



# EUZKALDUNAK

2021

**ABENDUA**  
**DECEMBER**  
Monthly Member Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Throughout the pandemic, the Euzkaldunak Board of Directors has been committed to ensuring the safety of our community, members, patrons and staff. As we announced in the previous newsletter, due to the surge of COVID-19 cases overwhelming local hospitals and the transmission rates in the Treasure Valley, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel our annual Shepherders Ball.

We will continue to monitor the status of the pandemic and move towards 2022 with the safety of our members the foremost in our minds. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we work hard to fully bring back our family to our house.

Although our annual celebration, a fundraiser for the charities account of the Basque Foundation, Inc., will not be held in our traditional manner, the Board of Directors has selected a primary recipient for 2021. The majority of the funds raised from the Shepherders Ball is reserved for a primary beneficiary each year, while the remainder is shared amongst others in need. We know it has been a difficult time for many, however, we are hopeful our community can show their support by donating through the Basque Center website [basquecenter.com/shepherders-ball](https://basquecenter.com/shepherders-ball) or sending a donation to the Basque Center at 601 W Grove St, Boise, ID 83702..

## BASQUE CENTER BAR HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 23: 2:00 – 10:30 PM  
Dec 24: 2:00 – 6:00 PM  
Dec 25-29: Closed  
Dec 30: 2:00 – 10:30 PM  
Dec 31: 2:00 PM – 1:00 AM  
Jan 1-2: Closed

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

All Euzkaldunak memberships, including those who joined in September or October 2021, will expire on December 31, 2021. Renewals are now being accepted for 2022! During the renewal process, we respectfully ask that you update your home address, phone, and email, as well as your preference in how you wish to receive your newsletter and/or any memberships you are renewing on behalf of others.

You can pay your membership dues by mailing in a check with the renewal form, dropping off a check and renewal form at the Basque Center, or online with a credit card by visiting [basquecenter.com/membership-renewal](https://basquecenter.com/membership-renewal). If any issues arise using the online payment, please email [secretary@basquecenter.com](mailto:secretary@basquecenter.com) as soon as possible so we are able to identify and rectify the issue.

For new memberships, please contact [secretary@basquecenter.com](mailto:secretary@basquecenter.com). A new member is defined as any individual who has never been a member or who was a member previously but let their membership lapse. **Remember: memberships make great Christmas gifts!**

## **TXANTXANGORRIAK & BOISEKO WINTER SHOW - NEW LOCATION**

[Sunday, December 5](#) is the Txantxangorriak & Boiseko Gazteak Winter Show. This year, we're going to hold the performance outside on the Basque Block! Dancers & Musicians should arrive at 12:15 PM. Txantxangorriak will start the performance off at 12:30 PM, with the dancers following at 1:00 PM. Mark your calendars and tell your family and friends. Please bring a can of food for our seasonal contribution to a local food bank. Don't forget to dress for the weather!

## **EUZKALDUNAK WANTS YOU**

The Basque Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors is eager to recruit Directors with fresh ideas and perspectives. Every year, there are five (5) vacant positions up for election plus an alternate. All Directors are elected to a two-year term. The elections for the Board of Directors will take place at the general membership meeting on Saturday, [January 29, 2022](#). 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 or if you are interested in running for the board, please contact Ed Orbea at [president@basquecenter.com](mailto:president@basquecenter.com) or Alicia Knox at [vicepresident@basquecenter.com](mailto:vicepresident@basquecenter.com).

## **REGINA ALDECOA TURNS 100**

Regina Bastida Aldecoa is turning 100! Join us to celebrate with a reception on Friday, January 7, 2022. We will be gathering at the Sacred Heart Church Faith Hall from 1:00-3:00 PM. (No gifts, please, and please wear a mask.) Regina is a charter member of Euzkaldunak, a former board member and volunteered as the very first Oinkari Business Manager. She is a mainstay at Euzkaldunak events. As a nurse anesthetist, she helped countless Basques and others navigate the health-care system. She is a wonderful ambassador for what is good with our Basque community. All are welcome. We would like an estimate of attendance number, so please call Dolores Totorica (208) 336-4946 or Kenny Mutch (208) 850-6415.

