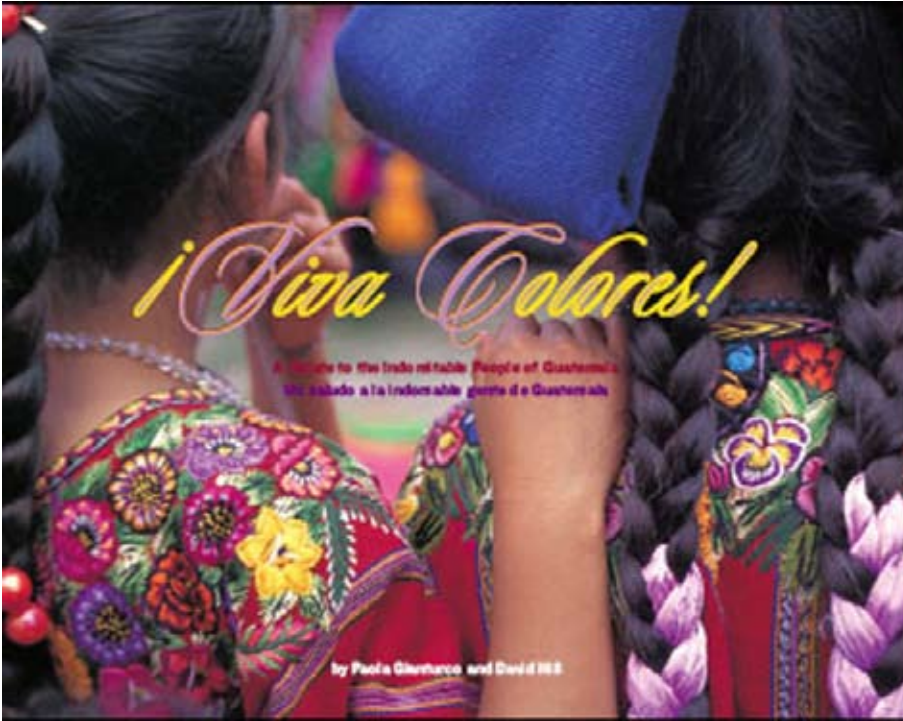


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Season's Readings
Friday
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By Tunku Varadarajan

“Viva Colores,” with text, in English and Spanish, by David Hill and photographs by Paola Gianturco (powerHouse Books, 151 pages, \$39.95).

The book is less about the country itself--a decade removed from a brutal civil war and slowly reviving--than about some of the remarkable people you might meet on a visit there. Subtitled “A Salute to the Indomitable People of Guatemala,” the book introduces readers to 41 seemingly ordinary Guatemalans who are, as the saying goes, “making a difference” in their communities.

We meet a volunteer firefighter who is also the director of a weaving association, the founder of the only hospital in his area and the co-founder, along with his wife, of the Association of Parents and Friends of Disabled Persons. We meet a 12-year-old girl who, despite many hardships, wants to be a doctor and is earning scholarships to pay for high school, playing soccer and singing in a choir. She “smiles (artlessly) most of the time,” Mr. Hill writes.

“Viva Colores” is a reminder that, regardless of whether your travels take you to a jungle or city, or whether you’re intent on seeing wildlife or monuments, the most memorable aspect of almost any journey is the people you meet along the way.