



EUZKALDUNAK

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ABENDUA
DECEMBER
Monthly Member Newsletter

FROM THE KITCHEN

The December Shepherders dinner is scheduled for [Saturday, December 20](#) as part of the 96th annual Shepherders Ball. The dinner will be hosted by the Boise United Rugby Club. We will begin seating everyone downstairs at 6:15 PM. The cost of the meal (for those 11 and up) is \$30, which includes \$5 admission to the Oinkari performance and the Shepherders Ball. The dinner price for children 10 years and younger is \$10.

Shepherders Dinner Menu

Salad with Oñati dressing
Shrimp pil-pil
Baby back ribs
Clams & rice
Desserts
Bread & Butter
Wine & Coffee

You will be able to make your dinner reservations by using the reservation link on the Basque Center website at basquecenter.com, or you can call or text your reservation to 208-572-0604. We will not accept dinner reservations after the cutoff, which is 8 PM on [Tuesday, December 16](#). As seating is limited, it is important to reserve early. Seats will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will be NO babysitting for this dinner as dinner is in the basement. The basement dining area limits the number of guests for the dinner to 200 people.

DINNER HOSTS

Basque Foundation Inc. would like to thank the families and organizations who have acted as hosts for a monthly dinner. We are always in need of additional assistance. Please email vicepresident@basquecenter.com to get involved!

SHEPHERDERS BALL – DECEMBER 20

We hope everyone stays after dinner to enjoy the Shepherders Ball festivities! At 8 PM the Oinkari Basque Dancers will perform and debut their new dancers. After the performance the traditional lamb auction will commence which will raise funds for the charities account. The dance, featuring hori bai! (formerly Triki Taka Stomp) and Amuma Says No, will kick off after the auction. The cost of admission to the dance is \$5. Children 12 and younger are admitted for free. Chorizos and drinks will be sold during the dance.

HOLIDAY BAR HOURS

December 22 through December 25 – CLOSED
December 26 & 27 – 2:30 PM to 1 AM
December 28 – 2:30 PM to 11 PM
December 29 & 30 – CLOSED
December 31 – 3 PM to 1 AM
January 1 – CLOSED
January 2 through 4 – 2:30 PM to 1 AM

SHEEPHERDERS BALL PRIMARY RECIPIENT



Each year the Euzkaldunak board considers candidates to be the primary recipient of funds raised during our annual charity fundraiser, the Shepherders Ball. For 2025 the board has chosen Jamie VanOverbeke. Jamie is the son of Alyssa and

Matt and brother of Brooks, a local Idaho family, who joyfully welcomed their newest addition to their family in July. Jamie was born at only 5 lbs and 11 oz, but Alyssa and Matt were quickly able to bring Jamie home to soak in all the newborn snuggles and embrace life as a family of four. Amid the joy and love surrounding Jamie, Alyssa and Matt received unexpected news; one of Jamie's newborn screenings flagged a rare set of genetic conditions. This marked the beginning of a month filled with tests and more tests, each one leading to more questions. Many of the doctors they encountered had never treated these conditions and were unsure of the next steps. After weeks of uncertainty, the diagnosis came. Jamie has a condition called Zellweger Spectrum Disorder. This is an incredibly rare genetic condition, with only 1000 diagnosed cases worldwide. It's caused by mutations in the genes that form peroxisomes, tiny structures in our cells that help break down toxins and fats. Zellweger impacts multiple organs, including the brain, liver, kidneys, and nervous system. Jamie is currently the only known child in Idaho with this diagnosis. In fact, Alyssa and Matt have spent much of their early medical appointments simply educating their care team, many of whom had never encountered Zellweger before. Understanding what the condition is and what it could mean for Jamie's future is something that remains uncertain. With this diagnosis comes not just heartbreak, but even more tests, surgeries to help Jamie feel

