



House of Spain/Casa de España
San Diego

Boletín

Bulletin 367

May 2014

SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA, LA RIOJA



Santo Domingo de la Calzada is a city born on the edge of the tomb of the saint that gave it his name, born in 1019, in Vitoria, a small town of La Rioja. The city has several points of interest: its cathedral, Romanesque-Gothic-Renaissance, convents, walls, palaces and manor houses. The urban area is quiet and evocative. It is presided over by the graceful tower of the cathedral, separate from the church, Baroque, popularly named as *the best girl of La Rioja*.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month I want to talk to you about the different activities that we have in this month of May.

On Sunday, May 4 we will celebrate the traditional festival of the Battle of San Diego Bay. As usual it will be on the Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL), at the end of Rosecrans Street. The ceremony of the event will start at 12 noon, with the traditional flag-raising to the beat of the national anthems of the United States and Spain. The Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles, D. José Luis Solano Gadea will raise the Spanish flag and the commander of the NBPL, will raise the flag of the United States of America. Both flags are from 1803 when this battle occurred.

On Tuesday, May 13 we continue with the film series with the film, *Snow White*, at 7:00 PM in *the Hall of Nations* in Balboa Park. **For more information contact Laura Lagunas by phone: 858-405-3629.**

On Sunday, May 25 we have the celebration of the "*Ethnic Food Fair*" held in conjunction with the rest of the cottages of the *House of Pacific Relations*. Thirty-two countries will have traditional food, in addition to music and dances in the park. The food will be served from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We will sell the traditional paella.

On Tuesday, May 27 we continue with the film series with the film "*Even the Rain*", at 7 :00 PM in the *Hall of Nations* in Balboa Park. **For more information contact Laura Lagunas by phone: 858-405-3629.**

On Wednesday, May 28 the Ambassador of Spain in Washington DC will arrive in San Diego, His Excellency Mr. D. Ramón Gil-Casares Satrústegui, for a three-day visit to this city to make an appearance in several public and private events.

The members of the Casa de España are invited to two events that will take place at:

The Maritime Museum of San Diego, where the Spanish galleon San Salvador is being built, flagship of the Spanish explorer Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo who discovered these lands in September 1542. After a small ceremony that will start at 10:30 AM (May 30) there will be a toast and some tapas.

The House of Spain will have a reception for the Ambassador in the casita, on Friday, May 30 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

If you intend to come to these events please do not hesitate to let us know us before May 28, sending an e-mail to rsvp2hos@gmail.com telling us which event or events you are going to go to and how many people.

Also I would like to inform you that Miss Laura McWorter Vidueira, graduated in Tourism at the University of Seville, will be in charge of opening the casita every Sunday. Please give her a welcome and help her by being an ambassador in the casita. Laura or someone else on the Board of Directors will call you to come forward as ambassadors, at least twice a year, to be in the Casita on Sundays by welcoming the people who visit us. She has also told us that she is going to think about some ways of how to open the casita more often and what cultural and social activities we can have to bring us closer to the San Diego community.

Greetings

Jesus

Scholarship by the House of Spain in San Diego

Finally, after several years of trying to draw up rules to grant an academic scholarship to children/grandchildren of members of the *House of Spain*, Casa de España in San Diego, the Board of Directors approved the rules and application. The rules and application are on the website of the Casita: <http://casadeespanasd.com> or you can request them by e-mail at HOSSD07@gmail.com. Basically the scholarship consists of \$1,000.00, paid by means of two payments of \$500.00 each. View the documents and requirements to apply for this scholarship.

Thanks

BOD of HOS/CDE in San Diego

ACTIVITIES OF APRIL

April 22: Movie of the month: NO REST FOR THE WICKED

This time we also had a large attendance. Before the film we enjoyed the tapas and wine that the restaurant Costa Brava generously offers us each month. Thanks again to our member and member of the Board of Directors, Laura Lagunas, for her effort and goodwill in organizing this event which was a success.

We have photos of this evening:



Sunday, May 25, 2014

ETHNIC FOOD FAIR IN BALBOA PARK

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Come and enjoy the atmosphere of the park where you can find several different ethnic cuisines from the numerous countries associated with the *House of Pacific Relations*.

As in previous years, we will be serving our traditional paella



SANTO DOMINGO DE LA CALZADA, LA RIOJA

This town was linked to the Camino de Santiago since its origins in the eleventh century. "Calzada" means path or way. Saint Dominic, a young native pastor of the region, was educated at the monastery of Valvanera and requested to enter in the famous monastery of San Millán de la Cogolla. This request rejected, he became the assistant of Gregory of Ostia, the papal legate, who ordained him a priest.

