to try to find him and take his portrait.

After an entire day stalking around the forest searching for the "loner" I was just about to give up when I encountered three little barefoot Maya children who, finding something for their amusement, began following me from a distance. Finally, I bid them to approach and asked if they had ever seen an anda solo in the area. "Oh sure," they answered smiling, "you can see him every evening down by the creek." So down by the creek we went and, sure enough, there he was. He was scratching the ground, looking for food and he did not seem too bothered by our approach. The interesting thing was not just that he was all alone but that he seemed larger and darker in color than any other coatimundi that I had ever seen. I took some snaps with my heavy artillery camera equipment and at dusk we made our way back to my

...continued page 64





CARLOTTA BOETTCHER SAN FRANCISCO 70s: URBAN PORTRAITS

"Her photographs capture the zeitgeist but also the universal effort of individuals to extricate from the oppressive conformity of their times and their species. Some of the images seem torn from the moment like a bandage, others gently peeled to preserve something delicately ephemeral."

Inauguration Cocktail: Wednesday February 11th. 2015. 5:00 pm.

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Urban Portraits

arlotta Boettcher's photo exhibition, "San Francisco 70s: Urban Portraits," captures the ordinary moments of an extraordinary place and time. Through 27 images taken over 40 years ago, she reveals San Franciscans exploring their freedom, diversity and individuality.

"San Francisco had embraced the New Age movement of seekers, artists, eccentrics, gays, liberated and creative folks who flocked to the city in search of adventure and destiny," Boettcher wrote in her artist's statement. "All you needed to do was look around, walk around and realize how diverse it was, how friendly it was, how just about anything was possible."

Although most of the images are in black and white, they pulse with the city's color and movement, drawing viewers into the distinct flavors of San Francisco's neighborhoods. Men wearing wings and tutus roll through the Castro district on a tricycle. Chinese gentlemen

in Portsmouth Square project tradition and dignity over a game of mahjong. A wealthy, elderly couple in hats and tight collars perches on a bench in Union Square.

"These are people starring in their own lives," said Boettcher. "There's not one person in these images who isn't making a statement about themselves when they appear in public."

Before arriving in San Francisco in 1971, Boettcher, a native of Cuba who had been displaced by the Castro revolution, was a nomad in search of her own tribe. Her family's abrupt move to suburban Florida in 1960 left her feeling disoriented and disconnected from

DateBook

FEBRUARY 2015 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

COMPILED BY MERCEDES MEJICANOS

Tues., 10th, 17th, 24th & March, Tues., 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24 (8 sessions) — (Spanish) CURSO: Jeroglifos Mayas by Lic. Camilo Luin. Q1,000/Q750 students. Museo Popol Vuh (Tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, Guatemala City

Wed., 6:30pm through Fri., 6th— PHOTOGRAPHY: *SoloGuate* by Rolando Estrada. Galería Guatemala de Fundación G&T Continental, (tel: 2230-5072), 6a av. 9-08, z. 9, *Guatemala City*

Wed., 7pm through Sat., 28th — ART: Chrisipapita, subscultura Cultural, painting. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, Guatemala City ▼



5Thurs., **7pm**, **through Sat.**, **28th**— ART: *Mundos a través del vitral*, paintings by Angie Chung. El Attico (tel: 2368-0853), 4a av. 15-45, z. 14, **Guatemala City**

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

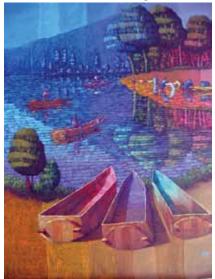
Fri., 6-8pm — BBQ NIGHT: Join us for our second BBQ Night of the year! Have some wine, beer & music. Impact Hub, 1a av. norte #12 (tel: 3339-9483) *La Antigua*

Please submit your DATEBOOK entry for the March 2015 edition by Feb. 8

Fri., 11am-noon — HUB HASH: Join fellow members (and bring along friends) as we "hash" our way to the Earthlodge (El Hato) each month! It's social, non-competitive and the climb will get you in shape. David will buy anyone who makes it, the first round at the top. Not familiar with hashing? Ref: http://onin.com/hh/hhhexpl.html. Impact Hub, 1a av. norte #12 (3339-9483) **La Antiqua**

7Sat., through Fri., 13th — RE-TREAT: Sacred Journey Writing & Yoga Retreat, meditation, yoga and daily self-exploratory writing. aimee@thestorytellerwithin.com - www.thestorytellerwithin.com Lake Atitlán

Sat., 4pm —ART: Laguneros de Atitlán by Sergio Alvarado. In this series of more than twenty new works Alvarado's lake representations are sparkling with color. His use of gray, green or blue and his very particular brushstroke in mosaic pattern provide a touch of freshness to the images. The artist will be present at the opening. La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, **La Antigua** ▼





Sat., 9am-12pm (female competitors) 2-6pm (male competitors) & Sun., 8, 1pm (finale) — BOULDERING: The North Face Antigua Boulder Challenge 2015. National and International competitors. Central Park, La Antigua



Mon., 7-9pm — NETWORKING: Networking the Transformational Ecosystem; Impact HUB Antigua and Project Nuevo Mundo team up to bring together their networks in the historical Spanish capital of Central America. Join us at Impact HUB Antigua, a brand new co-working space in La Antigua Guatemala, for an evening of collaborative participatory workshops and conversations centered around pushing the boundaries of collaboration, harvesting collective wisdom, sharing opportunities for growth, representing each of our projects and connecting community and organizational support systems. More info: http://bit.ly/NetworkingImpactHub. Impact Hub, 1a av. norte #12 (tel: 3339-9483) La Antiqua

Wed., 5pm — PHOTOGRAPHY: San Francisco 70s: Urban Portraits by Carlotta Boettcher who will attend the opening. Her book of the same title, featuring 103 digitally repaired images, will be available in Antiqua in the early spring. See article, page 21. Galeria Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, La Antiqua ▶



Tues, 10pm — MUSIC: Bosque Lluvioso by Costa Rican musician Manuel Obregón, presenting "Project, New Age," a fusion of the sounds of nature and piano compositions, accompanied by Guatemalan musicians Lenin Fernández & Carlos Chaclán. Q175. IGA Ruta 1, 4-05 (tel: 2422-5555) z. 4, Guatemala City

Tues., 5:30pm — (English) TALK: Life in Guatemala: Brief History and Current Conditions with Sue Patterson, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer who lives in La Antigua Guatemala. She is a former U.S. Consul General in Guatemala and has served in Chile, Iran and Italy. She is also the founder of WINGS, a nonprofit dedicated to reproductive health and family planning. Sue is the recipient of numerous awards for her work, most recently the 2003 Sargent Shriver Award for Outstanding Humanitarian Service from the National Peace Corps Association of America. Suggested donation Q25 all which goes directly to the NGO. Info. & reservations, tels: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, La Antiqua

■ Wed., 6:30pm, through March 27 — ART: Cabrera sobre Cabrera by Roberto Cabrera. Galería del Centro de Fundación G&T Continental (tel: 2230-5072), 2nd floor, 5a av. 12-38 z. 1, Guatemala City

1 → Thurs., 6:30pm — (Spanish) CONVERSATORY: Traslados de la capital: Planos y mapas del archivo general de Indias by Juan Carlos Sarazún, Alejandro Conde and Bárbara Arroyo. Q40. Museo Popol Vuh (tel: 2338-7836), 6a calle final, z. 10, Guatemala City

1 Thurs., 10pm — MUSIC: Brazilian Bosa Nova icon Rosa Passos (vocals & guitar) and well known Brazilian jazz performers present Bossa Nova de Brasil. Q350. Teatro Lux, Centro Histórico (tel: 2232-7126) 6a av. 11-02, z. 1, Edificio Lux, Guatemala City

Tri., 8pm-Sat., 14, 4pm & **3 8pm-Sun., 6pm** — (English) THEATRE: Neil Simon's The Good Doctor based on short stories by literary great Anton Chekhov. The sketches are brilliant, funny, deeply ironic and all take place in late 19th century Russia; yet the stories are timeless and still relevant. as human behavior and the things that make us laugh have not changed. Tickets., Q100, advance sales at Café Teatro (inside El Sitio) & Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19), or at the door. (Preview performance Thurs, 12th-8pm, tickets Q50.) See article, pg. 36. El Sitio, 5a calle poniente #5, **La Antigua**

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

Sat. — VALENTINE'S DAY

Sat., 8pm & Sun 15, 5pm — (Spanish) THEATRE: Cinema-Theater, Historia de Amor, comedic films with Chilean roots, Germany, Argentina, France & Colombia. Q275. Teatro Lux, Centro Histórico (tel: 2232-7126) 6a av. 11-02, z. 1, Edificio Lux, Guatemala City

