



El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

<http://www.inetworld.net/lacasa>



Puerto Rican Actor Wins Oscar

Executive Board

José Reyes	President
Rosario Camacho	Vice President
Veronica Ramírez	Secretary
Ralph Costas	Treasurer
Angel Ramirez	Past President
Tommy Rosas	Trustee
Jaime Chavez	Trustee

Volunteers

Antonio Mejías	Accountant
Vacant	Activities Coordinator
Sophie Costas	Membership Coordinator
Angel Ramírez	Newsletter Editor
Daniel López	Staff Writer
Liz Lebrón,	
Jose Carballo &	
Janette Gonzalez	Scholarship Committee

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Puerto Rican actor Benicio del Toro, born in San German, won the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in the movie *Traffic*. For more information on Benicio's recent achievements, please read the Puerto Rican Profile section.

President's Message

Well, spring is here and that can only mean more sunshine into our hearts. Now is the time to open your hearts and donate to the HPRSD Cottage Building Fund. We are not far from completing our goal of constructing a Puerto Rican Cultural *Casita* in Balboa Park. We currently have \$84,000 and with your help I know we can start construction of the "casita" soon.

Please come and see us at our upcoming events. Our annual Lawn Program is on May 20, 2001 at Balboa Park. Orgullo Boricua Folkloric Dance Group will be performing and HPRSD will be selling delicious food. *El Dia de San Juan* Festival is on June 17, 2001 at Mission Bay. The "Casita" Fund

Raiser Dinner/Dance will be coming soon, a date and place to be announced soon. Please make an effort to attend these events; I am sure you will not be disappointed. Speaking of attendance, we miss you at the membership meetings and we would like to see more members attend our monthly membership meetings at the Hall of Nations, Balboa Park. At our March membership meeting, Mr. Tomas Perry entertained us with an oral presentation on the history of Puerto Rico. It was great. Come join us and enjoy a potluck after the meeting.

Saludos, José M. Reyes

Editor's Message

The House of Puerto Rico San Diego (HPRSD) is a non-profit for public benefit 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.

All correspondence to HPRSD should be addressed to:

House of Puerto Rico San Diego
(Attn:)
P.O. Box 81982
San Diego, CA 92138-1982

You can also find us in the internet at: <http://www.inetworld.net/lacasa/>

Membership Corner

Anniversaries – We would like to congratulate the members celebrating their wedding anniversary these months:

George & Lidia Gelada, 04/05
Benjamin & Lori Cruz, 04/28

Birthdays – We would like to offer our best wishes to our members celebrating their birthday these months:

Iraida Lopez	03/02
Marguerite Collazo	03/06
Christina Claudio	03/13
Olga Bonilla	03/15
Michael Claudio	03/26
Carla Claudio	03/27
Gloriani Gutierrez	03/27
Eddie Lisboa, Jr.	03/30
Rosa A. Acevedo	04/01
Victoria Claudio	04/01
Lydia E. Gelada	04/01
Steven Solivan	04/01
Yvette Maciel Soto	04/03
Liz Lebron	04/06
Bryana Martinez	04/10
Richie Ramirez	04/17
Walter Rodriguez	04/17
Dali Collins	04/18
George Salameh	04/18
Sophie Costas	04/21
Adrian Rivera	04/22
Marcos Borrero	04/25
Rosa Ramirez Torres	04/26

New Members – We would like to thank those who recently joined our family:

Julio & Julia Carrillo
Victor Chavez, Jr.
Tomas & Pat Perry
Anibal Torres & Ines Lopez

Renewing Members – We would like to thank our members who recently renewed their membership:

Eduardo & Lucy Barreto
Felicita Codiamat
Miriam Giorgianni
Antonio & Isabel Mejias
John & Sandra Rivera
Luis & Vinny Torres

Prizes for Members – All those joining or renewing their membership beginning on April 1 will be entered in a drawing for prizes. The first drawing will take place at the membership meeting on June 2. You have to be present in order to win. Prizes not awarded will carry over to the next meeting. The prizes to be awarded in the meeting in June are:

- First Prize: One HPRSD t-shirt and a dinner for two.
- Second Prize: One HPRSD t-shirt and two tickets to the San Diego Zoo.

