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Maya enthusiasts providing public education for 45+ years

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July 2, 2017 • Maya Ceremonial Era Long Count: 0.0.4.10.14 • 7'IX 12 Sek • G7

The Great Gift of Learning History

by **Miriam J. Neal**,
Student, Miami-Dade Collge

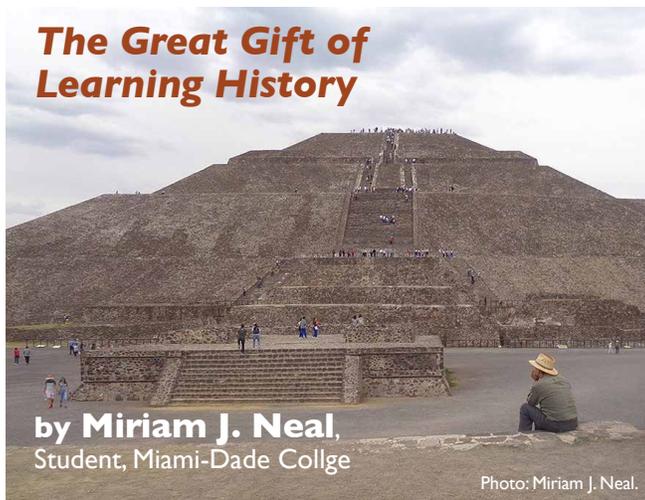


Photo: Miriam J. Neal.

My jaw dropped at the sheer size of the Pyramid of the Sun!

There are many things one can learn from every opportunity in life if we take the time to identify them, accept them and make the best of them.

It was April 19, 2017, when a window of opportunity appeared and all I had to do was pull down the shade. I was chosen to participate in an educational adventure, sponsored by the Institute of Maya Studies. The thought of becoming an explorer of the Maya world had always made me tremendously joyful, and finally, it was *my* time. After all, it is said that opportunities are like sunrises, if you wait too long, you miss them.

I had some knowledge about the Maya civilization since I was raised in Honduras. It is a tradition for the middle schools and high schools in Honduras to visit the ancient Maya site of Copan as part of their learning history.

Well, my knowledge of the Maya civilization changed tremendously upon arrival in Mexico. From the

moment we set foot in Teotihuacan, Mexico, my new group of friends and I had lots of wonderful experiences. There were the days we would have the most delicious meals in the country as I grew to know each one of them a little better each day.

I can talk about many moments that were memorable and revealing, but the most revealing was a day we decided to have one shot of the popular tequila from the area readying ourselves to visit the best places in the country!

Our first stop was the Museum of Teotihuacan. From the moment I entered the museum, I developed an unending admiration for the site. Every artifact, from vases to structural pieces, is exquisitely set for the enjoyment of the visitors. As we moved from one museum to the other, it was easy for me to determine how much Mexicans treasure and take pride in their history.

After touring the museum of Teotihuacan, we passed by its backyard and to my surprise, the scenery seemed out of this world! As if the curtain of a theater had opened in front of me, my jaw dropped, and my eyes popped out of their sockets at the sight of the massive pyramid structure. I had to go around its rock wall to get a better view of it. There, I was standing behind the “Sun” temple talking about how incredible it was.

The next day, during our return to this site, I was brave enough to climb half way up the “Moon” temple, which is

This Explorer issue is dedicated to the memory of John Major Jenkins



March 4, 1964 – July 2, 2017

Over the years, John presented twice at the IMS. John was very proud of that fact, and thought very highly of the IMS.

smaller than the Sun temple.

We also had the opportunity to visit “La Ventilla” with archaeologist Dr. Ruben Cabrera. Dr. Cabrera explained to us how layers in the structure could identify the different governments. Every new governor buried the previous administration’s layout, perhaps, as a way of preserving history. This site is not opened to the public.