Tues., 5:30pm — DANCE: Performed by indigenous children from Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn), a local 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 Antiqua

Tues., 6:30pm through Fri., 20th — ART & AUCTION: Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena: Ojos que no ven by Leo Bianchi showcases mixed media using shards of glass resin that reveals handmade Guatemalan textiles and other characteristic materials. The auction benefits Asociación Amigos del Lago de Atitlán. See related article, page 82. Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final, z. 10, Guatemala City

18 Wed. — ASH WEDNESDAY: The first day of Lent. Holy Vigils every Friday and processions every Sunday. Countrywide





18 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*

18Wed., 6pm — (English) PRE-SENTATION: Antigua: Behind the Walls with Elizabeth Bell. Enjoy a one-hour slide show of Antigua and its heritage with vintage & contemporary photographs collected over the past 40 years, accompanied by Elizabeth Bell's expert narration. Proceeds benefit educational programs in Antigua. Q30p/p. Questions encouraged. Autographed books available. Join us at Hotel Sor Juana, 4a calle oriente #45, **La Antigua**



19Thurs., 7-9pm — MOVIE NIGHT: Join us for our second movie night of 2015. Have some wine, popcorn and enjoy watching a great movie on our 8' screen with surround sound, under the stars! Impact Hub, 1a av. norte #12 (tel: 3339-9483) *La Antiqua*

20 Fri. — DINING at KIDS restaurant. Details, see DB listing on 6 Feb. **San Gaspar Vivar**

21 Sat., 8pm & Sun. 22, 5pm — (Spanish) COMIC THEATER: *Tricicle 2* (Spain) gesture theater in its highest form. As part of the XIII Festival de Cultura Paiz. Q275. Teatro Lux, Centro Histórico (tel: 2232-7126) 6a av. 11-02, z. 1, Edificio Lux, *Guatemala City*

Tues., 5:30pm — Asociación Manos Abiertas is an integrated women's health clinic and natural birth center with two locations in Guatemala. We serve a population that otherwise would not have access to health care. Since opening in 2008, serving over 2,000 women, most of whom have become regular clients. We provide full-scale gynecological and obstetric services, pediatric care, midwifery services, health promoter training and education. We believe that by improving the lives of individual women, we can help to create a healthier Guatemala.. Suggested donation Q25 all which goes directly to the NGO. Info. & reservations, tels: 7832-1919. Rainbow Café, 7a av. sur #8, La Antiqua

25Wed., 6:30-8:30pm — ART: Quítame las penas, art exhibit and photography by Rubén González. Inspired in the worry dolls. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final, z.10, Centro cultural Universidad Francisco Marroquín, **Guatemala City**



26 Fri., 6:30pm — (Spanish) PUPPET SHOW: 8th Festival internacional de títeres Titiritlán. La historia del pequeño topo by Laura Bartolomei. Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2366-8394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, Guatemala City



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26 Thurs., 7pm — PHOTOGRAPHY: Monthly photo contest, info@clubfotografico.org/ & www.clubfotografico.org Museo Ixchel (tel: 2361-8081), 6a calle final z. 10, *Guatemala City*

28sat., — WORKSHOP: ENACTUS: Rounds de liderazgo, come share with us an intense hour of leadership lessons! You will have the opportunity to listen, learn and be inspired thanks to the participation of three speakers who will share with us their lessons of effective leadership that can impact your life in positive ways, personally and professionally. Impact Hub, 1a av. norte #12 (tel: 3339-9483) *La Antigua*



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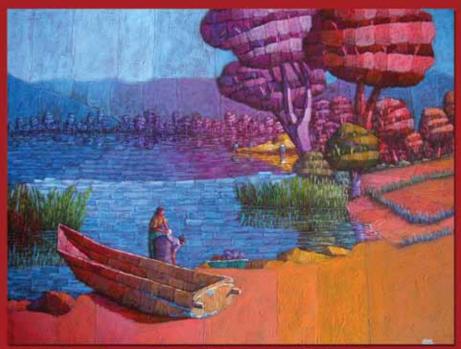
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THROUGHOUT THE MONTH



ART Latest works by Guatemalan artist Dulce María González in an exhibit that gathers more than 20 new works in acrylic and watercolor. Dulce María's paintings are naif in essence. In them she recreates her fantastic vision of the world inspired mostly by her dreams and her childhood memories. (Open through Mon., 9th.) La Antigua Galería de Arte, 4a calle oriente #15, La Antigua

ART (Inauguration) Galería Lisa Simms, the new fine-art space at the Posada de Santiago (tel: 7721-7366) . **Santiago Atitlán**

ART Galería Lisa Simms exhibits paintings in oil, sculpture, jewelry and collage by artist in residence Lisa Simms. Ken Wood presents his work of recycled paper wall sculptures and tables and Suzanne Carry Epp showcases her dioramas and 3-D montages. Guest artist's work through Mar. 5. Gallery open Thurs.-Sun., 10am-4pm, or by appt., contact Lisa, tel: 4958-8855. ▼



ART El sueño interrumpido, collective exposition, through Sat., 28th. Two venues: Centro Cultural Municipal (antiguo Palacio de Correos), 7a av. 11-67, z. 1 and Galería del Centro de Fundación G&T Continental (tel: 2230-5072), first floor, 5a av. 12-38, z. 1, **Guatemala City**

PHOTOGRAPHY *Las caras de Atitlán* by Roberto Quesada. Through Fri. 20th, 9am-6pm, Instituto Italiano de Cultura (tel: 2366-8394), 16 calle 2-55, z. 10, *Guatemala City* ▼

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 *Ni-ños 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*

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Urban Portraits

cont. from page 21

her culture and within three years she had left to attend college in Madrid, Spain. Her interest in photography began when she arrived in Paris to study printmaking at Beaux Arts on the eve of the May 1968 student revolt there. "Witnessing what was going on in day-to-day life on the streets of Paris inspired me to photograph, and document what I saw," she said.

After returning to the U.S., marching in the anti-Vietnam war protests on the East Coast, and traveling across the country, Boettcher, a full-fledged artist at that point, finally found her home in the creative energy of San Francisco, where she studied film and photography under her teacher and mentor, John Collier Jr., a pioneer in the field of visual anthropology.





"Day and night, following instinct and intuition, I explored the city streets," she wrote. "The people of San Francisco caught my eye first. Their authenticity, lack of pretense, openness, humor and unabashed self-assurance, style and individuality, became my focus. Framing them within the city's urban backdrops became a natural, organic component of my style. The 24-mm lens became my eye."

"The hope in the 70s was that we were moving toward a more involved, more humane society— toward alternative energy and organic agriculture—and many other overarching important social changes in many fields... We all thought we were moving into a very different world than it has turned out to be."

Now living in La Antigua Guatemala, Boettcher has spent over five years scanning thousands of negatives from her San Francisco archives and selecting iconic images to present this exhibition of digital prints and a forthcoming book. She finds the images more relevant today than when she originally took them. "I documented [the photos] then, but the relevance comes now, when we see how personal freedom, privacy and expressing yourself publicly have come under enormous constraints," Boettcher said.

Nevertheless, illuminated by the qualities of San Francisco that to this day remain timeless and symbolic of a city dedicated to progressive and activist movements, Boettcher succeeds in supplanting immortality in the everyday life of San Francisco.

"San Francisco 70s: Urban Portraits" will open on Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. at Galería Panza Verde, 5a avenida sur #19, Antigua. The artist will attend the opening. Carlotta Boettcher's book of the same title, featuring 103 digitally repaired images, will be available in Antigua in the early spring.



