



# El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

<http://www.HouseofPuertoRico.com>



## *“Gala Fiesta de Navidad”*



Photo by Bonita Martinez

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### President’s Message

I can’t believe how quick 2007 just blew right through. There again, *‘Time flies when you’re having fun.’* That pretty much sums up the House of Puerto Rico San Diego in 2007 for me. We had a jammed-packed year building from our already solid foundation and allowing ourselves to try new things. You don’t know if it will work until you try it.

Here are highlights of 2007:

Three Kings Celebration •  
 Cake and music by Manny & Gene at the Casita’s 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary • ‘El Clown’ at the San Diego Latino Film Festival • Member involvement in focus group discussions • San Marcos Multicultural Festival • Music, dance & theater with our monthly Fiesta Nights • HPRSD Domino Club • Colorful *El Boricua* newsletter • New email management system •

Informative monthly e-newsletter and *Que Pasa* e-alerts • HPR Ethnic Food Festival • HPRSD Día de San Juan Picnic & 1<sup>st</sup> Tomas Perry Domino Tournament • Vejigantes and Taino workshops for our Youth Program • 'La Bomba' seminar by Jose Fuste from Areito Borincano • Casita Open House every Sunday afternoon • Angel & Carmen Rosa hosting school children • Oye Boricua • Annual Lawn Program • 'The Taino People of Puerto Rico' by Dr. Antonio Grillo • New Casita Museum Exhibit: Distinguished Puerto Ricans • New exhibit focused on Puerto Rican Artisans • BoricuaFest • New HPRSD membership renewal process • Sabor Criollo Cooking Seminars hosted by Emilie German & Julia Torres • HPRSD Parranda Group • Salsa Lessons with Miguel Melendez • December Nights • Music, dance, silent auction & parranda at the Gala Fiesta de Navidad • and many more...

The above HPRSD accomplishments could not be possible without the enthusiastic and committed efforts of our many member and non-member volunteers. Many ideas were presented and dynamically pursued. In some case, these ideas took a life of its own! One in particular that I will never forget is the massive effect our new Parranda Group had at our Christmas Gala. The united voices and elated smiles showed our community

at its most powerful and joyful times.

I am enthusiastic about our 2008 Executive Board. Angel Ramirez has agreed to take over as our new President, a position he has successfully served before. You will find surprising new faces in the overall board which highlights again your enthusiasm to step up as leaders either directly (Executive Board & Board of Directors) or indirectly through your ideas and active involvement.

2008 is upon us and we're raring to go forward. Have an idea? Speak up! Don't miss this year's Three Kings Celebration hosted by Emilie German as well as next month's 2<sup>nd</sup> Casita Anniversary. The Domino Club continues to meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday outside the Casita. Also, January's Fiesta Night will bring us together to celebrate with Gene Perry at his CD Release Party on January 28<sup>th</sup> featuring the original recording band performing live for the 1<sup>st</sup> time. In March we'll have the San Diego Latino Film Festival. We're in for another ride. *En 2008, la parranda sigue... ¡no se lo pierdan!*

Saludos,

Dr. Aileen Alvarado-Swaigood  
2007 President, HPRSD

## Election 2008



Please give around of applause to the newly elected Executive Board and Board of Directors for 2008.

### Executive Board 2008:

These positions are held for a 1 year term.

**President** – Angel Ramirez

**Vice President** – Casilda Pagan de Romero

**Secretary** – Emily Velez-Confer

**Treasurer** – Jose Reyes

### Board of Directors:

Normally, these positions are held for a 3 year term unless someone is elected to fill one of the positions that a Board Member relinquishes. The Board of Directors will vote on the positions at their first meeting.

**3 year term** – Dennis Flores

Thank you all who participated in this year's election.

## Christmas Dinner/ Dance



Photo by Nelson Martinez

The annual Christmas Gala Dinner/Dance was held on **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2007** at the Portuguese Hall in Point Loma from 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 Midnight.

