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1st PLACE by popular vote “Los más altos de Guatemala, Volcanes Tajumulco y Tacaná” Ixchiguán, San Marcos, by Alan Ramírez.

**Images from the Revue Photo Contest: Volcanoes of Guatemala**

“Volcán de Fuego” as seen from San Cristóbal el Bajo by Rafael Bautista Fotografía
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Submissions for the September photo contest, *Volcanoes of Guatemala* came flooding into the Revue Facebook page. We quickly realized that they were all so good, more of them should appear in print, hence we bring you this special photo issue. Our thanks to all of the photographers who participated.

In step with this theme, *Volcanoes* by Elizabeth Bell explains that they are intertwined in the country’s history. In 1620, commenting on the destruction caused by Volcano Agua, Fray Antonio de Remesal, O.P. advised what to do against devastations by mud, lava and volcanic ash. He said pray! In 1648 English-Dominican Friar Thomas Gage refers an erupting volcano as a "roaring monstrous beast." In 1717 when Volcano Fuego began to "vomit fire and rocks" Bell explains that the Holy Sacrament and many saints and virgins appeared in processions around the capital today known as La Antigua Guatemala.

For another take on volcanoes, Ken Veronda’s Sensuous Guatemala highlights *Obsidian*, the dark natural glass formed by the cooling of molten volcanic lava. He reminds us, "Whatever the use, seek and enjoy the fascinating shades and forms fresh from nature’s eruptions."

Every month Amalia Moreno-Damgaard has something delicious to share! She takes us *Beyond the Pupusa* with variations of this best-known Salvadorean dish plus a recipe for Yuca con Chicharrón y Chile. In a tribute to Dr. Carroll Behrhorst, Namaya has penned a heartfelt poem in his honor titled *Aldea Creating A Village of Love*.

On Sept. 14 patriots will be cheering Guatemalan runners as they carry the Antorcha de la Independencia from towns to towns all across the country setting the stage for *Independence Day* celebrations on Sept 15. In Guatemala, this means parades, speeches, concerts, dancing, music and lots of fireworks!

There are 60+ more events to check out in our *DateBook* calendar.

We hope you enjoy this special issue and that your September is full of special days.

— John & Terry Kovick Biskovich
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2a. Avenida Norte #11,
La Antigua Guatemala
One of the best descriptions of Guatemala I have found was recently posted by Vanderbilt University archaeologist Arthur Demarest in “Five Things I Love About Guatemala”

“Three tectonic plates meet in Guatemala and the result is a wild and crazy adventure park with high and beautiful mountains, crater lakes and hundreds of volcanoes to form the spine of the country.”

Volcanoes are intertwined in the country’s history. The Maya Kakchikel called Volcano Agua “Hunapu” or “Jun Ajpu” meaning “place of the flowers” until the 1541 mudslide destroyed the capital where the Conqueror Pedro de Alvarado’s widow, Governor Beatriz de la Cueva, died with her ladies in waiting and others. The descriptions by historian Fray Antonio de Remesal, O.P. include the notion that the volcano was ready to open up and swallow the new capital’s population. Why? Doña Beatriz was not accepting God’s will in Alvarado’s recent death in Mexico. While Remesal wrote after the devastating event (Madrid,
1620), he shows the mindset of the 17th century. So what to do against devastation by mud, lava and volcanic ash? Pray!

Santiago de Guatemala, now La Antigua Guatemala, had a procession and saint/virgin for everything. English-Dominican Friar Thomas Gage, while mostly attributed to exaggerating and promoting the Black Legend against the Spanish (known as tabloids today), in his “Travels in the New World” (London, 1648), refers to the “roaring of this monstrous beast” and how “the inhabitants expected nothing utter than ruin and destruction, and durst not abide within their houses for nine days…placing their idol saints and images, especially San Sebastian, whom they hoped would deliver them from judgement. For this purpose they daily carried him through the streets in solemn an idolatrous procession and adoration.”

Other colonial descriptions include Domingo Juarros y Montúfar’s “Compendio de la Historia de la Ciudad de Guatemala.” He lived while the capital of Santiago de Guatemala was moved to present-day Guatemala City, and refers to processions of the Cristo Crucificado and placing the Virgen of Nuestra Señora del Socorro on the altar for prayer at Santiago’s Cathedral, San Francisco and other churches.

