Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Newsletter

Esquina del Presidente



By: Andre Lopez

¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to our first edition of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica Newsletter of this school year. **Our theme for this newsletter is Guatemala!**

Nestled in the heart of Central America lies Guatemala, a stunning country bordered by Mexico, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador. From its dramatic volcanic landscapes and lush rainforests to the tranquil beauty of Lake Atitlán, Guatemala is a land of breathtaking contrasts. Once a major cradle of the ancient Maya civilization, the country continues to boast a deeply rooted indigenous culture, vibrant traditional textiles, and a rich culinary heritage, all of which we gladly dive into in this edition

Hermanos Unidos de Servite



By: Edan Duque

In early September, the members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica voted to change the name of the Servite Spanish Club. Many names had come up; however, one stood out from all others, and that was *Hermanos Unidos de Servite*. The purpose of this name change was to shift the meaning from a general name, such as the 'Spanish Club,' to one that truly represents our new values to the student body. The values we will focus on are Latino Power, Hermandad (Brotherhood), and Cultura (Culture).

Alongside this name change, we plan to do new and fun activities that allow Servite students to celebrate Latino culture in a safe space, where anyone can have a good time. These activities include a Lotería tournament with a prize, a potluck where students bring their own food from home to share a meal together, and off-campus activities on the weekend. Some examples of these off-campus activities include going to a local Latino restaurant and even having watch parties for different sporting events, where we create memorable times.

On September 10th, during Club Rush, we showcased this to the student body, and many students of all grade levels and backgrounds had signed up. We have 84 students signed up for Hermanos Unidos de Servite and plan to attract many more into the club.

Food



By: Mariano Ocampo Lee

The national dish of Guatemala, a rich, hearty, and slightly nutty stew made with chicken, beef, or pork in a thick sauce of roasted red chiles, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, and tomatoes. It's called Pepián, It combines indigenous Mayan traditions with Spanish colonial influences into a savory, slightly smoky, and spiced dish. Commonly made with chicken (pepián de pollo), beef, or pork. Typically served hot in a deep bowl with a side of plain white rice and fresh corn tortillas. Often garnished or accompanied by avocado slices or small corn tamales.

Traditions



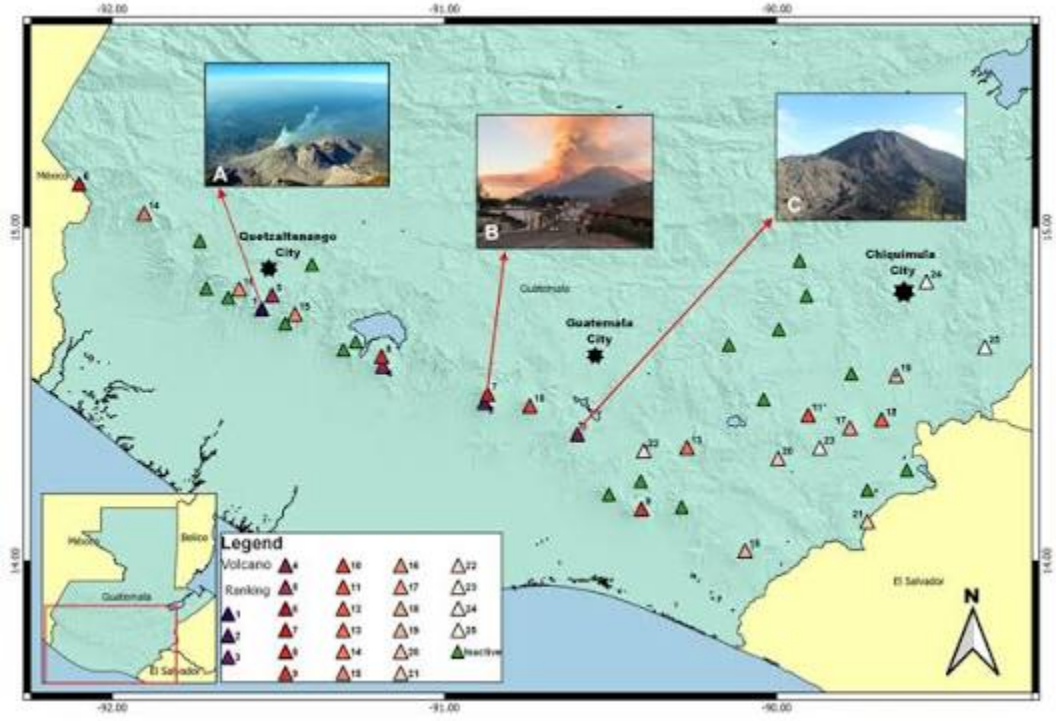
By: Daniel Perez

In Guatemala, traditions are deeply rooted in the Catholic faith, with the most popular being Semana Santa. Semana Santa is a religious and cultural celebration commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, marked by massive processions and intricate street art. During this week-long tradition, the streets come alive with vibrant colors and solemn processions, as participants carry elaborate floats depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ. Local artisans create intricate carpets of sawdust, flowers, and fruit along the procession routes, which are then walked upon by the faithful. Families gather to witness these events, reinforcing their faith and cultural identity. Semana Santa is a profound expression of Guatemalan devotion and a significant cultural spectacle.