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1st PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest

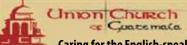
"Tuc tuc en el Canal" by Edgar López F. Prize: Q200

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I'll love you, dear, I'll love you till China and Africa meet and the river jumps over the mountain and the salmon sing in the street. -W. H. Auden



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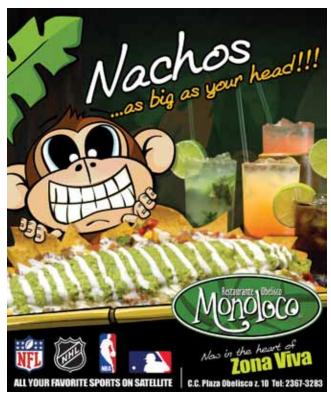
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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb. "Un Café del Cielo" by Romeo Stuardo Leiva Quintero



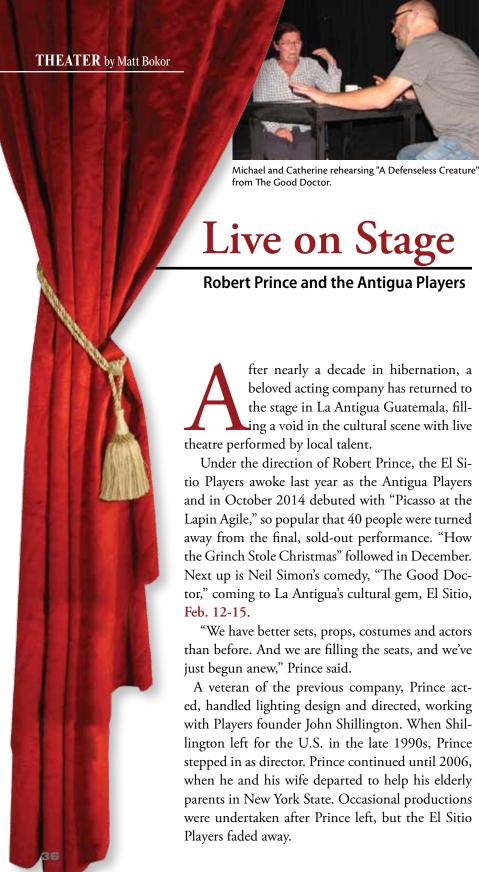


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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb. by Nestor Paez



"Thanks to Facebook, I remained in touch with dozens of friends in Antigua," Prince said. "I kept getting reports that Antigua was growing by leaps and bounds, but there was very little theatre and people were craving it. ... Then in May [2014] we took the gamble and returned and it has paid off."

For cast and crew, Prince draws on a pool of nearly 50 people; most are unpaid and do it out of their passion for theatre. About 35 are needed for each show. Among the acting talent for the next production is Ginger Hooven,



Robert Prince

a longtime Antigua resident and alum of the original troupe.

"After a long hiatus, it's inspirational to see the Antigua Players 'hit the boards' again," she said. "The Good Doctor' was fabulously done by the Players in the past so we have stylish shoes to fill! It's fun and touching and involves so many actors — perfect for community theatre. I'm excited to





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take a small part and get my feet wet after a 12-year hiatus myself."

Prince took up theatre in his late 30s. He studied acting and directing at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, the oldest continuously operating theatre in the U.S. and home to a very respected theatre school. Prince also was assistant director of a small theatre company.

Like many travelers, he meandered into Antigua during a 1996 Central America trip and fell in love with the community—and the woman who soon became his wife.

"It was an enormous stroke of luck to have found this town right when there was a theatre in need of a leader," he said.

"There are now some professional-quality actors with the company, and their involvement lifts up everyone's work," he explained. "Quite a few of the actors I worked with the first time around are working with us again and have grown as actors from experience, hard work and maturity. I find it equally gratifying to work with rank amateurs and pros because they find the experience equally enriching,

enlightening and a whole lot of fun and laughter."

A self-described "cockeyed optimist," Prince has high hopes for the Antigua Players, such as a *permanent*, top-quality professional theatre in Antigua.

"We want it fully equipped, with a proscenium, twostory high stage, dressing rooms, etc., and 150 to 200 seats. Hopefully, we will find investors," he said.

The dream includes taking performances elsewhere in Guatemala — hence the name change from El Sitio Players to Antigua Players — and to make it a truly professional company with mostly paid jobs.

A capital campaign will take shape after a year or so of successful productions, he said. Meanwhile, Prince hopes people will show their support by attending shows and advertising in the playbill. "If you'd like to join the company and help in any capacity, we always need people to work the box office, help backstage, etc." •

For more information, visit antiguaplayers.com or facebook.com/ AntiguaPlayers.

The Good Doctor

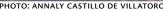
Neil Simon wrote "The Good Doctor" based on short stories by the literary great Anton Chekhov. The sketches are brilliant, funny, deeply ironic and all take place in late 19th century Russia; yet the stories are timeless and still relevant, as human behavior and the things that make us laugh have not changed.

Performances:

Friday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, 4 & 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m. Tickets Q100. Preview performance:
Thursday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Tickets Q50.

All performances at El Sitio, 5ta calle poniente #15. Advance tickets available at Café Teatro (inside El Sitio) and Mesón Panza Verde, 5a av sur #19, Antigua, and online: antiguaplayers.com







Do we really need a reason to smile or can we find the smile in everything we see and do?

A reason to Smile

earts, cupids and young love are seemingly everywhere. After all, it is February! For many of us it begs the question, is February really just about Valentine's Day? Perhaps it is more about the realization that we are steeped into our new year as our resolutions are waning or expanding and everything is starting to take shape.

Time is the ever-present keeper of our lives if we allow it to be, and we have the ability to transcend this taskmaster if we choose to. As the months begin to tick by the essence of February becomes a reminder of our choices.

In this moment you may be in Guatemala. Most likely you are here by choice and whether conscious of it or not, it was your heart that called you. There are so many choices that call to you with each day of your Guatemalan experience.

If you are on vacation, there are myriad tours and archaeological sites to select from. Or how about that volcano hike!

If you are here on business, there is the daily experience of navigating cultural differences along with potential language challenges that welcomes moments of repose.

Or perhaps you live here. The menu of life experiences that presents

Whether or not Cupid has his arrow aimed at your heart of romance, there is also the arrow that can invoke your smile if you choose to allow it in.

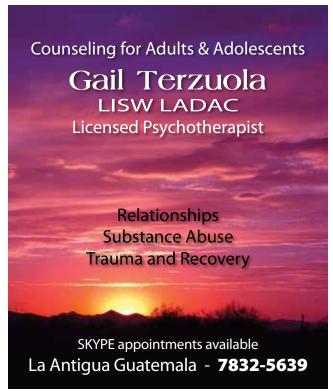
itself each day is as varied as the colors of the *huipils* (the multi-colored blouse of the Mayan woman).

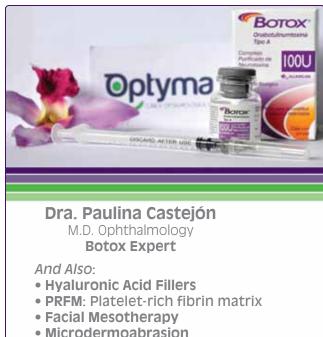
In the midst of your daily life experience why not simply use the excuse of Valentine's Day as a reason to smile? As with all holidays there are vast opinions about the way to celebrate and usually just as many reasons not to. Most holidays stir an emotional response from just about everyone. Whether or not Cupid has his arrow aimed at your heart of romance, there is also the arrow that can invoke your smile if you choose to allow it in.

Do we really need a reason to smile or can we find the smile in everything we see and do? The more we allow time to rule our lives, the more we diminish our natural smile. This is one of the most compelling reasons to visit or live in Guatemala.

Regardless of the season, the holiday or the perception of time, there is always a smile. At first it can be somewhat disarming to witness that smile at times when the uninformed may find it disconcerting. However, it is the adept







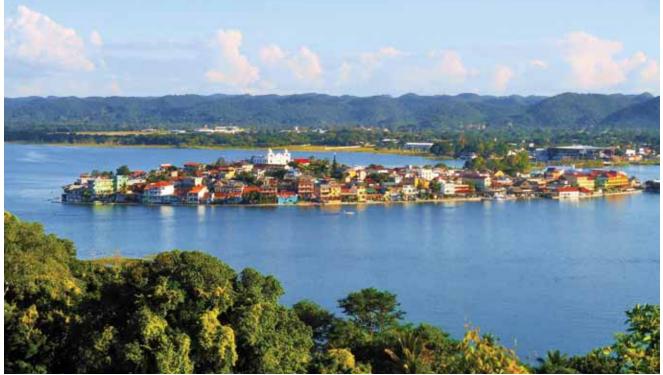
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smile under any circumstance that is a uniquely Guatemalan attribute. The ease of this seems to say directly to the taskmaster of time that the day still belongs to our dreams and our joys, not solely to our demands.

Valentine's Day in Guatemala ... it is much more than the holiday of those in love. It is the opportunity to renew your life, set a fresh eye on your dreams and capture your inner romance for your life adventure!



Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb: "Isla Bonita" (El Mirador, Flores Petén) by Liudmila Nicté Rodríguez Batres





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You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; in just the same way, you learn to love by loving. —Anatole France

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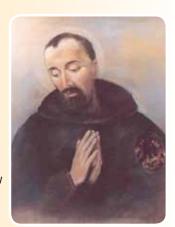
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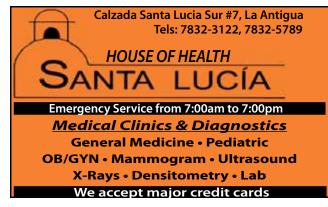
Love feels no burden, thinks nothing of trouble, attempts what is above its strength, pleads no excuse of impossibility; for it thinks all things lawful for itself, and all things possible.