Indeed, 1717 was a particularly bad year when the Volcano Fuego began to “vomit fire and rocks” requiring that the Holy Sacrament and many saints and virgins appear in processions around the capital with pleas for the turmoil to stop. In San Francisco Church, special prayers were held for 23 days with a special procession of Our Lady of the Poor (what appears to be a nickname). Volcanic disasters were, in part, due to the capital’s inhabitants’ sins.

Today, all 288 volcanoes—with four very active ones—are monitored by the Instituto Nacional de Sismología, Vulcanología, Meterología e Hidrología (INSI-VUMEH) with additional reports posted on Facebook for everyone! We take technology for granted today.

The concept of continental drifts was developed during the beginning of the 20th century and the geoscientific community accepted the theory of tectonic plates in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Today we know that there are three tectonic plates in Guatemala: apparently a fairly new concept. Always a topic of interest, I included a record of Volcano Fuego’s eruptions in my publication “Antigua Guatemala: the city and its heritage.”

photo by Tato Estralday
2nd PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest: Volcanoes of Guatemala.
“De la magnificencia de tu arte estoy extasiado, de tu indeleble amor me glorio más, de tus dulces contrastes me sacio, embelesado estoy de tu perfección.” Cráter del Volcán Pacaya (Mackenney), by Carlos Alejandro Barrientos Torres (@Carlos Barrientos Fotografía)
3rd PLACE by judges vote in the Revue Photo Contest: Volcanoes of Guatemala.

“VOLCAN TAJUMULCO” the highest of Central America, by Jorge García “CoCo García Photography”
“Tierra de volcanes / Land of volcanoes” Cumbre (summit) del volcán Acatenango, by David Rojas.
“Landing on Acatenango volcano” by Wolfram Hartmann

“Hope in the lake” Santa Cruz la Laguna, by Troy Leopardi López
On Sept. 14, Guatemalan runners from across the country ready themselves for the passing of the torch, known as the “Antorcha de la Independencia.” Year after year, the torch travels throughout Central America as a representation of the freedom and independence of the Central American peoples.

In Guatemala, bystanders wave, whistle and clap, and drivers honk horns as torch runners pass by. This tradition certainly sets the stage for Independence Day on Sept. 15 as Guatemala and other Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) all celebrate their independence. The year was 1821 when, after two previous attempts, independence was declared from the Kingdom of Spain.

Independence Day in Guatemala is a full-on event, flags are flying it seems like everywhere, street vendors come out in force and additional food stalls go up to keep up with demand.

For schoolchildren and teens who have been practicing for more than a month, it’s their time to shine. To the delight of onlookers from open windows and bystanders on the sidewalks below, marchers dressed in colorful uniforms and musicians playing a variety of drums, xylophones and brass instruments strut and sway through the streets. Other festivities include speeches by officiaries, concerts performed by municipal bands, and into the night dancing, more music, more food and the obligatory fireworks displays.

Note from animal welfare groups: Bombas will be booming and firecrackers will be ratta-tat-tatting throughout the day and into the night. If your pet suffers from these sounds you may want to consult your veterinarian beforehand for advice.

photos by Willy Posadas
SEPTEMBER 2017 GUIDE TO CULTURE AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**2** SAT., 7pm  **ART** Inauguration of *Asymmetric Reports III* by Mendel Samayoa with 25 recent works. The artist will be present at this event which will run through October 2. See highlight on page 27. Hotel/Casa Santo Domingo, The Artist’s Room, 3a calle oriente #28-A, *La Antigua* Guatemala.

**8** Fri., 10am (Spanish)  **WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE** *El Lenguaje del Flamenco*. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, *La Antigua*

**8** Fri., 7:30 (Spanish)  **THEATER** *La Frontera del Futuro*. Donation for the artist, Q35. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, *La Antigua*

**9** Sat., 8pm  **DANCE** *Flamenco de Ida y Vuelta* with Senén Sentio López (singer, Spain), Christian Talavera (guitar, México) y Johana De León de Sa-gone (dancer, Guatemala). Donation for the artist Q50. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, *La Antigua*

**10** Sun., 3pm  **MUSIC & THEATER** *Forrrrrrest*, an innovative visual musical with active participation of children on stage. The cast includes French artists Hypo & EDH performing electronic, experimental and organic music, accompanied by sound effects provided by the audience. Projected images of nature and forests complete this amazing performance. Galería de Arte de la Alianza Francesa, 5a calle 10-55, z. 1, *Guatemala City* ▲

**6 & 13, 20 & 27** Wed., & Oct. 4 & 11, 10am-12pm (Spanish)  **WORKSHOP** *Vida y Obra de Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* by Dieter Lehnhoff. Q825/Q620 for students and tourist guides. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final z. 10, *Guatemala City* ▼