comfortable, hearing aids so he can hear his mom, dad, and brother's voices (which, considering he is growing, need replaced every month), and ongoing doctor's appointments to monitor his progression. Every step taken is to bring Jamie as much comfort as possible. As if having a medically complex child isn't challenging enough, navigating the healthcare system and daily life with a child who has extra needs brings its own set of burdens: copays, surgeries, missed work, full-time caregiving, specialized equipment, specialized formula, gas, babysitters, in-home nursing, the list goes on. No matter how well you prepare for life's rainy days, nothing prepares you for something so earth-shattering. Donations made during the Shepherders Ball will help them cover medical costs and allow Alyssa to be able to care for Jamie without having to worry about returning to work so they can make memories and give Matt, Alyssa, and Brooks the chance to fill Jamie's days with as much life and love as possible without the added burden of financial worry.

BASQUE FOUNDATION – BASQUE CHARITIES

The first Shepherders Ball was held in 1929 after John Archabal convinced two Basque men's organizations to combine their annual Christmas dances into one unified event. There is no definitive information as to 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. Donations to deserving people are made throughout the year, but as December approaches, the Basque Foundation (formerly known as 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.

BASQUE CHARITIES, CONTINUED

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
2. Drop off a donation at the Basque Center
3. Send a check to the Basque Foundation Charities

Basque Foundation, Inc.
Attn: Shepherders Ball
601 W Grove St
Boise, ID 83702

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS

The directors of Basque Foundation Inc. are eager to recruit directors with fresh perspectives and ideas. Every year there are five vacant positions up for election. All directors are elected to a two-year term. The 2026-2028 board of directors election will be held during the business meeting following the January 24, 2026 dinner. We invite you to submit early nominations to the corporate secretary no later than December 31. You can nominate yourself! While nominations will be taken from the floor at the members-only dinner, nominations made prior to the dinner allow the secretary to verify each nominee and get their acceptance of the nomination. If you're interested in running or in learning more about the responsibilities of being on the Board of Directors, please contact the President (president@basquecenter.com) or the Secretary (secretary@basquecenter.com).

2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES

All Euzkaldunak memberships expire on **December 31, 2025**. Renewal dues for 2026 are \$50/adult. This includes all memberships just paid in order for your child(ren) to dance in Boiseko Gazteak or Oinkaris. To renew memberships, pay by cash, check, or card at the Basque Center Bar or mail a check to the Basque Center. To pay dues online, for new memberships, or to add an adult, (18+) contact secretary@basquecenter.com. Dues for new members (which include former members who have let their membership lapse) are \$60 per adult.



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MORZILLA DINNER & BAZAAR THANK YOU

We would like to extend a sincere thanks to all
who helped with our Bingo & Bazaar event!

A special Eskerrik Asko to:

Jill Aldape	Delfina Krakau
Juliana Aldape	Vida Landa
Jenny Aldape	Jon Larrea
Mark Bieter	Kyle Larson
Olive Boyd	Jaclyn Lasuen
Mattea Carlson	Michael Lejardi
Heather Carlson	Joe Meuleman
Elena Carlson	Oinkari New Kids
Rochelle Criswell	Amaia O'Mahony
Jordan Cutler	Jake O'Mahony
Ben & Amaia Donahue	Nic Miller
Sara Harvey	Sasha Phillips
Amaya Herrera	John Powell
Tiana Herrera	Marilyn Sarasqueta
Steve & Jacquelin Herring	Rosa Mari Totorica
Chris Hill	Omar & Giuliana Zuloeta
Jake Jaureguy	

THANK YOU TO OUR BINGO DONORS!