—Thomas a Kempis

I am happier when I love than when I am loved. I adore my husband, my son, my grandchildren, my mother, my dog, and frankly, I don't know if they even like me. But who cares?

Loving them is my joy. —Isabel Allende







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Gabriela Gomez and local artists sharing design ideas

Design is what makes the product useful and attractive, it ensures the product's longevity.



ARTESANÍA by Tara Tiedemann

Conscious Consumerism —Why Artisan Work Matters

very day millions of artisans go to work, doing what they do. But do we really understand the process behind bringing their products to life? Who made the item? What inspired the design, the colors or the measurements? Are there thousands like it or is this piece unique? Finding out these details is what pushes the movement of conscious consumerism.

Born and raised in Guatemala City, jewelry designer Gabriela Gómez works exclusively behind the scenes with artisan groups all over Guatemala, who turn raw materials into crafted pieces of art. Her interest in design fit perfectly with the family jewelry business. She earned a degree

in industrial design at Rafael Landívar University in Guatemala City, and was a consultant for AGEXPORT, an organization in Guatemala that collaborates with agricultural workers and artisans to help them bring their products to world market. This was Gabi's first experience collaborating with local artisan groups.

One of the most important elements that artisans need to consider is design, and this is her specialty. Design is what makes the product useful and attractive, it ensures the product's longevity. ...continued page 76



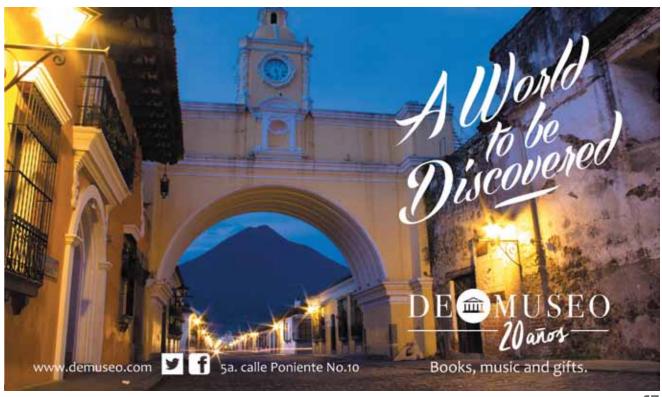
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Ouestion:

I have seen my 9-month old Labrador eat grass and then he vomits, occasionally he also has diarrhea. Is this a problem?

The subject is still fairly controversial; most experts believe that dogs need some plant material in their diets because they are omnivores (animals that eat both meat and plants). Wild dogs consume plant material when they eat their prey by eating the prey's stomach contents, and they also eat some grass and other plants. Some experts believe that dogs eat grass because it tastes good, and others feel that they eat it when they have an upset stomach and need to vomit.

The point is that first you need to limit his access to grass that has had pesticides or fertilizer recently applied; if he eats a little grass, and it doesn't cause him to vomit much or have diarrhea, then no big deal. If he eats enough to cause vomiting and diarrhea, you might have to limit or prohibit grass-eating altogether. Short-lived episodes of vomiting and diarrhea usually aren't serious, but contact your veterinarian if he vomits or has diarrhea three or more times in 24 hours. If he is eating grass and vomiting more than twice a week, it is possible that he has gastritis and needs to see your veterinarian.









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Give me a kiss, and to that kiss a score; Then to that twenty, add a hundred more: A thousand to that hundred: so kiss on. To make that thousand up a million. Treble that million, and when that is done, Let's kiss afresh, as when we first begun. -Robert Herrick

Love is the crowning grace of humanity, the holiest right of the soul, the golden link which binds us to duty and truth, the redeeming principle that chiefly reconciles the heart to life, and is prophetic of eternal good. —Petrarch

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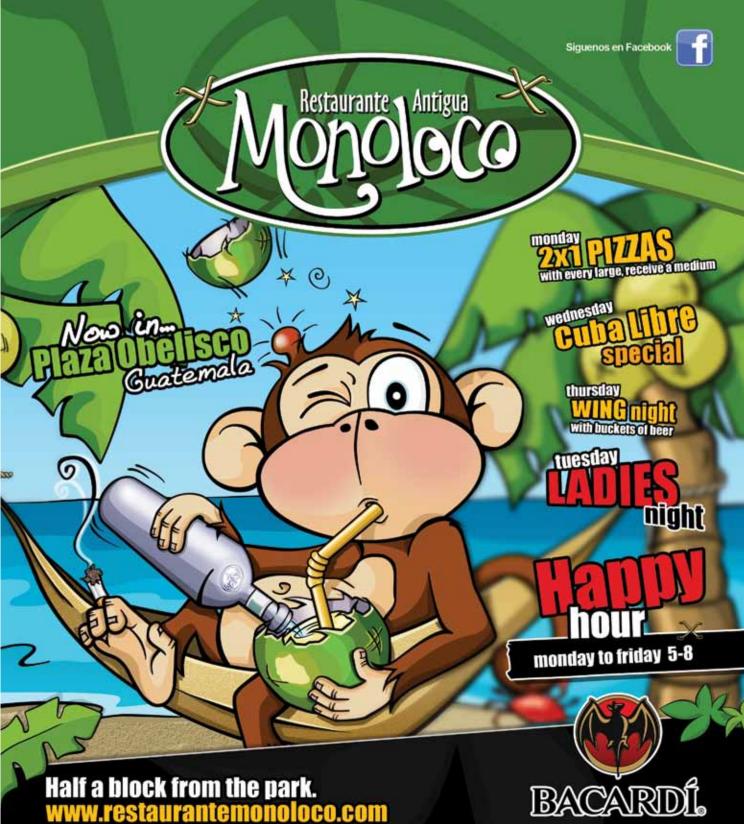
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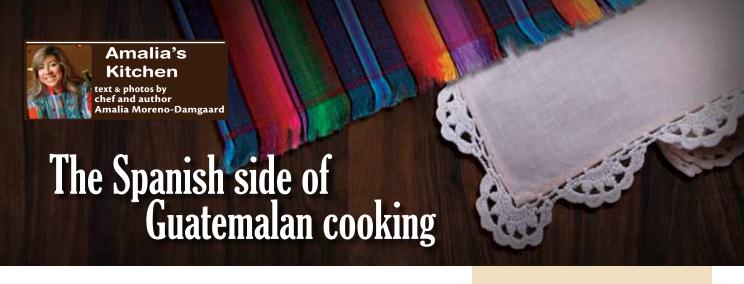
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rior to Spanish colonization, Guatemala had cuisine consisting of only native ingredients. With the arrival of the Spaniards, and subsequent waves of immigrants, came not only new ingredients and cooking techniques, but also their food culture.

I can think of plenty of unfavorable things that came with colonization, but I rather concentrate on the fusion of flavors that elevated cooking in the New World as a whole. I cannot imagine making delicious refried beans, stews, soups, sauces and many more dishes without onions and garlic. Yes, they were part of the exchange, as were spices and herbs, such as the trio of bay (laurel) leaves, oregano and thyme, that are native to other parts of the world and now also Guatemalan cooking staples.

Saffron is used in some Guatemalan cooking. The most common use is in paella, although because of saffron's high cost, achiote or food color is often used as a substitute to give rice its yellow hue. Fats and oils came with imported pigs, cows and olives. As a result, the sofrito (quick-fried sauce) also became accepted and basic in the preparation of just about every type of cooking that requires braising, stewing, pureeing and more. As a result, butter, lard, milk and cheese gained popularity and this along with many other new ingredients merged with the original food to form a new cuisine.

Guatemalan cuisine is simple and mild, and so is Spanish cuisine, thus the mix was practical. It is fairly easy to give a Guatemalan dish Spanish (or Mediterranean) flair by using the basic olive oil sofrito as a base, saffron and a splash of wine, which by the way, did not gain popularity in Guatemala (or other Latin countries) despite its Spanish tradition. However, wine is gaining popularity today in Guatemala because it is also a growing "foodie" interest in other parts of the world.

Whether Guatemalans like it or not, Spanish cooking is a part of our lives. In fact, everyday food in most homes is based on Spanish replicas with injections of native herbs, vegetables and other flavors. Rice, another

import, is the perfect pairing for stews, beans, soups and many other dishes. When I think of rice, I remember my mom's delicious and fancy arroz con espárragos (asparagus rice), which she made for special occasions to accompany her pollo con Pepsi (chicken with Pepsi-Cola sauce). My grandmother made rice with onion, garlic and tomato sofrito, along with julienne carrots and peas, to go with her famous caldo de gallina (hen and vegetable soup).

