

GVRE EVSKAL ETXEA

Newsletter website: www.SFBCC.us.

Volume 34 Issue 11

Urtarrila (January) 2016

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 3 - 8HZ Radio Show 11:00am
- Jan. 9- Gazteak Dance Practice starts
- Jan. 10 - Women's Club Meeting 10:30am
- Jan. 29 - Women's Club Dinner
- Jan. 31 - Members' Free Lunch and Mus Tournament
- Feb. 13-14 - BCC's 34th Anniversary
- Mar. 11 - Basque Film Series 7:30pm
- Mar. 20 - Erramu Eguna (Palm Sunday)
- Apr. 8 - Basque Film Series 7:30pm
- Jun. 11 - NABO Mus Finals at the Iparreko Ibarra Basque Club in Rocklin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

Mia Lopez-Zubiri - Georgetown University

My Basque identity has permeated and impacted every aspect of my life for as long as I can remember. I wear my heritage loudly; the silver lauburu that hangs around my neck and the flag that I display proudly above my college dorm room bed constantly spark conversation with people that recognize the unique symbols. My heritage shapes my relationships with other Basque people and allows me to form connections with others who are familiar with the Basque Country. It is important to maintain my Basque identity because of how much value it has brought into my life: I have developed some of my most meaningful relationships through cultural events, and want to keep alive a culture that is ancient and unique.

When I was younger, I greatly resented the obligations that came along with being Basque. I live an hour away from my local club, so getting to dance practice entailed two hours of driving on sweaty Sunday afternoons. Once I arrived to practice, I had no friends my age, and sat brooding in the corner the whole time, angry at my mother for pushing me to continue with dance despite the fact that I was miserable. Then the summer before twelfth grade, my dance group was traveling to Elko, Nevada to perform at a national Basque festival. For the first time, my parents could not accompany me, so the trip forced me to finally come out of my shell and reach out to the other dancers. As soon as I felt myself being welcomed into the group, I realized that my shy identity was not permanent. That weekend, I pushed myself to connect with all the girls in my group, to dance with everyone at the Basque block party, and to socialize with dancers from other clubs. As my self-confidence grew, so did others' openness toward me.

Since the day I decided to take a risk and go to Elko, my appreciation of the Basque community has grown immensely. I love the dancers and treasure how rich and unique our bond is. Taking the leap of faith to share myself was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. But had I not, I never would have understood the simple truth that the bigger community was ready to welcome me as soon as I was willing to join in.

Having a positive attitude towards the Basque community has reminded me all of the reasons why it's important to maintain my Basque identity. Many young people do not get the opportunity to get to know their heritage to the extent that I have— taking part in folk dancing, attending Paella lunches and simply listening as the older men share their stories over a glass of wine. The Basque culture is incredibly rich and I have been lucky to grow up surrounded by it. As both Basques and non-Basques in the United States lose familiarity with the Basque Country, and many of the original immigrants get older, it is up to the younger generations to spread and embrace our heritage.

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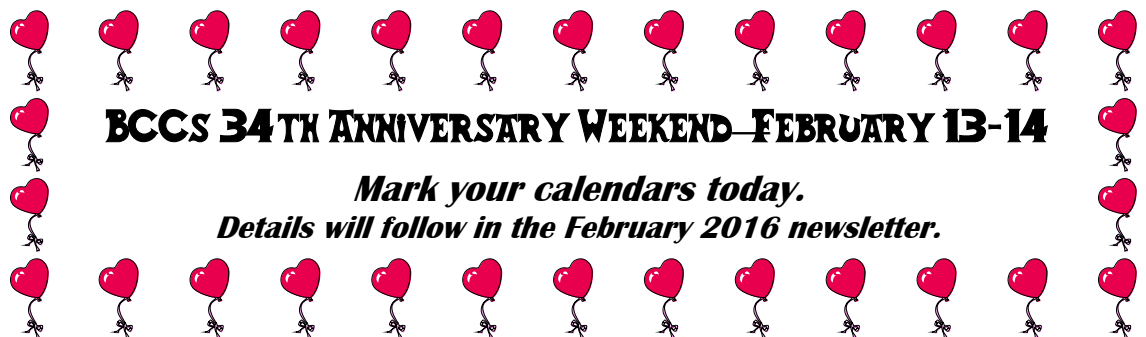
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WOMENS' CLUB NEWS

Please join us for our first meeting of the new year on Sunday, **January 10 at 10:00 am**. New faces and new ideas are always welcome as we continue to plan events for the children of our club.

The Women's Club annual dinner will take place at the Basque Cultural Center on **Friday, January 29, 2016** with no host cocktails starting at 6:30 PM followed by dinner at 7:00 PM. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Mayte Ocafrain at [650 589 2973](tel:6505892973) or email her at goxoki@sbcglobal.net before **January 23, 2016**.

Bring your mom or daughter or a friend. "The more the merrier".

2016 NABO CALENDARS

NABO calendars are available for sale. **They are the same bargain price of \$6 each.** Contact Mary Curutchet at 650-588-2249 to purchase them.

8 HERRIALDEAK ZUZENEAN - 8KZ

The Basque Diaspora monthly radio show, 8 Herrialdeak Zuzenean (8 Provinces Live) will return from its summer break on **Sunday, January 3rd**, 11:00am PST (8:00pm CET - Central European Time). Benoit Etcheverry hosts the show with Robert Acheritogaray, Esther Ciganda along with Benoit's daughter Lilia and son Antton. It is broadcast in Euskara, French, Spanish and English.



Listen in at the following website:

<http://euskalirratia.info/>

<http://gureirratia.eu/>

<http://tunein.com/radio/Gure-Irratia-905-s25939/>

To call into the show from the US dial:

011 33 5 59 59 60 30

Or you can email the show at irratia@8probintziak.com

Past shows can be heard at <http://8probintziak.com>

EUSKARA CORNER

Urte Berri On!!

If you don't know what that means, you can check out <http://www.l.euskadi.net/morris/> for the definition of that and many other words/phrases. Or, to know how to say something in Euskara, just type in the word in English. **Start off the new year right by expanding your Basque vocabulary online!!**

GAZTEAK DANCE PRACTICE

Practice will start for our Gazteak dance group on Saturday, **January 9th from 1:00-3:00pm in the Kantxa**. Children born in 2009 or earlier are eligible to dance. For more information and registration papers contact Valerie Arrechea at 415-859-1154 or etcharren@msn.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2015 ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2016

Membership dues for 2016 will stay at \$30.

In order to save on mailing costs **PLEASE** send your dues payment directly to Anita Arduain at 226 Bryce Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080.