This year we had an event coordinator, Dimar Owens – [www.vibrantweddings.com](http://www.vibrantweddings.com), to help with the invitations, tickets, decorations, and table settings. Everything was just stunning. Thanks!



Photo by Bonita Martinez

Orq. Rico Tumbao provided lots of energy and great music for the dance. There were many people dancing on the dance floor. Maybe next year, we'll need to remove some tables to get more room for dancing – just a thought.

Those salsa lessons sure paid off!

Andrés Restaurant, [www.andresrestaurantsd.com](http://www.andresrestaurantsd.com), provided us with a great feast. We enjoyed *pollo asado*, *pernil de puerco*, *arroz con gandules*, and salad. Oh yea, did I mention that we also had flan for desert. And who would have a Christmas dinner without *pasteles*? Not us, thanks Estelle!



Photo by Nelson Martinez

Special thanks to the MC of the evening, DJ Rick 'La Voz' Chriss; Emily and Stephen Velez-Confer for a job well done on the silent auction; Joe, Evelyn, Isaiah, and Nathaniel for working the front door and dinner tickets collection; all the participants in the *Parranda*; and the set up crew.

### *Parranda Navideña*



In mid October, we started meeting on Wednesday evenings in *La Casita*. Emily Velez-Confer took charge of the program, coordinated dates with Manny Cepeda, and contacted all the interested parties.

At the November meeting, we had our first performance. After that we were on a roll. We did a *parranda* for the HPR cottages. Dr. Carlos Jimenez joined Joe Carballo on the guitar while Gene Perry joined Ralph Costas on the congas.

After our *asalto* at the House of Spain, we went back to our cottage and received an *Aguinaldo* from the House of Spain. We continued to sing and park visitors gravitated toward our group in *La Casita*.

During December Nights at the park we got together and had a *parranda* in front of our booth.



Photo by Nelson Martinez

The culmination of our *parranda* was at our Christmas Gala. There we started singing and couldn't



stop. The cuatro player kept signing off and the group would just start another song.

We did a true *asalto* on Mark Swaisgood for his birthday. We met at Miami Grill in Poway. From there we caravanned to the Swaisgood's home. We quietly gathered at the front door and started singing.

It felt as if we were back in Puerto Rico. They opened the door, started singing with us, gave us food, sipped on some *coquito*, and enjoyed the evening.

Next year, watch out Southern California., the *Parranderos* have started *asaltos* in San Diego.

Sophie Costas

## “Día de los Tres Reyes” Celebration



On **January 5, 2008** we will hold our annual “Día de los Tres Reyes” celebration. The membership meeting will be start at 1:30pm. Please note the time for this meeting.

Parents, please remember to bring one wrapped gift for

each of your children to ensure that each child receives a gift. Also, don't forget to label the gift with your child's name.

## Casilda Pagán Scholarship



Photo by Jaime Chavez

Congratulations to Emilie German and Ayari Aguayo for winning the Casilda Pagán Scholarship 2007.

Just a reminder, the House of Puerto Rico San Diego sponsors this educational/vocational scholarship. Casilda Pagán scholarship is offered to San Diego County Residents or House of Puerto Rico High school seniors/ graduates or college/graduate students. With this award, we hope to assist youth or adults in the attainment of their educational and professional goals.

Casilda Pagán Scholarships are awarded yearly. All

interested applicants should visit the House of Puerto Rico San Diego website, [www.houseofpuertorico.com](http://www.houseofpuertorico.com) for the application.

## HPRSD Museum

HPRSD Museum committee has done it again. The new exhibits are in place. Have you seen them yet?

Look for the new posters on prominent Puerto Ricans, who have made a name for themselves in Sports, the Arts, Politics, and Music, etc. Some of the artwork on the walls have been rotated and/or updated. The exhibits in the cabinets have been updated too. So, stop by when you get the opportunity to see the changes.