Fun Facts!

By: Santiago Guillén

1. Guatemala has over 30 volcanoes, and a few—like Fuego, Pacaya, and Santiaguito—are active.



2. The ancient Maya worshipped the cacao tree and ground beans to make a rich, bitter ritual drink, making the region a true cradle of chocolate.



3. Volcán Tajumulco stands at 4,220 meters (13,845 feet) and is the highest point in Central America.



4. Lake Atitlán is famously surrounded by steep volcanoes and is the deepest lake in Central America.



5. The name "Guatemala" comes from *Cuauhtēmallān*, an Indigenous Nahuatl word that means "place of many trees".





6. The resplendent quetzal is the national bird, and it is so revered that Guatemala's official currency is also named the quetzal.





Sport



By: Adam Roca

In Guatemala, football (soccer) is the most popular and culturally significant sport, deeply woven into the country's national identity. Introduced in the early 1900s, it quickly became a nationwide passion and is today anchored by the Liga Nacional de Fútbol de Guatemala. For many young Guatemalans, the sport represents a dream of opportunity, community pride, and a path to international stages like the CONCACAF Champions Cup or leagues abroad. Ultimately, football in Guatemala is far more than just a game; it is a powerful symbol of unity, passion, and collective hope that brings the entire nation together.

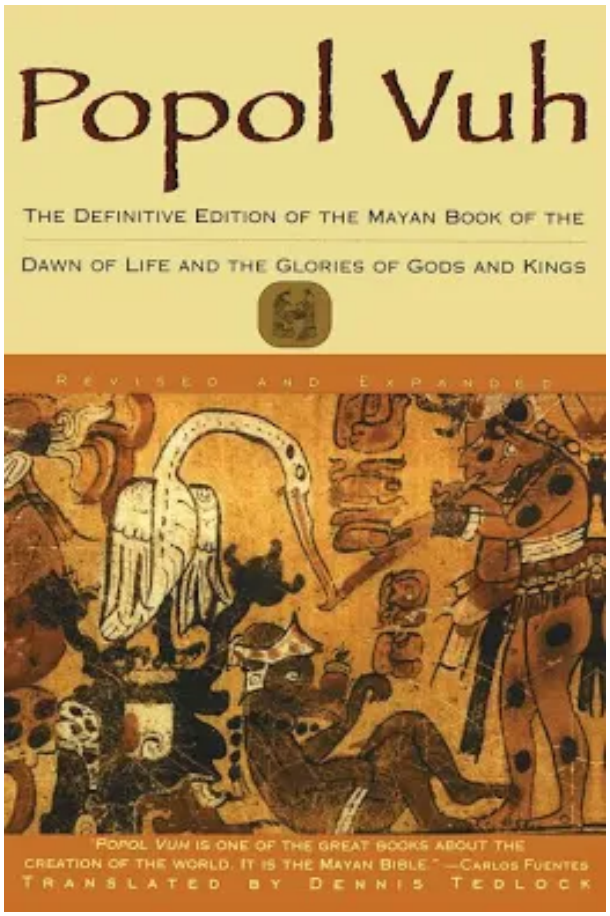
Game/Pastimes



By: Andre Lopez

In Guatemala, trompos (wooden spinning tops) are one of the most culturally significant traditional pastimes, deeply woven into childhood and neighborhood identity. Handcrafted for generations, it remains a nationwide passion anchored by schoolyard battles and local street fairs. For many young Guatemalans, mastering the top represents a dream of skill, community pride, and a path to neighborhood status through complex tricks. Ultimately, playing trompos in Guatemala is far more than just a pastime; it is a powerful symbol of camaraderie, heritage, and shared joy that brings communities together.

Book



By: Andrew Garcia

Popol Vuh is a text recounting the Mayan creation myth, the exploits of the Hero Twins Hunahpú and Xbalanqué, and a chronicle of the K'iche' people of Guatemala, one of the Maya peoples. This book is a foundational sacred narrative of these people from long before the Spanish conquest of the Maya. The novel's name "*Popol Vuh*" translates as "Book of the Community" or "Book of Counsel"—literally "Book (*vuh*, a Maya codex) that pertains to the mat," since a woven mat was used as a royal throne in ancient K'iche' society and symbolized the unity of the community. It was originally preserved through oral tradition until approximately 1550, when it was recorded in writing. The documentation of the *Popol Vuh* is credited to the 18th-century Spanish Dominican friar Francisco Ximénez, who prepared a manuscript with a transcription in K'iche' and parallel columns with translations into Spanish.

