



# El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter  
<http://www.HouseofPuertoRico.com>

## Christmas Gala Dinner/Dance

### Executive Board

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

### Volunteers

Antonio Mejías .....	Accountant
Ramonita Narvaez .....	Activities Coordinator
Sophie Costas .....	Membership Coordinator
Vacant .....	Newsletter Editor
Daniel López .....	Staff Writer
Dr. Marie Rodriguez..	Staff Writer
Jose Carballo,	
Noel Acevedo &	
Jaime Chavez .....	Scholarship Committee

### Contents

Executive Board .....	1
Volunteers .....	1
Contents .....	1
President's Message .....	1
Editor's Message .....	1
Membership Corner .....	2
Cultural Corner .....	2
Casita Update .....	2
Casilda Pagán Scholarship Update ..	3
Antonia Pantoja Article .....	3
Refranes de Puerto Rico .....	3
Upcoming Events .....	3

The 2002 Christmas Gala Dinner/Dance will be held on Saturday, December 14 at the Portuguese Hall in Point Loma. The event is scheduled from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m., beginning with a No Host Bar from 6-7, followed by Puerto Rican typical Christmas dinner from 7-8 and dance/entertainment from 8 until midnight. You will be entertained by Orquesta Salzumba, "Aguinaldos" by "trovadores" from the group Areito Borincano, and D.J. Rick "La Voz" Chriss. There will also be a Silent Auction for those of you who generously participate in this annual fundraiser for the construction of our "Casita" in Balboa Park.

Tickets for the Dinner/Dance are \$45.00 per person (if paid by November 30). As a membership benefit you are entitled to purchase two (2) Dinner/Dance tickets at the membership discount price of \$35.00 (in advance only). All Dinner/Dance tickets sold at the door will cost \$50.00, if available. All Dance only tickets are \$25.00 and will be sold at the door. Please remember that no dinner tickets will be sold after December 7!

For more information about this event and to request tickets please call the following numbers:

North County - 858-481-2995

San Diego - 619-264-6826

South Bay - 619-661-8957

E-mail - [lacasa@intetworld.net](mailto:lacasa@intetworld.net)

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

Come and enjoy a night with good food, good music and good friends!

### President's Message

As the term of my presidency comes to an end, I want to thank all of you for your commitment and support of our organization throughout this year. We accomplished the goals we set out at the beginning of the year. Our membership has increased, our visibility in the community has increased through the activities we participated during the year, and we are closer to building our "Casita" in Balboa Park!

I want to convey my personal thanks to everyone who committed his or her time, energy, and good will to uphold the mission of our organization this year. I'll long remember the special people I have met through my experiences as an active member of this organization!

Best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

*Rosario Camacho*

### 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

*Submitted by Sophie Costas*

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

Antonio J. & MarRa S. Grillo-L\pez  
(11/07))

Luis & Vinny Torres (11/19)

Carlos E. & Carmen O. Rivera (11/24)  
John A. Cid (11/24)

Blas & Alexis Pedrero (12/04)

Eduardo & Lucy Barreto (12/12)

Israel & Elayne Camacho (12/12)

R.C. Strahl & Liz Lebr\ñ (12/17)

Marcos & Digna Borrero (12/17)

Loren B. & Ada Chico (12/27)

Sim\ñ & Olga Bonilla (12/29)

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

Isabel MejRas 11/05

Peter Amalio Swaisgood 11/05

JosJ A. Aguayo 11/06

Gloria DRaz 11/07

Miriam Giorgianni 11/09

Lidia Gelada 11/10

Alex E. Torres 11/12

Angel L. Rom<n 11/13

Joseph Annandono 11/18

Valerie Ortiz Wallace 11/18

Antonio J. Grillo-L\pez 11/20

Nancy Carballo 11/25

Orlando V<zquez 11/25

Leonardo RamRrez 11/26

Nathaniel Rivera 11/28

Kristina MartRnez  
11/28

Nenette RodrRguez 11/29

Sam Solana 11/29

RosamarRa VJlez  
11/29

Rosario Camacho 11/30

Lorie A. Wagner Sandza 11/30

David R. Lindsay 11/30

Leah Nickos 12/01

Al Liddy 12/01

Eddie Solivan 12/02

Tiffany Carri\ñ 12/07

Pedro Medina 12/10

Ralph Costas 12/11

Tommy Rosas 12/13

Julia A. Carrillo 12/15

Rafael Bonilla 12/15

Ana A. Liddy 12/16

Elayne Camacho 12/18

Israel Camacho 12/18

Iyari Aztlan Ch<vez 12/19

R.C. Strahl 12/20

Mark Swaisgood 12/21

Jalessa Torres 12/22

Dennis Cintr\ñ 12/23

Daniela RodrRguez 12/23

Gabriela RodrRguez 12/23

Yvonne Sandza 12/23

Ernie Castro 12/25

David GarcRa 12/25

George Gelada 12/30

Felicia Acosta 12/31

Irene F. V<zquez 12/31

**New Members:** We would like to welcome our new members who recently joined our family:

Nadia SofRa JimJnez

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

Angel & Sara RamRrez

Drs. Mark & Aileen Alvarado

Jennifer Asmar

Dr. Marie RodrRguez

Walter & Nenette Adelson-  
RodrRguez

Evelyn DRaz Cruz & Saul Esparza  
Cruz

BenjamRn & Lori Cruz

Victor & Alicia De JesDs

JosJ & Iraidia L\pez

Michael & Carla Claudio

**Prizes for Members** – Members attending the monthly membership meetings are eligible to win a t-shirt in the prize drawing at the meeting.

