



House of Spain/Casa de España  
San Diego

# Boletín

Bulletin 373

November 2014

## 2014 IN PHOTOS





## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Once again, here we are about to elect a new board of directors for the House of Spain, Casa de España (HOS/CDE) in San Diego to lead the organization for another year.

I wish to tell you that this year the Board of Directors continued to work as a team and striving to maintain the rules that were previously made for the better functioning of the organization: the opening of the Casita on Sundays; use of the casita; accountant; cultural and social activities; coordination with other organizations, schools and many more.

Once more our secretary Penelope Bledsoe will give a report to the General Assembly of all the activities of the year and the progress we have made.

Also, our treasurer, Asunción Lusti will be available and will give you the annual financial report and will answer any question you have about it.

As in our lives, the organization grows and the needs change as the years pass. As you may have read in the bulletin for the month of September, the Board of Directors and the *By-laws* committee recommend that in the next General Assembly members vote to amend two topics in Article 4 of this document:

### *SECTION 2. QUALIFICATION, ELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE*

*Candidates who are members in good standing and are fluent in the Spanish language and are familiar with the history and culture of Spain shall be eligible to hold office. ~~Furthermore, to hold the offices of President and Vice-President, the candidates must be native Spaniards, children of a native Spaniard, or citizens of Spain (subject to verification).~~ In addition, the candidates for President and Vice-President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least ~~six (6) months~~ **1 year**.*

*All Officers mentioned above shall be elected at the annual meeting of membership. Furthermore, three (3) members in good standing shall be elected to serve on the Board of Directors. **No two members of the same family shall serve on the Board of Directors.***

We believe that these changes are necessary because of what we have been observing over the years in our organization. Below I list some of the things we have observed:

- 1) Many Spaniards are just passing through and do not offer to work on the Board of Directors.
- 2) Many Spaniards do not know the system of laws of this country to carry a non-profit organization such as ours.
- 3) Many Spaniards do not have time to help on the Board of Directors, due to their work, children, age and many other things in life.
- 4) Many Spaniards wish to join the American community and for that reason cannot or wish not to devote their free time to this organization.
- 5) A person must serve on the Board at least a year so that you can see, work, and learn about the various activities and rules that the organization has.
- 6) In the way that Article 4 is defined, people interested in the organization, with love for the language, culture, and history of Spain cannot serve in the positions of President and Vice President. With the modification of this Article, this would be possible.
- 7) Due to this and many other things, we believe this is the time to modify this Article.

The majority of the members of the current Board of Directors are ready to present once more for the different positions. If you are satisfied with the work we have done, we have your confidence and decide to come back and elect us, our organization will continue to improve year after year.

I hope to see you in the casita on Sunday, November 9, beginning at 5 PM to be able to talk and vote for a new board of directors for 2015.

Greetings  
Jesus Benayas

## THE BLACK LEGEND

Last October, we celebrated Columbus Day: another opportunity to raise awareness of the impact that Spain has had on American society and, more specifically, in our San Diego community. Sometimes we have been asked or commented on why we concentrate on emphasizing the positive and set aside some negative aspects of the conquest of America. Unfortunately some reprehensible acts are too well known and some of them have even been exaggerated by writers of other countries, jealous of the great epic that was the discovery of America. It is always difficult to write history several hundreds of years after the events occurred and when there are no faithful witnesses who can corroborate events of dubious origin.

It is proven that in Europe, after the discovery of America, a negative and unfavorable opinion began to spread against everything Spanish. We will let some experts describe it better.

"This Legend covers judgments about the cruelty, the obscurantism and political tyranny. To the cruelty has it wanted to see in the procedures that are being pressed into service to implement the faith in America or defend it in Flanders; to the obscurantism, in the alleged obstruction opposed by Spain to all spiritual progress and to any activity of the intelligence; and tyranny, in the restrictions would have drowned the free life of the Spanish born in the New World and to whom it would seem that we had wanted to enslave."

Rómulo D. Carbia, *Historia de la Leyenda Negra Hispano-Americano* (1943)

"The basic premise of the Black Legend is that the Spaniards have been historically shown as exceptionally cruel, intolerant, tyrannical, obscurantist, lazy, fanatical, greedy and treacherous; that is to say, they differ in such a way as to other peoples in these characteristics that the Spaniards and the history of Spain must be seen and understood in terms that are not usually used to describe and interpret other peoples."

Philip Wayne Powell *Tree of Hate* (1971)

"Perhaps the black legend does not constitute a legitimate or justifiable point of view, but it is necessary to remember that is a legend and not a myth. It was born, as with all legends, of real facts and these cannot be ignored by partisan interests. The Spaniards made some very big mistakes, as did the men of other nations."

William S. Maltby *The Black Legend in England* (1968)

We would like to thank Angeles Leira for her commentary on this subject:

"All of the empires have committed abuses that are always connected to their power. Fortunately, in history, nobody remembers the abuses and the cruelty of the Roman Empire, and the English imperialism which came after the Spanish. However, if we only remember and recognize the bad incidents, some of them invented, of Spanish imperialism which was much more benign than the English, Dutch, etc. We are not doing justice to history and to ourselves who after all, are history's descendants. The biggest problem is that we, Spanish, in our auto-criticism, all we do is demean ourselves, for who is capable of criticizing his/her own people? We also foster the fact that others go ahead and use it against ourselves, and thus the "Black Legend" continues. It is our duty to straighten up the record, to enlighten and place the times in their original context, especially when so many of the legends against Spain that are read do not match anything in the historical record, and especially in comparison with other empires that truly and cruelly treated the natives.

