



EUZKALDUNAK

2020

ABENDUA
DECEMBER
Monthly Member Newsletter

JANUARY MEMBERS MEETING VIA MAIL

This year has been an unprecedented year due to the pandemic, and as such, requires us to change and adapt to how we conduct our annual January member and general business meeting. The business meeting held at the end of January each year is the member's opportunity to vote for five board members, a NABO representative on the odd years, and to review the previous year's financial report.

Due to the pandemic, the Board has decided to conduct these activities via mail. Specific details are still being worked out, however the necessary ballots and financial reports will be sent to each member in January 2021.

Now is your opportunity to nominate yourself or someone else for a seat on the board and/or NABO representative. Please contact president@basquecenter.com or secretary@basquecenter.com to submit your nomination. Nominations must be received by [Wednesday, December 30](#) to ensure your nomination is listed on the ballot.

We recognize this is not the optimal situation, however the Board is doing its best to proceed with our standard business activities during these trying times while keeping our members, employees and the community safe.

NOVEMBER DINNER VOLUNTEERS

A HUGE thank you to the following "Euzkaldunak board and friends" who volunteered their time to make sure the November curbside dinner was a success. This was Euzkaldunak's first time doing anything like this, and they pulled it off smoothly!

Geneva Ayarra
Todor Azurtza
Johnny Boyd
Ryan Boyd
Cathy Clarkson
Mike Franzoia
Alicia Knox
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Alenna Knox
Ian Knox
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Josu Landaluce
Miren Maguregui
Ed Orbea
Elise Overgaard
Meg Overgaard
Wil Overgaard
Ana Overgaard
Cindy Schaffeld
Tyler Smith
Ricardo Yanci

Special thanks to Chef Jesus Alcelay and his kitchen crew for a delicious meal!

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Do you have a Basque recipe, historical tidbit, game or activity that you'd like to share with other Euzkaldunak members so we can keep being Basque while we shelter in place? Send it to newsletter@basquecenter.com and we'll do our best to feature it in the newsletter!

CHEWING GUM - A BASQUE STORY

Submitted by a member, the below story is from the book Basque Cooking and Lore by Darcy Williamson.

A young Basque arrived at New York via ship, then began the long journey west by train. The newness and adventure of his undertaking had worn thin and the young lad, a devout Catholic, began to feel homesick.

He thought of the opportunities the new land offered—an industrious lad such as himself could make enough money to return to his homeland a wealthy man. This was his dream, but in the face of all that was strange and unfamiliar, the dream had begun to turn stale.

The lad looked about him. Many of the passengers were chewing gum. Suddenly, he began to feel a kinship with these gum-chewing passengers, even though gum chewing was unknown to the Basque. At the journey's end he wrote a glowing letter to his "ama." Included in his missive was the statement, "Ama, you need not worry. On the train ride west, I noticed many people reciting the rosary to themselves."



EUZKALDUNAK PHOTOS WANTED

Do you have photos from past Euzkaldunak events? We are interested in any pictures that capture our rich history. They can include photos from local events like Jaialdi, San Inazio, Shepherders Ball, monthly dinners, etc., or anything that involves our member activities like Boiseko Gazteak, Txantxangorriak, Aiztan Artean, or Oinkari Dancers. Historical photos of the Basque Center facility are always appreciated as well. Your submissions will be digitally scanned and placed on the website. If you have photos to share, please contact Ed Orbea at photos@basquecenter.com.



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BASQUE CENTER HISTORY CORNER



1949 Shepherders Ball or winter dance. L to R: Paulino Garate, Felix Garate, Evelyn Eiguren, Domingo Eiguren, Ambrosio Aparico (Txistu), Jose Anacabe (Drum)

To promote education and celebrate our history, the Basque Center Renovation Committee writes a monthly “history corner” column that chronicles how the Basque Center came to be, the current state of the facility, and the changes needed to ensure we have a place to gather for generations to come.

DANCES

One of the most important social events among Boise Basques in the 1930s– and indeed still, almost 100 years later– were social dances. Early on, dances were in the boarding houses. In the 40s and 50s as popularity grew, the spaces were expanded with the opening of dance halls and social-fraternal organizations which had large rooms. Luckily, there were many Basque musicians, both men and women, who were able to provide the music for these larger events throughout the valley. In 1949 alone, Euzkaldunak (in its first incorporated year) held four dances. The dances and social events were under the management of the Euzkaldunak Board of Directors and the Basque Girls Club.