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

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## **SHEEPHERDERS BALL & BASQUE FOUNDATION CHARITIES - PRIMARY RECIPIENT**



The first Shepherders Ball was held in 1929 after John Archabal convinced two Basque men's organizations to combine their annual Christmas dances into 1 unified event. There is no definitive information when the name "Shepherders Ball" was adopted, but the idea has always been the same: an annual dance for Basques. In 1974 the Shepherders Ball was the first one open to the public and had close to 1000 participants. Basil and Dorothy Bicandi Aldecoa donated a lamb for the annual lamb auction for charity, which earned \$2,205 from 16 different bidders. The Basque Foundation Charities has benefitted ever since from the Shepherders Ball and Lamb Auction.

This year the pandemic has forced the Euzkaldunak Board of Directors to cancel the in-person Shepherders Ball; however, the charitable donations are still needed. This year, the Basque Foundation Charities selected the Gammon Family as their primary recipient.

In early August 2021, Matt and Shelley Gammon noticed that their 8-year old son Blake had begun to act differently. He had decreased energy, pain through his legs and hips, and frequent headaches. As any parent would, they took notice but figured it was the typical growth spurt, until out of nowhere Blake turned yellow. They immediately took him to the doctor where they did bloodwork to try and find answers. That's when The Gammon's lives all changed. On September 29, 2021 Matt and Shelley received devastating news that Blake was diagnosed with B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This diagnosis comes with roughly three years of chemotherapy treatments, many hospital stays, countless doctor's appointments and so many other hardships.

While the Gammon family has medical insurance, the medical expenses from this diagnosis and the amount of work that will be missed to care for their child will be significant.

Donations are tax deductible and can be made via the following methods:

1. Go to the Shepherders donation website to make a donation via credit card: [basquecenter.com/shepherders-ball](https://basquecenter.com/shepherders-ball)
2. Drop off a donation at the Basque Center
3. Send a check to the Basque Foundation Charities  
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Matt and Shelley are blessed with a strong family and friend support system to help them along the way. Your generous donation to the Basque Foundation, Inc. will help ease the family's financial burden during this long and difficult journey.





## MUS NEWS

### 2021 Idaho Regional Tournament

The 2021 Regional Mus Tournament was held on Saturday, November 13, at Txoko Ona in Homedale. The Idaho regional teams that advanced to play in the NABO National tournament were **Martin Bilbao, Tyler Smith, Esteban Elexpuru** and **Augustine Ugalde**.



### 2021 National Mus Tournament

The following Saturday, November 20, the 2021 National Mus Tournament was held at The Basque Center in Boise. 10 teams participated and a well-contested series of games.

- **1st place:** Esteban Elexburu and Agustin Ugalde (Gooding Basque Association)
- **2nd place:** Juan Jose and Nic Vizcay (Fresno Basque Club).

Zorionak to all who participated, and Eskerrik Askto to the board members who set up the tournament.



### 2022 International Mus

Euzkaldunak is hosting the 2022 International Mus tournament the week of **October 9-15, 2022**. The Board is excited to take on hosting responsibilities and is soliciting help from members to plan excursions, meals, and lodging. If you are interested in helping with this exciting event, please email [tylerjnsmith@gmail.com](mailto:tylerjnsmith@gmail.com).