3100 Cellars	The Flicks
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Juliana Aldape	Jabbers
Asana Climbing Gym	Jump Time
The Avery	Miracle Hot Springs
Ballet Idaho	Mixed Greens
Bardenay	Negranti
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Cinder Wines	Stella's
Clubhound	The STIL
Coiled Wines	Dolores Totorica & John Wilson
Copenross	Nikki Totorica
Cottonwood	Amaia Urquidi
Edward's Greenhouse	Warhawk Air Museum
Elements Massage	Wylder
Escape Treasure Valley	YMCA
Fast Lane	


MANUEL LEKUONA AWARD

Congratulations to Gloria Totoricagüena Egurrola who has won the 2025 Manuel Lekuona Award from the Society of Basque Studies, Eusko Ikaskuntza, in Euskal Herria. This prize rewards lifetime distinguished contributions to Basque identity and culture and Gloria is the first person not living in the Basque Country ever selected. The international jury highlighted her "pioneering" role with four decades of global fieldwork and research regarding cultural, historical, political and diplomatic aspects of the Basque diasporas in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Australia, Philippines, Belgium, United Kingdom and the United States as well as her contribution to the international knowledge of the Basques when collaborating with other ethnic diaspora communities. Gloria has earned degrees in Political Science and a Master's in Education from Boise State. She earned another graduate degree in Latin American Political Economy from the University of Montevideo, Uruguay. Her PhD is from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and she has authored an extensive list of publications, including *Boise Basques: Dreamers and Doers*. She was the Director of the Center for Basque Studies at UNR and taught Basque Studies at Stanford University before accepting a position with the Basque Presidency of Ibarretxe as a consultant for Basque Global Initiatives think tank. The award (a bronze sculpture by Remigio Mendiburu) will be presented at a public event scheduled for spring 2026 in Gernika.

OINKARI HOLIDAY APPAREL

Oinkaris present our limited release Holiday Attire! Stay looking cool this Yule! Knitted to warm your heart only this winter! Though orders placed after November 15 do not ensure arrival before Christmas, it's going to be a cold few months even after those jingle bells. Proceeds from sales go toward travel, lodging, and equipment costs. We would love to make it to the N.A.B.O. Convention in Southern California in July, so please consider these garments for all the loved ones on your list!






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BasqueStudies.BoiseState.edu

BASQUE CENTER BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross is looking for blood donors. If you are interested in donating, the next blood drive at the Basque Center will be on **Monday, December 8**, 1-6 PM. You can sign up online at redcrossblood.org or through the Blood Donor App. The password is *Basque*.

BOISEKO GAZTEAK 2025-2026

Boiseko Gazteak practice is underway! 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.

Txantxangorriak & Boiseko Gazteak Winter Show - On The Basque Block!

Mark your calendars for the Winter Show on **Sunday, December 7**. Once again this year, we're going to hold the performance outside on the Basque Block! Dancers & Musicians should arrive in costume at 12:15 PM. Txantxangorriak will start the performance off at 12:30 PM, with the dancers following at 1 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!

2025-2026 Calendar (tentative):

- 9/30 - First practice at 7PM (each Tuesday until 12/2, no practice on 11/25)
- 12/7 - Winter Show at 1PM (Basque Block)
- 12/20 - Shepherders Ball (Basque Center)
- 1/6 - Practice resumes at 7PM (each Tuesday until March 3)
- 3/8 - Spring Show at 1PM (Basque Block)
- 7/28 - Practice at 7PM
- 8/1 - San Inazio performance (Basque Block)

BOISEKO GAZTEAK & TXANTXANGORRIAK WINTER SHOW/EGUBERRIKO AZOKA

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center, in conjunction with Txantxangorriak and Boiseko Gazteak's Winter performance, invites you to please join us on the Basque Block, **Sunday, December 7th**, 11AM to 4 PM, for the 4th Annual Eguberriko Azoka (Basque Christmas Market). There will be food and drink vendors from near and far. Txantxangorriak & Boiseko Gazteak perform from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM, with the Azoka taking place before, during, and after. There will be a Christmas photo booth starting at 2:30 PM with Olentzero & Mari Domingi on a sheep wagon. For more information please contact Annie at 208-343-2671 or annie@basquemuseum.eus.