Cultural Corner

Recipe of the Month

Puerto Rican Vegetable Omelet
(Serves 2)

Breakfast at Horned Dorset Primavera makes the most of Puerto Rico's tropical fruits and vegetables. If you like, you can use a seven-inch pan to make individual omelets. If you're doubling the recipe, cook two large or four small omelets rather than trying to assemble one very big one.

Ingredients:

1 small red potato, peeled and cut into ¼-inch dice
? small chayote, peeled and cut into ¼-by-1 ½ -inch matchsticks
1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil
¼ small red onion, thinly sliced
¼ small red bell pepper, cut into ¼ -by-1 ½ -inch matchsticks
1 garlic clove, minced

Salt and freshly ground pepper
1 teaspoon finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 teaspoon minced fresh cilantro
2 teaspoons unsalted butter
4 large eggs, lightly beaten
¼ cup heavy cream

In a small pan of boiling water, cook the potato and chayote until just tender, about 4 minutes. Drain the vegetables and transfer to a plate.

Heat the olive oil in a small skillet. Add the onion and red pepper and cook over moderately high heat, stirring, until wilted, about 2 minutes. Add the potato, chayote and garlic, season with salt and pepper and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the parsley and cilantro, cover and keep warm.

In a 10-inch omelet pan, preferably nonstick, melt the butter until the foam subsides; tilt the pan to coat the bottom and sides. In a bowl, combine the eggs and cream, and season with salt and pepper. Add the eggs to the pan and cook over high heat without stirring just until the edges set. Lower the heat to moderate and lift the sides of the eggs, tilting the pan to let the uncooked eggs spread underneath. Cook until the bottom is browned and the top is still slightly runny, about 2 minutes.

Spread the vegetables on top of the eggs. Tilt the pan and fold over one-third of the omelet to partially cover the vegetables. Roll the omelet onto a cutting board, flipping it over itself. Cut the omelet in half and serve on warmed plates.

Town of the Month



Loiza – Fundado en el 1719, fue nombrado en honor a la Cacica Luyza. Sus barrios son: Las Cuevas, Mediania Alta, Mediania Baja,

Torrecilla Alta, Palmarejo, y Loiza Pueblo. Entre sus personalidades se encuentran: Belen Zequeira de Cuevas, Ramon Suarez, Jesus Maria Escobar y la Familia Ayala, representantes de la tradicion artesanal y folklorica de la region. Loiza es uno de los pueblos mas antiguos de Puerto Rico. Popularmente se le conoce como Loiza Aldea.

Thank You

We would like to thank Mr. Tomas Perry for his educational and entertaining cultural presentation at the March membership meeting.

Why Juanito Really Can't Read

By Dr. Marie Rodriguez

The public has become saturated, of late, with media coverage on the failure of our schools, the children and their teachers, in particular. More testing, national standards and staff development has become the menu du jour, the blueprint for change. Somehow politicians and policy makers once more are focusing on the failures of the child which are attributed to him and his home environment. Poverty, one parent household and negligence by the parents are the reasons the inner city student cannot read (Haycock, Educational Leadership, March 2001).

After more than fifty years the deficit theory in education, blaming the home for school failure, is still with us. Somehow politicians and policy makers "just don't get it." The cure all for them is more books, more reading and math time for children and more training, usually workshops, for their teachers. All these remedies in school buildings that continue to be overpopulated and

are coming apart. There appears to be no awareness that the old curriculum is in need of change as there is a more diversified student population in our schools today. Tracking, yes, still exist. Minority children, more than any other group, are given weak course of studies that lead nowhere in preparing them for college or the real world of work. Why is it that the inner city school children are more likely to be taught by out of license teachers with fewer years of experience in the classroom? Where in the blueprint for change are these issues being addressed?

There is a tendency, as well, to require more accountability from the teachers. The elementary classroom teacher is already expected to give instruction in all subject areas of the curriculum to a class composition of children with different ability levels, English language fluency, and special needs. All this and meet deadlines that do not take into consideration on how children learn. In addition, there are funded programs servicing the child with guidelines and tests that must be met along with those issued by the city and state boards of education.

Teachers feel that a large percentage of their instructional time during the school year is spent on teaching to the test, that is, item-teaching, or planning around the type of items that will be found on a standardized test. Such teaching in isolation brings little long term knowledge. Most children do not remember much of what they learned after weeks of item teaching. However, if the focus is on teaching for knowledge or skills, the child will stand a better chance of having learned the curriculum (Popham, Educational Leadership, March 2001).

