



EUZKALDUNAK

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UZTAILA

JULY

Monthly Member Newsletter

2021 SAN INAZIO PICNIC

The 2021 San Inazio Picnic will be held at Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park on [Sunday, August 1, from 11:00AM – 4:00PM](#). The picnic will kick off with a performance by Oinkari Basque Dancers, with games to follow, then a performance by Amuma Says No to close out the festivities.

As in years' past, we will gather at the east end of the park. There will be games for the children and adults of all ages beginning at 2:00 PM. Please review the important picnic guidelines below:

1. Please adhere to the current COVID-19 City Health Order protocols
2. Glass beverage containers are not allowed in Municipal Park during the Basque Picnic on Sunday. This includes bottled beer, wine, and liquor. It does NOT include cooking items, such as serving dishes, which are acceptable.
3. NO DOGS ALLOWED IN MUNICIPAL PARK
4. We respectfully ask members to adhere to these guidelines so we can continue to use Municipal Park for years to come!

SAN INAZIO MASS

Please join us for our annual Basque Mass in honor of our Patron Saint, Ignatius of Loyola. Mass will be on [Saturday, July 31, at 7:00 PM](#) at St. Mark's Catholic Church (7960 W Northview, Boise, ID 83704).

Fr. Ben Uhlenkott will be our celebrant. Boise Oñati Dantza Taldea will dance the Corpus dances. Masks are encouraged especially if you are not fully vaccinated.

REOPENING OF THE BASQUE CENTER - UPDATE

In March of 2020, the Euzkaldunak Board and Basque Foundation had to make difficult decisions and take action to keep our community safe as this crisis unfolded. Since then, we have been closely monitoring local, state, and national health guidelines and regulations regarding COVID-19; we continue to act with our members' and the larger community's safety in mind. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the updated information regarding the Basque Center.

- ***In-person monthly dinners will resume on Saturday, September 18.*** Please stay tuned for more information.
- ***The Bar is open to the public*** on Thursday and Sunday from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and Friday and Saturday from 2:00 PM to 1:00 AM.
- ***The Cardroom is available*** for Mus/Briska players
- ***The facility is open for rentals.*** 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.

As always, the board will continue to monitor the situation and make appropriate decisions on increasing or decreasing hours of operation.

JUNE CURBSIDE DINNER THANK YOU

Eskerrik Asko to the Euzkaldunak Board, Friends of the Board and Aiztan Artean for making the June Curbside Pickup Dinner a great success by providing a great dinner cooked by Jesus Alcelay to over 160 diners.

Many thanks to: Todor Azurta, Aitor Azpeitia, Cathy Clarkson, Cindy Schaffeld, Mike Franzoia, Martin Bilbao, Tyler Smith, Ed Orbea, Linda Achurra, Gerri Achurra, Iciar Aldazabal, Toni Bicandi, Teresa Grimm, Cheryl Asin, Susan Gavica, Annie Gavica, Alania Gavica, Celeste Landa and Gina Urquidi.

DINNER HOSTS NEEDED

With the resumption of the monthly in-person member's dinners, the Basque Foundation, Inc. is seeking host families for upcoming dinners. If your family or organization would like to get involved, please send an email to president@basquecenter.com.

BOISE STATE BASQUE STUDIES

Basque Studies at Boise State offers an exciting variety of weekend workshops, Basque language and culture courses, Basque language certificates, a Basque Cultural Studies certificate and even a Basque Studies Minor. Thanks to our generous donors, we are able to offer both need-based and merit-based scholarships to qualified students. This year, qualifying students enrolled in our courses have been awarded scholarship funds ranging from \$265 to \$5,500.

Are you looking for a school to send your student? Are you a student who is looking for a school where you can grow as a person and learn about your Basque heritage? What about joining Basque Studies at Boise State? For more information, get in touch with us!

Professors Nere Lete (nlete@boisestate.edu) and Ziortza Gandarias (ziortzagandarias@boisestate.edu).



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HISTORY CORNER

For many Euzkaldunak members, the card game Mus is an important part of being Basque, and it brings them to the Basque Center more than any other activity. In June 2021, members of the Basque Center Renovation Committee stopped by the Center on a Sunday afternoon to talk to a few players about how they learned Mus and what they hope for the game's future.

Mus Player Interviews



Tony Larrocea (Amorebieta, Bizkaia)

Tony was born in 1931. He learned to play mus from his grandfather at six years old. At 11, he remembers playing Mus in a bar. Tony came to the U.S. in 1951 and continued to play in the sheep camps. He learned to play in Basque using eight kings, but in 2005 he started to play 4-kings. Soon after that, he and his long-time partner, Joe Zabala, won the Homedale tournament, but Joe did not want to travel to the NABO tournament because it would be played with four kings. Tony has played in most of the local tournaments (Boise, Homedale, Gooding, Mountain Home, Ontario, Basque Museum, and Paradise). He plays for fun on Sundays at the Basque Center in Boise and Tuesdays at Txoko Ona in Homedale. He estimates he and Joe have won the Boise tournament 3-4 times and come in second place 25 times! He has participated in the national NABO Mus tournament approximately ten times.