How can I forget the “Tetitla” complex where I experienced the most extraordinary paintings of the Great Goddess

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Jim Reed,
Editor

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The Great Gift of Learning History

by **Miriam J. Neal**,
Student, Miami-Dade College
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The "Atlantean Statues" at Tula stand over 15 feet tall and weigh several tons each.



of Teotihuacan? In these areas, paintings that were done years ago seemed freshly painted. In the course of the week, we also visited Malinalco where the Aztec ruins of Cuauhtinchan lay on the top of the Hill of the Idols. To get up to the Cuauhtinchan ruins, visitors have to climb 435 steps up the steep hillside which is covered with blossoming flora and trees along the pathway.

The next day, we visited Tula. What an incredible experience this was, to be at the top of this structure, standing beside the legendary "Atlantean" stone columns. You cannot admire this area without thinking about the Toltec civilization and their way of living.

In addition, we visited Mexico City, and, precisely, the home/museum of Leon Trotsky, and the home/museum of Benito Juarez. I was introduced to Diego Rivera's beautiful murals and saw the exterior of the fabulous modern-style home in which he lived, worked and died between 1934 and 1957. Along with these incredible places was the Metropolitan Cathedral in the Zocalo with its unusual architectural façade and the elaborate golden interiors.

Visiting the National Museum of Anthropology, one of the finest museums I have ever visited, made this visit to

Mexico even more delightful. It is divided into sections/areas specially dedicated to each of the ancient civilizations, explaining their way of living, language and dialects, skills, clothing, and beliefs.

Then, we visited the Plaza of the Three Cultures, a site like the Templo Mayor, in the middle of the city. It was amazing to see three cultures all at once. Here, I visited the Aztec town of Tlatelolco to witness the Spanish influence represented by the Colonial Cathedral of Santiago, 1524 (rebuilt in 1609), and the modernism represented by The Department of Foreign Affairs building.

I can honestly say that we used our time wisely and enjoyed the trip. Every moment was a learning experience, from the history of the different cultures and their evolution, to influential political figures to Art and Architecture, to the modern lifestyle in the Mexican country, and to my new friendship with the members of the Institute of Maya Studies.

I will never forget the opportunity IMS gave me to expand my historical knowledge and for making this experience amazing. Thanks to all of the members of



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IMS, including Mr. Rick Slazick, Mrs. Marta Barber, Mrs. Laura Rassi and especially Professor Lyle Culver. 



Join in on an IMS Adventure to Northern Peru!

IMS members are planning a trip to northern Peru to visit the archaeological vestiges of the peoples of the Moche and Chimur cultures. Links between these ancient societies and the Maya continue to be a subject of investigation. We will be adding an optional two-day extension to fly the Nazca lines.

Peru has opened several great museums in the north to showcase non-Inca civilizations. Among them is the museum dedicated to the Lady of Cao, the first female ruler identified in Peru.

Dates are **Nov. 9-17, 2017** (if you choose to skip Nazca), otherwise, we return on Monday, **Nov. 20**.

For further details and to sign up, contact Marta Barber: msmiami@yahoo.com



In Memoriam: John Major Jenkins

March 4, 1964 – July 2, 2017

Composite image of the Galactic Bulge, center of our Milky Way galaxy, NASA; submitted by David Sedat.

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

It appears that the first notice of John's passing appeared as a posting on Geoff Stray's Facebook page:

"It's with a heavy heart, I report that my friend and colleague John Major Jenkins has left the physical plane (at only 53). He had many interests outside of the ancient Maya ones, and was a musician and songwriter, poet and restorer of old printing presses. We also shared an interest in renovating old vehicles. We spoke at several conferences together; appeared in several documentaries and had many interesting discussions and communications. He also kindly supplied a foreword for my *Beyond 2012* book, and gave me some wonderful recognition in his 2009 book, *The 2012 Story*. I was always impressed by his tireless patience in dealing with harsh and often slanderous critics, and his voluminous output of well-researched and referenced studies. A lovely man with buckets of integrity, I will miss him dearly."

