

El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

<http://www.HouseofPuertoRico.com>

International Friendship Festival in El Cajon

Executive Board

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

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| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
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| Ramonita Narvaez | Activities Coordinator |
| Sophie Costas | Membership Coordinator |
| Vacant | Newsletter Editor |
| Daniel López | Staff Writer |
| Jose Carballo, | |
| Noel Acevedo & | |
| Jaime Chavez | Scholarship Committee |

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The 12th Annual International Friendship Festival in the city of El Cajon is scheduled for Saturday, September 28 (10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and Sunday, September 29 (11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). It will be held at 200 East Main Street. The Festival attracts over 80,000 and is a great opportunity to experience the rich ethnic heritage of our community. As part of this event, a juried Fine Arts Exhibit will be held in the East County Performing Arts Center. Artwork will be displayed from September 18 through October 30, 2002.

We will have an information booth about Puerto Rico on Saturday and Sunday. Please bring your family and friends to enjoy this multicultural celebration!

President's Message

As my summer vacation comes to an end I realize that we only have four months left before the end of the year! That means that there are only three major events where we can have another opportunity to come together and celebrate the presence of our culture in San Diego! These events are: The International Friendship Festival in El Cajon on September 28 and 29; Christmas on the Prado in Balboa Park (now known as December Nights) on December 6 and 7; and our very own Christmas Gala Dinner/Dance on December 14 at the Portuguese Hall. I am looking forward to your participation in these events!

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

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

Walter & Lydia McCormack (07/04)
Mark & Aileen Swaisgood (07/07)
Carlos & Elizabeth Pérez (07/08)
Warren & Martha Cintrón (07/10)
Jose R. & Margaret Santiago (07/17)
Julio & Julia A. Carrillo (07/24)
Saul & Evelyn Cruz (07/30)
Jesus & Nereida Baez (08/08)
Ivan & Rosa Torres (08/10)

Jose & Lupe Rivera (08/13)
 Robert & Margarita Rosario (08/24)
 Jose A. & Irida López (08/25)
 David & Valerie Ortiz Wallace (08/25)

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

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Edgardo Ayala | 07/01 |
| Wayne S. Liddy | 07/01 |
| Ivan F. González | 07/03 |
| Julio A. Rosado | 07/04 |
| Delia Dávalos | 07/05 |
| Blas Pedrero | 07/06 |
| Evelyn Cruz | 07/07 |
| Alex Ray Swaisgood | 07/09 |
| Jerome S. Kirkendell | 07/11 |
| Hector González | 07/12 |
| Sara Ramírez | 07/14 |
| Veronica Ramírez | 07/17 |
| Jose R. Santiago | 07/18 |
| Julio Baez | 07/18 |
| Roberto F. Rosario | 07/20 |
| Saul Olin Cruz | 07/20 |
| Daniel M. López | 07/21 |
| Reina A. | 07/22 |
| Leslie Green | 07/23 |
| Jaime Soto Cruz | 07/25 |
| Carmen Gutiérrez | 07/25 |
| John Rivera | 07/26 |
| Frank Torres Erickson | 07/29 |
| Jaime D. Chavez | 07/30 |
| Marilu López | 08/01 |
| David Rotger | 08/02 |
| Grisel Saez | 08/02 |
| Sarah Lugo | 08/04 |
| Breanna R. Liddy | 08/06 |
| Jamar Hall | 08/07 |
| Rosanne Rodríguez | 08/08 |
| Walter F. Sandza | 08/09 |
| Vinny Torres | 08/10 |
| Margarita Rosario | 08/13 |
| Louis Vélez | 08/13 |
| Veronica García | 08/13 |
| Sue Chacón | 08/15 |
| Emily R. Vélez | 08/19 |
| Michele Carrión | 08/19 |
| Robert E. Decker | 08/20 |
| Sandra Rivera | 08/20 |
| Gabriel Collazo Díaz | 08/22 |
| David A. Linsay | 08/23 |
| Luisa Castro | 08/25 |
| Allegra Chacón | 08/25 |
| Adrian Barreto | 08/25 |
| Blanca F. Decker | 08/26 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Yvette Y. Aguayo | 08/27 |
| Maria S. Grillo-López | 08/29 |
| Vivianna Barreto | 08/29 |
| Warren Cintrón | 08/31 |

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

Nelson & Gloria Díaz
 Carlos & Elizabeth Pérez
 Jessica Torres
 Anthony Annandonon
 Emilie R. Vélez
 Robert & Margarita Rosario
 Marcelino López

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

Daniel López
 Delia Dávalos
 Robert & Blanca Decker
 Martin Crespo
 Richie Ramírez
 Dali Collins
 Cruz Swedelius
 Reynaldo & Rosa A. Paduani

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

At our September Cultural Corner we will be celebrating the Hispanic Heritage Month with an interesting synopsis of major Puerto Rican contributions to the U.S. and the world throughout our last 200 years as an American territory. Don't miss it! Your comments and experiences will be valuable to this presentation.