## Hosting Efforts



Photo by Bonita Martinez

Are you trying to figure out how you can meet your 10 hour volunteer requirement to the HPRSD? Why don't you become a host for “La

Casita"? It's fun! You may even make some new friends.

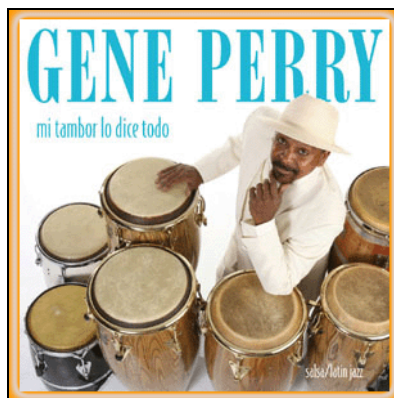
In the month of January, there will be one opportunity for you to come to the hosting orientation class. Join Joe Carballo on **Sunday, July 13** at **1:00 p.m.** at "La Casita". Please contact him at [jcarballo@san.rr.com](mailto:jcarballo@san.rr.com) if you would like to attend one of the orientation days or find out when the next orientation will be held.

Volunteers are needed to help host "La Casita" every Sunday except on Christmas and New Year's Day weekends. Volunteers will provide explanations, answer questions, and guide people through "La Casita" which is open from **12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

If you're unable to host at this time, please stop by anyway on Sunday to socialize. There is no need to wait for the HPRSD Members meeting to come socialize.

## Fiesta Nights

Throughout the year, we enjoyed many fun filled evenings together. These evenings are known as Fiesta Nights. We celebrated Manny's birthday, seen great plays, and listened to fantastic cuatro artists just to name a few of our activities.



For January, a suggested Fiesta Night is Gene Perry's CD release party for *Gene Perry Mi Tambor Lo Dice Todo*. The CD release party will be held at Dizzy's in the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center: Harbor Club Towers (ground floor); 2nd & J Street. San Diego, CA. 8:00 PM; There is \$20 suggested donation. You can find out more information at [www.geneperrylive.com](http://www.geneperrylive.com).

## Dominoes Club



Photo by Bonita Martinez

Every first Sunday of the month, come join the dominoes club and play a few games of bones. If you don't know how to play, don't fret – just come, watch, learn, and enjoy.

We ask for a minimum \$1.00 donation from each domino player with the proceeds going towards "La Casita".

If you're interested, contact Bobby Rivera at [bobbyrivera2002@hotmail.com](mailto:bobbyrivera2002@hotmail.com).

Due to park regulations NO ALCOHOL will be permitted within our area. This is a family event and we ask everyone to act responsibly. I'm looking forward to renewing La Casa De Puerto Rico's domino club and bringing a taste of San Juan to San Diego.

## Upcoming Events

**January 5, 2008** – "Día de los Tres Reyes"

**February 2, 2008**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of "La Casita" opening – celebration and membership meeting

**March 6 - 16, 2008**  
San Diego Latino Film Festival

**\*Volunteers are needed to make each event a success. If you wish to volunteer please call 619-234-3445.**

## Cultural Corner



In our monthly meetings, members of the House of

Puerto Rico, or visiting guests, are invited to share their experiences with the Puerto Rican culture. Tom Perry, one of the original founders of the House of Puerto Rico, and Jaime Diego Chávez initiated the series back in 2001. Culture Corner presentations in the past have included: Boricua Folklore and Legends, Puerto Ricans in Sports, The Taino People of Puerto Rico, Puerto Ricans in the San Diego Police Department (SDPD), Puerto Rican foods, Bomba y Plena, and many more!

If you are interested in sharing your experiences about Puerto Rican culture, music, dance, stories, or folklore in a culture corner, please attend our next meeting or email us at [houseofpuertorico@yahoo.com](mailto:houseofpuertorico@yahoo.com).

