



# El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

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



## Board of Directors Inaugural Meeting

### 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

### Contents

Executive Board .....	1
Volunteers .....	1
President's Message .....	1
Editor's Message .....	2
Membership Corner .....	2
Cultural Corner .....	2
Puerto Rican Women Educators in	
NYC .....	3
The Puerto Rican Danza .....	3
Casita Update .....	4
Upcoming Events .....	4
Advertisements .....	4



The first meeting of the inaugural Board of Directors of the House of Puerto Rico San Diego was held on February 4 at the residence of Ralph and Sophie Costas. All Directors were present at the meeting (from left to right): Tommy Rosas, Dr. Antonio Grillo, Ralph Costas, Sophie Costas, José Reyes, Angel Ramirez, Dr. Aileen Alvarado-Swaigood, and Jaime Chavez. The Board of Directors elected officers as follows: Dr. Alvarado-Swaigood as the Chair of the Directors, Dr. Grillo as the Vice Chair, and Angel Ramirez as the Recording Secretary. We would like to thank our gracious hosts Ralph and Sophie Costas.

### President's Message

Year 2000 has been a very successful year for the House of Puerto Rico San Diego (HPRSD). Collectively we have worked very hard and made numerous contributions to our goal of building a Puerto Rican *casita* in Balboa Park. I am aware of the long hours and efforts required in accomplishing the goal, however, I also am aware that with the help of our fine Executive Board and members accomplishing this goal would be easy. Currently we have \$84,425 in the building fund and with a little bit more help we will soon have our "Casita". HPRSD is planning a Gala Fund Raiser

Dinner/Dance sometime in June with all proceeds going into the building fund. My efforts are aimed toward constructing a Puerto Rican Museum in Balboa Park for the purpose of promoting and cultivating the Puerto Rican culture in other words, to preserve the culture and not lose it. So, as we pursue our goal, it is especially important for all of us to remember to take time off and don't forget to spend quality time with family, loved ones and friends. I want to thank all those who supported our last Christmas Dinner/Dance and I look forward to seeing you at our next Dinner/Dance.

*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:

Pete Bernard, 2/5  
Frank Torres & Tim Erickson, 2/6  
John & Sandra Rivera, 2/11  
José Reyes & Rosario Camacho, 2/12  
Angel & Sara Ramírez, 2/18  
Christopher & Petri Martinez, 2/26

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

Adriana González ...	01/01
Jovanna Rosado	01/01
Rita Espaillat	01/01
Reynaldo Paduani	01/02
Alvin Soto	01/03
Benjamin Cruz	01/05
Walter McCormack .....	01/06
Mia Josefina Lisboa	01/07
Margaret Santiago .....	01/09
Lucy Chavez	01/14
Felicita Codiamat	01/15
Celia Solivan	01/20
Daisy Ann Cruz	01/20
Cheryl Acosta ....	01/22
Casilda Anaís Pagán	01/28
Jose Acosta	01/31
Papo Rosas ....	02/01
Loida Boriquen Rosado	02/02
Ivan Torres	02/02
Christopher Martinez	02/03
Angel Ramírez	02/04
Martin A. Reyes	02/05
Nahir Baez	02/06
Ricky Rivera	02/06
Alvin Epstein	02/10
Edith Taylor	02/10
Benjamin Santiago	02/12
Carlos Garcia	02/14
Eduardo Barreto	02/15
Simon Bonilla	02/16
Angely C. González	02/16
Andrew James Pagán	02/17
Lori Cruz	02/17
Myrna Gilbreath	02/19
Luz M. Cintron	02/26
Christina Reyes	02/29

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

Noel & Rosa Acevedo

Jose & Cheryl Acosta  
Loida Borinquen & Julio A. Rosado  
Antonio & Maria S. Grillo  
Lynne Lamanna  
Walter & Lorie Sandza  
Cruz Swedelius  
Luis & Rosamaria Velez  
Valerie O Wallace & David Garcia