The classroom teacher, when addressing her needs, will tell you that she will benefit more with an on-site mentor/teacher trainer than attending workshops. These trainers with new teachers provide model

lessons and hands-on strategies on classroom management in planning for learning centers and grouping for reading and math, as well as remind teachers that they are indeed assets to their classroom children and their parents.

Of course, a healthy school climate is of essence. A principal, under pressure to meet blueprint expectations, cannot serve well his role as school leader if there is no sensitivity to how children learn and teachers teach.

Free Money for College

by Jaime Chavez

Every year thousands of dollars in scholarships go unclaimed. Scholarships are private types of financial aid that do not have to be repaid-FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE. Requirements for scholarships vary and may include: GPA, ethnicity, community service, extracurricular activities, athletics, and other requirements. Scholarships are offered by organizations, groups, or businesses. The House of Puerto Rico San Diego offers a scholarship, come to one of our meetings to find out more about it.

You can find out more about scholarships from your child's school counselor, your local library, or from the internet. A student is never too young to start looking for scholarships. Be careful with scholarship companies that claim they will find scholarships for you and your child if you pay a fee-your child's school counselor or your local librarian can do this for free. Here are a few websites that have scholarship lists and applications:

www.fastweb.com
www.hsf.net
www.target.com
www.sdmcdonalds.com

www.hispanicawards.com
www.cesar-e-chavez.com

Puerto Rican Profile

Benicio del Toro

PERSONAL INFORMATION -

Born on February 19, 1967, in San German, PR. Raised in Santurce, PR. Moved to Mercersburg, PA at age 13 and went to the Mercersburg Academy.

EDUCATION - University of California at San Diego. Changed major to acting so he could audition for a role in a school production. Decided to pursue acting full time so he left school and moved to New York City. Studied at Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York. Won a scholarship to The Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting where he studied for three-four years.

CAREER - After two years in Los Angeles, he got his first job as a guest star on Miami Vice. Cast as lead in the play, Orphans. Casting director saw him and asked him to audition for a role in License To Kill.

AWARDS

03/25/01 - Named Best Supporting Actor for his performance in Traffic by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences.

03/11/01 - Selected by his peers in the Screen Actors Guild for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in Traffic.

02/26/01 - Selected Best Supporting Actor award for Traffic from the Chicago Film Critics Association.

02/25/01 - Selected Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Orange British Academy Film Awards.

02/18/01 - Named Best Actor for his performance in Traffic at the Berlin

Film Festival (Silver Bear Award).

02/15/01 - Selected as Best Actor for his performance in Traffic by the First Annual Vancouver Film Critics Awards.

01/21/01 - Chosen as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (Golden Globe Awards).

01/6/01 - Selected as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the National Society of Film Critics

01/4/01 - Selected as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Florida Film Critics Circle Awards.

01/2/01 - Named Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Online Film Critics Society (tied with Philip Seymour Hoffman).

January 2001 - Chosen as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Southeastern Film Critics Association.

January 2001 - Selected as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Kansas City Film Critics Circle.

12/22/00 - Selected as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the Las Vegas Film Critics Society.

12/22/00 - Selected as Best Supporting Actor for Traffic by the San Diego Film Critics Society.

12/21/00 - Selected as Best Actor for Traffic by the Toronto Film Critics Association.

12/13/00 - Received the Best Supporting Actor Award from the New York Film Critics Circle for his portrayal of Javier Rodriguez in Traffic.

December 2000 - Selected as Best Supporting Performance for Traffic by the Village Voice Film Critics Poll.

Upcoming Events

March 3 - Membership meeting at 3 p.m. at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

April 7 - Membership meeting at 3 p.m. at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

April 8 - House of Pacific Relations (HPR) Queens Organization Lawn Program at the International Cottages stage from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

April 28 - HPR Spring Dinner/Dance at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station. Tickets are \$22 for members and \$25 for non-members.

Advertisements

HPRSD offers advertisement space in this newsletter. If you would like to advertise, please call us at (619) 685-2847. The advertisement monthly rates are:

Business Cards	\$ 12.50
Quarter Page	\$ 25.00
Half Page	\$ 50.00
Full Page	\$100.00

Special rates are available to members, including business card ads for \$50.00 per year, or \$35.00 for 6 months.

Announcement - We are looking for volunteers to make Educational/Cultural presentations (15 to 30 minutes) after our membership meetings.