**8** Fri., 10am (Spanish)  **WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE** *El Lenguaje del Flamenco*. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, *La Antigua*

**12** Tues., 7:45pm  **MUSIC** *Cosmopolite Jet*, electro-pop concert by Cléa Vincent. For more information visit www.alianzafrancesa.org.gt. Galería de Arte de la Alianza Francesa, 5a calle 10-55, z. 1, *Guatemala City* ▲

**13** Wed., 5pm  **ART** *Then She Said...* Women’s collective art show with work by Angelica Bauer, Irene Carlos, Tutti Claverie Carlow, Lucía del Pinal, Linnett Duflon, Deborah Duflon, Desirée Iturbide Dormond, Laurel Jacobson, Kendra McLaughlin, Mona Rose and Carin Steven. Galería Panza Verde, 5a av. sur #19, *La Antigua* ▼

**SAT., 7pm**  **ART** Inauguration of *Asymmetric Reports III* by Mendel Samayoa with 25 recent works. The artist will be present at this event which will run through October 2. See highlight on page 27. Hotel/Casa Santo Domingo, The Artist’s Room, 3a calle oriente #28-A, *La Antigua* Guatemala. ▼
**14 Thurs. CELEBRATION** begins for Independence Day, elementary school parades and bands, fireworks and marathon runners carrying torches from town to town. Expect to hear car horns, whistles, music and firecrackers. **Countrywide ▼**

**14 Thurs., 7:45pm** (French, Spanish s/titles) **OUTDOOR FILM** L’effet aquatique. Galería de Arte de la Alianza Francesa, 5a calle 10-55, z. 1, Guatemala City

**15 Fri. INDEPENDENCE DAY** Parades, marching bands, cultural activities, festivals—and plenty of pyrotechnics, (please comfort your animals on this day). **Countrywide**

**15 Fri. FERIA** Cultural and religious activities highlight this annual and vibrant fair. Quetzaltenango

**16 Sat., 8pm MUSIC**

Parisian singer Cléa Vincent (author, composer and singer) and her band ignites audiences with the Francophone pop scene featuring light-hearted songs with a discreet touch of musical electronics. Organized by the Alianza Francesa, donation, Q50. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte, between 3a & 4a calle, La Antigua ▼

**21 Thurs., 4pm** (Spanish) **CONFERENCE** La Cultura Gastronómica Ancestral y el Lienzo de Quauhquechollan by Ana Carlos. Q30/Q15, students with carnet and tourist guides. Casa Popenoe, 6a calle oriente #16, La Antigua

**22 Fri., 7pm MUSIC** Blues, folk and trova by Luis Ramírez. Donation for the artist, Q25. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, La Antigua ▼

**23 Sat., 11am ART** Inauguration of Mar de Mil Colores by artists from the Cartoon’s and Tercero Duarte Academies using varied techniques that are all related to the ocean. Through Fri., 29. Museo Ixchel, 6a calle final z. 10, Guatemala City

You can also view DATEBOOK online at TheAntiguaGuide.com/calendar
22 Fri., 10am-1pm  **GASTRONOMIC Fiesta de la Gastronomía** featuring an artisan products market. 6pm BAKERY WORKSHOP / TASTING yummy Chocolate Mousse. Q65, registration req. Alianza Francesa, 2a av. sur #25, La Antigua

23 Sat., 12pm  **GASTRONOMIC TOUR** within the *Fête de la Gastronomie*, incls. a trolley bus tour to restaurants to discover culinary treasures from France. Guided tour in French and Spanish. For details and price, visit www.alianzafrancesa.org.gt  Alianza Francesa, 2a av. sur #25, La Antigua

24 Sun., 10am  **GASTRONOMIC FESTIVAL Fête de la Gastronomie**, stands, sale of products, French cuisine classes, workshops, concerts and family shows. Alianza Francesa, 5a calle 10-55, z. 1, Guatemala City

26 Wed., & Thurs., 27th, 7:30pm  **DANCE La Magica de la Danza 2017** with Cecilia Stöckli & Stephan Moys, including invited dancers from El Salvador. Presented by El "Estudio de Danza Lisseth Aguilar Stöckli" the show features both classical and contemporary ballet. Info. 4142-3017 & 4192-4749. Solo Teatro Avenida Las Americas 7-20, Guatemala City

28 Thurs., 7pm (French, subtitles in Spanish)  **FILM** (comedy) *Je Fais Le Mort* (Hacerse el muerto). Free. Alianza Francesa, 2a av. sur #25, La Antigua

