Dear Members & Friends:

Join us... and discover the enchantment of Guatemala, December 18-26, 2012!

This expedition offers a chance to visit the lovely highlands of Guatemala during the holiday season. At this time, the local Maya people put on fiestas, dances, processions, and religious celebrations, creating an exceptional air of excitement and interest.

Also enjoy the historic cities of Chichicastenango and Antigua, and village life around the jewel of the Americas, Lake Atitlan. The expedition culminates at the renowned Maya ruins of Tikal.

Leadership by Grace Evans, a specialist in Mayan heritage, crafts, and archaeology, will offer an exceptional winter holiday!

Join us!

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.

For AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions

AAAS Travels • Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society & American Chemical Society

CHRISTMAS IN GUATEMALA
Including Lake Atitlan, Tikal, and Chichicastenango
December 18-26, 2012

A Special Expedition for Members and Friends of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society
Day 1 – Miami to Guatemala City & Antigua
Fly from Miami to Guatemala City, the capital of Guatemala since 1775. Transfer to Antigua. Welcome social, dinner, and trip orientation. El Convento Hotel (2 nights).

Day 2 – Antigua.
Today we will explore Antigua, one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the Americas. Antigua is set amid three magnificent volcanoes, one of which is now active. Founded in 1542, Antigua has endured numerous earthquakes. White colonial buildings line cobbled streets where local merchants may tempt you with helados and lovely crafts for sale. See the historic Palace of the Capitán (former seat of the colonial government) and Palacio del Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) may catch your eye. The Museo de Santiago houses a collection of historic weapons and artifacts. We will see several lovely cathedrals, once lavishly furnished and with gilded interiors, which suffered repeated repairs due to earthquakes, yet survive to tempt photographers with their charm and ornamentation. B/L

Day 3 – Chichicastenango: Market Day & Fiesta.
Morning departure to the market town of Chichicastenango, in the Guatemala Highlands three hours away. Surrounded by mountain peaks and valleys, “Chichi” boasts one of the finest markets in Central America and is famous for its Mayan citizens and religious ceremonies. B/Pickup at your hotel and travel to Chichicastenango, Guatemala City. Round trip. Passado de Don Rodrigo or Hotel Atitlan (3 nights). B/L/D

Day 4 – Chichicastenango: Fiesta of Santo Tomas.
Today we will have all day to enjoy the Fiesta of Santo Tomas in Chich. The five-day fiesta, which ends today, is the finest religious festival of the year and includes processions, dances, music, and fireworks. Look for distinctive Mayan pyramids. The air smolders with incense and expedition leader; beverages at meals; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, tip to drivers; baggage handling; leadership; administration.

Expedition Fee:
$2,995 per person plus airfare of $695 from Miami to Guatemala City, round trip.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:
The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure date plus a handling fee of $100 per person. Thereafter, no refunds for cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place is replaced only if the $100 handling fee is included. All cancellations will be processed by the expedition office and all money will be returned. No refunds will be made for any reason after the first day of the expedition. There will be no refunds for any part of the program which is not undertaken. Refunds of unused airplane tickets will be handled by the carrier in accordance with airline terms and conditions. There are no refunds for expenses incurred by individuals upon return from the program. There are no refunds for expenses incurred by individuals upon return from the program. This program is based on a minimum of 15 participants and will not operate with fewer participants. Registration is not transferable. The Captain and expedition leader reserve the right to change trip itineraries as they may deem necessary in order to ensure the safety of guests and to offer the best possible tour experience. The right to change itineraries is in the sole judgment of the expedition leader.

EXPEDITION FEES:
Once you book your space, you must pay the entire cost of a space.

RESERVATIONS:
For information call Maria at Betchart Expeditions Inc. (telephone) (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910 email: Maria@betchartexpeditions.com

Questions?
YES! We want to join the Christmas in Guatemala Expedition, December 18-28, 2012, offered by AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions. Please reserve ____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed $____ (____0/k) per person payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) Age Sex

Address City State Zip Phone: Home (_____) Work (_____) Email Address

Membership circle: AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

Travel together with high-quality accommodations. All accommodations are top-notch and carefully selected to provide the greatest comfort and the finest experience. Your space includes flights to Miami and home. B/L/D

Days 9 – Miami to Home.
Return flights to Miami and home. B