I am sorry, that even we are not able to see for our common good, instead by our attitude, we harm ourselves, in an act mistakenly designed to discredit our compatriots."

Greetings!! Angeles



## ACTIVITIES OF OCTOBER

Below are some of the visitors to the casita during the week of October 6 to 12 where presentations were given on "Balboa, the man" and "Participation of Spain during the American war of independence" to the community. More than 700 visitors came during these days. Thanks to all who came and helped make these events successful!

Students of San Diego High School and Mesa College (Spanish Club) visiting the casita



### Saturday October 11: Paella and music!

The audience appreciated their presence and enjoyed the delicious paella and the music of *Fantastic Live Novamenco*:



Novamenco



Susi Lusti, Maruja Williams, Sagrario Din



### Sunday October 12: *Lawn Program* and celebration of the National Day of Spain, Discovery of America and Columbus Day:

As in previous years we celebrate this feast in which Juanita Franco and her Ballet "Ole Flamenco" gave us an afternoon of flamenco dances and in addition the public could enjoy our traditional paella.

## Do You Speak Hungarian?

Due to construction work in the *Hall of Nations* (HON) many organizations of the HPR have no place to do their activities and several of these organizations have asked us the HOS/CDE if they can use our casita. The following photos are of the house of Hungary giving classes to their children at our headquarters. They have five mothers who are responsible for this program and have been doing it for years; they always meet on the fourth Sunday of each month. If some Spanish mothers agree and would like to do something similar giving Spanish classes, do not hesitate to let us know.



## Carlos Velasco

In the past 2 months Carlos Velasco has come to the casita to delight us with his songs and understanding several Sundays where visitors and friends have joined with him and have sung with him in the casita. See how well those visitors sing with him. Thank you very much Carlos!





## FILMS FROM SPAIN

On Tuesday October 28, 2014 the *premiere* of the second series of *Films from Spain* was celebrated.

The event was held at the *Museum of Photographic Arts* where the film "The Mexican Suitcase" was shown. A documentary about the recovery of a suitcase that contained negatives taken by photographers Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and David Seymour during the Spanish Civil War. The negatives also explained the history of the Spanish exile and the generous help that Mexico offered to Spanish refugees.

We were honored by the presence of the Consul General of Mexico, Remedios Gómez, who also had a personal link with the history of this movie because his grandfather was one of the Spanish exiles that were spoken about in the documentary.

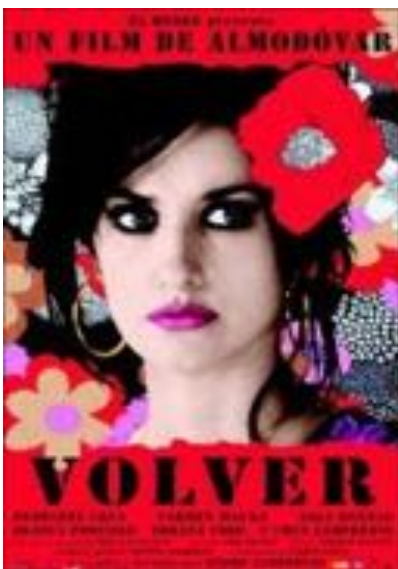


**Tuesday, November 18 at 7:00 PM**

**Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA)**

**In the center of Balboa Park -**

**Price: \$ 7.00 per person**



**Volver** is a 2006 Spanish film written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar. It is interpreted by Carmen Maura, Penélope Cruz, Lola Dueñas, Blanca Portillo, Yohana Cobo, and Chus Lampreave.

**Duration:** 121 Minutes

**Music composed by:** Alberto Iglesias

**Director:** Pedro Almodóvar

Nominated for an Oscar: Best Actress (Penélope Cruz)

Raimunda (Penélope Cruz) is from La Mancha, but lives in Madrid. She is married to an unemployed worker (Antonio de la Torre) and has a teenage daughter (Yohana Cobo). Her sister Sole (Lola Dueñas) earns a living as a hairdresser. Both miss their mother (Carmen Maura), who died in a fire. But, unexpectedly, the mother presents herself in her sister's home (Lampreave); then goes to see Sole, Raimunda, and Agustina (Portillo), a neighbor of the town.

To

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## Upcoming Activities

Sunday November 9, 2014

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS OF HOUSE OF SPAIN/CASA DE ESPANA IN SAN DIEGO**

**TIME: 5:00 pm to 10 pm**

**IN OUR CASITA IN BALBOA PARK**

**YOUR PRESENCE IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR INSTITUTION!**

### OPENING OF THE CASITA

We are grateful to Laura Lagunas, who was responsible for opening the casita during October and to Araceli Hardt, Regli Dee, Jesus Benayas, Henry Herms, Bayardo de Murgia, and Laura McWhorter who helped as "ambassadors," taking care of the public that visited us

### VERY IMPORTANT!

#### THREE KINGS DAY IN JANUARY 2015

**We need 2 or 3 people to help us organize this event for our children, be responsible for doing the shopping, preparing the program, etc.**

**Without this help, we will not be able to celebrate this event**

#### Board of Directors

President:	Jesus Benayas	Tel: 619-462-7982
Vice President:	Resigned	
Secretary:	Penelope Bledsoe	619-876-3248
Treasurer:	Susi Lusti	619-295-2979

#### Advisors

Mary Goldbeck, Josefina Gómez, Laura Lagunas, Nina Yguerbide  
Dr. Bayardo De Murgia, PhD, Puri Rodríguez, Maruja Williams

**Sergeant at Arms:** Henry Herms.

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Miguel Garcia-Guzman

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To read the Bulletin in English, visit the web page of House of Spain/Casa de España in San Diego: <http://www.casadeespanasd.com>

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 in San Diego



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