BOISE FRONTON NEWS

NABO Tournament results

The 2025 NABO Pala tournament was held at Boise's Anduiza Fronton on November 14-15. Teams from Chino, San Francisco, Boise, and St. Pierre et Miquelon competed across two days of round-robin games. Tournament games were live-streamed on Youtube, and if you missed them live, you can watch the recordings on YouTube at youtube.com/@bfaboise.

Zorionak to the following tournament winners!

- Men's Txapeldunak: Christian Jaureguay and Jake Jaureguay (Chino, CA)
- Women's Txapeldunak: Loiola Zuazu and Maite Kvarna (San Francisco, CA)

Many thanks to the following people and organizations for their efforts in creating a fun, competitive tournament: Mateo Franzoia for organizing the tournament, Michael Lejardi for enabling the livestream capabilities, and Carrie Magnuson, Johnny Boyd, Vicki Dodd, Aubrey Kirtley, Jake Jaureguay, and many other volunteers for helping with scorekeeping, line judging and other behind-the-scenes work that it takes to make a tournament like this successful. Thanks also to Leku Ona for their support with food and lodging for visiting athletes.

BFA fall season finals Dec 20

Since September, 42 pala players in the Boise Fronton Association have been competing in weekly league and tournament matches at the Anduiza Fronton. Each fall, the season wraps up with the men's and women's league finals held on the day of Shepherders Ball. This year's pala tournament finals will take place on Saturday, December 20 in the Anduiza Fronton:

1 PM: Women's Pala

2 PM: Men's B League Pala

3 PM: Men's A League Pala

Join us at the Fronton to cheer on the players and enjoy the matches before the December Dinner & Shepherders Ball!

BFA, CONTINUED

BFA leagues will resume for the spring season in late January/early February 2026. Remember, BFA welcomes new members every season and beginners are welcome! Contact boisefronton@gmail.com for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR CARDS!

Euzkaldunak (8 King) Mus Tournament

January 4, 11, 18, 25, & February 1 in the Basque Center Hall starting at 3:30 PM. Finals on [March 14](#) at 2 PM in the cardroom.

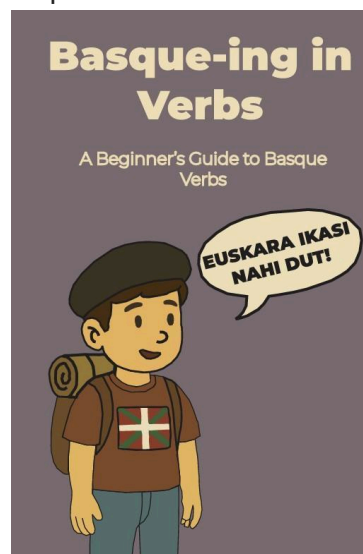
Euzkaldunak NABO (4-Kings) Mus Tournament
[Saturday, February 7](#)—registration at 8:30 AM in the bar

Euzkaldunak Briska Tournament

March 8, 15, & April 12 in the Basque Center Hall starting at 4:30 PM. Finals on April 18 at 2 PM in the cardroom.

BASQUE-ING IN VERBS

The Basque language doesn't have to be hard—especially the verbs. That's why Evan Madill wrote *Basque-ing in Verbs: A Beginner's Guide to Basque Verbs*. Written in a clear, casual tone, the explanations are straightforward, practical, and focused on what learners actually need. You will learn unfamiliar tenses such as the hypothetic and subjunctive, and even the intimidating Nor-Nori-Nork agreements are broken down with simplicity and clarity. Available in both Kindle and Paperback on Amazon.