28 Thurs., 6:30pm (Spanish)  **CONFERENCE** *El Encuentro de Teotihuacán y los Mayas: Implicaciones Culturales en el Petén Central*. Q30 and Q15 for students and tourist guides. Museo Popol Vuh, 6a calle final z. 10, Guatemala City

29 Fri., 7:30pm (Spanish)  **THEATER** Superman; *Todas son mis hijas*. Monologue about violence against women. Donation for the artist, Q35. Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española, 6a av. norte between 3a & 4a calle, La Antigua

29 Fri., 10am  **ART** Inauguration of *Arte Toscana*, a collective art expo using various techniques by students at the Escuela de Arte and Colegio CEC Toscana. Museo Miraflares, 7a calle 21-55, Paseo Miraflares, Guatemala City

30 Sat., 1-6pm (Festival), 6-8pm (runway show)  **FESTIVAL/FASHION RUNWAY** GuateMágica unites the best in an array of artistic specialties: high fashion, painting, photography, sculpture, decoration, floral design, music and culinary art. Festival entrance, Q100; festival & runway show, Q295. (see DateBook Highlight, pg. 28) Convento de Santa Teresa the corner of 1a calle oriente and 4a avenida norte, La Antigua

26 Tues., 6:30pm  **BENEFIT DINNER** for *WINGS*, providing quality reproductive health education and services to young people, women and men, primarily from rural areas. Live music by Armonisas and a raffle of high-quality products donated by generous sponsors: Joyas Xibalbá, Cistha Fuentes, La Azotea, Toj, Corazón de Volcán and Monasita. Donation, Q150. Tickets on sale at the restaurant or info@wingsguate.org. Restaurante Fridas, 5a av. norte #29, Calle del Arco, La Antigua

29 Fri., 10am  **ART** Inauguration of *Arte Toscana*, a collective art expo using various techniques by students at the Escuela de Arte and Colegio CEC Toscana. Museo Miraflares, 7a calle 21-55, Paseo Miraflares, Guatemala City

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**SEPT 26, 27**
Mendel Samayoa, an avid free-wheeling motorcyclist, holds a degree in architecture from the Universidad de San Carlos, and his artistic passions embrace film, theater and painting.

His cinema credits include “Donde Acaban los Caminos,” “Looking for Paladin” (shot in La Antigua Guatemala), “La Vaca,” and the award-winning short films “Sweet Dalila” and “La Paciente.”

Samayoa has undertaken impressive theatrical productions as well, including “Tres Maneras de Mentir,” “En Clave de Comedia” and “Pintas y Paradas.”

According to an interview in La Hora (August 2016), his sensibilities have been inspired by remarkable masters in their field, including André Breton (literature), Salvador Dalí (painting) and Luis Buñuel (cinema).

About his art, he says, “My painting, at this point, is a summary that abstracts all of the above.”

Asymmetric Reports strings together more than 25 evocative, emblematic and hauntingly strong images that by definition seemingly fail to correspond to one another. “Briefcase” (above) brings to mind, perhaps, an almost robotic existence, a slippery walk on glimmering ice, brief flashes of color against a drab existence. “Poder” could speak to the isolation of power, brought on by a rise to the top of a stairway where one stands alone. The dark figures in “Cisma” adrift against a backdrop of thick golden colors provide an artistic expression of the title as defined by the word, “A split or division between strongly opposed sections or parties, caused by differences in opinion or belief.”

Samayoa’s work has been viewed extensively both at home in Guatemala at multiple art galleries as well as the Galería Kilómetro Cero, Palacio Nacional de la Cultura by invitation of the Ministerio de Cultura Nacional (July/August 2016). In 2017 he exhibited at the Center Cultural Sampedrano, San Pedro Sula, Honduras (February/March 2017) and The Other Art Fair at Victoria House, London, England (April 2017).

You can meet the artist on the evening of the inauguration at the Hotel Casa Santo Domingo, and there will be other opportunities for a tour/discussion with the artist throughout the month (dates to be announced).

Mark you calendar for early next year to catch Samayoa’s exhibit “Asymmetric Reports IV” at Casa Noj, Quetzaltenango, Jan. 13 – Feb. 13. He will also exhibit at Museo Ixchel del Traje Indígena, Guatemala City (dates pending).

