



House of Spain/Casa de España
San Diego

Boletín

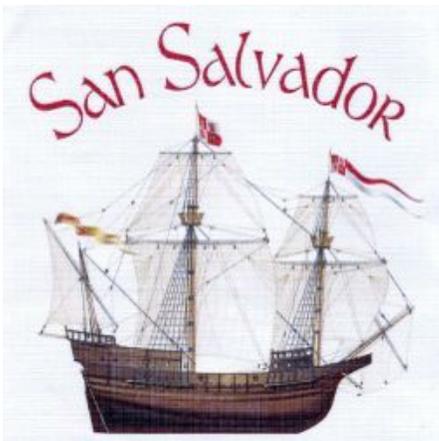
Bulletin 368

June 2014

THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY DON RAMON GIL CASARES, AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN IN THE UNITED STATES



The Ambassador of Spain in the USA, Tico and Paula Conde Porto, Princess and Queen of *House of Spain/Casa de España*, Jesús Benayas, José Luis Solano Gadea, Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles



MAKING HISTORY....

The galleon San Salvador will be a fully functional replica of the Spanish galleon that brought Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542. Cabrillo was the first European to explore the West Coast of North America and is credited for the discovery of San Diego. When the San Salvador is finished, it will be 24 feet wide, 92 feet long, with 80 foot tall masts and weigh more than 200 tons



From the President

I would like to thank his Excellency Ramón Gil-Casares, Ambassador of Spain to the United States of America, for his recent visit to the city of San Diego and to our organization, *House of Spain, Casa de España (HOS/CDE)* in San Diego



This visit was originally scheduled only for the opening of the exhibition of Joaquin Sorolla in the *San Diego Museum of Art*. Thanks to María Ángeles O'Donnell-Olson, Honorary Consul of Spain in San Diego, who sent a letter to his Excellency, asking him to stay several days in San Diego to show him Spanish historical sites and attend

various activities in organizations of this community, he agreed to stay for two and a half days.

Once the extension in San Diego was accepted, the Honorary Consul worked diligently to put together an agenda of extremely intense activities and well-planned events in our community. HOS/CDE had the privilege of working with her to be able to carry out this agenda of activities. Personally I am very grateful to his Excellency and María Ángeles to have included me in all the events and visits that were carried out to represent our organization. These were;

- Dinner at the University of San Diego, where he gave a presentation to the *San Diego World Affairs Council*.
- Visit to the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, with the Reverend Monsignor Richard F. Duncanson and the Doctor of History of USD, Iris Engstrand.
- Visit to the *Presidio Park and Serra Museum* being Ángeles Leira who explained the history of these places.
- Visit the office of the Mayor of San Diego, *The Honorable* Kevin L. Faulconer. The Mayor as a token of friendship gave him the key to the city. A point of interest is that Mr. Faulconer was in Spain about fifteen years ago in the San Fermin Festival, and visited San Sebastián and Madrid.
- Visit to Old Town, here it was also Ángeles Leira who explained the history of this place.
- Inauguration of the exhibition *Sorolla and America* in the *San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park*.
- Awarding with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Isabel the Catholic to the naval architect Mr. Douglas Sharp, the designer of the Spanish galleon San Salvador.
- Tour of the construction of the San Salvador, by the President and CEO of the *Maritime Museum of San Diego*, Dr. Raymond Ashley.
- Visit to the *Cabrillo National Monument*, accompanied by the Superintendent Tom Workman. Mr. Workman gave him a tour of the monument.
- Visit to the Naval Base Point Loma, with Captain Scott Adams, the Base Commander, who gave him a tour and explanation of where was the Royal Fort of San Joaquín on Punta de los Guijarros (Cobblestone Point).
- Reception in the HOS/CDE in San Diego, where for a couple of hours we enjoyed with the presence of our Ambassador.
- Visit to the Hotel del Coronado.

I also wish to thank the Consul General of Spain in Los Angeles, Hon. Mr. José Luis Solano Gadea, who was with us during the visit of His Excellency. The presence of these senior Spanish officials, the Honorary Consul in San Diego and myself representing the HOS/CDE, to all these events and visits gave a great visibility for our organization.

Many thanks to all the people who made it possible for the reception in the House to be so fantastic, leaving the Ambassador and Consul General delighted by the such friendly and caring welcome they received from the members and friends of Spain. I especially would like to thank Maruja and Bob Williams for their dedication and good taste in preparing a wide variety of tapas.

Greetings, Jesus Benayas

THE GALLEON SAN SALVADOR

On the Pacific coast, in Mexico, in the mid 1500s, a crew of around 100 Spaniards and slaves cut trees and dragged them to the beach. There they spent a little more than a year building a sailboat 100 feet long, which was christened the "San Salvador".

Almost 500 years later, a larger team of workers is trying the same task in the *Spanish Landing Park* in San Diego.

An empty park in the bay has been transformed into a shipyard of the sixteenth century, where *The San Diego Maritime Museum* is resurrecting the San Salvador. It was the first ship that arrived on the shores of San Diego. The replica of San Salvador is built almost exclusively of wood and of the way in which it was built around 1540.