Geoff Stray, July 3, 2017 at 3:52 pm
Befriend Geoff at: <https://www.facebook.com/geoff.stray.9?fref=nf>

My friend... John Major Jenkins

"I remember John's delight ten years ago when we stopped at Tuxtla Chico, the municipality where Izapa is located, and we were treated like honored guests from another planet. We were taken to a conference room in city hall



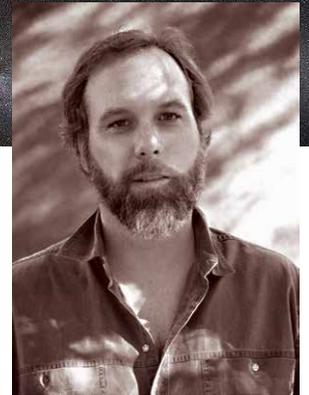
The "2012 Pendant" gifted to John and Jim Reed by the dynamic duo who discovered the ancient Maya jade sources, Jay and Mary Lou Ridinger. The piece was crafted by a Maya artist and replicates an artifact discovered in a tomb at Copan. One Hunahpu, the Solar Deity, is birthed from the belly of the Crocodillian Sky Monster. Carved in bone with three pieces of jade representing the three hearthstones of creation.

and given the keys to the city. Beautiful young women came in bearing large baskets full of fruit: rambutan, mangoes, and cacao... and more. We were taken to the town's museum and shown through the stories on the walls of local history and culture, including an exhibit of children's art. We were treated like visiting dignitaries. Later we were

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Remembering my good friend JMajorJ (JMJ) by Jim Reed

As soon as I found out from JMJ's and my mutual friend Madison Moore, I posted on Geoff Stray's FB page:



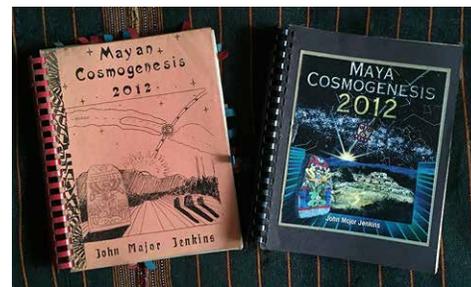
With his starry-eyed gaze, John pondered the ancient past, and pinpointed relevant spiritual significance for our collective future.

Such sad news. John had invited me to visit with him on July 30th, after he had called a couple months ago and said he thought he'd be feeling up to it. I am in shock. I was his guide to Izapa on two occasions to do his research onsite. He was a major part of the 2010 The Maya Conservancy journey that sponsored 13 K'iché spiritual elders from Momostenango, to pass into Mexico to perform a ritual ceremony to re-ignite the sacred fire at Izapa, where no one had done ceremony for more than ten centuries. The Mayor of Tapachula was very pleased that we pulled it off on private land that was across the chicken fence at the end of the famous Group B ballcourt, in spite of the state officials "in charge" of the site refusing to give us permission to enter the inner precinct.



Jim Reed and JMJ at the overlook above Panajachel, Lake Atitlan, 2010.

John considered me one of his good friends and original supporters. Earlier this year, he forwarded me



I treasure two original Word doc copies of *Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012* that JMJ sent me to help review before the book's publication in 1998. The copy on the left, with the hand-drawn illustration, still contains my proofreader's "flags": This was way back before he put the 2012 alignment question on the table for others to eventually savor for themselves.

all his archives of works and unfinished works to share with the world. I will do so in time, and in an appropriate manner, as well as post videos of him reading chapters out of *Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012* at Izapa while sitting

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In Memoriam: John Major Jenkins



Masthead from JMJ's "A Journey to the 13th Baktun Completion Through Three Countries Along the 15°-North Sacred Latitude: Izapa, Antigua, and Copan"; 1/6/2013. Submitted by David Sedat. Downloadable at: <http://alignment2012.com/13th-Baktun-Completion.pdf>

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

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John wearing his 2012 pendant at the 2010 Izapa reactivation ceremony.

interviewed on the local radio station and visited the planetarium where they were anxious to hear John's astronomical interpretation of the monuments and alignments at Izapa.

"On the same trip, we met with local Izapa residents who showed us the treasures from the site in the patios and gardens of their houses.

"The conference where he spoke to an audience at a university campus was his crowning achievement.

"John was so thrilled because this was what he had so often hoped for: to have the local people of Izapa recognize him and his work.