On the death of Gregory, Dominic withdrew to the Oja River to live life as a hermit and to assist the pilgrims who went to Compostela. He is called "de la Calzada" ("of the Causeway") for his determined efforts to maintain and improve the old Roman road to facilitate the passage of the pilgrims. In 1044 he built a bridge over the Oja River, the most well-known of a whole series of bridges that he made over rivers, streams, and ravines. He also built a hospital and a hostel for pilgrims, today restored as a National Parador.

Several miraculous cures of pilgrims are attributed to the influence of Dominic. The most famous miracle, in fact, one of the most popular of all medieval Europe, is the famous story of a German family who walked to Compostela. When passing through Santo Domingo they stayed in an inn where the girl of the house felt a strong attraction to the son of the family and let him know. But the young man rejects the advances of the girl, and she, humiliated and spiteful, hid a silver goblet in the bag of the pilgrim.

As the pilgrims walked out to continue on their way, she accused him of having stolen the goblet. The officials of the city arrested and hanged him on the gallows. The sad parents continued their pilgrimage and upon returning from Compostela, discovered that their son was still alive on the gallows, miraculously sustained and protected by Saint Dominic (Santo Domingo). They went to tell the magistrate, who at the time was at the table about to eat a plate of chicken. Upon hearing what the parents claimed, replied with irony: "This story is as true as that this rooster and hen are going to get up and sing." And so that is what the birds did, to the astonishment of all.



In remembrance of this event a rooster and a hen are kept alive at the Cathedral throughout the year. They are always white and come from donations of devotees of the Saint, switching pairs each month. The famous chicken coop is located inside of the cathedral, next to the tomb of the saint. Hence the famous saying of "Santo Domingo de la Calzada, where the chicken sang after roasting".

The feasts of the city in honor of the Saint is celebrated from May 10 to 15 and have been declared of National Tourist Interest. May 12 is the Feast of Saint Dominic (Santo Domingo), The day that the "Almuerzo del Santo" ("Holy Lunch") takes place. This event marks the figure of this patron saint of the pilgrims of the Pilgrimage Route by delivering chickpea stew with mutton, bread and wine. These feasts celebrated through the centuries old traditions and customs that were born out of the miraculous deeds done by this saint.



Cervantes Award 2014

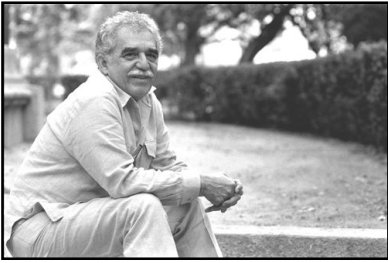
Last April 23 at the University of Alcalá de Henares, Elena Poniatowska received the Cervantes Award this year.



"I am a female **Sancho Panza**. (...) A writer who cannot speak of mills because they are no longer and instead makes ordinary wanderers carry their own bag, their pick or their shovel, sleeping to good fortune and trusting an impulsive reporter that retains what you have~.

CULTURAL NEWS

Gabriel García Márquez dies: genius of world literature



One of the great writers of world literature has died in Mexico City at the age of 87. The narrator and Colombian journalist, winner of the Nobel in 1982, is the creator of such classics as 'One Hundred Years of Solitude', 'Love in the Time of Cholera', 'No One Writes to the Colonel', 'the Autumn of the Patriarch' and 'Chronicle of a Death Foretold'.

He was born in Aracataca and was the creator of a timeless land called Macondo where imagination, reality, myth, dream and desire coexist.

FRAGMENTS OF HIS FAREWELL LETTER

"If for a moment God forgot that I am a rag doll and gives me a scrap of life, possibly I would not say everything I think, but definitely would think everything I say.

I would value things, not for what they are worth, but by what they mean.

I would sleep little, dream more, understanding that for each minute we close our eyes, we lose sixty seconds of light. I would walk when others hold back, wake when others sleep. Listen when others speak.

My God if I had a heart, I would write my hatred on ice, and wait for the sun to rise. Paint with a dream of Van Gogh on the stars a poem by Benedetti, and a song by Serrat would be the serenade that I would offer to the moon. I would water the roses with my tears, to feel the pain of their thorns, and the embodied kiss of their petals...