"It is a huge task," says *Bruce Heyman*, who runs the project for the Maritime Museum. "We're using ten different types of wood. And then we need a team of workers who can shape and can assemble these parts, since the boat is, literally, a basket and they all have to sit and work together".

In 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed his flagship until he reached the coast of San Diego, becoming the first European to discover what is now San Diego. He gave it the name of San Miguel and took possession of these lands in the name of the King of Spain. Cabrillo sailed from Mexico in search of a faster route to the Spice Islands. This epic journey was 65 years before Jamestown and 78 years before the Mayflower and put California on the map.

A special exhibition at the construction site contains replicas of the houses and canoes used by the *Native Kumeyaay Indians* whom Cabrillo met when landing. The East Coast is home to the replicas of the ship *Mayflower* and several ships in *Jamestown*, but the San Salvador will be the first replica of a ship that explored the West Coast.

The galleon San Salvador is being built on land owned by the city and the most important thing is the promise that the tourism revenue will support the carrying out of this work.

"This is going to bring millions, literally, millions of people, and even more through the Internet, that will come to see this fantastic project," said the Commissioner of the Port of San Diego *Scott Peters* in the ceremony of the laying of the keel last year



Frame of the Galleon San Salvador

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We offer photographic information of the activities carried out in San Diego on the occasion of this visit:



Reception at USD



Cabrillo Monument



Award Ceremony to the Architect Mr. Douglas Sharp



Museum of Art



Presidio Park



With the Mayor of San Diego



Fort Guijarros



Fort Guijarros



Reception in the Casita



Reception in the Casita



Reception in the Casita

ACTIVITIES OF MAY

Last month was full of activities, as Jesús Benayas explained to us in his editorial letter.

Sunday, May 4: Anniversary of the Battle of San Diego Bay:

A sunny day and with much participation. We enjoyed music, food, and dancing. Thanks to the volunteers who organized this day, preparing and cooking, to Juanita Franco and her Ballet Ole Flamenco, as in previous years she presented us with a nice program of Spanish dances



A view of the attendees



Nina Yguerabide and Juanita Franco

May 13 and 27: Films from Spain. This month we were able to enjoy two days of cinema: *Snow White* and *Even the Rain*. Both days were well attended and as in the previous times, thanks to Laura Lagunas, for organizing this film series.

May 25 "Ethnic Food Fair" held in Balboa Park: This Sunday we also could enjoy a day with plenty of sunshine. There was a lot of people in the park enjoying the variety of foods that each of the Casitas prepared and sold to the public. We also served our traditional paella:



Bayardo cooking



Becky and Henry selling tickets



Even children enjoy the paella

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

FEAST OF SAN JUAN (SAINT JOHN)

(Pot-luck)

Saturday, June 21

From 5:00 to 8:00 PM in our Casita

We invite all members and their families to celebrate with us this traditional festival. Bring a typical dish for 4 people instead of paying. We ask that you bring a main dish.

If you choose not to bring any dish, you will be charged \$ 10.00 per person at the entrance.

Non-members: \$15.00 per person.

You can bring your own drinks to share, but this does not substitute the plate of food that you have to bring.



House of Spain/Casa de España will provide bread, sangria, and water

RSVP: rsvp2hos@gmail.com indicating the number of guests and plate(s) of food that you will bring. THANK YOU!



WRITE DOWN THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR: JULY 4 AND 6, 2014

IN THE CASITA WE WILL CELEBRATE

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

AND THE HELP SPAIN GAVE FOR THIS WAR

Juanita Franco and her Ballet "Ole Flamenco" offered LA NOCHE FLAMENCA

The many friends and relatives of Juanita Franco and her Dance Group "Olé Flamenco" enjoyed a magical evening of music and dance (Sunday April 27) at the *Joan Kroc Theater, The Salvation Army*. The show began with Bulerías danced by some students and Reyes, Carlos, and Juanit. Erica was accompanied by the extraordinary "cajón". There were many Olés and applause, especially when Juanita danced. Some numbers of the program that stood out that evening were the jota and the pasodoble interpreted by the girls (some of them with 4 years of age). Remedios, an excellent singer gave her interpretation of the song. Juan de Dios directed the pauses in between dances in a very amusing way. The presentation of the program was excellent: both the dancers, singers, as the guitarists. I have attended various programs that Juanita organizes and each time I am amazed at the excellence of her presentations. Congratulations to the teachers: Juanita Franco, Reyes Barrios, Érica López, and Carlos Villatoro. (*Nina Yguerabide*)

WE INVITE YOU TO READ IT

Dr. Ray Ashley, on the Feast of the Anniversary of the Battle of San Diego Bay, gave an important speech that we invite the members to read. It will be published on our website and it can be sent by e-mail



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Bulletin No. 368



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House of Spain, Casa de España in San Diego is a private non-profit organization, whose purpose is the 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.