"He was transported with delight. It was a joy for me to have been a

witness to this... because it was totally unexpected and unplanned. I imagine Rodolfo Juan had planned it all without us being aware of the agenda – Magic happened.

"It makes me sad to think of his last several months of pain and suffering, but that is over and he is free. He enriched my life and expanded my universe and helped me look at the stars with new eyes. As the Maya would say: He has entered the white sacbe... the path of Xibalba-be. and we cannot follow... yet..."

Mary Lou Ridiger

Vice President of The Maya Conservancy, Jades S.A.

John made a positive contribution

"John Major Jenkins' spirit departed earth soon after summer solstice to ascend with the Stela 9 Sun God on butterfly wings to Izapa's magnificent heavenly Takana mountain peak and continue on its Milky Way pathway to Polaris 'Heart of Heaven.' No other researcher has come closer than John to comprehending and embracing Izapa's beautiful natural spirituality that emerged out of our NWAf Izapa Sculpture project (Norman 1973, 1976, 1980; Lowe et al. 1982). John found inspiration that led him to pursue the origin mystery of the Maya calendar

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Remembering my good friend JMajorJ (JMJ) by Jim Reed

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under a tree alongside the ballcourt. John, with his intellectual and curious mind, is a true scholar in my point of view.

He put in more time researching and "really being out there" than so many of his critics.

He is and was a

courageous warrior, but he grew weary of fighting so many challenging battles.

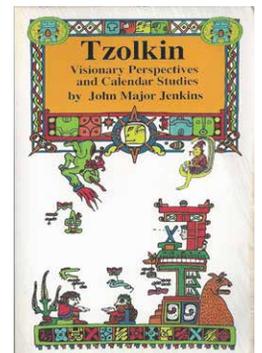
After all, lo and behold, he was right all along. And the modern Maya celebrated 12/21/2012 as a new era beginning. No reason to insist that the count must continue on to a Piktun (of course it can, and does). The modern Maya began their day count at 0.0.0.0 again and I stand with John and I stand with the Maya, and celebrate this fact each month in the masthead of Maya glyphs that I share in these Institute of Maya Studies' Explorer newsletters.

In a personal communication with Bruce Love, I mentioned that I felt listless, and was finding it hard to work on this memorial article for John. He responded:

"Thanks for your note; be listless, put on some music, make a snack, take a nap, your motivation to write will come when it comes".

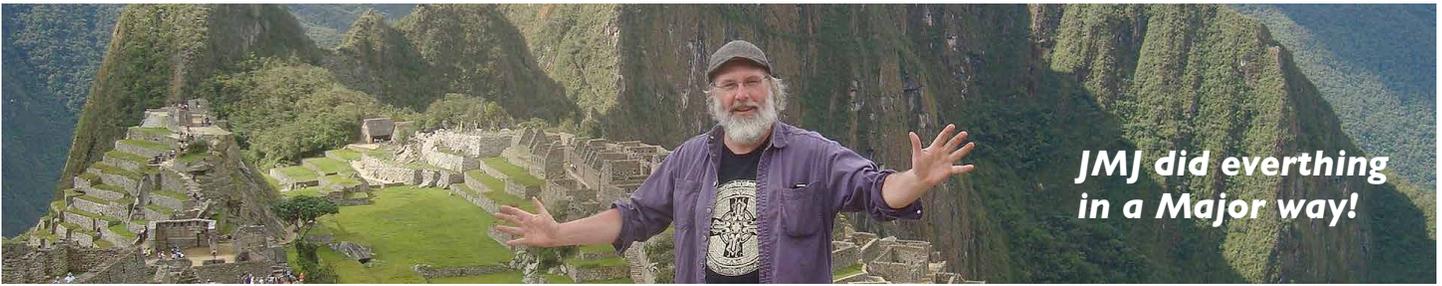
Bruce Love

More than a Katun ago, I ran across John's book *Tzolkin: Visionary Perspectives and Calendar Studies* that he published in 1994. I was totally enthralled by his writings concerning Maya mathematics and calendrics. Somehow, I was able to find a phone number for him, and called him to introduce myself. So began our friendship. Over the years since, he has sent me pre-copies of his books to review; I've guided him to Izapa twice for his research; I arranged group Maya adventures for 18 years – and took



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John at Machu Picchu, January 2014. See the series of photos that John posted to his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/john.m.jenkins>

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

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and its five world ages (5,200 years) climax, positioned to end at winter solstice 2012 with possible cataclysmic destructions suggested by Maya tradition. That initial focus in John's



Garth Norman and JMJ by Stela 25, Izapa.

Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012 book (1998) captivated popular 'new age' interest that spurred numerous books and cataclysmic destruction movies – a resurgence from the 2000 end-time prophecy dooms day. John moved beyond that obsession movement and in 2009 published *The 2012 Story: The Myths, Fallacies, and Truth Behind the Most Intriguing Date in History*.

"John's new focus with other colleagues and friends (including me) on rebuilding the new 13 Baktun for world peace is gaining momentum after four years following the peaceful celebration of December solstice 2012. His positive contribution is being reflected with the new Izapa Visitors Center in the Group D plaza, scheduled for public opening with Izapa's 23 September 2017 equinox new year celebration"

V. Garth Norman – Archaeologist, Archaeoastronomer, Epigrapher, Art Historian
<http://www.vgarthnorman.com/>

The Mystique of John Major Jenkins

"In remembering John Major Jenkins as an independent and charismatic scholar who widely shared his excitement over arcane aspects of the Maya Calendar, it seems to



David Sedat, JMJ and Jim Reed at David's home in Copan. David and his wife cooked a Maya-style dinner for our group; later, we three gave presentations.

me, all told, that his fascination with the mystique of Maya Cosmology and the ancient Long Count certainly reflects how the synchronicity of "meaningful coincidences" in his life became all wrapped up into a

Remembering my good friend JMajorJ (JMJ) by Jim Reed

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John along on three occasions to do presentations. He has visited at my home in South Florida and also at my apartment in Atlanta. I was instrumental in having John appear twice at the Institute of Maya Studies. He was very proud of that fact and thought very highly of the Institute.

Look what he writes about the experience in the Introduction (pg. XLI) of *Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012* (after his first presentation at the IMS on 8/20/1997):

"By this time (mid-1997), I had published over a dozen articles on Maya cosmology and the precession question. Finally, my friend Jim Reed convinced the Institute of Maya Studies (IMS) that it would worth bringing me to Miami to present my pioneering work. The IMS... has hosted Maya scholars such as Dennis Tedlock and Munro Edmunson. I was honored to be invited to present my theory at such a prestigious venue. I suspected I was on the cutting edge of where Maya experts themselves were going, and, in the end, my presentation on August 20, 1997, was well received. It had the feel of a breakthrough, especially in regard to the acceptance of my work by academia. Nevertheless, I was not naive, and I knew that it would take years for an 'outsider' like myself to make inroads into Maya scholardom. I had stormed the Ivory Tower, left my message, and that was enough for now."

– **John Major Jenkins**

John presented his findings concerning the 12/21/2012 end-date carved in glyphs on the Tortugero Monument at the IMS on January 19, 2011:

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In Memorium: John Major Jenkins

An image of the Galactic Bulge that is a part of the photos that John has posted on his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/john.m.jenkins>

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

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sort of 'sacred bundle' containing the essence of many different people, thoughts, and even hints of long lost antediluvian memories thought forever lost under the leaf-mold of time. Many 'Traditional Mayanists', ensconced in their Tusked Towers of Academia, seemed baffled by the implications of John's work, and hostile towards the very idea of a Galactic Alignment and any part of a New Age of World Regeneration.

"But never mind all that – just as there are metaphorical places on this earth for wobbly columns of monographs on the 'Ancient Maya' to be stacked up until they reach the moon (and beyond... for what purpose?), here in Copan, Honduras, the immemorial galactic and planetary dance that John talked, wrote and dreamed about continues to unfold across the sky-earth tableau that mark this ancient realm.