The theme for the month of October will be Puerto Rican festivals and celebrations (e.g. Día de los Muertos). In November we will be celebrating a Member Talent Day, so if you have any hidden talents, please bring them out and share them with us! Contact Jaime Chavez to schedule your debut!

Casita Update

We are still working on the site plan to make it handicap compliant. In the last two weeks we have had meeting with the park administration and have another meeting scheduled for Monday, August 26. We need to get their approval before we can finalize the plan. Rick Clark has been working with us all along.

Something new has come along. We found out that the kitchen has to be handicap compliant. This means that the kitchen counters have to be no more than 34 inches high and a wheel chair has to be able to roll under the kitchen sink. More changes in the plans.

Just to give you an idea of what we need to go through, the House of Iran is not getting their occupancy permit because their kitchen counters are the standard 36 inch height. All this after their plans were approved by all the building authorities and having an inspector on site during the construction. WOW! "Que Dios nos ayude".

Financially we currently have in the building fund about \$136,000. We say about because the value of some stock we have fluctuates.

We will keep you inform as to when we will break ground. Saludos,

Ralph Costas

Executive Board Elections

We need to start thinking about the slate for the 2003 Executive Board. By the October membership meeting we must have in place the candidates for the new Executive Board so that we are ready for elections at the November membership meeting. Talk to your family and friends about the importance of getting actively involved in our organization and commit yourself to keeping this organization as the major venue for

keeping our culture alive and visible in San Diego!

Casilda Pagán Scholarship Update

We have received six applications for potential recipients of our annual scholarship award. This year we will award up to \$1,500 for the scholarship. The committee will be reviewing the applications during the month of August and will begin interviewing applicants in September.

Bilingualism: Overcoming Apprehension to English

The U.S. has tried to make Puerto Ricans speak English for the past hundred years - to no avail. Marta Y. Pabellon Imbert explains the reasons behind this linguistic rejection.

Studies show that the majority of Puerto Ricans express a positive attitude toward the learning of English but bilingualism is a goal reached by only a few on the island. According to the 2000 census, 25 percent of the population consider themselves fluent in English although other sources estimate this figure at about 20 percent. This leaves approximately three-quarters of the population who do not consider themselves proficient in English.

Attempts to impose English as the vernacular in Puerto Rico and the response to these efforts has had an extraordinary influence on the political, legal, cultural and educational panorama. However, the capacity of Puerto Rican culture to resist the encroachment of English has been more powerful than the ability of language policy makers.

Why has it been so difficult to make Puerto Ricans speak English? Some writers suggest that the sources

of this attitude lie primarily in the political history of this Caribbean Island where teaching English is regarded as a political act. Politics play a major role in Puerto Rican society, especially within its public educational system. Whenever a new governing party is voted into office, a new Secretary of Education directs the Department of Education of Puerto Rico (DEPR). Consequently, the DEPR has gone through many language policy changes depending on the political view of the party that governs the island.

The Department of Education's English Program Standards 2000 calls English an additional language yet expects teachers to teach English as if it were being taught in a second language environment. For example, the *English Program Vision* states that: "The development of a communicatively competent student who is ...capable of using the English language...the development of the competencies and linguistic skills geared at promoting his/her personal, cultural, social, and aesthetic growth by providing the needed educational experience for effective communication in English."

It is apparent that the Department of Education has not realized that students do not need English to promote their personal growth because there is no need in Puerto Rico to speak English in any social activity, unless, of course, a job demands that English is to be spoken at all times. The DEPR should look for strategies to make students understand the benefits of learning English: students may have to travel to an English-speaking country, whether for pleasure, business or simply for a better paying job.

Since 1948, Puerto Rico's Department of Education has made English a compulsory subject in grades 1-12, and since 1998, English must be taught in Kindergarten. However, in its quest to make Puerto Ricans bilingual the Department of Education has failed to understand that English in Puerto Rico is a

foreign language and should not be taught as it is in the United States.

Puerto Rico has a unique cultural and political situation and until the governing parties, the policy makers, and the language planners realize that they are repeating the same mistakes made over the past century they will get the same result -failure. And teachers may hear students say, "Who, me? Speak English? Not in a hundred years!"

Source: Language Magazine, The Journal of Communication & Education, August 2002

Upcoming Events

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

September 28-29 – El Cajon International Friendship Festival Information Booth. El Cajon Civic Center, 200 East Main Street.

October 5 - Membership meeting at 3 p.m. at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.


October 20 - Host the Hall of Nations at Balboa Park from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

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



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ENVUELVE

MAKE THE PUERTO RICAN CASITA IN BALBOA PARK A REALITY



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