



# El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter

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



## Puerto Rican Fiestas Fast Approaching

### 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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May is already here; this can only mean that it's almost party time in San Diego, Puerto Rican style. The months of May and June will bring several Puerto Rican events to San Diego and California.

The HPRSD Lawn Program will be held on May 20 at the International Cottages area in Balboa Park, San Diego. Your HPRSD will be selling food from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., while *Orgullo Boricua*, San Diego's own Puerto Rican folkloric performing group, will be performing at the stage from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

On June 17, the salsa beat will be resonating at Mariners' Point in Mission Beach, San Diego, to celebrate *El Dia de San Juan*, Puerto Rico patriot saint. The event will be held from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Several acts will be showcased at this event. The entry fee will be \$4.00 with half of the proceeds going towards the building fund of the Puerto Rican *casita* in Balboa Park.

On June 22, more salsa beat will resonate in San Diego. This time at the SES Portuguese Hall in Point Loma (28218 Avenida de Portugal), San Diego. Scheduled from 6 PM until 12 midnight, this gala will feature food prepared by Puerto Rican Chef Nelson Millan. Chef Millan currently works his wonderful dishes at the Hotel del Coronado. Tickets are \$100 per plate of which \$75 is tax deductible

On June 24, the third California Parade will take place in Montebello.

For more details on these events, please visit our web page at <http://www.inetworld.net/lacasa/>

### President's Message

This year La Casa's Board has been busy putting together a wonderful, culturally stimulating and exciting, calendar of events. The goals for these events are to increase the active participation of members, to spread the word about La Casita Project, to start construction ASAP and to increase La Casa's membership. Here are some of the upcoming events: The Lawn Program on May 20, 2001 at Balboa Park featuring, San Diego's own, *Orgullo Boricua Folklorico* Dance Group. *El Dia de San Juan* Festival on June 17, 2001 at Mariners Point in Mission Bay. Our thanks to hard working Mr. Tommy Rosas (Latin Flavor Productions) for producing and directing this fabulous Puerto Rican Salsa event right here in San Diego. The *Noche de San Juan* Fundraiser Diner/Dance for La Casita is on June 22, 2001 at the Portuguese Hall, Point Loma. This event will determine when we can begin building our own Casita in Balboa Park, San Diego. I ask that you try your best to support this important event for La Casa de Puerto Rico. You will be glad you came to this event. The third annual California Puerto Rican Parade is on June 24, 2001 in Montebello, California. This year the Grand Marshall for the parade is a Boricua from Brooklyn, N.Y., the actor Jimmy Smits. La

Casa de Puerto Rico members will be there to represent La Casa de Puerto Rico San Diego. In the past two years we have rented a convertible car and along with La Casa's members, families and friends represented San Diego in the parade. It is great to see a group of Puerto Ricans getting together to represent a single cause. Your participation makes our existence known to others. We would appreciate your participation! A lot of work goes into putting these events together and amazingly it gets done with only a hand full of people. La Casa is looking for people who want to actively participate as members however; members are sometimes bashful and shy to actively participate. Please don't be shy. Call La Casa's Voice Mail at 619-685-2847 and say I want to participate and I will call you back. I promise. I hope to see you all at these events.

*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:

Carlos & Patricia Garcia, 05/01  
Noel & Rosa Acevedo, 05/03  
Dennis & Mary Reed, 05/07  
Julio & Blanca Baez, 05/27  
Orlando & Irene Vazquez, 05/27  
David & Monique Rotger, 06/05  
Julio & Loida Rosado, 06/14  
Eddie & Myrna Lisboa, 06/21

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

Angel Villarini ..... 05/01  
Petri Santiago-Martinez ... 05/03  
Jose A. Lopez ..... 05/04  
Myrna Lisboa ..... 05/06  
Nilsa Gonzalez ..... 05/11  
Maria Rivera-Santiago .... 05/14  
Ines Lopez ..... 05/19  
Ada Chico ..... 05/21  
Giancarlo Chico ..... 05/21  
George Gelada ..... 05/23  
Marco Martinez ..... 06/03  
Eddie Barreto ..... 06/04  
Michael Claudio ..... 06/04  
Blanca Baez ..... 06/05  
Elba Medina ..... 06/14  
Dr. Aileen Alvarado ..... 06/16  
Joshua Claudio ..... 06/19  
Tim Erickson ..... 06/19  
Pina Gonzalez ..... 06/23  
Luis Torres ..... 06/26  
Saul Cruz ..... 06/28  
Joe Carballo ..... 06/29

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

Delia Davalos

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

Jaime Diego Chavez  
Chris & Petri Martinez  
Antonio & Isabel Mejias  
Jose Ruben & Margaret Santiago  
Robert Strahl & Liz Lebron

**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 took place on May 5. The names drawn were Julio & Julia Carrillo for the First Prize and Chris and Petri Martinez for the Second Prize. They were not present, thus ineligible to win. 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.