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

Rosa & Tony Blanco  
Marcos & Digna Borrero  
Marguerite Collazo  
Ralph & Sophie Costas  
Angel & Sara Ramírez  
Richard Ramírez  
José Reyes & Rosario Camacho  
Nathaniel Rivera  
Tommy Rosas  
Benjamin & Maria Santiago  
Josephine M. Santiago  
Alvin and Yvette Maciel Soto  
Dr. Alex Torres

## Cultural Corner

### Recipe of the Month

#### *Double Chocolate Rum Cake*

Cake:  
18 ½oz. pkg. chocolate mix  
1 pkg. (4 serving size) Jell-O  
Chocolate Instant Pudding and Pie  
Filling  
4 eggs  
½cup Bacardi Gold Rum  
½cup water  
½cup Wesson Oil  
½cup slivered almonds (optional)

Filling:  
1 pint (2 cups) heavy cream  
cup of unsweetened cocoa  
½cup confectioners' sugar  
1 tsp. Vanilla  
½cup Bacardi Gold Rum  
Optional: garnish with chocolate curls

Preheat oven to 350° F. Grease and flour two 9-inch layer cake pans. Combine all cake ingredients together in a large bowl. Blend well; then beat at medium mixer speed 2 minutes. Turn into prepared pans. Bake 30 minutes or until cake tests done. Do not under-bake. Cool in pan for 10 minutes. Remove from pans; finish cooling on racks. Split layers in half horizontally. Stack. Spread 1 cup filling between each layer and over top of cake. Keep chilled. Serve cold.

For filling: Combine cream, cocoa, sugar, and vanilla in large bowl. Beat until stiff. Fold in rum. Makes 4 cups.

### Town of the Month



**Las Piedras** –  
Fundado en el 1773.  
Nombrado por los  
grandes peñascos que  
hay en la zona. Sus  
barrios son: Boquerón,  
Ceiba, Collores, El  
Rio, Montones,

Quebrada Arenas y Tejas. Entre sus  
personalidades se encuentran Miguel  
Hernandez Agosto, Jose R. Camacho  
Rabelo y Luis Humberto Torres. El en  
deporte se les conoce como los  
Artesanos.

## Puerto Rican Women Educators in NYC

By Dr. Marie Rodriguez

In my twenty five years in the field, I have always been aware of the important role Puerto Rican women educators and their community advocates played in the inner city schools. With Women's History Month (March) upon us and a recent article by Principal/ Superintendent Michael King's effort to honor retired staff members (*Educational Leadership*, February 2001), it was felt that the time had come to honor our community of Puerto Rican women educators.

For over forty years, these women warriors have fought against the educational system's failure to hire Puerto Ricans and other *Latino* professionals as teachers, counselors, psychologists, social workers and school administrators. Concurrent with this struggle, was the community's "*lucha*" in such neighborhoods as the South Bronx, Harlem's *El Barrio*, Williamsburg and Sunset Park, against the inequities that existed in the education of the Puerto Rican child. This denial for access to a better education is no more vividly described then by Jonathan Kozal in *Savage Inequalities* (1992).

The spark for change primarily was ignited in the south Bronx in the early sixties. Perhaps this was due to the heavy presence of strong Puerto Rican women leaders. Two crusaders, in particular, were instrumental in implementing change. One was a community leader, Dr. Evelina Antonetti, president for many years until her death, of the United Bronx Parents Organization. Dr. Antonetti worked with the parents to militate for improved conditions in the South Bronx schools, at a time when there was little concern for the needs of the Puerto Rican students and a lack of respect for their cultural background.

The other crusader, Mrs. Angela Rosario Bazley, moved from her teaching position in the South Bronx to become the top Puerto Rican educator in the City of New York as Central Board's Director of the Bilingual, Multicultural Division. Through her expertise and humanism, Mrs. Baxley was effective in the training of hundreds of bilingual paraprofessionals and teachers for the classroom. It was this early training that produced the future inner city school leaders as principals and school superintendents, not only for the Puerto Rican women educators but other minorities as well.

