



CR&V Insiders' Quarterly Newsletter: Fall, 2017

Our Cuban team continues to grow and prosper despite the political setbacks

Many of our CR&V patrons fell in love with our Cuban staff and friends. As with people everywhere, daily life goes on in Cuba and good things happen to good people.

Our intrepid Havanatur guide and friend **Raydali O'Farrill** and her husband are expecting their first child in January. We are elated for them! Ry is one of Cuba's best guides and has been invaluable to our success.

Our good friend, former Cuban ambassador to the European Union, professor **Carlos Alzugaray**, has been on the conference circuit this summer talking about US/Cuba relations. A tireless advocate for Cuban respect, Carlos recently lectured in New York, Panama, Washington and Florida.

As one of Cuba's most senior diplomats, "the professor" has worked closely with Arizona Senator Jeff Flake, former Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey DeLaurentis and current Chargé d'Affaires Scott Hamilton.



As the 2018 tourist season begins in Cuba, CR&V captures a market niche for meaningful cultural exchange

As our fifth year anniversary of legal cultural exchange with Cuba begins in the fall of 2017, CR&V has multiple and diverse delegations on the books beginning January 2018. There are trips for arts aficionados, educators and anyone interested in on-the-ground discovery of cultural life in Cuba.

We have heard much about the changes coming under the Trump administration's tougher stance with the Cuban government. As yet, we don't know the full extent of the new Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) regulations, but from what has been released by the administration, group People-to-People delegations in the 12 designated categories will be permitted. See the "Cuba Standard Monthly" link (bottom left page 2) for the most recent and comprehensive information.

What we know for certain is that CR&V has been a recognized model for legal People-to-People travel to Cuba since we began our exchanges in 2012. We have always held ourselves to a higher standard. In fact, our mission is to be the new leader in cultural diplomacy between our two nations. The arts has the power to bring people together in celebration of humanity no matter what divides us.

This is why 2018 will be our busiest and best season ever! We are betting on the arts as the way forward. At the moment we have three trips on sale and three more in the works. And, with prices dropping, there has never been a better time to check off Cuba on your bucket list. The details are on our website www.cubarhythmandviews.org but here is a synopsis.

January 17-24 is our *Urban Cuba* delegation to Cienfuegos and Havana in collaboration with La Única Spanish Language Instruction Center in Tacoma, WA. Priced at \$4475 on our website, this trip focuses more on language and Cuban life than private performance. Even with reduced private performances, this trip is a far better value than any of our premium-priced competitors can offer.

February 21-28 is our *Fifth Anniversary CR&V Cultural Ambassadors* delegation to Cienfuegos and Havana hosted by Woody and Neil. This is our "Greatest Hits" tour and will be the culmination of five years of trial, error and many, many mojitos. Go to the website www.cubarhythmandviews.org and read the testimonials of patrons who have traveled with us in the past year. This delegation will be special and it's priced at \$4850 double occupancy. The music, art, dance and insight into Cuban creative life is inspiring, and Neil and Woody want to share all they have experienced in Cuba during these past five years.

CR&V team news, cont.

Aldo López-Gavilán and his wife, conductor **Daiana Garcia**, have just completed a summer tour of North America with concerts in Napa, Lake Tahoe, Toronto and Chautauqua. Last year's Lincoln Center performance with violinist Joshua Bell and rocker Dave Matthews, which was broadcast on PBS stations, introduced the American public to two of Cuba's most revered musical artists. Lakeshore Music is proud to present Aldo and his Cuban jazz ensemble on January 20 at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Tickets and information at www.lakeshoremusic.org

***Our Success Has Been
Achieved Through Our
Patrons' Testimonials...
Please Spread the
Word!***

Recent Cuban News

[Cuba's presumed next president takes hard line on Trump.](#)

[Botched sonic surveillance may have injured US Embassy in Havana](#)

[Trump's ban on individual travel may help Cuba's economy](#)

[Elián González wants to reconcile with his family in Miami](#)

[Cuba Standard Monthly Business Journal](#)

[Woody and Neil's contact info](#)
www.cubarhythmmandviews.org
[Woody — 602.679.0590](#)
[Neil — 253.279.5555](#)

CR&V 2018 schedule, cont..

May 23-30 is Byron Stripling's *Cuban Jazz Invasion #3* delegation to Cienfuegos and Havana hosted by Byron, Woody and Neil. This trip has filled up twice before and created sensations in Cuba both times with concert performances in Havana and Cienfuegos. We made the government newspapers (the only kind), television and radio. The patron experiences with Byron's and Aldo López-Gavilán's masterclasses at Benny Moré School and the reviews on their finale concerts in Havana and Cienfuegos were incredible. We think our May trip will create an international sensation in support of diplomacy through the arts. This trip is not yet listed on our website but it will be priced at \$4850. If you are interested, call Woody or Neil to save your spot.

July 11-18 is an *Urban Cuba* trip designed specifically, but not exclusively, for educators and those who are unable to get away for a week during the school year. Anyone can join this delegation. Again, it will be Cienfuegos and Havana and hosted by La Única Spanish Language Instruction Center. It is priced at \$4475, the same as our January trip.

If you are interested in seeing and hearing Cuba at this critical time in history, CR&V can take you. We promise you one of the most inspiring and revealing trips of a lifetime. Our testimonials below say it all.

We took this trip on a whim not knowing what to expect. The cultural experiences, the level of engagement with a variety of people from Cuba, the organization and planning were all excellent. We learned so much...we are still processing it all...We deeply appreciate your efforts and believe you provided an exceptional experience for the cost.

—Carole & Mike T, Columbus, OH, May 18, 2017



My heartfelt compliments to Cuba Rhythm and Views for an excellent tour and a schedule of events that entertained, enlightened, and fed us extremely well. This was a tremendous task and the pre-planning was done superbly. We had a veritable smorgasbord of music and dance events packed into the week and somehow, [you] managed to leave us plenty of time to explore both Havana and Cienfuegos. Bravissimi!

—Alan F, Seattle, WA, April 12, 2017