To view more of his work, visit his online catalog at behance.net/elmendelba44 also facebook.com/elmuroguatemala and his webpage, mendelsamayoa.com
GuateMágica is an exclusive, new festival that praises Guatemalan culture during the nation’s most patriotic month. The inaugural event, set for Sept. 30 at Convento de Santa Teresa in La Antigua Guatemala, unites the best in an array of artistic specialties: high fashion, painting, photography, sculpture, decoration, floral design, music and culinary art.

Patrons will have an enriching, unique experience that exudes national pride amid a floral ambiance and typical Guatemalan theme, with proceeds benefiting the Diplomatic Ladies’ Charitable Organization. Organizing the event is UNIK’ Anita Lara.

Within the convent’s walls, the festival will have three scenarios. The central square and its fountain will be alive with scenic arts, including musicians, mimes, jugglers, giants and magicians. Guided tours go through 340 years of history and appreciate the floral designs. The atrium will feature expositions and sales kiosks: artists in action, sculpture, arts and crafts, high fashion, gourmet and beverage sampling. The hallways and interior lounges, which until 2007 served as prison cells, will be beautifully decorated with flower arrangements for the grand finale. Led by the designer Anita Lara, 20 international models will walk among patrons, who will be sitting comfortably sipping champagne.

Convento de Santa Teresa is at the corner of 1a calle oriente and 4a avenida norte in Antigua. Festival hours are 1-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30; tickets Q100. The runway show is 6-8 p.m. (7-8 p.m. red-flowers carpet entrance); ticket Q295 and allows entrance from 1 p.m. The organizer, UNIK’ Anita Lara, has 35 years of experience in staging social events and 18 years of experience in the world of fashion. The team has produced many events in Guatemala, focusing in the last years in catwalks with international models and assisting in fashion events in Paris, Lyon, New York, Las Vegas and Miami.

Contact UNIK’ Anita Lara at 2337-3888 anita@anitalara.com anitalara.com facebook.com/UNIKbyAnitaLara
How glorious a greeting the sun gives the mountains!
—John Muir
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FILM
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EXPOSITION
La Ruta Maya: Biodiversidad Prehispánica, Los Misterios de la Selva. Ceramic and stone archeological pieces that illustrate animals and plants that were part of the Prehispanic biodiversity.
EXPOSITION
Píldoras de Vida, Items to create awareness about human trafficking.
PHOTOGRAPHY
Vivimos del Bosque, Cuidamos del Bosque, A visual trip through Reserva de Biósfera Maya, Las Verapaces and Altiplano Occidental. Beautiful images of flowers, animals and archeological sites.
PHOTOGRAPHY
Color, Vida y Tradición. Documentary photography exhibition that portrays the peculiarity, cultural distinctions and idiosyncrasies of the countries that make up the Central American Integration System.
ART
La Arboleda, A pictorial exhibition, in which the young artists represent endemic trees from Guatemala.

ART Commentaries by Juan B. Juárez
“Potter-artist Hanne Lunder’s pottery goes from the utilitarian to the decorative, from the functional to the expressive, from the artisan to the artistic and from the pictorial to the sculptural, involving elements of the flora and the culture of the indigenous people of Guatemala in their designs which she is deeply knowledgeable.”
“Work by Gustavo García Muñoz is like a page written on water with a restless and meticulous calligraphy that invites you to immerse yourself in it and decipher the profound meaning of life which responds intensely to their immediate circumstances and its remote, biological, geological, and cosmic determinations.”

“Looking at a painting by Juan Carlos Calderón is to a certain extent to contemplate what movement is. The dynamic energy that he manages to convey, especially through his treatment of bulls, allows us to experience perspective through the eyes of an intriguing artist.”

“Potter-artist Hanne Lunder’s pottery goes from the utilitarian to the decorative, from the functional to the expressive, from the artisan to the artistic and from the pictorial to the sculptural, involving elements of the flora and the culture of the indigenous people of Guatemala in their designs which she is deeply knowledgeable.”
REVue Photo Contest

We invite you to participate in our MONTHLY PHOTO CONTEST for October 2017 with the theme PETS 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 12th of September will be eligible.

Te invitamos a participar en nuestro CONCURSO FOTOGRAFICO de Octubre 2017 con el tema MASCOTAS DE GUATEMALA.

Enviar (1) foto en ALTA RESOLUCION con el titulo, lugar donde fue tomada, su nombre y el sitio web para el crédito a: photos@revuemag.com

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

Serán elegibles las fotos recibidas hasta el 12 de Septiembre de 2017.
Enjoy a wonderful dinner with the charm of live music in our cozy setting, with a grand piano that is graced nightly by our favorite musicians from around the world. Music from **8pm to 10:30pm** with an additional cover of Q35 per person.