The recipe that follows is a good example of flavor fusion and is representative of what happened in Guatemala and in other parts of Latin America. Many Spanish originals were adapted in each Latin country according to local cultural tastes, as in the case of hilachas (spicy shredded beef and potato stew). This could be a Mayan stew if we took away the Old World ingredients (onions, garlic, bay leaf, thyme, beef and others) and it resembles a Cuban ropa vieja ("old clothes" stew) or the Venezuelan carne mechada (shredded beef stew).

Coincidence? ...continued next page



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The Spanish side of Guatemalan cooking from previous page

As an adult, my interests in all types of cooking were awakened when I attended Le Cordon Bleu. I realized then that I came from a part of the world rich in so many things, but that there was a bigger world out there in terms of culinary discovery. So my studies today take me beyond Guatemalan and Latin cooking and during research I connect the dots and keep finding new ingredients, even from Guatemala. So I approach every country that I visit with an open mind realizing that I may encounter similarities in cooking techniques, styles and flavors, but that there is always something that helps in the differentiation and identification each cuisine: terrain, climate, culture and so much more!

HILACHAS

SPICY SHREDDED BEEF AND POTATO STEW

Hilachas (shreds), from Suchitepéquez department in southwestern Guatemala, is the Guatemalan cousin of Cuban Ropa Vieja (old clothes stew) and Venezuelan Carne Mechada (shredded beef stew). This type of stew came to Latin America through Spain. It is a scrumptious, crowd-pleasing heavy stew that tastes even better on Day Two. People make this dish in a variety of ways throughout the Guatemala City area and in Salamá, Baja Verapaz. This is my easy version. Serve the stew with Arroz Guatemalteco (Guatemalan vegetable rice found in "Amalia's Guatemalan Kitchen" cookbook) and Frijoles Chapines (Guatemalan black beans found in "Amalia's Guatemalan Kitchen" cookbook), which provide a break between spicy bites.

Serves 4 people

1 pound flank steak

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon canola oil

2 cups fat-free, low-sodium beef stock

1 small yellow onion, quartered

1 cup quartered Roma tomatoes (about 2 large tomatoes)

1/2 cup husked, quartered tomatillos (3 to 4 large tomatillos)

2 bay leaves

1 cup seeded, chopped red bell pepper

1 small yellow onion, cut into thick slices

2 large garlic cloves, peeled

1 guaque (guajillo) chili, seeded

1 pasa (ancho) chili, seeded

1 corn tortilla, torn into small pieces (or 1/4 cup bread crumbs)

1 1/2 cups fat-free, low-sodium beef stock

Sazón (Seasonings)

1 tablespoon achiote oil

1 bay leaf ...continued next page







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Hilachas from previous page

1/2 teaspoon thyme

1 teaspoon kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

2 cups sliced small russet potatoes, cooked al dente

Adorno (Garnish):

Red bell pepper strips, sautéed

Season the steak with salt and pepper. In a hot, deep medium skillet, sear the meat on both sides in a little oil until medium brown (about 4 minutes per side). Add the stock, onion and bay leaves and bring to a quick boil. Lower the heat, cover and braise until the meat fibers separate easily when pulled (about 1-1/2 hours). Check the meat while it cooks and make sure the liquid stays at about 1 1/2 cups at all times (adding 1/2 cup of stock or water at a time as needed). When the meat is done, transfer it to a cutting board and let it cool. Cut it in half against the grain and shred it. Reserve the stock and onion. Set aside.

In a medium pot, combine the tomatoes, tomatillos, pepper and onion, add garlic, chiles, tortilla and stock and

bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer covered until soft (15 to 20 minutes).

Using an immersion or regular blender, purée the cooked vegetables and the reserved onion and stock to a fine consistency.

Heat the achiote oil in the pot used to cook the beef. Add the purée, bay leaf, thyme, salt and pepper. Add the shredded beef and potatoes. Simmer to let the flavors blend (20 to 25 minutes). Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed. The sauce should be about the consistency of beef stew. If it's too thin, cook it a bit longer. If it's too thick, add some stock or water.

Amalia's Notes

To make achiote oil, heat 1/2 cup of canola oil in a small skillet until small bubbles start to form. Turn the heat off and add 1 tablespoon of achiote seeds. Allow the seeds to color the oil for 5 to 10 minutes or longer, strain the oil, and discard the seeds. The oil should be deep orange, not brown. Keep leftover achiote oil in the refrigerator for up to a month.

Peel tomatillos under running water if you find the husks hard to remove. •



Pairing Hilachas with the Perfect Wine

The flavor profile of the classic Guatemalan dish hilachas is earthy and mildly spicy, so there are two ways of complementing it with wine. If we want to create a contrast, I recommend a white wine that is structured enough to pair with beef but one that gives us a sensation of sweetness to offset the spice. Alta Vista, Classic Reserva, Torrontes, 2012 (from Salta, Argentina) leads us to believe it is a semi-sweet wine with its honeysuckle and exotic fruit. Its residual sugar is a perfect balance to the spice provided by the guaque and ancho chilies.

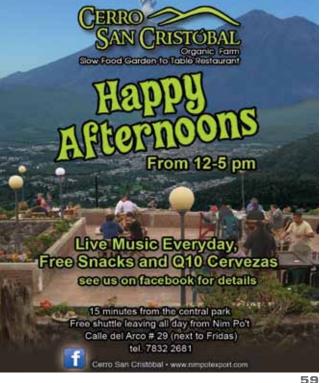
A more classic pairing would be a refreshing red wine with flavors of raspberries, spice and vanilla. Ogier, Les Menines, 2012 (from Cotes du Rhone, France) would mirror the spice and complement the acidity of the tomato and tomatillos with vibrant but balanced acidity. The persistent red fruit and vanilla fragrance in this wine would also round the experience of pairing it with hilachas.

Either selection should create a balanced and enjoyable experience with this delicious typical Guatemalan meal. ...see following page

Cheers!







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Guatemalan-born Alberto
Blanco left his homeland
in 1995 to attend high
school in Germany, where
he discovered a passion
for fine food and wine.
Along his journey toward
culinary excellence Blanco
bottled and sold wine at
Lütjes Delicatessen in Schleswig,

Germany, then he seized the opportunity to travel throughout Europe to learn more about culinary arts. Today he holds Level 1 sommelier status awarded to him in 2012 by the Court of Master Sommeliers (New Orleans, Louisiana).

Though Blanco graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in linguistics, he had not lost sight of his passion for epicurean pleasures. His mentors include Teresa Connor, Erin Ungerman, Hector Ruiz, Chef Stewart Woodman and Chef Sameh Wadi.

In 2013 Blanco returned to Guatemala and with his sister Karla opened Restaurante Angeline. The restaurant quickly joined the ranks of popular Antigua dining spots that offer elegant, gourmet meals. A new favorite is the sampler menu with wine pairing.

Gustavo Rodriguez, the executive chef at the restaurant, began his culinary career in a humble fashion. At 16 he was hired as a dishwasher at a prestigious hotel/restaurant in La Antigua Guatemala. It was there that he developed his love of all things related to cooking haute cuisine. Whenever he could, he studied the chefs at work, taking it all in. Then came culinary school and an internship at a Michelinstarred restaurant, which led to study with talented chefs including Mario Campollo, Niels Rykken and others.











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—Henry Drummond

A man reserves his true and deepest love not for the species of woman in whose company he finds himself electrified and enkindled, but for that one in whose company he may feel tenderly drowsy. —George Jean Nathan

ANTIGUA dining





















Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile. —Franklin P. Jones

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—Virginia Satir

Can miles truly separate you from friends... If you want to be with someone you love, aren't you already there?

—Richard Bach



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The Dragons of Ixlu cont. from page 19



land yacht, where I gladly dispensed cookies and pineapple juice to my new assistants, much to their delight!

The next day my young assistants were waiting for me when I returned to Ixlú in the morning. Something caught my eye as we walked down the path, a glint or shimmering in the bushes. I carefully pushed my way through the foliage, always remembering that this is yellow beard country—deadly fer-de-lance snakes were resting in their holes and kept me continually on my toes. As we pushed through, the glimmer that I'd noticed turned out to be a small pond; actually, big puddle would be a more apt description. And here, hidden from the outside world, we found an entire microcosm of activity: bees busily buzzing around, juiced up on flower nectar; salamanders and small lizards scurrying in their hunt for bugs; crickets chirping; water bugs skimming across the water. But what most caught my eye were the abundance of multicolored and muti-sized dragonflies, swooping and dipping all over the area on hunting forays. Right there and then I changed my focus 64

and determined to spend whatever time necessary to get some good images of these little dragons. I was especially intent on getting some in-flight photos, not an easy task as these airborne hunters constantly flit and dive and are motionless only when they alight on a branch or leaf to rest for a few moments.

