



NMEE CLUB NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 2

Maiatza (May) 2011

NeW MeXico EUSKAL ETXeA
BAsque CLUB OF NeW MeXico
MeXico BERRIKO EUSKAL ETXeA
CLUB VASCO De NeVo MeXico
Le CLUB BASque De NOUVEAU MeXique

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kaixo denari!

Isil, isilik dago... NMEE might seem very quiet the last few months, but we are actively working on a number of things to continue our mission to promote the Basque culture in New Mexico. We started off the year with a potluck in April which, while relatively small in attendance, was filled with great enthusiasm and new folks who joined us in celebrating Basque cuisine. We have a number of events lined up to carry us through the summer to our picnic on August 21. Details can be found throughout the newsletter, but they include a Tapas night in Albuquerque, a movie night where we will feature a Basque film and hope to experiment with "Basque popcorn," and introductory language lessons (the first lesson will be on Aug 25th!). We also plan to continue our cooking class series, as the classes have proven to be so popular with our members.

Of course, we won't stop with our picnic. We intend to go right into the Fall with more potlucks and language lessons (if the interest is high enough). We are also always keeping our eyes out for other ways to promote Basque culture.

The other big thing going on right now is our membership drive. We are using this not only as an opportunity to increase our membership, but we also want to clean up our mailing list. So, please, if you haven't already, contact us and let us know your level of interest in NMEE and our communications.

As always, NMEE is only as successful as those who help with our day-to-day business, especially our Board – Roger Mondragon, Sherry Morrison, Louis Ollivier, Karen Squires, Eva Valencia de Himmerich, and Lisa Van De Graaff. But, we have ambitious dreams and can always use more help, so if you are interested in taking a more active part in NMEE and our goals, please let us know.

We hope to see you at some of the events we are planning!

Ondo izan!

Blas Uberuaga
2011 NMEE President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tapas in Albuquerque
Saturday, June 25 at 6pm
See page 4

Basque Film
Contact Blas at
blas@buber.net or
505.670.9642 to help
See page 3

Annual Picnic
Sun, Aug 21
Contact Eva at
505.438.3159 to help

Euskara Lesson
Wednesday, Aug 25
See page 3

**Isaba Immigrant
Celebration**
Sept 30 - Oct 3
See page 2

Cooking Class
Autumn 2011
Contact Karen Squire at
karensquires@gmail.com or
505.470.7210 to help

Tapas & Wine Fundraiser!
June 2012
Contact Lisa Van De Graaff
at lisa@buber.net or
505.670.9474 to help

Additional event information
on www.buber.net/NMEE

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Salomé C. DeAgüero**



Salomé C. DeAgüero, of Santa Fe, NM, passed away on Friday, April 1, 2011. She was a well known club member, who attend many club activities, hosted club meetings at her home and when she was unable to attend any club event she always made sure that she sent a bottle of wine or a special dish for others to enjoy.

Salomé's first career was a dedicated educator for 29 years serving as a Teacher and Librarian. After retirement, Salomé started her second career as a Community Activist and Leader. Salomé received many awards for her advocacy and dedication to the elderly population in New Mexico.

Salomé enjoyed being with her family, cooking her favorite meals, attending cultural events and traveling in the United States, Mexico and Europe. She was very proud of her Basque heritage and especially of her mixed ethnic background that lives in her family lineage. She is survived by her children: John B. Lucero, Paul L. Lucero, Juliana G. Lucero, and Christina Chavarria (Tom) and numerous relatives and friends.

On behalf of Salomé's family, we would like to thank those for their prayers, thoughts, cards and the genuine out pour of support and remembrance.

La Familia de Don a Salomé DeAgüero

ISABA IMMIGRANTS' REUNION

This is a reminder that the second part of the Isaba/New Mexico project will be taking place the weekend of Sept 30-Oct 2. The purpose is to celebrate the common heritage the two places share via the emigration of Basques from Isaba, Nafarroa to New Mexico. The event held last year in Spain was a huge success and we hope that we can not only match, but exceed that success in New Mexico.



STATUS OF HISTORICAL STUDY

The Basques have played an important role in the history of New Mexico, from the time of the conquests through the sheepherding industry and even to modern times as some professional Basques have come from Europe to work in New Mexico. The Board and several members have been discussing for a while now the possibility of sponsoring at some level a research project focused on documenting this history. This Basque history of New Mexico would be an attempt to record the unique and important role that Basques played in developing what we know of today as New Mexico. We are still in brain-storming mode, trying to generate ideas of how to best go forward with this project. One thought is to help sponsor at whatever level we might be able to a graduate student to perform the necessary research. The ultimate product would be, of course, a PhD dissertation for the student, but also a book that documents the Basque history of New Mexico. We welcome suggestions and input from all who might be interested.