**Wednesdays** — Margie Sheran (Classical & Modern Piano)

**Thursdays** — Nelson Lunding

**Fridays** — Cuban Trio (Piano, congas, flute)

**Saturdays** — Ramiro Jiménez, acoustic guitar

**Sundays** — Ramiro y José, acoustic guitar & congas

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**Los Tres Tiempos**
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**Thursdays, 9:30 pm** — Los Que Somos: best live rock, pop, get-up ‘n’ dance music (English/Spanish) in the city, with Q35 Specialty Cocktails.

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**Del Arco Restaurant**
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**Puerta Once (Door 11)**
Tel: 7835-5604 1a calle poniente #11, La Antigua

**Rattle ‘N Hum**
4a avenida 16-11, zona 10, Guatemala City

**Saturdays, 7-10pm** — Grupo Friends

**Sundays, 1-4pm** — Marimba

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

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

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Sunday, October 1
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Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair. —Khalil Gibran
May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. —Edward Abbey

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If the sight of the blue skies fills you with joy, if a blade of grass springing up in the fields has power to move you, if the simple things of nature have a message that you understand, rejoice, for your soul is alive. —Eleonora Duse

Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer’s day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time. —John Lubbock

It’s tempting to go to the throat of the volcano to get the data, because if you do you’re a hero. It’s a battle between your mind and your emotions. If your emotions win out, you can get yourself in a lot of trouble. —Ken Wohletz

In nature, nothing is perfect and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bent in weird ways, and they’re still beautiful. —Alice Walker
The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do. —Galileo Galilei

For in the true nature of things, if we rightly consider, every green tree is far more glorious than if it were made of gold and silver. —Martin Luther
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"Fuego y Acatenango volcanoes" by Maria Luisa Crawford
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When we see animals doing remarkable things, how do we know if we’re simply seeing tricks or signs of real intelligence? Are talented animals just obeying commands, or do they have some kind of deeper understanding? One of the biggest challenges for animal researchers is to come up with tests that can distinguish between the two.

—Neil deGrasse Tyson
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El Salvador’s best-known dish is the pupusa, but how many people know that this country boasts a wide variety of foods beyond this tasty treat?

My El Salvador experience began at a young age when I lived in Quezaltepeque, a municipality in the Department of Chiquimula close to the border. I recall making trips with my grandmother via chicken buses to Santa Ana, a beautiful colonial city, and passing through many pueblitos (small villages) along the way before reaching San Salvador, the capital, and our final destination.

From all the Central American countries, Salvadorian cuisine is in close proximity to Guatemala’s in some aspects, especially in this region. After all, El Salvador shares the border with Guatemala at the southeast and people migrate to and from these countries from time to time.

El Salvador’s Pacific Coast has a variety of seafood dishes, from raw oysters on the half shell and conchas (black clams) to fried fish platters containing papitas (French fries) and a salad. Frescos (fresh fruit drinks), such as the colorful and traditional refresco de ensalada (salad drink), accompany most meals.

In many small towns in Latin America, time seems to stand still...
when it comes to traditional treats. I recall that when I was a young girl, street vendors sold Salvadorian pupusas and yuca con chicarron (cassava with spicy pork rind) door to door in Quezaltepeque. When I went back to visit recently, this was still the case, plus now the vendors even have web pages.

One thing is certain, when food is casual and delicious, crowds gather, and parks and plazas still are the perfect places to find some of the most popular and tasty fare. This is the case in Santa Ana, where at the park in front of the cathedral you can buy maicillo (tiny grain corn) to feed the pigeons, and other tasty treats.

From tamales and tasty stews and soups to chuletas de cerdo and chao mein de pollo, El Salvador has many foods to offer from region to region and from town to town. After all, Central Americans share basic ingredients, such as corn, beans, chilies and tomatoes, and these combined with native ingredients and culture produce the culinary and diversity of each region.

Here is my humble rendition of a dish that has become a favorite in my kitchen, not only because it is healthy, easy and delicious, but because it reminds me of my childhood and those door-to-door vendors from the place from where I have so many happy memories.