During the next few days at the archaeological site and cruising the Ixlú River in my inflatable kayak I succeeded in obtaining many new images for my archives. In the back of my mind, but always reverberating around in my consciousness, was the fact that a man had recently been attacked by a crocodile nearby and the question mark concerning whether a big croc might take a chance and go for my little inflatable boat troubled me a bit. I had consulted on several occasions with leading crocodile experts and they refused to say anything to belie my anxiety, commenting that while I was probably safe in my kayak, they could not deny the fact that crocodiles are opportunistic carnivores and masters of surprise and ambush. So, to say the least, I was extremely cautious while paddling





through the bulrushes, knowing that big leviathans were almost certainly crouching, hidden, and contemplating, in their reptilian way, what they should do with me...I never put down my paddle, assuring myself that if a big one came at me I would just slap his nose and that would probably do the trick.

By the way, dragonflies are some of the most interesting winged creatures in all of nature with many unique characteristics. These insectivorous arthropods are members of the order Odonata and are of such beauty and variety that they have inspired humans to dedicate themselves to viewing them, just as birdwatchers love watching birds. Dragonfly watchers are known to insiders as "Oding" enthusiasts. No other insect is as agile and quick as are these miniature helicopters. They can fly in six different directions, including backward, forward, side to side and up and down. One scientist clocked a particular type of dragonfly flying at 90 kilometers per hour, making them the fastest of all insects! And just as is the case with birdwatching, you can get your identification book and go out searching for new species to marvel at. It's a great hobby. ...cont. next page

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The Dragons of Ixlu from previous page

Back at my secret puddle I spent many hours photographing these delightful creatures. At this site there were about 20 species, varying from tiny to those having wingspans of six inches or more. I was amazed one morning when I caught a brief glimpse of a most unusual specimen; she was enormous by dragonfly standards, with a wingspan of around 10 inches. Her wings were transparent except that each had a bright yellow circle at the outer edges. I only saw this amazing and magical being for a second or two as she flitted through shadows and occasional beams of light. I tried and tried to find her again but, as is often the case, what is most magical is often also most elusive. Many hours were spent trying to locate this silent giant without success. Then, when I wasn't looking for her anymore, there she was! Again, I only saw this magnificent but ephemeral animal for a few seconds and then she was gone, floating with a pulsating motion back into the shadows.

Wild nature is inherently magical. Humans try to make it easy to experience nature's magic by putting animals in cages at zoos. But I have noticed that a wild animal in a cage does not convey the magic of nature at all. For this and other compelling reasons I do not agree that zoos are useful in educating children to love nature. Not at all! What zoos do is convey the message that it is OK to put a wild jaguar in a cage for the rest of his natural life. How would we like it if some flying saucer came down, yanked us out of our home, and put us on display in a cage on some distant planet where we would have to endure this humiliation until death? If we love nature and love animals, we will not imprison them in cages, however elaborate and "natural looking." If you ever have the good fortune to see a magnificent jaguar or resplendent quetzal in its natural habitat, it will give you an unforgettable thrill, and that feeling will truly enrich your soul. Of course, wild nature does not reveal her secrets quickly or easily. One must have patience and take the necessary time to get to know her. But if you do this, you will eventually be rewarded by having experiences of real magic. And once you taste the real thing, you will never be satisfied with anything less. •

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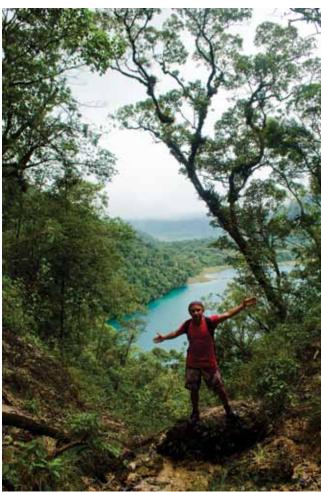


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It takes does take a village cont. from page 14



Project manager greeting workers at site of water distribution tank.



Worker demonstrating how they carry all of the materials—lumber, rocks, sand, etc.—on their backs to the building site of the water distribution tank.

ed the creation of local and regional development organizations, to be comprised of representatives from communities, civil society and the government. Within the community council development framework, local communities can deliberate options on public investment and channel their formal requests directly to the municipalities. Ochoa explained that the majority of the populace was not adequately aware of or knowledgeable about this legislation.

When he created the Nahual Foundation over 10 years ago, one of its first priorities focused on training community leaders how to organize and take advantage of the COCODEs system that was already in place. Through weekly meetings, Ochoa, along with a team of volunteer professionals, began teaching community administrators from the department of Sacatepéquez about the Urban and Rural Development Council Law, its regulations and the kinds of resources that were available to them.

Depending on the size of the village, the community council development committee is made up of five to seven individuals. The men and women who serve on the committee are usually volunteers and some are elected every year. They make decisions for the village, prioritize needs and are responsible for the day to day governance of their community.

The Village of El Molino —a COCODEs success story

In the quiet Mayan village of El Molino, situated within the municipality of San Martín Jilatopeque about 27 kilometers northwest of Antigua, lies proof that COCODEs actually works. The community had long recognized the need for clean water delivery to its population and with the COCODEs system already in place, laid the groundwork three years ago by first purchasing the rights to a spring that was located

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about seven kilometers from the pro-

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...continued on following page

"The community had long recognized the need for clean water delivery to its population"



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It does take a village from page 70

president and co-Founder of People for Guatemala, a U.S.-based NGO. Together with their in-country partner Hombres & Mujeres en Accion, Werner set up operations in the municipality of San Martín seven years ago. She explained that the commitment required to form and operate a development council demonstrates to an NGO that these communities are more reliable partners and therefore safer investments for development projects.

In the case of the El Molino water project, the village council had already worked out many of the details before seeking support from Hombres & Mujeres en Accion. They were able to raise 175,000 quetzales—the approximate equivalent of \$23,000 —to purchase the water spring and to find land for the site of the water distribution tank. Once they owned the land and the water source, the council approached the municipality of San Martín to request a water study and a plan for delivering water from the spring and distributing it to all of the families. At this point, the municipality provided them with an engineer and they worked out a new budget with their supporting NGO. "What's wonderful about this approach is the collaboration between everyone involved including the municipality of San Martín, Hombres & Mujeres en Acción, donors and the development council," said Werner. All of the families had to pay 25



Project Manager and Engineer at site of water distribution tank

One of El Molino's women sold all of her turkeys to come up with her 25 percent, because it was her life's dream to have running water.

percent of the cost of the construction materials, ranging from cement, gravel and wood to the PVC pipe fittings and pressure valves. The village also provided all of the unskilled labor. "In this way, everyone is a partner and shares ownership of the project," she added. "You can feel an enormous sense of pride and accomplishment among the participants."

One of El Molino's women sold all of her turkeys to come up with her 25 percent (approximately \$110) because it was her life's dream to have running water. She expressed great faith in the project and clearly understood that good things take longer to accomplish. Prior to completion of this project in January 2015, water was carried in jugs or plastic containers from other sources near their homes.

"Once women have running water, they no longer have to walk their laundry to a spring and young girls don't have to get up to walk with their mother and miss school," Werner added. The health benefits of having clean, running water are enormous in addition to giving women more time to devote to other important tasks."



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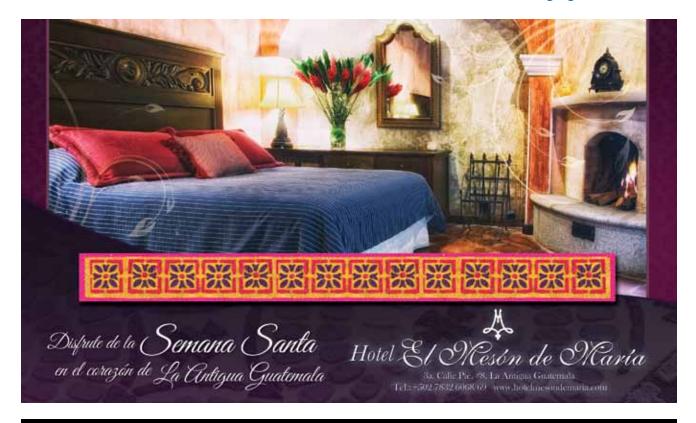
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Concious Consumerism cont. from page 46



Gabriela Gómez working with a local women's artisan group

Often traditional pieces—clothing, jewelry, or other wearables—that you buy on vacation don't fit into your everyday life back home. An item is too precious to toss, yet you can't bring yourself to wear it. Gabi creates a bridge between native artistic expression and modern usage. She explains that the process of design is delicate: "You can't just approach the groups and tell them what to do. You get to know each and every individual. You watch and observe their abilities. You ask them to show you samples of their work. Then you talk to the retailer and ask them about their market. Where is the product going? Who is the product going to be sold to? If it is

an article of clothing or jewelry—what are the sizes of the people that will be ultimate buyers? Then with all of this information you can start to get an idea of the whole picture and go back to the artisans and get their input as well. What would they have an interest in doing?"

