

**GURE EUSKAL ETXEA**

**BILTZEN**



**BEROTZEN**



**POZTEN**



**BASQUE**  
**CULTURAL CENTER**



**GURE EUSKAL ETXEA**

**BILTZEN ❁ BEROTZEN ❁ POZTEN**



**BASQUE**  
**CULTURAL CENTER**

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Basque Cultural Center Restaurant: [www.basqueculturalcenter.com](http://www.basqueculturalcenter.com)

*Gure Euskal Etxea -Biltzen, Berotzen, Pozten*  
by Gracian and Nadine Goyhenetche

All photos courtesy of members of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center

DVD: *25 Years of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center, 1982-2007*  
Produced by Jean Paul and Liz Barthe  
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Cover art: Al Golden, The Big Idea Group. Dedicated to Arnaud Mendisco and his family.  
*“Their generosity and love of Basque culture and tradition has kept  
my family connected to the Basque community.”*

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# PREFACE

Lana Maitea ❀ A Labor of Love

Gracian and I just returned home from celebrating the 28th Anniversary of Gure Euskal Etxea, Our Basque House. For two reasons it's extremely appropriate that I write the comments for this quarter century retrospective at this time.

First of all, this anniversary Mass like the opening Mass in 1982 took place on Valentine's Day – such a perfect day to celebrate the place we love because it brings together all those who love Basque culture – both Basques and non-Basques alike. The 6th Anniversary in 1988 also had a Valentine's theme. Marriage was celebrated, and I was awed with the number of couples celebrating their 25th Anniversary, who are now three years shy of their 50th!

Secondly, I'm filled with *Biltzen-Berotzen-Pozten*, the title of this book. These words were the theme of the BCC's 25th Anniversary in 2007 suggested by Aita Martxel Tillous. Doctor Jon Aske, Language Resource Center Director at Salem State College, translated the Basque proverbs used in this book, and e-mailed me that *Biltzen-Berotzen-Pozten* was something found carved on many of the fireplaces of Basque houses, around the hearth, which makes sense. The fireplace is something that brings people together, warms them up, and thus makes them happy!

*Biltzen-Berotzen-Pozten* perfectly fits and is the essence of the three chapters of this book. They are also what happens at every Anniversary and probably most BCC events!

*Biltzen* – to bring together. The BCC was formed by Basque people coming together again and again and taking heroic steps to build a house where they could gather together.

*Berotzen* – warming up. Following the Opening in 1982 the members have continued to volunteer their time and energy, warmth and love, to their Etxea which has never dwindled and continues to keep us warm like a very strong fire in the fireplace.

*Pozten* – to make happy, gladden, delight. What could bring a member greater delight than seeing their children involved and in leadership of Gure Euskal Etxea? What could bring a member more joy than seeing their beloved culture become known and embraced by the greater community?

I was so glad (pozten naiz!) that our family coming together for this weekend's 28th Anniversary celebration was due to our children's persistence. Because of them, we spent two days celebrating the BCC's anniversary, and I have two business cards sitting in front of me from two wonderful people who loved their experience of the Center.

- Harryette Hughes who lives in Danville and whose mother's maiden name was Arosteguy just heard about our Basque Cultural and visited the BCC for the first time this year. That made me realize

that it's not only to non-Basques but to others with Basque heritage that we need to extend this rich culture.

- Jeffrey Lee, the Chinese American President of the Wah Ying Social Club, gave me the second business card. He told me that he watched our Center being built. He was a business associate and very dear friend of Jean Baptiste Saparart and Jean Pierre Espil. Jean Baptiste and Jean Pierre showed Jeff how to pick mushrooms, and the three would bring their mushrooms to the BCC to cook in the early 80s. So it wasn't only the members who watched the BCC being built. This makes me wonder how many more cross cultural stories are threaded into this short "twenty-some" year history.

So I'm filled with *Biltzen-Berotzen-Pozten* from this 28th anniversary weekend. Coming together because of our children and gathering with family and friends who have become one extended Basque family to warm up with, then meeting new people like Harryette and Jeffrey who liven up the hearth because they are so warmed up with Basque hospitality. How can that not fill our hearts with delight and joy – especially when we see so many little children running all around?

The precursor to being asked to compile this book, was that I was trained in 2005 by Dr. Gloria Totorigüena on how to interview and get historically accurate information for the Bay Area's *Urazandi* project. I practiced my newly acquired skills on my husband, Gracian, by interviewing him first. That is when my most treasured moment came working on both these projects. When I asked the interview question, "Did you marry a Basque?" Gracian looked at me and replied firmly, "Yes, I did!"

Joseba Zulaika, Director of the Basque Studies Program, University of Nevada explained this moment very well in *Euskal Etxeak* 2005 Issue 70: "...People feel they are Basque because they are interested in Basque culture and history, not because they were born on Basque land and have Basque last names. These are the signs of identity that really matter. Being Basque does not mean living in the Basque Country. It is a way of living in the world and having an overall vision and feeling of being Basque."

Over forty years ago I fell in love with a Basque. And now because of *Biltzen-Berotzen-Pozten* through all those I've met through the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center and this project, I'm in love with the whole welcoming Basque community and rich culture.

*Eskerrik Asko Bihotz, Bihotzetik* – Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

—Nadine Goyhenetche

**W**hen Nadine and I were first asked to do this book, we immediately said “YES” without realizing what we were getting ourselves into! You might be thinking, “big mistake!” Yes, there were times I did regret taking on this project, especially when I saw all the work it entailed. At times it felt like it would never end!! However, looking back now, I know it was not a “big mistake”; it was a “Labor of Love”.

That Labor of Love began back in 1979, not with me, but with those first brave, hard-headed Basques who wanted a pilota court, and nothing was going to get in their way. I was privileged to become a part of that Labor of Love which continues today. And that is what this book tries to capture. As you flip through the pages, you will see dedicated men and women who love their culture, who love their traditions, who love their faith, and want to bring all this down to their beloved children so that they in turn will pass it down to the next generation and the community at large. The good news is that in this book you will see that this has happened and continues to do so. And so, Nadine and I are only too happy to be contributors to this Labor of Love. Those of you who have also been contributors, be proud of what you have accomplished. Those of you who will follow us, be ready and step forward to continue Gure Euskal Etxea, and those of you who are simply reading this book, remember that when a Basque puts his/her mind to it, everything is possible! Everything is possible because to a Basque, everything is a Labor of Love.

—Gracian Goyhenetche

**A**s I collected film footage throughout the years I always wondered what I would do with it. In October of 2007 I was approached by one of the BCC Board members who asked if I would want to put together a video for the 25th Anniversary of the BCC. I immediately said yes without knowing into what an immense project I was plunging myself, and especially my wife, Elizabeth. Compiling all my photos and video, as well as those of the Basque community became a huge undertaking and at times we thought we would never see the light at the end of the tunnel. Information gathering, writing narrations, organizing the sequence required imagination, discipline, and patience. How many times would technology fail us at the most crucial moment? And finally when does one say “The End? Who did we miss? What did we miss?” Then we had to just say to ourselves, “Well, someone will surely take on the next 25 years and hopefully mention what we may have missed.” Our goal was to bring to life the memories of the beginnings of the BCC with “home” made videos and photos as well as those filmed later with more advanced technologies. The difference is obvious and was not meant to be retouched, since that was simply the way it was: filmed through the eyes of a Basque immigrant with what he could afford at the time, but with a heart that saw a priceless “family history” that needed to be captured for its future generations.

—Jean Paul Barthe

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Throughout 2006 (10 times to be exact!) there were requests in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter for member memories. Thank you all those who responded! Special thanks to Anita Arduain, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea and Anna Iriartborde for tireless help in making photos historically accurate with names, to the dated photo collections of Jean Jauretche and Leon Sorhondo from April 81 to February 82 and for Leon's notes and minutes as the BCC's first secretary which were invaluable in the chronology of the building of the BCC. Also, special thanks to Al Golden for his time to create the cover of this book, bringing to life the logo unique to the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.

We also used the newsletter to ask which women wanted us to use their full names in this project. Keeping their maiden names with Arrechea, Bushman and Urruty connects them to families who were active in the BCC's first quarter century – Etcharren, Ocafrain, and Salaburu. We only received three responses, but great thanks to Anita Arduain for putting together a list of about sixty young women with their maiden and married names. For example, some of you may not know who Linda Orellena is, but when her maiden name is added, many more will recognize who Linda Franchisteguy Orellana is! Women do get lost historically without their full names!

I was honored to do the oral Urazandi project with Franxoa Bidaurreta, Johnny Curutchet, Pierre Etcharren, Gracian Goyhenetche, Etienne Jorajuria, Jose Mari Miura, Denise Ourtiague, Pedro Salaburu, and Leon Sorhondo. Their contribution added richly to both projects (*Urazandi* and BCC history).

But I was honored most of all to be doing this project side-by-side with my husband, Gracian. Without him I wouldn't have said the initial 'yes' to undertake this project. Without his invaluable, tireless contribution it would not have been finished.

—Nadine Goyhenetche

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Philippe Acheritogaray  
Bernadette Arriada  
Suzanne Arotzarena  
Jean Paul Barthe  
Elizabeth Barthe  
Xabier Berrueta  
Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman  
Maria Begorre  
Monet Bonson  
Roger Bonson  
Florence Castanchoa  
Ophelia Chamalbide-Torpey  
Yvonne Cuburu  
Mary Curutchet  
Charles Elliott  
Pierre Etcharren  
Jean Baptiste Etcheverria  
Jeannette Etchegoin  
Yvette Gorostiague Fantham  
Jean Gorostiague  
Gracian Goyhenetche  
Nadine Goyhenetche  
Jeanne Goyhenetche  
Vickie Idiart  
Bernadette Iribarren  
Anna Iriartborde  
Jean Pierre Irissary  
Susan Begorre Langlands  
Louis Marticorena

Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerrins  
Susan Negueloua  
Mayte Ocafrain  
Pedro Salaburu  
Idoya Salaburu Urruty  
Leon Sorhondo  
Suzanna Jauretche St. Jacques  
Nancy Zubiri

## STORIES

Alphonse Acheritogaray  
Philippe Acheritogaray  
Valerie Etcharren Arrechea  
Jean Paul Barthe  
Elizabeth Barthe  
Marie Simone Barreneche  
Victoria Berrueta  
Xabier Berrueta  
Franxoa Bidaurreta  
Olivia Bidaurreta  
Maria Begorre  
Monet Bonson  
Roger Bonson  
Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman  
Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout  
Francois Camou  
Florence Castanchoa  
Joseph Castanchoa  
Brittany Chamalbide  
Chris Chamalbide

Shane Chamalbide-Torpey  
Johnny Curutchet  
Mary Curutchet  
Yvette Saroberry DeGuero  
Anne Marie Dubosq  
Arnaud Duhart  
Suzanne Elicetche  
Charles Elliott  
Noel Erdozaincy  
Tony Espinal  
Pierre Etcharren  
Gratien Etchebehere  
Lisa Etchepare  
Dominique Etcheverry  
Mayie Etcheverry  
Monique Falxa  
Jean Flescher  
Leon Franchisteguy  
Jean Gorostiague  
Angele Goyeneche  
Aimee Marie Goyhenetche  
Gracian Goyhenetche  
James Goyhenetche  
Noel Goyhenetche  
Annie Guecamburu  
Vickie Idiart  
Anna Iriartborde  
Robert Iriartborde  
Bernadette Iribarren  
Christian Iribarren

Jean Pierre Irissary  
Jean Felix Jauretche  
Etienne Jorajuria  
Bart Lahargoue  
Isabelle Etcheverry Laxague  
Susan Begorre Langlands  
Bart Lahargoue  
Michel Marticorena  
Jeanne Mazeris  
Jose Mari Miura  
Charles Moustirats  
Jean Baptiste Moustirats  
Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerrins  
Susan Negueloua  
Jean Leon Ocafrain  
Mayte Ocafrain  
Denise Ourtiague  
Pedro Salaburu  
Xavier Salaburu  
Jean Marc Sorhondo  
Leon Sorhondo  
Mark Sorhouet  
Suzanna Jauretche St. Jacques  
Anne Marie Goyhenetche Sullivan  
Gracianna Uhalde  
Jacques Unhassobiscay  
Jean Baptiste Urruty  
Yvette Urruty  
Idoya Salaburu Urruty  
Nancy Zubiri

# DEDICATION



This book is dedicated to the 378 founders of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center whose foresight and persistence resulted in the building of Gure Euskal Etxea and a rich quarter century of history. Their names are listed on the plaques above which are in the entrance lobby of the Basque Cultural Center.



# INTRODUCTION



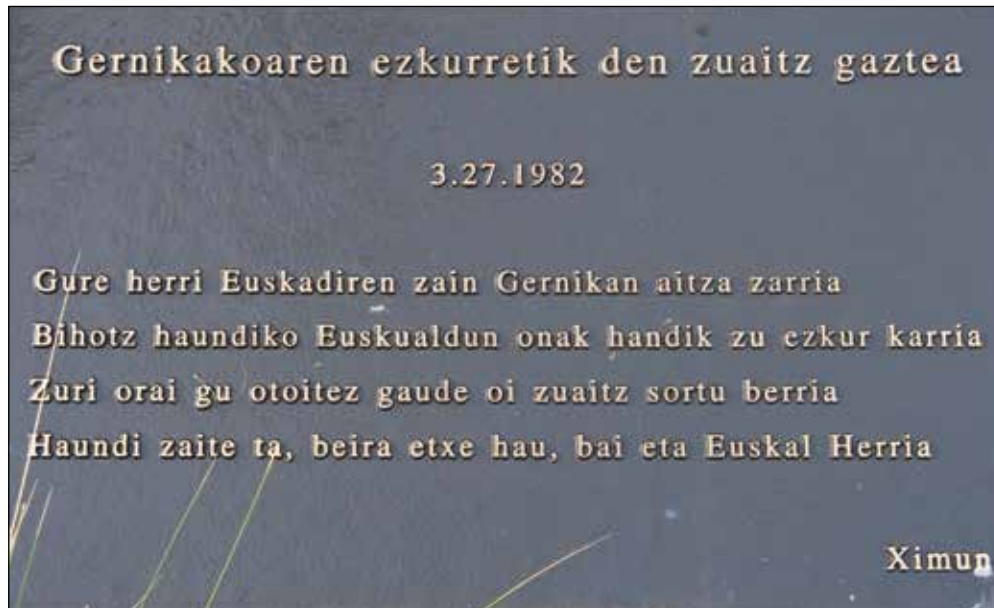
*Agur, agur jende guzik, agur bihotzetik.  
Zaharrak eta gaztiak bildurik urrundik.  
Elgarretaratuz dugu xutik ezarriko,  
Eskualdun etxe berri bat, gazte guzien dako.  
Gizon gaztendako beharra da zaharren indarra.  
Gora kanta obra ederra, gure zentro berria.*



Welcome, welcome all you people, welcome from the heart.  
The old and the young are gathered from afar.  
Together we will put it up,  
A new Basque house for all the young.  
For the young men there is need for strength from the old.  
Sing this song loudly, our New Center.

*Dedication of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center, June 1980*





*A Young Tree Sprouted From an Acorn of the Guernica Tree*

March 27, 1982

The Guernica Tree was planted to protect our Basque Country.  
Some good hearted Basques brought you here as an acorn lovingly.

So to you now we pray, O young new born tree  
Grow large and protect this house and our Basque Community.

—By Jean Baptiste “Ximun” Bidaurreta





# ♣ BILTZEN ♣ BEROTZEN ♣ POZTEN

Coming together.



## ♣ EZINA, EKINEZ EGINA ♣

Through effort and perseverance, the impossible can be done.

# THE FORMATION OF THE BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

*Ez egon beldurrez!* ❖ Don't be afraid!

**1957**

*Anna Iriartborde:*

"There was a 'cancha' on Pacific Avenue in San Francisco that was torn down in 1957 to build an apartment house. Basque Club members worried when this pilota court was demolished, and numerous meetings were held to foresee the future.... Over the years various projects had been discussed, but in the end none materialized. Representatives of San Francisco City Hall offered to the Basque Club an opportunity to purchase a suitable building site at the northeast of Geary and Fillmore Streets (current site of Japantown). The majority of club members voted against this purchase. Meanwhile our pilota players, who were a strong group then, drove back and forth to Stockton where they could use the 'left wall'."

**1965**

*Anna Iriartborde:*

"Later (around 1965) those players obtained authorization to play against the back wall of a bowling alley on a tennis court at the Helen Wills Playground located at Broadway and Larkin Streets. However, this authorization was for Sunday mornings only."

*The following (1968-1978) is taken from correspondence with San Francisco Supervisors and Pierre Etcharren while he was the Secretary of the Basque Club:*

**1968-1969**

The Basque Club tried to build a fronton in San Francisco's McLaren Park without success. It was supported by John Ertola, President of the Board of Supervisors, James Carr, General Manager of Public Utilities, and Arthur Fry, General Manager of the Water Department.

**1969**

The Basque Club explored building a fronton on the reservoirs. There was extensive correspondence back and forth with Joseph Caverly, General Manager of San Francisco Park and Rec, without any results.

**1970s**

A building permit was obtained to increase the back wall of the bowling alley to the right dimensions at Helen Wills Playground.

The Basque Club made another attempt to build a fronton working with San Francisco officials including Joe Alioto, Mayor of San Francisco and Edward McDevitt, Superintendent of Recreation, as well as Claude Batault, the Consul General of France. Final approval was never given.

After so many years of attempts to build a place for the Basques, many of the Basque Club members were opposed to the idea since there was already a place to play at Helen Wills Playground.

In late 1978 the owner of the bowling alley building at Helen Wills sold the property. The Basque Club held many bowling tournaments on Friday nights there. On one of these nights, it was learned that the building was going to be demolished.

**February 1979**

*Franxoa Bidaurreta, Basque Club President:*

"A number of Basques were at a party at Jacques and Dorothy Unhassobiscay's home in February 1979 where a plan was formed to speak to Basque Club members after adjourning the Basque Club meeting. The lawyer who helped us (the Basque Club) sell the property in Los Gatos which had a lien on it, advised me that the Basque Club by-laws weren't set up to 'have our own place'. A different organization had to be set up.

Jacques Unhassobiscay, Guillaume Irola, Jesus Arriada and I (and I believe Johnny Curutchet and Martin Minaberry) were still meeting until 4:00 am the next morning.

After adjourning the next Basque Club meeting, I announced another topic was going to be discussed and told the people attending they could leave if they chose. Nobody left. I then announced that a letter was being sent that night, not in the name of the Basque Club, to all Basques to attend a meeting at Notre Dames des Victoires Church Hall to discuss the formation of a new organization which would find land and build a place for Bay Area Basques to gather."

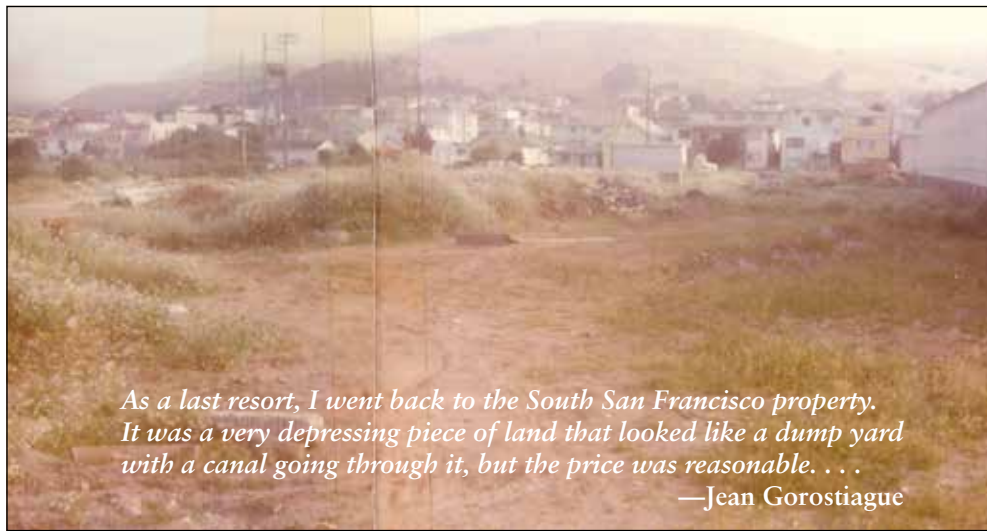
**March 1979**

*Jacques Unhassobiscay:*

"The following Sunday, 72 pilota players attended the first meeting at the old bowling house. Among them was our devoted current president, Jean Gorostiague, who informed us that a half acre parcel of land was for sale in Millbrae. Right then 68 participants signed up and promised to support any project with \$500 or more each.

However, the majority was leaning toward building a center which would shelter a maximum of Basque activities, and therefore, all of the Basque community could get together. The general agreement was to inform as many people as possible about the new idea. In order to do so, the address listing from the Basque Club, Alegria group and Father Cachenaute were used. More than 500 Basque households were reached. Because of it, more than 300





of you came to the meeting of April 1979 held at Notre Dames des Victoires. You did not come only to listen and make up your minds. No, you came eager to participate. By the end of the meeting a total of about 200 signatures were backing up the new idea to buy the land on which we are sitting today.” (From Jacques’ speech at 1982 BCC Opening.)

**Jean Gorostiague:**

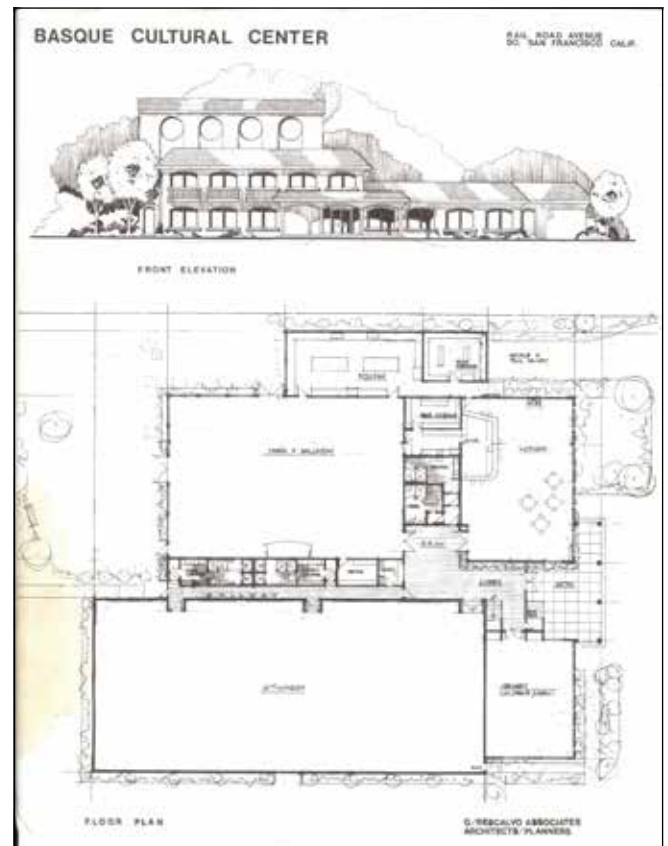
“Information was sent to Basques in the Bay Area, giving updates on the status. All of the correspondence was sent in English with translation in Basque by Auguste Indart.

It was decided that we should elect three people to look for a vacant property large enough to build a pilota court. Jacques Unhassobiscay was in charge of looking in the San Francisco area, and Jean-Leon Ocafrain and I in the Peninsula Bay Area. I had a real estate license and called a few realtors that I knew. I explained to them the purpose of the property and one of the realtors had three listings. One was three acres with a 66-year lease to the State on the waterfront in Burlingame. Another was a small lot in Millbrae very close to Highway 101, and the last one was 1.5 acres in South San Francisco. After seeing each of these properties, I went to the Burlingame Planning Department to investigate the possibility of building a pilota court. My request was denied since their intention was to see hotels and restaurants built in that particular location. They were successful as the Marriott was built there. I then went to the Millbrae Planning Department where unfortunately, I had a similar experience. As a last resort, I went back to the South San Francisco property. It was a very depressing piece of land that looked like a dump yard with a canal going through it, but the price was reasonable. . . .

In March 1979 we were negotiating the purchase of the South San Francisco property at 599 Railroad Avenue. The final price came to \$235,000 with the condition that the South San Francisco Planning Department would approve our project. The City Planner at that time did not have a clue who the Basques were and asked me if Basque had anything to do with Samoans. Therefore, I had to first

educate him on the Basque heritage before we could proceed. The planning department gave me a little encouragement, stating there was a fifty percent chance they would allow a cultural center under the use permit.

The next step was to hire an architect. As a General Contractor, I knew a few of them in the area, but I chose George Rescalvo, who was born in Argentina, because he was very familiar with the Basques in Argentina and the Basque Centers located there. I explained to him our plan to build a cultural center. He made the preliminary floor plans, which I presented to the temporary Board of Directors. They agreed with the plans and so we held a general meeting at the hall in Notre Dames des Victoires. The members were very satisfied with the plans.”





## April 1979

### Leon Franchisteguy:

“On April 30, 1979 members of the Basque Club of San Francisco met in the Notre Dames des Victoires Hall.... The guest speaker, Chuck Stewart cemented our resolve and provoked us to action. His lecture included avenues of financing such as shares, pledges, donations; detailing all of the minute elements involved in making this vaguely-formed vision a reality. By the end of that evening we had formed a committee consisting of seven men: as President, Jean Gorostiague; a licensed building contractor and real-estate agent, Vice-President, Jose M. Miura; Secretary, Leon Sorhondo; Treasurer, Leon Franchisteguy; and three Directors: Jean Jauretche, Felix Berrueta, Raymond Caballero, and although not all would remain active in the process, at that time we had motivation enough to persist.”

The Secretary’s letter dated May 7, 1979 stated 73 people attended the April 30th meeting, and “roughly” 70 persons pledged a total of \$85,000.

## May 1979

*The Committee of Seven began to meet weekly on Thursday evenings at the Franchisteguy’s home. Following are excerpts from Secretary Leon Sorhondo’s minutes of the meetings:*

May 5, 1979

“Any person regardless of sex or age could buy share(s) and also participate equally in all activities.”

May 16, 1979

“Dominic Olcomendy, a San Francisco judge, cautioned

that we could get in trouble by our present method of collecting money. It may not be legal.”

May 17, 1979

“Met with Mark Wheeler, South San Francisco Assistant Planning Commissioner, regarding the property at 599 Railroad Avenue. Planning Commission has a concern for overflow parking....it should be one space for every 50 sq. ft. for dining and drinking.”

May 18, 1979

“Jean Gorostiague showed preliminary plans of future site.” (This is the date on the first proposed plans for the Basque Cultural Center by George Rescalvo Associates Architects/Planners.)

May 21, 1979

“South San Francisco land was discussed and those attending were warned about the method of collecting money not being right. Those at the meeting said for us to keep the money and they were aware that they may have to give more.”

May 24, 1979

“Marcel Biscay, an attorney, was present. He advised that we should set up as a non-profit corporation with membership dues to help pay for overhead expenses. We could take a loan from members with a promissory note to pay them back. We would have to file with the Federal government and with State government.....**The Committee voted to get an organization going and send applications to Sacramento to get it approved. Name: San Francisco Basque Cultural Center (Certificate member – voting ability; Associate member – non-voting.)**”



*Left: First Membership Certificate indicating the June 5, 1979 incorporation date of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.*

## June 1979

June 5, 1979

The San Francisco Basque Cultural Center Corporation formed with the address of Santo Christo Hall, 41 Oak Avenue, South San Francisco, California. The Board was expanded to 15.

June 12, 1979

Peter Hacker, real estate agent for Grubb and Ellis, was present. The sellers of the South San Francisco property wanted more money if an extension was requested. It was decided to have a general meeting on June 24.

June 21, 1979

The first by-laws of the new Corporation were adopted.

June 24, 1979

The first official meeting of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center was held at Notre Dames des Victoires. The purchase of the property at 599 Railroad Avenue in South San Francisco was presented to the Board by Peter Hacker. Marcel Biscay explained corporation and by-laws and the use of membership certificates to raise money to secure loans to buy the property. Those present agreed that the Board should do what is needed to be done and agreed to purchase the land for \$235,000. A regular certificate

owner membership would cost \$1,000.00. The officers and a full Board of fifteen Directors were nominated and elected/appointed as follows:

- President- Jean Gorostiague
- Vice President- Jose Miura
- Secretary- Leon Sorhondo
- Treasurer- Leon Franchisteguy

Directors: Felix Berrueta, Marcel Biscay, Raymond Caballero, Johnny Curutchet, Marcel Durquet, Louis Elu, Gracian Goyhenetche, Auguste Indart, Jean Jauretche, Jean-Baptiste Saparart, and Jacques Unhassobiscay.

## July 1979

July 2, 1979


The meeting was held at Pyrenees Hotel. Architect Rescalvo explained his plans. Jauretche also brought plans and showed a different approach. Cost of both plans was about the same. The Board voted to go with George Rescalvo's plan.

July 11, 1979









Marcel Biscay brought membership certificates to the meeting along with the official state seal which was given to Leon Sorhondo. Leon Franchisteguy gave Biscay the passbook and checkbook signature cards.

# S. F. Basque Cultural Center, Inc.

## Board of Directors

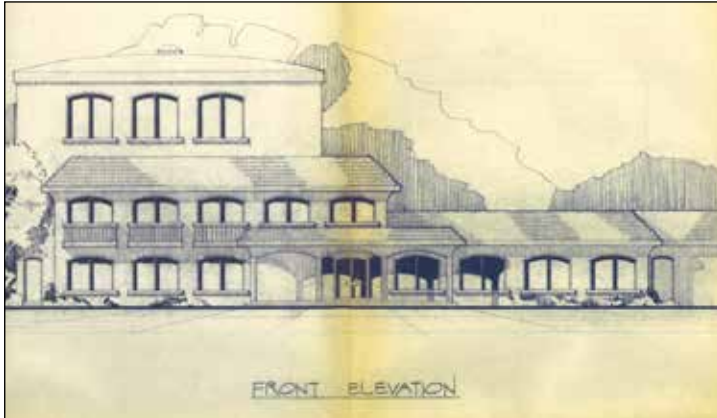


August, 1979

PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT		SECRETARY	TREASURER
				
Jean Gorostiague ★	Jose M. Miura ★		Leon Sorhondo ★	Leon Franchisteguy ★
MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER
				
Marcel Biscay	Felix Berrueta ★	Jean Curutchet	Raymond Caballero ★	Marcel Durquet
MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER	MEMBER
				
Louis Elu	Gracian Goyhenetche	Auguste Indart	Jean Jauretche ★	Jean Baptiste Saparart
★ Original Committee of Seven				



## July 1979 (continued)



At an Architectural Review Board meeting attended by Bill Etchegoin, Jean Jaureche, Joe Castanchoa, George Rescalvo and Jean Gorostiague the South San Francisco Design Review Board rejected the plans after four hours of discussion. Gorostiague then contacted the City Director, Lou De Angela, to see if there was any chance for the plans to be approved. It was learned that the Architectural Review Board disliked the large concrete wall and the round windows of the handball court. Gorostiague and Rescalvo presented the purpose of having the pilota court. The compromise was to 1) replace the proposed round windows (meant to symbolize a pilota) with rectangular ones, and 2) modify the right wall of the pilota court so it did not look bulky from the outside. From that meeting forward things went more smoothly with the Planning Department.



To accommodate the new Board of 15, Louis and Marie Elu offered their restaurant for the Board of Director meetings. Weekly meetings were held at Elu's Basque Restaurant on Monday nights until early hours of the morning from July 1979 until the Center was built and meetings could be held there. Pictured at Elu's Restaurant is Andre Larre, Marie Elu, (unidentified), Louis Elu, and Jacques Unhassobiscay.

## August 1979

A general meeting was called where the real estate agent explained the transaction of the property and the architect presented the preliminary plans. The members present were very excited and motivated and asked for a preliminary cost estimate for the project. The Board of Directors was working hard recruiting new members and raising money, while Jean Gorostiague was very busy working with the architect, engineers, and building department to have the plans ready for the permit application.

**August 25 and 26, 1979**

North American Basque Festival/Convention held at Pier 2, Fort Mason was held. Those who signed the Basque

Club's August 1st letter requesting involvement in the 1st Basque Festival in San Francisco were actively forming the Basque Cultural Center at the same time (Franxoa Bidaurreta and Jacques Unhassobiscay) or soon to become actively involved at the Center (Pierre Etcharren and Jean Leon Iribarren). At this rich cultural infusion of Basque Clubs from the Western United States the progress on the Basque Cultural Center was a passionate topic as well as seeking financial support through memberships. The festival profits of \$31,180 were donated to the formation of the Basque Cultural Center.

## January 1980

January 16, 1980

To raise money faster, a special board meeting was held to announce that the regular membership certificate was increased to \$2,000, but the current member's spouse, a 20 year old child, or an adult child of a member could join as a certificate membership owner for \$1,000 prior to March 10, 1980.

January 27, 1980

A general meeting took place. The information presented was summarized in the January 31st Newsletter sent by Leon Sorhondo.

January 31, 1980

The newsletter written by Leon Sorhondo announced 216 members and \$241,410 collected. To finish payment on the land at 599 Railroad Avenue, \$45,000 was due in January 1981 and \$45,000 in January 1982. In spite of the land already increasing in value, the project was \$460,000 short for the proposed building. That estimate prepared by Jean Gorostiague and Jean Jauretche was low because it was based on donations of materials and/or labor from those interested in building the cultural center.

## March 1980

March 17, 1980

Bill Etchegoin directed the crew to begin clearing the land. Large concrete blocks were removed. Bill found Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. to do the work for under \$6,000 (other estimates ranged from \$14,000 to \$17,000)

## April 1980

April 17, 1980

Henry Arana completed the survey of 599 Railroad Avenue. Initial proposals submitted by structural engineers ranged from \$9,000-\$10,000. Further searching used "Life Designs" \$6,000 proposal.

April 21, 1980

Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. began grading the lot under the direction of Bill Etchegoin. [The process involved in grading is to mix soil and water and to pack it tight making the ground hard in order to meet with the specifications required by the soil engineer.]



*Secretary Leon Sorhondo (whose minutes from May to July 1979 and newsletters transcribed in Basque by Auguste Indart were a primary source of the early formation) with his arm around Bill Etchegoin who directed the grading of the lot and according to Jean Gorostiague was in charge of paving and the building the kantxa bleachers. "Bill Etchegoin was one of my favorite BCC members. One Saturday morning during the construction of the BCC, as I took hot coffee to the workers and Jean Leon, he allowed me to go on the roof of the kitchen and pound some nails... He did so much for the construction of the BCC."—Mayte Ocafrain*

## May 1980

May 25, 1980

The Board of Directors held a special meeting to establish a sub-committee to organize the construction and before-hand preparations. These members were chosen for special skills and knowledge ranging from architecture, construction, masonry, etc.: Joe Castanchoa, Bill Etchegoin, Ganix Iriartborde, Jean Leon Iribarren, Pierre Irola, Frederic Fuldain, Bart Lahargoue, George Rescalvo, and Pierre Uharriet.

## June 1980

June 8, 1980

A barbecue was held at Santo Christo Hall where five directors came up for reelection. Marcel Biscay volunteered to step down from the Board, but continued as the Board's advice attorney. He was replaced by Bart Lahargoue.

## November 1980

November 16, 1980

The luncheon/dance at the Santo Christo Hall made a profit of \$3,201.93. The San Francisco Basque Club donated \$2,218.15 which was raised from a rummage sale. The Menlo Park Zazpiak-Bat Club donated \$18,431.15. Leon Franchisteguy reported that we had \$210,000 available to work with.

## January 1981



*Johnny Curutchet, Joe Castanchoa, Jacques Unhassobiscay and Michel Marticorena removed cement from the canal. They were the first volunteers to start working. Joe said, "My first involvement at the BCC site was when Michel Marticorena and I rented an air compressor and jackhammer. I remember we jack-hammered the storm control drain on the north side of the property (kitchen) because the City approved plans to fill in the easement so we could have an entrance."*

## February 1981

February 9, 1981

At the Board of Directors meeting Leon Franchisteguy reported a balance of \$157,159 after having paid the following: \$45,000 on the 2nd installment of the payment due on the land (only one payment left in Jan. 1982); \$30,000 paid for constructing a manhole, drain lines, clearing, dumping and excavating the lot at South San Francisco; and also paying the architect, engineer, and various permits needed to begin construction.

February 22, 1981

The newsletter written by Leon Sorhondo stated, "The permits have been approved and we may start building the Cultural Center. William Etchegoin, Joe Castanchoa, Jean Gorostiague, and Jean Jauretche are getting bids for lumber, steel, electrical and plumbing, cement and other materials and contracts which will be needed for the project. The membership of the organization has grown to 294 members."

"The mandatory building permits took a whole year to be granted. The original estimates approximated \$600,000, but the delay before starting the construction work was the time when construction materials greatly increased. Consequently the final cost would be higher than first estimated. Around us the critics were saying, 'They will go bankrupt!' To tell the truth, fear started to erode for a moment the morale in our ranks, but finally courage and endurance prevailed."—Anna Iriartborde

"The permits for the city, especially the handball court, were very difficult to get because the handball court wasn't something standard for here. They didn't allow a single wall—that's why we had to build all around with the concrete. Because of earthquakes, they needed to be sure there was enough strength to hold it. Originally, we were thinking of the top and rest of sides to be stucco—a lot less expensive. But the city didn't allow it due to earthquakes, so all four sides had to be the same to be able to withstand earthquakes."—Johnny Curutchet



*Auguste Indart (left) and Johnny Curutchet (right) were in charge of recruiting volunteer workers. They were on the phone every night encouraging people to participate. Jean Gorostiague (center) was the General Contractor for the project.*



*“There were two controversies at that time: those who thought that unless we had all the money up front we would never finish it, and those who said if we can get a start on it, we’ll do it.” —Jose Mari Miura*

## March 1981

### March 8, 1981

At the General Membership Meeting at Notre Dames des Victoires Church Hall, exact project costs were presented (since prices went up in the past year) and a decision on the continuance of the project and the financial ability to do so was discussed. William Etchegoin forecasted that if we wait until June, prices will go up another \$80-100,000.00 for the project, because union labor costs will automatically go up due to fixed contracts.

“A meeting was called for all of you with a strange panic, since our President was in the hospital for surgery. We suggested that maybe the project was too big, and we should give it up now. We were short of money – you all understood our collective anxiety. We were yelling, ‘Help! 15 of us cannot realize this project.’ What was true then

is still true today. Fifteen can’t, but 350 can. Then you refueled our courage and stamina by yelling at us loud and clear, ‘Don’t stop now! Go ahead! Ez egon beldurrez.’ And, once again, you reached into your pockets and came up with more money. That was enough to make us dive in again, and a few weeks later, in March 1981, it was The Big Day, the groundbreaking.” (*Jacques Unhassobiscay’s recounting of the Center’s formation at the Opening in February 1982.*)

### March 13, 14, and 15

Paper drive was organized by Leon Sorhondo and Gracian Goyhenetche to raise funds.

### March 20, 1981

Groundbreaking ceremonies.



*The Friday Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted in a pouring rain. South San Francisco Mayor Ron Acosta helped Jean Gorostiague, President of the Basque Cultural Center turn the first shovelful of dirt for the new center. Those present, under the shelter of umbrellas, were (left to right) Back Row: Jean Leon Iribarren, Jose Mari Miura, Pierre Uharriet, George Rescalvo, Johnny Curutchet, (unidentified), Auguste Indart, Leon Sorhondo, Louis Elu, Michel Marticorena, Jean Jauretche, Ganix Iriartborde, Joe Castanchoa, Marcel Durquet, Jean Sorhondo. Front Row: Gracian Goyhenetche, James Goyhenetche (in arms), Mattin Zubieta, Joseph Swartz, Les Davis (South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Director), Jean Gorostiague, Christina Pistoia (Miss South San Francisco), Ron Acosta (Mayor of South San Francisco), Gus Nicolopulos (Vice-Mayor of South San Francisco), Jacques Unhassobiscay, Felix Berrueta, Bill Etchegoin.*

*April 1981 — Construction Work Began Immediately*



*On the right: Pierre Irola,  
Sauveur Anchartechabar,  
Emile Goyhenetche,  
Ted Ondarts.*



*May 1981*



*“All of a sudden, a light pierced in the tunnel. A new member from Xubero, Jean Pierre Elissondo (left in photo), little known in our community but friend of Marcel Durquet (center) and Jean B. Jauretche (right), joined the corporation donating \$10,000. Later he loaned the lump sum of \$200,000 at 10% interest compared to the current 17% offered by banks. This act of generosity on his part saved us!”—Anna Iriartborde*

Donations

Landscaping.	
Bidauretta, Jean. B. Employees Service and Materials	3693.53
Bonson, Henri and Son	300.00
Bidauretta, Francois and Miura Jose, M Employees Services	3182.00
Joe, Nursery 8 flats Vinca Manor	
Junipero. Sierra 24 -5 gallons plants	
Wegmann, Nursery 5 -15 gallons plants	
Goyhenetche, Jean, B and Marie, L concrete Containers	1,200.00
.....	
Castanchoa, Joe Labor donation	3,000.00
Yrueta, Horacio sheetrock and tape mold	7,500.00
Etchegoin, William Permit for Bleachers etc...	307.33
Unhassobiscay, Jacques 4 flags	
Biscay, Marcel free service and first 250 membership certificate	
Gorostiague, Jean donated hall bar	
Tristan, Bill donated Lounge bar	

Supplies paid by members and loaned to the Basque Cultural Center

Gorostiague, Jean	9,000.00
Miura, Jose landscaping materials	1,833.00
Bidauretta, Francois landscaping materials	1,833.00
Etchegoin, William for bleachers	9,074.98
Etchegoin, William check	975.02
Castanchoa, Joe labor	3,000.00
.....	

Donations

Apessetche, Pettan	1000.00
Apessetche, Peyo	1000.00
Belleau, Jean	1000.00
Berteretche, Pierre	1000.00
Etchepare, Jean .B	1000.00
Elicetche, Ganiche	1000.00
Poydessus, Pierre	1000.00
Indaburu, Jean	2000.00
Sallaberry, Jean	1000.00
Etcheverria, Carlos	500.00
Getty, P. Gordon	200.00
Beheretche, Marc	100.00
Etcheverry, Gratien	100.00
Bidegain, James	100.00
Dalhia, J. P.-Irey, A.-Duhart, Henri	150.00
Stewart, Ernice	10.00
Gimenez, John	25.00
Basque, Club Rummage sale	4,568.00
Basque, Club Paper drive	365.41
Basque, Club Convention profit	31,180.00
September, handball Profit from the Basque Club.	1,510.00
Amway, Fund Rising donation	2,365.14
Donation from members for substitute workers	2,490.00
Armand, Andrew	35.00
Chiramberr6, Jacques. Robert	100.00
.....	
	<del>53,793.55</del>

We excuse ourselves for not being able to name all of you who helped. None the less we appreciate all that was done. Without you we would not have a center today.

Thank you.

*Much of the materials were donated and/or sold at discounted prices by various individuals and companies.*



May 1981 (continued)



Arnaud Duhart (left distance facing with hand on knee).  
Front: Jean Sorhondo, Louis Elu, Ganix Iriartborde (behind Elu), Jean Leon Ocafrain.



Pierre Iriartborde, Robert Lafitte,  
Michel Oyharcabal, unnamed  
worker, Marcel Elicagaray.



*“Because of the strong support of the Basque community,  
a lack of labor was never a problem”*

—California Builder & Engineer, January 25, 1982



*Bernard Pebet, Jean Paul Idiart,  
Jean Cordova.*

*Michel Marticorena,  
Juan Elu, Javier Alzugaray,  
Jean Leon Ocafrain*



*Auguste Indart, Pierre Elicagaray.*





*Unnamed worker, Pierre Labat.*

*Joe Castanchoa, Jean Jauretche,  
Jose Antonio Irigoyen,  
Pierre Uharriet.*



*Standing: Ted Ondarts,  
Michel Marticorena, Jean Jauretche.  
Kneeling: Frederic Fuldain,  
unnamed worker.*





*June 1981*



*“As a child I remember tying rebar to prep for cement foundation.”—Christian Iribarren*



*Ganix Iriartborde, Jean Paul Mendisco,  
Ted Ondarts, Arnaud Mendisco.*



*Pierre Uharriet, Begnat Goyhenetche.*





*Pierre Etcharren, Robert Lafitte.*

*Jean Jauretche, Gratien Etchebehere,  
Michel Marticorena. "During the  
construction of the Center, I worked  
along with my helper during the  
week in any sort of labor needed.  
I worked under the guidance of  
Mr. Jauretche and he was a  
wonderful man to work under."  
—Gratien Etchebehere*



*June 21, 1981*

*Pierre Idiart (on top of ladder),  
Ted Ondarts (behind ladder),  
Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut  
(on right). "I remember many  
Basque people working on the  
foundations. What a fantastic job  
to put up and together the huge  
walls of the handball court!"  
—Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut*



*Franxoa Biduretta,  
Felix Istilart.*

*Front left: Jean Baptiste Saparart,  
Louis Marticorena.*





## June 25, 1981—The Walls Were Raised



Bottom photo: Auguste Indart, Bill Etchegoin, Jean Cordova, Ted Ondarts, Jean Ocafrain, Mayte Ocafrain, Isabelle Ocafrain.