Juan Egana (Aulesti, Bizkaia)

Juan was born in 1942. He started playing Mus at five years old. His whole family would play Mus after church on Sundays. He learned to play in Basque using eight kings. Juan came to the U.S. in 1965 but didn't play much here until 1970 when he started playing the various tournaments around the valley. Besides playing for fun at the Basque Center on Sundays, he used to go to Jose Ramon Legarreta's to play and eat dinner with other players. He has won the Boise tournament "many times" and has traveled to the national NABO tournament (once with John Bastida, and four times with Jose Mari Artiach). Juan hopes that the young people keep playing Mus to keep it alive— he really enjoys their company during tournaments!

BOISEKO AZOKA/FERIA de BOISE

Fairs are a very common part of the Basque Country culture and a great way to continue traditions and culture through future generations. There is a small planning team looking to provide a new, fun way to continue Basque and Basque-American traditions in downtown Boise for the Basque community and beyond as well. If you are interested in participating in a "Feria" (of sorts) to be held at the Basque Block sometime this Fall/ Winter (this would consist of local vendors, artists, demonstrations, and hopefully may include churros and hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts, and other cultural customs of the season) please complete this simple online form: forms.gle/Rx6XkZuQLgJKson66

Mus Players (pt 2)



Lino Zabala (Mendata, Bizkaia)

Lino was born in 1947 but he did not learn to play Mus in Mendata. He says it is because the nearest bar was too far away from his small town! Lino came to the U.S. in 1969 but learned to play in the 1980s. The Basque Center was offering Mus lessons to members; however, when he showed up, there were no teachers - just three Mus players waiting for a fourth. So, he learned to play on the fly! They were playing in Basque using four kings. He plays for fun on Sundays at the Basque Center. Lino has won the Boise tournament many times; he has played in tournaments all over the valley, mostly with his longtime partner Jose Mari Guerricabeitia. He has also been to the national NABO tournament many times in Chino, San Francisco, and Homedale, among others. Lino believes that Mus in Boise will never end because of all the young people that are getting into it.

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Mus Players (pt. 3)



Julian "Juli" Lete (Boise, Idaho)

Juli is 58 years old. He first learned to play Mus after joining the Oinkari Basque Dancers. The Oinkaris played in Basque using eight kings for the most part (which Juli prefers). Juli's maternal grandmother was from Bergara, and she played all the card games (mus, briska, tute). At one particular bar in Bergara, they would play a version of Mus with eight players (two four-man teams). Each player is dealt five cards, and discards one before play begins without any opportunity to Mus (discarding and getting dealt additional cards). Juli believes that version became popular at that bar because they only had one deck of cards!

He has played in the Boise tournament a few times with a partner, but because of his bar duties he typically gets to play as a substitute when someone else can't be there. Juli has also served as the longtime organizer of the Boise tournament. At first, he would assist Ramon Ysursa, who organized it for over thirty years. One year, there was an even number of teams participating, which meant that the "big board" showing the tournament matchups takes a little more finesse to get exactly right as opposed to when there is an odd number of teams participating. Because there is pressure to get the games going right away

on the first night of the tournament, Ramon and Juli quickly determined the matchups by laying out the round robin schedule. Once the games were underway, they then attempted to create the entire schedule for the coming weeks.

Unfortunately, because they had erred with the first set of games, the matchups a few weeks down the road started to fall apart, with teams playing other teams multiple times. Frustrated, Juli contacted someone from the Shriners to come work out the mess. There was a gentleman there that had quite a bit of experience with these styles of tournaments because the Shriners were always holding card tournaments of their own! With his assistance, they got it all worked out.



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Mus Players (pt. 4)

1980 Euzkaldunak Mus Players



Mike Franzoia (Sacramento, California)

Mike was born in 1954. He is of Italian descent, but married Anita Anacabe in 1983 and traveled to Gipuzkoa in 1984 through the Basque studies program. He first learned to play in Zarautz, using a combination of Spanish and Basque (he knew a little Spanish prior to going, so as the bidding numbers got higher, he'd have to switch to counting in Spanish!).

Mike learned to play using both four and eight kings. He believes that the game is more pure using four kings, but eight kings can be more fun because of the opportunities for bigger hands. He moved to Boise 2 ½ years ago and has been playing for fun on Sundays.

