



EUZKALDUNAK

2021

AZAROA

NOVEMBER

Monthly Member Newsletter

2021 MORZILLA BAZAAR AND DINNER

Last month we alerted you that the Board of Directors had made the difficult decision to cancel our annual November Bazaar event. Since then, the Board has been monitoring the pandemic and has made the decision not to proceed with making morzillas and hosting a morzilla dinner. We understand that this might not be a popular decision but we hold the safety of our family, friends, and members in very high regard. Safety is our priority when deciding to hold indoor events.

OINKARI SAGARDOTEGI POSTPONED

Normally, we look forward to transforming the Basque Center into a traditional Sagardotegi every fall. But in order to ensure we can enjoy it without limitations, we are moving it to the spring of next year. Stay tuned for more details as we finalize plans for Sagardotegi 2022 this spring!

EUZKALDUNAK WANTS YOU!

The directors of Basque Foundation Inc. are eager to recruit directors with fresh ideas and perspectives. Some of the directors have been part of the leadership of Euzkaldunak for more than 10 years. "It's time for other people to come in," said Martin Bilbao and Tyler Smith, who have served on the Board of Directors over the last decade and will not be running for an additional term.

Every year there are five (5) vacant positions up for election as well as an alternate. All directors are elected to a two-year term. The elections for the board of directors will take place at the annual membership meeting on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

The Basque Center is one of the most significant presences in maintaining Basque culture and identity in all of Idaho. For more than 70 years generations of Basques have preserved their language, history, sports, dance, and music. This institution has also greatly benefited from a cadre of dreamers and doers (Gloria Totoricaguena, Boise Basques: Dreamers & Doers) who have unselfishly dedicated themselves to the preservation of "Basqueness."

The opportunity to be a director is open to all members, which includes the non-Basque spouses of those with Basque Ancestry. If you are interested in learning more about the responsibilities of being on the Board of Directors or are interested in running, please contact Ed Orbea at president@basquecenter.com or Alicia Knox at vicepresident@basquecenter.com.

2022 INTERNATIONAL MUS

Euzkaldunak is hosting the 2022 International Mus tournament. The tournament will be the week of [October 9, 2022](#), and culminate with the finals on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The Board is excited to take on hosting responsibilities but are soliciting help from members to plan excursions, hotel rooms, and meals. If you are interested in helping with this exciting event, please email Tyler Smith at tylerjnsmith@gmail.com.

BOISEKO GAZTEAK

Boiseko Gazteak practice is underway! All the latest information can be found at our page on the Basque Center website:
basquecenter.com/community/boiseko-gazteak

Boiseko Parents: If you are not receiving periodic emails with information about Boiseko, please email boiseko@basquecenter.com with your email address and child's name.

2021-2022 Calendar (TENTATIVE):

- 12/05 - Winter Show (Borah High)
- 1/11 - Practice resumes at 7PM (practice each Tuesday until March 8)
- 3/13 - Spring Show (Borah High)
- 7/25 & 26 - Jaialdi practice at 7PM
- 7/30 - Jaialdi 2022 performance (Expo Idaho)

BASQUE FOUNDATION – BASQUE CHARITIES

Donations to deserving people are made throughout the year, but as December approaches, the Basque Foundation (formerly Basque Charities) selects a person or family to receive a sizable contribution from the charities account. Typically, the recipient is someone (Basque or non-Basque) who has fallen ill and needs help financially. The annual Shepherders Ball & Lamb Auction is where much of the money is raised to bolster the charities account. If you know of someone who should be considered as the primary recipient of funds, please contact Ed Orbea at president@basquecenter.com.



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Erik McFarland 208-884-0142

IDAZKARIAENGANDIK - FROM THE SECRETARY

All Euzkaldunak memberships expire on December 31 of each calendar year. Dues for 2022 will be \$50 per adult. Beginning in mid-November after you receive your renewal statement, there will be a payment portal on the basquecenter.com website. You are also welcome to renew by sending a check to the Basque Center. Please contact secretary@basquecenter.com for new memberships.

BASQUE DIASPORA IDENTITY RESEARCH

Keara Dennehy from Dartmouth College is conducting research about Basque identity and community in Boise in December 2021. The project will ask questions about historical and current ideas of what it means to be Basque, the role that the sheepherding industry has played in the Boise community, and the specific experiences of Basque-American women. The primary benefits of this study will be knowledge gained for future Basque-Americans and contribution to the broader field of diaspora studies.

Should COVID guidelines permit, Keara will be traveling to Boise in December to interview 20 members of the Boise Basque community, and is looking to connect with interviewees in November before she arrives to either 1) introduce myself and schedule an in-person interview for December, or 2) conduct a Zoom interview with those would prefer to meet virtually.

Interviews will take up to one hour and can be anonymized upon interviewees' request. If you're interested in participating or have questions about the project, please email Keara.m.dennehy.22@dartmouth.edu or call/text Keara at (860) 990-0863.



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History Corner: Celebrating the Basque Diaspora



The William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies in the College of Liberal Arts hosted an outdoor program and reception at the University of Nevada Reno celebrating the Statue of the Basque Shepherd on the Day of the Basque Diaspora, Wednesday, September 8.

The celebration included traditional Basque music and dance as well as reflections from Michonne and Stephen Ascuaga. A brief program honored the memory of their parents, Rose and John Ascuaga, and the many Basques who emigrated to the American West. The statue of the Basque shepherd embodies their values, spirit and stories.

The Basque Diaspora does much of the same – a celebration and acknowledgment of all the Basques who now live outside of the Basque Country. The Day of the Basque Diaspora occurs annually each year on September 8.

The celebratory event was well attended with over 100 guests from the community. William A. Douglass was among those in attendance and acknowledged for his dedication to the Center and to the Basque community.