“I remember the day when the walls for the kantxa were raised; the sight of that huge crane lifting those leaden weights was incredible. To this day I remember driving to the site every Friday to hand out paychecks and to observe the progress we were making.”—*Leon Franchisteguy*

“We were members from the beginning. Jean Baptiste helped for some days in the assembly of the walls of the building.” —*Yvette Urruty*

“About 20 minutes after the wall went up (the reinforcement bars were still in place), Pierre Uharriet, Jean Cordova and I were playing handball just to get the feel of it.” —*Johnny Curutchet*

“The uniqueness of this building is in the design and building of a tilt-up wall structure that serves the super hard needs of a J'ai Alai playing surface and its 17 game variations. The forward wall for the court had some special problems because of this hardness requirement and the weight limitations of a tilt-up method of construction. A special design of concrete, using limestone rock and lightweight sand, had to be employed. Because of the wall's excessive weight, the tricky tilt-up operation required a 16-point pick using two P&H cranes from Bigge Crane and Rigging of San Leandro.” —*California Builder & Engineer, January 25, 1982*

*June 26, 1981*



### *July 1981*

“I remember that my father made the drive daily from Walnut Creek to South San Francisco for a very long time. He drove his little Volkswagen pickup over eighty miles a day and witnessed every stage of the building’s transformation. Together we’d drive over early on Sunday mornings and I’d clean the site up of wood, scraps, nails, and the litter that blew in from

the empty adjacent lots, as he watered down the concrete or swept out the unfinished rooms.

Both of my brothers, John and Richard, worked on the Center as well. As young adults with construction running in their blood, I remember that they braced the afternoon winds and ran along the peaks of the truces. I remember my mother watching in horror from below when she realized that they were the tiny moving specs on the dangerous roofline. Richard has a story about slipping and recklessly hanging hundreds of feet in the air with one arm.”—*Suzanna (Jauretche) St. Jacques*



*Joe Castancho, Weekend Foreman (left) and Jean Jauretche, Project Superintendent (right).*

“During the construction, when I worked Saturdays and Sundays, I was able to bring a professional work crew and we accomplished a lot. On the other hand Jean Jauretche, who supervised the construction during the weekdays, was handicapped because he had fewer professionals and had to use a lot of inexperienced (even though devoted) help. Anyone in construction or who knows construction knows the importance of productivity and meeting deadlines. I take my hat off to him because his was not an easy job.”

—*Joe Castancho*



*Suzanna Jauretche St. Jacques with her Father, Jean Jauretche.*



## July 1981 (continued)

“When the BCC was first starting to originate, Dad (Jean Jauretche) was there at all the meetings and discussions helping with the organizing, the sketches, the blueprints, the paperwork, lots of details . . . He had experience; he’d built before. He knew all the aspects of creating a monument, a structure built to last forever, and for people to remember other people by, a place for memories to last forever. Dad was a leader and a teacher . . . When the actual work started on the building he directed the helpers and the volunteers with what had to be done and who was going to do it . . . My brother, Richard and I were amazed at the turnout of volunteers – all the gardeners, the cooks,

the old and young all working together. Dad knew all these guys. He made them feel comfortable and showed them how to do things. He made them feel wanted and helpful which they most definitely were. They kept coming back to work or visit or bring snacks.

The monument Dad had dreamed of was being built. From a simple sketch on a dinner napkin to a monument built to last forever, Dad had the fortitude and patience to just do it to the very end. No matter what problems came up Dad always dedicated his time to finish what he started. He left very high hopes and values and traditions and culture to pass on and on.” —*Jean Felix Jauretche*



*Frederic Fuldain, Louis Elu, Lucio Machin, unnamed worker.*

## August 1981



*September 1981*



*Jean Berhan, Dominique Berhan, Pierre Apheceix, Joe Castanchoa, Jean Goni, Leon Franchisteguy, Pierre Irola, Pierre Jaureguito, Begnat Goyhenetche, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Pierre Uharriet.*



*Jean Cordova (center) and Ganix Iriartborde (far right) playing handball in the fronton.*



*Meeting at the unfinished Basque Cultural Center.*



## October 1981

There was increased concern about the rise in building costs and how all the individuals who made loans were to be paid back. It was suggested to make the member's lounge area into a restaurant open to the public. The Board of Directors agreed with the concept and decided it would be necessary to buy a liquor license. One was for sale for \$66,000. With the agreement to be paid back, eleven members generously loaned \$6,000 each to obtain the license. With the purchase of the liquor license Anna and Ganix Iriartborde agreed to manage the Basque Center.

Members who loaned \$5,000 or more during the formation of the BCC include: Anita and Andre Arduain, Angel and Maria Arriada, Jesus and Maria Arriada, Jean and Monique Arambel, Felix and Victoria Berrueta, Bernard and Rose Marie Duhalde, Jean Pierre Elisondo, Louis and Marie Elu, Jean and Marianne Etcheverry, Pierre and Mayie Etcheverry, Emile and Jeanne Goyhenetche, Pierre and Catherine Goyhenetche, Dominique Hauscarriague, Jacques Harguindeguy, Auguste and Elda Indart, Ganix and Anna Iriartborde, Jean Baptiste Iribarren, Pierre Jaurreguito, Jean Laxague, Pierre Sallaberry, Bertrand Urruty, Jean Baptiste Urruty.—*from Secretary's Membership lists*

## November 1981



*Pierre Salaberry.*



*Jean-Baptiste Saparart was in charge of painting.*

## January 1982

“In January 1982, strong storms flooded our Basque Center. A thick mud covered the beautiful tile. Water reached 10 inches in height and we were fortunate the wooden floor was not yet laid in the banquet room. Like ants, a crowd came to the rescue. Sand bags were filled to prevent more water from flowing in and the cleaning began.”

—*Anna Iriartborde*



*Jean-Baptiste Saparart's team painting the Kantxa.*

*February 12th, 1982*



*“The lobby and the court were still full of timber boards, sheet rock, pots of paint and all kinds of construction materials. Some gardeners, carpenters and painters drove in with pick-up trucks to vacate and clean the entire building in a few hours. While these trucks departed with their loads of debris and material, other trucks were anxiously waiting at the gate to deliver groceries, meats, wines, liquors, dishes and glasses. Tables and 700 chairs were delivered earlier.” —Anna Iriartborde*



*1982 Board of Directors toasting the opening of the Center. Left to right: Gracian Goyhenetche, Jacques Unhassobiscay, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Jean Gorostiague, Ganix Iriartborde, Felix Berrueta, Johnny Curutchet, Jean Baptiste Saporart, Jose Mari Miura, Louis Elu, Leon Franchisteguy, Michel Marticorena, Joe Castanchoa, Leon Sorhondo.*

*February 14, 1982*

Members' Grand Opening celebration on Valentine's Day

*"The Basque Cultural Center was built Class 1-A  
and the Basque people are Class 1-A to work with."*

—South San Francisco Building Inspector



*"When I tell other people how quickly we built the Center, they can't believe it. People are shocked that we actually raised our money and built this building in three years."*  
—Gracian Goyhenetche

*Right: Jack Unhassobiscay recounted the events that led to the building of the Center. "We were yelling, 'Help! 15 of us cannot realize this project.' What was true then is still true today. Fifteen can't, but 350 can. Then you refueled our courage and stamina by yelling at us loud and clear, 'Ez egon beldurrez! Don't stop now! Go ahead!'"*



*Anna Iriartborde said, "The dream that persevered twenty long years finally came through. We, Basques in America, had our own house 'Gure Etxea' with a fronton. It was a marvelous feeling." Jesus Arriada, Gratien Alfaro, Tony Espinal and Marco Ferrero (left to right in photos) put those feelings into song on the members' Opening Day.*





*Aita Cachenaute welcomed the Members' children (left photo) and sat at the head table at the Member's Opening (right photo) next to (l to r) Jean and Yolanda Gorostiague and Leon and Graciana Franchisteguy.*

There was still a lot to do for the new Center's inauguration and opening to the public. Leon and Graciana Franchisteguy were in charge of the reservations.

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*****
                Reservations for the Inauguration Weekend

Name _____

Admission to:                Number of tickets @ $15 each
    Dinner/dance on March 27      _____
    Lunch/dance on March 28      _____

Mail reservations and check to Leon Franchisteguy at 1655 24th Ave.,
San Francisco, 94122, 631-2677
  
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**A CULTURAL MILESTONE**

Bay Area Basque natives and their families marked a cultural milestone recently with the dedication of the Basque Center in South San Francisco . . . The ceremonies and social activities at the \$1.25 million facility at 599 Railroad Ave. culminated four years of planning, fund raising and construction, coordinated by a 15-member Board of Directors.

Mayor Gus Nicolopoulos and the City Council, along with elected officials at other levels of government, attended the dedication, which was led by Jean Gorostiague, President of the association.

The two-story building, with a distinctive architectural design, was completed earlier this month, just about one year after groundbreaking. It contains a "fronton" for the traditional Basque sport, "pilota," described as a combination of handball and jai lai, a public restaurant, banquet room with seating for 400, two large meeting rooms and office space. The project was financed entirely through the contributions and pledges of some 350 association members.—*San Mateo THE TIMES, Wednesday, April 14, 1982*



*Saturday, March 27, 1982*

## Inauguration and Opening to the Public

*From the original Inauguration program:*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1982**

- 1 :00 P.M. OPENING CEREMONIES**  
Introduction by Marcel Biscay  
Mayor of South San Francisco  
Mr. Gus Nicolopulos  
Consul General of France  
Mr. Gerard Errera  
Consul General of Spain  
Mr. Emilio de Motta  
Dignitaries of South San Francisco  
National Anthem and Flag Raising  
with the participation of the Klika  
Ribbon Cutting  
Mr. Jean Gorostiague, President  
Basque Cultural Center  
Planting of Oak Tree by  
Mr. Carlos Urrutia  
This tree is grown from an acorn  
taken from the original  
Tree of Guernica.
- 2:00 P.M. YOKO GARBI EXHIBITION (Court)**  
featuring players from France  
Zubieta, Apesteguy, Darmendrafl,  
Etchevers, Larramendy, Poulou
- 3:00 P.M. HANDBALL GAMES**  
Xavier Alzugaray, Auguste Lapeyrade  
VS. Jean Cordova, Pierre Uharriet
- 4:00 P.M. PALETA (Pelota Cuero)**  
Xavier Andueza, Francisco Berrueta  
VS. Felix Berrueta, Jean Uharriet  
Entertainment will be provided by  
the Zazpiak Bat Groups of the  
San Francisco Basque Club  
during intermissions.
- 6:00 P.M. DINNER**  
Performance by the Choir Elgarrekin  
under the direction of  
Jeanne Mazeris.  
**DANCE** until 1 p.m.  
Alain Erdozaincy Orchestra



*“Franxoa Bidaurreta in his “makilari” costume, slowly and solemnly raised both tri-colored American and Basque flags while the spectators sang both national anthems with great joy and pride. The atmosphere was so respectful, emotional and deep that tears rolled down many faces.”*  
—Anna Iriartborde

*“On the opening day I had 30 big guys helping me doing the final touches of the landscaping work. I remember doing all the work, finishing it, washing the whole parking lot and getting it neat just 30 minutes before the opening that day. ‘Despues de visto todo el mundo listo!’ which means ‘After you have seen it - everyone is smart!’ Well, almost!”* —Jose Mari Miura.

(Franxoa Bidaurreta and Jose Miura were in charge of the landscaping as the Center was being built.)



*Franxoa Bidaurreta (makilari), Pierre Lapeyrade, Robert Iriartborde, Daniel Iribarren, Maurice Negueloua, Johnny Curutchet, Jacques Unhassobiscay, Alphonse Archeritogaray, Alain Negueloua, Jean Baptiste Laramie, Pierre Labat, Andre Arduain, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., Begnat Goyhenetche, Arnaud Mendisco, Jean Paul Idiart, Jean Paul Mendisco, Guillaume Irola, Alain Erdozaincy. Not visible: John Barreneche, Sebastian Curutchet, Emile Goyhenetche, Jean Pierre Goyhenetche, Noel Goyhenetche, Michel Hardoy.*

*“The ‘Klika’s’ instruments resonated on the Inaugural Day. Dancers in great numbers (smaller than taller) marched in front followed by the ‘Elgarrekin’ singers, the ‘txistularis’ (flute players), and last the ‘Yoko Garbi’ pilota players who had come from the Basque Country. All the performers, in their respective colorful uniforms, circled the parking lot.”—Anna Iriartborde*



*Left: Marcel Biscay introduced the Mayor of South San Francisco, Gus Nicolopulos, and President Jean Gorostiague who then cut the red ribbon held by Evelyne Etcharren and Marc Unhassobiscay.*

*Right: Andre Larre and Pierre Etchebarne escorted Carlos Urrutia to the planting.*

*“The most moving moment of the event was certainly when Carlos Urrutia brought in his wheelbarrow a young oak tree that he made sprout from a seed cropped from the Gernika oak tree. He planted it at the left front corner of ‘Euskal Etxea’. Everyone sang the Basque national anthem ‘Gernikako Arbola.’” —Anna Iriartborde*







*Entertainment was provided by the Zazpiak Bat Groups. **Top Row:** Dominique Arotzarena, Patxi Aspiroz, Aline Urruty, Alain Urruty, Yvette Gorostiague, Denise Etcheverry, Josette Urruty, Carol Apesteguia, Isabelle Ocafrain, Nicole Ocafrain, Maite Aspiroz, Lynda Ocafrain, Christine Iriartborde, Isabelle Goyeneche. **Front Row:** Alain Erdozaincy (accordionist), Atoine Laxague, Daniel Unhassobiscay, Philippe Iribarren, unidentified, Evelyne Etcharren, Marc Unhassobiscay, Nicole Curutchet, Diane Ourtiague, Michelle Ondarts, Rosemarie Arriada, (Txistularis) Valerie Etcharren, Jacqueline Unhassobiscay, Yvette Goyenetche, Joel Urruty, Christian Iribarren, Mattin Zubieta.*



*There was a reception in the upstairs room for the dignitaries. They watched the Yoko Garbi Exhibition and Handball Game through the glass window. Immediately after the last game the court was set to serve 900 people a BBQ steak dinner.*



*Sunday, March 28, 1982*



*From the original Inauguration program:*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1982**

- 10:00 A.M. BASQUE MASS AND BLESSING OF THE CENTER**  
Father Jean Pierre Cachenaout  
Basque Priest  
Father Leonard Ferringo, S.M.,  
Pastor Eglise Notre Dames des Victoires
- 11 :30 A.M. HANDBALL GAME**  
Marcel Etcheverry, Henri Oyharcabal  
VS. Jean Michel Indaburu, Johnny Plaa
- 1:00 P.M. LUNCH**
- 2:30 P.M. AWARDS DRAWING (Raffle tickets)**
- 3:00 P.M. YOKO GARBI EXHIBITION**  
featuring players from France
- 4:00 P.M. PALETA (Pelota Goma)**  
Angel Arriada, Jose Irigoyen  
VS. Jean Goni, Pierre Irola  
The Groups from the San Francisco  
Basque Club will be performing  
during these events.
- DANCING will be provided by  
Jean Louis Curutchet and  
Alain and Maurice Negueloua.  
An exhibit of Basque objects will be on  
display during the two-day festivities,  
through the courtesy of  
Mrs. Malvina Oyharcabal and  
Mrs. Mayie Etcheverry.

The Basque Cultural Center expresses its gratitude to those who have contributed in making this dream a reality. We thank you for coming and hope you have enjoyed our Grand Opening Celebration.

**Mil Esker! Eskerrik Asko!**



*Top: The Klika, singers, txistularis and pilotaris all in uniform were ready and on time for Mass on Sunday, March 28. Aita Cachenaout offered Mass and Father Ferringo, the pastor of the Notre Dames des Victoires French church, concelebrated with him.*

*Bottom: Chef Gabriel Elicetche and Manager Anna Iriartborde consulting during an Opening Weekend 'challenge'! "Late that afternoon I went upstairs to the business office, and began to hear the voices of Leon Sorhondo and Gracian Goyhenetche. They were in charge of the money for the weekend and announced a grand receipt of \$43,000. Despite deep fatigue, this unforgettable weekend ended in total success!"  
—Anna Iriartborde*

## INAUGURATION WEEKEND - CLASS 1-A

The numerous activities of the Inauguration weekend went smoothly and with much praise from the officials of South San Francisco as well as Basque visitors from outlying areas. The organization of events, handled commendably by Pierre Etcharren and the Inauguration Day Committee was geared towards a large number of people and indeed there were with over 800 people on each day.

The City of South San Francisco expressed their enjoyment of the activities and appreciation of the Basque community numerous times. Mayor Gus Nicolopolus said the Cultural Center is a renaissance for South San Francisco and presented a plaque to Jean Gorostiague proclaiming Saturday, March 27, 1982 Basque Cultural Center Day in South San Francisco.

Several of the Council Members and City Officials observed the variations of handball for the first time. They watched the games efficiently organized by Jack Unhassobiscay and his committee - from the room overlooking the handball court in which a bar and elegant hors d'oeuvres had been arranged for their convenience. Several of the guests went downstairs during the games to observe the beautiful cultural display and buy ponetas.

The Basque Club dancers and klike were a colorful, well-organized thread throughout the Inaugural activities from the Flag raising, to the between game activities and at the beautiful Mass and Blessing of the Center. You didn't have to understand Basque to enjoy the enthusiasm of the Choir Elgarrekin. Several non-Basques went out humming "Atzo! Atzo! Atzo!"

There are numerous unsung heroes and heroines of the Inauguration weekend just as there have been since the groundbreaking.... - those who set up tables and chairs and took them down, and the Union Espanol, Notre Dames Church, and Fort Mason for donating them; Ganix and Anna Iriartborde for managing the Center during its most challenging times; Chef Gabriel Elicetche and crew for seeing that 1600 people were served hot food; the bartenders and musicians for keeping the members and guests happy; and the members and guests for helping the weekend to gross over \$40,000!

Thanks to all for the preparation and execution of an event to be proud of. A South San Francisco Building Inspector summed it up by saying, "The Basque Cultural Center was built Class 1-A and the Basque people are Class 1-A people to work with."

—Gure Euskal Etxea, April 1982



*Neke ondoren, poza!* ❀ After the hardships and sacrifice comes joy!

♣ BILTZEN ♣ BEROTZEN ♣ POZTEN

Warming up.



**EUSKUKU BEHATZAK ERE, EZ ZITUEN JAINKOAK BERDINAK EGIN**

God didn't make all the fingers of one hand all the same, either!



# MEMBERS' MEMORIES

## Grace Palmatier



*The BCC's oldest charter member is Grace Palmatier.*

Born September 19, 1908 Grace Martinto Palmatier is the Basque Cultural Center's oldest charter member. Grace never missed a BCC election lunch and has had many celebrations at the Center including her 60th and 65th Wedding Anniversaries in 1989 and 1994 with her husband Ted, her 95th Birthday celebration in 2003, and a small private dinner in 2008 as she turned 100 years old! Jean Leon

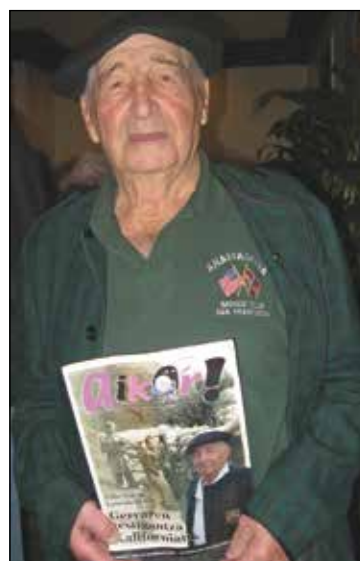
Ocafrain presented her with a bouquet of flowers from the Board of Directors and Idoya Salaburu Urruty played the accordion for her. Grace was born in San Pedro (near San Diego) but grew up on a ranch near Fresno where her sisters, Lydia Esain and Jeannette Etchegoin were born (now both deceased). Lydia's son is Victor Esain who chaired the NABO Mus.



*Ages 85 and over in 2006: Jean Baptiste Uhalde, Rita Etchepare, Jeannette Etchegoin, Felix Bilbao. Not pictured: Lilly Saldubehere.*



*Jeannette and William (Bill) Etchegoin are standing in front of the Basque Coat of Arms in the early eighties that Bill made for the lobby of the Basque Cultural Center.*



*Felix Bilbao was honored by the visiting Lehendakari of the BAC, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, on the 26th Anniversary of the BCC in 2008 (above). He was a 19-year-old in the Spanish Republican battalion at the time of the bombing of Guernika and remembered the fires created by the German bombs. "There was fire all over, and all night there was smoke," Bilbao said. Felix fought on the side of democracy and the ideals of the Basque government against Franco's troops during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) and is one of the last, if not THE last, surviving Basque soldier of the Guernika atrocities living in the United States.*



*Left: Three generations, left to right: Jean Baptiste Uhalde (referee), Jack Uhalde (1st Place) and his son, Robert Uhalde. Alain Urruty (far right) was Jack's 1st Place partner in the 2001 Pala Finals.*



*Right: Manesh and Lilly Saldubehere with Catherine Goyhenetche at the Member's Opening in 1982. Joe Castanchoa recalled, "One of my favorite memories was Sundays at the BCC where we would always see Manesh Saldubehere watching the pilota while his wife, Lilly, would read her newspaper in the car."*



*Ages 75 to 84 in 2006: Back Row: Charles Moustirats, Gratien Bidondo, Justo Jaimerena, Jean Pierre Sabarots, Dominique Etcheverry, Pierre Jaureguito, Leon Franchisteguy. Front Row: Grace Franchisteguy, Marie Louise Michelena, Grace Iribarren, Marie Simone Barreneche, Marie Jeanne Idiart. Not pictured: Pierre Begorre, Marie Elu, Jean Etcheverry, Fernande Hardoy, Laurent Hardoy, Anna Inda, Jean Pierre Irissarry, Michel Marticorena.*



**First Women Charter Members  
of the Basque Cultural Center**

**June 5, 1979**

Isabel Echaide

Anna Inda

Antoinette Oroz

**April 1980**

Anna Anchartechar

Anita Arduain

Maria Ariada

Maria Asuncion Ariada

Suzanne Arotzarena

Victoria Berrueta

Michelle Chiramberro

Marlene Cordova

Yvonne Cuburu

Josephine Curutchet

Mary Curutchet

Rose Marie Duhalde

Christine Elicagaray

Marie Josette Elicagaray

Marie Elu

Catherine Erdozaincy

Mary Jeanne Esarte

Denise Etcharren

Marianne Etcheverry

Grace Franchisteguy

Suzanne Elicetche

Yolanda Gorostiague

Angele Goyeneche

Marie Louise Goyhenetche

Jeanne Goyhenetche

Anna Harguindeguy

Victoria Idiart

Marie Jeanne Idiart

Elda Indart

Anna Iriartborde

Barbara Iriartborde

Gracie Iribarren

Jeanette Jaureguito

Etiennette Lapeyrade

Isabelle Laxague

Dolores Marticorena

Marie Marticorena

Marie Mendisco

Maria Miura

Suzanne Negueloua

Marie Ocafrain

Mayte Ocafrain

Julia Ondarts

Malvina Oyarcabal

Jeanne Saroberry

Catherine Tapia

Maureen Ugalde

Carol Uharriet

Dorothy Unhassobiscay

Anita Urruty

Yvette Urruty

Karla Ybarra

Nancy Zubiri



*Anna Inda (left) dancing with her nephew, Gracian Goyhenetche, at the 2007 Anniversary and Antoinette Oroz (right) dancing with her husband, Francisco, at the 2006 Anniversary are proud to be two of the BCC's three first women charter members on June 5, 1979.*



*Etiennette Lapeyrade (left) with her husband Auguste at the 2006 New Year's Eve gala and (right) Michelle Chiramberro, Vicki Idiart and Marlene Cordova at the 2006 24th Anniversary are among the first women charter members of the Basque Cultural Center in April 1980.*

**Dominique Etcheverry**

"I have a granddaughter, Chantal Etcheverry, who loves to be there (at the BCC). She learned Basque dances, txistu, and mus, too, thanks to Valerie Arrechea. We also love Francois Camou, the manager, with his beautiful smile. I enjoy coming to the BCC; I feel at home. I'm proud to have helped install the insulation in the restaurant's kitchen with my good friend, Romain Cherbero."

**Michel Marticorena**

"I helped to build BCC from day one. John Curutchet, Joe Castanchoa, Jacques Unhassobiscay and I removed cement from the canal. We were the first ones to start working. After my regular job I came to the BCC and called people to work. That was my responsibility....I also helped to establish credit through Sunset Produce Company for the BCC restaurant. I was a buyer for fruits and vegetables. For my accomplishment I received a plaque in 'Appreciation of Outstanding and Generous Service and Support' of the Basque Cultural Center."



*Jean Pierre Irissary said, "In 1981 I donated money to help build the Cultural Center. Since it was built it has been my favorite place to go. I enjoy everything about it, wonderful food, passing time with friends and playing mus. I love the atmosphere, and I'm happy to be a part of it."*





*Ages 70 to 74 in 2006: Back Row: John Elu, Jose Mari Miura, Jean Pierre Etcheber, Jean Berhan, Tony Espinal, Angel Arriada, Alphonse Acheritogaray. Second Row: Raymond Lahargou, Emile Goyhenetche, Bernard Cuburu, Henri Bonson, Jean Laxague, Felix Berrueta, Victoria Berrueta, Jeanne Bovigny. Third Row: Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche, Joseph Lespade, Mayie Etcheverry, Lucio Machin, Ferdinand Tapia, Pablo Perez, Michel Ospital, Jean Pierre Pagadoy, Jean Pierre Marticorena. Front Row: Theodore Ondarts, Marcelle Erdozaincy, Jesus Arriada, Monique Arambel, Jean Arambel, Anna Iriartborde, Etiennette Lapeyrade, Auguste Lapeyrade. Not pictured: Martin Chiramberro, Denise Ourtiague, Pierre Ourtiague.*

**Felix Berrueta**

Felix is not only proud that he’s been recognized for his years of service including being a part of the original Board, but that in 2000 his wife, Victoria, was recognized for her “Outstanding and Generous Service and Support” as well.

**Tony Espinal**

Proud to be a founding member, Tony recalls his favorite memories, “Playing pala when I was younger and now to see my granddaughter perform in the Basque dancing.”

**Mayie Etcheverry**

“It is hard to believe that it has been more than twenty-five years since Malvina (Oyarcabal) and I went to visit many Basque families and invite them to join the membership of the Basque Cultural Center. At the same time we organized a large garage sale on Geary Boulevard. By the response from the Basque Community you could feel the willingness to work together and to build and keep our Basque heritage alive. One of my best times was in April 1989. I organized a reunion for all the Baigorriars (who otherwise do not have a chance to see each other) to meet at the Basque Cultural Center. The Baigorriars enjoyed a beautiful evening at the BCC talking about the courage we had to leave our familiar surroundings and immigrate to America. The evening was spent talking about the life we chose to live and that of our families.”



*The Etxeko Andereak (“Ladies in Charge of the House”) of the Boarding Houses on Broadway in San Francisco (before the BCC was even an idea) were photographed together at Aita Jean Elicagaray’s farewell and Aita Tillous welcoming celebration on May 22, 1994. Pictured from left to right are Marie Elu\*\* of Elu’s Basque Restaurant, Juanita Etchevers of Hotel de France, Catherine Goyhenetche\*\* of the Obrero Hotel, Anna Iriartborde\*\* of Hotel des Alpes, and Amelie Sorhondo\*\* of the Pyrenees Hotel. (\*\*Became members of the Basque Cultural Center.)*



*Ages 65 to 69 in 2006: Back Row: Jean Gorostiague, Paul Castech, Bart Lahargoue, Auguste Indart, Pierre Labat, Joseph Castanchoa. Second Row: Jean Cordova, Louis Marticorena, Pierre Etcharren, Jean Baptiste Urruty, Sebastian Curutchet, Pierre Elicagaray, Andre Arduain, Jacques Chiramberro, Jean Baptiste Zubeldia. Front Row: Yolanda Gorostiague, Victoria Idiart, Jeanne Goybenetche, Marie Marticorena, Angele Goyeneche, Josephine Curutchet, Jeanne Mocho, Ann Riss. Not pictured: Maurice Bigue, Marianne Etcheverry, Joseph Jorajuria, Renee Ocafrain.*

**Bart Lahargoue**

“I was overjoyed with the building of the Center with a place to play handball, etc., because at the time we were playing in Burlingame at a school playground and in San Francisco on Broadway where we players raised the wall higher and stuccoed it ourselves. We were very young and full of ideas then. The activities I enjoyed the most were playing ball and getting together with my friends. I feel very proud when I look at my trophies, daily as I pass by them, which include: 1st place in Pala goma in 1982, 1987, and 1988 and 1st place in Mus in 1988 and 2nd place in Mus in 2003. I’m also proud that I did the landscape maintenance free for one year in 1982. I feel good to see the trees I planted are still there 25 years later!”



*Celebrating the 2007 25th Anniversary with the next generation. Left: Jean Gorostiague with daughters Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo (left) and Yvette Gorostiague Fatham (right). Center: Auguste and Elda Indart with granddaughter Alyssa Indart. Right: Jean Cordova (center) with daughter Danielle Cordova Camou and granddaughter Elisa Camou.*





*Ages 55 to 64 in 2006: Back Row: Gratien Alfaro, Jean Pierre Cabalette, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Gratien Etchebehere, Juan Jayo, Pedro Salaburu, Miguel Ybarra, Felix Istilart, Etienne Jorajuria. Second Row: Jean Curutchet, Marlene Cordova, Carmen Arrastio, Jose Arrastio, Graciano Echaide, Jean Sorhouet, Marie Jeanne Alfaro, Jean Pierre Alfaro, Leon Lucu, Bernadette Iribarren. Third Row : Jean Uharriet, Yvette Urruty, Suzanne Elicetche, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Jean Baptiste Moustirats, Javier Alzugaray, Gabriel Elicetche, Jean Goni, Jean Leon Cuburu, Gracian Goybenetche. Front Row: Alice Jorajuria, Mayte Ocafrain, Suzanne Arotzarena, Anna Marie Cuburu, Betty Alzugaray, Elda Indart, Suzanne Negueloua, Pierre Irola, Martin Falxa. Not pictured: Francisco Andueza, Marie Bigue, Marcel Elicagaray, Leon Sorhondo, Sabino Zubillaga.*

*Left: Susan Elicetche with her daughter Natalie at the 1984 Mardi Gras celebration.*



*Right: Jean Baptiste and Raymonde Moustirats are dancing at the BCC's Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia September 16, 2006. In 2008 the BCC Board sponsored a bone marrow registry drive in the name of their grandson, Jean-Sebastian, who was born with a rare immune deficiency syndrome. The love demonstrated in the large member turn out matched the love Jean Baptiste has shown in unhesitatingly directing the Elgarrekin Choir when Aita Tillous was no longer available and Raymonde's video taping nearly every Mass the Choir has sung.*







*Ages 46 to 54 in 2006: Back Row: Robert Alfaro, Begnat Goyhenetche, Alain Erdozaincy, Jean Paul Barthe. Front Row: Yvette Erdozaincy Etchepare, Marguerite Irola, Mary Curutchet, Marie Claire Etchebehere, Maria Arriada. Not pictured: Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray, Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo.*



*Jean Paul and Elizabeth Barthe at an early 80's Mardi Gras.*



*Mothers with sons in costume: Mary Curutchet with Tommy at the 1983 Mardi Gras celebration (left) and Maire Claire Etchebehere with Gratien at the 2002 NABO Convention in Orange Park, South San Francisco (right).*

*Begnat Goyhenetche with his daughter, Dominica, in the early 90's.*





*Ages 40 to 45 in 2006:*  
*Back Row: Robert Iriartborde, Roland Cherbero, Jack Uhalde, Allen Saroberry, Michael Espinal. Second Row: Frederic Larraburu, Chris Bonson, Christian Iribarren, Philippe Acheritogaray, Jean Louis Curutchet, Roger Bonson. Third Row: Ann Marie Goyhenetche Sullivan, Yvonne Arduain Goyhenetche, Gina Espinal, Bernadette Sallaberry Hurley. Not pictured: Noel Goyhenetche, Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerriins, Alain Negueloua.*



*Robert Iriartborde (left) and Christian Iribarren (right) are an important part of the BCC's technical support. Robert is the sound engineer for special events like Juan Mari Beltran (2003), Kepa Junkera (2010) and the 2002 NABO Convention at Orange Park. Christian does most of the sound tech and band tech support for all the BCC annual events and is pictured with his wife, Christie, at the 24th Anniversary in 2006.*

*Philippe Acheritogaray (far left) is also part of the BCC's tech support and helps out with the sound, audio/visual and info technology. Philippe created the cameo collages of all the BCC's Hall of Fame recipients in 2006 and 2008. He is pictured at the 26th anniversary with his son, Jean-Paul, BAC Lehendakari Juan Jose Ibarretxe, son Mathieu, wife Cathleen, and cousin Marina Acheritogaray.*







*Ages 35 to 39 in 2006: Back Row: Maurice Negueloua, Rene Caballero, Alain Urruty, Daniel Ourtiague, Dominique Arotzarena Jr. Second Row: Eric Oillarburu, Lucy Jaimerena Zamattia, Patricia Elicagaray Haffer, Michelle Ondarts Golden, Michelle Arduain Ourtiague, Susan Begorre Langlands, Alain Anchartechabar. Front Row: Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Lisa Negueloua Quigley, Yvette Gorostiague Fatham, Rosemary Goyeneche, Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde. Not pictured: Jean Luc Chiramberro, Elise Negueloua, Robert Acheritogaray.*



*Left: 1986 Mardi Gras Winners Yvonne Goyhenetche Wood (Snap), Yvette Saroberry DeGuero (Crackle) and Yvette Gorostiague Fatham (Pop!).*



*Center: Michelle Ondarts Golden is with her family at the 25th Anniversary in 2007. Her husband Al designed the cover for the 25th Anniversary program in memory of his father-in-law Ted Ondarts. He also did the cover design for this book. Daughters left to right: Mehrin, Anjalee, and Charlize.*



*Right: 1987 Mardi Gras 1st Place Winners Joel Urruty (Barney) , Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi (Wilma), Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde (Betty) and Emile Castanchoa (Fred) as the Flintstones with their Flintmobile.*





*Ages 30 to 34 in 2006: Back Row: Aitor Berrueta, Phillippe Garat, Alain Camou, Xabier Berrueta, Michael Indart, David Indart . Front Row: Evelyne Etcharren, Idoya Salaburu Urruty, Rosemary Arriada Keiper, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Marianne Arotzarena Martinon, Danielle Cordova Camou. Not pictured: Maitexa Cuburu, Philip Elicagaray, Jean Bernard Jorajuria.*

**Xabier Berrueta**

Two favorite memories were watching football on the big screen TV at the BCC, “The Sunday in October 1988 when Steve Young incredibly broke tackle after tackle against the Vikings to score the winning touchdown and watching Arnaud Duhart go bananas and the 1989 Super Bowl XXIII evening Ted Ondarts sang a “goodbye” song in Basque as it looked like the Niners were going down in defeat to the Cincinnati Bengals. Down 16-13, San Francisco got the ball on their own eight yard line and marched 92 yards down the field to score the winning touchdown on a Joe Montana pass to John Taylor with just 34 seconds left in the game. We jumped on tables in the banquet room like it was a Greek wedding!” (Jerry Rice was named the Super Bowl MVP. He caught 11 passes for a Super Bowl record 215 yards and one touchdown. In 2006 *NFL.com* ranked this game number 1 on its list of the top 10 Super Bowls of all time.)



*Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman (far right) became the BCC’s first woman President in June 2007. She is pictured with her brother, Xavier, parents Mayte and Jean Leon, and daughter, Amanda, at the 25th Anniversary celebration*



*Ages 20 to 29 in 2006: Back Row: Christophe Alfaro, Xabier Salaburu, Gratién Etchebehere Jr., David Alfaro, Mark Sorhouet. Center Row: Aimee Goyhenetche, John Falxa, Remi Cuburu, Xavier Ocafrain, Eric Irola. Front Row Sylvie Zubeldia, Gisele Irola, Nathalie Sorhouet, Arantxa Arriada, Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguiá, Bernadette Arriada, Christelle Alfaro. Not pictured: Olivia Bidaurreta, Michael Curutchet, Thomas Curutchet, James Goyhenetche, Joseph Goyhenetche, Jonathan Larraburu, Patrick Larraburu, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Jean Marc Sorhondo, Maidere Sorhondo.*



*Arantxa Arriada (left) is onstage with the Women's Club President Mary Curutchet at the 1990 Halloween Party and (right) facilitating the Mother's Day raffle with her mother, Maria in 2006.*



*Katrina Elicagaray Melander with her mother, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray at the 25th Anniversary in 2007.*



### Aimee Marie Goyhenetche

In her 2002 BEO winning essay Aimee wrote, "The Basque Cultural Center is only about one year older than I am, and I realize how we have grown together. ....Throughout my high school years I have learned that the Basque Cultural Center is not something that all cultures have. We, as a community, are able to come together under one roof to celebrate our lives as Basques. When I think about my home there are important things that come to mind: family, food, religion, and togetherness. That is why I think of the Basque Cultural Center as my second home ... At the Basque Cultural Center I am able to stay close with my family and friends ..... I have a vast amount of cousins, many of whom I would not see on a regular basis, but because of the Center I am able to keep in touch with them and know the family's current news. ... Through singing and dancing I can really see the love that we as Basques share .... I love to dance across the floor doing a fandango and other ancient dances and do the irrintzi knowing that what I am doing was done by my ancestors long ago.....The Basque Cultural Center has enriched my life because it helps me keep in touch with my family and traditions.....Most important of all, the Center helps me know who I am and let's me be proud of who I am - Basque."

Aimee credits her Tanta MaryAnn Scully Goyhenetche and her Amatxi Linda Beterbide Treece with practicing the irrintzina with her. She signed up for the Irintzi Contest at Reno's 26th annual Zazpiak Bat Basque Festival on August 21, 1993. Ten year old Aimee was the only youth to compete. After the first round of competition the applause for Aimee rivaled the best of Reno and Boise. Although she didn't place, a teacher from the University of Nevada donated \$25 honorable mention for Aimee to further encourage youth to participate in the cultural activities of their Basque heritage. And as the Master of Ceremonies commented, "If she's doing the Basque yell like this at ten years old imagine what she'll be doing at twenty years old!"

At the 1998 NABO Convention in Winnemucca, San Francisco took both first and second places in the Irintzi Contest. Aimee placed second to Andrea Goyhenetche. At the 40th Anniversary of the first Basque festival in the United States in Reno, Nevada in 1999 Aimee was a finalist with Reno's Yvonne Salaberry Granata, the irrintzi champion for several years including the Reno Contest when Aimee was ten years old. Aimee took first place at last!



*Inspired by the sounds of Kattalin Erdozaincy's irrintzi (above left Kattalin is singing at the BCC Opening in 1982), Aimee Goyhenetche (right) won first place in the Irintzi Contest at the 40th Anniversary of the first Basque festival in the United States in Reno, Nevada in 1999. Reno's Yvonne Salaberry Granada (far right) has been NABO irrintzi champion for many years.*



## Member Celebrations

*While surveyed members named Mother's or Father's Day, Christmas lunch or New Years Eve, the Anniversary weekends or Sunday lunches as their favorite event, all members look forward to the annual Tripota Jatea and some cited a specific treasured memory – a birthday, reunion, Reno-Tahoe bus trip, wedding or anniversary.*

### MEMBERS' FREE LUNCH ODOLKI JATEA AND SENIOR APPRECIATION *ESKER ONEZKO EGUNA*

The first Members' Free lunch coincided with Super Bowl Sunday, January 21, 1985. Manager, Martin Errecart rented a large screen television paid for by the Catering Board to cheer the 49ers on to their second Super Bowl title. San Francisco's Joe Montana was voted Super Bowl XIX MVP for the second of three career times.

While the yearly Member's Free lunches weren't as noteworthy in American history as the first one, they became politically correct. In 2005 to recognize the key ingredient of the Members' Free Lunch the name changed to Odolki Jatea, Blood Sausage Luncheon. Since 2003 a team of blood sausage' experts has made the odolki (blood sausage) from scratch for the annual members' free lunch under the direction of Isidore Camou (Manager Francois

Camou's father) who comes up from Chino for this special occasion. Louis Marticorena is also on the team of blood sausage experts. While managing the BCC, Louis was asked what the members' favorite restaurant meal was. He didn't hesitate with his answer, "Actually, it's the free lunch!"

In addition BCC Seniors look forward to Senior Appreciation Day when those 62 years of age and older are treated to a free lunch. The first one was November 19, 1988 and each year it coincides with the fall General Membership Meeting, annual blood drive and the Women's Club Raffle and Bake Sale. In 2005 Senior Appreciation Day took on a Basque title, Zahar-Gazte Bazkaria (Old-Young Lunch), which was changed to Esker Onezko Eguna in 2006 meaning A Day of Thanksgiving.



*It's not only the young who enjoyed the annual Christmas party! Pictured in 1983 left to right are Pierre Goyhenetche, BCC Director Jean Gorostiague, BCC President Joe Castanchoa, Santa Aita Cachenaute, Manesh Saldubehere and BCC Catering Board President Louis Elu.*



*January 15, 2006 "Gure Odolki Etxeko" (house blood sausage) team from left to right: Mario Segura, Carlos Hernandez, Alphonse Acheritogaray, BCC Chef Michel Veron, Louis Marticorena, Jean Acheritogaray, Luis Zelaya, Isidore Camou, Miguel Ramirez (BCC employee since the opening), BCC Manager Francois Camou.*



**1995 50th Birthday Celebration:**  
*(l-r) Martin Harriet, Yvette Urruty, Jean Leon Cuburu, Jeanne Mazeris, Pierre Uharriet, Pierre Irola, Gracian Echaide.*



**1995 60th Birthday Celebration:**  
*Back Row: (l-r) Jean Berhan, Anna Iriartborde, Gabriel Begorre, Mayie Etcheverry, Jesus Arriada, Isabelle Laxague, Denise Goyhenetche. Kneeling: (l-r) Leon Miguelarcaina, Sara Jorajuria, Antoine Aguerre, Emile Goyhenetche, Peyo Ourtiague, Auguste Lapeyrade.*

## “ZORIONAK ZURI” MEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Date	Those Born In	Coordinators
Dec 1983	1935 to 1936 (men only)	Jesus Arriada, Andre Arduain
Nov 1984	1935 to 1937	Andre Arduain, Sebastian Curutchet, Pierre Curutchet
Nov 1988	1938	Jeanne Saroberry, Jean Baptiste Urruty
Apr 1990	1935	Mayie Etcheverry, Anna Iriartborde
May 1990	1930	Frank Pedeflous
Nov 1990	1940	Maria Begorre, Auguste Indart
May 1992	1932	Suzie Arotzarena, Michelle Chiramberro, Lorraine Etcheverry
Apr 1993	1943	Michou Chiramberro, Jean Leon Ocafrain
Nov 1993	1933	Alphonse Acheritogaray
Feb 1994	1948 to 1950	Gracian Goyhenetche, Leon Sorhondo
Oct 1994	1934	Marie Claire Etcheverry, Vicki Idiart
Nov 1994	1944	Jean Pierre Cabalette, Marlene Cordova, Etienne Jorajuria
Apr 1995	1935	Mayie Etcheverry, Anna Iriartborde
May 1996	1936, 1946	Alice Jorajuria, Mayte Ocafrain
Mar 1997	1927, 1932	Michou Chiramberro, Leon Franchisteguy
May 1998	1938, 1943	Jean Leon Ocafrain, Jean Baptiste Urruty
May 1998	1928, 1933	Alphonse Acheritogaray, Dominique Hauscarriague
Sep 1999	1928, 1934	Marie Claire Etcheverry, Odette Etcheverry, Vickie Idiart
Oct 1999	1928, 1933	Alphonse Acheritogaray, Dominique Hauscarriague
Oct 1999	1949	Gracian Goyhenetche, Leon Sorhondo
May 2000	1935, 1940	Marie Josefa Begoni, Anna Iriartborde
May 2000	1924 to 1926	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau
May 2000	1950	Betty Alzugaray, Yvonne Cuburu
Sep 2000	1930 to 1931	Dominique Etcheverry, Pierre Jaureguito
Mar 2001	1936	Anita Arduain
May 2001	1925 to 1927	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau
Jun 2001	1951	Suzanne Elicetche
Mar 2002	1927, 1932	Michou Chiramberro, Leon Franchisteguy
May 2002	1924 to 1927	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau
Nov 2002	1942	Marie Claire Etchebehere, Marie Sorhouet
May 2003	1924 to 1927	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau
May 2003	1928, 1933	Alphonse Acheritogaray, Michel Marticorena
Jun 2003	1938, 1943	Jean Leon Ocafrain, Jean Baptiste Urruty
Oct 2003	1953	Maria Arriada
May 2004	1935, 1940	Jean Pierre Cabalette, Henri Ocafrain
Aug 2004	1929, 1934	Marie Claire Etcheverry
May 2005	1924 to 1927	Pierre Ausquy
May 2005	1935, 1940, 1945	Maria Begorre, Anna Iriartborde,, Yvette Urruty
May 2006	1924 to 1927	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau
Aug 2006	1936, 1941, 1946	Andre Arduain, Alice Jorajuria,, Mayte Ocafrain
May 2007	1924 to 1930	Pierre Ausquy, Jean Belleau, Leon Franchisteguy
Jul 2007	1937, 1942, 1947	Kayet Sorhouet, Gratien Etchebehere



## RENO-TAHOE BUS TRIP

The popularity of this member event is evidenced not only by it being held every year, but by some of the members who went in 1984 were still participating in 2006!