Mike appreciates that the long-time Mus players have welcomed him "into the fold." His accomplishments include taking 2nd place in a money tournament in Elko earlier this year. Anita also knows how to play, and their four children do as well (However, they learned from their Udaleku experiences - not from Dad.)

Mike hopes that Mus stays strong in Boise, and believes that NABO is to thank for teaching the youth the game and keeping it alive. He loves this unique game!

Mateo Franzoia (Elko, Nevada)

(editor's note: Mateo was not interviewed in person but filled out the written survey)

Mateo is 31 years old. He learned to play Mus in 1998 during Udaleku in Elko. Mateo learned to play in Basque using four kings, which he prefers. Both of his parents play as well as his three sisters. He has played in tournaments in Reno, Elko, and Gardnerville and was the 2004 NABO Junior Mus runner-up. Mateo believes that the future of Mus means better youth involvement and opportunities for learning the game.



*Interviewer's note: On the particular Sunday that we conducted our interviews, there didn't happen to be any women playing in the Card Room. However, the number of women who participate in the many tournaments in Boise and at other clubs has risen significantly in the past 20 years. Also, it should be noted that all of the players expressed their **love of the game**. Our Basque Center needs to continue providing this gathering place for Mus!*



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FALL 2021 PILOTA LEAGUES

Basque pelota is the name for a variety of court sports played with a ball using one's hand, a wooden paddle, a racket or a basket, against a wall. The pelota court is called Fronton and in Boise we are very fortunate to have one located in the heart of the Basque Block, inside the Anduiza Building, which was originally built as a boarding house by the Anduiza family in 1912. Two Basques bought the building in 1993 and generously lease the Fronton to the Boise Fronton Association (BFA), allowing its members to continue using this great facility.

An old Basque song says “haurrak ikas zazue, euskaraz mintzaten, ongi pilotan eta oneski dantzaten” (children, learn to speak Euskara, to play pelota and to dance well) - illustrating that pelota, along with Euskara and dancing, is an integral part of our Basque culture.

BFA was formed to preserve pelota in Boise. Although there are 14 disciplines of Basque pelota depending on the use of bare hands or a tool (pala, paleta, racket, zesta and xare) and the type of ball (leather ball, soft rubber ball and hard rubber ball), in Boise we currently play 3 disciplines: handball, pala goma (heavy wooden paddle and a hard rubber ball) and baleen/paleta goma (a lighter and larger wooden paddle and a softer rubber ball). BFA coordinates pelota games played in 4 different leagues, with members having access to play in the fronton outside of those organized time slots.

BFA is very happy to announce that pelota leagues (both Pala and Baleen) will resume in September 2021. There will be 2 seasons per year, each season being 14 weeks long:

- Fall Season: starts on the 2nd Monday of September.
- Spring Season: starts on the 2nd Monday of February.

League games will be played from 5:30pm to 9pm

- Pala A – games played on Mondays.
- Pala B (Co-ed) - games played on Thursdays.
- Baleen A - games played on Wednesdays.
- Baleen B - games played on Wednesdays.

There are no plans for Handball/Esku Pilota league for the time being, but one could be set up should there be sufficient interest from players.

The BFA yearly membership fee is \$100.00, with an introductory \$50 fee for the first year for new members. This covers the September to August period and allows BFA to pay for the expenses to run the Fronton (usage fee, insurance, electricity...). Exceptionally, since the 2020 season was cancelled due to the Pandemic, players who paid the membership in 2020 will be exempted from paying in 2021. Please note that anyone who has not paid the BFA membership fee should not be playing in the Fronton; please, let's all follow this requirement so we can continue to enjoy the fronton for many years.

If you would like to join BFA and play in one or more leagues this fall season, please fill out the form(s) below.

- Pala League Form - bit.ly/3d7XiF5
- Baleen League Form - bit.ly/3zNjPRr

Email boisefronton@gmail.com with questions or more

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EUZKALDUNAK LEGACY AWARD

In 2001, the Euzkaldunak Board introduced the

Legacy Award. This award is given to individuals who have exhibited a long-term commitment to the goals of Euzkaldunak. Nominations for the 2021 Legacy Award are now open. If you would like to nominate someone, please write a short letter with the nominee's name and a description of their accomplishments, and either email it to president@basquecenter.com or give it to any current board member. The board will review the nominations and the recipients will be announced later in the year.

