

and regional and municipal government entities. People from various professions started contributing via a “Time Bank”: Lawyers, architects, agronomists, psychologists, teachers of English, and many more started donating several hours of their time a week as gifts to help consolidate the Nashira project and ensure its sustainability.

In March 2019, the mother of the Gift Economy and the inspiration for Nashira, Genevieve Vaughan, visited the eco-village to launch the Spanish version of her book *For-Giving*. A three-day event was held in which more than a hundred women took part. There were several lectures and discussion panels on a variety of subjects. Food and souvenirs made by the women of Nashira were given to the participants, and copies of Gen’s children’s book *Por Amor, por Dinero* were also distributed to one hundred children of the eco-village. Her book *Para Donar (For-Giving)* was distributed free to those who came to the event; hopefully this will help to modify the prevailing paradigm of the exchange economy. We also held a “Gratifieria,” in which everybody contributed an item and also took another item that they needed, regardless of the price. On the last day, the women of Nashira requested perhaps the most wonderful gift of all from the visiting speakers. They wanted to hear from each one the story of their lives, their experiences, their joys and sorrows. It was the ultimate gift.

After the event, it was back to reality for Nashira. The women and children returned to their daily tasks, but they also continue, even now, to eat fruit from the trees that grow in Nashira, bathe in the fountain of the Pacha Mama when it rains, and enjoy a better quality of life. As part of the gifts from Mother Nature, they can hear the singing of the birds, and they may even have their toes tweaked by curious iguanas!

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## DIANE DRIEDGER

### Banana Insight

at 10 I covet  
the Chiquita banana  
sticker oval  
blue and yellow  
every Saturday  
after groceries are unpacked  
from brown bags  
I put it  
on my forehead  
the third eye

perhaps my knowledge  
that blue stickers  
are too precious to  
throw away  
indigo too strong to ignore

now at 50  
a red patch on my face  
the third eye  
is an age spot  
when a baby it was  
a birthmark  
that faded as I grew older

now bright red  
turning indigo  
a return  
to Chiquita stickers  
to the beginning

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