



El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

<http://www.HouseofPuertoRico.com>

Happy Easter!!

(Feliz Día de Pascuas)

Executive Board

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Rosario Camacho..... Past-President
José M. Reyes..... Vice President
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Jaime Chávez Trustee

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.....Editor
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Noel Acevedo &
Jaime ChavezScholarship
Committee

Contents

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

President's Message

Spring is almost here and with eternal hope we continue to struggle with the City of San Diego building permit process; it couldn't be any slower. We continue our attempts to push the project forward in anticipation of breaking ground before the end of this year. We'll keep you posted.

In a positive note we hosted the Puerto Rican film "Sudor Amargo" at the Latino Film Festival at Madstone Theaters. "Sudor Amargo" is a very interesting film about the struggles of the Mayagüez tuna plant workers due to the impending plant closing. I highly recommend the film to all.

I hope to see you all at our regular membership meetings; come and share your Puerto Rican experiences with all those present. We have 30 minutes cultural presentations at the end of each meeting. If you're interested in making a presentation, please contact Jaime Chavez.

Saludos, Angel Ramírez

Acerca de la Pascua...

(By: Ramonita Narváez)

Les deseamos feliz día de Pascuas refiriéndonos al tan celebrado en Estados Unidos, día de "Easter". Para la mayoría de los Latinos, al oír decir día de Pascua, por lo regular piensan que nos referimos a la navidad, no siendo así en este caso. Les deseamos que la pasen bien junto a sus seres queridos y que disfruten no solo del calor familiar sino también del compartir con todos sus amigos y otras personas importantes para todos y cada uno de ustedes.

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.houseofpuertorico.com>

Membership Corner

(By Sophie Costas)

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

Héctor F. Martínez y C.Awilda	03/13
Ana A. Wayne S. Liddy	03/16
George y Lidia Gelada	04/05
Benjamín y Lori Cruz	04/28
Reynaldo y Rosa A. Paduani	04/29

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

Collazo, Marguerite	03/06
Zentella, Ana Celia	03/07
Jiménez, Nadia Sofía	03/17
Claudio, Michael	03/26
Lisboa, Eddie Jr.	03/30
Rivera, Les	04/03
Lopez, Marcelino Jr.	04/06
R.C. Strahl, Liz Lebrón	04/06
Díaz, Richard M.	04/11
Ramírez, Richie	04/17
Rodríguez, Walter	04/17
Collins, Dali	04/18
Borrero, Marcos	04/25
Annandono, Anthony	04/28

Spouses Birthdays

López, Irradia	03/02
Bonitlla, Olga	03/15
Ortiz, Michael Roman	03/25
Claudio, Carla	03/27
Acevedo, rosa A.	04/01
Soto, Yvette Maciel	04/03
Salameh, George	04/18

Chávez, Venus Melina	04/18
Costas, Sophie	04/21
Rivera, Carmen O.	04/26
Torres, Rosa Ramírez	04/26

Renewing Members

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

Lydia E. and Walter J. McCormack
Edgardo Ayala
Warren and Martha S. Cintrón
Loida Borinquen and Julio A. Rosado
Ana C.Zentella and Robert Cabot
Mary A.Collazo and Richard M.Díaz
José M.Reyes y Rosario Camacho
Rafael and Sophie Costas
Yolanda and José Aguayo
Eduardo and Lucy Barreto
Sahydie and Joseph Annandono
Felicita Codeamat
Benjamín and Maria Santiago
Celeste García
Lucy and Hector Concepción
Terry Kingston
Lorie and Wanter Sandza
Tommy Rosas
Nereida Baez
Jesús Fernández

Children Birthdays

Yoali A. Aguayo	03/25
Rafael García Cantres	04/08
Jessica Chacon	04/08
Christina Claudio	03/13
Victoria Claudio	04/01
Lidia E. Gelada	04/01
Gloríani Gutierrez	03/27
Ander H. Manzanet	04/25
Bryana Martinez	04/10
Carlina E. Ortiz	03/30
Alyssa N. Ortiz	04/24
Angela F. Rivera	03/12
Adrian Rivera	04/22
Kaitlin Fisher	03/09
Steven Solivan	04/01

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

Casita Update

(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 where 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. 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, 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

(By: Jaime Chávez)

The House of Puerto Rico is offering an educational scholarship for current/future

college students and current high school seniors who will be attending college or vocational school. Please come to our next meeting for more information or check out our web site. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is July 31st 2003.

Women's History Month

(By: Dr. Marie Rodríguez)

It was again Women's History Month (March). In the past we have honored Puerto Rican women. This writing, however, is not about someone from our heritage, but one, like us, who dares challenge the system for change. One who championed for the individual civil liberties of all minority groups.

Eleanor Roosevelt was unique among presidential wives. She redefined the role of first lady and no one since, attained the standard set by her in her efforts to seek justice for all. Mrs. Roosevelt helped found the Democratic Action organization and she chaired and lead the Human Rights Commission at the United Nations. Her greatest accomplishment was the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights that recognized the principles of fundamental human dignity.