1984



*Left to right: Jean Baptiste Etcheverry, Marie Jeanne and Arnaud Idiart.*



*Left to right: Dominique and Susanne Arotzarena, Jean Pierre Negueloua and Bernard Pebet.*

1984 and 2006



*Leon and Grace Franchisteguy.*



*Marianne Pebet and Susan Negueloua.*

## CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

In 2006 Charles Moustirats said, “The most enjoyable events for me are the many weddings I have attended. In addition, my daughter, Isabelle, met her husband, Felix Echeverria, at the grand opening of the Center in 1982. They had their wedding reception there in 1988.” Pierre and Maria Begorre’s favorite celebration was their daughter’s wedding and grandson’s baptism. Denise Ourtiague is proud that three of her four children had their wedding reception at the Center and “my two sons got married within one month! Christian married Aine Laundry on July 18, 1992 and Daniel married Michelle Arduain on August 29, 1992!” Denise’s two daughters were married one month apart as well although Diane celebrated her marriage to Patrick Arduain in the Basque Country (Osses) on August 4, 2001. Evelyne married Edgardo Young on September 8, 2001, and her reception was at the BCC like her brothers.

Monet and Roger Bonson are very proud to be the BCC’s 1st wedding reception in June 1982. They are very grateful to managers Ganix and Ana Iriartborde for all their hard work that still merits compliments from wedding guests more than 25 years later! Roger recalled, “My father, Henri, brother Chris and I helped with the construction and landscaping of the Center. My three sons Tyler, Travis and Derek and I were in the kliko for many years.” Monet added, “It has been so incredible being a part of such an amazing Basque community. I am grateful for marrying into such a rich and proud culture and that our boys have their Basque heritage. My favorite memories are, of course, our wedding, the New Years parties, Mother’s Day lunches, and whatever the event, the GREAT food!”



*Monet and Roger Bonson enjoy their first dance in June 1982 (right) and are with their three sons, Tyler, Travis and Derek at the April 2006 Palm Sunday luncheon (above).*





Nancy Zubiri said, “A year after it was inaugurated, in 1983, my mother Clara decided the Center was the perfect place to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. It was a great party. My mother joked that it was the only time she got my dad to dance with her, except for the night they met. My father passed away a couple of years later..... I have always been proud to take people I know, Basque or non-Basque, to enjoy the restaurant and the Center. I always show them my name and the name of my father, Jean Baptiste Zubiri, on the plaque of the original founders. That was my father’s doing, and I will always be grateful. My father wasn’t a real outgoing guy, and besides Sunday dinners at the Sorhondo’s Pyrenees boardinghouse and the annual Basque picnic, we didn’t do many Basque things. It wasn’t until I got into the dance group as a teenager and pleaded to have my parents take me to many Basque events, that we really became involved. But when the project for the Basque center started, my father got fired up. He was retired and didn’t drive, but managed to get rides down there to watch it go up. He thought it was important enough to contribute to, and contributed money in my name, too.”

Susan Begorre Langlands said, “My parents purchased a membership for me for my 21st birthday. At the time I did not really see the value in it but I thought, ‘Whatever makes them happy.’ Over the years, I have used my membership to become more involved in the Basque community. When I was dating my husband, it was a wonderful way to introduce him to the Basque world, which he has since embraced wholeheartedly. We had our wedding reception at the Cultural Center on May 4, 1991.”

In August 2006 Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerrins summed up, “How fortunate we are to have the Basque Cultural Center. We have gathered together with family and friends in this wonderful place for the most important milestones of our life. Whether they be happy occasions like our wedding and the baptisms of our three children, or sad ones such as the passing of our beloved Aita; the center is like a second home, because it offers comfort and familiarity.....The bond among our culture is one that cannot be broken. Basques help and support each other through good times and bad.”



*Left: Clara and Jean Baptiste Zubiri celebrated their 25th Anniversary at the BCC in 1983. Right: In 1988 Ted and Grace Palmatier were honored as the longest married couple during the Center’s 6th Anniversary celebration which coincided with World Marriage Day—a day to focus on the value of marriage and the love and commitment it represents. Ted and Grace celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on January 26, 1989 at the BCC (pictured above) and their 65th Anniversary in 1994.*



*Left: Richard and Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerrins on their wedding day in 1994 with Manager Louis Marticorena. Above: Lucy is with her mother, Marie Prudencia Sallaberry in 2002 at the Baptism of twin sons Casey Bernard and Matthew Redmond Mulkerrins born on September 1, 2001.*



*On May 19, 2006 Jean Pierre and Monique Sabarots celebrated their 50th Wedding.*



*In August 2000 Gracian and Nadine Goyhenetche celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the Center and are pictured with their four children Joseph, James, Jerome and Aimee Marie. Joseph had his wedding reception at the Center on October 21, 2007 when he married Stacy Keeney.*

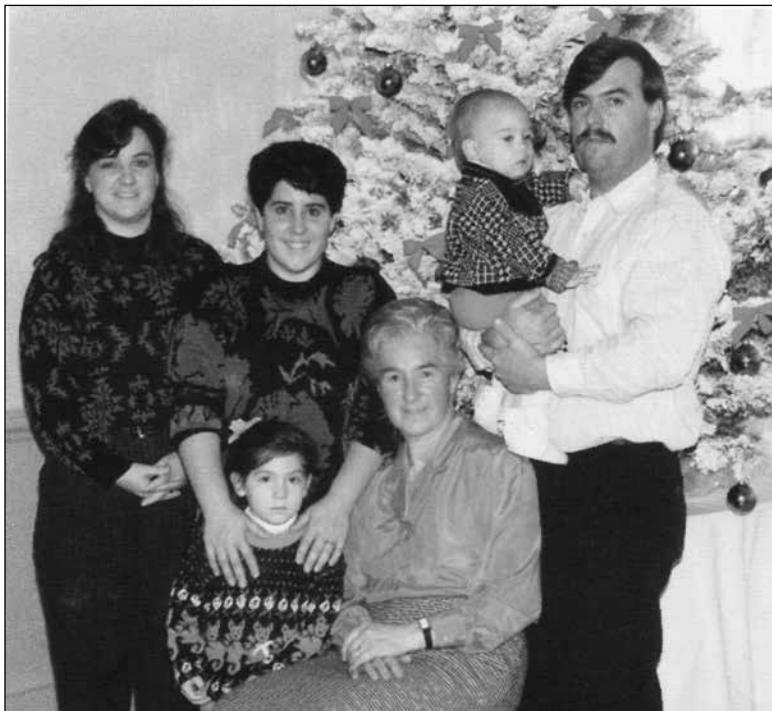


## *Member Generations*

### CHRISTMAS FAMILY PORTRAITS



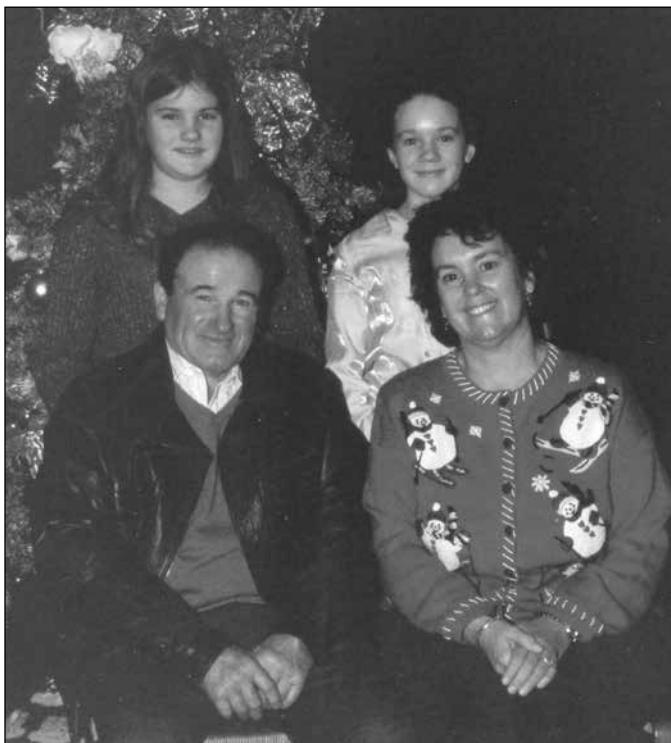
*1991: Back Row: Catherine Souvercaze, Arlette Erdozaincy, Alain Erdozaincy, Stephanie Etcheverria, Judy Etcheverria, Celeste Etchepare, Linda Etcheverria, Yvette Etchepare, Bob Etchepare, Rita Etchepare. Front Row: Dominique Erdozaincy, Lisa Etchepare, Annette Erdozaincy, Matthew Etchepare, Katie Etcheverria, Katrina Elicagaray, Marcelle Erdozaincy, Dominique Erdozaincy.*



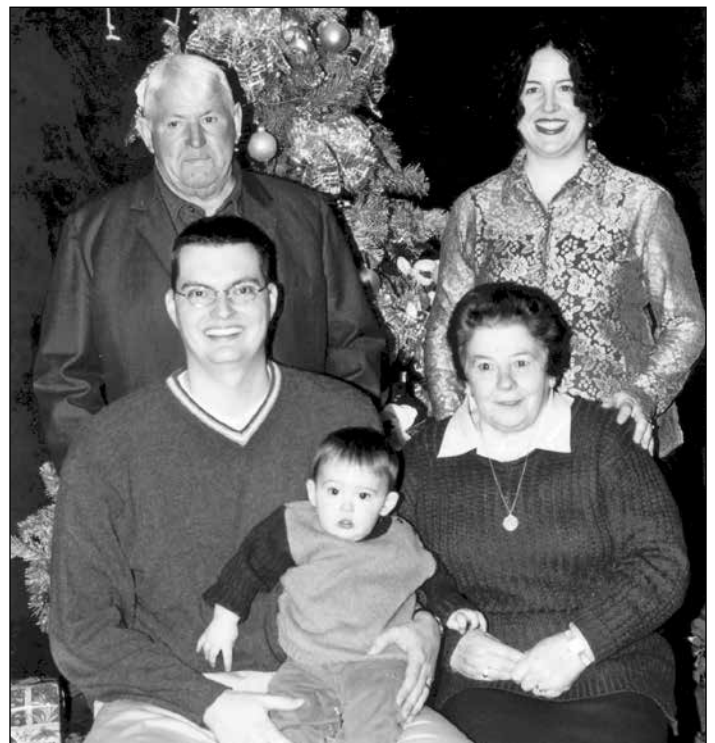
*1991: Christine Michelena Kemp (married Chris Bonson in 1994), Julie Michelena with hands on daughter, Stephanie, Marie Louise Michelena (sitting), Jean Michel Michelena holding son, Jean Michel.*



2001: Standing: Christine Jorajuria Di Lorenzo, Sergio Di Lorenzo. Sitting: Alice Jorajuria, Jacqueline Di Lorenzo, Etienne Jorajuria.



2001: Standing: Ann Marie Chiramberro, Stephanie Chiramberro. Sitting: Jacques Chiramberro, Christiane Chiramberro.



2001: Standing: Angel Arriada, Rosemary Arriada Keiper. Sitting: Daryl Keiper, Ryan Keiper (the baby) and Carmen Arriada.



## FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCES 1987 AND 2006



*Jean Leon and Isabelle Ocafrain attended the Father-Daughter Dance in 1987 (left) and in 2006 (right). In 2006 Isabelle's husband Jeff Bushman was there with their daughters Amanda and Megan Bushman.*



*Emile Goyhenetche with daughter-in-laws Yvonne Arduain Goyhenetche and Ann Marie Ithurburn Goyhenetche and daughter Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra at the 1987 Father-Daughter Dance.*



*Jean Pierre and Lisa Negueloua at the 1987 Father-Daughter Dance.*



*Manez Saldubehere with daughters, Ann Saldubehere and Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry.*



*Left: Francisco Oroz with daughters Stephanie Oroz and Natalie Oroz Barreneche in 2006.*

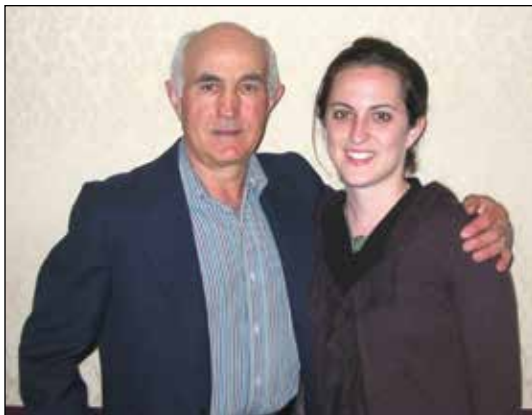


*Right: Jean Pierre Cabalette with daughter Nicole Marie Cabalette in 2006.*

*Left: Tony Espinal with daughters Gina Espinal and Marisa Espinal and granddaughter Danielle Espinal in 2006.*



*Right: Joseph Jorajuria with daughters Marianne Jorajuria and Alice Jorajuria Chetcuti in 2006.*



*Pedro Salaburu and daughter Idoya Salaburu Urruty (left) and husband Alain Urruty with their daughter Naia Urruty (right) at the 2006 Father-Daughter Dance.*



## AITATXI AND AMATXI EGUNA (GRANDPARENTS DAY)



*Amatxi Marie Begorre with (left to right) Victoria, twins Nicholas and Patrick, and Lain Langlands.*

**1ST AITATXI & AMATXI EGUNA**  
**WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN**  
**OCTOBER 6, 2006**  
**6:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M. COCKTAILS &**  
**PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH BARTHE ❖❖❖**



**❖❖❖ FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK**  
 What a great opportunity to have the 2007 25th Anniversary Book capture the earliest members in photos with their grandchildren, the legacy of our Basque Cultural Center.

**HAVE FUN WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND WIN PRIZES**  
 Hula Hoop and Dance Contests and more including....  
**❖❖❖ THE MOST PHOTO MATCHES OF**  
**GRANDPARENTS TO GRANDCHILDREN ❖❖❖**

As part of this special day, photographs of the grandparents when they were very young as well as photos of their grandchildren (also very young) will be displayed.  
 Send them by **September 1st** to  
 Yvonne Cuburu 2300 Valleywood Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066 or Anita (see below)

Dancing from 8p.m. to Midnight to the DJ Music of Rene Albarado  
 (who provided music for our Father Daughter Dance)

**\$25 Adults      \$7 Children under 12**  
 Prepaid reservations by Anita Arduain by September 30, 2006  
 226 Bryce Avenue, South San Francisco, CA 94080  
 (650) 583-7018 or [rsvp@basqueculturalcenter.com](mailto:rsvp@basqueculturalcenter.com)  
 Make checks payable to the Basque Cultural Center.



*Amatxi Anna Iriartborde with Jean and Renee Iriartborde.*



*Amatxi Denise Etcharren with Joana, Peio, and Gexan Arrechea.*

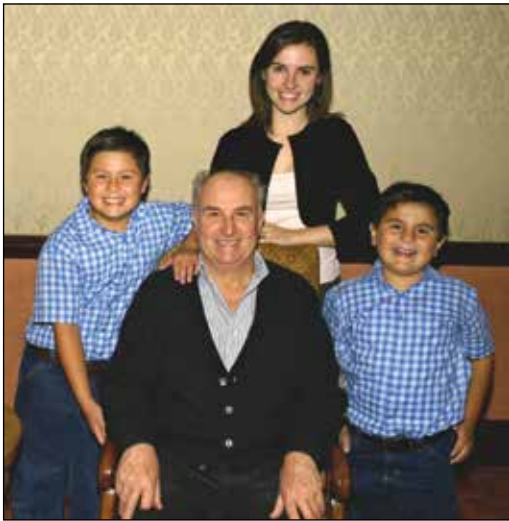


*Amatxi Susanne Arotzorena with Benet Martinon and Jordan Arotzorea.*

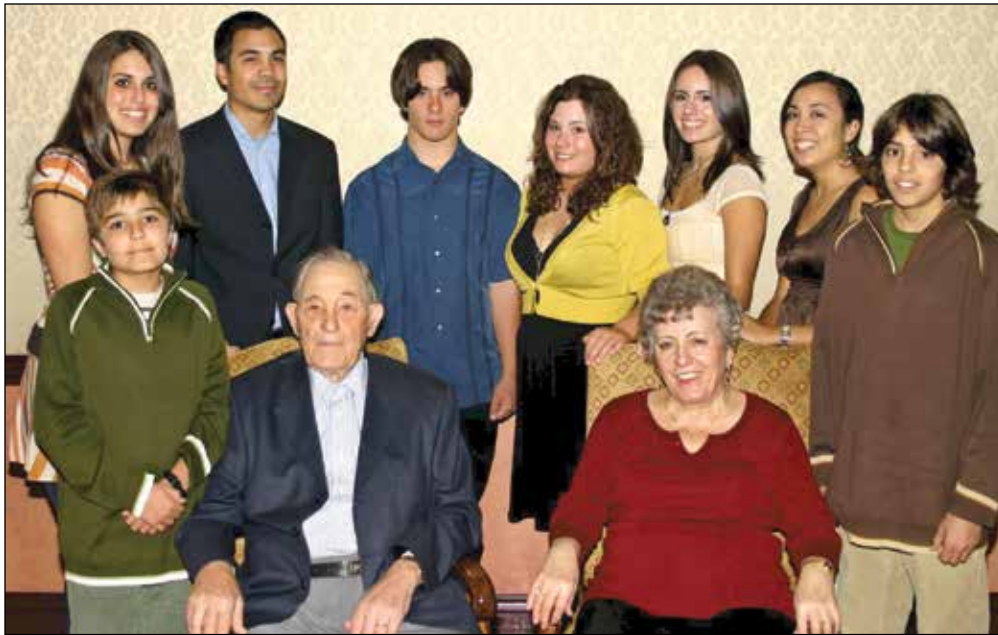


*Amatxi Angele Goyeneche with Cedric and Chloe Dubalde.*

*Left: Aitatxi Tony Espinal with (left to right) Michael, Danielle, and Marco Espinal.*



*Right: Aitatxi Pierre Ourtiague and Amatxi Denise Ourtiague with (left to right) Nicole and Joelle Ourtiague and Katrina Young.*



*Aitatxi Jean Baptiste Uhalde and Amatxi Gracianne Uhalde with (left to right) Mathew, Paul, Michelle, Steven, Gina, Justine Woodland; Joselyn and Robert Uhalde.*



*Standing: Aitatxi Jean Baptiste Urruty and Amatxi Yvette Urruty.  
Sitting: Aitatxi Pedro Salburu with Naia Urruty and Amatxi Carmen Salburu with Iban Urruty.*



*Aitatxi Andre Arduain and Amatxi Anita Arduain with (left to right) Nicole Ourtiague, Andrew Goyhenetche, Allyssa Goyhenetche, Joelle Ourtiague and Alexander Goyhenetche.*



# MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING

*Behar Dugu Zure Lagutza* ❀ We need your help!

*Many Different Roles with the Same Purpose  
Making the Basque Cultural Center a Welcoming Place for Everyone*



*Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu and Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo (left) held different "rolls" at the Opening in 1982 than Aimee Goyhenetche and Michelle Woodland (right) at the 25th Anniversary in 2007 – but with the same purpose of making the BCC a welcoming place for all its guests !*

The BCC membership has generously donated time and talents throughout the first quarter century. Joe Castanchoa said, "When I think about those early days (early 80s) I cannot help but remember Joe Biscar who deserves a special award for his contribution to the BCC. He worked long hours and slept on the premises to keep it safe from burglary. He opened the gates in the morning for deliveries, worked long hours in the kitchen helping to cook, cleaned the banquet room before the Sunday lunch. I remember arriving there at 9 a.m. on Sundays and Joe would always have a punch list of items to be repaired." On Father's Day 1985, Florence Castanchoa ended the meal with a toast to Joe Biscar (Ttotte) in a poem honoring him as "Aita of the Center" which he loved so well.

Members donated raffle prizes or bought a minimum of \$20 in raffle tickets to win them – many did BOTH. The Women's Club held raffles to benefit the Scholarship Fund for college students. In 1994 Betty Alzugaray arranged all the donations into gourmet Easter Baskets. Lunch or dinner for two were the courtesy of: Andre and Anita Arduain, Arnaud Etcheto for The Garden Club in South San Francisco, Jean Baptiste and Rose Larrateguy for La Cote Basque in Millbrae, Jean Baptiste Lorda for La Fringale in San Francisco, Roger Minhondo for the Guernica in Sausalito, and Francisco and Antoinette Oroz for Le Chalet Basque in San Rafael. Other items which filled the gourmet baskets were the courtesy of Marlene Cordova, Odette Etcheverry, Chris Hildebrandt, Vickie Idiart, Etienne and Alice Jorajuria, Henri Lapuyade, and Louie and Mayie Marticorena.

Many members have been "Ambassadors of Hospitality" at BCC functions and in hosting out-of-town visitors. At times they were acknowledged in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter like in 1984, "Jacques Unhassobiscay, Martin

Minaberry, Felix Berrueta, Pierre Etcharren and Jean Leon Ocafrain accommodated pilota players from Mexico. Jacques and Martin welcomed them at the airport, brought them to the BCC for lunch and then to their hotel in downtown San Francisco. Pierre Etcharren provided use of his van for their sojourn in the Bay Area. Felix Berrueta took time off work to chauffeur them around. He took the Mendiburu brothers to the airport for their midnight flight home, and he returned again Monday morning with Martin Minaberry to chauffeur the remaining members of the delegation to the airport."

At the Center members spontaneously pitch in without being asked. Joe Castanchoa, BCC President in the early 80's said, "The first celebrations were the most difficult, but we learned from them how to lay out the distance of tables and chairs for quick set-up and building plastic roofing to keep the barbecue dry because it always seemed to rain."

From 25 years of practice, the BCC volunteers are an amazing, streamlined organization. FEVA's President, Mari Luz Arteche, said, "The army of ants which just does things so instinctively is amazing," referring to the volunteers who set up, served the guests, and cleared up the kantxa during the 2007 Anniversary weekend. Following the Saturday pilota games members swarm in the kantxa to put up rows of tables and set them for hundreds of people for dinner. Then they clear the tables, take them down and set up for Sunday Mass. After Sunday Mass, they once again, set rows of tables, serve, and clean up all over again! These ambassadors represent the membership to visiting delegates and guests. Their generosity of time and welcoming manner causes the visitors to return to their homes with a positive image of our Center and its members. Moreover, they give a positive image of our country when the guests are international!

*“The ‘army of ants’ which just does things so instinctively is amazing!”*

*—Mari Luz Arteche, president of FEVA*



*Setting up the Kantxa for the 2007 25th Anniversary.*



*25th Anniversary servers: Left: Angel Goyeneche, Ophelia Chamalbide-Torpey, Marie Marticorena, Mayie Sorhouet. Right: Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray (collecting tickets) Josephine Curutchet, Betty Alzugaray, Carmen Salaburu, Anna Marie Cuburu, Maria Arriada, Victoria Berrueta, Mary Curutchet.*



*More 25th Anniversary volunteers: Standing: Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Anita Arduain. Sitting: Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray, Suzanne Elicetche, Elda Indart.*



*While the women serve the guests on all the Anniversary and Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia weekends, volunteer men are outside barbecuing like in 1988 above (before the enclosure was built protecting them from the weather!): Raymond Lahargou, Pierre Iriartborde, Pierre Ausquy, Jean Pierre Etcheber, Leon Franchisteguy.*



## Udaleku Cultural Camp Hosts

Cathleen and Philippe Acheritogaray  
 Germaine and Robert Alfaro  
 Betty and Javier Alzugaray  
 Monique and Jean Arambel  
 Anita and Andre Arduain  
 Valerie and Daniel Arrechea  
 Rosa Marie Arubarena  
 Victoria and Felix Berrueta  
 Esther and Franxoa Bidaurreta  
 Mayie and Maurice Bigue  
 Isabelle Bushman  
 Lisa and Francois Camou  
 Caroline and Jean Luc Chiramberro  
 Chris and Jacques Chiramberro  
 Jean Leon and Yvonne Cuburu  
 Johnny and Mary Curutchet  
 Josephine and Sebastian Curutchet  
 Margaret Curutchet  
 Aline and Philip Elicagaray  
 Gabriel and Sue Elicetche  
 Arlette and Alain Erdozaincy  
 Marcelle Erdozaincy  
 Rose and Noel Erdozaincy  
 Gina Espinal  
 Tony Espinal  
 Pierre and Denise Etcharren  
 Bob and Yvette Etchepare  
 Rita Etchepare  
 Marie Claire and Dominique Etcheverry  
 John Falxa  
 Monique and Martin Falxa  
 Bernard Goyhenetche  
 Emile and Andrea Goyhenetche  
 Gracian and Nadine Goyhenetche  
 Yvonne and Noel Goyhenetche  
 Martin and Maria Huarte  
 Bernadette and Joe Hurley  
 Miguel and Karla Ibarra  
 Frances and Pierre Iturburua  
 Etienne and Alice Jorajuria  
 Sara and Joseph Jorajuria  
 Elizabeth and Terje Kvarna  
 Rose and Fred Larraburu  
 Isabelle and Jean Laxague  
 Denise Miral  
 Susan Negueloua  
 Maurice Negueloua  
 Mayte and Jean Leon Ocafrain  
 Mayie Ocafrain  
 Henri and Mayie Ocafrain  
 Michelle and Dan Ourtiague  
 Linda and Joe Pebet  
 Carmen and Pedro Salaburu  
 Rosa and Juan San Mames  
 Mayie and Kayet Sorhouet  
 Nathalie Sorhouet  
 Mark Sorhouet  
 Aita Martxel Tillous  
 Yvette and Jean Baptiste Urruty  
 Carol and Pierre Uharriet

## UDALEKU CULTURAL CAMP HOSTS

Acknowledged in *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletters in 1995, 2003 and 2007



*Udaleku hosts Franxoa and Esther Anchustegui Bidaurreta enjoying the 2001 New Year's Eve gala.*



*Udaleku hosts Arlette and Alain Erdozaincy at the 2006 New Year's Eve gala.*



*Udaleku hosts Jean Baptiste and Yvette Urruty at the 2006 New Year's Eve gala.*



*Udaleku hosts Yvette and Bob Etchecopar at the 2006 24th Anniversary.*



*Left: Udaleku hosts Marie and Maurice Bigue dancing at the 2006 24th Anniversary. Right: Udaleku hosts, Mayie and Kayet Sorhouet dancing at the 2006 24th Anniversary. Mayie (in 1997) and Kayet (in 2003) received a plaque from the Board of Directors acknowledging their outstanding contribution to the BCC in numerous hours of service.*

## 2002 NABO CONVENTION

In 2002, Charles Elliott said, "I enjoyed working on the recent NABO convention at Orange Park in South San Francisco..... I recall some of the heated discussions in the cafeteria at NDV School about forming a Basque Cultural Center and am glad that I spoke in favor of it. I remember helping to set up booths at Fort Mason for the NABO convention in August 1979, and it was then that I pledged \$1000 towards the new Basque Cultural Center.... I recall doing some grunt work during the early construction of the Center and trying to play racquet ball with the experts. I recall the first New Year's Eve party when the electrical transformer across the street exploded and the power went off and we continued to dance and drink! ...It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see my name on the brass Founders plaque."



*These are the BCC member volunteers who got to the Orange Park fairgrounds bright and early in 2002 to set up the booths for the only NABO Convention hosted by the BCC in its first twenty-five years. On the truck: Jean Baptiste Urruty, Katrina Elicagaray, Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia, Idoya Salaburu Urruty, Francois Camou. Middle Row: Florence Castanchoa, Anita Arduain, Betty Alzugaray, Anna Iriartborde, Jose Mari Miura, Michel Marticorena, Joe Castanchoa, Jean Gorostiague, Gratién Etchebehere, Jean Berhan, Pedro Salaburu, Alain Urruty. Front Row: Charles 'Chuck' Elliott, Etienne Jorajuria, Anastasio Apezteguia, Noel Goyhenetche, Louis Marticorena.*



**2006 Ikaspilota Camp Volunteers**

Frederic Alfaro  
 Linda Alfaro  
 Micheline Alfaro  
 Karen Anchartechar  
 Anita Arduain  
 Aitor Berrueta  
 Felix and Victoria Berrueta  
 Xabier Berrueta  
 Francois and Lisa Camou  
 Caroline Chiramberro  
 Jean Michel Duhalde  
 Isabelle Duhalde  
 Danielle Espina  
 Evelyne Etcharren  
 John Falxa  
 Rosemary Goyheneche  
 Yvonne Goyhenetche  
 Elizabeth Kvarna  
 Xavier Ocafrain  
 Nathalie Oroz  
 Jose Zalba



*Above: Ikaspilota Camp Volunteers Victoria Berrueta and her son, Aitor, at the 25th Anniversary in 2007.*

*Left: Ikaspilota Camp Volunteers Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde and Jean Michel Duhalde at the 24th Anniversary in 2006.*



**2007 World Pilota Council's First Pilota Championship Volunteers**

Mike Aguerre  
 Brett Anchartechar  
 Eric Anchartechar  
 Anita Arduain  
 Gexan Arrechea  
 Joana Arrechea  
 Valerie Arrechea  
 Arantxa Arriada  
 Martin Bachoc  
 David Barreneche  
 Nathalie Barreneche  
 Steve Barreneche  
 Aitor Berrueta  
 Felix Berrueta  
 Xabier Berrueta  
 Esther Bidaurreta  
 Franxoa Bidaurreta  
 Amanda Bushman  
 Isabelle Bushman  
 Megan Bushman  
 Alain Camou  
 Daniel Camou  
 Juliette Camou  
 Chris Chamalbide  
 Caroline Chiramberro  
 Maitexa Cuburu  
 Chloe Duhalde  
 Cedric Duhalde  
 Aline Elicagaray  
 Philip Elicagaray  
 Gina Espinal  
 Tony Espinal  
 Pierre Etcharren  
 Gratien Etchebehere  
 Evelyne Etcharren  
 Jean Gorostiague  
 Rosemary Goyeneche  
 Alex Goyhenetche  
 Alyssa Goyhenetche  
 Andrew Goyhenetche  
 Nicole Hauscarriague  
 Bernadette Hurley  
 Julia Hurley  
 David Indart  
 Jesse Kvarna  
 Liz Kvarna  
 Mayte Kvarna  
 Vincent Kvarna  
 Antoine Laxague  
 Marianne Martinon  
 Josh Melander  
 Katrina Melander  
 Daniel Mindeguia  
 Yvette Mindeguia  
 Jean Leon Ocafrain  
 Mayte Ocafrain  
 Xavier Ocafrain  
 Antoinette Oroz  
 Stephanie Oroz  
 Pedro Salaburu  
 Martxel Tillous  
 Idoya Urruty  
 Francisco Vicondoa  
 Angelina Zamattia



*Above: World Pilota Championship Volunteers Gina Espinal and Mike Aguerre at the 24th Anniversary in 2006.*

*Left: World Pilota Championship Volunteers Nathalie Oroz Barreneche and David Barreneche at the 2006 New Year's Eve gala.*



## VOLUNTEERING TO GET MEMBERS TOGETHER TO ENJOY ONE ANOTHER— NOT NECESSARILY IN TRADITIONAL BASQUE ACTIVITIES

Robert Iriartborde was a part of the BCC's 1st (and only) soccer team that came into existence through the efforts of Tony Vrondisis who was a sous chef during the 1980s at the Center. The team was made up of BCC employees and other friends. Their opponents were students and teachers from the California Culinary Academy where Tony attended as a student. Unfortunately, the team disbanded after a few games due to conflicting schedules, but there were great barbecues following the soccer matches with all the culinary academy expertise!

Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo's first BCC role was as an aerobic instructor in 1983 on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings with approximately 15 ladies of all ages and sizes coming regularly to exercise. Her sense of humor made her classes fun –if exercise can be considered fun! As Nicole's aerobic classes gave her the nick name of the "Jane Fonda of the Cultural Center", husband, Leon, helped maintain "beautiful Basque bodies" with member bike rides from 1994 to 1996 (including two 25 mile "Tour de San Francisco" rides) and wilderness hikes. In 2009 he brought back the popular bike riding with a 25 mile San Francisco ride and a 35 mile Marin County trek.

April 10, 1988 Yvette Saroberry gathered mothers and sons for a morning of bowling at the Brentwood Bowl on El Camino and lunch at the Basque Cultural Center.

Although Golf isn't an official Basque tradition, there were many Basques who wanted to make it one as indicated in the Board of Director's Activity Survey! The first annual Basque Cultural Center Golf Tournament organized by Jean Cordova, Jean Pierre Espil and Tony Laxague took place at Harding Park, Lake Merced on October 20, 1998; \$85 included the green fees, cart and dinner. Jean and Jean Pierre coordinated the Golf Tournaments through 2000. On September 29, 2001 Alain Camou organized the 4th annual Golf Tournament and has continued to do so through BCC's 10th Golf Invitational on September 29, 2007 with help from Aitor Berrueta. April 19-21, 2002 was the first annual Golf Weekend Get-Away which Eric Oillarburu has organized annually in Gardnerville since then.

The Activity Survey also inspired a \$55 per person Half Moon Bay Fishing Trip in May 1998 and 1999 which was coordinated by Etienne Jorajuria and Jean Leon Ocafrain.

In 2005 Evelyne Etcharren gathered a Knitting Group for the first time. On Sunday mornings they worked on Christmas stockings and ornaments. Expert volunteer teachers included Marie Simone Barrenetche, Victoria Berrueta, Vickie Idiart, Isabelle Laxague and Mayte Ocafrain. In 2006 the women knitted chemo caps for children, teens and adults with cancer and donated them on behalf of the Basque Cultural Center.



*Nicole and Leon Sorhondo with daughter, Marielle, at the 2007 25th Anniversary.*



## DISPLAY CABINET

“Visitors to the restaurant pass a display case with some of the crafts and costumes of this proud and ancient people.” (*Gourmet Magazine*, February 1990). The Display Cabinet evolved from members bringing photos of events they wanted to share. The June 1984 *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter announced, “...enjoy the display of photographs set up in the Banquet Room taken by Prosper Doyhenard, the Center’s official activities photographer.” Members could order copies for one dollar to cover cost and handling.

Joe Castanchoa devised a board from a sheet of plywood supported by two posts which was covered with a dark material and plastic sheeting to protect the photos from damage or theft. It was set up on the wall space next to the banquet room closet. As some thought it didn’t belong in a room used by the public, Jean Gorostiague later built another cabinet in the area next to the telephones. The cabinet was later moved to the wall space next to the Children’s Room where it has remained. Initially, Yvette Saroberry and Prosper Doyhenard offered a lot of photographs for these displays. Yvette kept the photo board updated until she married and moved away in 1993.

### Mayie Etcheverry

“In 1986 Jean Gorostiague built and installed a very large display cabinet in the lobby of the Basque Cultural Center. The cabinet stood empty until Florence Castanchoa asked Jean for authorization to display photographs taken during the construction of the Center (for the anniversary celebration). I was a member of the Board at that time, and I accepted the responsibility to be in charge of the display cabinet.

For a few years, along with Florence, and many times helped by Joe, we kept up with Seasons’ changes (a look back at the Basque country) and current activities going on at the BCC at that time. The Committee would select themes and then contact members willing to loan items to the Display Cabinet to share some of the rich Basque heritage with members and guests visiting the Center. Valerie Etcharren Arrechea kept up the display showing many crafts from the Basque Country. Betty Alzugaray always helped with all the memorabilia from the mus tournaments.

Now (2007) I mostly work with Anita Arduain who is always a phone call away, and we thoroughly enjoy spending time together putting the many displays in place.”

In 1994 Joseph Castanchoa said, “While we all know Mayie for the expertise she lends as a member on the Building and Grounds Committee and as Secretary of the Board of Directors and Catering Board few know of her generosity and time spent in the Basque country searching for art work which decorates the walls of the Center’s restaurant and lobby - much of which she has donated. Few also know that she also helps find music for the Elgarrekin Choir as well as interesting Basque items to compliment the display cabinet. For example, we all enjoyed her choice of Nativity which was donated by the Catering Board. She and hubby, Pierre, hike annually in the hills to collect interesting pieces of moss and wood for the background. Thank you, Mayie, for all your behind-the-scene- efforts to make Gure Etxea a beautiful place to visit.”

Mayie Etcheverry was a 2009 recipient of the BCC’s Bizi Emankorra award for her invaluable contributions throughout the BCC’s first quarter century including her years on the Board of Directors and creativity as Chairman of the display cabinets.



Above: Mayie Etcheverry is the current Display Cabinet Chairman and with her husband, Pierre, has made many cultural contributions to the BCC.

Left: (l-r) Anna Iriartborde, Florence Castanchoa and Mayi Etcheverry were the first committee member volunteers for the Display Cabinet built in 1986 for the BCC’s lobby.

## ARCHIVING

An archivist assesses, collects, organizes, preserves, and provides access to information determined to have long-term value. The information maintained by an archivist can be any form of media (photographs, video or sound recordings, letters, documents, electronic records, etc.)

During the Center's formation information flyers were sent to over 500 families from three combined lists. Leon Franchisteguy said, "In May in 1979 we met to discuss ways to raise money for the project (building a cultural center), a daunting task in itself. That's when we started sending flyers. Our secretary, Leon Sorhondo, took care of signing and printing the letters, and my wife, Grachana, **addressed each envelope by hand.** This was an age where PCs, home printers and especially address label sheets were non-existent, at least in my house!"



*Top: Grachana and Leon Franchisteguy at the 24th Anniversary in 2006. In the beginning envelopes were addressed by hand. Grachana accomplished this daunting task!*



*Bottom: In 2007 Marie Durquet was photographed in front of the BCC's logo that she designed in 1981.*

### *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletter

#### Gracian Goyhenetche 2006 Interview

"There were newsletters going out, but not regularly. People needed to be kept informed about what was going on. With Nadine's offer to edit and type, I proposed a monthly newsletter at one of the Board Meetings prior to our Grand Opening Day. People saw this as a real value and appreciated our contribution to the Basque community.

The newsletter name, *Gure Euskal Etxea*, was inspired by Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout. At the Members' Opening in 1982, Aita Cachenaout repeatedly referred to the Basque Cultural Center as *Gure Euskal Etxea*.....I thought that was a beautiful title for our newsletter, and although the title's format has changed over the 25 years, the words have remained *Gure Euskal Etxea*. Nadine has been the editor and publisher, and all four of our children as well as our parents and my sister, Mary Ann, her husband, Michael and Tanta

Anna have helped us prepare the newsletter for mailing.

In the early 80's the process took a lot longer. Information was gathered by phone calls or mailed articles and originally typed each month. The mailing process was entirely manual with collating pages, folding them, stuffing envelopes, licking them closed, and putting on the postage, return label and address! Soon the return address was printed on the envelope and eventually pre-stamped envelopes were purchased at the Post Office.

Martin Minaberry had a special machine for printing addresses. He asked Florence Castanchoa to correct and update the newsletter mailing list and type this information onto cards which printed the addresses onto envelopes. For a number of years these cards were the method of printing the addresses. The process was streamlined when addresses were put on labels with a new labeling machine – and addresses were updated on the computer rather than typing new cards! Now the Board has purchased a direct impression printer so addresses are put directly on the envelopes – and Lauretta Printing does the collating and folding – reducing the mailing process from the initial seven steps to two - stuffing and licking! These advances in technology were timely as we no longer have our parents and minimally have our children's support in the mailing process! Nadine has archived every newsletter since the first one in March 1982. A copied set of the first 25 years, 1982-2007, is in the BCC library." Nadine is proud that a slide presentation she compiled from the 25th anniversary photos was shown at the 2007 4th World Congress of Basque communities in Euskal Herria which paid tribute to Gooding, Idaho, San Francisco and Madrid for their 25 years of history.



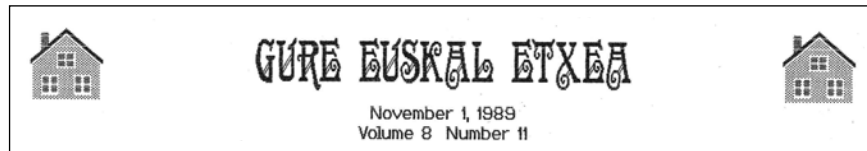
*Above: Stuffing the newsletters: Aimee Goyhenetche, Anna Inda, Joe Goyhenetche, Jerome Goyhenetche in 2004.*



*Left: In his 2006 Interview Gracian Goyhenetche said, "An early recollection of our youngest, Jerome, is that he was helping us stuff and lick the Gure Euskal Etxea newsletters just like the rest of his family, and he was just two years old (1990)."*



*The heading of the Gure Euskal Etxea newsletter has changed over the years.  
It has remained the same since 2003.*



### Joseph and Florence Castanchoa

Florence Castanchoa was the helping hand at her husband's side throughout his BCC Presidency – from typing Board Meeting agendas to cleaning up the Banquet Room. She saw to it that all entertainment events were properly advertised either through the monthly newsletter or special flyers she typed and mailed herself. The Castanchoas placed a great importance on recognizing those who volunteered their time which they did through newsletter articles, many from Joe as the BCC President. Joe Castanchoa was proud of all Florence's contributions during his presidency, "I remember the first International Mini-Mundials in 1983..... At a meeting they were asking for volunteers to answer the phone at the BCC and give information on the games and times. Florence did not drive but said she would come each day if someone could pick her up at the Daly City Bart station. Mary Curutchet and Margie Irola volunteered to do that. We have come a long way in technology since then when they didn't have call-forwarding, etc. and everything was done the hard way. Later on when our son, Emile, was in the business office trying to focus on balancing the daily sales and the phones were hectic, he would call-forward to our home in

El Cerrito and Florence could answer questions and take reservations until he was free."

On New Year's Eve Florence read a beautiful poem she composed summarizing the year 1984. That she knew the happenings of every month in such detail was evidence of how much time the Castanchoas spent at the Center. Moreover, it is an accurate archive because it was written in 1984 (not recalled a quarter century later when memories aren't as accurate!)



