

Delve Deeper into "Discovering Dominga"

A film by Patricia Flynn with Mary Jo McConahay

This multi-media resource list provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Discovering Dominga" that premieres on July 8th at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings)

When 29-year-old Iowa housewife Denese Becker decides to return to the Guatemalan village where she was born, she begins a journey towards finding her roots, but one filled with harrowing revelations. Denese, born Dominga, was nine when she became her family's sole survivor after a massacre of Maya peasants. Two years later, she was adopted by an American family. In "Discovering Dominga," Denese's journey home is both a voyage of self-discovery and a political awakening, bearing searing testimony to a hemispheric tragedy and a shameful political crime. Produced in Association with KQED. An Independent Television Service (ITVS) and Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB) co-presentation. An Active Voice Selection.

FICTION

Following is a list of books that depict the lives of people mistreated by their various governments and provide insight into survivors' triumphs and tragedies:

Adult Fiction:

Allende, Isabel. *Of Love and Shadows*; translated from the Spanish by Margaret Sayers Penden. New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 1987.

Benitez, Sandra. *Bitter Grounds*. New York: Hyperion, 1997.

Fontes, Monserrat. *Dreams of the Centaur: A Novel*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1996.

Fraxedas, J. Joaquin. *The Lonely Crossing of Juan Cabrera*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993.

Goldman, Francisco. *The Long Night of the White Chickens*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1992.

Henley, Patricia. *Hummingbird House*. Denver: MacMurray & Beck, 1999.

Montemayer, Carlos. *Gambusino: A Novel*; translated from the Spanish by John Copeland. Kaneohe, Hawaii: Plover Press; Chicago: Distributed by the Academy of Chicago Publishers, 1997.

Vargas Llosa, Mario. *The Feast of the Goat*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001.

Young Adult Fiction:

Garcia, Cristina. *The Aguero Sisters*. New York: Knopf, 1997.

Danticat, Edwidge. *The Farming of Bones*. New York: Soho Press, 1998.

Temple, Frances. *Taste of Salt: A Modern Story of Haiti*. New York: HarperTrophy, 1992.

Juvenile Fiction:

Carling, Amelia Lau. *Momma and Papa Have a Store*. New York: Penguin Putman Books for Young Readers, 1997.

Castaneda, Omar, S. et al. *Abuela's Weave*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1993.

Castenada, Omar, S. *Among the Volcanoes*. New York: Lodestar Books, 1991.

Castenada Omar, S. *Red Midnight*. New York: HarperCollins, 2002.

Czernecki, Stefan et al. *The Sleeping Bread*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1992.

Markel, Michelle. *Gracias, Rosa*. Morton Grove, IL.: A. Whitman, 1995.

Martin, Marilyn S. et al. *Pedro of Guatemala*. Crockett, KY: Rod & Staff Publishers, Incorporated, 1997.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Red Midnight*. New York: Harper Collins, 2002.

NONFICTION

Information on the country of Guatemala including its antiquities, politics, government, civil rights movement, state-sponsored terrorism, and the lives of human rights workers is listed below:

Adult Nonfiction:

Heptig, Vince. *A Mayan Struggle: Portrait of a Guatemalan People in Danger*. Fort Worth, TX: MayaMedia, 1997.

Kelly, Joyce. *An Archaeological Guide to Northern Central America: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1996.

Menchú, Rigoberta. *Crossing Borders: Rigoberta Menchú; translated and edited by Ann Wright*. London; New York: Verso, 1998.

Montgomery, John. *Tikal: An Illustrated History: The Ancient Maya Capital*. New York: Hippocrene Books, 2001.

Ortiz, Dianna. *The Blindfold's Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth*. Dianna Ortiz with Patricia Davis. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2002.

Perera, Victor. *Unfinished Conquest: The Guatemalan Tragedy*. Berkeley, CA.: University Press, 1993.

Prechtel, Martin. *Long Life, Honey*

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in the Heart: A Story of Initiation and Eloquence from the Shores of a Mayan Lake. New York: Jeremy Tarcher/Putman, 1999.

Schlesinger, Stephen and Kinzer, Stephen. *Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala.* Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1982.

Wilkinson, Daniel. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.

Young Adult Nonfiction:

Haynes, Tricia. *Guatemala.* Broomall, PA.: Chelsea House Publishers, 1999.

Reese, Lynn. *Weaving the Heavens-Mayan Women in Precolumbian Guatemala.* Berkeley, CA: Women in World History Curriculum, 1944.

Sheehan, Sean. *Guatemala.* Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 1998.

Shields, Charles, J. *Guatemala.* Philadelphia: Mason Crest Publishers, 2002.

Silverstone, Michael. *Rigoberta Menchú: Defending Human Rights in Guatemala.* New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 1999.

Juvenile Nonfiction:

Ashabranner, Brent. *Children of the Maya: A Guatemalan Indian Odyssey.* New York: Dodd, Mead, 1986.

Black, Nancy, J. et al. *Guatemala: Land of the Maya.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Silver Burdett Press, 1998.

Brill, Marlene, Targ. *Journey for Peace: The Story of Rigoberta Menchú.* New York: Dutton, 1996.

Dahl, Michael. *Guatemala.* Arizona: Capstone Press, Inc., 1998.