My God, if I had a piece of life... I would not pass a single day without telling the people that I love, that I love them. Convince each woman or man who are my favorites and I would live in love with love.

I would prove to men just how wrong they are to think that they stop falling in love when they get older, without knowing that they get older when they stop falling in love! To a child I would give him wings, but I would let him learn to fly on his own. To the elderly I would teach them that death does not come with old age, but with forgetfulness. So many things I have learned from you, the men... I have learned that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, without knowing that true happiness is in how it is scaled. I have learned that when a newborn squeezes with his small fist, the first time, the finger of his father, he has him trapped forever.

Always say what you feel and do what you think. If I knew that today would be the last time that I see you sleep, I would hug you tightly and would pray to the Lord to be the guardian of your soul. If I knew that this was the last time I see you walk out the door, I would give you a hug, a kiss and I would call back to give you more. If I knew that this was the last time that I will hear your voice, I would record each of your words to hear them again and again indefinitely. If I knew that these are the last few minutes that I would see you say "I love you" and not assume, foolishly, you know it already.

There is always a tomorrow and life gives us another opportunity to make things right, but if I am wrong and today is all we have left, I would like to tell you how much I love you, I will never forget you.

Tomorrow you are not insuring to anyone, young or old. Today may be the last time you see those you love. So do not wait, do it today, because if tomorrow never comes, surely you will regret the day that you did not take time for a smile, a hug, a kiss, and that you were very busy to grant them a last wish. Keep those you love close to you, tell them by ear how much you need them, love them and treat them well, take time to tell them "sorry", "forgive me", "please", "thank you" and all the words of love that you know.

No one will remember you for your secret thoughts. Ask the Lord for strength and wisdom to express them. Show your friends how much you care."

Upcoming Activities

Battle of the Bay of San Diego

at
Ballast Point
Naval Base Point Loma
South of Roscomans Street

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING



*Where Cultures Come Together . . .
. . . and History Comes Alive*

May 4, 2014

11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| CEREMONY | 12:00 PM |
| ETHNIC FOOD SALE | 1:00 PM |
| SPANISH DANCES | 1:30 PM |

*Come out for a
fun filled day!*

**ENTERTAINMENT,
FOOD**



PRESENTED BY THE HOUSE OF SPAIN / CASA DE ESPAÑA IN SAN DIEGO
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE FORT GUIJARROS MUSEUM FOUNDATION
THROUGH THE COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY

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FILMS FROM SPAIN

Continuing with the program prepared by Laura Lagunas, a member of the Board of Directors of House of Spain/Casa de España in San Diego, this month we will offer two movies:



Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Place: Hall of Nations (Balboa Park)

Time: 7:00 PM

SNOW WHITE

104 Minutes

Director: Pablo Berger

"Snow White", by Pablo Berger, is a very loose adaptation of the popular tale by the Brothers Grimm, set in the 20s in the south of Spain. Snow White is Carmen (Macarena García), a beautiful young girl with a childhood tormented by her terrible stepmother, Encarna (Maribel Verdú). Running from her past, Carmen will undertake an exciting journey accompanied by her new friends: a troupe of dwarf bullfighters. In Spanish, with English subtitles.

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

Place: Hall of Nations (Balboa Park)

Time: 7:00 PM

EVEN THE RAIN

103 Minutes

Director: Iciar Bollain



Costa, a discredited film producer, and Sebastián, a young, and idealistic filmmaker, work together on an ambitious project that they are going to shoot in Bolivia. The tape that are going to shoot will be about the arrival of the Spaniards in America with emphasis on the brutality of their business and in the courage of several members of the Church that clash with words to swords and the chains. As soon as the Water War erupts (April 2000) the convictions of one and the detachment of the other begin to crumble,

forcing them to make an emotional journey in opposite directions.

In Spanish, with English subtitles.

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://casadespanasd.com>

OPENING OF THE CASITA

We are grateful to Regli Dee, who was responsible for opening the Casita during April and similarly to Henry Herms, Maruja Williams, Sagrario Din, and Laura McWhorter Vidueira who helped as "ambassadors" attending to the large audience who visited our Casita on Sundays last month.



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 |
| Vice President: | Oscar Romo | 619-421-8138 |
| Secretary: | Penelope Bledsoe | 619-876-3248 |
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Sergeant at Arms: Henry Herms.

Web Page Master

Miguel Garcia-Guzman

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
<http://www.maec.es/consulados/losangeles>

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*.