No citadel can be built high enough to memorialize these Puerto Rican women, but if there was such wall for them, inscribed on it would be the words of Lola Rodriguez de Tio:

*La Mujer Puertorriqueña  
La Verdadera "Borinqueña"  
que  
supo luchar.*

## The Puerto Rican Danza

Throughout the years the Puerto Rican musical expression known as the "Danza" has been called "the maximum artistic expression of the Puerto Rican culture." It is known for having very rich melodic and harmonic contents. The different types of danzas include ones which are melancholic and romantic, with long phrases and rich harmonies with three or more clearly defined parts. Another type of this musical form (genre) includes ones that are fast and lively with very short pieces with a playful character. Traditionally, danzas are classified as being either romantic or festive, although most danzas are romantic. All festive danzas have an introduction. In its origins danzas were for dancing, as its name suggests.

The origin of the Puerto Rican Danza is not exactly clear, although most musical scholars agree that the Danza began sometime around the middle of the 19th century, or around 1840. It is believed that the original danza was considered very unsophisticated and was therefore rejected by some of the high class people, but not by the youth. This was case because couples could get very close together and could talk privately to each others ear. Thus, Governor Juan de la Pezuela put forth a decree prohibiting it, but it didn't prevail.

The danza began to evolve as a new musical expression when a young

pianist Manuel G. Tavarez (1843-1883) took this new artistic form to a higher artistic level. Mr. Tavarez is considered as being the "father of the Danza". However, Mr. Tavarez' disciple, Morel Campos (1857-1896), took the danza to its maximum expression, after he composed more than 300 danzas, most of which are masterpieces. As a result of Mr. Campos' body of work, he is without a doubt, recognized as the major exponent of the Puerto Rican danza. Examples of Mr. Campos' danzas are "Mis Penas", "Tormento", and "Alma Sublime".

The ever evolving danza was inspired by the age old inspiration to composers, namely, women and love. One of the most famous and endearing Puerto Rican danzas is entitled "Margarita", while another is called "Laura and Georgina". Mr. Tavarez most famous composition is the beautiful danza "Margarita", which he composed in 1870. Mr. Campos was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on May 16, 1857.

*Source: The Internet from an article entitled--  
"The puerto rrican Danza"*

## Casita Update

We are getting closer to finalizing all the permits required to start building 'La Casita'. We are currently looking at possibly June / July 2001 to break ground. By then the permits should be in place but we are still short of our construction financial goal of \$120,000. As of today we have \$84,425 in the bank.

Our lives are composed of small decisions and we are a product of the decisions we make. Decisions are usually yes or no in nature. Today we are asking you to make a yes decision to be a part of building the "Casita" in Balboa Park. There are three ways you can contribute. These are time, talent

and treasure. Right now we need your treasure. We need your gift, a gift from the heart. It has to be a sacrifice, of dear value. Not just because it is tax deductible but something significant. You should be able to say with pride that your gift contributed significantly to the showcase of the Puerto Rican community in San Diego.

As of today we have approximately 86 persons that have contributed cash to our building fund. This is a very poor showing considering the total San Diego County Puerto Rican population is over 14,000. We need to reach out to those who have not contributed or have not yet heard about our project.

Here is a suggestion. Invite some friends over for dinner, lunch, a barbeque. Tell them you are inviting them over to discuss "making "La Casita" a reality". If they have already donated ask them to give a little bit more. Make sure every one gives from \$5.00 to \$1000. We need everyone you talk to, to give, and give today. Take out your phone books and start making calls, whatever it takes. Talk Casita and Puerto Rican pride and we will get it done.

Our deadline is approaching, Commit to making it happen. Take action, make it happen.

Send your tax deductible donation today to:

House of Puerto Rico Building Fund  
P. O. Box 81982  
San Diego, CA. 92138-1982

Check out our web page at [www.inetworld.net/lacasa](http://www.inetworld.net/lacasa) for lots of information about what we are doing. Tell your friends about it. Send your friends this update and follow-up with a phone call to ask for their donation.

## Upcoming Events

**January 6** – Membership meeting at 3 p.m. at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

**January 21** – We will be hosting at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

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

**February 11** – We will be hosting at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

**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.

## 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.