



House of Spain/Casa de España
San Diego

Boletín

Bueltin 364

February 2014

EL BARRIO DE LAS LETRAS



Madrid's place of residence of the great writers during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries: Cervantes, Lope de Vega, Tirso de Molina, Calderón de la Barca. During the Golden Age these famous writers shared something more than a profession: they once lived in the neighborhood that today extends around the street of Huertas.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



As you know, since four years ago, the *House of Spain*, Casa de España (HOS/CDE) has been working in San Diego, in educating the community and visitors to the casita, about the important role that the King of Spain Carlos III and one of his governors in Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, made for the 13-American colonies during the war of independence of the United States.

Some you have seen our posters and pamphlets that we give to the visitors of the casita with this information and about books that can be read in English, about this part of American history that is not taught in the schools of the United States.

If you have opportunity read the following two books:

***Spain and the Independence of the United States by Thomas E. Chavez*, (ISBN 978-0-8263-2794-9) by the University of New Mexico Press. 1-800-249-7737, unmpress.com**

***Bernardo de Galvez in Louisiana 1776-1783* by John Walton Caughey, Pelican Publishing Company Inc. , ISBN 1-56545-17-6**

You will learn a history that you will never forget and you will feel very proud of being Spaniards/Hispanics living in the United States. The reason that I mention this to you, is that in my opinion, this year you are going to hear in the news of an event that is related to Bernardo de Gálvez and of the recognition that has been denied our compatriot for over two hundred thirty years, this is from the year 1783.

In that year, on May 8, 1783, Oliver Pollock, an American trader of Irish origin, who served under the orders of Bernardo de Gálvez and was a delegate to the United States Congress during the American war of independence, presented a painting of Bernardo de Gálvez to the president of Congress of that year, John Jay, to put it in the Capitol, for his invaluable assistance to the Founders of the American homeland to achieve independence from Great Britain. A second document, signed by John Jay, on May 9, 1783, appointment that it was agreed to hang this portrait in the Capitol. But this decision was never carried out and it seems that the portrait was lost or they made it disappear.

In my opinion, having read the two books cited above, John Jay did not have great sympathy for the Spanish and he was on the side of the English. He created several problems for the American delegation in France and Spain, during the years 1776 to 1783, and I think that John Jay lost the portrait of Bernardo de Gálvez on purpose, for which the Spaniards and Hispanics did not receive the merit deserved by the help and participation that they gave during the Independence of the United States.

The historian Manuel Olmedo found letters that demonstrate the tribute of the United States Congress to Bernardo de Gálvez. The Spaniard Teresa Válcara, originally from Ferrol, Málaga by adoption, and with dual Spanish nationality and American resident in Washington upon having knowledge of these letters she began her inquiry in order to comply with what was agreed upon by the Parents and Founders of the United States.

The opportunity came when she accompanied a few friends to the Capitol who were filming an episode of "Españoles por el mundo" and she found herself in front of a congressman. When she told him the story of the unfulfilled promise, the United States congressman was thrown with the matter. Since that time Teresa has not ceased to bring to light this unfulfilled promise. She has a great list of collaborators, congressmen, senators, Hispanic organizations, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution and...carries forward.

The family Haya-Gálvez descendants of Bernardo de Galvez in Málaga have a copy of the original portrait (they made two in 1782/3). The Bernardo de Gálvez Association located in Málaga is going to offer a reproduction that will be done by the Málaga painter Carlos Monserrate to present to the Congress of the United States. With the hope that the promise of a tribute is fulfilled - deserved and promised – by the Founding Fathers on May 9, 1783 upon approving the request that the day before Oliver Pollock made, American patriot of Irish origin.

We cannot yet claim victory, even though there is a big support for the portrait to hang in the Capitol, it has to be approved by Congress. Stay tuned and as soon as we know when it will be approved the members of the HOS/CDE will have to celebrate in style the victory of recognition to Spain for its contribution to the independence of the United States of America.

Greetings

Jesus Benayas

Rincón del Socio

Death

We would like to let members and friends know of the death of Vincent J. Dee, husband of Regla Dee, last January 23 in Encinitas CA. Both Vincent and Regla have been members of the Casa de España since the year 1979.

Vincent and Regla met in Rota, Spain, and they married there in 1972. Upon arriving in California, they became members of the Casa de España in 1979, Regla being for many years an active member of the Board of Directors of our organization.