"In this microcosm of 'The Beginning' (a 2012 video documentary that John starred in. See the trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl-hHeFFomg/>), a renewal of brilliantly-hued Scarlet Macaws actually fly freely over the Open-Air Museum of the Copan Valley, eying hungrily below the red, green and golden Kakaw pods hidden cunningly across the verdant landscape of an ancient future – just dawning".

David W. Sedat

Archaeologist at Copan

John Major Jenkins was a man for the Ages

"John was an independent scholar, a seeker of knowledge; he peered into the past to gain vision for the future.

"I met John because of reading a preview of his book *Maya Cosmogenesis 2012*. When the book came out I delighted in its scholarly understanding of Maya mathematical and calendrical concepts, as well as its basis in archaeological findings. I had some knowledge of Maya culture and places, but I had never heard of Izapa in Western Chiapas. I was intrigued with this little-known archaeological site that seemed very important to the history of the *Popul Vuh* and the Sacred 260 day Calendar.

"Determined to go to Izapa I contacted John

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Remembering my good friend JMajorJ (JMJ) by Jim Reed

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For a video by Jim Reed of John's 2011 presentation at the IMS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZE_WBfEXLnc

John was a significant part of The Maya Conservancy's mission to Izapa in June 2010. As part of the reactivation of the sacred fire ritual, each participant is given the opportunity to approach the fire.

On YouTube or on Google, search "Jim Reed Maya" and you can view many of the videos I have posted about this amazing journey, and many of John's own videos appear next to mine.

John toured the Mayalands in the weeks leading up to and after 12/21/2012. He recounts his adventure in a downloadable PDF titled: *A Journey to the 13th Baktun Completion Through Three Countries Along the 15°-North Sacred Latitude: Izapa, Antigua, and Copan*. He's got some great photos there also. Please check out: <http://alignment2012.com/13th-Baktun-Completion.pdf>

"Thereafter, I returned to Antigua where I spent Christmas with friends and hung out for several days before returning home to Colorado through Atlanta, visiting my friend Jim Reed there...

"Finally, it was fitting that I was able to visit with Jim Reed, the irrepressible Mayaman, on an overnight flight itinerary through Atlanta, GA. Jim was instrumental in bringing me to give a presentation at the Institute of Maya Studies in Miami back in 1997, and again in early 2011. He has published my reports and articles in the Institute of Maya Studies newsletter, has joined me on a trip to Izapa in 2001 (and many times thereafter), and organized tours to Maya temples that I spoke at in 2007, 2008, and 2010. He has been a great friend, and it was great to see him on December 29-30.

"I flew home to Colorado after 17 days on the road, to a different home/house and a new life, my 2012 mission completed. 2012 is now a past-tense 'set-piece.' I can only hope that my work and efforts have contributed to understanding what it is really about; if what the ancient Maya thought about 2012 means anything at all to the modern world."

John Major Jenkins, 1/5, 2013



A scarlet macaw takes flight at Copan in December 2012. Photo by Joachim Loeffel, during a cycling adventure from Costa Rica to Belize that he coordinated, at: <http://doomsday.die-loeffels.de/>



The sacred fire is now ready for the 12/21/2012 activation. Tat Rigoberto Itzep Chanchovac led the ceremony. Garth Norman, Robert Sitrler and Rodolfo Juan stand in the outer circle.

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

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Jenkins and I organized a small group tour of Guatemala with a side trip to Izapa. I met John at Group F, the (ceremonial) Ballcourt of Izapa. (The ballcourt itself is an earthly metaphor for the heavens above and, in fact, the ball itself going thru the stone hoop can be a metaphor for the sun going thru a cycle.) It is the Ballcourt and its relationship to the surrounding stelae and mountainous topography that gave John insights into the precessional cycle, the astronomical clock of the ages. John's genius was stitching together the (relatively little) academic research on Izapa, his mathematical grip on Maya calendrics, and the cycles of the ages.