Doña Eleanor took on issues long before others. She resigned (1939) from the Daughters of the American Revolution when that society refused to allow the African American contralto, Marian Anderson, to sing at

Constitutional Hall. The first lady then organized the Lincoln Memorial recital that produced a huge crowd. The Memorial has since been the site for generations of protestors. Another issue taken up by Mrs. Roosevelt was the plight of Jews during and after World War II. When no American or Allied leader would come to the rescue of this group, she persuaded others to take in the homeless Jews.

The first lady became aware of the Puerto Rican people when she, during the depression years, set out on a fact finding visit for her husband to Puerto Rico and Guam, inspecting poverty stricken areas on those islands. Later in her daily newspaper columns she addressed discrimination against blacks and Puerto Ricans in the areas of housing and employment. In 1961 when the question of the right to vote by Puerto Ricans (at the time, written knowledge of English was required) this grand lady supported with success, the New York State court case that allowed Puerto Ricans to vote in their own language of Spanish.

Again, before others, Mrs. Roosevelt took on the battle against McCarthyism. She "despised" what was happening in her free country. The same methods to control thoughts seen in communism was happening here in America under a thin veil action of the Democratic Unamerican Committee in Washington, D.C.

Through her actions and writings, Eleanor Roosevelt answered her own question: Where do human rights begin?

"In the world of the individual person: the neighborhood he lives in, the school or college he attends, the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity and equal dignity without discrimination."

Sources: Beasley, M.H., The Eleanor Roosevelt Encyclopedia; Roosevelt. E, My Day.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Membership Meetings:

Remember, it's the first Saturday of every month at 3:00 PM at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

April 5th., May 3rd., June 7th.,
(no meeting in July) Aug. 2nd.,
Sept. 6th., Oct. 4th., and Nov. 1st.
(no meeting in December)

April 5th. Membership Meeting
Culture Corner: "Día de los niños"

There will be games and activities for the kids and teenagers! BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

April 27th. 2003.

"Oye Boricua" Cultural Night

From 6:30 PM to 1:00 AM at the "HOT MONKEY LOVE CAFÉ. There will be music, poetry, art, and much more. Come to the next meeting for more information or to sign up to share your talent! Some of the proceeds from this event will benefit the House of Puerto Rico Scholarship Fund. You can also contact Jaime Chávez for more information.

SDSU is courting Spanish-speakers with Internet site

(By: Ramonita Narvaez)

Taking the lead to bridge a language gap, San Diego State University unveiled a Spanish-Language Web site for Latino parents who want to help get their children into college. This Web site is the first of its kind in California's higher education system, and it's aimed at a large population with deep immigrant roots. Most young Latinos speak English, but their parents may not be fluent or speak it at all. Spanish-speaking parents are "left out of the loop" when it comes to planning their children's college education, because admission information is primarily in English, said SDSU administrator Gus Chavez, who led the effort to start the Web site.

The Web site "will encourage parents to get involved early on" said Chavez, director of SDSU's Educational Opportunity Program/Ethnic Affairs. "As you know, it's becoming increasingly competitive to get into San Diego state University and other California state universities." The site, www.sdsu.edu/espanol, provides admissions information for any California State University

campus, including required high school courses, application information, financial aid, and parent and student orientation events. It was formally unveiled during the Latino Education Summit VII, a program for educators, parents and students at the San Diego County Office of Education.

Given the educational challenges facing the nation's large Latino population, Chavez was surprised that few colleges and none in California provided admissions information in Spanish on their Web sites.

"For years our office has made numerous presentations to Spanish-speaking parents about how to help their children prepare early for college, and this will be a powerful tool that will greatly expand our ability to spread this information" Chavez said.

The university will target Latino parents who have children in middle school and high school with information. Research indicates that more Latinos are buying computers and connecting to the Internet, he said. Latinos trail other groups when it comes to obtaining high school and college diplomas. SDSU where more than 20 percent of the student population is Latino, ranks

fifth in the nation when it comes to awarding bachelor's degree to Hispanics.

(Source: The San Diego Union Tribune

Saturday, Oct. 5th., 2002
Staff writer: Leonel Sanchez)

"Honor a quien honor merece"

(By: Ramonita Narváez)


En esta ocasión queremos agradecer a los miembros de "La Casa de Puerto Rico/SD" que tomaron parte en la parada en honor a "Cesar Chávez", la cual se llevó a cabo el día 29 del pasado mes de Marzo. Entre otros estuvieron presente:

Angel Ramírez (Presidente)
Verónica Ramírez (Secretaria)
Ralph Costas (Tesorero))
Sophie Costas (Coordinadora de Membresia).
Leonard Ramírez
Ayarís Aguayo
(Y esta servidora, Ramonita)

FAREWELL TO A SPECIAL MEMBER!


By Rosario Camacho

We are deeply saddened that our Newsletter Editor, Ramonita Narvaez, will be leaving us in May. She is moving back to Boston because her daughter completed her military assignment here and they are going back home! We wish her the best of luck. She will be missed!



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