Their first dance was the Polio Benefit held on Saturday, October 15. The organizers sold anisette, whiskey, beer, soft drinks and chorizo sandwiches. They made a net profit of \$752 which was donated to the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis.

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FOOD ❖ GIFTS ❖ WINE ❖ CATERING

FROM THE IBERIAN PENINSULA



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A Box Social with a dance was the next event; it was held on Saturday night, November 12, at the American Legion Hall. The musicians were Domingo Ansotegui, Jimmy Jausoro and Joe Anacabe, who earned \$10 each. The price of admission to this dance and dances in years to come was a **donation**. It was stipulated that these donations were dedicated to the Basque Center's Building Fund. The Box Social Dance made a profit of \$372.69.

The Farmer's Dance followed four weeks later. This event was held Saturday, December 10, at the Miramar Ballroom. On the expense sheet was this item: 20 cents for a ribbon for the lamb. (Maybe there was a lamb auction?) This time the band was paid \$45. The net profit was \$495.



Lamb auction, Shepherders Ball 2019

Plans for the Annual Christmas Dance were made at the Board of Directors meeting on December 16 at the home of Joe Aldape. The dance was to be held on Sunday, the evening of December 25, at the Miramar Ballroom (rental \$75). President John Bastida reminded all the directors that this event is to be a private affair. Since "several outsiders had filtered through last year, every effort is to be made that no one not accompanied by a Basque is allowed." Phil Uberuaga was asked to head a committee to be in charge of security at the door. Stack Yribar and John Asumendi were to be in charge of the money accumulated that night.

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Marie Arregui was to be in charge of taking donations (admissions). "The group of older Basque women, who regularly meet together, such as Mrs. Madarieta, Mrs. Garmendia, Mrs. Jayo, etc., were to be in charge of the sale of chorizos."

There were a few differences at this dance from dances of today. In December 1949, Euzkaldunak had solicited donations to be used as raffle prizes: from Foster's Furniture Company, a radio phonograph combination; from Falk's, a new home electric sewing machine; and from H. J. Wood Company, a Crosley home deep freezer.

The people attending this dance made donations totaling \$330.95 and bought raffle tickets for chances to win the donated prizes for a total of \$600.20. The kitchen brought in \$178. Julie Uberuaga sold 66 membership cards at \$5 each for a total of \$330. And the band played on—John Arregui and the orchestra received \$100. Net profit was \$813.40.

At some point from 1950 and for many years to come, the number of dances was reduced. Certainly, there were no longer two dances in December. The Farmer's Dance and the Annual Christmas Dance eventually merged into the Shepherders Ball. During the 50s, this dance was most often held between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



Oinkari dancers, Shepherders Ball 2019

The contributors to our monthly History Corner are curious how and when many events occurred and developed with the Euzkaldunak and the Basque Center. For instance, how did the Box Social work? When was the December dance first called the Shepherders Ball? In what years were the Shepherders dances held at the "old" Fairgrounds? In what year did the Oinkaris start performing at Shepherders? Have they performed every year since? For some of our questions, our reliable sources for descriptions and situations are gone. Sadly, we are losing some history. If you know of someone who can provide information to fill in the blanks, let us know. Contact Lael Uberuaga at laelski@gmail.com or Juliana Jausoro Aldape at julaldape@gmail.com. Eskerrik Askot!

**It's our time again...
for a renovated Basque Center.**
Stay tuned for next month's installment of Basque Center history! Next Month: Traditions

M. Margaret Lezamiz

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FROM THE SECRETARY



December Charities

Typically in December, Euzkaldunak members make a strong effort to raise money for the Basque Charities account. Funds in this account are used to help those in need, especially from catastrophic medical expenses. However, funds have also been used to

help pay utilities, major home repairs, and other essential needs. You can make your donations to this account or the memorial account (which helps cover repairs and large expenses at the Basque Center) from our website at basquecenter.com. Click on DONATE, fill out the form, and submit your debit/credit card information.