*Florence and Joe Castanchoa enjoying a Sunday Member Lunch in 1989.*

## *New Year's Eve Poem read by Florence Castanchoa is a 1984 historical record of the BCC*

*It is time to say goodbye now to 1984  
As we celebrate the arrival of one year more.  
Looking back on the past year it is hard to believe  
That despite some setbacks there is much we did achieve.*

*We started off this year with a members' new years 'fete'.  
Franchisteguy and Saparart were given a task they won't forget.  
How to seat 350 Basques so that everyone is pleased;  
But they put their heads together and accomplished it with ease.*

*The following month of February was the anniversary celebration,  
But it conflicted with the birthday of the 'Father' of our nation.  
So to attract a crowd to the Center it was decided to host some games.  
We invited some Mexico players as well as some Bakersfield dames.*

*That month was 'tripota jatea' and the turnout was great despite  
Complaints of some members the meal was held at night.  
Beginning 1985 there won't be a problem and members will get lunch as  
they choose.  
And all should be happy unless the 'Niners' blow it and lose!*

*February saw the return of Martin and Ann Errecart;  
He was reinstated as Manager when one had to depart.  
In March the Women's club hosted the Mardi Gras Family Dinner.  
The costumes were so clever it was hard to pick a winner.*

*Valerie Etcharren came as a hunter, Jean Paul Barthe as a Samurai.  
But Best Prize went to Jean Paul Mendisco who came dressed as one  
'weird' guy.  
March was a very good month, too, for Joe, our President.  
'Cause he and pal, Bill Etchegoin, won the Center's Mus Tournament.*

*Also that month the Building and Grounds changed the dining room  
décor  
When they installed some sound proof panels to muffle 'Lucu's' roar.  
In April the Women's Club hosted a bus to Tahoe trip.  
There were rumors they saved their dollar bills to pay some male to strip.*

*The Ladies Racquetball Finals happened to fall on Mother's Day.  
The Women's Club co-hosted the occasion in a very unique way.  
There were orchids for all the ladies as well as numerous door prizes.  
Corsages for oldest and youngest 'Ama' and t-shirts in all sizes.*

*June was the Center's election; there were several new candidates.  
Some young men and some ladies each hoping for a Director's place.  
That month a group of Bay Area Basques met with the Bishop of  
Bayonne  
To discourage him and his superiors from calling Father Cachenaute home.*

*"Hiru Ziren" performed by Alegria was the story of three men who came  
To the West coast from Euskal Herria in search of fortune and fame.  
Also, that month the membership watched some great 'pilotaries' from  
Spain.  
In exchange for local hospitality they had offered to entertain.*

*July saw the Bon Voyage Party for the Unhassobiscay Family  
Who departed on the 30th for the town of Iholdy.  
In August it was the Center's turn to host the NABO Pilota Camp  
Where Coach Michel Accoceberry taught the skills needed to be handball  
champs.*

*An appeal for volunteer gardeners was made in the September newsletter.  
Something had to be done and soon to get the shrubbery looking better.  
Considering 80% of the membership makes a living in this way  
It was a sad realization to discover that so few will work without pay.*

*September was the month the aerobics class thanked Nicole Sorhondo for  
the time she spent.  
She retired to enroll with Leon in "Lamaze" to prepare for their 'blessed  
event'.  
In October, the Ocafrain brothers, Jean Leon and Henri, to Venezuela  
were sent  
As U.S. Mus Champions to compete in the World Tournament.*

*The newly founded Basque Educational Organization hosted a special  
event –  
The Valentin Aguirre Recital was its very first cultural attempt.  
The Internacional Federacion games were held in Uruguay.  
Marcel Etcheverry and Emile Goyhenetche were the delegates sent to  
play.*

*The same month an all out effort was made to find a solution for the  
Children's Room.  
If some action wasn't taken – and quick – the place would be in shambles  
soon.  
A committee met and decided on rules, the Board allocated some 'dough'.  
The Women's club proposed using boutique funds to purchase a T.V. and  
video.*

*The Halloween Party proved to be a success, both youngsters and adults  
came in dress.  
There was 'Big Bird' and 'Dumbo' and 'Mr. T',  
President Reagan, a Candleholder and Christmas Tree.  
There were Pirates and Devils and a cute Playboy Bunny,  
A Pumpkin, a Skunk, and two Clowns dressed so funny.*

*In November the Railroad Catering Board announced who their officers  
would be.  
They welcomed two new members – Roger Minhondo and Leon  
Franchisteguy.  
There was also a General Meeting with the annual financial report.  
Many members came to the Center that day for lunch and to show  
support.*

*During the day everyone was invited to sample the ladies' wares,  
Their baked goods and their handcrafts all made with loving care.  
On the 14th there was a Youth Meeting to see what they wanted to do.  
The turn-out proved beyond a doubt that the young people wanted a  
club, too.*

*We closed the year at the Center with a Family Christmas Party.  
Father Cachenaute came dressed as Santa carrying a sack and laughing so  
hearty.  
And now I think I should close the book on 1984  
With the hope that 1985 brings us many successes more.*

*May we keep on growing as 'family' and work toward the common goal  
To make 'Gure Etxea' a place for both young and old.  
Happy New Year!*



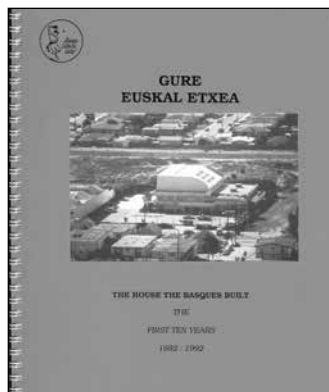
## Two Ten Year BCC Histories

In the Fall of 1991 Florence Castanchoa compiled member photos, numerous newsletter articles and information from every facet of the BCC from its pre-construction up to the 10th Anniversary into a history of the Center's first ten years. In November 2001 Gracian and Nadine Goyhenetche were commissioned to do a similar process for the second ten years. While at the time each ten year compilation was thought to be a piece of BCC history, unnamed and undated photos are diminishing their long term value. Already individuals aren't recognized in a number of the photos nor the date nor event of others.

## Video Archivists Elizabeth and Jean Paul Barthe

Jean Paul and Elizabeth Barthe have been taping videos and taking photos since the Center opened. Jean Paul said, "I had just come from France in 1980. Johnny Curutchet was going crazy looking for money (to build the BCC), but I was broke! Mayie and Pierre Etcheverry paid for my membership until I could pay them back. I think I was the first one to video the opening ceremony and I still have it – a good souvenir for the future. Tape was expensive so to save money I was recording in SLP (very slow motion). As a result that Opening video is very poor quality and hasn't lasted well."

Jean Paul also recalled that he lost about six pounds during the Opening of the Center. He took care of the sound system in the 'kantxa'. Dignitaries were gathered in the upstairs room with the BCC Board of Directors who kept saying, "Jean Paul we can't hear anything", so Jean Paul kept running up and down the stairs. Elizabeth has photographed numerous member functions including years of family Christmas portraits and all of the members in age groups for the 20th and 25th Anniversary books.



The 10 year Anniversary book (left) and the 20 year Anniversary book (right).

President Joe Castanchoa said, "Those of us at the Friday night Members' Dinner on January 25, 1985 had the pleasure of viewing the premier showing of a film on the Basque country produced by Jean Paul Barthe and narrated by Elizabeth Barthe. Much time and energy went into completing this project, and Jean Paul and Elizabeth should be commended for their fine efforts. They have generously donated the film to the Center."

In 1992 Jean Paul and Elizabeth Barthe edited countless hours of video into 90 minutes of "The Basque Cultural Center 1982-1992" which was shown continuously throughout the ten year anniversary weekend. Copies were sold for \$25.

Jean Paul and Elizabeth combined portions of the ten year video with memorable occasions over the years since then to produce a 25 year video. At which point in their 25 years of videographing did they grow from amateur to professional! Jean Paul is proud of being recognized by the Board of Directors with more than one plaque in Appreciation of Outstanding and Generous Service in video archiving.



Elizabeth and Jean Paul Barthe celebrating the BCC's New Year's Eve Gala in 2005.



Elizabeth (right) and Jean Paul Barthe (above) video taped the entire 25th Anniversary weekend.



# MEMBERS HONORED

## *From Claim to Fame and Hall of Fame to Bizi Emankorra*

1991

Founded in San Francisco in 1979, the Society of Basque Studies in America is dedicated to future generations understanding, appreciating and being proud of their Basque ancestry. One way they accomplish this is through a yearly induction into the Basque Hall of Fame to honor those who have contributed to the culture, welfare and/or history of the Basques in America. Their 11th Basque Hall of Fame took place at the Basque Cultural Center on October 13, 1991 honoring the Center itself and one of its very active members, Louis Elu, a restaurateur internationally known for traditional Basque cuisine.

**LOUIS ELU ( 1914-2002): First BCC Member Recognized for His Contribution to Basque Heritage**



*Louis Elu (left) was honored at the Eleventh Annual Basque Hall of Fame on October 13, 1991, with Lyda Esain (center), pioneer owner of one of the first Basque boarding houses in the West and Ricardo Galbis (right) builder of the first United States commercial fronton in St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. The Basque Cultural Center was also recognized at this event.*

Louis worked as a chef at the Palace Hotel before buying the Hotel de España built in 1907 by the Lujea Brothers to house and help the Basque people who came to San Francisco. In 1978 Louis was awarded “La Orden del Merito Civil en el Grado de Cabellero” for having helped many shepherders who came to San Francisco for legal

or medical help. During the 25 years they operated Elu’s Restaurant, Louis and Marie were well known for their traditional authentic and family style Basque cuisine. After their retirement, they continued to be involved in various Basque projects including support of the Basque Cultural Center. Louis was on the 1st Board of Directors in 1979, and when the Board expanded to 15, the Elus offered their restaurant for the Board of Director meetings until the Center was built and meetings could be held there. His restaurant experience was invaluable as the Vice-President and President of the BCC Catering Board from 1982-1986. On August 26, 1984 the Elu family gave Louis a surprise 70th birthday party at the BCC to celebrate that he is “Hiruetan Hogoi eta Hamar” - that’s a big word for a man with a big heart.

**GANIX IRIARTBORDE (1927-2005): First Claim to Fame Recipient in 1992 for Lifetime Dedication to Handball**



*Ganix Iriartborde (left) was honored at the BCC’s first Claim to Fame on November 22, 1992. His wife Anna (right) attended and his son Robert (center) honored Ganix with his presentation on life lessons on pilota.*

Honoring Louis Elu and the BCC itself in 1991 inspired the BCC to recognize its members who’ve contributed to the Basque image in the world through their involvement in the Basque Cultural Center. The Pilota and Entertainment Committees hosted the First Claim to Fame Day on Sunday, November 22, 1992, a day to honor Ganix Iriartborde for his lifetime dedication to handball and his inspiration and example to the youth of our Center. He celebrated his 65th birthday in 1992 and was recognized as the oldest active handball player in the San Francisco Bay Area. Florence Castanchoa framed a beautiful



photographic arrangement, Frederic Fuldain outlined the history of pilota, and Ganix's son, Robert, honored his father with a story on life lessons on pilota. "It all started very innocently with one of my very first toys. Having a Basque father, I had a strong feeling that it wasn't going to be a model airplane or a train set. There I was holding a shiny, well-rounded, black...ROCK that he called a pilota... I asked, 'Where's the baseball bat that goes with it?'...He said it was attached to my arm and I had to use my bare hands. That's when I envisioned an X-Ray with shattered bones floating around. I said if I hit this ball with full force I would break my hand. My father said, 'You're right! So take it a little bit at a time. Each day hit the ball a little harder. Each day hit the ball a little farther.' He upheld his Claim to Fame Day by teaming with Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche and winning Xavier Aphesseteche and Augustine Artechea with a score of 25 to 19.



*Still an active handball player wearing the medallion of a BCC Champion around his neck in 1995, Ganix Iriartborde is standing in front of the newly redesigned entrance to the Basque Cultural Center. In 1993 he received the Pilotarian Biltzarra which recognized individuals who promote the game of handball.*

**GANIX ASPALDIKO PILOTARIARI - GANIX LONGTIME PILOTA PLAYER**  
*by Johnny Curutchet*

Agur bat zuri Ganix dugu egin nahi.  
 Barkatu huntaraino heldurik emeki.  
 Zure ezagutza duenak badaki  
 Egun hau hartzezila Ganixek aspaldi.

Ez dira izan debalde zure eneguak.  
 Orai batugu hemen plaza modernuak  
 Heietan pilotan, gazte plantakuak.  
 Horiek dira zuk egin lanaren fruituak.

Aita semearekin, obretan lehena.  
 Estimatzeko baita plazan kusten dena.  
 Ezkuz ez badare arras zure heina  
 Palazkotan bederen, baduzu ordaina.

Pilotarientzat zuk egin tuzun lanak  
 Zurekilan batean zure lagun Anak,  
 Kondature gabe zekulan orenak  
 Edozoin tenoretan, idekirik bortak.

Barkatu egun Ganix, ez otoi gaizki har.  
 Ene erranalditan ez sobera minar.  
 Jaunaren gain ezar pilotaran bihar.  
 Sortaraz ditzan ainitz zure pareko izar!

*We want to salute you Ganix.  
 Please excuse us to reach this point so slow.  
 Anyone who knows you knows  
 That you have deserved this day for a long time.*

*Your efforts have not been wasted.  
 Here we now have modern frontons  
 And in them some young players.  
 These are the fruits of your labor.*

*The father with the son produces the best.  
 You have to appreciate what you see on the plaza.  
 Even if "by hand" is your preference  
 At least with pala you have a replacement.*

*All the work you have done for the players  
 Together with your companion, Anna,  
 Never counting the hours spent  
 You opened the door at anytime.*

*Forgive me Ganix, do not be offended.  
 With what I say do not get hurt too much.  
 The future of pilota is in God's hands.  
 May He provide many future stars like you!*

**AMELIE SORHONDO (1919-2005): 1993 Claim to Fame Recipient as Boarding House Proprietor Devoted to Basque Immigrants and Supporter of Basque Welfare**



Amelie Sorhondo's four decades of welcoming and supporting hundreds of Basque immigrants at the Pyrenees Hotel in San Francisco was celebrated on May 23, 1993 at the BCC's second Claim to Fame Day. The Basque boarding house which she and her husband, Jean, ran was invaluable to young Basque immigrants in their assimilation to American society. Amelie and Jean helped their young borders with immigration sponsorship, transportation, job networking, medical appointments, and even their U.S.

citizenship. The number of borders that came to honor Amelie is evidence of their love and appreciation for all she did. Her granddaughter, Maitexa Cuburu, honored her in dance with the Zazpiak Bat Dancers.

Jean-Marc Sorhondo, BEO 2007 Scholarship Contest Winner said, "I have so many fond memories of events that have taken place at the Center. One that is particularly special for me is the day they honored my grandmother, Amelie Sorhondo. She was a pivotal figure in the Basque community and operated the then equivalent of the Basque Cultural Center out of her boarding house, the Pyrenees Hotel. Often times, one expresses what a person meant to someone when they pass away. It was a special day since she was able to hear all of the great things from her "sons and daughters" while she was still with us. This day highlighted the respect and appreciation that Basques have for one another. While many were not blood relatives, everyone was related that day. It is a special feature of our culture that allows us to extend our family beyond bloodlines. I do not know if this would have been possible if the Center did not exist, but I do know that it meant so much to my grandmother and my family."

In 2008 Amelie Sorhondo (1919-2005) was inducted into the 28th annual Basque Hall of Fame as "Basque Boarding House Proprietor devoted to Basque Immigrants and Contributor and Supporter of Basque Welfare".



*Pyrenees Hotel borders who honored Amelie Sorhondo at the BCC in 1993: Some of the borders (\*\*\*) shared never-before-told stories of their sojourn at the Pyrenees Hotel.*

*Top Row: Jean-Pierre Ithurralde, Bernard Cuburu, Theodore Ondarts, Raymond Trounday, Auguste Indart, Andre Arduain, Jean-Pierre Izoco, Anita Izoco, Jean Uharriet, Pierre Labat.  
Middle Row: Jean-Pierre Duhalde, Leon Franchisteguy, Pierre Gestas, Rene Oyharcabal, Rosario Etcheveste, Jean-Pierre Lerissa, Jean-Baptiste Daramy, Carmen Arriada, Jean Gorostiague\*\*, Angel Arriada, Jean-Leon Miguelarcaina, Mayte Larralde, Jean Berhan\*\*, Jesus Arriada, Bernard Larralde, (behind) Jean Pierre Indart, Josette Indart, Dominique Hauscarriague, Jean Hauscarriage, (behind) Jean Cordova, Pierre Hargain, Dominique Berhan, Arnold Duhart\*\*.  
Front Row: Grace Franchisteguy, Odette Etcheverry\*\*, Mayi Secail, Bernadette Iribarren, Malvina Oyharcabal\*\*, Amelie Sorhondo, Leon Sorhondo, Yvonne Cuburu, Jean-Leon Cuburu, Gabriel Elicetche.*





*AMELIE, AMERIKETAKO AMA – AMELIE, AMERICAN MOTHER*  
*by Johnny Curutchet*

Amelia agurno bat egun dautzut zu,  
Aspaldi Irisarritik jalgi izarrari  
Gazterik lotu zinen bide luzeari,  
Jakinarazi nahi dut, ez dakienari,  
Bizian zabiltzala, denen zerbitzari.

San Franciskon batuzu asko ikusiak  
Hor tuzu zure seme, alabak haziak,  
Egun oroz argitu zaitu iruzkiak,  
Diferentziarik gabe, batzu ta bertziak,  
Goizetik arratz lanian, argitu guziak.

Ostiatian hedatu duzu zoriona,  
Bakotxari eskainiz, beti falta zina,  
Batzuri diruz lagunt, bertzer xerka lana,  
Argitzen zaioten gogoko iluna  
Zure baitan kausituz urrun zuten ama

Nork dezazke estima, ina tuzun lanak,  
Sokorrituz Sorhondo, zure espos lagunak,  
Bihotzez baitzarete biake berdinak,  
Xahutuak tuzue, gau eta egunak,  
Zuen haurrak bezala, artatzen bestenak.

Amelia barkatu gaur, ausartzia hartuz,  
Zure omere onak beti emaiten nau kantuz  
Etsenplua juan dadin, gu baitan zabalduz,  
Bi kalitate daizke zure baitan ikus,  
Laguntzaile azkarra, ahula urguluz.

*Today I'm saying "Agur" to Amelie  
A star who left Irisarri.  
Took the road at a young age  
And became the matriarch of hospitality.*

*In San Francisco you have seen a lot and helped  
many Basques,  
Working from sunrise to sunset,  
Greeting everyone with good humor,  
At the same time raising your son and daughter.*

*In your hotel happiness was in the air,  
Nurturing everyone's needs - work or otherwise  
By filling up the emptiness  
Left by the Mother they left behind.*

*Who can forget your kindness and generosity  
Seconded by your husband, Sorhondo.  
You spent many nights and days  
Seeking the well-being of your extended family.*

*Amelie, I don't want to offend you,  
Your good humor makes me happy.  
The example you have given will stay with us.  
Of all the qualities you are adorned with  
Your unpretending kindness will be remembered.*

**FREDERIC FULDAIN (1929-2006): 1995 Claim to Fame Recipient as Pioneer of the Basque Heritage in San Francisco**



Frederic Fuldain was celebrated at the BCC's third Claim to Fame on April 2, 1995 as a Pioneer of the Basque Heritage in San Francisco. He played a key role in the formation of the San Francisco Basque Club's Zazpiak Bat

dance group and Klika. With Pierre Erreca, he organized the San Francisco Basque Club's first mus tournament and the first Basque Club Pilota tournament at Helen Wills Playground in San Francisco. In the 1970s with many Basques immigrating to California, San Francisco became a hub of Basque activities. Frederic started an exchange of dancing, Klika and pilota with other Basque Clubs including Los Banos, Chino, Bakersfield and Elko. Frederic Fuldain had a creative talent which some described as "hands of gold." He was an excellent wood sculptor. He made the fireplace mantel depicting the emblems of the seven Basque Provinces for the replica of a Basque kitchen that was a part of the BCC restaurant until it was remodeled. However, the furniture that he made can be seen at the entrance to the dining room.

Frederic expressed his appreciation for his BCC honor in the May 1995 Gure Euskal Etxea newsletter: "..... Thanks to the veteran pilotaris Ganix Iriartborde, Auguste Lapeyrade, Emile Goyhenetche, Etienne Jorajuria. Special thanks to Florence Castanchoa for the photographic display and to Jean Paul Barthe and Anna Iriartborde for the video display; and to my niece, Yvette, Pierre Etcharren,

and Franxoa Bidaurreta for narrating my life story and pioneering of our Basque heritage in San Francisco.

My deepest appreciation to the presidents who honored me with a plaque on behalf of their respective organizations - Francois Pedeflous, President of the United States Federation of Pelota; Valerie Etcharren, President of the Basque Club of San Francisco; Etienne Jorajuria, President of the Basque Cultural Center and also Jean Jauretche, who was supervisor of the building of Gure Euskal Etxea, for a tool box and carving tools and a bottle of Irouleguy. My boundless appreciation to the Master of Ceremonies, our devoted, tireless, omnipresent, Pierre Etcharren.”

In 2006 Frederic Fuldain (1929-2006) was inducted into the 26th Basque Hall of Fame as “Honorary President, Historian and Organizer of the Basque Club”. His niece, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde, spoke about him, “My Otto (Uncle) had many hopes and dreams for the Basques and the preservation of the Basque culture very early on in his new life in America. ....I never questioned why he could always be found keeping score at handball games and sell-

ing tickets and greeting everyone at the entrance of the San Francisco Basque picnic year after year. He would spend hours and hours building and sculpting Basque artifacts. I only knew that he loved what he was doing and witnessed that when he did anything, he put his whole heart and soul into it. In 1995 he was recognized with the Umenaldia for his lifelong dedication to Basque culture. And it was when he was honored with this that I understood the role he played in the Basque community. It explained why he was so proud of my sisters and I for being in the dance group, learning to play txistu, or learning some Basque, proud of his great niece and nephew for learning to play handball, learning to play mus and even winning a tournament. He was very proud. I know he never once thought that his hard work was in vain because he saw a whole new generation continuing the traditions he worked so hard to preserve. If my uncle were with us tonight, he would truly be humbled by this honor because he did this all, not to be honored, but because of his love and passion for the Basque culture.”

*Right: Frederic Fuldain sat in the replica of the Basque kitchen for which he sculpted the emblems of the seven Basque Provinces on an impressive fireplace mantel. The Basque kitchen was the only decoration in the BCC restaurant at its opening in 1982.*

*Below, left: In 1994 Frederic Fuldain (left) received the Etoile Civique, Diplome de la Medaille d'Argent (The Civic Star, Silver Award) from the French government with Pierre Etcharren (right) for their cultural leadership in the Basque community.*

*Below, right: Francois Pedeflous (right), President of the United States Federation of Pelota, honored Frederic Fuldain (left) at the BCC's third Claim to Fame on April 2, 1995.*





*Johnny and Jesus received national recognition for their Bertso art, and put Euskara on a national stage!*

—Philippe Acheritogaray

## JOHNNY CURUTCHET AND JESUS ARRIADA • 2003 A GREAT MOMENT IN BCC HISTORY



*2003 Recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor in the folk and traditional arts in the United States of America: Jesus Goni and Martin Goicoechea and BCC members Johnny Curutchet and Jesus Arriada.*

On Friday, September 20, 2003, in Washington DC, BCC members Johnny Curutchet and Jesus Arriada received the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor in the folk and traditional arts in the United States of America. Victoria Hutter, communications specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts, said the two National Heritage Fellows were nominated by the Basque Poetry Center in Reno, Nevada. She said they were chosen for artistic excellence, authenticity and contribution to their field. Meg Glaser, Artistic Director of the Western Folklife Center, describes their skills: “They are respected widely for their strength of voice, skill in improvisation, gift of language, and knowledge of Basque culture.”

Since its unique language is a marker of Basque identity, the BCC has placed great importance on its continued presence among younger generations of Basques. The performance of the Basque improvisational poetry tradition, known as bertsoarritza, represents one of the most artistic

and entertaining ways of keeping the language alive and in the community’s consciousness. Each bertsolari is judged on his quickness, use of imagery and wit in performance. Through their constant and often boisterous verbal feedback and encouragement, audiences make clear the relative success of each participant.

During the BCC’s 1st 25 years the bertsolari (poets) have sung at every Mass and many social gatherings. The BCC has supported bertsolari activities in other Basque communities through announcements in its newsletter like the annual Bertsolari and Singing Contests held in Gardnerville, Nevada since it was first held in 1988.

The BCC can boast that three of its members are among the few bertsolari active in the United States today: Gratien Alfaro, Jesus Arriada and Johnny Curutchet. Not only do they entertain the BCC membership, but they delight audiences across the West with their fast paced and witty vocal improvisations.



*Gratien Alfaro (left) sang bertsos with Johnny Curutchet (right) at the 2002 NABO Convention. In 2006 the two went to New York City where they sang bertsos with Jesus Goni and Martin Goicoechea at the People’s Poetry Gathering poetry festival, which promotes poetry in mother tongues and English that come from the world’s endangered and contested languages.*

*“Lest we think their achievements are isolated or on the decline, we need to be reminded that Basque is one of the few languages in the world with a growing number of speakers.”*  
—2003 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowships Program Information

*The SF Basque Cultural Center is the BEST of the Basque cultural centers in the world.*

—Jose Ramon Cengotitabengoa, President of the Society of Basque Studies in America

## 2006 AND 2008 BASQUE HALL OF FAME

There are so many illustrious BCC members who have made tireless contributions to the promotion of their Basque culture and identity that the Society for Basque Studies in America nominated five members at their 26th Hall of Fame in 2006 and added six more BCC members at their 28th Hall of Fame in 2008. In 2006 three current BCC members, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Johnny Curutchet, and Anna Iriartborde and two deceased members, Frederic Fuldain and Jacques Unhassobiscay, were nominated. In 2008 three current BCC members, Anita Arduain, Jean Gorostiague and Jean Leon Ocafrain and three deceased members, Jean Leon Iribarren, Francois Pedeflous and Amelie Sorhondo were nominated.

Both President Ramon Cengotitabengoa and Vice President Emilia Doyaga of the Society of Basque Studies in America were at the BCC for the 26th Annual Hall of Fame. Ramon Cengotitabengoa said, “It has been a pleasure for me to come from Euskaleria to San Francisco to celebrate the 26th Annual Hall of Fame. ... The SF Basque Cultural Center is the BEST of the Basque cultural centers in the world. We are here today to honor some of the people who have made it a success.... Our aim is to help one another so that we are recognized in the globalized world..... We need to support each other so that our whole culture, language and identity are recognized internationally.”

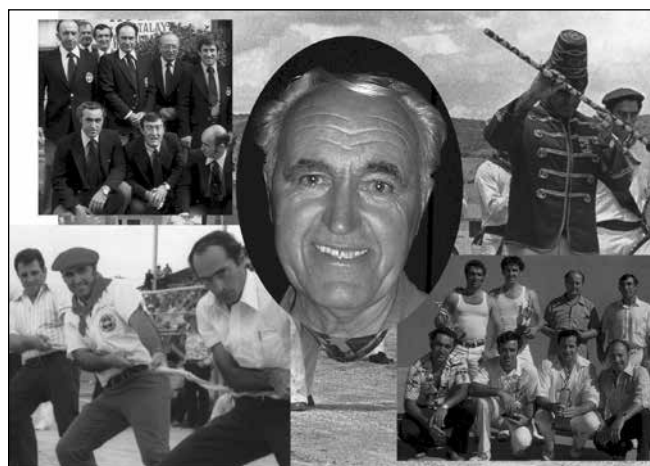
### **ANITA ARDUAIN: Prominent Basque Community Organizer, Longtime Treasurer of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center**



Anita first got involved in the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center by supporting her husband's dream of having a house built for the Basques. At the beginning, membership was only for men, but this quickly changed, and Anita joined her husband as a founding member in April 1980. After attending membership meetings and events, Anita felt there was a need to get parents and children involved in activities. In 1983 Anita worked with other members to create a Women's Club for the Basque Cultural Center, whose primary function would be to sponsor and promote activities that would benefit the children. In 1984 she joined the Basque Cultural Center Board of Directors. Anita became the Assistant Treasurer in 1985 which began her involvement in handling the reservations for the Center's member events and which she has continued to

do to the present date! She became Treasurer in 1987 and continues to serve in that office. She has worked diligently on the BCC's Building and Grounds Committee since 1984 and on the BCC's Entertainment Committee since 1988, planning events and activities, taking reservations and volunteering to staff the events. Anita Arduain was inducted into the 28th Basque Hall of Fame in 2008 for being a “Prominent Basque Community Organizer, Longtime Treasurer of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.” The BCC also recognized her invaluable contribution to the Center's first quarter century when they awarded her the Bizi Emankorra in 2009.

### **FRANXOA BIDAURRETA: President, Founder, Contributor to Basque Cultural Center**



Franxoa's daughter, Olivia Bidaurreta, talked about her father at the 2006 Basque Hall of Fame. She said Franxoa was “makilari for our beloved klika, sat on the



Basque Club Board of Directors, and was its president. In 1974, he, along with Andre Larre, began an ikaspilota program for children. My aita also helped to create the United States Federation of Pelota, and was also one of the several determined Basque Club members that pursued the dream of building a club house and fronton, which today we know as Gure Etxea and are presently sitting in. His accomplishments also include sitting on the Basque Cultural Center's Board of Directors, being its president, and volunteering for the Building and Grounds Committee. And he is currently working with the Basque Educational Organization to complete the San Francisco Urazandi Project. At approximately the same age that I am now, my aita came to the United States knowing nothing of his new surroundings, and bringing with him only the culture of his homeland, and from that he has spent the greater part of over 40 years helping to spread the beloved culture that continues to run through his veins."

Franxoa held the first Pilota Chair position for the North American Basque Organizations (NABO) and worked with others to form the US Federation of Pelota (USFP) which has become the official US Federation by the International Federation of Pelota. He served as the president and is still a director today. He has been honored by the Pilotarien Biltzarra Organization for promoting pilota. Throughout the years he has served diligently as Board Member, President, and Pilota Chairman for the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center. He continues to volunteer on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. After holding the chair position for several years, Franxoa continues as director on the board of the Basque Educational Organization (BEO), a charitable organization that promotes Basque identity to the general public.

Robert Acheritogaray said, "Franxoa never loses his cool. You can always tell when he is passionate about something, but he never explodes and can always slow things down to a calm discussion. Sometimes too slow! His knowledge of the by-laws is legendary. Many times I would research something because I questioned what Franxoa would tell us at a meeting. I was never able to correct him."

In 2006 Franxoa Bidaurreta was inducted into the 26th Basque Hall of Fame as "President, Founder, and Contributor to Basque Cultural Center".



*Franxoa Bidaurreta (right) was inducted into the Basque Hall of Fame in 2006 with Johnny Curutchet (left) and Anna Iriartborde (center).*

## JOHNNY CURUTCHET: Bertsolari and Recipient of National Honor, Promoter of Basque Culture



Jean Leon Ocafrain talked about Johnny's very active involvement before and during the Center's entire 25 years. "He went door to door to a lot of Basque people to get members. He's been playing Klika since the Center was opened. As soon as the Center was built he started teaching pilota and Klika. Johnny's been a good mentor for the young people – to keep the Basque Culture going." BCC President Xabier Berrueta recalled, "I thank Johnny for putting a Klika bugle in my hand when I was twelve years old and for not being blind and ignorant. Johnny didn't care that I was, as they labeled me back then, a 'Spanish Basque', nor did it bother him that I was not 'French Basque'. He only cared that I was Basque and for that I thank him. On August 26, 1984, Johnny was presented with a plaque in 'Appreciation for his Dedication to Our Basque Youth in the Skills of Handball'." Johnny has been President and Director of both the Basque Club and the Basque Cultural Center. He was one of the first founding members of the BCC and also a member of the first Board of Directors. He's been in the Elgarrekin Choir and a bertsolari.

As a youngster in Ezterentzubi, Johnny was attracted to the songs of his father and songs of bertsolaris. He would ride his bicycle to Eihalarre (St. Michel) to listen to the Bertso performances. He started singing Bertsos in San Francisco among his family and friends. He became a regular at the San Francisco Basque functions and at NABO's annual Kantari Eguna celebrations. In 2006 Johnny Curutchet was inducted into the 26th Basque Hall of Fame as "Bertsolari and Recipient of National Honor, Promoter of Basque Culture".

**JEAN GOROSTIAGUE: Founding and Honorary President, Prominent Leader of Basque Organizations**



Jean helped to further establish and maintain the Basque community in San Francisco. He served on the board of directors for the San Francisco Basque Club for 13 years and as its President from 1971-1972. In 2006, Jean became the Basque Club's third Honorary President, following Jean Sallaberry and Frederic Fuldain.

In early 1979 Jean was elected as President to lead a temporary board in researching the feasibility of purchasing and developing the property in South San Francisco. The San Francisco Basque Cultural Center was incorporated in June of 1979 and Jean was elected its first President. While the board worked diligently to raise funds to build the center by selling memberships and by soliciting generous donations and loans, Jean, as general contractor, was focused on working with the architect, engineers and the building department to have the plans ready for the permit application.



*The French Consulate (left) awarded Jean Gorostiague (right) the "Chevalier" following Mass at the BCC's 21st Anniversary in February 2003 for his years of service and dedication to the Basque community and the BCC.*

Jean has been the chairman of the BCC Building and Grounds Committee since its inception in 1982 and has organized the expansion projects, which include dining room, kitchen and parking lot expansions, and other facility enhancements, such as the addition of the barbecue area, rear patio and solarium area and the installation of the largest commercial solar panel power system in South San Francisco. Jean has also been on the restaurant board of directors since 1987.

Following the 15th Anniversary Mass in February 1997, Jean Gorostiague was presented with a plaque for his years of service and dedication to the BCC. At the BCC's 21st Anniversary in 2003 Jean was awarded the Knighthood of the National Order of Merit (Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite) from the French Government for "outstanding achievements" in his many years of service to his community. (It hadn't be awarded to a BCC member since 1984 when Jean Leon Iribarren was the recipient.) Jean Gorostiague was inducted into the 28th Basque Hall of Fame in 2008 for being a "Founding and Honorary President, Prominent Leader of Basque Organizations".

**ANNA IRIARTBORDE  
Historian, Contributor and Supporter of Basque Welfare**



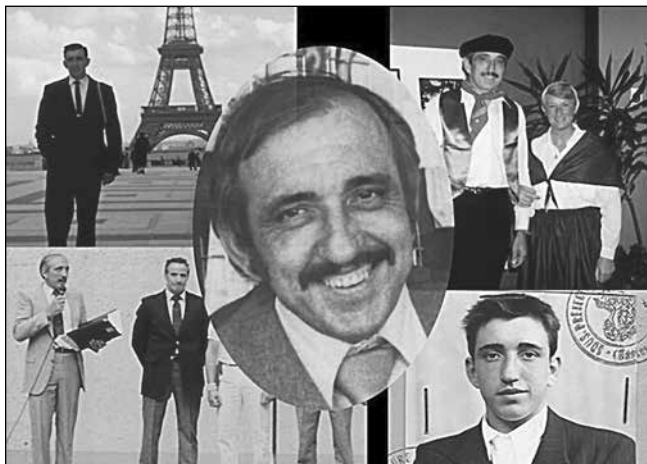
Through the Hotel Des Alpes and in 1975 the Sea Captain Motel (both in San Francisco), Ganix and Anna Iriartborde made an important contribution to the welfare of many needy Basque immigrants. At times they offered them free room and board until they secured employment. Over the years Anna kept detailed records of Basque activities in San Francisco and the Basque Community such as letters, newspaper clippings, magazines, programs, photographs, books and videos. Her contribution as the historian of Basque activities has been especially important for future generations. She served on the Board of the San Francisco Basque Club and San Francisco's Basque Educational Organization. In 1982, when the Basque Cultural Center opened its doors, Anna and Ganix were persuaded to start the management of the new restaurant. Anna has been a primary photographer during the BCC's 1st 25 years. Her album cataloging has added a rich archive to the BCC retaining documentation which otherwise would be lost historically.

When Anna Iriartborde was inducted into the 26th Basque Hall of Fame in 2006 as "Historian, Contributor and Supporter of Basque Welfare" her son, Robert, reflected, "Ama's gift of hospitality was contagious as she greeted everyone who came into the doors which further



showed one of the traits of Basques which is to have WELCOMING OPEN ARMS. When I wanted to get drum lessons, she gave them to me, but she made sure I joined the klika. When I wanted to play basketball and baseball, she made sure I played handball and chistera. ...My parents had enough of the restaurant business (when they retired from the Des Alpes); they had no intention of getting back into that type of work. But they put their retirement on hold to manage the BCC's restaurant during its opening months to ensure the success of the Center for future generations. Today my Mother continues to do what she does best – which is to lend a helping hand where needed. Her involvement in the Choir, helping out with picnics, events at the Center and being part of the Basque Educational Organization and Urazandi project ensures that her passions are not faded away.”

**JEAN LEON IRIBARREN (1936-1992)**  
**Prominent Leader and Promoter of Basque Culture and Identity**



In 1962 Jean Leon Iribarren joined the newly formed San Francisco Basque Club, and shortly thereafter became a board of director. He was among those who were involved in the early land acquisition on the Peninsula planned as the site for future Basque picnics which had grown in popularity. In 1967-1968, he served as president of San Francisco Basque Club.

In the late 1960s, he was founder and President of the Lycée Français La Pérouse French School where many Basque children attended and served as the home of the first NABO Udaleku Basque summer camp in 1977. Jean-Leon Iribarren attended the first organizational meeting held to establish NABO. He was a delegate to NABO from the San Francisco Basque Club for several years. In 1979 Jean Leon was key in organizing the NABO convention in San Francisco. NABO's vision attracted much of his efforts and from 1983-1987 he served as treasurer and 1987-1990 as president.

Jean Leon was active recruiting members during the formation of the BCC. Members will most noticeably remember him for being the Master of Ceremonies for many BCC events. In 1984 he was awarded the Knighthood of the National Order of Merit (Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merite) from the French Government for outstanding achievements in his many years of service to his community. In 2008 Jean Leon Iribarren was honored twice. He was awarded the 2008 NABO Bizi Emankorra at the Chino Convention in August and he was inducted into the 28th Basque Hall of Fame in November for being a "Prominent Leader and Promoter of Basque Culture and Identity".



*Jean Leon and Bernadette Iribarren did Basque dances at the 10th Anniversary of the BCC in 1992 (above). The first Basque Cultural Day in October 1993 was dedicated to Jean Leon Iribarren "proudly remembered as an admirable example of the hard work, the desire to succeed and the cultural pride that have defined the Basque people who have made their mark in the United States." In 1998 Bernadette was recognized for the outstanding service she's given to the BCC.*

## JEAN LEON OCAFRAIN

Leader of Basque Activities and Culture, Supporter of Basque Welfare



A week after his arrival in the United States, Jean Leon joined the San Francisco Basque Club and its Zazpiak Bat dance group. He is still a standing member and has served on its board as a director for several years and as President from 1991 to 1993.

Jean Leon was actively involved in the formation of the Basque Cultural Center from recruiting new members to helping with the construction after working eight to ten hours at the produce market. He was a founding member and has served on the Board of Directors of the Basque Cultural Center since 1981, before the Center opened its doors. He was BCC President from 1988 to 1990. Jean Leon enjoys staffing many Basque functions. He can always be found moving tables and chairs or wherever help might be needed. On countless occasions, he would take time off from work to take visiting musicians, pilotaris or other guests sightseeing throughout California and Nevada.

Jean Leon has also been the BCC's Pilota Chairman for many years and served as NABO's Pilota Chairman for 13 years from 1984 to 1997. He has been a director of the United States Federation of Pelota from 1985 to present. He supported the U.S. teams at world championships in Mexico in 1982, in Uruguay in 1984 for the under 22 tournament, and as coach in 1986 in Gasteiz-Vitoria, Araba (Spain). He also coached Men's Baleen in Cuba in 1990 and in Senpere, Lapurdi (France) in 1994. In September 1993, Jean Leon, among several others, was honored at the BCC by the Pilotarien Biltzarra organization from France for his involvement in the promotion of pilota in the United States. Jean Leon has spent many hours organizing pilota games, whether for an early Sunday morning game or for a large festival.

Jean Leon has especially enjoyed what the Center has enabled him to do with his wife, Mayte, – playing paleta goma and being part of the Elgarrekin Choir since 1982. They were invited along with Martin Minaberry to represent NABO at the first World Congress of Basque Studies in 1982 in Bilbao. And together they received a plaque

in 1999 in appreciation of their extensive volunteering throughout the BCC's first 25 years including housing visiting pilotaris and helping at numerous BCC functions. Jean Leon Ocafrain was inducted into the 28th Basque Hall of Fame in 2008 for being a "Leader of Basque Activities and Culture and Supporter of Basque Welfare".



*Jean Leon Ocafrain can always be found helping out wherever needed at the Center like here at the 24th Anniversary in 2006.*

## FRANCOIS PEDEFLOUS (1930-2008)

Prominent Organizer, Leader of Basque Activities and Culture



In 1977, Francois was instrumental in starting the Fresno Basque Club. With Ernest Fordine and Raymond Bachoc he searched through Fresno area telephone books for Basque surnames and contacted individuals with the idea of starting the club. Francois served as president of the Fresno Basque Club for two terms, and was a driving force behind the club's early years. Without a clubhouse, Francois made his bakery available for many club events including meetings, dance and music practices and dinners. He was also an active member of the Los Banos Basque Club, Kern County Basque Club, and a founding member of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center and the North American Basque Organizations (NABO), serving as NABO's President during its formative years from 1981 to 1983.

An avid handball player as a young man, Francois enjoyed organizing teams from the United States to play in international pilota competitions. He was an active member of the U.S. Federation of Pelota and served as its president for 15 years. He took teams from the U.S. to compete in tournaments in Cuba, France, Spain, Mexico, Argentina and Reunion Island off the coast of Africa. In 2008 Francois Pedeflous was honored twice. He was the



recipient of the 2008 NABO's Bizi Emankorra and he was inducted into the 28th Basque Hall of Fame in 2008 for being a "Prominent Organizer and Leader of Basque Activities and Culture".

**JACQUES UNHASSOBISCAY (1938-2002)**  
**Prominent Organizer, Leader of Basque Cultural Activities**



Jacques' involvement with the Basque community of San Francisco has been remarkable: President, Delegate and a founder of NABO; President, Director and NABO delegate of the San Francisco Basque Club (1968-1979); founding Director, President and Director of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center (1979-1982); Founding Director of 599 Railroad Catering, Inc. operating at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center; President, Director and a founder of the United States Federation of Pelota; Chairman and Executive Director of FIPV (Federacion Internacional de Pelota Vasca); Director of the Antzerkia group (Basque Theatre group) and member of Zazpiak Bat dancers, Zazpiak Bat Klika and Elgarrekin Basque Choir. As the third president during the formative years of NABO, he was instrumental in getting Basque clubs to join and to understand the value of Basque culture. Due to his effort membership grew. He connected with people of all levels and talents: dignitaries, artists, entertainers, politicians, sportsmen, etc. His vision strongly impacted Basque culture in the United States.

When Jacques Unhassobiscay was inducted into the 26th Basque Hall of Fame in 2006 for his diligence as "Prominent Organizer, Leader of Basque Cultural Activities", Pierre Etcharren was honored to speak about Jacques and proud that Pierre's invitation to Jacques to join the Zazpiak Bat dance group was the beginning of Jacques' involvement in the Basque culture. "While Director of the San Francisco Basque Club in 1968, the Club sponsored the French Handball Federation on their return trip from the mondial in Mexico. Jacques took time from his growing business to be the chauffeur and tour guide. The French Federation was so impressed with their warm reception that they started sending a regular delegation

every two years. Soon there were many groups – singers, dancers, musicians – that traveled to San Francisco. Jacques and Dorothy always had an open door for them. In 1973 Boise invited approximately 25 local Basque clubs to form a federation of Basque organizations. Jacques and I attended representing San Francisco. This meeting was the foundation of NABO. Jacques saw NABO as an opportunity to unite Basques in the United States and promote Basque culture. ....Even though the participation at the next meeting dropped to seven clubs, Jacques continued to work for NABO. Even when NABO began moving forward, Jacques thought that more had to be done. He took the reins as NABO's President in 1976. In those days there was no e-mail, no cell phone, not everyone had a fax. The best means of communication was to attend the club functions. As NABO's third President, Jacques attended as many functions as possible – whether the club was a member or not – to promote NABO. He would travel by air and by car to reach his destination - once even in spite of getting stuck in the mud! .....Jacques used handball as a tool to unite and convince many California Basque Clubs to join NABO. He organized an annual inter club NABO handball tournament."

With his persistence and going beyond the call of duties of president, NABO's club membership nearly tripled during Jacques' tenure as NABO president. In 1978 NABO sponsored a pilota team, which competed in the world tournament in Biarritz. With Jacques' assistance this led to the formation of the United States Federation of Pelota, and Jacques served as its inaugural president. Jacques was awarded the NABO Bizi Emankorra Lifetime Contribution in 2007 for his extraordinary contribution to the promotion of Basque heritage beyond the local community.



*In 2006 Pierre Etcharren (right) presented Jacques Unhassobiscay's son, Marc, and wife, Dorothy, with the plaque inducting Jacques into the Basque Hall of Fame. (Marc held the ribbon for the cutting ceremony to announce the Opening of the Center in 1982.)*



2008 Basque Hall of Fame recipients: Leon Sorhondo accepting for his mother Emily Sorhondo, Anita Arduain, Jean Gorostiague, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Bernadette Iribarren accepting for her husband Jean Leon Iribarren, Mary Pedeflous accepting for her husband Francois Pedeflous.

### BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER'S EUSKAL ETXeko BIZI EMANKORRA AWARD

The 2006 Basque Cultural Center members who were honored received the award under a new title – Bizi Emankorra. “Bizi” means life or lifetime and “Emankorra” comes from the root ‘eman’ to give. So this award is about a lifetime of giving to the community and promoting the Basque culture. The BCC Bizi Emankorra was modeled after NABO’s award of the same name awarded since 2002. These new BCC awards are given twice a year in February and September to coincide with the Anniversary and Fall picnic.

#### TED ONDARTS (1936-2006) and JEAN BAPTISTE GOYHENETCHE (1931-2008)



Ted Ondarts was awarded the first BCC Bizi Emankorra in February 2006 (left). BCC President Xabier Berrueta (far right) presented Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche with the BCC’s second Bizi Emankorra in September 2006.

The first recipients of the BCC’s Bizi Emankorra were Ted Ondarts (February 2006) and Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche (September 2006).

Ted Ondarts’ daughter, Michelle Ondarts Golden, reflected, “Aita was well known for his witty sense of humor and his beautiful voice; he loved singing in the Elgarrekin Choir. Aita rarely showed his emotions, but when he

received this award he was honored and deep down inside it was the type of recognition that meant the world to him. Aita was very proud to be Basque and loved being a member of the Basque Cultural Center.”

Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche was recognized for teaching pilota to a generation of youth at the BCC. He loved the many days coaching them, and he would drive some of the young players home after practice. He drove to Bakersfield, Elko or wherever the NABO competitions were held to support the BCC youth. He was a master craftsman of making pilotas which he expertly demonstrated at the 1979 NABO convention in San Francisco.