"The 12/21/2012 date was first decoded in the Tortuguero monument near Palenque. A mysterious date, an isolated event? This date migrated from academia to popular knowledge and caused



Eye of the Milky Way, by Mimi Ditchie.
Submitted by Georgeann Johnson.

commotion in some halls of academe because of being adopted into a 'New Age' context. To my knowledge, John was the only researcher who bridged the scholarly approach with the common popularity of the 'Maya End Date'. It was, I believe, his misfortune to not have a PhD and therefore to bear the brunt of scorn from some circles; and the lack of appreciation of solid research from others.

"In 2013, a second 12/21/2012 inscription was found at La Corona. The two inscriptions are separated by centuries and hundreds of miles and the one at La Corona is attributed to the importance of a past ruler. I think it is possible that something could be 'lost in translation'.

"What could be lost is the respect due to an ancient people who were known for being great astronomers. Hipparchus discovered the phenomena of precession circa 150 BC. The heyday of Izapa was from 250 BC to about 100 BC. Is it unreasonable to think that there was a simultaneous century of both the Old World and the New World discoveries of Precession? Were the Greeks more capable of acute sky-watching than the Maya? The origin of the 260-day Tzolk'in calendar was at Izapa; or at least 'established' there with gnomons. I think John Jenkins was right... the ceremonial Ballcourt at Izapa was laid down to 'tell' the story of precession. Izapa is unique among ancient Mesoamerican sites by establishing a calendar system and laying down the foundation of the *Popul Vuh* with carved stelae.

"John Major Jenkins was an independent thinker and a passionate scholar, he was also a kind and gentle soul. Ours is not an age for the journeyer on their path regardless of recognition and remuneration. But with humbleness and perseverance John stayed true to his path, an uncommon trait in our Modern Age. I was fortunate to cross paths with John; and, in retrospect, to meet him at the Ballcourt. Time, Cycles, Cosmos... John was a man for the Ages"

Georgeann Johnson
President of The Maya Conservancy



It is with a very heavy heart the family of John Major Jenkins makes this announcement, 7/22/2017:



John Major Jenkins
March 4th, 1964 - July 2nd, 2017

From the family of John Major Jenkins. This message is posted with great sadness. After fighting illness, John Major Jenkins passed away last July 2nd, 2017. He was a beloved Brother and Friend to all who met him. John was an author, scholar, poet, publisher, mechanic, printer, traveller, researcher, astronomer and historian.

In honor of John there will be a Celebration of Life Memorial



August 13th, 2017 1pm - 4pm

Windsor Community Center

Spruce Room

250 N. 11th St.

Windsor, CO 80550



If you wish, please bring a poem, stories, music, prayers or a favorite food to share.

Remembering my good friend JMajorJ (JMJ) by Jim Reed

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A poem by John Major Jenkins. This is the fly page inside *Maya Cosmogogenesis 2012 (1998)*, dedicated to Jim Reed:

One Hunahpu

Source of matter, source of spirit
Spiraling in and spiraling out
Thirteen phases – numbers, vectors
Twenty hieroglyphic pictures
People growing toward the sun
Grow together and live as one
Hunab K'u, Hunahpu
Hub of everything we do
Search the stars for what we are
And find we need not look too far
Inside of us, deep down inside
Are kept the secrets of all time
Finding rhythm, speaking rhyme
Renew the ancient paradigm
Movement and measure
Sowing and dawning
Star of the evening
Star of the morning
One Ahau will start churning
Watch for Venus, begin the learning
Teaching us the way to see
And how to climb the Sacred Tree
Tzolk'in, Haab, and Calendar Round
Spherical music, magical sound
Eye at the center, dawn of our face
Edge of the cosmos, heart of all space
Mysterious day sign
Bringer of Birth
It comes from the stars
And springs from the Earth

– John Major Jenkins





John and Jim Reed atop "El Castillo" at Xunantunich, 2010. Back in the '70s, when I lived in Belize, I used to sleep up here on full moons!

Messages from many of John's friends who honor him

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I honor John's passion in life

"John's life and his work consistently embodied a genuine love for all things Maya. In my own interactions with him, he expressed that passion with enthusiasm, thoughtfulness, and humility. He was always willing to share his time and expertise. His talks and writings were engaging and intellectually provocative"

Robert Sitrler

Director of the Latin American Studies Program at Stetson University, <https://www.facebook.com/Living-Maya-Los-mayas-vivos-222829441434/>

I heard of the loss of my friend today...