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## EDUCATION NEWS: BASQUE DIASPORA MASTER'S PROGRAM



Photo: November 4th, 2021 Department of World Languages Resource Center. Left to right: Patty Miller, Nere Lete, Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain. (The masks were taken off for the photo)

Nere Lete, MFA., and Ziortza Gandarias Beldarrain, PhD., professors of [Basque Studies](#) in the World Languages Department at Boise State University were invited to teach a course in the inaugural session of the Master's degree program created by the University of the Basque Country, "[Specialization in Basque Diaspora](#)" (30 credits). This Master's degree in Basque Diaspora is intended to be a training program with a clear international and inter-university orientation. In fact, the students are from the Basque Country and other Basque Diaspora communities, such as Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Lete and Gandarias Beldarrain taught the class "Diáspora y género: el rol de la mujer" (Diaspora and Gender: The Role of Women) in Spanish on November 4th, to the 25 students of the master. The professors enlisted Patty Miller to provide her expertise as the Director of [Community History Project](#) at the Basque Museum & Cultural Center in Boise. They presented a multidisciplinary course, analyzing the formations of different diasporas in the American West and the role of women in these communities. The course latter focused on the active role and presence of Basque women in the diasporic community of the American West. The ultimate goal was to showcase the contributions these women have made and continue making in the social, cultural, political, historical and economic arenas in Boise, Idaho.



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## History Corner: Boiseko Gazteak

*History Corner is a featured column in the Euzkaldunak newsletter that is written by members of the Basque Center Renovation Committee. Our 7-decade old building is aging and needs our enthusiasm and support to carry our traditions forward for the next 7 decades and beyond. The goal of the History Corner column is to highlight the many beloved traditions we can carry out thanks to having access to a Basque Center and to educate members about our rich Boise Basque history.*

Even before Euzkaldunak was established and before there was a Basque Center, Basque dancing lessons took place in our community. The credit goes to Juanita Uberuaga for getting it all started. In a future newsletter, we will talk about how we got to where we are today with Boiseko Gazteak, the *Young Ones from Boise*. Children from ages 4 to 14



meet in the Basque Block—Basque Center hall and basement, Fronton, Museum, even in the street on Grove—on Tuesday evenings to practice dancing. **It takes the whole village to make this happen.**

The “Txikituak” are the 4- and 5-year-old *Little Ones*. They are the audience pleasers who put a smile on everyone’s face. Their teachers (sometimes called “cat herders”) are Patxi Kerns, Amaya Odiaga, Tere Achabal Papapietro and Mark Uranga. Musicians are Dan Ansotegui, Tamara Shapiro Ansotegui, Chris Bieter and Bonnie Shuster.

“Azkarra” are 6-7 years of age. They are the *Smart Quick Ones*. Musicians are Johnny Boyd and Nikki Totorica; teachers are Jill Aldape, Argia Beristain, Jude Gary and Alicia Knox.

The 8-10 olds are the “Txulitoak” or the *Proud Ones*. Their teachers and musicians are Johnny Aldape, Amaya Fischer, Alicia Lachiondo, Michelle Lauer, Miren Lete, Gaizka Malone, Linda Mainvil-Fischer and James Sangroniz.



The oldest group of dancers from ages 11-14 is “Nagusiak.” These dancers at the top level are the *Bosses or Chiefs*. Their teachers and musicians—all of whom are past or current members of Oinkaris—are Ellie Ansotegui, Ben Bengoetxea, Teresa Franzoia, Jaclyn Lasuen, Tyler Smith and Isana Urquidi.

The Boiseko Gazteak Board of Directors are: Johnny Aldape, Director; Keegan Dougherty & Angela Paz, Registration; Heather Totoricaguena, Costumes; Nikki Totorica, Music; Melissa Wolfe, Volunteers. Many thanks to all of the volunteers listed above (and the unnamed helpers and assistants) who donate time and talent to this important cultural program.



## **JAIALDI POSTPONED UNTIL 2025**

By now, most of you have heard that the Jaialdi team made the tough decision to cancel Jaialdi 2022.

The simple fact of the matter is this: We're still in the midst of a pandemic, and we couldn't in good conscience invite people to one of the biggest festivals in the state without limiting the number of people who could attend or trying to curb the ticket-free gathering on the Basque Block. As we saw over the summer, when Idaho hospitals resorted to critical standards of care, warm weather does not necessarily mean the virus is less rampant. We can't predict the future or the restrictions the city will place on gatherings if our case numbers skyrocket again.