Volcán Acatenango



By: Lucas Alfaro-Chuan

Volcán de Acatenango is a large stratovolcano in the south-central highlands of Guatemala that reaches about 13,000 feet above sea level, making it the third highest volcano in Central America. Though it is a dormant volcano, its neighbor, Volcán de Vuego, is one of the most active volcanoes in the country and is even ranked on the National Geographic Best of the World list. Among global travel communities and outdoor publications, it is constantly ranked as a top travel experience in Latin America. The hike consists of a front-row show to Fuego erupting from a safe distance from Acatenango, including an incredible view of lava and smoke. The 2-day overnight trek takes visitors through different landscapes, including forests, cloud forests, and volcanic terrain. Overlooking Lake Atitlan and the colonial UNESCO city of Antigua, Acatenango is an absolute non-negotiable to visit due to its signature views of the beautiful Sierra Madre mountains and valleys, thus no true Guatemalan journey is concluded without a stop to the iconic Volcán de Acatenango.

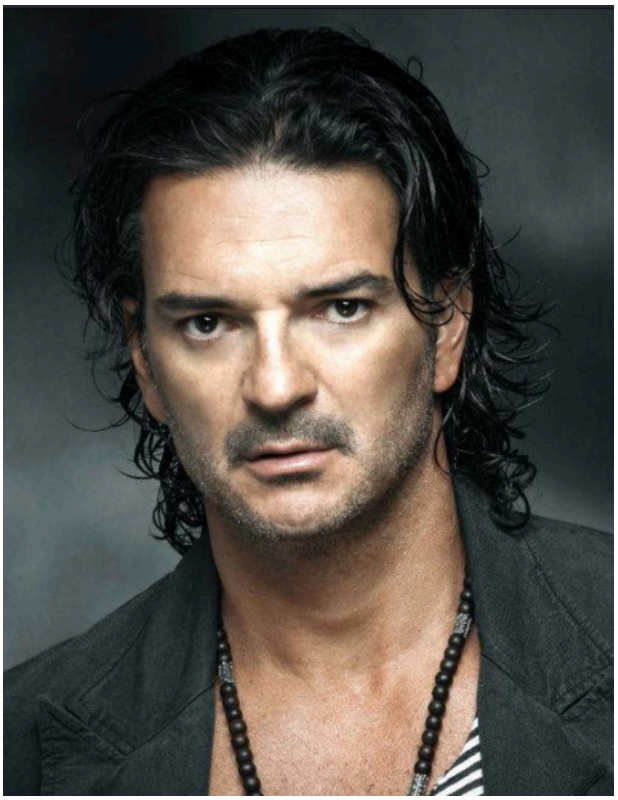
Movie



By: Alejandro Cueto

Ixcanul is a Guatemalan drama about a 17-year-old girl, Maria, who lives with her parents on a coffee plantation near an active volcano. Her family forces her to marry the plantation overseer, but she refuses and hopes for a different life. This film explores the culture, Indigenous traditions, the barriers she faces, and poverty.

Famous Singer



By: Kenji Yamashiroya

In Guatemala, Ricardo Arjona is one of the most successful and influential singer-songwriters Guatemala has produced. Known for his blend of pop, rock, ballads, and Afro-Caribbean styles, Arjona was born in 1964 and initially pursued a career in education before dedicating himself to music. Over several decades, he has sold more than 80 million albums. His music tackles complex themes, including relevant ones today, such as political corruption and immigration, gaining him a fiercely loyal global fanbase. His landmark albums *Animal Nocturno* (1993) and *Historias* (1994) propelled him to international stardom, earning him numerous Grammy and Billboard awards. In fact, he launched his own record label, called Metamorfosis, in 2011 to maintain complete creative control over his poetic and poignant musical legacy.

Interesting fact Ricardo Arjona's daughter is Adria Arjona, known for Hollywood movies such as Father of the Bride, Morbius, or series like True Detective, Andor, or Good Omens	

Close to home





One of our friars,Maximus Vallejo,plays for the Guatemalan Youth National Soccer Team. We are filled with pride, and it is an honor to add him to our Guatemalan edition of our newsletter, where he shares a little of his experience.

“In Guatemala, it was a unique and different experience. When I was with the national team, I stayed in the dorms with the rest of the team and coaches without my parents. The food was pretty good overall, with a lot of beans and bread in every meal. It meant a lot to me to play for the national team because my grandma was born in Guatemala, so I was representing my family while playing there. It was also challenging off the field to have a lot of conversations because I don't speak the best Spanish. It wasn't hard to play soccer with a language barrier because soccer is a universal language.”

DIA DE MUERTOS is coming soon



Dia de Muertos is celebrated on November 1 and 2. It is a celebration to give respect to the dead and to remember the deceased people in a family. The family prepares the house with an ofrenda. The ofrenda is an altar with many symbols and decorations. Some of the items you will find at the ofrenda are a photo of the deceased, cempasuchil (marigolds), candles or incense, and food the deceased loved.

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