Jean Baptiste represented NABO and the United States at the 1978, 1982, 1984 and 1986 World Pilota Championships in Biarritz, Mexico City, Uruguay and Vitoria-Gazteiz, Spain as a player and as a coach. In the 1984 ‘Under 22 world Championship’ games in Montevideo, Uruguay he coached BCC youth Marcel Etcheverry and his nephew, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr. who were the only U.S. Txalpeldunaks for 22 years! He represented the United States at the International Veterans Handball Tournament held at the Basque Cultural Center in 1985. He coached two other nephews, Bernard and Noel Goyhenetche, at the 1986 World Championship in Spain and soon after represented the United States in the over 50 category with his brother, Emile Goyhenetche, Sr., in France. First and foremost teaching pilota was his passion.



**JOSEPH CASTANCHOA, WILLIAM ETCHEGOIN  
(1908-1997), JEAN JAURETCHE (1938-1996)**  
Contributors to the Building of the Basque Cultural Center



*Recipients of the BCC's Bizi Emankorra at the 25th Anniversary in 2007: Joseph Castanchoa (top, right), William "Bill" Etchegoin (center) and Jean Jauretche (bottom). All three men made invaluable contributions to the building of the Basque Cultural Center, Joe as the weekend foreman of the project, Bill as the project consultant, and Jean as the project superintendent. They are pictured with their wives enjoying BCC events in the early eighties: Florence and son, Christian Castanchoa (top, center), Jeanette Etchegoin (center) and Margarita Jauretche (bottom).*

**ANDRE LARRE  
and ARNAUD DUHART**  
Teaching a Generation of Youth Pilota



*Andre Larre and Arnaud Duhart received the Basque Cultural Center Bizi Emankorra Award in September 2007 for their achievements in promoting Basque Culture through ikaspilota (pilota camps for youth) and teaching a generation of children.*

**AITA MARTXEL TILLOUS (1934-2009)**  
Chaplain of the Basque-American Community, Recognized for Spiritual and Cultural Contributions to Basques in the Western United States

Aita Martxel Tillous was honored with the Basque Cultural Center's Bizi Emankorra at the 26th Anniversary in 2008 for his lifetime commitment to Faith, youth and the Basque culture and community in the Western United States. When the Lehendakari of the Basque Government, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, awarded our Aita Martxel, Aita expressed appreciation in song with some bertsoak!!!



*In 2002 Aita Martxel Tillous was the recipient of the first NABO Lifetime Contribution "Bizi Emankorra" Award being recognized for both his spiritual and cultural contributions to Basques in the Western United States. Pierre Etcharren presented Aita Tillous the award at the opening event of NABO's Convention in San Francisco held at the South San Francisco Conference Center.*

Aita Tillous' extraordinary contributions to the Basque community have been recognized by other institutions. In 2002 he was inducted into the Society of Basque Studies in America 22nd Basque Hall of Fame and received NABO's 1st Bizi Emankorra lifetime contribution award. In July 2003 the Basque Government recognized Aita Tillous with a special award at the third World Congress of Basque Communities in Vitoria-Gasteiz. In the fall of 2008 NABO established the Aita Martxel Tillous NABO Youth Aid Fund in recognition of Aita Tillous' lifetime commitment to youth.

In 2007 Aita Tillous was diagnosed with cancer. While battling this disease in 2008 he demonstrated the resilience that marked his career as a Roman Catholic Priest and missionary and made three trips back to the United States from the Basque Country to honor commitments he had made. He celebrated his last Mass in the United States on September 14th, 2008 at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.

**LEON FRANCHISTEGUY and LEON SORHONDO**  
Contributors to the Formation of the  
Basque Cultural Center



*Aita Martxel Tillous received the BCC's Bizi Emankorra award in February 2008 at the 26th Anniversary. He was surrounded by current and former lehendakariak: the Lehendakari of the Basque Autonomous Government Juan Jose Ibarretxe standing next to former BCC President Xabier Berrueta and the BCC's current Lehendakari Isabelle Ocafrain-Bushman.*

*On September 14, 2008 BCC President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman presented the BCC's Bizi Emankorra award to Leon Franchisteguy (top) and Leon Sorhondo (bottom) for their invaluable contributions in keeping the newly developing BCC membership updated with every step of the formation of the Basque Cultural Center in the late seventies and early eighties as the BCC's first Treasurer (Leon Franchisteguy) and Secretary (Leon Sorhondo). Leon Sorhondo has also organized and guided the BCC youth in summer and winter outdoor activities during its first 25 years.*

**205 New Basque Cultural Center Members from 1989 through 2007 \*\***

<p><b>January 1989</b> Alain Antchartechar Joseph Etcheveste Christian Iribarren</p> <p><b>March 1989</b> Paul Castech Jean Pierre Sabarots</p> <p><b>October 1989</b> Christine Arbelbide Dell Bidart Marie Claire Etchebehere Sabino Zubillaga</p> <p><b>November 1989</b> Muriel Schwendt *</p> <p><b>March 1990</b> Christopher Hildebrandt</p> <p><b>September 1990</b> Robert Acheritogaray Evelyn Ourtiague</p> <p><b>May 1991</b> Joseph Moulia Alain Urruty</p> <p><b>July 1991</b> Yvette Gorostiague Martin Jose Huarte Robert Sapatart Francisco Vicondoa</p> <p><b>June 1992</b> Rene Caballero Christian Curutchague Valerie Etcharren Eric Oillarburu Martin Vizcay</p> <p><b>July 1992</b> Mayie Maitia Linda Ocafrain Diane Ourtiague</p> <p><b>November 1992</b> Jean Luc Chiramberro Leon Etchevers Juan Martin Jayo</p> <p><b>February 1993</b> Roger Anchartechar Steven Barreneche Patricia Elicagaray Isabelle Goyeneche</p> <p><b>April 1993</b> Michael Indart Julie Machin</p> <p><b>June 1993</b> Nicole Ocafrain</p>	<p><b>August 1993</b> Alain Negueloua Elisa Saint-Martin</p> <p><b>October 1993</b> Javier Berrueta Mike Marticorena</p> <p><b>January 1994</b> Roger Barreneche Marie Jeanne Idiart Joaquin Micheltorena Joseph Pebet Raymond Poydessus Amelie Sorhondo</p> <p><b>February 1994</b> Daniel Berterretche Isabelle Oillarburu</p> <p><b>May 1994</b> Phillip Elicagaray Bernard Ithurralde Bernadette Jenson Daniel Maitia</p> <p><b>October 1994</b> Alain Salumbide</p> <p><b>May 1995</b> Rosemary Arriada Roger Bonson Meliton Irigoyen Jean Pierre Izoco Joseph Jorajuria</p> <p><b>July/August 1995</b> Carol Apezteguia</p> <p><b>March 1996</b> Margarita Jauretche</p> <p><b>May 1996</b> Aitor Berrueta Alain Camou John Castech Evelyne Etcharren Marty Esarte David Indart John Jorajuria Tony Laxague Isabelle Ocafrain Idoya Sallaburu</p> <p><b>August 1996</b> Francois Camou Maitecha Cuburu</p> <p><b>February 1997</b> Rita Etchepare * Valerie Gorostiague Lucy Sallaberry Mulkerrins Michel Ospital *</p>	<p><b>May 1997</b> Natalie Elicetche Victoria Etcheto</p> <p><b>December 1997</b> Christelle Alfaro Esther Bidaurreta Gabriel Dalia * Robert Larre *</p> <p><b>February 1998</b> Danielle Cordova</p> <p><b>March 1998</b> Michelle Ondarts Golden James Goyhenetche Edward Handschin *</p> <p><b>May 1998</b> Alain Arduain Diane Etcheverry Henri Ocafrain, Jr.</p> <p><b>September 1998</b> Helene Aranguren</p> <p><b>April 1999</b> Maria T. Apezteguia Bernadette Arriada Remi Cuburu Christine Iriartborde Xavier Salaburu Christine Van Hoose Barbara Ann Elordi * Pascal Fosse * Delores Ortiz * Inaki Rekondo *</p> <p><b>June 1999</b> Christine DeLorenzo</p> <p><b>December 1999</b> Jean Louis Arambel Jean Marie Pourrouquet * Anne H. Riss *</p> <p><b>March 2000</b> Nicole Cordova Miguel Ibarra Jean-Richard Moustirats</p> <p><b>April 2000</b> Paul James Iriartborde Jeffrey Alvarez * Joseph Alvarez * Gratien Bidondo *</p> <p><b>May 2000</b> Anne Marie Duboscq * Jose Santana *</p>	<p><b>August 2000</b> Phillip Uharriet Jose Arrastio * Maria Arrastio * Gorka-Ochoa Garay * Maria Sapparrart * Luis Vizcarrondo *</p> <p><b>November 2000</b> Nicole Hauscarriague Marie Helene Sapparrart</p> <p><b>February 2001</b> Eric Irola Odette Handschin * Jean L. Larrondo *</p> <p><b>March 2001</b> Nathalie Oroz Rita Woodfin *</p> <p><b>June 2001</b> Joseph Goyhenetche Jennifer Larraburu</p> <p><b>October 2001</b> Lisa Negueloua Quigley</p> <p><b>February 2002</b> Justin Pebet Darlene Moustirats</p> <p><b>March 2002</b> Ferruccio Lodolini Lisa Negueloua Quigley Mary Anne Gorostiague Ribi</p> <p><b>June 2002</b> Yvette Alzugaray Arantxa Arriada Christophe Moustirats Marc Sorhouet</p> <p><b>July 2002</b> Eric Garat * Philippe Garat *</p> <p><b>September 2002</b> Katrina Elicagaray</p> <p><b>December 2002</b> Eric Espil Janet Oteiza</p> <p><b>January 2003</b> Christiane Arduain Camou Jeanette Camino Cruz Dennis Esarte</p> <p><b>February 2003</b> Gratien Etchebehere, Jr. Amador Zabaleascoa</p>	<p><b>March 2003</b> Lucille Andueza Denise Minaberry</p> <p><b>April 2003</b> Stephanie Oroz</p> <p><b>March 2003</b> Gisele Irola</p> <p><b>June 2003</b> Jon Idiart</p> <p><b>July 2003</b> Jean Pierre Cabalette, Jr.</p> <p><b>August 2003</b> Lynne Basterretche *</p> <p><b>February 2004</b> John Burgoa * Ann Marie Etcheverria Coleman * Aimee Marie Goyhenetche</p> <p><b>March 2004</b> Joshua Pebet Marie Louise Laxague Rosecrans Gina Espinal * Jose Zalba *</p> <p><b>May 2004</b> Sylvie Zubeldia</p> <p><b>June 2004</b> Michael Curutchet Francois Ithurralde</p> <p><b>October 2004</b> Lucy Jaimerena Zamattia</p> <p><b>November 2004</b> Bernadette Sallaberry Hurley Nathalie Sorhouet</p> <p><b>December 2004</b> Philippe Acheritogaray Peter San Julian *</p> <p><b>January 2005</b> Philippe Irola</p> <p><b>March 2005</b> Rosalie Arbelbide Olivia Bidaurreta Marc Unhassobiscay</p> <p><b>May 2005</b> Arielle Goni</p>	<p><b>September 2005</b> David Minhondo Iker Zalbidea</p> <p><b>November 2005</b> Josephine Anchustegui *</p> <p><b>December 2005</b> Jean Marc Sorhondo</p> <p><b>February 2006</b> Patrick Etchebehere</p> <p>Yvonne Hauscarriague</p> <p><b>March 2006</b> David Alfaro Eric Garat Daniel Sampior, Jr. Anita Urruty Jeanne Bovigny *</p> <p><b>April 2006</b> John Falxa</p> <p><b>August 2006</b> Pierre Idiart</p> <p><b>September 2006</b> Elizabeth Aramburu Kvarna</p> <p><b>October 2006</b> Paul Iribarren *</p> <p><b>November 2006</b> Cecilio Echamendi *</p> <p><b>March 2007</b> Mary Ann Begorre Patrick Larraburu</p> <p><b>April 2007</b> Gregoire Riss *</p> <p><b>June 2007</b> Jean Michel Duhalde Alyse Goni Carmen Salaburu Inaki Rekondo Balbino Besterio * Santiago Garcia *</p> <p><b>October 2007</b> Dominic Bigue Patrick Minhondo</p> <p>*Associate Membership</p>
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\*\* At the General Membership Meeting in 1988 it was suggested to announce the new memberships in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter.





*On April 29, 2007, a Memorial Mass was held to honor the deceased members of the BCC thanking them for their generous contributions to the Center. A plaque listing all their names was displayed at the event.*

***Gure Kideak, Beti Gure Bihotzean — Our Members, Always In Our Hearts***  
**Deceased Members 1982 to March 29, 2007**

- |                           |                              |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Aldabe, Jean Pierre       | Etcheverry, Aita Jean Pierre | Michelena, Pierre            |
| ApesteGuy, Jean Pierre    | Fernandez, Pierre            | Micheltoarena, Juan          |
| Aramburu, Julian          | Fuldain, Frederic            | Minaberry, Martin            |
| Aranguren, Joseph         | Gestas, Joseph               | Minaberry, Robert            |
| Arduain, Michel           | Goyeneche, Jean              | Miral, Jose                  |
| Arotzarena, Dominique Sr. | Goyhenetche, Catherine       | Mocho, Gratien               |
| Azcona, Michel            | Goyhenetche, Emile Jr.       | Negueloua, Jean Pierre       |
| Barreneche, Baptiste      | Goyhenetche Marie Louise     | Ocafrain, Gratien            |
| Barreneche, Jean Pierre   | Goyhenetche, Pierre          | Oillarburu, Jeannette        |
| Baylocq, Jacques          | Guecamburu, Jean             | Oillarburu, Marcel           |
| Begorre, Gabriel          | Guerre, Michel               | Ondarts, Theodore            |
| Bidart, Jean              | Gutierrez, Joe               | Oyharcabal, Michel           |
| Bidaurreta, Jean Baptiste | Harguindeguy, Pierre         | Pebet, Bernard               |
| Bilbao, Cecillo           | Hauscarriague, Jean          | Petoteguy, Michel            |
| Biscay, Marcel            | Idiart, Arnaud               | Rudden, Robert               |
| Cachenaut, Arnaud         | Idiart, Jean Pierre          | Saldubehere, James           |
| Camino, Jean Leon         | Idiart, Pierre               | Sallaberry, Andre            |
| Corcessin, Pierre         | Iriartborde, Ganix           | Sallaberry, Pierre           |
| Cubiburu, Jean            | Iribarren, Jean Baptiste     | Saparart, Jean Baptiste      |
| Elissondo, Jean Pierre    | Iribarren, Jean Leon         | Sapparrart, Antione          |
| Elu, Luis                 | Irrissari, (George) Gratien  | Saroberry, Martin            |
| Erdozaincy, Dominique     | Irola, Guillaume             | Scully, Mary Ann Goyhenetche |
| Erdozaincy, Kattalin      | Iturri, Ciriaco              | Secail, Jacques              |
| Erdozaincy, Pettan        | Jauretche, Jean              | Sorhondo, Amelie             |
| Erreca, Bernard           | Lahargoue, Claudine          | Sorhondo, Jean               |
| Errecart, Bernard         | Lapuyade, Jean               | Suquiltvide, Trinidad        |
| Esarte, Martin            | Larraburu, Bernard           | Unhassobiscay, Jacques       |
| Espil, Jean Pierre        | Larraburu, Bernadette        | Urrutia, Carlos              |
| Etchebarne, Pierre        | Larrateguy, Jean Baptiste    | Viscay, Martin               |
| Etchegoin, Jean           | Lasa, Florencio              | Yparraguirre, Eustaguio      |
| Etchegoin, Jeannette      | Lorda, Dominique             | Yrueta, Carlotta             |
| Etchegoin, William        | Lucu, Michel                 | Yrueta, Horaico              |
| Etchevers, Jean           | Machin, Joaquin              | Zalbidea, Teresita           |
| Etcheverry, Jean Baptiste | Marticoarena, Clement        | Zubiri, Jean Baptiste        |
| Etcheverry, Jean Pierre   | Marquine, Jean               |                              |



# GURE BIHOTZA



On October 13, 1991 the Basque Cultural Center was honored at the Eleventh Annual Basque Hall of Fame. In his speech, Gracian Goyhenetche referred to the Center as *bihotza*, the heart that keeps the body alive, pumping culture and activity, never stopping and always beating.

He also observed that the three key ingredients in a community of Basques whether in Euskal Herria, on Broadway in San Francisco or at our beloved Basque Cultural Center are the Church, the Handball Court and the Restaurant.

*“I want to take you back a few years before there was a Basque Cultural Center in the Bay Area. The Basque people have traditionally always had a center. Even today, the center of every Basque village or town in France or Spain is made up of the church, the pilota court, and the surrounding restaurants. Likewise, a few years back, Broadway Street in San Francisco was the heart of the Basque community in the Bay Area. And all the ingredients were there. The church (Notre Dame des Victoires), the restaurants (Hotel de France, Hotel de Espana, Pyrenees Hotel, Du Midi, Basque Hotel, Des Alpes, Obrero Hotel) and the handball court (which in the 1960’s and 1970’s*

*was at Helen Wills Playground). And of course, as most of you know, but I think it is worth telling over and over again, the pilota court at the playground was torn down in 1978, leaving the Basque in the Bay Area without a place to play. And from there it began.....*

*The Center has indeed become the Heart of the Basque Community in the Bay Area. It was built from a labor of love and continues to flourish. Here we have all the ingredients in one building: the pilota court, which is sometimes used as the church and then of course the restaurant.”*

So it is fitting that the next section of this book is divided into the three key ingredients of a Basque community at the Basque Cultural Center: the Church, Pilota and all the Activities, and the Restaurant. Each is critical to “preserve this heart of the Basque Community, ‘gure bihotza,’ and keep it ever-growing and continuously pumping with life and love for many years to come.”

The culture courses through all three and is represented in a *Kabalkada* (Cavalcade) into the 25th Anniversary, the end of the Basque Cultural Center’s first quarter century.



# GURE EUSKAL APEZA ❖ OUR BASQUE CHAPLAIN

*Zurekin Beti Naiz ❖ I will be with you always!*

**D**uring its 25 year history there has been a Basque Chaplain ministering the needs of the Basque Cultural Center members for all but one year – September 1989 until December 1990. Following in the footsteps of earlier Basque chaplains, the priest's ministry has him crisscrossing the western United States driving thousands of miles a year! San Francisco was his 'home base' from where he traveled to eleven states serving the spiritual needs of Basques in the American West. He has been an important presence in the lives of the Center's members at baptisms, weddings, funerals and BCC functions. He has visited the sick, the lonely, the dying, bringing Jesus Christ to everyone. He has celebrated Mass at our festivals, Anniversaries, Picnics, Christmas and New Year's.

## *Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut*

United States Basque Chaplain 1977 – 1986



*Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut celebrated the first Mass at the Basque Cultural Center on its inaugural weekend, March 28, 1982*

Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut was a strong supporter of the Center's formation from the very beginning. With encouraging words and his strong hand on potential members' shoulders, he convinced many to invest in building the BCC who, otherwise would not have joined.

On October 4, 1986 over 600 Basques from the Bay Area, other parts of California, the United States and South America came together at the Basque Cultural Center to thank Aita Cachenaut for nine years of service and wish him well in his new position in Saint Jean Pied de Port. Aita Cachenaut began the evening with a beautiful Mass concelebrated with Father Etienne Siffert of Notre Dame des Victoires and Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry who replaced him as the Basque chaplain. After Mass, Aita Cachenaut was honored with many gifts of gratitude highlighted with a song sung by Suzanne Elicetche with words written by Florence Castanchoa that captured the sentiment, "You've been with us for nine years now; without you we'll feel lost. You've been our priest, you've been our friend; you've been our Santa Claus!"

Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut was the 2005 recipient of NABO's Bizi Emankorra and described as "a binding agent, an ambassador throughout the Western United States and Euskal Herria for NABO". Undoubtedly, Aita Cachenaut was a binding agent in the formation of the Basque Cultural Center and its early years as well. He was welcoming to Basques and non-Basques alike. Everyone felt uplifted after talking with him (and, perhaps, a little sore from a firm handshake!)

*“In the history of humanity, it is always said that if you put men to build a Cathedral, they will do it, and we will build our ‘Euskal Etxea’.” — Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut*



### Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut’s 2006 Reflections on the Formation of the Basque Cultural Center

“The Pelotarís often had problems with the games at Helen Wills Playground: rain, pilota lost or on the roof, busy court, etc. Around 1979 we knew the owner of the court had a new project, so we had to leave the place on Broadway Avenue. Some people more ambitious than others started to say that we needed our own place. We started the meetings – one, two, three and many others. I was often there to strongly support the project. For me it was always the idea of an ‘Euskal Etxea’. The South San Francisco place was a kind of marble quarry, a dirty place, but the location was so good that it was decided to buy. The hardest thing was done: We finally had the Basque House location.

The hardest thing? No! Because we needed money. And then a group of Basque people decided to put up money to buy the land. It was OK! We were owners! We the Basques! But we had to convince people to give money. It was the hardest in the beginning. My job then was at the meetings to say sentences like this one: ‘Don’t be afraid.... We are so many families, and it will be for your kids, too....Keep faith and go everywhere to have always more members...’ I also said, ‘In the history of humanity, it is always said that if you put men to build a Cathedral, they will do it, and we will build our ‘Euskal Etxea’.

I got several new members from Southern California, Bakersfield, Chino, Fresno, etc. Pretty soon our Basque land was clean, and the construction was ready to start. Fortunately we had some competent men to survey the building and to give ideas: Jauretche, Etchegoin, Castanchoa, Gorostiague and others. I remember also many Basque people working on the foundations. What a fantastic job to pull up and put together the huge walls of the handball court.

Little by little the money was coming to realize the project. That money raising was a beautiful sign that people trusted the project more and more. Some money was borrowed from some people, too. And in 1982 our ‘Euskal Etxea’ was finished. Now everybody realizes that it was necessary!

**But the main purpose is for me to keep the family Basque spirit – to promote always Basque culture without forgetting our faith received by our parents and by staying faithful to our Baptism. May we have our faith in God and Jesus always deeper. You are often in my prayers, as well as your departed people, dear Basque Community in USA.**

*Bihotzekik agur! (With greetings from my heart !)”*

## *Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry*

United States Basque Chaplain 1986 – 1989

THE LARGEST CONCELEBRATED MASS took place at the BCC while Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry was Basque Chaplain. On February 12, 1989 six Basque priests came from France to join Aita Etcheverry in the BCC's 7th Anniversary Mass with the Klika, dancers and Elgarrekin Choir. Later in 1989 Aita Etcheverry presented a different type of play which he explained, "...could be enjoyed whether or not you understand Basque because the play is written in the language of music." With help from BCC members, Aita Etcheverry translated the Pastorale into English. The performance was given at the 1989 NABO Convention in Los Banos. Aita Etcheverry had a beautiful singing voice and played and sang the part of the priest in the play.



*The largest concelebrated Mass in the BCC's first quarter century took place on February 12, 1989 on its 7th Anniversary. Picture above (l to r) are Aita Etcheverry, Aita J. B. Bascans from Urepel, Aita Pierre Carcabal from Baigorri, Aita Jean Irigoyen from Donibane Garazi, Aita Leon Minaberry from Arberatz, Aita Arnaud Oillarburu from Arnegi and Aita Leon Oxarango from Ortzaize.*



*Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry (center) played the part of the Priest in the Pastorale on May 20, 1989 at the Los Banos Convention. His altar servers were Xavier Ocafrain and Henri Ocafrain.*



*Aita Etcheverry was thanked for his service on September 23, 1989 at the BCC's annual Fall barbecue, Udazkeneko Besta.*



## *Aita Jean Elicagaray*

### United States Basque Chaplain 1990 – 1994



NOT ONLY THE BCC, but all of the western United States was without a Basque Chaplain from September 1989 until December 1990. The entire Basque community was grateful when Aita Jean Elicagaray arrived. He is the youngest brother of two BCC members, Pierre and Marcel Elicagaray. Aita Elicagaray celebrated his first Mass at the Women's Club annual Children's Christmas party. He organized many activities for the BCC youth including inspiring and teaching many novice skiers on several bus trips to Tahoe.

On August 10, 1991 Aita Elicagaray sang with the Elgarrekin Choir at NABO's "Kantari Eguna" (Day of the Singer) in Gardnerville, Nevada. Initially begun on April 23, 1988 as a singing competition with categories of old songs, new songs, rock, children under 14 and bertsolaries, "Kantari Eguna" evolved into a singing festival including choirs from San Francisco and Boise.

Every year, the Basque priests prepared the BCC members for Easter with Missions held during the week before Palm Sunday. In the early years, these Missions were held at Notre Dames des Victoires; later many were held at the BCC. During his last Easter season as Basque Chaplain in the United States in 1994, Aita Elicagaray took BCC members on a tour of St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Using both Basque and English he explained the very interesting symbolism in every detail of the Cathedral including its architecture, statues, altar, and Baptismal font to better appreciate such a magnificent building.

A farewell song was sung to Aita Elicagaray to the tune of "I Left my Heart in San Francisco" by Gracian and James Goyhenetche:

*He'll leave his heart in San Francisco with all the  
Basques who played with him.  
Bike rides with young and old in tow,  
ski lessons in the snow;  
The fastest youth he could out run, when day was done.  
As you go back to Euskadi know you've set traditions  
that will go on.  
And we're grateful that through leisure time with you  
our enjoyment of Basque culture grew.  
He'll leave his heart in San Francisco with all the  
singers who knew him well.  
Elgarrekin and Gardnerville fetes – base, tenor  
and a duet  
Enriching our lives not only in song,  
but in faith so strong.  
And as you go back to Euskadi your teachings  
and stories will fill our hearts.  
And though not by your side we will shine and  
not hide our deep Basque, Catholic pride!*



*Aita Elicagaray sang with the Elgarrekin Choir at NABO's "Kantari Eguna" (Day of the Singer) in Gardnerville, Nevada on August 10, 1991.*



*The Center's members welcomed Aita Martxel Tillous and expressed their appreciation to Aita Jean Elicagaray on May 22, 1994.*

## *Aita Martxel Tillous*

United States Basque Chaplain 1990 – 2008

AN AVID TXISTULARI, AITA MARTXEL was often seen and heard playing this ancient Basque flute (or its variation the xirula). He served as the txistu instructor at NABO's annual Udaleku for the youth. After a Basque picnic meal he often joined in a sing along or a conversation to encourage the formation of a new Basque cultural venture. He started a newsletter, *Lokarria*, that went out to 4,500 Basque-American families throughout the western states to further assist efforts to bring our community closer together.

Aita Tillous longed to be closer to the Basque community and was very pleased when the BCC Board of Directors unanimously offered him a room at the Basque Cultural Center in 1997. Soon after moving to the BCC Aita Tillous scheduled a singing practice at the Center to prepare the young children to participate in a Christmas Nativity as a part of the December 20th Christmas Mass before the annual Children's Christmas Party. Parents were excited and honored when their children participated in this annual event since 1998.

Susan (Begorre) Langlands said, "My son, Lain, was the baby Jesus in December, 1999. We then had his baptism there in March, 2000. Lain also attended the Basque children's classes that were offered in 2005. We recently had twins and were honored to have one of my sons, Patrick, be asked to be baby Jesus in December 2005. We look forward to having Patrick and his brother, Nicholas, becoming involved at the Center. My husband and I have also both participated in Mus tournaments at the center. There is such a wide spectrum of activities available at the Center that I am confident the Center will be alive and strong for many years to come."

Those honored to be the Baby Jesus in the Nativity pageant were Daniel Camou (1998), Lain Begorre Langlands (1999), Amanda Bushman (2000), Charlize Golden (2001), Eric Anchartechahar (2002), Andoni Acheritogaray (2003), Emily Woods (2004), Patrick Begorre Langlands (2005), Grace Quigley (2006), Vincent DiLorenzo (2007).

Beginning in 2004 to help keep the Nativity tradition alive, the children were not required to speak – only to dress in costume and reenact the Christmas story as it was being told.



*1998 Christmas Mass: Standing in front of Aita Tillous: Ryan Blumenthal, Erik Kvarna, Gabi Iturburua, Dominique Erdozaincy, Yasmine Ocafrain, Nathalie Urroz (Mary), Daniel Camou (baby Jesus), Nick Bidaurreta (Joseph), Annette Erdozaincy, Nathalie Iturburua, Katie Etcheverria, Lisa Etchepare. Sitting: Joseph Jorajuria, Danny Blumenthal, Nick Erdozaincy, Paul Woodland, Gabe Erdozaincy, Jerome Goyhenetche.*



*2006 Christmas Mass: Mary, Jesus, Joseph: Julia Hurley, Grace Quigley, Daniel Camou. Shepherds: Gexan Arrechea, Ryan Keiper, Vincent Kvarna, Jessie Kvarna, Mattieu Acheritogaray, Jean Pierre Negueloua. Angel, back: Amaia Keiper. Angels, front: Angelina Zamattia, Juliette Camou, Amanda Bushman, Megan Bushman, Allysa Goyhenetche, Nicole Ourtiague, Noel Hurley, Joana Arrechea.*



2002

With a shortage of vocations, the future of the Basque missionary priest in the United States was not certain. On August 27 an important meeting was held with the Bishop of Bayonne, Pierre Molerés, at the BCC to convince him of the critical importance of the Priest in the Basque Community. As a result, Aita Tillous was told that he could remain in the United States, but when he chose to retire there may be no priest to replace him!

The BEO's 2002 essay contest co-winner, Aimee Goyhenetche, in her answer to 'How has the BCC enriched my life as an American Basque?' said, "Our Catholic faith helps unify our Basque community. What better way to celebrate Mass than in the Kantxa of the Basque Cultural Center. Since I was little, I remember sitting in the loft waiting for the Klika to come in with their pounding drums sounding that Mass was beginning. I think that the Kantxa with its wonderful openness and acoustics makes a beautiful place for us to have our worship. How many people can say that they celebrate Mass knowing every person in the room? Being able to attend a Mass that is done by a priest who comes from the Basque Country makes me feel a great tie with the Basque Country. Having a Basque priest enriches my life because there is something really special about hearing words from our Holy Bible in Basque. It is great that Aita Tillous lives at the Basque Cultural Center because when I go there he greets me with his warm smile and 'Nola sida!'"



*Aita Joseph Camino and Pierre Molerés, the Bishop of Bayonne concelebrating Mass with Aita Tillous on August 27, 2002.*

2004

Aita Tillous was honored at the BCC for ten years of serving our Basque community and 40 years as a priest on November 7, 2004. Gracian Goyhenetche expressed the members' sentiment in these words, "Before Jesus went back to heaven, he instructed his apostles to 'Go to all peoples everywhere and make them disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit'. Without a doubt, Aita Martxel Tillous has heard that call of Jesus. He served the people of Ivory Coast, West Africa, for 26 years, then was the chaplain for the Basques in Paris for four years. Fortunately for us, ten years ago his journey



*Playing the Txistu in 1995: Mark Sorhouet, Juan San Mames, Giselle Irola, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, and Aita Tillous.*

led him to the United States where he has dedicated his life to the spiritual needs of the American Basques. And if this wasn't enough, every summer he is at the Udaleku, the Basque Cultural Summer Camp, encouraging our children to learn their culture. He brings his special talents for music and Txistu to demonstrate how we can praise God through our Basque Culture.

And for the Elgarrekin Choir, he has been our loyal director for these many years. He has spent many hours with us, teaching us our musical parts with determination, humor and especially with patience. Although, sometimes we can be a very difficult group, he has never lost patience with us and there is always a smile on his face. We have grown to love this very loving and humble man."



*BCC President Franxoa Bidaurreta presented a Makila to Aita Tillous on November 7, 2004 in recognition of his service.*



*Ez adiorik, bakarrik goraintzi eta ikus arte!*  
Don't say goodbye, just say good luck until we meet again!



*Aita Martxel Tillous on the 25th Anniversary of the BCC.*

#### Future of the Basque Chaplain in the United States

In a 2006 interview with Idoia Salaburu Urruty, *Eusko-Sare.com*'s United States coordinator, Aita Tillous was asked about the future of a Basque Priest in the United States. He said, "I am investigating the possibility of having a Basque deacon serve the Basque American community. A Basque deacon would be able to participate very similarly as I do in Mass. They would be able to give sermons, communion, participate in weddings, baptisms, and such. They just cannot consecrate the Mass. A Basque deacon would be able to lead the Mass in the ancient language of Euskara which has unified many Basque Americans for years."

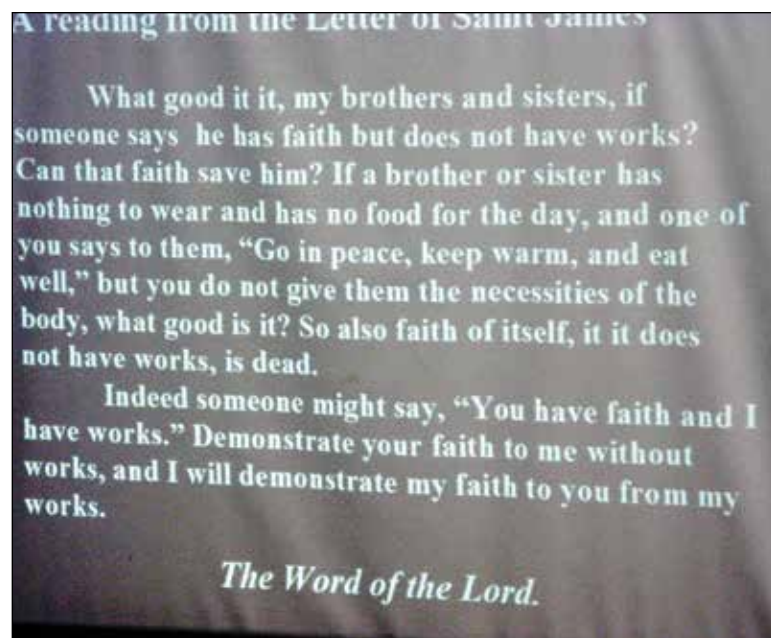
In his homily at the 2008 NABO Convention in Chino, Aita Martxel Tillous summarized, "I have just spent 14-15 years among you. I have traveled over 11 states, and this is what I remember over these long travels among you . . . I have always appreciated your welcome. I still remember what the Bishop of Bayonne told you during his visit to the U.S., 'It seems to me that your homes are made to be a place of welcome.' No matter what corner, no matter what state, in any home that I entered, I felt this warm welcome.

I have appreciated your way of living your Christian faith. In your parishes, your churches are full. You take part in many activities: catechism, visiting the sick, choir and many other things. Keep living this way. Be courageous through all the struggles that life brings us. But most of all, grow deeper in your faith because our world terribly needs people who believe . . . Our greatest joy, our greatest richness is this faith that the Eucharist nourishes."

Who will continue the priestly years of dedication, hard work, and continuous love spreading the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ through the Basque Culture?

Who will help nourish our faith at Basque Cultural Center events? Who will say Mass at over 40 Basque picnics in the greater Western United States—13 in California, seven in Nevada, three in Idaho, four in Oregon, two in Washington State, two in Wyoming, one in Montana, two in Colorado, one in Arizona—seeing to the religious needs of thousands of Basques families?

We consider ourselves fortunate to have been blessed with the presence of a Basque chaplain among us during 24 of the first 25 years of the Basque Cultural Center.



*Aita Tillous had the readings and homilies projected on a screen set up in the Kantxa during the BCC Masses.*

## Tribute to Aita Martxel Tillous in Song by Charles Moustirats 2004

*Besta eder guziez nor ez da kantari,  
Bertsoen emaiteko Aita Tillous zuri.  
Berrogoi urte badu zirela apezjarri,  
Otoitz egiten duzu gure Jainkoari,  
Fedea erakasten hemen guziera.*

*Hamar urte ditutzu gurekin pasatu,  
Hainitz euskaldun duzu hola ezagutu.  
Xabar eta gazteak bai alegeratu,  
Bide luzeak oro gogotik garraitu,  
Denek nahi zaitugu bihotzez eskertu.*

*Aita Tillous zuk duzu aspaldi jakina  
Nolakoa ditaken hemen Euskalduna  
Erran gabe bai doa dela jende ona  
Serioski lanean altxatuz ukana  
Galgarri eta kalte da soberakina*

*Soberakinaz baita gaur hemen solasa  
Pentsatuz ere dela berdin gaxto eskasa  
Duenaz kontent dena hura da urosa  
Elgarren laguntzeko eginez urhatsa  
Holakoa ditake guziz aberatsa*

*Gu biek izen bera diotenaz artzaina  
Ni ardientzat eta zu elizarena  
Zure ta nere lana ez baita berdina  
Gorputzaren hazkurria baita nik egina  
Zuk zure otoitzetan gure arimarena*

*Aita Tillous-ek dauku kantuz erakusten  
Ez dugulakotz beti musika segitzen  
Ardura lau bosetan baitugu kantatzen  
Bortz garren bat ez dauku bakan baizik onhartzten  
Lau ekin bada aski dugu konprenditzen*

*Guretzat on izan da gora Amerika  
Gurekin akort denak hau du errepika  
Bi artzain ez baitira artzen espantuka  
Zer den diferentzia dezatan esplika  
Nik astua ukan nuen zuk aldiz pottoka*

*Hitz guti ta denak on hau da contseilua  
Obretarik ageri amodio beroa  
Aita Tillous ek ere gutan du gogoia  
Neke da egitea guzien gostua  
Hori eginen duena ez baita sortua*

*Zonbeit aldiz artzen niz seriuski karkulan  
Memento onik dugula beti zurekulan  
Organuan azkar zira bai eta xirulan  
Gu guzien moldatzen baduzu hainitz lan  
Ez zaitugu abantziko guk santa sekulan*

AIREA: XORTEKO LAGUNERI

In every beautiful gathering who wouldn't enjoy  
Singing some songs to you, Father Tillous.  
It has been forty years since you have become a priest.  
With your example of prayer and praising the Lord,  
You teach all of us the true meaning of faith.

You have been with our community for ten years.  
In this way you got to know many Basque people.  
Pleasing the young and the old,  
By traveling long roads around the country.  
We all want to thank you from our hearts.

Father Tillous, you've always known  
The true nature of the Basque people here.  
Without a doubt they are good people,  
Working hard for their money and  
Knowing that excess is not always the best.

Since we're talking about excess, let's be honest.  
Not having enough is just as bad.  
Being satisfied with what we have and  
willing to help others.  
That is the definition of a wealthy person.

We both share the name of shepherd.  
I was a shepherd for the sheep and you for the Church.  
But your work and mine are not the same.  
I fed the peoples' bodies with my sheep.  
You feed our souls with your faith.

Father Tillous teaches us how to sing.  
Most of the time we sing in four parts.  
Sometimes we add a fifth one by mistake.  
Father Tillous corrects us and says  
That four parts is plenty for our singing knowledge.

America has been a good country to all of us.  
Those who agree with us, continue praising.  
Shepherds are not ones to brag.  
I know that I traveled by donkey,  
But you had a car named Pottoka (which means pony).

Simply said, love is shown from work performed.  
Your heart is always with us Basque people.  
Father Tillous is always considerate of us.  
But pleasing everyone is impossible.  
The one who can do that has not been born yet.

Sometimes I think thoughtfully  
About the great times that we spend together.  
You are the best musician on the organ and flute.  
Teaching us to sing can definitely be a challenge.  
We will never forget these great memories with you.

*“Be courageous through all the struggles that life brings us. But most of all, grow deeper in your faith because our world terribly needs people who Believe. Yes, Basques of America or from both the northern and southern Basque Country—be happy to be Christian.....We members of the Church, although we may be sinners, know that the Christ wanted this Church to take hold of our world as a sign of the presence and love of God. The Church gives us the Christ, and by giving us Jesus, it gives us everything. Our greatest joy, our great richness is this faith that this Eucharist will now nourish.” —Aita Tillous, September 2008*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

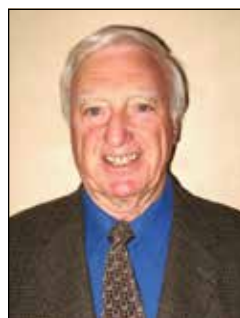
*Ordu batean ezin dana, bitan egiten da!* ❀ What can't be done in one hour, can be done in two!



*The Board at the 1982 Opening of the Basque Cultural Center*

*Back Row: Jean Baptiste Saparart, Jacques Unhassobiscay, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Felix Berrueta, Ganix Iriartborde, Johnny Curutchet, Joseph Castanchoa. Front Row: Michel Marticorena, Leon Franchisteguy, Jose Mari Miura, Jean Gorostiague, Leon Sorhondo, Gracian Goyhenetche, Louis Elu.*

## *Lehendakari* – President



### **Jean Gorostiague**

President 1979-1982

Director '82-'00, '01-'07

“I’m proud to walk up to our Cultural Center where we have hosted Basques from many countries of the world. I believe the Basque culture is alive and well in the Bay Area.” — *Jean Gorostiague*

“Jean is a man who prepares volumes of information for each meeting. I can’t tell you how many times Jean has been at a meeting with files, estimates, architect drawings, etc. He’d get questions from seven different people and answer them all. On the occasions he didn’t have an answer he would research it and have what you wanted to know for the next meeting.”

—*Robert Acheritogaray*



### **Jacques Unhassobiscay**

President 1982-1983

Vice-President '83-84

Director 8/79-'82, '84-'8/84



### **Joe Castanchoa**

President 1983-1985

Vice President '85-'86





**Leon Franchisteguy**

President 1985-1988  
Vice-President '88-'89  
Treasurer 6/79-'85  
Director '89-'91

“Our Basque Cultural Center would not be what it is without the support of our community, but there are a few who stand out in my recollection. The most important contributor to this successful industry in my mind is my wife, Grachana, who remained beside me every step of the way. On a daily basis, she performed a million services to make this process run smoothly, from stuffing and sealing envelopes to taking messages, to tasks too numerous to mention. Because she trusted that I would succeed, I had continued faith in our success, as I am sure my colleagues can say about the contribution of their spouses....I believe that the ongoing success of the Basque Cultural Center is a grand testament to our community’s closeness. I am so pleased to see that the next generation has picked up the reigns and that new services are being offered to a new generation of Basque-Americans. All of these new faces mean that the group of people who met in the Hall of Notre Dame des Victoires all those years ago produced more than just a brick and mortar building; they put together a representation of our unity, and named it the Basque Cultural Center.”

“Our Basque Cultural Center would not be what it is without the support of our community, but there are a few who stand out in my recollection. The most important contributor to this successful industry in my mind is my wife, Grachana, who remained beside me every step of the way. On a daily basis, she performed a million services to make this process run smoothly, from stuffing and sealing envelopes to taking messages, to tasks too numerous to mention. Because she trusted that I would succeed, I had continued faith in our success, as I am sure my colleagues can say about the contribution of their spouses....I believe that the ongoing success of the Basque Cultural Center is a grand testament to our community’s closeness. I am so pleased to see that the next generation has picked up the reigns and that new services are being offered to a new generation of Basque-Americans. All of these new faces mean that the group of people who met in the Hall of Notre Dame des Victoires all those years ago produced more than just a brick and mortar building; they put together a representation of our unity, and named it the Basque Cultural Center.”



**Jean Leon Ocafrain**

President 1988-1990  
Director '81-'88, '90-'95, '96-'99, '00-'07



**Pierre Bigue**

President 1990-1992  
Vice President '89-'90  
Director '86-'89



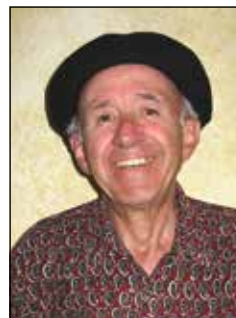
**Johnny Curutchet**

President 1992-1994  
Vice President '91-'92  
Director 8/79-'82, '90-'91, '94-'96, '04-'07



**Etienne Jorajuria**

President 1994-1997  
Director '92-'94, '97-'04



**Jean Berhan**

President 1997-2000  
Director '94-'97, '00-'06



**Pierre Etcharren**

President 2000-2003  
Director '92-'94, '97-'04



**Franxoa Bidaurreta**

President 2003-2005  
Vice President '02-03  
Director '82-'85, '93-'02



**Xabier Berrueta**

President 2005-2007

Vice President '03-'05

Director '99-'03

“The Center was my home since I first played catch in the dirt and rock parking lot with John Idiart on January 10th, 1982, the day that Dwight Clark made “THE CATCH” for the 49ers. Back then

there were not as many houses in and around the newly built Center which would explain why I could hear the faint roar of the crowd from Candlestick Park that evening. Our dads didn't care for football back then since they were already breaking in the Center's new handball court, tired from playing on the playground courts of McKinley School in Burlingame. I was inspired at an early age by Jacques Unhassobiscay. In my teenage years, I enjoyed attending the General Meetings and watching and observing the parents and members go at it over the various issues. Believe it or not, I miss the fire and passion that was displayed in those meetings.”

**Board Decisions Announced in the BCC Newsletter**

1982

**April 18** -The BCC joined NABO (by a 105 to 77 member vote) and General Meetings would be every two months (which became quarterly). Attendance at the quarterly General Informational Meetings on Sunday mornings is the best opportunity to be aware of what's going on and to ask questions or offer suggestions. The June meeting coincides with the annual General Elections; the November meeting coincides with the Women's annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale. One of the important items on the November agenda is the annual Financial Report of the Restaurant Board.