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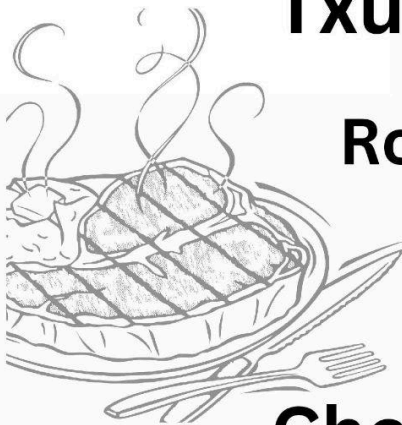


Codfish Omelette

Txuleton (Rib-eye)

Roasted Peppers

Crispy Fries



Cheese Membrillo

Walnuts and Hazelnuts

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Mari Amuchastegui

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Marquette Jane Ayarza Novak

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GOIAN BEGO

Marianne Larrondo Madariaga

NEW MEMBERS

Mailen Izoco Chiramberro

DECEMBER ZORIONAK

Steven Achabal, Gerri Achurra, Jesus Alcelay, Christy Aldape, Daniel Aldecoa, Lou Aldecoa Jr, Daniel Andrews, Pablo Aramburu, Ramon Arana, Darla Arana-Young, Alicia Aranguren, Karen Arguinchona, Matias Aseguinolaza, Mike Barriatua, Tracy Basterrechea, Conner Bawden, Amanda Bengoechea, Eneko Bereziartua, Argia Beristain, Helen Berria, Joe Bianchini, Patrick Bidegaray, Madalen Bieter, Fermin Bilbao, Carmen Bilbao, Angelee Bilbao, Megan Borkowski, Janice Boyd, JP Brady, Rebecca Broliier, Francie Brown, Lisa Byrd, Heather Carlson, Sharon Chacartegui, Jack Cortabitarte, Renee Coyle, Jon Criswell, Yvette Davis, Vic deBoer, Shane Dennis, Joseba DeSubijana, Holly Dominick-de Tassigny, Antton Eiguren, Itxaso Eiguren, Miren Eiguren, Martin Espil, Challis Fitzgerald, Sharon Florence, Susan Gamboa, Jude Gary III, Richard Gavica, John H Goitia, Cheryl Goitiandia, Jackie Goodson, Noel Goyhenetche, Adriana Groff, Jose Luis Guerricabeitia, James Haddock, Nikela Harris, Amanda Johnson, Eric Jones, David Knox, Herb Krakau, Vida Landa, Pat Landa, Antonio Larrocea, Larry Lasuen, Esteban Lejardi, Steve Lejardi, Manu Lete, Michelle Lewis, Margaret Lezamiz, Julianne Lostra, Amanda Lundgren, Bernice Madariaga, Mike Mansisidor, Raquel Marino, Mike Marticorena, Susan Garro Meuleman, Bruce Miller, Tim Mitchell, Quintin Moffis, Richard Murgoitio, Joan Noe, Amaia O'Mahony, Bryan Powell, Samantha Saman, Dennis Schaffner, Jon Schodde, Chickie Schroeder, Dominic Shelden, Doug Sumpter, Lisa Terry, Greg Thompson, Tom Totoricaguena, Rosa Totoricaguena, Donna Walker, Staci Welsh, Stan Welsh, Eric Welsh, Melissa Wolfe, Anne Worrall, Begone Zabala, Amaya Zabala, Stan Zatica

Secretary's note: If you don't see your birthday during your birthday month and would like it to show up in the list above, please send an email to secretary@basquecenter.com.

Apart from the member birthday list, we still gladly accept one-time announcements like births, anniversaries, graduation, or other special recognition of members in the Zorionak section. For these special announcements, email newsletter@basquecenter.com.

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Mark Bieter (board delegate)
Alex Wray (Euzkaldunak delegate)

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 basquecenter.com/rentals, or call 208-331-5097. Euzkaldunak members receive discounted rental rates.



Jaclyn Lasuen,
Newsletter Editor

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Our newsletter is composed of submissions from our Basque Center membership, and we want to hear from you! Send your news to newsletter@basquecenter.com by **Monday, December 29**, to appear in the next newsletter. For mailing address changes, contact Patty Gabica at secretary@basquecenter.com.

2025 EUZKALDUNAK EVENTS

12/20: Shepherders Ball