**YUCA CON CHICHARRÓN Y CHILE**
Yuca with Spicy Lime Cabbage Slaw and Crispy Pork Rind

Recipe by Amalia Moreno-Damgaard (AmaliaLLC.com)

There are different versions of this dish in El Salvador and Guatemala. I like to play with spicy raw and cooked ingredients for contrasting flavor and texture. Some curtidos may be cooked as the one used over pupusas, while others may be raw like a quick slaw.
Serves 2 to 4 people

6 cups water
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 1/2 pounds fresh peeled yuca, cut into 1-inch slices
1 batch curtido crudo (spicy lime cabbage slaw) – recipe below
1/2 cup crushed crispy pork rind

In a medium saucepan, bring the water to a quick boil and add the salt. Add the yuca and cook it until it’s soft but not mushy (about 15 minutes). Alternatively, steam the yuca until cooked (25 to 30 minutes).

Drain the yuca in a colander in the sink. Let the yuca cool slightly. Take out the stringy inner core (if visible) and discard it. With a fork, break the yuca pieces into small chunks, but do not mash them.

Serve the yuca topped with the slaw and pork rind and add additional lime juice, if desired.

Curtido Crudo (spicy lime cabbage slaw): In a bowl, thoroughly mix 3 cups shredded cabbage; 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lime juice; 1/2 cup julienned carrots or red bell pepper; 1 thinly sliced Serrano, jalapeño or other hot pepper of choice; and 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt. Taste and adjust seasonings, if needed.

Amalia’s Notes
Frozen yuca is available at Latino markets throughout the United States. It is also available fresh at some grocery stores. It takes a bit of time and effort to cut and peel the fresh yuca, but this can save you some money. Peel it as you would peel potatoes. Crispy pork rind is available at Latino markets by the meat section.
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It appears to be a law that you cannot have a deep sympathy with both man and nature.
—Henry David Thoreau

It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.
—Ansel Adams
The mountains are calling and I must go.
—John Muir

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher. —William Wordsworth

Over every mountain there is a path, although it may not be seen from the valley. —Theodore Roethke

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No culture was as sophisticated as the Maya in trading different obsidian stones with varied colors and bands to use for decorations as well as tools. Because every individual volcanic explosion creates an obsidian blend that’s distinctive and different, archaeologists use the tools and jewels from pre- Columbian digs to help in dating. Check out museum collections to see the great varieties of obsidian and of Maya uses.

Metaphysical healing worldwide, strong in Guatemalan village tradition, finds healing from obsidian, removing negativity with the stone. Hikers spot unique pieces along volcanic trails, good souvenirs to take home as long as they’re not tools or ancient decorations. Photographers find the right obsidian hangings or bracelets enhance the beautiful face they’re capturing. Tourists find inexpensive but attractive necklaces or earrings to give friends. Whatever the use, seek and enjoy the fascinating shades and forms fresh from nature’s eruptions.

Think obsidian, and probably a black, sharp rock comes to mind, not much of a gemstone, with a name that sounds more scientific than a glamorous jewel. Blame the name on a Roman explorer, Obsidius, who wandered into Ethiopia and brought the Caesars back the dark natural glass. Blame the plain-Jane black in your mind on the fact that most of this volcanic rock is dark, but look for the more sensuous varieties that can be greenish, rainbow, brown, sometimes “snow-flake” with white crystals imbedded, all depending on its source and how it quickly cooled.
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**Guatemalan Vocabulary via Slang**

**CHISPUDO**  
means  
A smart or efficient person

**CHILERO**  
means  
Beautiful or pretty thing

El niño es muy CHISPUDO  
Tu camisa está CHILERA

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**Guatemala to San Salvador**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTURES</th>
<th>ARRIVALS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 hrs.</td>
<td>12:15 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 hrs.</td>
<td>15:30 hrs.</td>
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(DEPARTURES)  
(Via las Chinamas) Barberena

(Arrivals)  
(Via la Hachadura) Escuintla

**San Salvador to Guatemala**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>6:30 hrs.</td>
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(DEPARTURES)  
(Via las Chinamas)

(Arrivals)

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The mountains seem to have conquered us long before we set foot on them, and they will remain long after our brief existence. This indomitable force of the mountains gives us humans a blank canvas on which to paint the drive of discovery and, in the process, test the limits of human performance. —Conrad Anker
“Guardianes del Lago” de Santa Cruz La Laguna, Sololá, by Leonardo Sajbin-Gt Fotografía

“Volcán San Pedro” Sololá, Atitlán, by Nehemias Sancoy
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MAP BY EVA RAMÍREZ
I wish to be an inspector of volcanoes. I want to study cloud formations and memorize the wind and learn by heart the habits of the ponderosa pine.
—Edward Abbey

Nature is based on harmony. So it says if we want to survive and become more like nature, then we actually have to understand that it's cooperation versus competition.
—Bruce Lipton