**June 8** - Employees are not allowed to run for the Board (Section 4.16). Amended July 14, 2008 to Employees of the Corporation and salaried employees of 599 Railroad Catering, Inc., are not allowed to hold a position on the Board of Directors.

**June 13** - The first Board of Directors' election at the BCC took place. A total of 194 ballots were received. The ballot results for the top five candidates were as follows: Leon Franchisteguy (181 votes), Franxoa Bidaurreta (165 votes), Pierre Etcharren (130 votes), Jean Gorostiague (123 votes), Mayie Etcheverry (122 votes). On March 11, 1980 the Board had decided that Election Day would be the second Sunday of June.

**July 20** - Board of Directors voted to meet on the second Monday of each month. At the June Meeting (which follows Election Day), the officers are nominated and elected.

BALLOT FOR THE 1984 ELECTION  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

Vote for not more than five candidates. You may write in a candidate if you choose. If you mark and/or write in a total of more than five candidates, your ballot will be invalid.

<input type="checkbox"/>	ANITA ARDUAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	BEGNAT GOYHENETCHE
<input type="checkbox"/>	FELIX BERRUETA	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRACIAN GOYHENETCHE
<input type="checkbox"/>	SEBASTIEN CURUTCHET	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEON SORHONDO
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALAIN ERDOZAINCY	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	NOEL ERDOZAINCY	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	LORRAINE ETCHEVERRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

*SF BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER, INC.*  
**OFFICIAL BOARD ELECTION BALLOT**

Voting Instructions:

1. Mark [X] in the square after the name of the candidate(s) of your choice.
2. Do NOT vote for more than FIVE [5] candidates.
3. Put the ballot in the ballot envelope and seal.
4. Insert the ballot envelope in the enclosed return envelope
5. SIGN THE BACK OF THE RETURN ENVELOPE ON THE SIGNATURE LINE
6. Late ballots, return envelopes not properly completed, or mismarked ballots will be VOIDED and not counted.

---

ARRIADA, Arantxa ..... [ ]

BERRUETA, Felix ..... [ ]

BUSHMAN (OCAFRAIN), Isabelle  
Incumbent ..... [ ]

CABALETTE, Jean Pierre. . . . . [ ]

ELU, John ..... [ ]

ESPINAL, Tony ... .. [ ]  
Incumbent

ETCHEVERRY, Mayie. .... [ ]

OCAFRAIN, Jean Leon ..... [ ]  
Incumbent

**Write in candidate:**

IMPORTANT: Ballots will be counted on the day of the annual Election Gen. Membership meeting on June 11, 2006 at the BCC 599 Railroad Ave., So. San Francisco, CA 94080. All ballots arriving after NOON TIME (12:00 p.m.) of that date will NOT BE COUNTED. Postmarks do not count.

Top: 1984 Ballot. Bottom: 2006 Ballot .

## 1993 - 1996

The 1993 General Election had the highest number of proxy votes since the BCC was formed - 40% of the General Election's 247 ballots cast were proxy votes. Discontent with the June election was expressed at the September General Meeting causing a special ballot to be mailed to each member. Of the 289 responses received, 193 members voted that they did not want a re-election to take place. However, as a result, the 1994 voting procedures were changed and proxy voting would no longer be allowed.

At the September 13, 1993 Board of Directors meeting a motion was made by Leon Sorhondo and seconded by Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray to put Board of Director voting decisions in the monthly newsletter. The following were announced in subsequent BCC *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletters:

- October 11, 1993 - A unanimous motion was made by Noel Goyhenetche and seconded by Jean Gorostiague to pay back the Basque Club loan.
- February 1994 - A Committee chaired by Noel Goyhenetche and including Felix Bidaureta, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray, Mayie Etcheverry and Leon Sorhondo was formed to work on amending the By-Laws. The membership was encouraged to review the by-laws and make suggestions.
- June 1994 - Every member would have a chance to vote by mail whether able to get to the Center or not on Election Day. In order to make the new system work, a signature card is kept on file so that each member's signature can be verified.
- April 10, 1995 - The Board voted unanimously to 1) hire an attorney, 2) pay the civil engineer who worked on the parking lot (he lowered his price following a discrepancy in his fee), and 3) pay for one night's dinner and hotel for Francois Pedeflous who drove the handball players to Chino. The Board also voted to get three sealed bids from General Contractors for the extension and the remodeling of the restaurant.
- June 1996 The Board of Directors voted unanimously to report its voting decisions at each General Meeting. The Secretary of the Board will provide a report listing the decisions the Board has made since the previous General Meeting. This gives the members and Directors an opportunity to discuss the Board's decisions. The Board's decisions would not be reported in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter.

## Lehendakariorduz – Vice President



**Jose Mari Miura**  
Vice President 1979-1982

“Pierre Jaureguito and I were in charge of going door to door to raise money (to build the BCC) in Marin County and the North Bay. I remember the first \$1,000 that good friends gave me. When we got to his house, the first thing he did was to put his huge fist up to my little jaw, and say, ‘Goodbye, Jose Mari’. He was so upset because we (Basque Club) bought that land in Los Altos Hills. We didn’t have permits, and when we pulled out a few trees from the neighbors side we got in trouble. He feared we’d fail again; but I got my first \$1,000 from him. He was a big business man; and good to his employees. He’s still a member.”



**Gracian Goyhenetche**  
Vice President 1982-1983,  
1987-1988

Director 8/79-'82, '83-'87, '88-'90,  
'95-'01

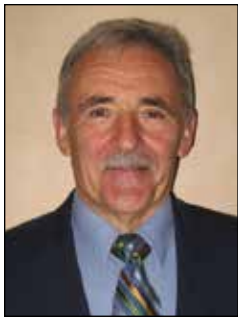
“After serving twelve years on the Board of Directors and five years on the Catering Board I stepped down so I could be more involved with my four children and their schools. However, when I found my children spending a great deal of time at the Cultural Center I decided to run again. A well-run organization is one in which the lines of communication are always kept open and clear and respectful. The Center was built for all its members and all of our ideas should be considered.”



**Leon Sorhondo**  
Vice President 1984-1985,  
1986-1987

Secretary 6/79-'83  
Director '83-'84, '85-'86, '90-'95





**Gratien Etchebehere**  
Vice President 1990-1991  
Director 1/1988-1990



**Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman**  
Vice-President 2004-2007  
Asst. Secretary '03-'04, '05-'06



**Alain Erdozaincy**  
Vice President 1992-1993  
Director '98-'92



**Tony Espinal**  
Vice President 2005-2007  
Director '03-'05



**Noel Goyhenetche**  
Vice President 1993-2000  
Director '91-'93, '00-'02

### Membership Eligibility

#### 1980

To raise money faster the regular membership certificate was increased to \$2,000 in January, but the current member's spouse, a 20 year old child, or an adult child of a member could join as a certificate membership owner for \$1,000.00 prior to March 10, 1980. In 1980 Certificate Membership Dues were \$5 per month; in 1982 they were doubled to \$10 per month. In 1992 they were decreased to \$5 per month, and in 1999 the Certificate Membership Dues were halved again to \$30 a year.



**Jean Luc Chiramberro**  
Vice President 2000-2002  
Director '99-'00

#### 1982

Certificate Membership reopened at \$4,000 on March 1. On October 8 ballots were mailed to all members following a September General Meeting decision. Of 120 returned ballots, 81 voted in favor of the regular certificate membership remaining at \$4,000; 72 voted in favor of allowing non-member's children under 25 years to purchase a certificate membership at \$750 and paying the remaining balance of \$3,250 by the time of their 25th birthdays; 76 voted in favor of allowing member's children under 21 to purchase a certificate membership at \$1,000.



**Nicole Hauscarriague**  
Vice President 2003-2004  
Asst. Secretary '02-'03  
Director '01-'02

#### 1983

In April Associate Membership opened at \$500 for single person with monthly dues of \$10. Family Associate Membership opened at \$1,000 with monthly dues of \$20. In December the Board of Directors required all Membership Certificates numbered 300 to 400 be returned to Secretary Mayie Etcheverry for correction.

#### 1987

If a member becomes delinquent in dues in the amount of \$1,000 or an associate member is delinquent in dues in the amount of \$60 the membership will immediately be cancelled.

1992

Member's children are eligible to purchase a membership at \$1,000 any time before their 21st birthday and up to 90 days after their 21st birthday.

1995

In January the following Proposed Changes to the Membership Structure were approved:

Up to the Age of 21: Non-Member children of Basque Descent or sponsored by a certificate member in good standing, shall have the privilege to participate in BCC activities (dancing, klika, pilota, pala) and use of the facilities, upon review and approval of the applicant by the Board of Directors. In addition to any applicable fees, ages 18 to 21 will be required to pay the yearly membership fee set by the BCC Board of Directors.

At 21 Years of Age: The Non-Member may apply to become a certificate member at the voted membership price and /or become an associate member.

2008

On January 14 Section 2.04 Membership Fees amended:

1. The fee for a Regular Membership shall be \$4,000 until such time as the same is changed by resolution of the Board of Directors (amended on March 1, 1982).
2. The fee for a Regular Membership for children of Regular Members who are 21 years of age shall be \$1,000, until their 22nd birthday.
3. The fee for a Regular Membership for persons who are 21 and who are of Basque ancestry shall be \$1,500, until their 22nd birthday, and this Regular Membership will be nontransferable for ten years.
4. Associate Members shall pay a fee of \$500 for a single person; and \$1,000 for a Family Associate Membership which includes children up to the age of 21 years (amended April, 1983).



Former BCC Secretary Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray (left) and Yolanda Gorostiague (right) sold drink tickets with BCC Assistant Treasurer Mayi Etcheverry (center) during the 25th Anniversary weekend. Always a bargain at the BCC: soda, water and juice were \$1; beer, wine and mixed drinks were \$3; and cognacs and cordials were \$4 during the festivities.

## Idazkari – Secretary



**Mayie Etcheverry**  
Secretary 1983-1994  
Asst. Treasurer '07  
Director '82-'83



**Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray**  
Secretary 1994-1997  
Director '91-'94



**Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry**  
Secretary 1997-1998  
Asst. Secretary '84-'90  
Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer '90-'97



**Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo**  
Secretary 1998-2000  
Director '97-'98



**Valerie Etcharren Arrechea**  
Secretary 2000-2007  
Director '95-'00



## Philippe Acheritogaray

Asst. Secretary 2007  
Director '05-'07



## Betty Alzugaray

Asst. Secretary/Asst. Treasurer  
1997  
Director '93-'97

### Membership Activity Survey Report

In 1998 a Membership Activity Survey was mailed to members in the January and February newsletter. Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo developed and tabulated the survey, and a 15% response rate generated ideas for activities that developed as a result of the survey. Of the 60 responses, 43 completed the adult section of the survey, 15 completed the senior section, and 11 completed the children and youth (14-20) sections. For all ages, reasons of non-participation given were distance from the BCC and other commitments.

Senior Members were interested in trips and excursions from international tours to outings within California like to the wine country or to San Simeon. Suggestions were made to view films, form muxiko/quadrille groups and charter buses to picnics (and NABO conventions) that are a long distance away. Adult Members mentioned cooking lessons, films, and trips including ski, rafting, cycling, backpacking and outlet shopping. Along with Youth (age 14 - 20) adults were interested in forming leagues (bowling, golf, baseball, basketball, softball, soccer).

The Youth thought it was important for the Basque language to be taught and would participate. 80% of the respondents listed BCC cultural activities on their applications to high school and or college and thought it had helped. The Youth suggested activities that the BCC could sponsor for school community service hours including babysitting, assisting with festival set up, volunteering on committees, and participating in outreach activities such as soup kitchens. While it's important for children to participate in Basque culture, especially language, it was suggested to have incentives for children to participate including pizza and trips to Marine World, Great America and the snow. Suggestions were made for language classes post dance practice, a Basque language teacher from the Basque country, and a learning library with use of videos.

### *Some of the additional 1998 member survey comments:*

1. Sponsoring more scholarships with an increased amount.
2. Escort van for older members.
3. Perpetual trophy for Mus tournaments: one large trophy with each year's winners.
4. Bring back the children's room.
5. Increased support needed by younger generations to continue activities of the BCC.
6. Emphasis on Basque language should be a priority of the BCC.
7. The BCC and S.F. Basque Club should be joined as one organization.
8. Educate the general public on Basque culture, etc.
9. Convert the kantxa into a trinquet and more international games could be hosted since more international games are held in trinquets.
10. An annual dinner at a minimal cost for members such as the Ligue Henri IV does—a dinner similar to New Year's quality.
11. A simple weight room for workouts.
12. Recognition of a Basque member of the month—some one who has accomplished a lot for the Center or outside.

### Blood Bank Donations

The BCC Board has encouraged its members to donate blood since 1983 when Leon Franchisteguy helped establish an account at the Peninsula Blood Bank. Basques have the world's highest level of the Rh negative factor. In 1996 Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry expressed appreciation for members donating 32 pints of blood. Beginning in 1999 as an added incentive to guarantee the 30 donor minimum, the Board voted to give each blood donor one complimentary lunch ticket! Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo organizes this activity. Now every year in the spirit of the Christmas season members donate their blood and receive a delicious Basque lunch in return.



*Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo (left) has been organizing the BCC's annual blood drive since 1998. Members pictured donating blood in 2006 are Felix Istilart, Francisco Oroz, Aimee Goyhenetche, and Andre Arduain.*



## *Diruzain* – Treasurer



**Noel Erdozaincy**  
Treasurer 1985-1987  
Asst. Treasurer '84-'85, '02-'03  
Director '00-'01

## Assistant Treasurer



**Suzanne Elicetche**  
Asst. Treasurer 1987-1990



**Anita Arduain**  
Treasurer 1987-2007  
Asst. Treasurer '85-'87  
Director 8/84-'85



**Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu**  
Asst. Treasurer 2003-2006

In September 1984, BCC President Joe Castanchoa announced, “The Board of Directors met on Monday, August 13, 1984 at which time Jacques Unhassobiscay’s resignation was received. The Board members voted to invite Anita Arduain to replace him for the remainder of his term.” Anita has been on the Board continuously since that time and Treasurer continuously since 1987. In addition to being an active member of the Women’s Club and current BCC Treasurer, Anita can be found taking reservations and selling tickets. You’ll find her name on the bottom of nearly every flyer requiring reservations for more than a quarter century!



*Anita Arduain is selling lunch tickets (left) with Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry in 1992 to Louis and Marie Elu and Marie Jeanne Idiart and (right) with Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu in 2006 (right).*

## Supporting Members

### June 1983

BCC supported Suzanne Irissary Idiart who was able to begin a plasmapheresis treatment (blood purification procedure) to improve her condition.

### September 1985

Two Directors of the Board were selected on a rotating basis to visit members who were in hospitals and convalescent homes when requested by members.

### March 1993

An Education Fund was set up for Eric and Isabelle Oillarburu in memory of their Mother, Ginette, whose life was taken in an automobile accident.

### December 1996

The BCC members were requested to make donations for Jean Larrondo who was confined to a wheel chair since 1969 after an accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. To continue to meet the high cost of his medical expenses and 24-hour care, BCC support for Jean developed into an annual Fundraising Mus Tournament. In 2006 the BCC supported the 10th annual fundraising tournament for Jean! In a 1998 BCC newsletter Jean expressed what he held in his heart every year, "If I didn't have your support I wouldn't be able to have any therapy. All of you encourage me more and fill me with hope. I am very happy because I am improving. Thanks again."

### April 1996

Members came to the financial aid of Jeanie Soubelet who suffered the loss of her 37 year old daughter, Murielle, in February, and had medical costs mounting to \$20,000 which she had to deal with alone as her husband died suddenly in 1967 when he was only 40 years old.

### August 2003

Members donated blood for Martin Vizcay who had complications from pneumonia as well as agnogenic myeloid metaplasia, a blood disorder requiring blood transfusions.

### November 2005

Christine Guecamburu-VanHoose was diagnosed with brain cancer. Jane Berhan-Gray set up a Medical Fund where Members made donations toward a house cleaning service as it was critical for Christine to be in a germ-free environment while she underwent a year of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

## Directors



**Robert Acheritogaray**  
1999-2004



**Francisco Javier Andueza**  
1987-1989



**Christophe Alfaro**  
2005-2007



**Angel Arriada**  
1993-1996



**Arantxa Arriada**  
2007

*Directors*



**Jesus Arriada**  
1983-1986



**Chris Bonson**  
1996-2000



**David Barreneche**  
1992-1995



**Raymond Caballero**  
6/1979-1980



**Jean Paul Barthe**  
1985-1987



**Christian Castanchoa**  
1987-1990



**Felix Berrueta**  
6/1979-1982, 7/1983-1984,  
2004-2005



**Arnaud Duhart**  
1989-1992



**Marcel Biscay**  
8/1979-1980



**Marcel Durquet**  
8/1979-2/1982



## Directors



**Louis Elu**  
8/1979-1984



**Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche**  
1986-1989



**Jean Baptiste Etcheverria**  
1987-1990



**Dominique Hauscarriague**  
1990-1993



**Jean Flescher**  
1986-1/1988

“The time that I spent on the Board of the Basque Cultural Center, I feel, was a very fruitful one. Even though most times we were at odds as to the direction of the Center and even disagreed as to the definition of ‘Basque Culture’ sometimes, I feel that we

all maintained mutual respect and remained friends despite the disputes. I strongly count my fellow board members from that period as my good friends, and I feel also that the Center is a better place because of all of us who have served on the Board over the years. Hopefully, the future board members will be as dedicated as the ones that served with me during that time.”



**Jean Jauretche**  
6/1979-3/1981



**Juan Jayo**  
1997-1999, 2004-2007



**Bernard (Begnat) Goyhenetche**  
1984-1987



**Auguste Indart**  
8/1979-1981

*Directors*



**Ganix Iriartborde**  
3/1981-1983



**Michel Marticorena**  
1980-1986



**Christian Iribarren**  
2003-2007



**Maurice Negueloua**  
1991-1997



**Guillaume Irola**  
3/1982-7/1983



**Pedro Salaburu**  
1997-2002



**Bart Lahargoue**  
1980-12/1980



**Jean Baptiste Saparart**  
8/1979-1984, 1989-1990



**Tony Laxague**  
1998-1999, 2000-2001



**Mary Ann  
Goyhenetche Scully**  
1988-1991



*2006-07 Board of Directors of the Basque Cultural Center*

*Back Row: Jean Leon Ocafrain, Jean Gorostiague, Johnny Curutchet.*

*Second Row: Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Arantxa Arriada, Philippe Acheritogaray, Christophe Alfaro.*

*Third Row: Mayie Etcheverry, Anita Arduain, Juan Jayo, Tony Espinal.*

*Front Row: Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Pierre Etcharren, Xabier Berrueta.*

*Not Pictured: Christian Iribarren.*



# BUILDING AND GROUNDS

## 1982

In July the Building and Grounds Committee was formed and headed by Jean Gorostiague. The responsibility of this committee is to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the building and outside grounds. Jean has been Chairman of Building and Grounds during the BCC's entire first 25 years with the exception of 2000-2001 when he was not on the Board, and Franxoa Bidaureta was Chairman.

## 1983

The Board explored purchasing 10,000 sq. ft in the frontage of the BCC property from the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. Six years later, after numerous meetings, Southern Pacific Railroad agreed to sell their property for \$75,000. A title search on the property showed that the land belonged to Utah Construction Company, State of Delaware. Jean Gorostiague and BBC Secretary, Mayie Etcheverry, met with the company's lawyer, Richard Curotto. The Company was unaware of their ownership and decided to deed the property to the Basque Cultural Center at no cost.

In May the Banquet Room was soundproofed. In August, in addition to repairing 14 tables and the Children's Room sliding door, stairs were constructed to the additional storage area under the bleachers, and shelves were added in the kitchen and banquet room bar. Bill Etchegoin designed the shelves and the stairway which were attractive as well as functional.

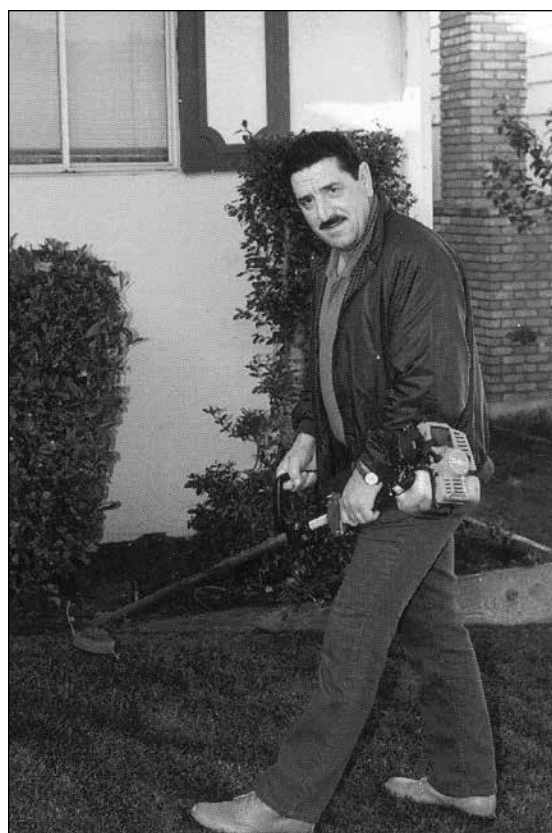
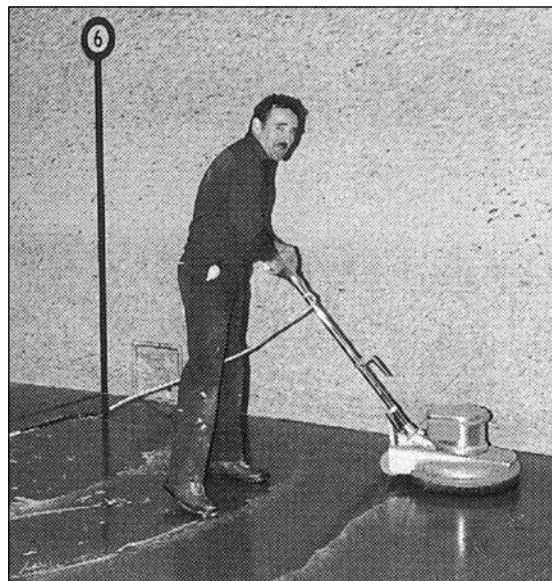
## 1984

In April soundproofing and light panels were added in the restaurant dining room. Architect George Rescalvo donated the design, and Jean Gorostiague donated the use of his shop and equipment in the construction of the panels. Approximately 156 hours of labor were donated by various individuals to soundproof the dining area including Michel Arduain, Joe Castanchoa, Pierre Etcharren (whose size came in hand up there in the attic), Gratien Etchebehere, William Etchegoin, Michel Marticorena, Jean Baptiste Saparart, and Jacques Unhassobiscay.

In October there was an S.O.S. (Save our Shrubs) plea for gardening assistance. Jesus Arriada was the Building and Grounds person in charge of the project. Jean Bidart, Auguste Indart, Pierre Iriartborde, and Robert Lafitte were the first crew of volunteers. They trimmed and cleaned the hedges on the east side of the parking area.

## 1985

In January Angel Arriada and Marcel Castanchoa vacuumed the higher places in the Banquet Room. Both were members of the volunteer clean-up crew organized by Jean Gorostiague and Anita Arduain. Others assisting were: Joe and Florence Castanchoa, Michel Marticorena, Pedro Zalbidea, and Catering Board President, Louis Elu who came dressed in bib overalls ready for any assignment.



*Top: Gratien Etchebehere came to the rescue on more than one occasion to clean out clogged pipes and clean the kantxa floor which he did without compensation.*

*Bottom: Auguste Indart, who very generously spent an entire day preparing the way for the rest of the S.O.S. crew in 1984, could have started a recycling center with the bottles and glasses he collected in the parking lot bushes.*

In March Andre Arduain and Emile Monaco completed the trimming and clean-up of the Center's landscape begun in October 1984. Jean Gorostiague and his shop helpers provided a new ping pong table and TV cabinet; Begnat Goyhenetche and Joe Castanchoa constructed the recessed enclosure which housed the coke and cigarette machines and telephone; and Jean Baptiste Saparart taped and painted all these things.

In mid-1985 the year the kantxa was constructed was painted on the wall since a scaffold was needed to install the falta lines. Jean Baptiste Etcheverry volunteered maintenance of the parking lot landscape.

### 1986

The Center's landscaping was cleaned and trimmed in February by Allen Saroberry and Pierre Negueloua and in

June by Pierre Idiart and Jean Sorhouet. In October the Board contracted a gardener to maintain the grounds for one year. Ganix and Anna Iriartborde cleaned the Center's windows.

### 1991

The facilities and parking lot became crowded due to an on-going increase in membership and to the popularity of the restaurant and hall. The Board negotiated the Magnolia strip (19,500 sq. ft) with the South San Francisco. The City proposed the amount of \$200,000. However, once again, a title search on the property showed that the City did not own it. Since they did not build out to the street, the property went back to the original owner, Utah Construction, who, once again, deeded the property to the BCC at no cost.

### 1994

In April a \$275,000 bid was accepted for the redesigning and expansion of the parking area and kitchen. As a result \$200,000 was needed in loans from members to be paid back at 6% over five years. Architect George Rescalvo donated \$3,400 in services. By November you could drive through the new right-handed entrance to the BCC and to see the expanded parking facility. The Board of Directors received a letter from Al Salogga, the Chairman of South San Francisco's Parks and Recreation Commission extending appreciation for a "most impressive effort to improve the landscaping along the entrance to the Basque Cultural Center".



1992 Building and Grounds Committee: Mayie Etcheverry, Joe Castanchoa, Dominique Hauscarriague, Michel Marti-corena, Florence Castanchoa, Anita Arduain, Jean Gorostiague, William Etchegoin.



Below: Gisele and Philip Irola are pictured at the beautiful new entrance to the Center updated in 1994.





## 1996

At the November 20, 1994 General Meeting the Board of Directors presented plans regarding the remodeling of the restaurant including a small banquet room to accommodate 60-70 people and the addition of two wheel chair accessible bathrooms. These plans were approved in April 1996. Jean Gorostiague financed much of the improvements with a \$160,000 loan, which was paid back in eight years. In June the Board of Directors announced that G&B Construction's bid of \$349,170 was accepted for the remodeling project at the Basque Center. The other two bids were Construction Connection for \$417,000 and Carberry Construction, Inc., for \$397,420.



*Work on the addition of a Banquet Room and two handicap bathrooms began in 1996.*



*On Sunday, August 25, 1996 BCC Manager Francois Camou welcomed members to toast the completion of the Center's restaurant expansion pictured in the right rear of the BCC restaurant.*

## 1998

Pierre Etchebarne donated barbecue grills to the Center in 1992 to be used for the Basque festivals. Then in 1998 South San Francisco leased a 320 sq. ft. strip from their corporate yard property for one dollar per year to be used for a barbecue area. An outdoor covered barbecue area was built to make the job of the barbecue chefs easier!



*BCC barbecues were unsheltered like in 1995 above when Raymond Lahargou, Pierre Iriartborde, Leon Franchisteguy, and Jean Pierre Etcheber were the chefs.*



*After 1998 the cooks enjoyed a covered barbecue area like the 2006 24th Anniversary cooks above: Leon Lucu, Jean Pierre Elissetche, David Barreneche, Juan Jayo, Robert Acheritogaray, Roland Cherbero, Gratien Etchebehere, Sauveur Anchartechahar.*



2000



*In 2000 BCC President Jean Berhan and Building and Grounds Chairman Jean Gorostiague worked on a back patio for the Basque Cultural Center.*

2001



*Our Basque Cultural Center gardeners, Felix Berrueta (left) and Johnny Curutchet (right), are proudly holding the 2001 Beautification Award with Jean Gorostiague (center), Chairman of Building and Grounds. South San Francisco recognized the BCC as first place winner in the commercial category for maintaining an “outstanding beautiful property”.*



*In 2001 the entrance lobby was remodeled and carpeted. The left photo shows the entrance at the Member’s Opening in 1982. The center photo shows the entrance before being carpeted wall-to-wall. The right photo is a sample of the carpeting installed for the BCC’s 20th Anniversary in 2002.*

2006 – 2007



*Started in 2006 and completed in 2007, a solarium was added to the right rear of the Banquet Room.*

## *Taking Care of Ama Lur (Mother Earth)*

In September 2006 the BCC took the innovative step of installing environmentally conscious, energy saving solar panels on the roof of the Basque Cultural Center. The project was completed by San Francisco based Luminant, a company whose expertise is based on techniques used in Europe. The project was well received by the City of South San Francisco as the BCC became one of the first establishments in South San Francisco to install such a system. The BCC could have put the solar panels on its flat roof, but they wanted people in the community to see

it to encourage and inspire others to follow the BCC in preserving Ama Lur.

President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman stated, “I think it was a huge breakthrough for the BCC to ‘Go Green’. We cannot accomplish our mission of preserving our culture without preserving our planet. South San Francisco Council members told us that we are the first large business in South San Francisco to add solar panels. They appreciate that the panels are visible from the street and hope it will encourage other businesses to follow suit!”



*Top: Building and Grounds Chairman, Jean Gorostiague, switched on the solar panels as BCC President (2007-2009) Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman looks on.*

*Bottom: When you enter the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco, you cannot miss the 148 solar panels installed in 2007 that cover its roof.*





*Gure Amodioa! Gure Jokoa!* ❖ Our Love! Our Game!

**S**port is a magnificent vehicle for projecting and promoting the identity of a people. Some kinds of sports are, in fact, an inseparable part of a society and therefore the very fact that they exist and are regularly played are a part of cultural identity. This is precisely the relationship between the Basque people and Basque pilota. —*Euskal etxeak 2005 issue 74*



## BCC Chairman — NABO Coordinator

Opening	Jacques Unhassobiscay
1982-1983	Francois Bidauretta
1984	Jean Leon Ocafrain
1985-87	Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche
1988-90	Arnaud Duhart
	Jean Leon Ocafrain
1991-93	Etienne Jorajuria
1994-95	Maurice Negueloua
1996	Maurice Negueloua
	Jean Leon Ocafrain
1997	Etienne Jorajuria
1998	Etienne Jorajuria
	Jean Leon Ocafrain
1999-2000	Etienne Jorajuria
2001-04	Xavier Berrueta
	Jean Leon Ocafrain
2005-07	Christophe Alfaro
	Jean Leon Ocafrain

*Initially referred to as the “placa”, the 118-foot-long court at the Basque Cultural Center is the best and largest “kantxa” in Northern California. The gigantic three-walled rectangular fronton (120 feet by 30 feet by 60 feet) is sanctioned for international competitions. This photo was taken at the Center’s Opening in February 1982.*



*“They needed to build a real fronton, and if it happened to be attached to a Basque Cultural Center, well, that was just fine by Pierre.”—Vickie Idiart*

There is a direct connection between this love of pilota and the formation of the Basque Cultural Center. The frustration to establish a Bay Area location to enjoy handball goes back to the 1960's and is summarized in the San Francisco Basque Club's December 14, 1970 letter sent by President Jean Gorostiague and Secretary Pierre Etcharren to San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto: “For the past few years, the Basque Club has attempted to establish a Pilota Basque Court in San Francisco for the purpose of enjoying Basque handball, a traditional, national game. Such courts are found in cities such as Los Angeles, Bakersfield, Fresno, Stockton, etc., where Basque colonies exist. Members of the Basque colony here have, for the past four years, enjoyed the use of the Helen Wills Playground on Broadway and Larkin



*Pierre Idiart playing handball at Helen Wills Playground in San Francisco before the wall was torn down.*

Streets. The court at Helen Wills is the existing wall of the bowling alley structure located at the west end of the grounds. This wall is not satisfactory in that it does not meet handball court requirements. It is not made of reinforced concrete and is much smaller than a regulation court.”

Although never given permission to build a regulation court at Helen Wills Playground, a building permit was finally obtained to increase the back wall of the bowling alley to the right dimensions. The Basque played handball at Helen Wills Playground from 1966 until the property was sold in 1978 and the bowling alley was torn down. In early 1979 sixty-eight Basque handball enthusiasts each pledged \$500 to build a place of their own to play their beloved national sport. This was the spark that ignited the fire to build the Basque Cultural Center.

“.....Above all else, the BCC was a place for Pierre to play his beloved game of Pilota.....

With the closure of the Broadway Playground court in San Francisco, a suitable place to play was even harder to find. At first he improvised. He had keys to the upper lot of Hoover Elementary School in Burlingame. On Saturdays, taking a break between gardening accounts, he would drive up to the empty court at the end of an access road. Eagerly grabbing a pilota off the dashboard—a ball that spent Monday through Friday rolling back and forth across the dash with every turn of the steering wheel—he would play spirited games with his small son. But the tiny court was only “good for warming up your hands.” This was not a real court. This was not for real games. He would have to find an alternative.

Fortunately, he also had keys to McKinley School. On weekends, he and his buddies would sneak into the locked courtyard of the school and play energetic, if eccentric, games of pilota off the walls of the U-shaped building..... More often than not, though, the ball would ricochet off the gutter or disappear down the stairs. The game would grind to a halt, and a hunt for the escaped ball would ensue. This distinctive form of pilota came to an end when the school built a jungle gym in the middle of “their” court.

This wouldn't do. He and his friends needed a real fronton. They needed to build a real fronton, and if happened to be attached to a Basque Cultural Center, well, that was just fine by Pierre.” —Vickie Idiart

## *First Organized Games at the BCC's Opening to the Public*

March 27, 1982



Since Franxoa Bidaureta was in charge of pilota for the Basque games played at Helen Wills Playground, he organized the games for the Center's Opening. On Saturday, March 27, 1982, Javier Alzugaray and Auguste Lapeyrade played handball with Jean Cordova and Pierre Uharriet. A game of Pilota Cuero followed in which Francisco Javier Andueza and Francisco Berrueta challenged Felix Berrueta and Jean Uharriet. On Sunday, March 28th Marcel Etcheverry and Henri Oyharcabal played a morning handball match against Jean Michel Indaburu and Johnny Plaa. In an afternoon Pilota Goma game, Angel Arriada and Jose Irigoyen played Jean Goni and Pierre Irola.



*Javier Alzugaray*



*Auguste  
Lapeyrade*



*Jean Cordova*



*Pierre Uharriet*



*Francisco Javier  
Andueza*



*Felix Berrueta*



*Jean Uharriet*



*Marcel Etcheverry*



*Henri Oyharcabal*



*Angel Arriada*



*Pierre Irola*

*“When the BCC opened, everybody became pilota players. People that never played – especially pala goma – running all over with their palas.” —Franxoa Bidaurreta*

“Soon after the Center opened there was a meeting for anyone interested in playing pilota. I remember that Jacques Unhassobiscay was in charge. There were several men and some women present. They wanted to set up a pilota board and chairman for each category of pilota. I was picked to be secretary for the Board. We had meetings on Sunday mornings. We also decided on what days handball, goma, cuero and racquetball would be played. I was Chairman for the women. I learned a lot with the guys, and I learned some pointers on how to play a better game of pilota. Angel Arriada helped me a lot. He was my mentor, I guess you could say. I remember one meeting when we were discussing the young people playing pilota. Most of us said it would be hard because of other sports that the schools offered. Franxoa Bidaurreta said if we have only one player, it would be worth all the hard work we are doing now.” —Annie Guecamburu, Pilota Secretary and Chairperson of Women’s Racquetball 1982-1984. In 1985 Annie Guecamburu received a plaque honoring her contribution as Pilota Board Secretary and in the BCC’s formation of Women’s Racquetball.

March 31, 1982 was the last day to register for those interested in playing in the Placa (as the Kantxa was referred to in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletters in the early 80s). Due to a large number of interested people

registrants could only join a maximum of two categories! Chairmen of the various categories were: Annie Guecamburu (Women’s Racquetball), Jean Leon Ocafrain (Men’s Racquetball), Felix Berrueta (Paleta Cuero), Angel Arriada (Pilota Goma), Franxoa Bidaurreta (Men’s Handball), Andre Larre (Children’s Handball 9-15 years).

Johnny Curutchet, Felix Berrueta, Jean Leon Ocafrain and Guillaume Irola agreed to be responsible for insuring that the Pilota Court was used by members only. They put a notice for volunteer help in the April 82 *Gure Euskal Etxea*. In May the General Board voted to accept the Pilota Committee’s proposal to charge a \$10 annual fee to all pilota players including children. This fee includes registration and insurance to the player in case of injury. No one can play on the court without this license. This is to protect both the pilota player and the Center from any liabilities which may incur.

Pilota Tournaments began in June 1982. Felix Berrueta organized three consecutive games of Paleta Cuero on June 13th. A Women’s Frontennis tournament organized by Annie Guecamburu was scheduled on June 18th. The 1982 NABO Tournament took place at the new BCC (photo below).



*1982 NABO Tournament took place at the new BCC. Pictured are Jean Michel Indaburu, Paul Sallaberry (Chino) Francois Pedeflous (NABO Pilota Chairman), and BCC NABO Champions Bernard Iribarren and Ganix Iriartborde.*



## 1983 First International Basque Handball Tournament in the United States

In June a rotation schedule was set up where each specialty (handball, Paleta Cuero, Paleta Goma, Women's Racquetball and Men's Racquetball) had 3 hours between 7am and 10pm on Sunday to play. The time slot rotated weekly for each specialty. In October a different practice schedule was set up where each specialty had a designated day of the week: Monday – Women's Pala or Class D, Tuesday – Pala Class B, Wednesday – Handball, Thursday – Pala Class A, Friday – Pala Class C, Saturday 10am-Boys' Handball, Saturday 3-5pm-Teenage Girls, Sunday – 8am-1pm-Handball, Daily – 4-6pm-Paleta Cuero.

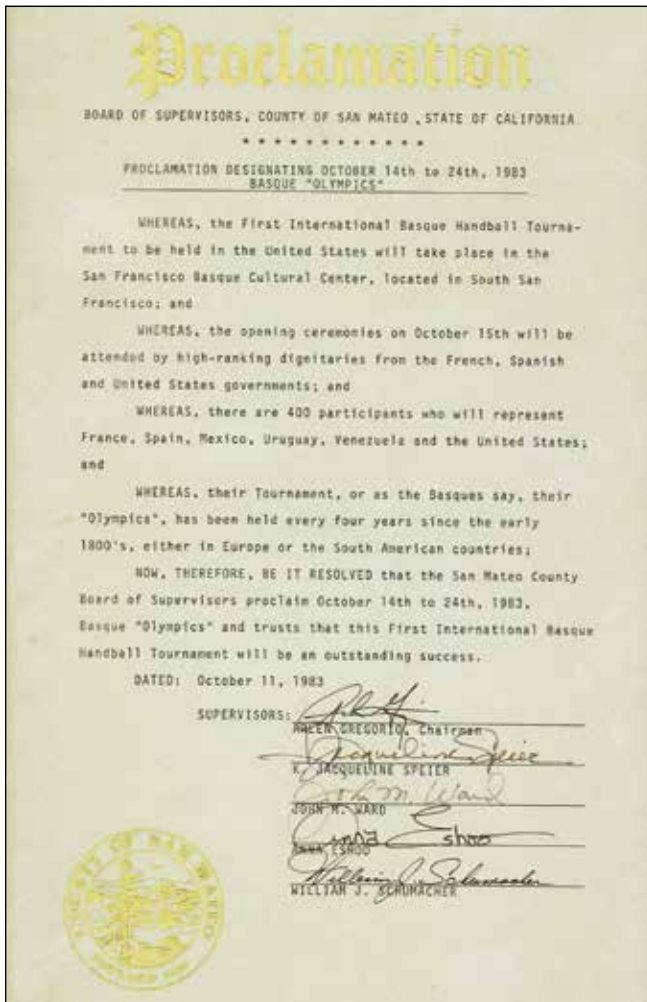
The President of the U.S. Federation of Pelota, Jacques Unhassobiscay, welcomed six countries with six players each on October 14, 1983. Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, France, Spain and the United States participated in games that ended on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The tournament was organized by and according to the International Federation of Pilota Rules by the Bay Area Basque Association with the United States Federation of Pelota through NABO. The Members of the U.S. Federation of Pelota were: Noel Goyhenetche, Pierre Uharriet, Jean Cordova, and Bernard Iribarren.



Above, top: 1983, Ray Caballero and Peyo Ourtiague and Handball Champions Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche and Emile Goyhenetche.

Above, bottom: 1983, Paleta Cuero Champions Jose Michel-torena and Jean Uharriet vs. Pierre Irola and Felix Berrueta.

Left: October 14-24, 1983, Proclaimed Basque "Olympics" and First International Basque Handball tournament in the United States.



1984



1984 Ladies Paleta Goma Spring Tournament: Allyn Goybenetche and Yvonne Cuburu placed second to Yvonne Goybenetche and Mayie Ocafrain. They received their trophies from Women's Chairperson Annie Guecamburu (far right). At the BCC's second Anniversary in February 1984 Annie and Mayie organized racquetball games against the Bakersfield women. The BCC women were victorious!



1984 Paleta Cuero 1st place Champion Jean Uharriet, Paleta Goma Class A 1st place Champions Emile Monaco and Robert Alfaro. 1984 is the only year in the 1st 25 that Paleta Cuero Mano tournament winners were noted in the BCC newsletter: 1st place Jean Leon Cuburu and 2nd place Leon Lucu.



1984 Men's Handball Class B Miguel Ibarra and Sauveur Anchartechabar (not pictured) placed second to Champions Jean Pierre Alfaro and Peyo Ourtiague.



1984 Men's Handball Class A Ganix Iriartborde, and Jose Micheltorena placed second to Champions August Lapeyrade and Pierre Uharriet.



Left: October 1984 Paleta Goma Class A second place Champions Jean Leon Iribarren and Jean Baptiste Urruty with 1st Place Champions Angel Arriada and Auguste Indart. Angel was the Pilota Goma Chairman in the 1980s.



## 1985 BCC Dominates NABO Tournament in Elko



### August 24-25, 1985 NABO Tournament in Elko

Top Row: Benat Iribarren\*, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr.\*, Maurice Negueloua\*, Jean Baptiste Etcheverria\*, Francisco Javier Andueza\*, Andre Bello, Jean Baptiste Aguerre.  
 Middle Row: Eric Oillarburu\*, Philip Mendisco\*, Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche\*, Felix Galzagorry\*, Jean Leon Ocafrain\*, Mayte Ocafrain\*, Jean Leon Iribarren\*, Angel Vertiz, Pettan Aphessetche, Francois Pedeflous\*.  
 Bottom Row : Unidentified, Mike Aphessetche, Jean Michel Indaburu, Yvette Sarroberry\*, Yvonne Goyhenetche\*, Joseph Berterretche, John Plaa, Christian Jaureguy.  
 \*BCC members

## Ladies Frontennis

Ladies frontennis developed in 1985. An exciting 'mano-mano' championship game was noted when Evelyne Ourtiague Young started serving to the left wall and won Nancy Zubiri. In doubles racquetball Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra and Margie Irola won Mayie Ocafrain and Mayte Ocafrain. In 1986 ladies frontennis became competitive when Marie Claude Saldubehere, French National Champion, coached a two week Ladies Paleta Goma Camp.

On June 20, 1986 the Ladies' Tournament Paleta trophies were awarded at a dinner:  
 Pala A 1st Place Marie Helen Azcona and Mayte Ocafrain, 2nd Place Marie Bigue and Evelyne Ourtiague Young; Pala B 1st Place Yvette Gorostiague Fantham and Michelle Pagadoy Manderson, 2nd Place Nicole Curutchet and Evelyne Ourtiague Young. Racquetball 1st Place Yvette Barreneche and Yvette Goyeneche, 2nd Place Mary Curutchet and Christine Iriartborde Jones.

Yvette Saroberry DeGuerra was recognized for her two years as Chairperson of the Women's Pilota (1984-1986). In 2007 Yvette recalled, "Some women started losing interest, and at one point there was only two of us who wanted to play, Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra and I. So we asked to be partners in the Men's Class C. Those were the best games. We wanted to be able to participate in NABO finals, which we did. I don't remember if we won any games, but there were some close ones, and we put up a good challenge."

Mayte Ocafrain was nominated to replace Yvette as Chairperson with Michelle Pagadoy to assist her. Mayte said, "The very first years of the BCC, usually four ladies would meet on Wednesday mornings to play racquetball. Then on Friday nights more ladies would play racquetball then pala. I did that since the Center opened in 1982 for over 18 years - well into 2000. It was so much fun!"



1986 Paleta Goma Champions: Mayie Ocafrain, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Yvette Saroberry DeGuerra (Chairperson), Mayte Ocafrain, Jeanne Saroberry and BCC President Leon Franchisteguy.



1986 Paleta Goma Champions: Nicole Curutchet, Johanna Castanchoa Raymond, Yvette Saroberry DeGuerra (Chairperson), Diane Ourtiague Young, Marie Helene Azcona.