## Cultural Corner

*Submitted by Jaime Chavez*

The theme for the month of January will be the Three Kings Day Tradition. Member Emilie German will present her Three Kings collection and explain the tradition behind this memorable date. Children present will receive a present! We are asking every family to bring a wrapped gift!

## Casita Update

*Submitted by Ralph Costas*

We are still in the process of getting the final plans approved by both the Parks Department and the City Building permit process.

I do not want to predict our start of construction. In the past my predictions have not been accurate. We have had to overcome various handicap regulations that were thrown our way. Some were partially justified and others were not. Just the same, they have been responsible for delays of at least three months.

We continue working with the corresponding agencies, architects and engineers to get the job done.

We still need to complete our goal of \$183,000. We currently have \$137,000 in the Building Fund. It is everybody's responsibility to keep up the fund raising effort. Keep asking for the donations. If we don't ask we will not receive.

Check out our website, [Houseofpuertorico.com](http://Houseofpuertorico.com), to make sure your name is on the donor list. Get all your friends on the list. If

you donate \$1,000 or get various donors that add up to \$1,000 or more, you will be recognized for your contribution with a Garita Brick that will be displayed at La Casita.

Be a proud Puerto Rican. Build "La Casita"! Donate today!

Saludos, Ralph

## Casilda Pagán Scholarship Update

Congratulations to the 2002 Casilda Pagán Scholarship recipients! They are: Anthony Annandono (\$200), Emily German (\$350), Ramonita Narváez (\$250), Miguel Angel Vargas (\$350), and Annie Zendejas (\$350).

## Antonia Pantoja, Educator, Community Builder, Dies at 80

*Submitted by Dr. Marie Rodriguez*

An earlier article (January 2001) by this writer addressed the positive impact of Puerto Rican women educators in New York City on our children. Two women, in particular Evelina and Angela Rosario Bazely, one a community activist and the other an educator respectively, were highlighted.

Antonia Pantoja managed to be both a community builder and educator. No women played a more pivotal role on the island of Puerto Rico and here in the mainland, than Miss Pantoja did.

Her contributions brought White House recognition by President Clinton with the Medal of Freedom Award (1996). The following year, Miss Pantoja was honored at the Mexican Fine Arts Museum in Chicago.

Born in Punta de Tierra, DoZa Antonia attended the University of

Puerto Rico. After two years she left to become a teacher. Years later she completed her undergraduate degree at Hunter College in New York City. She, with other Puerto Ricans, conceived of the youth organization, ASPIRA, at a time when the New York City schools were failing our children. ASPIRA taught leadership and self-pride and facilitated the admission of young Puerto Ricans into college.

Community building by Miss Antoja enriched many lives, as well, through the establishment of Puerto Rican based institutions like PRACA, Puerto Rican Forum, and Boricua University (Washington, D.C.), later to become Boricua College (New York City). One can only be awed by the productivity of this great lady in her lifetime. Yet there was more.

After retiring, Miss Pantoja came to our San Diego community and became Director of the Social Work Program where she created the Graduate School for Community Development at San Diego State University.

In 1984, DoZa Antonia returned to her native island to commit herself still to another mission: PRODUCIR. The organization helped Puerto Rican farmers control their own destiny through the use of technology, distribution of crops and the establishment of credit unions.

The Puerto Rican Community lost a noble, courageous and selfless person when Antonia Pantoja passed away May 24, 2002 at the age of 80. Her belief in her people remained with her to the very end. To the young Puerto Rican youth she left them this encouragement: "Life is a struggle. It never ends. And in this regard the struggle for justice and freedom must continue. The work must be linked from one generation to another, and we must see ourselves links. Everyone has a part to play."

For those of us who are parents and grandparents our role has been clearly defined. We are that link.

*Source: 1. Symposium: Puerto Rican Education Harvard Educational*

*Review, Summer 1998. 2. New York Times, Metropolitan Desk, May 28, 2002.*

## Refranes de Puerto Rico (Proverbs or Sayings from Puerto Rico)

*Submitted by Noel A. Acevedo*

"No hay mal que dure 100 años ni cuerpo que lo resista." (No plague can last 100 years nor there's a person that can endure it because nothing lasts forever)

"Dime con quién andas y te diré quién eres." (Tell me who you are with, and I'll tell you who you are. Choose your friends well.)

"No es lo mismo llamar al diablo que verlo venir." (You wouldn't call the devil if you knew he was going to come, similar to don't cry wolf.)

"El ignorante grita, el inteligente discute y el sabio calla." (The ignorant shouts, the intelligent argues and the wise keeps quiet.)

"...en la brega." (a response to "how are you doing?"...just doing what needs to be done.)

## Upcoming Events

**November 26** - Host the Hall of Nations at Balboa Park from 11:00a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**\*There is not a membership meeting in the month of December!**

**December 6 & 7** - December Nights (formerly Christmas on the Prado) at Balboa Park

**December 14** - Christmas Gala Dinner/Dance at the Portuguese Hall, Point Loma from 6-12 midnight.

**January 4** - Membership meeting at the Hall of Nations, Balboa Park, from 3:00-6:00p.m. Día de Reyes Celebration.



# **ENVUELVE**

## **MAKE THE PUERTO RICAN CASITA IN BALBOA PARK A REALITY**



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**P.O. Box 81982**  
**San Diego, CA 92138-1982**

**Address Service Requested**