"Amanecer mágico en el volcán Atitlán (Atitlán Volcano)" Panajachel, Sololá, by Juan Carlos Barrios
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The origin of volcanic energy is one of the blankest mysteries of science, and it is strange indeed, that a class of phenomena so long familiar to the human race and so zealously studied through all the ages should be so utterly without explanation. (1880) —Clarence Edward Dutton

“Santa María y Santiaguito”
Viejo Palmar, Quetzaltenango by Luis A. Hernández S.
I have seen many storms in my life. Most storms have caught me by surprise, so I had to learn very quickly to look further and understand that I am not capable of controlling the weather, to exercise the art of patience and to respect the fury of nature. —Paulo Coelho
You had the courage and wisdom to love. You, each one of you here who has been touched by the vision, courage, and compassion of Doctor Behrhorst who lead the way to building a foundation of hope.

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When there was fear you stood fearlessly.

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Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain. —Henry David Thoreau

There are moments when all anxiety and stated toil are becalmed in the infinite leisure and repose of nature.
—Henry David Thoreau

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AROUND the back and up the stairs). Cafe Nepal, Calle Principal (across from Kodak, above the bak-

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With a few flowers in my garden, half a dozen pictures and some books, I live without envy. —Lope de Vega

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PET Q’s & A’s by Cynthia Burski, DVM

**Question:**

My cat Zeus has a “slight” case of ear mites. I’ve been treating him with a product that I bought in a pet store in Guatemala City for ear mites. His ears look better, to be sure, should I take him to the veterinarian to confirm that I’m using the correct medication?

You didn’t mention the name or the active ingredient of the product you purchased. Some of these treatments involve putting drops directly into the ear. This can be challenging because many cats squirm and struggle as you attempt to medicate them in this way. Other treatments can be administered topically on the fur on the back of the neck, which is much easier. To gauge the effectiveness of the any treatment, material from the ear has to be examined under a microscope to ensure that no mites or eggs are present. Just because it looks better does not necessarily mean that the problem is resolved.

Also keep in mind that a cat does not necessarily have ear mites just because it shakes its head or scratches at its ears. Actually, it is unlikely that an adult cat develops an ear mite infection. Heavy wax buildup is a more likely case of scratching and shaking.

Play it safe, and have your veterinarian evaluate your cat’s ears and provide you with a correct diagnosis.
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1 Caballería = 45.12 hectares
1 Caballería = 64 manzanas
1 Hectare = 10,000 mt²
1 Hectare = 1.7 acres
1 Manzana = 10,000 vr²
1 Manzana = 6,988 mt²
1 Varra = 32.9 inches
1 Yard = 36 inches (3 ft)
1 Meter = 39.37 inches

REVUE’s Property Conversion Chart: Note: the precise size of a vara depends on which source you use!

6 STEPS ON HOW TO NAVIGATE THE REAL ESTATE SALES PROCESS IN GUATEMALA

— Check for a clear title —
When the final price has been arrived at, the buyer and seller will use a lawyer to verify that the property title is clear of all liens and encumbrances.

— Sign the “Promesa de Compra Venta” —
If this proves to be the fact, then the lawyer will draft an agreement referred to as a “Promesa de Compra Venta.” This document is a private document between the buyer and the seller and outlines all the conditions of the sale.

The normal conditions would be the actual selling price, the date of closing the sale, any items that may be included with the property etc.

— Put up your deposit —
At this point, the buyer normally gives a non refundable deposit to the seller of an agreed amount. Make sure you’ve done your homework on the property before this point. If you don’t end up going forward with the transaction, you will not get your deposit back.

— Legally transfer title —
When the agreed closing date arrives, the buyer and seller meet with the lawyer and enter into another agreement referred to as a “Compra Venta.” This document is the legal transfer of the title to the buyer.

The buyer is expected to present the balance of the purchase price at this time. This might make foreign buyers a little uneasy, but here in Guatemala the deposit is paid directly to the seller. If they receive no earnest money with the Promesa, there is no deal. There are no escrow accounts in the country involving real estate transactions, with a few exceptions.

— Register title —
The lawyer will then present the “Compra Venta” document to the Central registry in Guatemala City, and within 30 days, the title will be recorded and the buyer will receive the legal document which is called the “Escrípula”.

— Pay your sales tax —
The government charges a sales tax equal to 12% of the registered value at the time of closing.

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Climb the mountains and get their good tidings.
—John Muir

Mountains are earth's undecaying monuments.
—Nathaniel Hawthorne

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