1992



*Top left: 1992 Handball Class A (standing) Ganix Iriartborde, Johnny Curutchet, Spring Champions August Lapeyrade and Jean Cordova, Frederic Fuldain (kneeling) Pierre Uharriet, Spring 2nd Place Noel Goyhenetche and Maurice Negueloua, Daniel Ourtiague. Bottom left: 1992 Paleta Goma Class A Champions: Robert Iriartborde and Henry Oyharcabal won Gratien Etchebehere, Sr. and Francisco Javier Andueza.*

*Top right: 1992 Handball Class B (standing) Joseph Duhalde, Emile Goyhenetche, Frederic Fuldain, Spring Champions Henry Bonson and Xavier Alzugaray (kneeling) Spring 2nd Place Etienne Jorajuria and Roger Anchartechahar, Peyo Ourtiague, Jean Baptiste Larrateguy. Bottom right: 1992 Paleta Goma Class B Champions: 2nd Place Marcel Castanchoa and Louis Marticorena and 1st Place David Indart and Jean Gorostiague.*

### 1993 Pilotarian Biltzarra Ceremonies

Pilotarian Biltzarra was founded in 1957 in Baigorri, France as a means of recognizing those individuals who promote the game of handball. On September 19, 1993 following the Udazkeneko Besta's (Fall Festival's) Mass, Pilotarian Biltzarra Ceremonies recognized those individuals who have made contributions to the game of handball here in the United States. Players, coaches, and promoters who were honored included BCC Members Franxoa Bidaurreta, Frederic Fuldain, Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche, Ganix Iriartborde, Andre Larre, Martin Minaberry, Jean Leon Ocafrain and Jacques Unhassobiscay who was given a special honor as a founder and first president of the

U.S. Federation of Basque Pilota. Also honored that day were Xavier Aphetsetche, Bertrand Aphetsetche, Agustin Arteche, Isidore Camou, Jean Pierre Dalia, Edward Diethrick, Amedee Ire, Howard Kalik, Frank Maitia, Marcel Membrede, William Schofill, William Troth.

Six additional BCC members were presented medals of appreciation at the Pilotarien Biltzarra in Bakersfield on October 22, 2000 for their active participation in promoting pilota: Angel Arriada, Jean Pierre Cabalette, Johnny Curutchet, Arnaud Duhart, Etienne Jorajuria, and Maurice Negueloua.

## BCC's Pilota Chairmen



The Pilota Chairmen during the last twenty years are pictured in the 1995 NABO tournament on the left: Jean Leon Ocafrain (standing, second from left), Maurice Negueloua (standing, second from right), and Etienne Jorajuria (kneeling, third from left). NABO Pilota Chairman, Francois Pedeflous, is standing on the far left.



1996 Pala Champions: Jean Baptiste Saparart, Ambrosio Uharte, Jean Leon Iribarren, Robert Alfaro. "My favorite memories of the Basque Cultural Center are the good times we had playing pala together. I have especially fond memories of playing against Jean Leon Iribarren and Jean Baptiste Saparart! None of us wanted to lose, and we played each other to the last point! I still miss them a lot today!"

—Gratien Etchebehere



1996 Pilota Champions: Pierre Uharriet, Jean "Luku" Bidart, Jean Cordova, Ganix Iriartborde.



1996 Pilota Champions: Raymond Bidondo, Emile Goyhenetche, Raymond Caballero, Johnny Curutchet.



1998 Veterans: Miguel Ibarra, Joaquin Micheltorena, Johnny Curutchet, and Ganix Iriartborde with Xabier Berrueta (center).



## BCC's Paleta Goma Chairmen



*Angel Arriada, Paleta Goma Chairperson during the BCC's 1st decade (center) is with the 2000 Paleta Goma Class A 2nd place Champions Michael Indart and Jean Goni (left) and 1st place Champions Philippe Irola and Xavier Ocafrain (right).*

In 2002 Class A Paleta Goma games took place on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. for the membership's enjoyment. The pilotaries included: Robert Acheritogaray, Dave Barreneche, Xabier Berrueta, Aitor Berrueta, Jean Luc Chiramberro, Gabriel Dalia, John Falxa, Eric Garat, Philip Garat, Dave Indart, Mike Indart, Pierre Irola, Joe Moulia, Ray Poydessus, Jack Uhalde, and Alain Urruty.

In the 2002 NABO Pilota Finals at the Kern County Basque Club on November 16th the BCC was victorious only in Paleta Goma Class A (Gabriel Dalia and Jack Uhalde) and Class B (Robert Acheritogaray and Jean Luc Chiramberro). Perhaps it was due to all those Sunday morning games they played at the BCC for the membership's enjoyment!



*Paleta Goma Chairperson during the BCC's entire second decade, Jean Pierre Cabalette, (far right) was the 2000 1st place Class C Champion with Franxoa Bidaurreta. Jean Paul Barthe and Pierre Bigue (left) were the 2nd place Champions. Jesus Arriada (center) was Paleta Goma Chairman during the first ten years.*



## 1997 – 1999

### Women's Paleta Txapeldunak

#### 1997 Fall

1-Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman  
Mayte Ocafrain  
2-Olivia Bidaurreta  
Wendy Oyharcabal

#### 1998 Spring

1-Rosemary Arriada Keiper  
Maria Marticorena  
2-Valerie Etcharren Arrechea  
Mayte Ocafrain

#### 1998 Fall

1-Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman  
Mayte Ocafrain  
2-Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo  
Pascal Fosse

#### 1999 Spring

1-Danielle Cordova Camou  
Janet Oteiza  
2-Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo  
Yvette Gorostiague Fantham

#### 1999 Fall

1-Maria Marticorena  
Mayte Ocafrain  
2-Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo  
Yvette Gorostiague Fantham

## 2003 – 2006

### Baleen – International Paleta Goma Introduced to BCC

In March 2003 Alfio Casale, a pilotari who has won several Argentinean national tournaments in Balee (International paleta goma), introduced the game of paleta goma (baleen) to all those who were interested. This training was facilitated by Xabier Berrueta. In 2004 Nathalie Oroz coordinated a Baleen Coed Tournament along with a one-day November workshop by Alfio Casale. The 2004 Women's Baleen Txapeldunak were 1st place Mirielle Acheritogaray and Sandra Indart and 2nd place Karen Anchartechahar and Evelyne Etcharren. In 2005 Evelyne Etcharren coordinated a Baleen Coed Tournament on Saturday mornings. The result of a lot of practice is apparent with Evelyne. She was the 2005 1st place Baleen Txapeldun with Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman in the Spring and then with Nathalie Oroz Barreneche in the Summer. She was also the 2006 Spring 1st place Txapeldun with Arielle Goni O'Kane.



*Right, top: Evelyne Etcharren and Nathalie Oroz celebrated as Women Txapeldunak at the May 20, 2005 Pilotarien Afaria. Placing second to Mireille Acheritogaray and Karen Anchartechahar in the 2004 NABO Tournament, Nathalie Oroz and Evelyne Etcharren were victorious over them in 2005.*

*Right, bottom: Coed Paleta Txapeldunak 2005 Justin Pebet and Evelyne Etcharren played Father-Daughter team Annette and Alain Erdozaincy. Pilota Chairman Jean Leon Ocafrain is on the left and newly elected BCC President Xabier Berrueta is on the right.*



# BCC Pilota Tournament Txapeldunak 1982 – 2007

Announced in *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletter

	LEHEN MAILA ESKUS	BIGARREN MAILA ESKUS	Paleta Cuero	LEHEN MAILA PALETA GOMA	BIGARREN MAILA PALETA GOMA	HIRUGARREN MAILA PALETA GOMA	Men's Racketball
	Men's Handball Class A	Men's Handball Class B		Paleta Goma Class A	Paleta Goma Class B	Paleta Goma	
1984 Spring	1-Auguste Lapeyrade Pierre Uharriet 2-Ganix Iriartborde Jose Micheltorena	1-Jean Pierre Alfaro Peyo Ourtiague 2-Sauveur Anchartechar Miguel Ibarra	1-Jean Uharriet Pierre Uharriet 2-Felix Berrueta Pierre Irola	1-Robert Alfaro Emile Monaco 2-Jean Leon Iribarren Jean B. Urruty			1-Faustin Mazeris Sebastien Curutchet 2-Henry Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza
1984 Fall				1-J.F. Galzagorri Pierre Irola 2-Xavier Alzugaray Pedro Miqueo	1- Angel Arriada Auguste Indart 2-J.Leon Iribarren J.B. Urruty	1- M. Elicagaray Jean Goyhenetche 2-J.Pierre Goyhenetche Alain Saroberry	
1985 January	1-Johnny Curutchet Marcel Etcheverry 2-Jean Bidart Jean Cordova		1-Javier Andueza 2-Jean Goni	1-Emile Monaco 2-Jose Miura	1-Jean Gorostiague 2-Jesus Arriada		
1985 June	1-Marcel Etcheverry Auguste Lapeyrade 2-Noel Goyhenetche Pierre Uharriet	1-J.F. Galzagorri Henri Bonson 2-S. Anchartechar Pierre Ourtiague	1-Javier Andueza Felix Berrueta 2-Jean Uharriet Pedro Zalbidea	1-Javier Andueza Jean Uharriet 2-Andre Larre Pierre Irola	1-Arnaud Duhart Emile Monaco 2-J.L. Iribarren Robert Lafitte	1-Alain Saroberry J.Pierre Goyhenetche 2-Timoteo Ubereuaga Andre Arduain	1-Jean L. Ocafrain Guillaume Irola 2-Andre Arduain Faustin Mazeris
1992 Spring	1-Jean Cordova Auguste Lapeyrade 2-Noel Goyhenetche Maurice Negueloua	1-Javier Alzugaray Henri Bonson 2-Etienne Jorajuria R.Anchartechar		1-R. Iriartborde Henry Oyharcabal 2-Javier Andueza G. Etchebehere, Sr.	1-Jean Gorostiague Dave Indart Louis Marticorena Marcel Castanchoa		
1992 Summer				1-Francisco Berrueta Robert Iriartborde 2-Javier Alzugaray Felix Berrueta	1-Pierre Etcheverry Dave Indart 2-Jean Gorostiague L. Miguelarcaina	1-Jean L. Ocafrain Xavier Ocafrain 2-Jean Paul Barthe Guillaume Irola	
1993 March				1-Alain Erdozaincy Henry Oyharcabal 2-Dave Indart Pierre Irola	1-Ambrosio Huarte Louis Marticorena 2-Marcel Castanchoa Marcel Gorostiague		
1993 June				1-Felix Berrueta Dave Indart 2-Jean Goni Henry Oyharcabal	1-Ambrosio Huarte Jose Miura 2-Faustin Mazeris Joe Moulia	1-L. Miguelarcaina Alain Urruty 2-Jean L. Ocafrain Allen Saroberry	
1994 Spring				1-Marcel Etcheverry Pierre Etcheverry 2-Alain Erdozaincy Mike Indart	1-Jean Gorostiague Jose Muira 2-Alain Urruty Jose Moulia	1-Daniel Mazeris Alain Urruty 2-Henri Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza	
1994 Summer				1-Dave Indart Mike Indart 2-Alain Erdozaincy Henry Oyharcabal		1-R. Acheritogaray Jean L. Chiramberro 2-Angel Arriada Robert Lafitte	
1994 Fall				1-Faustin Mazeris Henry Oyharcabal 2-David Barreneche Jack Uhalde	1-Jean Gorostiague Pedro Salbidea 2-Louis Marticorena Allen Urruty	1-Jesus Arriada Daniel Berterretche 2-Pierre Etcharren Robert Lafitte	<b>Paleta Goma-D</b> 1-Pedro Miguero, Jr. Janet Oteiza 2-M. Acheritogaray Evelyn Etcharren
1995 Spring				1-Javier Alzugaray Marcel Castanchoa 2-David Barreneche G. Etchebehere, Sr.	1-Roland Lacouregue Jose Miura 2-Louis Marticorena Pedro Salbidea	1-Pierre Bigue Jean L. Ocafrain 2-Henry Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza	1-G. Etchebehere, Jr. Joe Goyhenetche 2-Xavier Salaburu Miguel Ybarra, Jr.
1995 Fall				1-Javier Andueza Henry Oyharcabal 2-Alain Erdozaincy G. Etchebehere, Sr.	1-Joseph Moulia Alain Urruty 2-J.L. Chiramberro Pedro Zalbidea	1-D. Berterretche Anton Laxague 2-Pierre Bigue J.L. Miguelarcaina	1-Michael Curutchet Philippe Irola 2-J.P. Cabalette, Jr. Maritxu Cledon
1996 Spring				1-Robert Iriartborde Jack Uhalde 2-David Indart Anton Laxague	1-J.L. Chiramberro Pedro Salaburu 2-Jean Gorostiague R. Acheritogaray	1-Jean Cordova Marty Esarte 2-Pierre Bigue Alain Saroberry	1-Derek Bonson G. Etchebehere, Jr. 2-Evelyn Etcharren Philip Irola

# BCC Pilota Tournament Txapeldunak 1982 – 2007 (continued)

Announced in *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletter

	LEHEN MAILA ESKUS	BIGARREN MAILA ESKUS	Paleta Cuero	LEHEN MAILA PALETA GOMA	BIGARREN MAILA PALETA GOMA	HIRUGARREN MAILA PALETA GOMA	Men's Racketball
	Men's Handball Class A	Men's Handball Class B		Paleta Goma Class A	Paleta Goma Class B	Paleta Goma	
1997 Fall				1-Javier Andueza Henry Oyharcabal 2-Jean Goni Jack Uhalde	1-Felix Berrueta Philippe Irola 2-Jean Gorostiague Jose Miura	1-Steve Barreneche Allen Saroberry 2-Jesus Arriada Thomas Curutchet	
1998 Spring				1-Daniel Berterretche Gabriel Dalia 2-Jean Goni Michael Indart	2-Felix Berrueta Jean P. Cabalette Jean Gorostiague Michel Ospital	1-Roger Barreneche Joe Goyhenetche 2-Jesus Arriada Iker Zalbidea	
1998 Fall				1-David Barreneche Jack Uhalde 2-Pierre Irola Alain Urruty	1-Felix Berrueta Michel Ospital 2-Alain Camou Jean Gorostiague	1-Pierre Bigue Alain Saroberry 2-Henri Ocafrain Iker Zalbidea	
1999 Spring				1-Michael Indart Alain Urruty 2-Joseph Goyhenetche Dave Indart	1-Felix Berrueta Allen Saroberry 2-Jean Michel Duhalde Michel Ospital	1-Jean P. Cabalette Pierre Etcharren 2-Franxoa Bidaurreta Pierre Bigue	
1999 Fall				1-Michael Indart Raymond Poydessus 2-Jean Luc Chiramberro Alain Urruty	1-Jean Cordova Gratien Etchebehere, Jr. 2-Felix Berrueta Iker Zalbidea	1-Franxoa Bidaurreta Bernard Ithurralde 2-Henri Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza	
2000 Spring				1 Phillippe Irola Xavier Ocafrain 2 Jean Goni Mike Indart	1-Felix Berrueta Xavier Salaburu 2-Jean Louis Arambel Jean Gorostiague	1-Franxoa Bidaurreta Jean Pierre Cabalette 2-Jean Paul Barthe Pierre Bigue	<b>Class B-2</b> 1-Robert Acheritogaray Pedro Zalbidea 2-J.L. Miguelarcaina Michel Ospital
2000 Fall				1-Jack Uhalde Alain Urruty 2-David Barreneche Tony Laxague	1-Jean Goni Pedro Zalbidea 2-Felix Berrueta Allen Saroberry	1-Pierre Bigue Javier Salaburu 2-Henri Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza	
2001 Spring				1-Jack Uhalde Alain Urruty 2-Eric Garat Phillippe Garat	1-Gratien Etchebehere Jean Goni 2-Marcel Castanchoa Jean Michel Duhalde	1-Franxoa Bidaurreta Bernarde Ithurralde 2-Henri Ocafrain Salvador Oteiza	
2001 Fall				1-Daniel Berterretche Gabriel Dalia 2-Antoine Laxague Alain Urruty	1-Jean Goni Pierre Uharriet 2-Gratien Etchebehere Allen Saroberry	1-Jean Pierre Cabalette Pierre Etcharren 2-Mireille Acheritogaray Franxoa Bidaurreta	
2002 Spring			<b>Class B NABO</b> 1-Robert Acheritogaray Jean Luc Chiramberro 2-Alain Camou Joseph Moulia	1-Michael Indart Robert Iriartborde 2-Gorka Ochoa Garay Tony Laxague	1-Pierre Irola Xavier Salaburu 2-Allen Saroberry Jean Uharriet	1-Mireille Acheritogaray Jean Pierre Cabalette 2-Jesus Arriada Bernard Ithurralde	
2004 Winter Spring	1-Christophe Alfaro Xavier Ocafrain 2-Francois Camou Eric Oillarburu			1-Alain Camou Gabriel Dalia 2-Robert Iriartborde Jack Uhalde	1-Felix Berrueta Mark Sorhouet 2-David Alfaro Gratien Etchebehere, Sr.	1-Felix Berrueta Michel Ospital 2-Leon Miguelartzaina Allen Saroberry	
2005 Spring	1-Xavier Ocafrain Mark Sorhouet 2-Christophe Alfaro Philippe Elicagaray			1-Aitor Berrueta Gabriel Dalia 2-Dave Indart Marcel Etcheverry	1-David Alfaro Jose Salva 2-Xabier Berrueta Mark Sorhouet	1-Justin Pebet Alain Saroberry 2-Jesus Arriada Johnny Curutchet	
2006 Spring				1-Jean Luc Chiramberro Robert Iriartborde 2-Alain Erdozaincy Anton Laxague			
2007 Spring				1-Mike Indart Eric Garat 2-Tony Laxague Mark Sorhouet	1-Javier Andueza Pierre Uharriet 2-Pierre Irola Xavier Salaburu		



# NABO Tournament Txapeldunak

Announced in *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletter

	LEHEN MAILA ESKUS	BIGARREN MAILA ESKUS	BURUZ-BURU ESKUS	LEHEN MAILA PALETA GOMA	BIGARREN MAILA PALETA GOMA	HELDUENAK PALETA GOMA	HELDUENAK ESKUS	EMAZTEAK BALLEEN
	Men's Handball Class A	Men's Handball Class B	Handball Singles	Paleta Goma Class A	Paleta Goma Class B	Veteren's Paleta Goma	Veteran Handball	Women's Paleta Goma
1983 NABO	Jean Cordova Jean Iriartborde							
1984 NABO	August Lapeyrade Pierre Uharriet won Chino	Jean Pierre Alfaro & Peyo Ourtiague lost to Chino		J. Felix Galzagorri Pierre Irola lost to Bakersfield				
1986 NABO at BCC	Noel Goyhenetche Pierre Uharriet won Chino	Johnny Curutchet Jean Pierre Negueloa lost to Chino	Bernard Iribarren won Chino	Jean F. Galzagorri Pedro Miqueo won Bakersfield	Robert Alfaro Jean B. Sapatart lost to Bakersfield			Marie Helena Azcona Mayte Ocafrain lost to Chino
1992 NABO at BCC	Noel Goyhenetche August Lapeyrade won Bakersfield	Javier Alzugaray Etienne Jorajuria won Chino	Marcel Etcheverry won LA	Xavier Alzugaray Francisco Berrueta lost to Bakersfield	Dave Indart Mike Indart won Fresno		Jean Cordova Ganix Iriartborde won Chino	Allyn Goyhenetche Yvette Saroberry lost to Chino
1993 NABO Bakersfield	Marcel Etcheverry Begnac Goyhenetche won Chino	Xavier Alzugaray Miguel Ibarra lost to Chino	Eric Oillarburu lost to Chino	Gratien Etchebehere Robert Iriartborde lost to Bakersfield	Ambrosio Huarte Louis Marticorena lost to Fresno		Jean Cordova Peyo Ourtiague lost to Chino	Sandy Dalia Evelyn Etcharren lost to Bakersfield
1996 NABO Bakersfield	Marcel Etcheverry Maurice Negueloua won Chino	Aitor Berrueta Dave Indart won Chino	Marcel Etcheverry won Chino		Ambrosio Huarte Tony Laxague won Chino		Johnny Curutchet August Lapeyrade won Chino	Evelyn Etcharren Mireille Acheritogaray won Bakersfield
1997 NABO	Marcel Etcheverry Maurice Negueloua won Elko		Marcel Etcheverry won Los Angeles				Miguel Ibarra Joaquin Micheltorena lost to Los Angeles	
1998 NABO at BCC	Noel Goyhenetche Daniel Ourtiague won Chino	Etienne Jorajuria Ganix Iriartborde lost to Chino	Xavier Ocafrain won Chino	Javier Andueza Gabriel Dalia lost to Kern County	Gratien Etchebehere Pedro Salaburu won		Johnny Curutchet Miguel Ibarra lost to Chino	
2001 NABO				Robert Iriartborde Jack Uhalde	Alain Camou Gratien Etchebehere			
2002 NABO	David Indart Eric Oillarburu lost to SoCal	Christophe Alfaro Aitor Berrueta lost to SoCal	Xavier Ocafrain lost to Chino	Gabriel Dalia Jack Uhalde won SoCal	Robert Acheritogaray Jean Luc Chiramberro won SoCal			
2003 NABO				Gabriel Dalia Dave Indart won SoCal	Aitor Berrueta Jean Gorostiague won SoCal		Johnny Curutchet Pierre Uharriet won SoCal	
2004 NABO	Remi Cuburu Xavier Ocafrain lost to Chino	John Falxa Mark Sorhouet lost to Chino	Eric Oillarburu lost to Chino	Dave Indart Gabriel Dalia won Kern/Bakersfield	Aitor Berrueta Jean Luc Chiramberro won Kern/Bakersfield	Javier Andueza Pierre Irola won Kern/Bakersfield	Johnny Curutchet Remi Goyheneche lost to Chino	Mireille Acheritogaray Karen Anchartecharahar won Etcharren/Oroz
2005 NABO	Xavier Ocafrain Eric Oillarburu lost to Chino	Francois Camou Mark Sorhouet lost to Chino	Xavier Ocafrain won Chino	Gabriel Dalia Dave Indart won Kern County	Robert Acheritogaray Jean Uharriet lost to Chino	Javier Andueza Pierre Irola won Kern		Evelyne Etcharren Nathalie Oroz won Acheritogaray/ Anchartecharahar
2007 NABO	Remi Cuburu Xavier Ocafrain lost to Bakersfield	Gratien Etchebehere John Falxa won Chino	Remi Cuburu won Bakersfield	Macel Etcheverry Tony Laxague won Bakersfield		Javier Andueza Jean Uharriet lost to Bakersfield/Fresno		



## NABOKO Pilotakako Txapelketa 2005

Left: Although the SFBCC team of Xavier Ocafrain and Eric Oillarburu placed second to Chino's Dominique Camou and Xabier de Luz in the Class A Esku tournament, Xavier came back to win Dominique 22-19 in Buruz-Buru (Handball Singles).

Right: Robert Acheritogaray and Jean Uharriet (left) were second place Txapeldunak in the 2005 NABO Tournament.

## *From Children's Handball to Ikaspilota*

*“Players learn by practice, practice, practice!!! The Basque Cultural Center has strived to schedule times and events for the youth to have ample practicing opportunities.” —Jose Mari Miura*

1983 First Pilota Camp Teachers:  
Andre Larre, Arnaud Duhart (both far left) Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche and Jacques Unhassobiscay (both far right).  
Back: D. Bigue, C. Oyharcabal, J. Negueloua, A. Urruty  
Middle: R. Anchartechahar, J. Urruty, E. Oillarburu, M. Bidaurreta, X. Berrueta, A. Laxague, J. Idiart  
Front: M. Bidaurreta, P. Iribarren, E. Berrueta, M. Unhassobiscay, D. Unhassobiscay, M. Bigue, F. Machin.



### **1982 – 1984**

Soon after the Center opened Andre Larre instructed and coordinated handball practice and games for children ages 7 through 15 every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.



Above: October 6 and 7, 1982 NABO PeeWees Anton Laxague, Patxi Machin, Daniel Unhassobiscay, Aitor Berrueta, Xabi Berrueta, with BCC Pilota Chairman, Jean Leon Ocafrain.

Right: BCC President Joe Castanchoa with handball teachers Andre Larre, Johnny Curutchet, Arnaud Duhart, Instructor Michel Acoceberry from Mont de Marsan, France and Pilota Chairman Jean Leon Ocafrain. The BCC hosted the 2nd annual NABO Pilota Camp for youths 6 years of age and older August 20-31, 1984. The fee for the two week camp was \$50.

### **First Handball Camp**

In 1983 the first Handball Camp was scheduled for youths between 9 and 14 years of age in two sessions, the 1st in Boise, Idaho and the 2nd in Chino, California. The first session from August 1st through 13th was rescheduled to take place at the BCC and coordinated by Franxoa Bidaurreta. The tuition was \$50 per person! The French Federation of Pilota sent Michel Etcheverry to teach Handball to eighteen youths. In November lessons and practice were held on Wednesdays in addition to Saturday morning.





*In the early 90s Basque handball came to a crucial juncture where its future here in the United States would be decided depending on whether youngsters chose to learn the game*



*These Pilota Camp participants played handball on the BCC's 9th Anniversary in February 1991.*

*Back row: Xavier Salaburu, Philippe Elicagaray, James Goyhenetche, Miguel Ibarra, Gratien Etchebehere, Xavier Ocafrain. Front row: Philippe Irola, Mark Sorhouet, Tommy Curutchet, Josexo Uharte, Michael Curutchet, Tony Uharte.*

*Xavier Ocafrain and Tony Uharte went on to compete in several international competitions. In 2006 Tony won the first US medal in 22 years at the World Championship and the first ever by a Basque American born player which undoubtedly reinforces the value of the handball camps for youth.*

## 1986 – 1991

In 1986 Spanish Coach Alberdi held a Pilota Camp for children and juniors ages 7 and up the week of July 14th while he was instructing/training the Spanish Olympic participants. In 1987 Boy's Handball resumed on Wednesdays and Saturdays in September coordinated by Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche. In February 1988 Yvette Saroberry coached pala goma or racquetball with boys and girls, 7 years or older, every Saturday after Basque dancing. In 1991 Yvette was still active in volunteering to form pala teams for anyone over 14 years of age.

## 1993

NABO encouraged young participants by sponsoring a Pilota Camp for children 18 and under at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center from June 13-21, 1993. There was an instructor from the Basque Pilota Federation. The camp focused only on the game of handball and cost \$100 for lessons and meals. Jean Leon Ocafrain was the BCC coordinator.

After two weeks of intensive (and fun!) handball camp, the skills of our young players improved significantly. This was evident at the June 27th Tournament of the Pilota Camp participants: Jean Marc Sorhondo won Pierre Idiart; Mike Appriro and Philip Irola won Gratien Etchebehere and Eric Irola; Michael Curutchet and Xavier Salaburu won Jose Huarte and Marc Sorhouet; James Goyhenetche and Tony Huarte won Tom Curutchet and Tony Murial; Dominique Camou and Xavier Ocafrain won Philip Elicagaray and Miguel Ibarra. Last, but not least, Marcel Etcheverry and Eric Oilarburu won the Pilota Camp's Handball Teacher from Spain, Mixel Bringas Diez and Dan Ourtiague in a very exciting and close 25 to 24 game.

## 1994 – 2005

Etienne Jorajuria coordinated with the Joko Garbi Champions from Ustaritz, France performing for the BCC's 1994 Anniversary to give Chistera lessons to youth 8 years of age and over the week after the anniversary. Etienne said, "I was involved with coaching handball on Saturday mornings

from late 1989 to 2000. The BCC needed some help. It was a lot of fun - the most fun that I ever had - to see the little kids who couldn't even hit the ball - then all of a sudden they are following you - can beat you almost! At one time I had 22 kids on Saturday mornings."

In 1996 children's handball practice resumed on Saturday mornings. Xavier Ocafrain, himself a student of the BCC's pilota camps, volunteered to coach the youth in 1996 and 1997. The *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter noted pilota practices following Saturday dance practice in 1999, 2000, and 2005.

There was an exciting new element to the July 1996 NABO Pilota Camp at the BCC. Girls (as well as boys, of course) were welcomed and encouraged to attend. Coach Josean Ursain from the Basque Pilota Federation taught both handball and pala. The fee was \$75.

In April 2005 the Pilota Committee mailed out a Youth Survey to all parents regarding what sports and activities their children would be interested in.



*The July 1996 NABO Pilota Camp at the BCC welcomed girls for the first time.*

*Standing: Tom Curutchet, Aimee Goyhenetche, Philip Elicagaray, Olivia Bidaurreta, Xavier Ocafrain, Coach Josean Ursain, BCC Pilota Chairman Jean Leon Ocafrain, Christophe Alfaro, Johnny Leonis.*

*Kneeling: Jerome Goyhenetche, Etienne Jorajuria (holding Andrew Goyhenetche), Xabier Berrueta, David Alfaro, John Falxa, Mark Sorhouet, Nick Bidaurreta.*



## 2006 – 2007

Ikaspilota 2006, the first pilota camp at the BCC in ten years but the first of its kind in teaching methods, was a significant success with 18 participants coming from Southern California, the Central Valley, the Sacramento Valley and the Bay Area. Ikaspilota (from the combined Basque words “Learn” and “Pilota”) was a nine-day camp which focused on the different specialties of pilota, but more importantly was presented in a way that was more enjoyable and fun by the instructors, Haritz Zubiaur from the Basque Pilota Federation and Xavier Ocafrain from the BCC Pilota program. Jean Leon Ocafrain said, “It was a great pleasure for me to see the young children play handball and even more when my son started and as he grew up, teaching the younger ones how to play, and recently teach at a pilota camp held at the BCC.”

BCC President Xabier Berrueta explained, “The young pilotaris were shown videos of pilotaris from

Europe, played “pilota/jokoak” (games that were unconventional in nature focusing on teamwork) as well as some physical conditioning at the local Orange Park. The instructors did such a great job that parents had a difficult time pulling their kids away from the court at the end of each day! Following Ikaspilota 2006 some of the participants played in the NABO Pilota Finals held in Fresno on August 6th. The goal would be to have a camp on an annual basis with tournaments to be held throughout the year.” Ikaspilota did take place in 2007 at the BCC.

In November 2006 Roger Anchartechar began coaching youth handball practice (six years of age and older) at the Basque Cultural Center Kantxa. Practice was comprised of organized exercises to help improve skills followed up by games where evenly matched teams competed against each other. Evelyne Etcharren offered pala classes for youth age five and up.



*The 2006 Ikaspilota participants experienced outings to the Exploratorium in San Francisco and to an Oakland Athletics baseball game where they were photographed Sunday, July 9, 2006.*

*Standing: Mikel Muniozgueren\* (Woodland), Joe Esnoz\* (Bakersfield), Sebastian Maisterrena\* (Chino), Erik Kvarna\*, Vincent Kvarna\*, Jesse Kvarna\*, Maite Kvarna, Chris Chamalbide\*, Chloe Duhalde\*, Cedric Duhalde\*.  
Sitting middle row: Daniel Gatón-Lanathoua\* (Chino), Julia Hurley, Alex Goyhenetche\*, Juliette Camou, Alyssa Goyhenetche\*, Joelle Ourtiague, Daniel Camou\*  
Sitting front row: Andrew Goyhenetche\*, Matte Fosse\*, Christian Curutchague\* (Los Banos), Elena Erreca\* (Los Banos), Brett Anchartechar\*.*

*\* 2006 Pilota Camp Participants*



*Top: John Falxa coached the youth at the 2006 Ikaspilota Camp.*

*Bottom: On September 16, 2006 Children's handball played in exhibition at the BCC. San Francisco played teams from Sacramento and Bakersfield. Standing: Jess Kvarna, Erik Kvarna, Emily Esnoz, Joe Esnoz. Kneeling: Chris Chamalbide, Cedric Duhalde, Andrew Goyhenetche, Mikel Muniozgueren.*

## BCC Members in Munduko Pilotako Txapelketa

### International Competitions Became a Reality With the Building of the Center

#### 1982

The United States became the youngest affiliate of the International Federation of Basque Pelota founded in 1929 to coordinate and codify the various specialties of Basque pilota practiced by participating countries all over the world. The first country to form a national handball organization was France in 1921, followed by Spain in 1925 and Argentina in 1926. The United States was finally able to join in 1982 because of the construction of the Basque Cultural Center's official left-wall court which had just been built. For the first time in its history the U.S. was able to host an international handball tournament.

"Participating in their first world tournament in Mexico City in October 1982 was a challenge for our BCC participants because of the type of handball that was used. The mundials required playing with a Spanish handball which is heavier and faster than the French handball that our local players were used to. There was a realization that in order to participate in future championships, the BCC pilota players would have to start practicing with Spanish handballs." —Noel Goyhenetche

#### 1983

The San Francisco Basque Cultural Center hosted the Mini-Mundial of Pilota Mano left wall court with the support and collaboration of the San Francisco Basque Club and the Menlo Park Zazpiak Bat Club from October 14-24, 1983. Six countries with six players each were invited to participate: Mexico, Uruguay, Venezuela, France, Spain and the United States. This was the first of three mundials hosted by the Basque Cultural Center in its first 25 years. The 1985 Veteran Mundial and the 2007 World Pilota Council's International Championship were the other two.

"I was 11 years old in October 1983 when I held the banner for Spain in the Opening ceremonies of the Mini Mundials. I remember standing for a very long time and

that the players representing Spain were cool. The coach for the Spanish Federation was a guy from Gipuzkoa named Luis Mari Alberdi. I still have a handball autographed from that event of all the players. One of the players, Elgoro, would come back to play at the BCC after winning Gold at the Barcelona Summer Olympics of 1992. The Mini Mundiales of 1983 and the Mexican Federation of Pilota Paleta Cuero Players at the Center in the mid 1980's (with the likes of Pepe Musi and the Mendiburu brothers) inspired me to play both handball and then later paleta goma. The Mexican's unique style of play and their ability to beat the Europeans made me realize it was truly a world game and it opened my eyes that not only Basques were the best at pilota. Musi is of Lebanese decent." —Xabier Berrueta, BCC Lehendakari at 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



*Below: The First World Tournament in the United States was held at the BCC. Middle row -7th person from left: Johnny Plaa, Jean Michel Indaburu, US players Noel Goyhenetche, Jean Uharriet, Bernard Iribarren, and Jean Cordova, Coach Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche.*



*First row – 3rd from left: Petan Aphessetche, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Francois Pedeflous (West Coast Vice President of the U.S. Federation of Pelota), Jacques Unhassobiscay (President of the U.S. Federation of Pelota); third from right Joseph Castanchoa, Martin Minaberry (Secretary-Treasurer of the U.S. Federation of Pelota), Xabier Berrueta (holding 'Spain' sign)*

## *Under 22 World Championships*

Emile Goyhenetche, Jr. and Marcel Etcheverry were among the first United States Mundial Medalists and the only U.S. Txapeldunak for 22 years!

Seven countries participated in the “Under 22 World Championship” games held in Montevideo, Uruguay from October 25–November 2, 1984: Spain, France, Italy, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and the United States. The United States, including BCC members Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., playing mano mano left wall handball and Marcel Etcheverry in trinquet handball, was awarded the Bronze Medal in all categories played. BCC members accompanying the U.S. delegation were Federation President Francois Pedeflous and Federation Secretary-Treasurer Martin Minaberry and Coach Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche.

The BCC participated in other World Pilota Championships for those under 22 years of age. Maurice Negueloua and Dan Ourtiague in handball and Gabriel Dalia in trinquete paleta goma participated in the 1988 tournament held in Biarritz, France. Andre Larre trained them. Philip Elicagaray, Xavier Ocafrain and Remi Cuburu were coached by Jean Leon Ocafrain in 1996. Tony Huarte played handball in Ile de Reunion, Africa in 2000. His coach was Etienne Jorajuria.



*The Pilota Committee scheduled games to be played every Sunday, not only for the members' enjoyment, but to prepare the U.S. Handball Team of Philip Elicagaray, Xavier Ocafrain and Remi Cuburu (2nd, 3rd, and 5th from left above) for the 1996 World Championship for those under 22 years of age in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The U.S. delegation included Martin Minaberry, Francois Pedeflous (above far left), Jean Leon Ocafrain (Coach) and Xabier Berrueta (Asst. Coach). Also pictured: Dave Indart (4th from left) and Aitor Berrueta (far right).*

## *Second BCC Hosted International Tournament*



*The United States, Spain, Mexico and France participated in the Veterans Mundial hosted by the BCC from September 22-29, 1985. Pictured above are the US Bronze Medalists: Emile Goyhenetche, August Lapeyrade, Ganix Iriartborde, Peyo Aphessetche with the U.S. Pilota Federation President, Francois Pedeflous (center).*



## *Pan American Games*



*In 1997 the Pan American Games took place in Venezuela. The bronze medalists, all BCC members, were honored at the Center (left).*

*Standing: Martin Minaberry, medalists Xavier Ocafrain and Daniel Ourtiague, NABO Pilota Chairmen Francois Pedeflous, medalists Eric Oillarburu and Marcel Etcheverry. Kneeling: BCC NABO Coordinator Etienne Jorajuria and BCC President Jean Berhan. Xavier Ocafrain also participated in the 1995 Pan American Games with Aitor Berrueta. Marcel Etcheverry and Maurice Negueloua participated in a handball tournament in La Paz, Bolivia 1987.*

## *BCC Members Represented the USA Pilota Federation in World Championships*

### **1982 Mexico – IX Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**

**1986 Vitoria-Gaztiaz – X Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**  
Francisco Javier Andueza, Jean Baptiste Etcheverria and Pedro Miqueo played Paleta Cuero. Begnat Goyhenetche, Maurice Negueloua and Pierre Uharriet played doubles in handball and placed fourth. Noel Goyhenetche played in singles and came in fourth place as well.

**1990 Havanna, Cuba – XI Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**  
Francois Camou, the BCC's current Manager, played handball. Marcel Etcheverry and Vincent Inchauspe played paleta goma.

**1994 St. Jean de Luz – XII Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**  
Marcel Etcheverry won 4th place in trinquete handball. Noel Goyhenetche, Maurice Negueloua, Eric Oillarburu, Dan Ourtiague, and Alain Salumbide played left wall handball. BCC Pilota Chairperson, Etienne Jorajuria, was their coach.

**1998 Mexico City – XIII Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**  
Roger Anchartechar, Marcel Etcheverry, Robert Larre and Eric Oillarburu participated with Maurice Negueloua as their Coach.

**2002 Pamplona (Iruna) – XIV Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**  
BCC left wall players who represented the USA in Pamplona were Paleta Cuero: Gabriel Dalia, Eric Garat, David Indart, Aitor Berrueta (back-up), Coach: Xabier Berrueta  
Handball: Remi Cuburu, Marcel Etcheverry, Tony Huarte, Xavier Ocafrain, Eric Oillarburu, Coach: Maurice Negueloua.



*The United States was represented by several members of the Basque Cultural Center at the World Championship in Mexico City from October 16-24, 1982. Back row: Felix Berrueta, Pierre Irola, Jean Baptiste Etcheverria. Front row: Andre Larre, Francisco Javier Andueza, Bernard Iribarren, Martin Minaberry, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Jacques Unhassobiscay, President of the newly formed US Federation of Pilota, Jean Pierre Idiart, and Jean Cordova.*



*Daniel Ourtiague, Eric Oillarburu and Noel Goyhenetche played handball at the 1994 World Championship in St. Jean de Luz.*

**The BCC's Tony Huarte and Xavier Ocafrain have the best finish for the USA in the Pilota World Championships and the first medals in 22 years!**



*USA's Tony Huarte and Xavier Ocafrain (right above) won the bronze medal in the 2006 World tournament. Spain took the gold and France the silver.*

**2006**

**Mexico City – XV Munduko Pilota Txapelketa**

The USA was represented by BCC members Tony Huarte, Xavier Ocafrain and Christophe Alfaro and Chino's Dennis Petrissans in the 2006 World Pilota Tournament in Mexico City. The BCC handball singles team of Tony and Xavier won the Bronze Medal; Tony, Xavier, Christophe, and Dennis placed fourth in the doubles. This is the best finish in either category in the World Championships ever for players from the United States.

In the singles tournament 14 games were played in less than one week! Tony played in three doubles games and four singles games, and Xavier played in four doubles games and two singles games. Tony defeated Mexico in front of 800 hometown fans, 22-15, and won the bronze for the singles team giving the U.S. its first medals in a World Tournament since 1984 when Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., and Marcel Etcheverry won in the "22 and under" World Tournament.

After playing five games in five days, Tony played the singles semifinal game against Spain, the defending World Champion since 1986!!! Described by the Mexican media as an "epic" game of "heart attack" proportions, the score was dramatically tied at 21-21 with Tony serving for the final point! Fans cheering loudly, "U-S-A! U-S-A! Ton -y! Ton -y!" drowned out the losing point because everyone was thrilled to see Tony playing an unbelievable game – without needing breaks and giving his Spanish competition a total workout! The USA team definitely left an impression and played their hearts out.



*Christophe Alfaro carried the United States Flag at the 2006 Mundials in Mexico City.*



*Tony Huarte defeated Mexico in front of 800 hometown fans, 22-15. His victory was the first singles handball medal ever won for the United States in the Munduko Pilota Txapelketa.*

## 2007

### Barcelona, Spain – XVI Munduko Pilota Txapelketa

In 2007 Tony Huarte won the silver medal in handball singles and 4th place in handball doubles at the World Cup of Pilota held in Barcelona, Spain (October 6-13). On his way to the silver medal he defeated Mexico (22-18) and France (22-15) before facing and losing to Spain in a tough match-up in the gold medal game. Bernard Iribarren (who is pictured in 1982 winning the NABO handball Championship with Ganix Iriartborde and later moved to the Basque Country with his family) was the Handball coach and Francois Pedeflous was the U.S. delegate.



*Tony Huarte (left) and Xavier Ocafrain (right) played their hearts out in the Munduko Pilota Txapelkatas. Their journey from the Basque Cultural Center which provided teachers and youth pilota camps to their commitment to practice tirelessly until their skills reached championship levels, proves that interest in Basque Pilota can continue in the United States!*



## 2007 World Pilota Council's International Championship at the BCC

### Third Mundial Hosted by the BCC in its First 25 Years

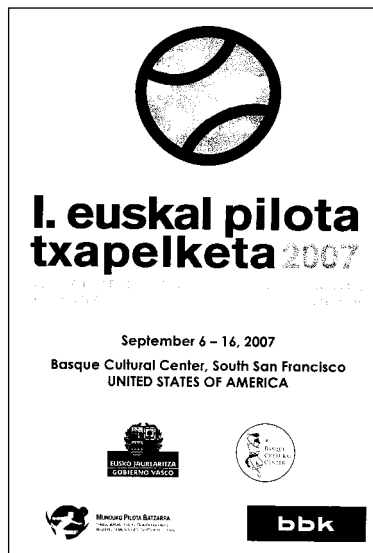
The Basque World Council, founded in December 2006, held its 1st International Pilota Championship (Euskal Pilota Txapelketa) at the Basque Cultural Center drawing international as well as local attention to pilota. The Euskal Pilota Txapelketa at the BCC from September 6-16, 2007 hosted participants from seven countries: Euskal Herria, Mexico, Argentina (F.E.V.A.), Bolivia, Chile, Venezuela and United States (N.A.B.O.). The U.S. team was nearly all BCC members: Christophe Alfaro, Remi Cuburu, and Xavier Ocafrain played handball doubles. Gratien Etchebehere, David Indart and Michael Indart played paleta cuero and Evelyne Etcharren played women's paleta goma. Candida Echeverria representing the Chino Basque Club was part of N.A.B.O.'s United States team.

Euskal Herria won in all the final games in the amateur competition. However, the handball Doubles was an intense game played by pilotaris of the USA, BCC members Xavier Ocafrain and Remi Cuburu, and Venezuela. The addition of Xavier Ocafrain

gave the NABO team the most solidity that they had in the entire competition. They achieved victory, scoring 22 to 19, and as a result, won the bronze medal in handball doubles. Zorionak to Christophe Alfaro, Remi Cuburu and Xavier Ocafrain.

“Choosing South San Francisco as the tournament location was not an accident,” said Kepa Arroitauregi, technical director for the Basque World Council. ‘It’s a key part of the World Council’s new effort to promote pilota in countries where it’s less well-known, especially the U.S., Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela. It’s not only about putting tournaments together; it’s about improving the level of play around the world. It’s about giving players the opportunity to play in tournaments like this to better themselves.’ The Basque World Council’s goal is to establish pilota coaches in countries with just a handful of players and teach children the sport as well.”

—Julia Scott, Staff Writer, *Inside Bay Area*



The United States participants in The Basque World Council's 1st International Pilota Championship hosted by the BCC in 2007: Left to right: Dave Indart (BCC), Candida Echeverria (Chino), Evelyne Etcharren (BCC), Remi Cuburu (BCC), Xavier Ocafrain (BCC), and Gratien Etchebehere (BCC). Not pictured: Christophe Alfaro (BCC) and Michael Indart (BCC).