This wasn't a decision we made lightly, especially after postponing the festival twice, but we couldn't put our volunteers, our lodging partners, our sponsors, and attendees through yet another postponement that may or may not have worked.

We understand that people are disappointed. We are, too. But we're very much looking forward to gathering in 2025! In the meantime, here are a few things you should know:

- We are finalizing the way ticket refunds for events at Expo Idaho will work and hope to share that information with you soon. All other event refunds were processed previously.
- Please contact your hotel to reschedule your room dates.
- Please contact your airline to cancel your tickets.
- Our vendor coordinator will be in touch with vendors to issue refunds.
- We will follow up with every person or business who reserved space in the program book and will issue refunds.
- The cancelation of Jaialdi 2022 will not affect the timing of the next Jaialdi. That festival is still scheduled to take place during the last week of July in 2025.

Your patience and support has meant the world to us. Thank you so much for helping us bring this festival to Boise and our friends around the country and the world.

*--The Jaialdi Board*

**M. Margaret Lezamiz**  
**John T. Schroeder**  
*Schroeder & Lezamiz Law Offices LLP*  
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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE BASQUE LANGUAGE

Every year on December 3, Euskara is celebrated all around the world and this holiday is known as the International Day of the Basque Language. The date for this holiday was established in 1948 by Eusko Ikaskuntza, the Society for Basque Studies. They chose December 3 because it's the feast day of Saint Francis Xavier, co-patron saint of the Basque province of Nafarroa (along with San Fermín).

Born in Xabier, Nafarroa in the 16th century, Saint Francis Xavier was a companion of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and one of the first Jesuits. He went on missions throughout Asia, and he is said to have converted the most people to Christianity since Saint Paul. Saint Francis Xavier died on an island off the coast of mainland China, apparently speaking his last words in Euskara, his native language.

The Basque Government and Euskaltzaindia, the Academy of the Basque Language, officially institutionalized the International Day of the Basque Language in 1995. In the past, Basque institutions and clubs around the world have celebrated the day with different events: concerts, lectures, singing and language workshops, meals, dance performances, film screenings. It's a marvel that Euskara, the Basque language, has survived for thousands of years, and on the 3rd of December we celebrate this accomplishment. It is our hope for it to continue to flourish for years to come, with the help of programs like Euskaraldia and the will of the Basque people.



Shane O Bengoechea  
Attorney at Law

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## EUSKARALDIA IS NOV 23 - DEC 3

Euskaraldia is a project in which people in all 7 provinces in the Basque Country are encouraged to speak more Euskara, the Basque language, over an 11-day period from Nov 23-Dec 3. Participants can sign up at [euskaraldia.eus](http://euskaraldia.eus) as either an Euskara speaker, *ahobizi*, or an Euskara listener, *bellariprest*, during these 11 days. *Ahobizi* commit to starting all of their conversations and social interactions in Euskara. They can of course switch to another language if the person they are speaking to doesn't understand Euskara, but just starting a conversation in Euskara sets the tone. *Bellariprest* ask Euskara speakers to speak to them in Euskara. This way, they can better practice their comprehension and support the use of Euskara in everyday life.

## END OF YEAR EUZKALDUNAK DONATIONS

Did you know you can make a donation to the Basque Center building fund at any time, either through memorials or just with a regular donation? These funds are used to maintain the facility and can also be earmarked in the event of a renovation of the Basque Center.