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History Corner part 2

Stories of love, courage and tears were shared by many recounting their time spent in the Basque Country and the arduous trek westward to find a better life outside of sheepherding. The Ascuaga family was praised as legends in the community while their son Stephen announced he was sure it was John and Rose from above ensuring the wildfire smoke cleared for the enjoyment of the event.

Guests enjoyed traditional dancing, reciting poems in Basque and community gathering after a long-awaited opportunity to come together. It's clear the statue's presence on campus is one of great pride to the Basque community and University. "The life of a shepherd was tough," Professor of Basque Studies, Sandra Ott said. "They spent months alone in the hills with their sheep, often at the expense of physical and mental health. But the story of the Basque shepherd is incomplete without that of the Basque women who came out here and worked in the sheep camps."

In 1522, Basque Navigator Juan Sebastián Elcano from the province of Gipuzkoa completed the first-known single expedition voyage around the globe that began under the command of Ferdinand Magellan. After Magellan was killed in the Philippines in 1521, Juan Sebastian Elcano took over as commander of the Victoria sailing back to Spain. Nearly three years after the start of the expedition in 1519, Elcano returned to Seville, Spain on September 8, 1522. Now every year on that day, we celebrate the hundreds of thousands of Basques who have migrated all over the world (nearly 60,000 of those living in the United States).



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preserving, promoting, & perpetuating Basque history & culture - in Idaho & beyond.



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basquemuseum.eus - check for latest updates!

The Museum Gift Store (and online gift store) is a perfect place to find gifts for any occasion - gifts from near & far!


History Corner part 3

As the original owners of the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, the late Rose and John Ascuaga commissioned artist and Reno native Douglas Van Howd to sculpt the Basque statue for the opening of the casino's Basque-themed restaurant, Orozko, in 1998. Van Howd is well known worldwide for his wildlife and western creations. He also sculpted the wolves statue at the entrance of Mackay Stadium at the University. Although he sculpted the Basque statue years ago, he was still very much involved in its relocation and even visited campus once after its move to clean it.

For many years the striking bronze figure of the Basque shepherd welcomed visitors to the Nugget. It was generously donated to the University and its Center for Basque Studies by the Nugget Casino Resort, now owned by Marnell Gaming, LLC, in 2017. On May 27, 2020, the statue was relocated to its new home, beautifully surrounded by the high desert Nevada landscape, where it now greets students as they walk past on the University's campus. (Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the statue was not properly celebrated until 2021).

"Robert Laxalt's much beloved memoir, *Sweet Promised Land*, and our celebration today speak not only to all first-generation immigrants who made their way west – they speak broadly to the journeys and experiences of all immigrants from diverse cultures, ethnicities and religions who came to America, who toiled, endured countless hardships and contributed so much to the shaping of our country," Ott said.

It took a village to move the statue. And now the statue returns the favor by looking over its village. Similar to the Basques who migrated west seeking a better life, the students on campus too are seeking a better future, and the shepherd statue will welcome all who strive.



John E. Gamboa, MD
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NOVEMBER ZORIONAK

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.

Euzkaldunak member birthdays:

Tere Achabal, Phil Aldape, Teresa Amillategui Grimm, Aitor Amuchastegui, Mark Arana, Delphina Arnold, LaVonne Arregui, Jess Asla, Linda Barinaga, Alberto Bereziartua, Alicia Berggren, Tom Bermensolo, Nicholas Bicandi, Izar Iribarren Bicandi, Dave Bieter, Dan Bilbao, Emmett Bolles, Jeannene Boyd, Mary Lou Brown, Joe Clayton, Elena Cook, Marie Day, Chloe Dennis, Michelle Dodds White, Christy Echevarria, Tammy Echeverria, Curtis Eck, Andy Eiguren, Martin Elxpuru, Johnny Ford, Kyle Gandiaga, Brenna Garro, Susan Gavica, Enrique Goitiandia, Sabino Goitiandia, Julie Hahn, Celia Harrington, David Hensley, Stuart Hill, Jr, Alicia Homaechevarria, Juan Hormaechea, Javier Idoeta, Jeannie Aguirre Kiel, Rosita Koontz, Jeff Lliteras, Cecilia Lodzinski, Meghan Mallea, Paul Mallory, Thomas JC Mendiguren, Josefina Mendiola, Wanita Miyamura, Amaya Monasterio, Diane M Norquist, Teresa Yrazabal Paige, Gene Perry, James Sangroniz, Phil Sarasqueta, Mark Schaffeld, Gary Schaffner, Adelia Simplot, Carmen Spencer, Aleja Stacey, Blanche Bastida Swindell, Juanita Thompson, Serafina Totorica, George Totorica, Javier Urquidi, Steve Uruburu, Tony Villanueva, Randy W Warfel, John Welsh, John Wilson, Ricardo Yanci, Daniela Ysursa, Jenny Ysursa, Josu Zubizarreta





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N.A.B.O. DELEGATE

Argia Beristain

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

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 next newsletter, please send your submission to newsletter@basquecenter.com by **Monday, November 15**. For mailing address changes, contact Patty Gabica at secretary@basquecenter.com.

2021-22 EUZKALDUNAK EVENTS

(all events pending COVID-19 and national and local health regulations)

10/16/21 – ~~October Dinner~~ (cancelled)
 11/06/21 – ~~November Morzilla Dinner~~
 (cancelled)
 11/13/21 – Regional Mus Tournament
 (Txoko Ona in Homedale)

12/05/21 – ~~Children's Christmas Party~~
 (cancelled)
 12/18/21 – ~~December Dinner & Shepherders~~
 Ball (cancelled)
 1/29/22 – Annual Membership Meeting