The designer has the important role of helping to weave all of this information together and working with the group to come up with a design, using the abilities that they already have—whether it be weaving, beading or embroidery. High-quality materials have to be sourced to produce a top-notch product. Then a full, professional product line is developed with coordinating pieces and accessories.

This what makes an artisan's finished work unique and personal—it was handmade and it reflects the artist's unique style. Income derived from it brings personal growth to the artist, communities, and can spawn educational opportunities and empowerment.

But what about the old ways? Does it mean that producing new designs and using nontraditional colors will replace traditional art and techniques? Institutions that include the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City and the International Folk Art Alliance in Santa Fe, New Mexico and many others work hard to preserve and encourage traditional artistic expression. You can have it both ways!

Work created by these designers can be seen at Casa de Los Gigantes, 7a calle oriente #18, La Antigua











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Q&A



College Planning

You've got kids. They may be small now, but before you know it they're off to college. Unfortunately, the cost of a university degree in the United States has become incredibly daunting. Therefore, planning for college expenses is imperative, and getting an early start provides an absolute advantage.

According to the College Board, the average cost of tuition and fees for a private university in the United States is slightly over \$30,000 per year (excluding room and board). Public schools are more affordable, but still clock in at over \$22,000 per year (out-of-state tuition). Furthermore, every year the cost of tuition increases at a rate much higher than inflation.

In this article, we discuss 529 plans for U.S. expats. A 529 plan is basically a savings account to fund a college education. There are two types of 529 plans; however, the main ones are sponsored by individual states.

Why are 529 plans great? From a tax viewpoint, there are clear advantages. Account balances grow tax deferred. And when the proceeds are used to pay for qualified college expenses, there are no tax consequences. So if you can afford to save for college, a 529 plan is a fantastic vehicle for doing so.

529 PLAN — Basics you should know				
PURPOSE To fund a child's college education				
	If the child beneficiary does not attend college, then the funds can be used to pay for another family member's college expenses (e.g., a sibling)			
MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION	Up to \$14K per child (without triggering gift tax)			
TAX BENEFITS	No tax deductions on federal return; however, possible on state return			
	Earnings grow tax deferred			
	No tax on distribution (for qualified college expenses)			

For U.S. citizens living abroad, setting up a 529 plan can be slightly tricky. That is because many expats do not have residency in a particular state. In these cases, we recommend establishing a 529 plan with Vanguard (one of the largest mutual fund companies in the world). Vanguard 529 College Savings Plans are ...continued on following page



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How did it happen that their lips came together?
How does it happen that birds sing, that snow melts, that the rose unfolds, that the dawn whitens behind the stark shapes of trees on the quivering summit of the hill?
A kiss, and all was said. —Victor Hugo

As soon go kindle fire with snow, as seek to quench the fire of love with words. —William Shakespeare



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Love is of all passions the strongest, for it attacks simultaneously the head, the heart and the senses.

—Lao Tzu

The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves. —Victor Hugo

<u>EL PETÉ</u>N





College Planning from previous page

sponsored by the state of Nevada, but are open to any investor. Vanguard is renowned for its low fee structure, so more of your money goes toward covering college expenses. For more information, go to: https://investor.vanguard.com/what-we-offer/college/overview

This article was written by John Ohe (IRS enrolled agent and chartered financial analyst).

John is a partner at Hola Expat, which specializes in preparing tax returns for U.S. expats.

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

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, and their application can vary widely based on the specific facts and circumstances involved.

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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Lake Atitlán (ARMAND BOISSY)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Amigos del Lago de Atitlán

With a population of over 400,000 living and farming in its watershed this lake is suffering the effects at an alarming and rapid rate.

n 1990 a group of friends became very concerned about the deterioration of what Aldous Huxley described as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world—Lake Atitlán. Their concern turned into the formation of Amigos del Lago de Atitlán.

Surrounded by picturesque villages against a backdrop of impressive volcanoes, this oncepristine lake sits at 1,565 meters above sea level with a surface of over 135 square kilometers and a maximum depth of 340 meters.

With a population of over 400,000 living and farming in its watershed this lake is suffer-

ing the effects at an alarming and rapid rate.

Amigos began their work by creating environmental projects to help conserve the lake. Trees and reeds have been planted to help mitigate erosion; trash collection campaigns were established to help clean up beaches; a facility

to process solid waste was built as well as a wastewater treatment plant.

In conjunction with the environmental projects, social programs were established to help improve the quality of life for residents. An aggressive environmental education program, including creation of the first educational environmental guides, was developed to teach schoolchildren the importance of conserving their environment. Water filter stations have been constructed in several towns to provide their populations with

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Amigos del Lago from previous page

safe drinking water. Health educational campaigns were also established to teach women the importance of sanitation and clean water.

In 2009 Lake Atitlán was afflicted with its first major cyanobacteria bloom, which created even more serious problems. Amigos' approach had to be more aggressive and their main focus became supporting scientific investigation and the creation of a research facility to understand what was happening to the lake, how to counteract it, and how to educate its inhabitants about health risks and, if no actions are taken, a possible national disaster.

Through a team of scientists and sanitary engineers led by universities in Guatemala and the United States, we now know that the main culprit is raw sewage entering the lake. Amigos' most urgent goal this year is to promote a feasible master plan to stop all sewage from entering the lake and to get the infrastructure built and functioning as soon as possible. •

For more information about Amigos del Lago de Atitlán visit: facebook.com/AmigoAtitlan or email: amigoatitlan@gmail.com



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—Thomas Merton

It is the passion that is in a kiss that gives to it its sweetness; it is the affection in a kiss that sanctifies it.

—Christian Nestell Bovee

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke

Doubt thou the stars are fire, Doubt that the sun doth move. Doubt truth to be a liar, But never doubt I love.
—William Shakespeare



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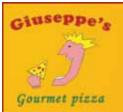
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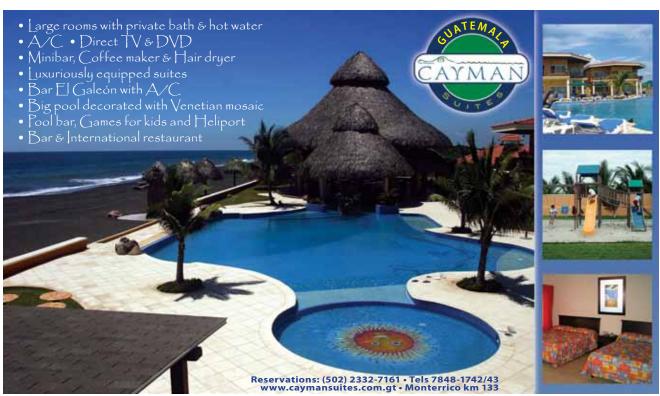


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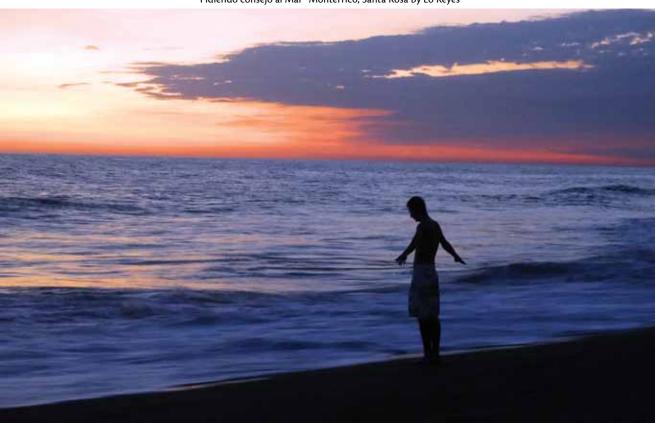
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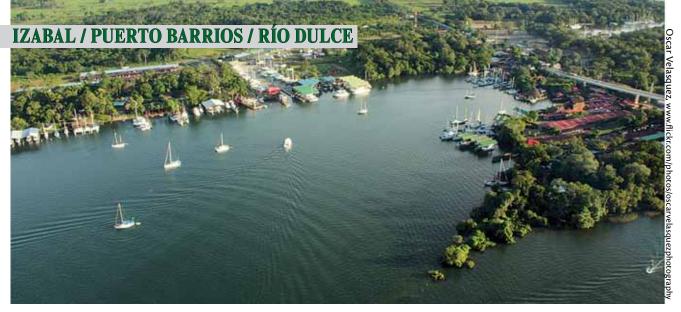