Jaime Chavez was the winner of the t-shirt drawing for members. He was present. He gave his prize to a friend in attendance.

## Cultural Corner

### Recipe of the Month

*Cornmeal Sticks*  
(*Surullitos de Maiz*)

2 cups water  
1¼ teaspoons salt  
1½ cups yellow cornmeal  
1 cup grated Edam cheese  
Vegetable oil (for deep-frying)

Combine water and salt in a saucepan. Heat to boiling. Remove from heat. Add cornmeal and mix thoroughly.

Cook over moderate heat until mixture separates from bottom and sides of pan.

Remove from heat. Add grated cheese and mix well.

Take mixture by teaspoonfuls and shape into balls. In the palm of the hands roll balls to ½-inch thickness, in the shape of small cigars.

Deep fry in oil, heated to 375° F., until golden brown. Remove and drain on absorbent paper.

### Town of the Month



**Luquillo** – Fundado en el 1797, fue nombrado en honor al Cacique Yukihu. Sus barrios son: Juan Martin, Sabana,

Mameyes I, Mata de Platano, and Pitahaya. Entre sus personalidades se encuentran Rosendo Matienzo Cintron, Tomas Batista, Esther Comas, Isidro A. Sanchez, Dres. Fernandez Garcia. En Luquillo se encuentra una de las montañas mas conocidas de Puerto Rico, El Yunque. En este pueblo se celebra el Festival de Platos Tipicos en diciembre.

### Thank You

We would like to thank Jaime Diego Chavez for his entertaining cultural presentation at the May membership meeting. Jaime made a presentation about his recent and first trip to Puerto Rico.

## Scholarship Leadership

*By Dr. Marie Rodriguez*

In an earlier article, Why Juanito Can't Read (El Boricua Newsletter, March/April 2001), there was reference to the fact that a healthy school climate is of essence in order for teaching and learning to take

place. The school leader plays a pivotal role in creating such a climate. Certain skills in the principal need to be present in order to produce an environment where, staff, students and their parents can play a contributory part to school success.

The literature refers to skills present in certain educators for effective leadership: technical, conceptional and human. This is especially crucial when working with a diversified student population (Rodriguez, M. Effective Inner-City Principals. Teachers College, Columbia University, Dissertation, 1984.) This competency-based approach to school leadership (the skills mentioned above) must operate simultaneously. Each skill used in isolation will not turn a school around. For Example, a principal who is only a technician carrying out the school board's mandate by supervising programs, scheduling and establishing procedures, can do little to improve his school. He is most likely to be autocratic in his leadership style, permitting no room for input from others.

However, when such an administrator possesses all three skills, technical, conceptual and human, he is allowing for change and growth to take place in the teaching and learning process of his school. Teachers' ideas are written into proposals and implemented. Parents are encouraged to participate in the planning of their children's program. They are no longer relegated to only raising money for the school or cooking ethnic foods during special cultural holidays. The principal, instead, is perceived as a "people person," one with an open-door policy, loves people, particularly children, is gregarious, considerate, of calm quality and sensitive to the various cultures represented in his student body.

When there is such a climate of trust and respect, the principal is seen as a parent figure. This image of a strong

leader, one who is a problem solver, is creative, demands high expectations from everyone and yet is caring, is carried beyond the walls of the school building. There is an exchange of resources and services between the school and community. With the presence of this symbiotic relationship, teachers will teach, children will learn and parents will contribute.

## Casita Update

*by Ralph Costas*

We currently have in the bank \$85,525. We need to step up our fund raising efforts to achieve our basic goal set back in 1998 of \$120,000. Construction costs have gone up considerably. The longer it takes us to raise the funds the more it will cost to build.