Franklin, Kristine, L. (ed.). *Out of the Dump: Writings and Photographs by Children from Guatemala; translated from the Spanish by Kristine L. Franklin.* New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepherd Books, 1995.

Hermes, Jules. *Children of Guatemala.* Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 1997.

Lazo, Caroline. *Rigoberta Menchú.* Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Silver Burdett Press, 1994.

Malone, Michael. *A Guatemalan Family.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, 1996.

Schemenauer, Elma. *Guatemala.* Chanhassen, MN: Child's World, Incorporated, 1999.

Solbiati, Romano et al. *Mayan Tikal.* Chicago, IL: Raintree Publishers, 2001.

Waterlow, Julia. *A Family from Guatemala.* Chicago, IL: Raintree Publishers, 1998.

VIDEOS

Adult Documentary:

"Also Known As Dominga Sic Ruiz" By Eros Hoagland and Josiah Hooper.
<http://www.pewfellowships.org/conferences/dv/screenings.html>
(Documentary on Denise Becker)

"Approach of Dawn: Forging Peace in Guatemala." Films for the Humanities and Sciences. Princeton, New Jersey: c. 1997 (53 min.) (Portraits of three Mayan women working for peace)

"Digging for the Truth." By Caroline Lindsay-Noble, @ 2002 Amnesty International. (30. min.) (Documentary on Denise Becker)

"Guatemala: A Journey to the End of Memories." Directed by Ilan Ziv. First Run/Icarus Films. c. 1986 (55 min.) (Describes "model villages" built by Guatemala's post 1986 government to lure refugees to return home)

"Guatemala: Roads of Silence." Directed by Felix Zurita. The Cinema Guild. c.1988 (59 min.) (Explores the conditions of the Guatemalan Indians victimized by their government)

"Guatemala: When the People Lead." Contribution by Merram Smith and Michael Simpson. The Video Project. c.1993 (29 min.) (Follows the journey home of the first wave of indigenous Guatemalan from their Mexican refugee camp)

"The Houses Are Full of Smoke, Vol. 1: Guatemala." WinStar Home/Video. Mystic Fire Video. c. 1987 (58 min.) (Discusses United States policy toward Guatemala)

"Journey Home: Accompaniment in Guatemala." Directed by Robin Lloyd and Contributed by Greg Guma. Green Valley Media. c. 1993 (30 min.) (Explores the contributions of international organizations in aiding returning refugees to demand and retain their rights)

"Maya: The Blood of Kings." Directed by Joel Westbrook. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Video and Television. c. 1995 (48 min.) (Narrates the accomplishments and decline of a highly developed culture when Europe was still in the Dark Ages)

"Maya: The Lords of the Jungle." Produced and Directed by John Angier. Alexandria, VA: Public Broadcasting Associates/PBS Home Video. c. 1995 (58 min.)

"New Directions: Women of Zimbabwe; Women of Guatemala; Women of Thailand."

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Women Make Movies, Inc. c. 2001 (90 min.) (Reveals the power of women in developing nations)

Young Adult and Juvenile Documentary:

"The Central America Close-Up. El Salvador. Guatemala." Produced by Joseph Towle. Maryknoll, New York: MaryKnoll World Productions. c. 199? (28.min) (Narrates the story of a fourteen-year old girl whose ancient traditions are being eroded by outside influences) *Young Adult*

"Children of Guatemala." Coronet, The Multimedia Company/ M T I Film & Video. c. 1991 (27min.) (Day in the life series) *Ages 9-13*

"Dirty Secrets: Jennifer, Everado and the CIA in Guatemala." New Day Films. c. 1998 (56 min.) (Describes the courageous struggles of Jennifer Harbury to find her husband who was imprisoned by the Guatemalan army) *Young Adult*

"Sayaxche, Guatemala." Maryknoll, New York: Maryknoll World Productions. c.200? (22 min.) (Discusses the peace accords and returning refugees' hopes and attempts to rebuild their lives near Tikal, the Mayan sacred place) *Young Adult*

WEBSITES

Numerous websites contain historical and current data on Guatemala. Many are sponsored by local and international organizations and offer ways in which one may become involved in helping and learning more about this ancient, beautiful country.

Mayan Culture, History and the Chixoy Dam:

<http://www.globalexchange.org/campaigns/guatemala/history.html>
<http://www.quetzalnet.com/QuetzalNET/MayaCulture.html>
<http://www.damsreport.org/docs/kbase/contrib/soc211.pdf>

Human Rights Organizations/Global Awareness and Educational Centers:

<http://www.fhrg.org>

The Foundation for Human Rights in Guatemala (Located in Chicago).

<http://www.rightsaction.org>

Rights Action (supports community projects in Central America).

<http://www.nisgua.org/>

The Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (Seeks responsible United States policies for this area).

<http://www.nisgua.org/gnib/>

Guatemala News and Information Bureau.

<http://shr.aaas.org/guatemala/ceh/report/english/default.html>

United Nations Truth Commission.

Rabinal Widows and Orphans:

<http://www.forefrontleaders.org/features/jesus>

Profile of [Jesús Tecú Osorio](#) and the volunteer organization that aids survivors of the Rio Negro massacre and their families.