Our condolences to Regla and her family. We remember him always with much affection.



We are going to Spain!

The Sister Cities Society, San Diego/Alcalá de Henares, has organized a trip and visit to Alcalá/Madrid and nearby towns to Alcála for April 10 to April 21, Holy Week. We invite all the members of the Casa de España to join us. To get an itinerary and more information contact Penelope Bledsoe at (619) 876-3248 or by e-mail penelopebledsoe@hotmail.com



Sights and Sounds of Spain: First Presbyterian Church, San Diego CA

First Presbyterian Church of San Diego presents a visual and musical excursion of the Spanish cathedrals and landscapes including visits to Barcelona, Mallorca, San Sebastián, Burgos, Madrid, and Toledo. These cathedrals have organs of historical importance. They will present historic and modern music for the organ by the Spanish composers Soler, Cabezón, Cabanilles, Albéniz, Guridi and de Sola. The organist Janice Fehér will interpret the music on the 101-rank Casavant Freres Centennial organ accompanied by photos of these sites.

First Presbyterian Church, 320 Date Street, San Diego, CA 92101 www.fpcsd.org

Friday, February 7, 2014 at 7:00pm. 619-232-7513



DON QUIXOTE Read-a-thon

Saturday, March 22, 2014 9:00am-12pm; 1:00pm-5:00pm

House of Spain/Casa de España

Balboa Park

Enjoy the novel "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes which will be read aloud by all the attendees, in several languages. You can participate as a reader or simply as a listener.

Come for a moment or be there all day.

This event is sponsored by *San Diego/Alcala de Henares Sister Cities Society* and the *House of Spain/Casa de España* in San Diego.

For more information please contact Josefina Gómez, a member of the Board of Directors, by phone 858-450-9611 or at her e-mail: finita42@yahoo.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/House-of-Spain-San-Diego/365788153526730>

EVENTS JANUARY

JANUARY 4: DAY OF THE THREE KINGS

A very traditional party that we celebrate every year. This time also the Kings visited us, bringing gifts to the children attending, chocolate and the roscón de reyes that we savored.

Thanks to the volunteers who donated their time and effort for this first celebration of this year. Here we have some photos:



A view of the attendees



The Kings and the children receiving their gifts



Jesus, Maruja, Regli, Angelines, Sagrario, Nelly singing Christmas carols



The Heriot family and the Three Kings

OPENING OF THE CASITA

Nina Yguerabide was responsible for opening the casita and serve as an ambassador in the month of January.

She wants to recognize and thank the people that helped her to greet and meet the visitors:

Regli Dee, Henry Herms, Matthew Vincent, Penelope Bledsoe, Vilma Golfinos, and Puri Rodríguez

FILMS FROM SPAIN

Spanish Films
San Diego

Laura Lagunas, a member of the Board of Directors of *House of Spain/Casa de España* in San Diego organizes the first edition of *Films from Spain*. It consists of a series of Spanish films that will be offered monthly from February until June in the Hall of Nations of Balboa Park.

We be having this event thanks to the help of the program "*Spain Arts & Culture*" of the Cultural Office of the Spanish Embassy in Washington.

The series of films includes: Welcome Mr. Marshall, Cell 211, A Gun in Each Hand, Snow White, Even the Rain, and Black Bread.



The first film in this series will be shown:

On February 25 at 7:00 PM in the *Hall of Nations* Balboa Park

With the presentation of:

"WELCOME MR. MARSHALL" 1953, 95 MINUTES

Director: Luis Garcia Berlanga

(In Spanish, with English subtitles)

Considered one of the most celebrated films of Spanish cinema, *Welcome Mr. Marshall* is an amusing criticism of the international isolation to which Spain was being subjected to owing to the Franco dictatorship.

It is a satire to the economic aid program known as the Marshall Plan and established by the U.S. government to assist Europe after the conflict of the Second World War. It also presents a sharp look at the rural Castilian environment and international cliché of Spain of bullfighting and flamenco.

Tickets: At the door. We suggest a donation of \$5.00. For more information contact Laura Lagunas by phone: 858-405-3629 or visit our website: <http://casadeespanasd.com>

WE WILL GIVE YOU INFORMATION ON EACH OF THE FILMS WHICH WILL BE SHOWN UNTIL NEXT JUNE.