"In 2006, I was consuming all the books I could on the Maya. A couple of books stood out, both by the same author – John Major Jenkins. I decided to track him down and give him a call... it was the start of a long friendship. I met up with him in Belize, in 2008, and joined him on a tour to Belize and Tikal, arranged by my friend Jim Reed.

"I stayed at John's home for a couple of nights in March of 2015. It was a great visit as I had my list to ask him more questions from his book *Galactic Alignment*. As usual, John was willing to download. Later, he took me to his rented garage that held his beloved century-old printing presses. Some operated by foot, others by an outlet... we tested out each one of them! I am a better person for having read his books and getting to know this man. I heard of the loss of my friend today..."



John with one of his printing presses.

Bill Maxon, 7/9/2017

"Look into it... whatever 'It' is for you"

"One of the first articles I read by my brother-in-law was one he wrote for a Chicago-area zine in the early 1990s entitled something like 'Look into it', where he explained his passion for researching and asked his readers to do the same... to look into whatever they were curious about. I don't remember much about the content of the piece except that I was inspired by it. This would be the first of many times John influenced me to follow my interests by following his own. Over the years I attended his talks, read some of his books and articles, questioned him privately, and even traveled to Guatemala and

Belize with him on one of his many trips. He was a true student and scholar in his field, and he never stopped 'looking into it'. He knew that I only had a thimbleful of understanding when it came to the Maya, but he was so passionate about his discoveries that he was willing to take time to help me understand some of the greater messages they had to share with the world.

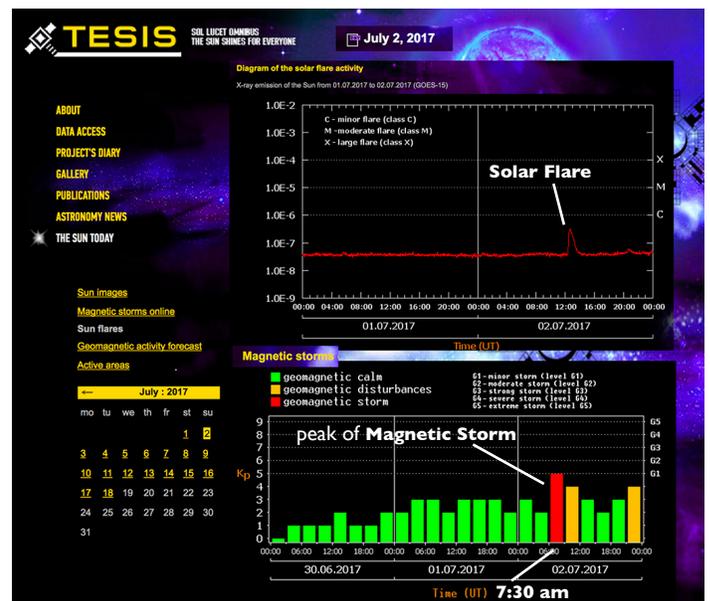
"At the core of his work I think he understood himself to be a bit of a messenger for the Maya. He carried their wisdom, understanding of cosmology, and intriguing calendar forward in time so we could see what remarkable people they were, and perhaps be inspired to seek our own internal wisdom as a result of recognizing theirs. His dedicated scholarship resulted in a regenerative vision full of hope that human-kind could experience a renewal of consciousness on a scale grand enough to transform our world into a more loving and creative place for the next Baktun cycle and beyond.

"It is with great affection that I honor John's legacy and message by simply saying "Look into it, whatever 'It' is for you."

Erika Jenkins

The Sun shone bright on July 2, 2017...

Editor's note: According to Erika, John passed at 7:30 am on July 2, 2017 – synchronistically, exactly when a strong Solar Flare occurred during the peak of a Magnetic Storm!



Data from daily reports from the Russian Laboratory of X-Ray Astronomy of the Sun, at: www.thesis.lebedev.ru
Submitted by Aluna Joy Yaxkin.