JULY ZORIONAK

Euzkaldunak member birthdays:

Carolyn Aguirre, David Aizpitarte, Xanti Alcelay, Susan Aldecoa, Dolores Aldrich, Joe "Patxi" Amuchastegui, Andrea Arana Anderson, Dan Ansotegui, Jon Aramburu, Dan Arnold, Rosa Mari Arrubarrena, Becky Arte-Howell, Sara Astorquia, Julie Asumendi, Mary Barinaga, Kathleen Beristain, Janice Odiaga Bicandi, John Bieter, Ysabel Bilbao, Danielle Boyd, Lanette Brooks, Susanna Cammann, Bill Clayton, Bryan Day, Gene de Laveaga, Jim Dickey, Camille Durham, Jolly Jayo Eck, Juan Egaña, Mateo Franzoia, Patty Gabica, Michael J Guericabeitia, Alfonso Guericabeitia, Jr., Lori Harris, Scott Howard, RosaMary Izaguirre, Toni Marie Johnson, Jan Larrea, Joe Lasuen, John I Lejardi, Inaki E Lete, Camille Levi, Aaron Mai, Janice Mainvil, Brandon McGoldrick, Jose I Mendiola, Ted A Miller, Diana Murelaga Minkowski, Victor Otazua, Jr, Megan Overgaard, Josephine Totorica Rebich, Gloria Schodde, John Schroeder, Patty Stevens Kauss, Dan Totorica, Gloria Totoricaguena, Becky Uranga, Mark Uranga, Sue Urquidi, Jim Uruburu, Estefania Yanci, Stephanie Yanci, John Ysursa, Giuliana and Omar Zuloeta

If you don't see your birthday during your birthday month and would like it to show up on this list, please email secretary@basquecenter.com so it can be added to the member database.



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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.

2021 NABO 4 KING TOURNAMENT

This year's tournament will be held **Saturday, July 31, 2021** at the Basque Center. Registration is at 8:00 AM with play to begin at 9:00 AM. All players must be current members of Euzkaldunak to participate (you can sign up for your membership at the tournament if needed). The winners of this tournament will represent Euzkaldunak in the regional tournament for all Idaho clubs, which will be announced at a future date.

2022 INTERNATIONAL MUS

Euzkaldunak has been asked to host the 2022 International Mus tournament. The Board is excited to take on hosting responsibilities but will need help from members to plan excursions, hotel rooms, and meals. If you are interested in helping with this event, please email Tyler Smith, tylerjnsmith@gmail.com.



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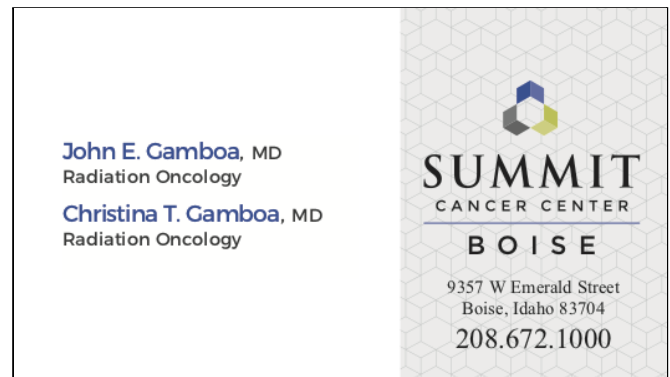
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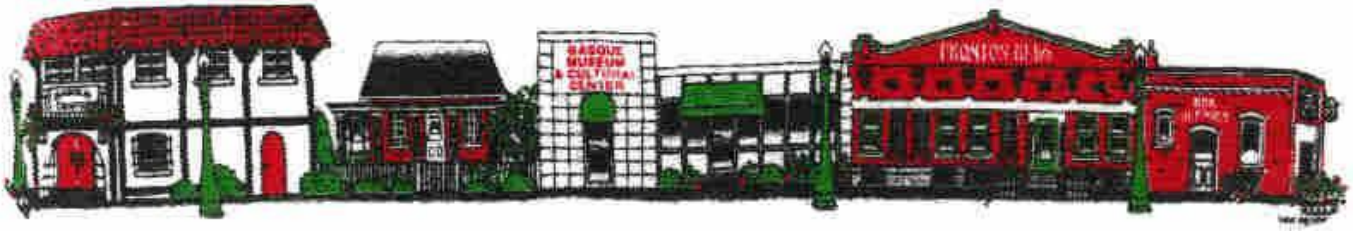
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To contact the entire board (10 directors), send an email to board@basquecenter.com.

BASQUE CENTER RENTAL

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information that you would like to include in the next newsletter, please send your submission to newsletter@basquecenter.com by **Monday, July 19**. For mailing address changes, contact Patty Gabica at secretary@basquecenter.com.

2021 EUZKALDUNAK EVENTS

07/31 - 08/01/21 - San Inazio (modified)	11/06/21 - November Morzilla Dinner, Bazaar & Bingo
09/18/21 - September Dinner	12/05/21 - Children's Christmas Party
10/16/21 - October Dinner	12/18/21 - December Dinner & Shepherders Ball
10/24/21 - Children's Halloween Party	01/29/22 - Annual Membership Meeting