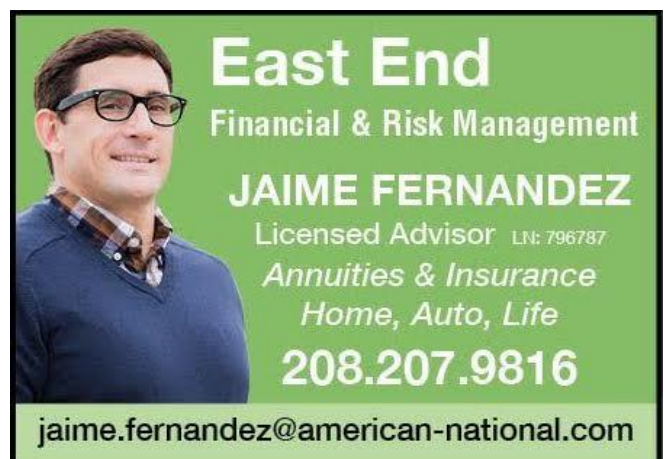
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## **DIASPORA STUDY**



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. Keara will tentatively be traveling to Boise in December to interview 20 members of the Boise Basque community. Interviews will take up to one hour and can be anonymized upon interviewees' request, and will be conducted via Zoom, or in person if Keara is able to visit Boise. If you're interested in participating or have questions about the project, please call/text Keara at (860) 990-0863, or email [Keara.m.dennehy.22@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Keara.m.dennehy.22@dartmouth.edu).

## **NEW EUZKALDUNAK MEMBERS**

Carmen Forsmann  
Travis Wright  
Katia Monasterio Schrier  
Amaya Herrera

## **OINKARI MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

The Oinkari Basque Dancers greatly appreciate the recent donations made in memory of beloved members of the Basque community. Memorial gifts to Oinkari help fund costumes, equipment, travel expenses, and Basque cultural education for current and future generations of Oinkari dancers.

### ***In memory of Inez Colburn:***

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## **DECEMBER ZORIONAK**

*Want your birthday to show up on this monthly list?  
please email [secretary@basquecenter.com](mailto:secretary@basquecenter.com) so it  
can be added to the member database.*

### ***Euzkaldunak member birthdays:***

Kathy Achabal, Steven Achabal, Gerri Achurra,  
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## **GOIAN BEGO ~ REST IN PEACE**

Each month, we list the names of recently passed  
members of Euzkaldunak and the local Basque  
community. Please send us the names of these  
recently deceased folks so we can honor them in  
print.

### ***Goian Bego:***

Inez Elguezabal Colburn  
Javier Urquidi  
Basilio Susaeta  
Joan Arriola Prickett (not a member)  
Jose Mari Guerricabeitia  
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Patty Gabica, Secretary and Treasurer  
Julian Lete, Operations Manager  
Albert Totorica, Rental Manager  
Sean Aucutt, Bartender  
Jesus Alcelay, Chef

## **N.A.B.O. DELEGATE**

Argia Beristain

*To contact the entire board (10 directors), send an email to [board@basquecenter.com](mailto: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](mailto:rentals@basquecenter.com), visit [www.basquecenter.com/rentals](http://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](mailto:newsletter@basquecenter.com) by **Monday, December 20**. For mailing address changes, contact Patty Gabica at [secretary@basquecenter.com](mailto:secretary@basquecenter.com).

## **2022 EUZKALDUNAK EVENTS**

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

1/9- 2/6 – Euzkaldunak 8-Kings Mus Tournament  
(5 Sundays)

1/29 – Annual Membership Meeting

2/12 – NABO 4-Kings Mus Tournament

2/19 – Valentine's/Oinkari Bingo Dinner

3/5 – Oinkari Sagardotegi

3/6, 3/13 – Briska Lessons

3/19 – Mus Dinner

3/20, 4/2, 4/10 – Euzkaldunak Briska Tournament

4/23 – Anniversary Dinner

5/14 – Mother's Day Dinner

6/18, 6/19 – NABO Mus Finals

9/17 – September Dinner

10/9-10/15 – International Mus Tournament (Boise)

10/15 – October Dinner

11/5 – Morzilla Dinner/Bazaar/Bingo

12/17 – Shepherders Ball