We are continuing our fund raising efforts by celebrating "Noche de San Juan" which will include Banquet, Show, Dance and Silent Auction.

We need your help to make this event an extraordinary success. We are asking that you attend and get others to attend with you.

Chef Nelson Millan of the Hotel Del Coronado is committed to making this a memorable event so that people will ask for a repeat performance.

The LA Salsa Kids will demonstrate that our youth is keeping our culture alive although they are far from Puerto Rico.

Nuyorican Comedienne Lydia Nicole will share with us her life experiences being a Puerto Rican in the USA.

Maestro Johnny Polanco is committed to keeping our music alive and will play for your dancing pleasure.

Our Master of Ceremonies Ismael Carlo will also entertain us with his wit and some Puerto Rican Stories.

We have a full program planned for the evening. Make sure you arrive early to take advantage of the Puerto Rican Hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour.

Please confirm your participation by June 10, so we will know how much water to put into the "*sopa de platano*". Also Chef Millan needs to know how much *entremeses*, pork, chicken and *mofongo* to make.

Please write all checks for \$100.00 per person payable to: House of Puerto Rico Building Fund and mail to:

House of Puerto Rico San Diego  
(Attn: Ralph Costas, Treasurer)  
4044 Santa Nella Place  
San Diego, CA 92130

Your payment will confirm your reservation. No purchases will be available at the door. For more information call 858-481-2995 or 619-661-8957.

## Puerto Rican Beauty



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (Reuters) -- Honking car horns and waving flags, Puerto Ricans celebrated late into the night after their own Miss Puerto Rico, Denise Quinones, was crowned

Miss Universe 2001 before a delirious home crowd.

San Juan's streets were lined with people stopping their cars to cheer as Quinones, a 20-year-old student with a dazzling smile and a mane of brown hair, was driven on Friday night from the pageant venue to a beachfront hotel for her "coronation ball."

Quinones, who told reporters that the enthusiastic home crowd boosted her confidence, swept away contestants from 76 other countries to become the 50th Miss Universe.

"I always dreamed about and visualized winning," Quinones told reporters after the pageant to hoops of joy from local journalists. "Thank God it happened. I was very confident in myself."

Quinones' winning smile adorned the front page of local newspapers as Puerto Rico reveled in its fourth Miss Universe title and its latest home-grown celebrity. The Caribbean island of 3.8 million people is a U.S. territory with a strong sense of its own identity.

Miss Greece, Evelina Papantoniou, was second and Miss USA, Kandace Krueger, was third at the end of a two-hour extravaganza that organizers said was televised in 130 countries.

The San Juan crowd, which had cheered their favorite every time she appeared on stage, went wild as the 5-foot-10 inch (1.78-meter)

Quinones, who has studied singing and dancing, was crowned by last year's winner, Lara Dutta of India.

## Upcoming Events

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

**May 20** - Lawn Program at the International Cottage Stage in Balboa Park. Food will be sold from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. A folkloric show will be presented by Orgullo Boricua from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**June 2** - Membership meeting at 3 p.m. at the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park.

**June 17** - *El Dia de San Juan* Festival at Mariners Point in Mission Beach from 9:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.. The entry fee is \$4.00 and half of the proceeds will be donated to *La Casita* Building Fund. Children twelve and under are admitted without charge.

**June 22** - *La Noche de San Juan* Dinner/Dance at the Portuguese Hall in Point Loma (San Diego). The cost of the tickets are \$100.00. The food will be prepared by Puerto Rican Chef Nelson Millan currently at the Hotel del Coronado.

## 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.

# House of Puerto Rico San Diego Year Planner

January 2001 - December 2001

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## January

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## February

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## March

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## April

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

HPR Spring Dinner/Dance

## May

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

Lawn Program @ Balboa Park

## June

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

Hall of Nations Host @ Balboa Park

Dia de San Juan @ Mariners' Point

Noche de San Juan @ SES Portuguese Hall (Point Loma)

California Puerto Rican Parade @ Montebello, CA

## August

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## September

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

International Friendship Festival @ El Cajon

International Friendship Festival @ El Cajon

## October

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## November

Membership Meeting @ Balboa Park

## December

Christmas on the Prado @ Balboa Park

Christmas on the Prado @ Balboa Park

Christmas Dinner/Dance @ Women's Club

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