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—Marc Chagall

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—Rupert Brooke

Marketplace

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For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul. -Judy Garland

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1 Hectare = 2.471 acres 1 Hectare = 1.43 manzanas

 $1 \text{ Acre} = 43,560 \text{ ft}^2$ 1 Acre = <u>.4047 hectare</u> $1 \text{ Acre} = 4047 \text{ mt}^2$

1 Vara = 32.9 inches $1 \, \text{Yard} = 36 \, \text{inches} \, (3ft)$ 1 Meter = 39.37 inches

1 Manzana = 1.7 acres

 $1 \text{ mt}^2 = 10.764 \text{ ft}^2$

 $1 \text{ mt}^2 = 1.431 \text{ vr}^2$

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1 Acre = 43.560 ft^2 $1 \text{ Manzana} = 10.000 \text{ vr}^2$ 1 Acre = .4047 hectare 1 Manzana = 6,988 mt² $1 \text{ Acre} = 4047 \text{ mt}^2$ 1 Manzana = 1.7 acres 1 Acre = 5645.4 varas² 1 Vara = 32.9 inches $1 \text{ mt}^2 = 10.764 \text{ ft}^2$ 1 Yard = 36 inches (3ft) $1 \text{ mt}^2 = 1.431 \text{ vr}^2$ 1 Meter = 39.37 inches

Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when the flowers are dead. —Oscar Wilde

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Entry in the Revue Photo Contest, Feb: "Espejo" (Canal de Chiquimulilla, Santa Rosa) by Wellington Vásquez





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When you're in love you never really know whether your elation comes from the qualities of the one you love, or if it attributes them to her; whether the light which surrounds her like a halo comes from you, from her, or from the meeting of your sparks. —Natalie Clifford Barney

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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE Police: 110 Fire: 122 and 123

Tourist Police (Antigua): 7832-4131 Fire Dept: 7832-0234 Guatemala City Tourist Assistance: 1500 (24-hour) The recipes go back much earlier, coming over from Castille early in the conquest,

SweetTime

Curls of guayaba, balls of tamarind, rolls of coconut, rich marzipan from various seed pits

egend says a cloistered nun started making candies for sale in La Antigua Guatemala some 150 years ago, and four generations of the Ortiz family have continued the Doña María Gordillo store near the central square. The recipes go back much earlier, coming over from Castille early in the conquest, descriptions of how to make artisan candies with milks, coconut, tamarind, nuts, seeds, fruit and lots and lots of sugar.

There are some hundred varieties of colonial candies on sale throughout Guatemala, but the most popular must be *canillitas de leche*, little pieces of cinnamon flavoring in milk and sugar. If made right, they have a creamy feel in your mouth, perfect when served alongside rich Guatemalan coffees or Mayan teas.

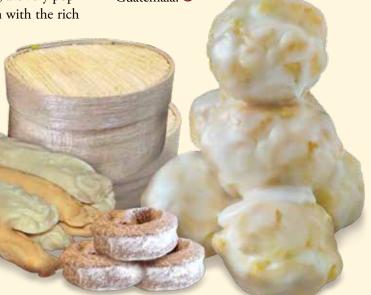
But crystallized fruits are just as popular—curls of guayaba, balls of tamarind, rolls of coconut, rich marzipan from various seed pits. All the many fruits give their juice for candies of apple, peach, berry, plum, apricot, each delicate and sweet.

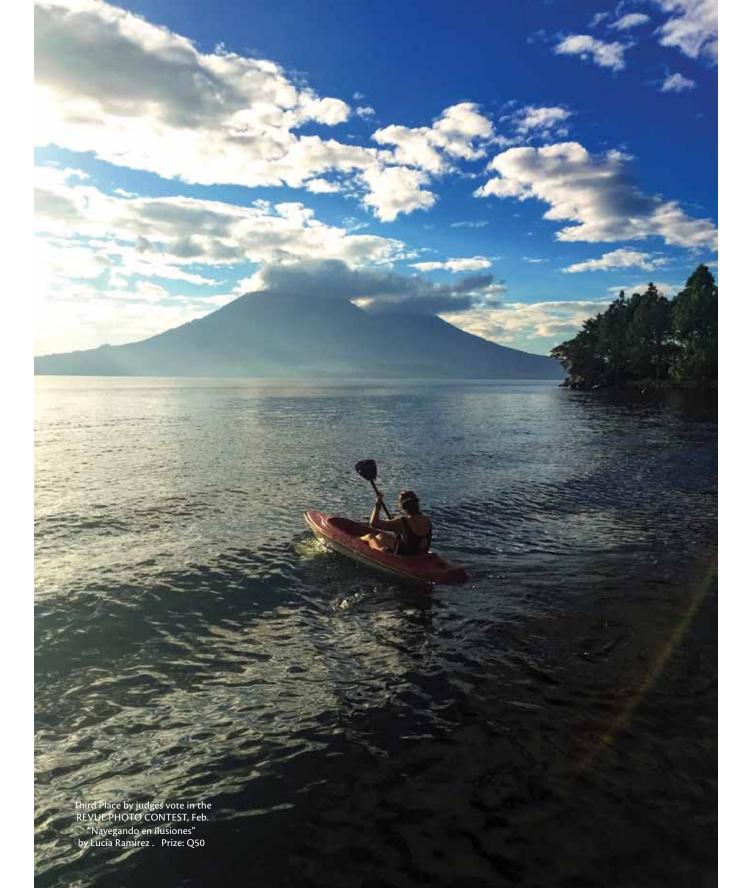
Candied figs, whole golden-brown balls of fruit, are very popular year-round, mothers rewarding good children with the rich

snack that forms a flavor memory throughout their lives. Try one, and you'll take some home as both a treat and a memory.

Candy store showcases are often centuries old, filled with soft colors of the sweets for sale, making great photographs before you have some samples boxed up to buy. Those boxes make fine souvenirs for the folk you've left behind, if you've not eaten the candies first. Eat them fast, as they don't keep their creamy feel for long.

Color is vivid everywhere here, from deep blue skies to brilliant reds spilling over white walls, intense color to saturate your photographs and brush on your canvases—except the colors in those candy shops, where the wood frames of the showcases are rubbed a soft golden by generations of hands. Under the glass the colors are muted, creams, yellows, pastels. While you taste the sweets, ask to take a photo too, a memory of a sweet time in Guatemala.









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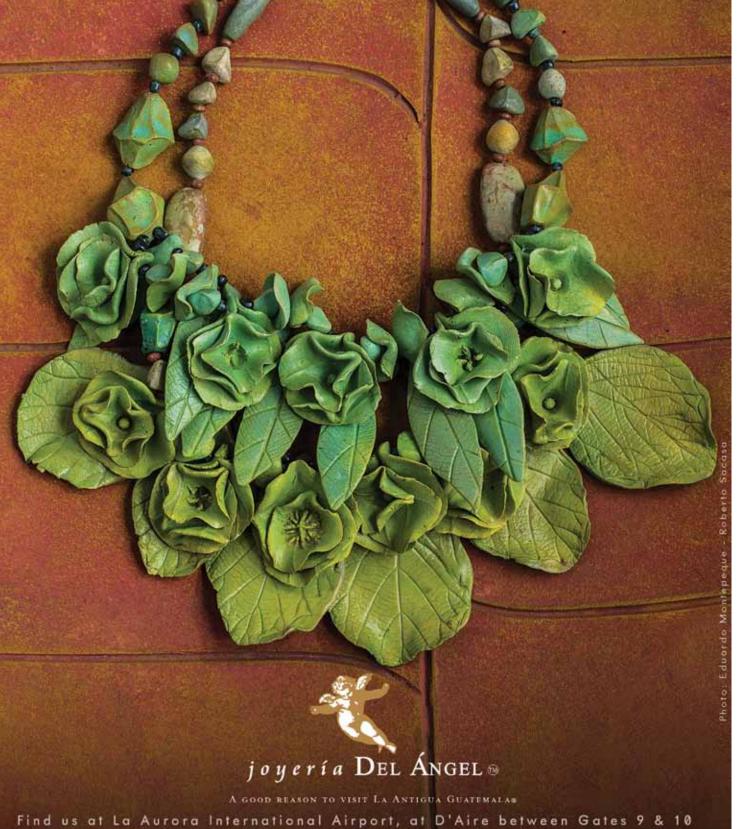
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