*Gracias,*

Jaime Diego Chávez

## Cultural Corners for 2008

**January** – “Día de los Tres Reyes” Celebration

**February** – History of Salsa

**March** – San Diego Latino Film Festival

**April** – “Día de los Niños”

**May** – OPEN

**June** – OPEN

**July** – NO MEETING

**August** – OPEN

**September** – Latino Heritage Month

**October** – OPEN

**November** – ELECTIONS  
For the 2009 Executive Board

**December** – NO MEETING

## Membership Corner



(Please let me know if I left your name out!)

### New Members

Susan & Edwin Hernandez  
Maria Ramos  
Steve Spencer  
Ada & Kendra Ramos  
John & Lupe Foresty  
Luz Nereida & Carlos Juan Ramos  
Eileen Webb  
Dennis & Leticia Henry  
José Cruz & Julia Torres  
Ralph Muñiz  
Eric Santiago  
Rosalina Camacho-Gallagher &  
George Gallagher  
Betsy Irene Roman  
Felicita Maisonave  
John A Doyle & Yolanda Aviles  
Emily German  
Armando Burgos  
Tina & Walt Jellison  
Grisel Saez  
Enelida & William Malone  
Magda I & Franklin Miranda  
Lynne Lamanna & Manuel A Vite  
Angie & Gus Freeman  
Susie & Rafael Peguero  
Rafael & Ruth Carrasquillo

Elsie Figueroa  
Victor y Virginia Moreno

### Lifetime Members

Angel & Carmen Rosa  
Nelson & Bonita Martinez  
Walter & Ann A. Rodríguez  
Benjamin y Maria Santiago-Rivera  
Rafael y Sophie Costas  
Emily & Steven Velez-Confer  
Antonio & Maria S. Grillo  
José Ruben y Margaret Santiago  
Dionisio y Judy Flores  
Angel y Artemiza Medina  
D. Antonio & Rosemarie Lopez  
Eduardo Rodriguez  
Bobby & Jesse Rivera  
Casilda Pagan de Romero

### Ten Year Members

Martha Senturia y Warren Cintrón  
Robin y Manny Cepeda  
Cruz Swedelius  
Angel L Flores  
Jaime Diego & Lucy Chavez  
Don Kenny and Maria Martinez  
Adolfo and Maribel Velez

### Renewals

Isabel Anderson,  
Gilbert & Eva Cruz,  
Sonia Negron,  
Ernie y Luisa Castro,  
Victor De Jesus.  
Annette & Jack Bewley,  
Rosario Camacho y José Reyes,  
Miriam Giorgianni,  
Eddie & Helen Solivan,  
Kevin & Luz Miriam Munnelly,  
Rosa & Reynaldo Paduani,  
Diane Cifelli,  
Benjamin & Lori Cruz,  
Roberto & Lucelinda Rivera,  
Joe & Nancy Carballo,  
James Vallejo,  
Miriam & Robert Cline,  
Aileen & Mark Swaisgood,  
Daniel Lopez,  
Zahydie & Joseph Annandono,  
Peter & Jessie Carrion,  
Jose & Lupe Rivera,  
Ellie Ramos & Louis Williams,  
Judith Rodriguez y Albert Cascia,  
Carmen Ortiz y Michael Roman,  
Dali & Hud Collins,

Antonio & Nilsa Gonzalez,  
 Frances & Roberto Quiñones,  
 Judy y Robert Serrano,  
 Elizabeth Sanchez,  
 Norma & Gordon Anderson,  
 Sandra & John Rivera,  
 Dr. Marie Rodriguez,  
 Nereida Baez & Jesus Fernandez,  
 Angel y Sara Ramirez,  
 Veronica Ramirez,  
 Leonardo Ramirez,  
 Richie Ramirez,  
 Gerardo Torres y Vivian Colon,  
 Ilia Y William Dos Santos,  
 Ana Celia Zentella y Robert Cabot

Yearly membership dues are \$35.00 and begin on **October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>**. The HPRSD also offers Lifetime and 10 Years Memberships. The cost for the Lifetime membership is \$500. The cost for the 10 Years membership is \$250.