BASQUE NEWS



The biggest news out of the Basque Country is that the new political party, Bildu, has been approved to stand for elections this month. This party is a collection of Basque nationalist parties. They had been banned from putting up candidates as there were perceived connections to terrorists, even though they had explicitly denounced violence (a requirement of parties within Spain). Even the Spanish Supreme Court had upheld the ban. But the Constitutional Court ruled that they could stand and thus they will be represented in the next election.

EUSKARA LANGUAGE LESSONS



Probably the key identifying feature of the Basques is their language. It is what truly sets them apart. Taking some cues from other clubs, in particular Seattle and San Francisco, we would like to incorporate more Euskara into our activities. To this end, we will be providing basic language lessons.

The first language lesson will be on Aug 25. Put together by Blas and Karen, it will feature rudimentary vocabulary – words to get you by during your first trip to the Basque Country. If the interest holds, we will hold additional classes that delve a bit more into Euskara, at least as far as the knowledge of the instructors allows. Please contact nmee@buber.net if you are interested in participating.

BUBER-TIK

By Blas Pedro Uberuaga



Nor Naiz, Gu Gara... Who I Am, We Are.

This is an initiative I've created on my Basque site (<http://buber.net/Basque/>) to explore the many facets of Basque identity. It would be great to get the perspective of the members and friends of NMEE. Why are you interested in the Basque culture? What does it mean to you to be part of a Basque group? Please share your thoughts, send a few words to nmee@buber.net, and we'll include some of them in the upcoming newsletters.

BASQUE FILM NIGHT

We are still planning our Basque film night – location and date are still to be determined. But, we have identified a film, *Aupa Etxebeste!* A comedy set in the Basque Country, the film follows the exploits of Patricio Etxebeste. From IMDB: *Patricio Etxebeste owns a beret-making factory. An important local figure, he is standing for mayor in the upcoming elections. What nobody knows is that he is completely ruined and can't even pay for his yearly holiday.* More information coming soon!



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MEMBER PORTRAIT

By Tricea Erazo Penn

A Rio Grande weaver, a quilter with a national award, and a retired educator, Helen Hindi-Manzanares lives in Chama, NM, where she and her husband have resided for 40 years. Born in Albuquerque, NM, and raised in Duran, Helen graduated from New Mexico State University. She retired from public education 12 years ago. However, she continues to pursue her love of the textile arts and has a 500 square foot studio in her Chama home.

After graduating from college, Helen was recruited to Gallina, NM by the then school superintendent, who was her former fourth grade teacher. She subsequently met her husband, now retired from the Bureau of Reclamation, and has lived in northern New Mexico, hence.

In 2001, Helen went to Spain with her uncle, aunt and a friend, and stayed with family members in San Sebastian, Pamplona, Isaba and other points throughout Spain. Her maternal grandmother was from Isaba and her grandfather from Urzainqui, Spain. Her mother (who recently passed away) has six first cousins in Spain. Half of her mother's family migrated to Vaughn, New Mexico around 1915 as sheepherders. Eventually, they established a ranch of their own.

What is fascinating about Helen's heritage is the mixture of Basque with Lebanese. Her father, at 92, is of Lebanese heritage and still raises Karakul sheep in Duran. These sheep provide strong wool ("Persian lamb"), which Helen has used in her weaving. More common in Africa and Asia, Karakul sheep are a rare breed in the US.

It was the trip to Spain that inspired Helen to seek Basque connections in New Mexico, and subsequently led to her joining NMEE. Living in Chama has prevented her from attending some of the NMEE events, but she thoroughly enjoyed the Tapas event this past year.

TAPAS IN ALBUQUERQUE!

Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 6pm



Cosmo Tapas on Nob Hill
4200 Central Ave SE

\$35 Members
\$40 Non-Members
Drinks not included

\$5 off tickets with
purchase before June 1!

Authentic Basque Ingredients like boquerones, chorizo, jamon serrano, morcilla, piquillo peppers, and perhaps even some fresh sardines will be used to create Cosmo's distinctive fusion tapas just for NMEE!

Space is limited!

RSVP to Sherry Morrison at pvtortuga@hotmail.com
or 505.474.3254 by 6/14/2011

Make checks payable to NMEE & send in advance to:
Lisa Van De Graaff, NMEE Treasurer
PO Box 31836
Santa Fe, NM 87594