CULTURAL NEWS

The surrealist Dalí will travel to Brazil during the Soccer World Cup

The Reina Sofia Museum and the Gala-Dalí Foundation exhibited since the end of May works from the artist in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

The Mexican writer José Emilio Pacheco dies

Poet, narrator, essayist, and translator, his work is one of the most prominent of contemporary literature in Spanish. His personality and his trajectory gathered equally to the educated reader and the general public. He belonged to an exceptional generation of Mexican authors like Monsiváis, Pitol, Poniatowska, Elizondo...

In 2010, when he received the Cervantes Prize, he stated: "**Language is my only wealth**"

Carnivals



The **Carnival** is a public celebration, which takes place immediately before Lent, with variable dates (between February and March depending on the year), and that combines some elements like costumes, parades and street festivals. By extension some similar festivals are also called this as well at any time of the year. In spite of the big differences that this celebration presents in the world, its common characteristic is to be a period of permissiveness and some chaos.

On the night of Carnival anything goes and the legend says that is why they put masks.

The ethnologists found in Carnival surviving elements of old holidays and cultures, like the winter festival (Saturnalia), the Greek Dionysian and Roman celebrations

(Bacchanalia), the pre-Hispanic Andean festivals and African-American cultures. Some authors consider that for the rural society, highly structured by Christianity, the time of "Shrovetide" offered ritual masquerades of pagan roots and a lapse of permissiveness that opposed the repression of sexuality and severe liturgical formality of Lent.

In the early Middle Ages, the Catholic Church proposed a Carnival etymology: from the vulgar Latin *carne-levare* which means 'to remove the meat' (which precisely was the mandatory requirement for all the people during all Fridays of Lent). Therefore, Carnival is usually celebrated the two or three days before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent.

Carnival is associated mainly with the countries of Catholic tradition, to a lesser extent with the Eastern Orthodox Christians; the Protestant cultures do not usually celebrate carnival or they have modified traditions, like the Danish Carnival.

The celebration of the world's largest Carnival is that of Rio de Janeiro. The other internationally famous Carnivals are those of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Cádiz (designated as Festivals of International Tourist Interest).

In Santa Cruz de Tenerife thousands of people take to the streets for over a week. The feasts have two distinct parts, the "official" Carnival and Carnival on the street. The official Carnival has more than 100 groups with an average of 50 components each one: street bands, troupes, costume groups, rondallas, and musical groups. The carnival in the street, comes to be the participation of the citizens themselves in the festival.

Thousands of people participate in the dancing and cheer in the streets with costumes. They dance to the tune of local orchestras; of the Caribbean rhythms; electronic music and the musical bets of the year, throughout the night. The people mingle and enjoy the streets each night for more than a week.

In Cádiz, the Carnival officially lasts eleven days, but if we add to these: the days of the contest, the gastronomic events, general rehearsals and the "Carnival of the Chiquito" or "Carnival of the Jartibles", totaling more than a month of carnival.

In chronological order, this would be the current program of the main events of the Carnival of Cádiz: Presentation of sashes to the Nymphs. Popular pestinada, sea urchin, and oyster. Inauguration of the lighting. Proclamation of the Goddess of the Carnival. Contest of ballads. Carousel of choirs. Cabalgata Magna parade. Fireworks in La Caleta. Burning of the god Momo.



Casa de España/House of Spain invites you to celebrate
Valentine's Day

Friday, February 14, 2014
From 6 to 10 PM

At the Hall of Nations in Balboa Park

Drinks at 6:00 PM with Dinner, Dessert and Dancing at 7:00 PM

Members: \$30.00 per couple, \$15.00 individual

Non members: \$40.00 per couple, \$20.00 individual

Limited to the first 60 persons

R.S.V.P.: rsvp2hos@gmail.com by Monday, February 10, 2014





P.O. Box 33064, San Diego, CA 92163
Phone (619) 615-3188
<http://www.casadeespanasd.com>
Email: info@casadeespanasd.com

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Board of Directors

President:	Jesus Benayas	Tel: 619-462-7982
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Editor

Cecilia Anguera: Tel: 858-278-8664

Honorary Consul of Spain in San Diego
Telephone: 619-448-7282
CONHON.ESPANA.SD@GMAIL.COM

Consulate General of Spain in Los Angeles
www.mae.es/consulates/Los Angeles

House of Spain, Casa de España in San Diego is a private non-profit organization, whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the Spanish culture in the San Diego community.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the thinking of *House of Spain*, Casa de España.