The HPRSD By-Laws are available. If you would like a copy, please call **619-234-3445** and leave a message indicating whether you would like a hard copy (printed version) or a soft copy (e-mail version).

## Pot Luck Spot



Photo by Nelson Martinez

After the HPRSD members meeting, there are too many

empty pots at our Pot Luck. Make it, bake it, or buy it and we'll eat it!

Elise Caruso

## Editor's Note



If you're interested in helping out on the newsletter, please let me know by calling Bonita Martinez at 619-234-3445.

To help defray the cost of stamps and printing, the "El Boricua" can now be sent as an Adobe PDF files over e-mail in **color**. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please let me know.

Remember, if you choose to receive the newsletter by e-mail, you'll be able to forward the newsletter to family and friends and see it in **color**.

*Gracias,*

Bonita Martinez

The House of Puerto Rico San Diego (HPRSD) is a non-profit organization established and governed by the laws of the state of California, for the

purpose of sharing and promoting the culture of Puerto Rico to the people of California. Membership to HPRSD is open to anyone who is interested in the heritage and culture of Puerto Rico.

Are you moving? If you are, please let us know in order to update our member and general mailing records.

Are you interested in advertising your business in our newsletter? If so, please send information with payment to the editor at the address below. Here is the price list for the year (6 issues):

Business Cards	\$50
Half Page	\$125
Full Page	\$200

All correspondence to HPRSD should be addressed to:

House of Puerto Rico San Diego  
 P.O. Box 81982  
 San Diego, CA 92138

You can also find us in the Internet at:

[www.houseofpuertorico.com](http://www.houseofpuertorico.com)

**\*\*\*Information about the 2008 Scholarship can be found in our WEB Page!**

## Executive Board

**President:** Aileen Alvarado-Swaigood

**Vice President:** Jose M. Reyes



**Secretary:** Emily Velez-Confer

**Treasurer:** Ralph Costas

### **Volunteers**

**Accountant:** Jose Arjona

**College & Youth Committee:**

Ayari Aguayo, Aned Muñiz Garcia,  
Amelia Beniquez, Emilio Peña, and  
Veronica Ramírez

**Editor:** Bonita Martinez

**El Boricua Staff:** Daniel Lopez,  
Emmy Martinez, Emily Velez-  
Confer

**Membership Coordinator:**  
Sophie Costas

**Museum Committee:**

Dr. Antonio Grillo-López, Maria S.  
Grillo, Daniel López, Terry  
Kingston, Aileen Alvarado-  
Swaisgood, Ralph Costas, Sophie  
Costas, Rosario Camacho, and José  
M. Reyes

**Photographers:**

Angel Rosa, Angel Flores, Aram  
Perez, Emily Velez-Confer, Bonita  
Martinez, and Nelson Martinez

**Pot Luck Coordinator:**  
Elise Caruso

**Scholarship Committee:**  
Joe Carballo and Jaime Diego  
Chávez

**Technology Committee:**

Aileen Alvarado-Swaisgood, Mark  
Swaisgood, José M. Reyes, and  
Bonita Martinez

**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
Joe Carballo

## **Board of Directors**

**Chair:** Joe Carballo

**Vice Chair:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Bonita Martinez

**Trustee:** Sophie Costas

**Trustee:** Jose M. Reyes

**Honorary Directors:** Ralph Costas,  
Dr. Antonio Grillo-López



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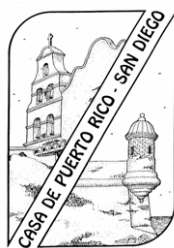
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dali@san.tx.com

The advertisement features a portrait of Dali Collins on the left, a city skyline in the background, and a large yellow sun in the top left corner. The text is arranged in a clear, professional layout with contact information at the bottom.



[www.HouseOfPuertoRico.com](http://www.HouseOfPuertoRico.com)



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