Membership Dues

Basque Center memberships will be expiring on December 31. Dues for 2021 will be \$50 per adult. New for 2021, you will be able to renew your membership online with a credit or debit card by visiting basquecenter.com/membership-renewal. You are also welcome to renew by sending a check to the Basque Center. With either renewal method, please include any updates to your contact information so we can make sure you continue to receive Euzkaldunak communications (like this newsletter!). Please contact secretary@basquecenter.com for new memberships.

Gabon onak! Merry Christmas!

-- Patty Gabica, Euzkaldunak Secretary/Treasurer



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EMAIL VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Did you know that Euzkaldunak spends around \$500 per month (approx. \$5000 per year) on printing and mailing costs for this newsletter? If you are currently reading this on a printed paper copy and have an email address, why not try switching your newsletter delivery to the "electronic" version and receive it via email instead? Email versions of the newsletter typically arrive a week sooner than the printed version and help our organization save costs that can be put to other uses. To switch your newsletter delivery preference to electronic, send an email to secretary@basquecenter.com.

DECEMBER ZORIONAK

Euzkaldunak member birthdays:

Kathy Achabal, Steven Achabal, Gerri Achurra, Christy Aldape, Judy Aldape-Lemmon, Daniel Aldecoa, Lou Aldecoa, Jr, Dan Andrews, J Pablo Aramburu, Ramon Arana, Darla Arana-Young, Theresa Araquistain, Karen Arguinchona, Carol Arrizabalaga, Matias Aseguinolaza, Ruben Asumendi, Michael A Barriatua, Tracy Basterrechea, Larry Benson, Eneko Bereziartua, Argia Beristain, Helen Berria, Joe Bianchini, Patrick Bidegaray, Madalen Bieter, Fermin Bilbao, Carmen Bilbao, Julio Bilbao, Angelee Bilbao, Megan Borkowski, JP Brady, Rebecca Brolier, Francie Brown, Lisa Byrd, Heather Carlson, Sharon Chacartegui, Jack Cortabitarte, Yvette Davis, Joseba de Subijana, Vic deBoer, Shane Dennis, Holly Dominick-de Tassigny, Miren Eiguren, Martin Espil, Sharon Florence, Mark Gabica, Eusebio Gabiola, Susan T Gamboa, Heath Gamboa, Jude Gary III, Richard Gavica, Andrea Geraghty, Oscar Godoy, Jr., John H Goitia, Jackie Goodson, Adriana L Groff, Jose Luis Guericabeitia, Avery Hormaechea, David Knox, Herb Krakau, Patricia Landa, Antonio Larrocea, Larry Lasuen, Steve Lejardi, Margaret Lezamiz, Julianne Lostra, Amanda Lundgren, Bernice Madariaga, Mike Mansisidor, Susan Garro Meuleman, Bruce Miller, Tim Mitchell, Richard Murgotio, Oliver J Nabonne, Joan Noe, Amy Owen, Bryan Powell, Jon Schodde, Chickie Nachiondo Schroeder, Doug Sumpter, Tom Totoricaguena, Rosa Maria Totoricaguena, Donna I Walker, Staci Welsh, Stan Welsh, Eric Welsh, Melissa Wolfe, Begone Zabala, Amaya Zabala, Stan Zatica

👉 *Editor's note: we're experimenting with listing member birthdays each month, sourced directly from the Euzkaldunak membership list. If you don't see your birthday during your birthday month and would like to, please email secretary@basquecenter.com.*

Like this format? Hate it? [Let us know!](#)



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Jesus Alcelay, Chef

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BASQUE CENTER RENTAL

To inquire about renting the Basque Center for a function or meeting, please contact Albert Totorica, Basque Center Rental Manager, at rentals@basquecenter.com, visit www.basquecenter.com/rentals, or call 208-331-5097. Euzkaldunak members receive discounted rental rates.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information that you would like to include in the **January 2021 newsletter**, please submit your written information by **December 21** to: Euzkaldunak Newsletter, 601 Grove St, Boise, ID 83702, or email it to newsletter@basquecenter.com. If you email it, the chance of a typographical error is less. For mailing address changes, e-mail Patty Gabica at secretary@basquecenter.com.

EUZKALDUNAK WANTS YOU!

Every year during our General Meeting in January, the Euzkaldunak membership elects half of its Board of Directors. This year, there will be five (5) vacant positions. If you would like to serve our Basque community, work with a great bunch of people, and have a lot of fun, please think about running! If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors, please contact Martin Bilbao at president@basquecenter.com.

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