2007 - SAN FRANZIKON EUSKAL PILOTA TXAPELKETA

*Written and sung by Johnny Curutchet*

Bi milako mendea zazpi urterekin San Franzikon badugu guziek atsegin Pilota zuk bezala nork dezake berdin Bildu gaituzu berriz zazpi elgarrekin	<i>Two millennium, plus seven years Our happiness in San Francisco is ongoing As our lives are enriched with you handball, so dear. You have reunited us seven and we continue growing</i>
Europako aldetik lehenik Euskadi Lehen asmenta eman dina pilotari Zabalduek gaituzu mundu guziari Ez dakigu ba zonbat zora dugun zuri	<i>From the European side, Euskadi first of all You implanted the beginnings of the game. Successfully throughout the world you spread us all. We cannot begin to know our obligations to your fame!</i>
Ipar Ameriketa hiz batez erteko Uros da berekilan denak ikusteko Beti bezala baitu laguntzaitetako Mugaren bertzaldeko auzoa Mezkiko	<i>We in North America are pleased and happy to see So many players from around the world within our borders. And as always our neighbors dependable to the highest degree Mexico just across the southern border:</i>
Hego Ameriketa urrun izanike Hunarat etortzeko ez dira herabe Venezuela, Arjentina, Bolivia, Txile Pilotak egin gaitu guziak haurride	<i>South America, even though you are far away really To join us in North America, you do not hesitate Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile: Handball made us all brothers and sisters imitate.</i>
Etorri ziren hunat Euskadiko haurrak Gu ta pilotarentzat eginez indarrak Urrundu zizte utziz odol ta hezurak Ez dugu ahantziko zuer tugun zorak	<i>Originally to America the children of Euskadi came Encouraging us and our handball to move ahead. Now passed away their blood and bones proclaim Our indebtedness and allegiance to our departed dead.</i>

When Franxoa Bidaureta was interviewed in 2006 he was asked if it's important for the community to support pilota. Franxoa emphasized, "Very, very important! We have to make it stronger; get more interest, outside interest. When the first shepherders came to this country and they were running the sheep industry there were many pilota courts all over the United States. They would build hotels, and right next to the hotel they would build a fronton with volunteer workers when the shepherders came from the mountains. They never spread it out; they kept it for themselves. You cannot keep it for yourself and have it last forever! That's what happened for years. There were so many frontons all over the place, but nobody recognized pilota outside the Basque people. People would eat at the restaurants, but would not get involved in playing pilota with them."



PILOTA

GURE AMODIOA  
OUR LOVE



GURE JOKOA  
OUR GAME

"I believe the Kantxa is a very important aspect of the BCC because it is what differentiates it from any other cultural gathering place that has a restaurant with a large social hall.....When not in use for various cultural activities, it's a place that one can come and play pala. While I was growing up I played and still do play basketball, but pala has become a recent passion of mine. It is a thrilling game which I have come to appreciate and have been able to introduce my American friends as well. It is a uniquely Basque game, and I feel privileged to introduce others to the game."

—Jean Marc Sorhondo, the BEO's 2007 Scholarship Contest Winner

# ENTERTAINMENT

In the fall of 1982, the Board of Directors announced the formation of the Entertainment Committee headed by Pierre Etcharren. The Committee was set up to be responsible for all entertainment activities other than pilota. Topics discussed at the first meeting held on Sunday, October 24, 1982 included: Family style Friday night dinners for members and their guests followed by various entertainment; Sunday lunch with exciting pilota games; a monthly dinner-dance; international nights with groups from different cultures; reviving the Basque play; and guest speakers, films, raffles and contests.

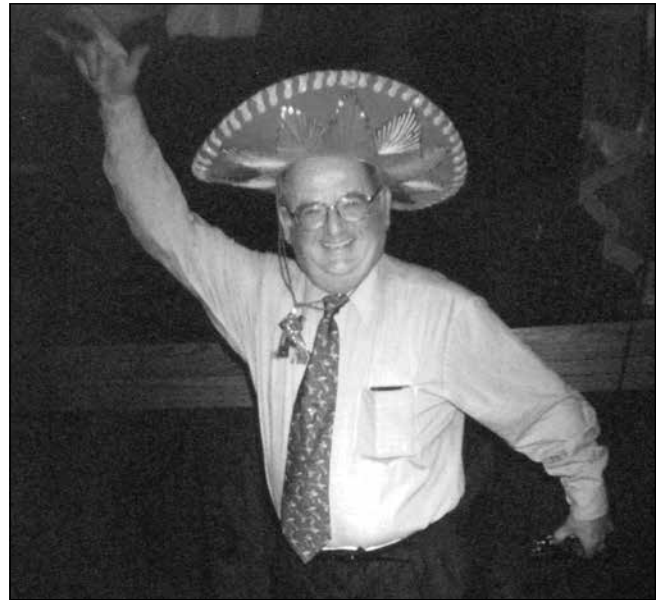
Pierre has been the Entertainment Chairperson every year he's been on the BCC Board ('82-'88 and '90-'07) with the exception of the three years he was BCC President. The Entertainment Chairperson in 2000-01 was Robert Acheritogaray, in 2001-02 it was Nicole Hauscarriague and Etienne Jorajuria, and in 2002-03 it was Etienne Jorajuria and Jean Leon Ocafrain.

Pierre said, "In the beginning we were using local players and local musicians. We needed to save; there wasn't that much money to spend. It was in the building at that time, not the culture ..... Sometimes groups volunteered to come and perform. We didn't pay any groups salaries. We did pay for transportation and room and board. In the entire 25 years all the entertainment was volunteered."

When asked about memorable entertainment brought to the BCC, Pierre Etcharren's first thought was, "We had a young dance group coming all the way from Mar del Plata, Argentina. The *Beti Alai* 14 to 20 year olds danced at the Center in 1994." In 2009 the BCC recognized Pierre Etcharren with the *Bizi Emankorra* award for his many, invaluable contributions throughout the Center's first quarter century including all he's accomplished as the Entertainment Chairperson.

## *Monthly Member Dinner*

January 1983 began a monthly dinner for members on the first Friday of each month featuring entertainment. In January the Elgarrekin Choir and Basque dancers performed. February's dinner was preceded by a front-tennis game in which the ladies' league winners challenged the men. The March dinner was followed by Basque related films and slides; the April dinner included a Fashion Show coordinated by the Women's Club and Teen Club. There was a Talent Show at the May members' dinner, and Accordionist Louis Beheretche on tour from France entertained at the June dinner. Nearly a year later, in February 1984 there was an attempt to 'resume' the monthly member dinners (\$10 for members and guests). Perhaps due to the "small turnout to enjoy the teen dance group and singing of younger children" and the preparation for the Mardi Gras



*Pierre Etcharren has been an active participant as the BCC's Entertainment Chairperson. He always puts himself into his work!*

in March, the Tahoe Trip in April and the dinner to honor the visiting Bishop of Bayonne in June, the BCC newsletter didn't announce any more member dinners on the first Friday. Moreover, the member Sunday lunches were growing in popularity as was the ability to begin bringing in entertainment *Arrantzaleak* from France in 1983 which included the Luc Brothers, world champion accordionists, and soloist Estixtu. This homeland folk group supported the BCC's formation when they donated the proceeds from a fundraising event in Donibane Lohizune in 1980!

While the first Friday dinners weren't as popular, there are several annual entertainment events that many members comment are their particular favorite from the New Year's Eve Gala, to the January Mus Tournament, February Anniversary weekend, and September *Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia*.

## *Ongoing Entertainment Committee Events During the First 25 Years*

### NEW YEAR'S EVE GALAS

In 1982 at the Center's first New Year's Eve gala, members ended the old year in grand style with filet of sole and filet mignon costing \$20 for members and spouses and \$25 for non-members – and that included white and red wine, coffee cognac and champagne as well as soup, salad and cheese and dessert.





*Celebrating New Year's Eve 1988: Ganix Iriartborde, Martin Chiramberro, Peyo Ourtiague, Anna Iriartborde, Michou Chiramberro, Barbara Iriartborde, Yvette Urruty, Angele Goyeneche, Pierre Iriartborde, Jean Baptiste Urruty.*

**BCC President Joseph Castanchoa on New Year's Eve Gala:**

"The 1983 New Year's Eve Party success was due in part to the efforts of Pierre Etcharren, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee and his helpers. The combined efforts of Jean Baptiste Saparart (seating arrangements) and Leon Franchisteguy (reservations) allowed all of us to sit with the relatives and friends we requested. Alphonse Acheritogaray and the Catering Committee are to be complimented on their selection of the menu served and Chefs, Jean Felix Galzagorry and Jean Pierre Minaberry for making everything taste so good. I noticed Anna Iriartborde, Jean Leon Iribarren and Frederic Fuldain helping Jean Baptiste Saparart with the decorations earlier that morning when I wandered through the Center.

A highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by our "Elgarrekin" singing group led by Jeanne Mazeris. The Negueloua Brothers group of musicians provided music for this festive occasion and when they took a rest, there was that great guy, Jean Paul Barthe, who again, showed his great love for our Center by providing a different type of music for the intermission.

In 1984 Leon Franchisteguy and Noel Erdozaincy handled reservations and estimated a total of 340 in attendance... Earlier that day (New Year's Eve) my wife and I joined Jean Leon Iribarren and his crew of decorators - Anna Iriartborde, Mary Curutchet, Leon Franchisteguy and Jean Goyeneche who were busy at work manually blowing up enough balloons to hang from the ceilings. Tommy and Michael Curutchet, Mary's little helpers, thought it was paradise to chase the abundance of balloons covering the banquet room floor. Our thanks to everyone involved including: Jeanne Mazeris and the Choir Elgarrekin, Jean Baptiste Saparart who arranged the numerous door prizes and the musicians Michelle & Company and Jean Paul Barthe."

The New Year's Eve Gala member cost increased to \$45 for member and \$80 for non-members in 2006 and included Cream of Broccoli Soup, roasted Monkfish with Lobster Sauce, Pear Sorbet in Calvados, Milk Fed Veal Chop Ibaigorry with Asparagus, Butter Lettuce and Basque



*Top: New Year's Eve 2000, the Alegerak musicians with: Standing: Jean Paul Barthe, Jean Berhan, Francois Camou, Pierre Etcharren, Aita Martxel Tillous. Kneeling: Louis Marticorena. Bottom: New Year's Eve 2001 Henri Ocafrain, Maurice Bigue, Marie Bigue, Mayie Ocafrain, and Jean Marie Pourrouquet celebrating the coming New Year to music by twirling their dinner napkins!*

Cheese Tray, Dessert Creation of Chef Michel Veron, Coffee Hennessy French cognac, 2003 Chateau de Meusault, 2001 Chateuneuf-du-Pape Laurent Brotte and Champagne de la Veuve Clocquot.

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Except for the First Anniversary, all have taken place on President's Day weekend in February. Moreover, every Anniversary has incorporated the three key features in every Basque community: pilota games, Sunday Mass in which the kantxa is transformed into Church, and a gathering to eat for a Saturday night dinner and Sunday lunch as well.

The First Anniversary Celebration on **March 19-20, 1983** featured local players. Saturday dinner and Sunday lunch cost \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$7 for children. Sunday Mass was celebrated by Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout with the Elgarrekin Choir, the Klika and Zazpiak Bat Dancers. At every anniversary celebration there has been a Basque priest to serve Mass and the participation of a Basque choir, Basque marching band and Basque dancers.

The second Anniversary in **1984** featured women athletes as well as a variety of games with Mexico's players and local players. Saturday saw the BCC's Annie Guecamburu and Mayie Ocafrain victorious against Bakersfield in racquetball. There was dancing to the music of the Negueloua Brothers Band and Jean Paul Barthe Sunday's celebration included the music of Jean Louis Curutchet and Emile Goyhenetche, Jr.



*In 1988 the 6th Anniversary coincided with Valentine's Day and the celebration of World Marriage Day. Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry honored wedding anniversaries, especially those married 25 years or more, along with the 6th Anniversary of the Center.*

In **1989** BCC President Jean Leon Ocafrain acknowledged Pierre Etcharren "...for having UTA Airlines donate plane tickets for accordionist Louis Camblor and singer Pampi Portugal who provided us with great entertainment on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Many thanks to Jean Paul Barthe for helping them with all their music and sound system needs, to Gracian Goyhenetche and Florence Castanchoa for their creative reminiscing about our Center's history, to Henri Lapuyade who took time off to entertain Louis Camblor and to my wife for making his bed and fixing his breakfast!"

At the ten year anniversary in **1992** South San Francisco's Mayor John Penna praised the delicious food the Center has brought to his city and on how wonderful it is to see so many children participating. Steve Mendibe, President of NABO; Francois Pedeflous, U.S. Handball Federation President; Pedro Uriarte Castillo, secretary of the Euskadi Federation of Basque Pilota, attended. Chris Hildebrandt made a heartfelt reference to his reason for being a Basque enthusiast, namely, his two dear friends, Marcel Biscay and Jean Baptiste Saparart.

Spanish Basque champions were brought to entertain the members, a first for an anniversary celebration. (Spanish Handball Champions had played BCC members in exhibition games on July 18-20, 1986.) A breathtaking handball game by these 1991 Euskadi Champions was followed by a veal stew and barbecue steak dinner served to a record seating of over 800 people! Louis Beheretche and his musicians filled the rest of a wonderful day - with a sneak preview of popular singer, Michel Tellechea, who performed on Sunday. Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry, former U.S. Basque Chaplain, and Aita Algueiru from Cambo Les Bains concelebrated Sunday Mass with Aita Jean Elicagaray. It certainly added to the excitement of the celebration to have Noel Goyhenetche and Maurice Negueloua win Chino's Dennis Petrissans and Paul Sallaberry in handball!



*Above: 1992 Tenth Anniversary Master of Ceremonies Gracian Goyhenetche, BCC President Pierre Bigue, and Entertainment Chairperson Pierre Etcharren.*



Two firsts highlighted the 1994 12th Anniversary Celebration: the very first U.S. Basque Accordion Festival [Akordionaren Biltzarra] featuring piano, chromatic and diatone (trikitixa) accordion players and the first ever exhibition games in Joko Garbi by the French Champions from Ustaritz, France. NABO presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to Pedro Juan Etchamendy, Jim Jausoro and Bernardo Yanci for their contributions to Basque music and culture.

The 17th Anniversary in 1999 featured the 1998 World and Euskadi Pilota champions and a Mardi Gras parade and contest. This year also began two frequent anniversary traditions: hot chocolate and croissants, a Sun-

day morning incentive to get to Mass on time and Basuru Zaldua (Basque Garlic Soup) served at 7:00 p.m. BCC President, Jean Berhan commented, "Saturday's festivities ended with Dancing to the Music of our own local young group (Mireille Acheritogaray, Rene Caballero, Christian and Daniel Iribarren and Idoya Salaburu), which performed beautifully. Bravo, Iratxoa! (meaning Trolls) ....Following Sunday Mass I honored the First Board of Directors at their 20th Anniversary. In accepting his honor Lou Elu recalled the hard work in collecting an initial \$90,000, only to have to put over 1/3 of that amount into cleaning up the junk and garbage on the site of our Basque Center!.....".



*Idoya Salaburu (left), Jean Flesher (center) and Jean Louis Curutchet (right) participated in the first U.S. Basque Accordion Concert during the 12th Anniversary in 1994.*



*Anna Iriartborde (far left), as an authentic old Basque man won the \$100 first prize in the 17th Anniversary's Mardi Gras Costume Parade. The "Bride of Frankenstein" Emilia Doyaga (second from left) is Vice-President of the Society of Basque Studies in America and came all the way from New York to take the \$75 second prize, and our own Board of Director, Juan Jayo and his wife, Patty, (right above) won the \$50 third prize as Zorro and a flamenco dancer.*



*In 2004 a band from Iparalde, Eztiki, performed at the BCC's 22nd Anniversary. The lead singer, Paxkalin, is from Urepel and her grandfather is the famous bertsolari, Xalbador. Sébastien Desgrans (accordion from Uztaritze), Sébastien Luc (guitar from Baiona), and Bixente Oçafrain (drums from Uztaritze) are the musicians.*



## UDAZKENEKO BESTA TO EUSKAL ETXEKO JAIALDIA

On **September 24, 1988** the Basque Center held its first annual barbecue. It differed from other Basque picnics in that it was indoors and took place in the autumn rather than summer. The Autumn fete attracted large groups of Basque Americans from Fresno, Bakersfield, Chino, Nevada and Idaho all coming to the Bay Area to enjoy the last Basque picnic of the year! Initially called Udazkeneko Besta (Autumnfest), the name evolved to Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia (Basque Cultural Center Festival) in 1999.

The first Udazkeneko Besta in 1988 began at 4:00 p.m. with Aita Etcheverry offering Mass in memory of Jean Pierre Elisondo, a member who most generously helped to finance the formation of our Basque Center. A \$16 barbecue steak dinner was followed by dancing to the “Ordago” of Boise who continued to provide the Jaialdia dance music 1989 -1994 and 1998. Jean Flesher and his band played in 1995, 1997, and 1999, and musicians from the Basque Country have provided the entertainment since 2000 including Holako in 2005 and 2006 and Ketxo in 2007.

Barbecue steak has been the traditional Saturday night dinner since the weekend picnic began in 1988 and Sunday barbecue rack of lamb was introduced in 1999 for \$20 (and has only increased \$5 since then!). Christopher Hildebrandt (a.k.a. “Chrissa”) generously provided plenty of complimentary wine as he’s done for other special celebrations! Basuru Zalda (Basque Garlic Soup) has frequently been a treat at the end of the indoor picnic since 1997.

**Jaialdia 2007** featured the championship games of the World Pilota Council’s First Pilota Championship on September 15th and 16th preceded by semi-final matches on September 12th and 13th.

## *Other Entertainment Committee Highlights*

In Joseph Castanchoa’s May 1985 President’s Message he said, “....We were treated to a performance by eight members of the singing group, ‘Tuna del Colegio Universitario de Toledo’. Their performance was dedicated to the selected ‘Queen for the Day’, Lilly Yribarren Saldubehere, who very obligingly accepted her cape and proceeded to surprise the audience and performers with a not-so-shy performance of her own. Thanks Lilly for being such a great sport and humoring everyone.”

In 1986 Swiss Night was such a big success that it was repeated the next three years. It was reminiscent of dancing at “Little Switzerland” in Sonoma years ago. During the last Swiss-Basque Night in 1989 Pierre Etcharren was honored for teaching Basque dancing for over 25 years. The Gazteak (Little Group) dancers presented him with a gift and plaque after Joseph and James Goyhenetche sang the words below to the Basque song “*Haurrak Ikasazue Euskaraz Mintzatzen*” (“*Young Children Must Learn to*



*Capturing a bit of the homeland’s traditional festival dress code, everyone is encouraged to wear white shirt, red scarf and blue jeans since it was first announced in 1997 like Mayie and Jean (Kaiyet) Sorhouet (pictured above) did at the 2006 Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia.*

*Speak Basque” shows the importance that Basque place on their linguistic heritage!):*

*Pierre we’re here to thank you for teaching Basque  
dance and song.*

*More than 25 years you’ve worked hard to keep our  
feet from moving wrong!*

*In ‘62 you joined the Basque dancers; not knowing  
what would be in store,*

*Director of all the dance groups since the year 1964!*

*You’ve taught mothers and daughters. You’ve taught  
fathers and sons.*

*For your love of Basque tradition, we thank you for a  
job well done!*

*If you left us a lesson of wisdom we know what your  
words would be,*

*The Basque words of this song that I’m singing, would  
everyone please join me!*

The NABO Convention hosted by the BCC in 2002 was the second NABO Convention to take place in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Committee Chairpersons for this huge event were Anita Arduain, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Pierre Etcharren, Yvette Gorostiaga Fatham, Nicole Hauscarriague, and Etienne Jorajuria. Stella Arambel created outstanding Basque graphics. The Convention logo of Basque dancing shoes on the Basque flag was unique, clever, and memorable (capturing the look of an ‘earthquake’ was inspired by Xavier Berrueta!).



*Pierre Etcharren (far left) was honored for 25 years of teaching Basque in 1989 as Johnny Curutchet (behind James) and Women's Club President Mary Curutchet watch Joseph and James Goyhenetche sing to him, and Judy Etcheverria and Tommy Curutchet are ready to present a gift and plaque to Pierre.*



*April 9, 1989 The Burgaintzi, a 50-member Basque folkloric dance troupe, performed at the Center while on their first tour of the West Coast. They brought new life to old traditional dances, while musicians played the txistu and the ttun-ttun.*



*The Burgaintzi troupe was organized by Aita Irigoyen (above right) from St. Jean Pied de Port who celebrated Mass with Aita Etcheverry (above left) and our United States chaplain Aita Elicagary (above center) before the performance.*

The NABO Convention hosted by the BCC in 2002 was the second NABO Convention to take place in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Committee Chairpersons for this huge event were Anita Arduain, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Pierre Etcharren, Yvette Gorostigue Fatham, Nicole Hauscarriague, and Etienne Jorajuria. Stella Arambel created outstanding Basque graphics. The Convention logo of Basque dancing shoes on the Basque flag was unique, clever, and memorable (capturing the look of an 'earthquake' was inspired by Xavier Berrueta!).

The Opening Ceremony took place at the South San Francisco Conference Center. Master of Ceremony, Gracian Goyhenetche, introduced the colorful dance and singing groups from the NABO clubs of San Francisco, Chino, Bakersfield, Reno, Boise, and Utah, as well as from Zuberoa and Aldudes in Euskal Herria. South San Francisco's acting Mayor, Pedro Gonzalez, presented

Pierre Etcharren with the keys to the city and in turn was invested as an honorary Basque with beret, makila, and scarf. NABO Bizi Emankorra Lifetime achievement awards were presented for the first time. Aita Martxel Tillous and Al Ergquiaga were the 2002 recipients.

Pierre Etcharren said, "It was a double thrill to be both President of NABO and the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center when we hosted the 2002 NABO Convention. Not since 1979 had San Francisco hosted the event, and though some winds blew cold, Basque hearts young and old stayed warm as we had a chance, once again, to be with one another."







Mayor Diane Feinstein (above) is shaking hands with Pierre Etcharren at the very first NABO Convention on August 25th and 26th in 1979 which Pierre was instrumental in forming and took place at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Mayor Feinstein, elected San Francisco's first woman mayor in 1978 and currently a U.S. Senator, proclaimed the event as "San Francisco Basque Days."



Miren Azkarate, Minister of Culture from the Basque Government with her husband, Jesus Arroita-Berastegi and Pierre Etcharren, both NABO and BCC President, at the 2002 NABO Convention.



Yvette and Jean Baptiste Urruty in front of a display that was painted by Yvette for the 2002 NABO Convention.



The 2002 NABO Convention took place at the South San Francisco Conference Center, the BCC and at Orange Memorial Park including Sunday morning Mass above with Aita St. Esteben, Aita Tillous, Bishop Pierre Moleres (Bishop of Bayonne, Lescar and Oloron) and Aita Camino.



## *Additional Entertainment Committee Events in the First 25 Years*

August 27, 1983	Arrantzaleak Musical Group
June 01, 1984	Dinner in honor of the Bishop of Bayonne
April 14, 1985	“Tuna del Colegio Universitario de Toledo” Singers
April 19, 1985	Dinner and Basque Slides
February 28, 1986	Irish Night with Murphy’s Irish Step Dancers
March 14, 1986	Swiss Night
April 18, 1986	Zazpiak Bat Dancers and Elgarrekin Choir
October 04, 1986	Farewell Celebration for Aita Cachenaut
March 27, 1987	Father/Daughter Dance
April 12, 1987	Tuna de Cadiz (Spanish singing group)
May 01, 1987	Swiss Night
September 20, 1987	Visiting French Handball Players
March 04, 1988	Swiss Night
April 08, 1988	Father/Daughter Dance
November 26, 1988	NABO Finals
February 04, 1989	Mardi Gras
March 19, 1989	Bertsulari Discovery Day
April 09, 1989	Burgaintzi Basque Folk Dance Troupe
May 05, 1989	Swiss Night
June 18, 1989	Pastorale
July 16, 1989	Michel Etcheverry and his Orchestra
June 01, 1990	Basque Night
August 26, 1990	Arrantzaleak Singers
October 14, 1990	Basque Gastronomique
October 07, 1990	NABO Finals
May 31, 1991	Basque Night
June 28, 1991	NABO Music Camp Participants Perform
June 05, 1992	Basque Night
August 25, 1992	Trikitrilaris Musicians
September 11, 1992	Garaziko Kantariak
November 22, 1992	Claim to Fame - Ganix Iriartborde
April 17, 1993	Swiss Night
May 23, 1993	Claim to Fame - Amelie Sorhondo
April 16, 1994	Swiss Night
June 02, 1994	Argentina Beti Alai Dancers (14 to 20 years old)
April 02, 1995	Frederic Fuldain Day
April 21, 1995	Swiss Night
September 08, 1995	Rugby Players from the Baigorri Area
April 14, 1996	Erro-Bat Basque Dance Group
October 13, 1996	Pilota Day
November 12, 1997	International Night
July 01, 1999	NABO Music Camp Participants Perform
July 16, 2000	Banda Irrisatarrak
August 06, 2000	Bishop to Celebrate Mass
October 21, 2001	Coro de Gastelupe Donastia Men’s Choir
November 03, 2001	Mexico’s Finest Handball Players and Mariachi Band
August 23, 2002	NABO Convention
August 27, 2002	Bishop of Bayonne Celebrates Mass
June 28, 2003	NABO Music Camp Participants Perform
October 10, 2004	Kirmen Uribe Basque Poet and Singer
November 07, 2004	Gure Aita Tillous-en Eguna
November 28, 2004	Kukai Taldea Presents “1937”
July 24, 2005	Michel Etxecopar Performs
March 25, 2006	Father/Daughter Dance
October 06, 2006	Aitatxi and Amatxi Eguna
July 06, 2007	Landarbaso Dinner/Show

## Mus Tournaments



BCC purchased above painting of renown Basque artist, Mattin-Laurent Partarrieu, who exhibited his work during the 1998 Basque Cultural Day event at the Center.

Pierre Etcharren has done more for the favorite Basque card game of Mus than coordinate the BCC's annual tournament every year during its entire first quarter century. He took the game to an international level.

Pierre recounted its formation in a 2006 interview. "In 1978 I spoke to the French Federation Mus Tournament, and they said if we could entertain their champions they would pay their trip and come to San Francisco. I said what about if we come there and bring the players, and they agreed. So I went with our two NABO Bakersfield champions to Ascaïn in 1978. There were four teams from the Spanish side and three teams from the French side and only one team from the US. I said, 'I thought this was an international tournament. It's not fair that there are 4 teams and 3 teams to our ONE team.' It was a friendly game, though, and we got second place. Spain got first place. I offered for NABO to host the next one – and they said, 'We'll be there'.

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	V	M	P	C <sup>1</sup>
ARGENTINA	1	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	5	11	11	
AUSTRALIA	2	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	7	9	5	7	
CANADA	3	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	8	7	4	5	
CHILE	4	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	6	14	7	8	
ESPAÑA	5	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	4	17	5	13	
EUSKADI	6	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	7	12	6	6	
FRANCE	7	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	5	9	6	12	
MEXICO 1	8	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	7	15	1		
MEXICO 2	9	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	9	8	4	2	
NAVARRA	10	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	5	15	10		
URUGUAY	11	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	3	21	0	4	
USA 1	12	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	8	12	6	3	
USA 2	13	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	8	9	4	4	
VENEZUELA	14	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	6	11	9		

*“Mus connects the entire Basque diaspora right up to the homeland in Europe!”*

—Leon Sorhondo

We had one year to prepare. John Bilbao was at the University of Reno and used to live in Venezuela. He gave me a list of all the Basque clubs in Argentina, Chile, etc. Carlos Urrutia translated the letter into Spanish – so Venezuela, Chile, Argentina and Mexico accepted our invitation. At the end Chile didn't show up. But the 1979 tournament in San Francisco was international including France, Spain and the United States.”

In 2003 Pierre Etcharren was chosen as the recipient of the Mus Lifetime Achievement Award from the Basque Mus Communities in Argentina. The award itself was presented to him in Acapulco, Mexico in 2004 by Manuelo Arriola of Argentina.

During the first quarter century, the Basque Cultural Center hosted one International Tournament from September 16-23, 1995. The BCC President during that time, Etienne Jorajuria, said, “The World Championship Mus Tournament in 1995 was an excellent way to show the world how great our Basque Cultural Center is. There were many compliments about how organized we were with the tournament and the way we entertained the visiting Mus players representing thirteen countries from all over the world. We took them site seeing in San Francisco, Monterey, the wine country and Yosemite. That World Mus Championship is still talked about today.”



In 1995 Joe Castancho and William Etchegoin won 1st place in the NABO National Tournament and placed third as International Champions (behind two teams from Mexico) in the only International Tournament hosted by the BCC in the first 25 years.

*At a certain age there's not much sports you can do — but you can keep playing Mus!*

—Johnny Curutchet

## *Mus Xapelgoa San Franciscon*

### Mus Championship in San Francisco

*The following verses were sung by Johnny Curutchet in 1995 as a way of celebrating the only International Mus Championship hosted by the Basque Cultural Center in its first quarter century.*

Gure sendimenduez, goatzi kantari.  
Elgarretaraturik, haurride iudri  
Agur bat egiteko, Euskadi gaur zuri,  
Gutan dagon odola, zor dugun lurrari.

*We are going to sing about our feelings.  
Assembled here together, we look like kin  
And we greet you today, oh, Basque Country,  
The land to which we owe the blood in us.*

Haundi ezbazira're, Euskadi lur aldez,  
Ordaindu etzitaizke, haundia den batez.  
Loraturik mundua, haur eta kirolez,  
Horrengatik dabilatzazu, beren beharrez.

*Though you may not be large, territory-wise,  
You could not be replaced by another that is large.  
You made the world blossom with children and sports,  
That is why they are in need of them.*

Kirolak badituztu, denentzat den gisa.  
Lehenik gaztendako, pilota ta dantza,  
Pertsu eta kantua, xixtu aberatsa,  
Eta adin orotan ahal daiken musa.

*You have sports, suitable for everyone.  
First for the youngsters, handball and dance,  
Poetry and singing, abundant flute playing,  
And mus, a sport that can be played at all ages.*

Hemeretzi lau ho'ita, hamabostgarrena,  
Museko xapelgoan, ikusi daikena.  
Hego Amerikatik, hemen Argentina,  
Uruguay eta Chile, bai Venezuela.

*In the year nineteen hundred and ninety five,  
This is what we were able to see during the mus championship.  
From South America, there was Argentina,  
Uruguay, and Chile, and also Venezuela.*

Europako aldetik, Euskadi maitia,  
Harekilan Nabarra, bere zimendia,  
Harentzako auzo biak, Espainia Frantzia,  
Eta urrunagotik, aldiz Australia.

*From Europe, the people from our beloved Basque Country,  
With them is Navarre, its foundation,  
Its two neighbors, Spain and France,  
And still farther away, Australia.*

Azken hiruak Ipar Ameriketako,  
Gutartian Kanada da, lehen aldiko,  
Azken xapeldun zena, hemen da Mexico,  
Ta Estatu Batuak, denen zerbitzuko.

*The last three are from North America,  
Among us, for the first time, is Canada,  
And here is Mexico, the last mus champion,  
And the United States, to be of service to everyone.*

Arbol saildua zaude, beira Gernikatik,  
Urrun gaituzunetaz, ez izan beldurrik.  
Ezin daike mugarik, ez erresumarik,  
Berexiko gaitinik, nihoiz'e zu ganik.

*Holy Tree, stand and watch over us from Gernika,  
Do not be frightened by us who live far away.  
There can be no border nor kingdom,  
Than can ever separate us from you.*

Behin betikotz berde, otoi zaitte egon,  
Zeren mundu guzitik, norbait beha dagon,  
Adar eiharririk duzun, ez dakigu nehon,  
Sano bad badaukazu, segur San Franciscon.

*Please, we ask you, remain green forever and ever,  
For somewhere in the world, we don't know where,  
Somebody is watching to see if you have a dry branch,  
You surely have a flourishing one in San Francisco.*



## ***BCC Members Who Have Been NABO National Mus Champions***

1984	Henri Ocafrain and Jean Leon Ocafrain
1988	Pierre Ausquy and Dominique Erdozaincy
1989	Tony Espinal and Martin Viscay
1995	Joseph Castanchoa and William Etchegoin
2003	Pierre Ausquy and Tony Laxague
2004	Bernard Cuburu and Lucio Machin
2005	Javier Alzugaray and Miguel Ibarra
2006	Noel Erdozaincy and Raymond Lahargou

Pierre Ausquy is the only BCC member to be the first place National Mus Champion twice in its first 25 years (1988 and 2003). Bernard Cuburu and Lucio Machin were the first National Mus Champions to achieve their initial victory in the BCC Tournament.

In 1984, for the first time in ten years, San Francisco left the Mus Nationals with trophies – all of them! BCC's first place Mus winners, Joe Castanchoa and William Etchegoin went on to win second place in the U.S. Finals in Bakersfield. BCC members Jean Leon Ocafrain and Henri Ocafrain captured first place and went onto the World Mus Championship in Caracas, Venezuela in October. Johnny Curutchet and Joaquin Machin tied for third.

Since the National Tournament takes place where the National winners from the previous year come from, the Basque Cultural Center hosted the National Mus Tournament June 4, 2005 and June 2, 2007. Two additional National Mus Tournaments were held at the BCC, in 1985 and 1998, hosted by the San Francisco Basque Club.



*1984 National Mus Champions Jean Leon Ocafrain and Henri Ocafrain.*

Although Henri and Jean Leon Ocafrain did not return world champions in 1984 they and their coach, Jean Leon Iribarren, returned with memories of seven wonderful days in Venezuela. They befriended fellow Basques from eight countries – Argentina, Columbia, Chile, France, Mexico, Spain, the U.S. and Venezuela. Jean Leon Ocafrain, who carried his pala a long distance, had an opportunity to use it. Paleta games were organized against

the various delegations. The U.S. paleta players were champions until Mexico and France joined forces against them! This was a great experience of the extended Basque community and warm Venezuelan hospitality.

Perhaps this uplifting experience influenced the BCC to provide Mus lessons for children seven years of age and older in June and Jean Leon Iribarren to be the instructor of the BCC's first adult Mus lessons in October 1984.



*Top: 1988 National Mus Champions Pierre Ausquy and Dominique Erdozaincy went to St. Jean Pied de Port, France for the International Tournament.*

*Middle: Pierre Ausquy (second from left) was the BCC's 1st place Mus Champion with Anton (Tony) Laxague (far right) in 1998. They played against Maurice Negueloua (far left) and BCC Mus Chairman, Pierre Etcharren (second from right) in 2002 at the Center's annual Mus Tournament. In 2003 Pierre and Tony won the NABO National Tournament and went to Mar del Plata, Argentina for the International Tournament.*

*Bottom: In 2004 Bernard Cuburu and Lucio Machin (above) were the first BCC Member National Mus Champions to achieve their initial victory at the BCC.*

2006 National Mus Xapaldunak Noel Erdozaincy shared his experience in an interview with Idoya Salaburu Urruty on October 31, 2006 for *www.EuskoSare.org*.

“The group of players with whom we competed in Chile were all world-class people and Mus players, and we will never forget them...This was the first time in Chile for both Raymond and myself. Our welcome was extremely warm... The Chilean Basques have built a beautiful ‘Centro Vasco’ that clearly exhibits how strong their culture is, not to mention the dance group who performed so beautifully for us one day, the 90 year old matron who showed many of us how the game of Mus is really played, and the elegant Estadio Español at Vina del Mar. All of these show how strong the Basque spirit of Chile really is.

Raymond and I were surprised at the lack of difference in playing Mus in Chile and the United States. While in some games there may have been a slight language barrier, we experienced no issues as well as having a very able group of judges who were present at each game to assist in the event of any concern. At the end of the day the cards did the talking and when we had better cards than our opponents we won. That must have been the case in 9 of the 13 games we played (just one game less than the champions from Argentina!)....It capped off a great week of Mus, camaraderie, and Basque spirit....I am only the second Erdozaincy to participate in the Mundials as my uncle did so many years before me (1988) and more family will follow!”



*Raymond Lahargou and Noel Erdozaincy, representing the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center as the 2006 second place Mus Champions won the NABO National Championship and represented the United States at the 30th International Mus Tournament in Santiago, Chile, from October 14-21, 2006 where they came in third place.*

## BCC Mus Champions



*1983 first BCC Mus Champions Joaquin Machin (second from left) and Johnny Curutchet (far right) played against Raymond Lahargou (far left) and Arnaud Idiart (second from right) at the BCC's 1987 Mus Tournament (above). (Little did Raymond know that all those years of practicing at the annual BCC Mus Tournament would shape him into the 2006 National Champion!)*

In 1983 the BCC's first Mus Tournament began at 3:00 p.m. on April 10. Those unable to attend on that day were able to begin the following Sunday, April 17th. Following Sunday lunch it was common for the men to play Mus in the upstairs room. Following the 1984 Mus lessons ladies could be seen playing Mus, too. Moreover, lessons were still available following Sunday lunch for anyone interested in learning the basics of the game. With all the BCC women beginning to play Mus, it's not a surprise that the 1985 1st Place BCC Champions included the first woman, Jeanne Goyhenetche, who played with her husband, Emile. The 1991 BCC champions were the 1st American born team.

“I'm very proud of the fact that I was Mus partner for a number of years with my sister, Mary Ann, who loved to play Mus even more than I did. We were the first American born Basque team to win the Basque Cultural Center 1st place championship. Also, we were the first brother-sister team to win!” —Gracian Goyhenetche 2006 Interview

Two teams won twice in the first twenty-five years: Brothers Dave and Mike Indart in 1996 and 2001 and Josephine Curutchet and Etienne Jorajuria in 2002 and 2003.

In 2006 Carmen Salaburu and Mayie Sorhouet were the first all women team to win the BCC Mus Tournament. Carmen recalled, “Back in the days, we would go to the Basque Cultural Center every Sunday with our husbands and children. We would stay in the Children's Room as the kids played. Meanwhile, our husbands would play pilota or Mus. We finally decided we wanted to learn how to play Mus. Jesus Arriada offered to show us and about 6 to 8 women would get together to learn every Sunday afternoon. It is incredible that a team of women have won 1st place this year.”





1985 BCC Champions Jeanne Goyhenetche (second from left), and her husband, Emile Goyhenetche (far right) played against Marie Simone Barreneche (far left) and Alphonse Acheritogaray (second from right) in the 1987 BCC Tournament pictured above.



The 1987 2nd Place Jean (Kaiyet) Sorhouet and Raymond Bidondo and 1st place Mus Champions Jean and Mayte Etcheverria were announced by BCC President Leon Franchisteguy.



The 1991 BCC 1st place Champions Gracian Goyhenetche (far left) and Mary Ann Goyhenetche Scully (far right) and 2nd Place Terese Ausquy (second from left) and Mayte Etcheverria (second from right) are with Entertainment Chairperson and BCC Mus Facilitator, Pierre Etcharren (center).



1995 2nd Place BCC Champions Emily Sorhondo (far left) and Maitexa Cuburu (far right) played Jean Arambel (bottom) and Michel Ospital (top) at the 2002 BCC Mus Tournament.





*1999 2nd Place BCC Champions Gabriel and Maria Begorre.*



*2000 BCC Champions Alain Erdozaincy (second from left) and Joe Moulia (second from right) and 2nd Place Cruz Oteiza (far left) and Felix Istilart (far right).*



*2001 2nd Place BCC Champions Philip Elicagaray and Nicholas Aldacourou (taken in 2006).*



*2002 2nd Place BCC Champions Marcel and Pierre Elicagaray photographed above at the 2006 BCC Tournament.*

## *BCC's First Women Teams*



2006 BCC Champions and first women team Carmen Salaburu (second from right) and Mayie Sorhouet (far right) and 2nd Place Noel Erdocainzy (far left) and Raymond Labargou (second from left).



2007 1st Place BCC Champions were also an all women team: Maria Asuncion Sapparrart (far left) and Carmen Arriada (second from left)!! 2nd Place went to Leon Lucu (second from right) and Francisco Oroz (far right).

## *There's something to be said for staying with your mus partner!*



Auguste Lapeyrade (second from left) and Jesus Arriada (far right) were partners at the 1987 BCC Mus Tournament above. Their opponents were Bernard Pebet (far left) and Jean Baptiste Uhalde (second from right). Almost twenty years later Auguste and Jesus became the BCC's 2005 Champions! There is definitely something to be said about sticking with your Mus partner!



Not only were Josephine Curutchet and Etienne Jorajuria back to back 1st place BCC Mus Champions in 2002 and 2003, but are the 2010 NABO United States second place Champions qualifying them to compete for the world title!

## *Basque Cultural Center Mus Txapeldunak*

YEAR	LEHEN MAILA - 1st Place	BIGARREN MAILA - 2nd Place	HIRUGARREN MAILA - 3rd Place
1983	Johnny Curutchet & Joaquin Machin		
1984	Joe Castancho & Bill Etchegoin	Jean Luc Bidart & Javier Alzugaray	
1985	Emile & Jeanne Goyhenetche		
1986	Bertrand Erdozaincy & Noel Erdozaincy		
1987	Jean Etcheverria & Mayte Etcheverria	Raymond Bidondo & Jean Sorhouet	
1988	Anastacio Apestegua & Bart Lahargou		
1989	Alain Falxa & Jean Baptiste Sapparart	Carmen Arriada & Mayte Ocafrain	
1990	Pierre Ausquy & Dominique Erdozaincy	Pierre Elicagaray & Maurice Negueloua	
1991	Gracian Goyhenetche & Mary Ann Goyhenetche Scully	Terese Ausquy & Maite Etcheverria	
1992	Johnny Curutchet & Miguel Ybarra		
1993	Marie Jeanne Bonson & Etienne Jorajuria	Emile & Jeanne Goyhenetche	
1994	Alphonse Archeritogaray & Pierre Jaureguito	Bernard Cuburu & August Lapeyrade	
1995	Tony Espinal & Martin Viscay	Maitexa Cuburu & Amelie Sorhondo	
1996	Dave Indart & Mike Indart	Jean Leon Cuburu & Gabriel Elicetche	Isabel Echaide & Maria Asuncion Sapparrart
1997	Javier Alzugaray & Jean Pierre Ansola	Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche & Salvador Oteiza	Isabelle Ocafrain & Jean Leon Ocafrain
1998	Pierre Ausquy & Tony Laxague	Jean Pierre Ansola & Javier Alzugaray	Gabriel Begorre & Maria Begorre
1999	Tony Espinal & Michel Marticorena	Gabriel Begorre & Maria Begorre	Laurent Hardoy & Mike Hardoy
2000	Alain Erdocaincy & Joe Moulia	Felix Istilart & Cruz Oteiza	Micho Chiramberro & Anna Iriartborde
2001	Dave Indart & Mike Indart	Nicolas Aldacourou & Philip Elicagaray	
2002	Josephine Curutchet & Etienne Jorajuria	Marcel Elicagaray & Pierre Elicagaray	Nicolas Aldacourou & Philip Elicagaray
2003	Josephine Curutchet & Etienne Jorajuria	Anatasio Apezteguia & Bart Lahargou	
2004	Bernard Cuburu & Lucio Machin	Fred Larraburu & Michel Ospital	Michou Chiramberro & Mayie Sorhouet
2005	Jesus Arriada & August Lapeyrade	Franxoa Bidaurreta & Javier Orroz	
2006	Carmen Salaburu & Mayie Sorhouet	Noel Erdozaincy & Raymond Lahargou	
2007	Maria Asuncion Sapparart & Carmen Arriada	Leon Lucu & Francisco Oroz	



# WOMEN'S CLUB

## Suzanne Elicetche



*President: 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1997*

“Gabriel came home from the first Meeting and said he’d bought me a present. I thought a car or diamonds. No, it was a membership to the BCC, and that is how I became a member, because you never return a gift. I worked for three weeks that first summer (1982) as Manager/Hostess, just after Anna and Ganix left. I remember we had two weddings – the Moulia’s and Roger and Evelyn Barreneche’s. In addition to

being the first Women’s Club President, I served three years on the General Board and about the same number of years on the Catering Board. There are lots of favorite memories including Father Cachena’s farewell party and serving, setting up and cleaning up for about 800 people; seeing my daughter dancing the fandango on stage with Isabelle (Ocafrain Bushman); playing ball on Friday nights with the ladies, then going to the bar for Marie Helene’s drink tasting and Louis’ (Marticorena) Basque pizzas.....all the entertainment that comes from the Basque Country, the music, the singing, the dancing...Just the sense of family I get whenever I attend a member’s function...I feel really privileged that I married Gabriel and that this whole world was opened up to me and Natalie.” —2006

## Mary Curutchet



*President: 1985, 1986, 1989-1993*

“The Women’s Club has dedicated much of its time and energy to hosting activities for both the children and adult members of the Center. We have organized fundraisers to improve the Children’s Room and to establish scholarship funds. I am proud to have been part of this worthwhile venture. It has been a pleasure seeing our children grow into young adults....My hope for the future of the Women’s Club is

that more mothers will become involved in preserving the Center’s activities, especially for the children, so that the Mother’s Club will continue for many years to come.” —1994

## Betty Alzugaray



*President: 1998-2007  
Secretary: 1996, 1997  
Treasurer: 1987, 1988*

“On behalf of the Women’s Club, I would like to wish all the members a happy, healthy, and prosperous Year 2000, and thank them for their continued support of the Women’s Club. Also, I would like to thank Yvonne Goyhenetche and Maitexa Cuburu for taking the time to share their talents by providing arts and crafts sessions for our youngest members. I would like to express our appreciation to the following

contributors to the Easter fundraiser, who year after year donate gift certificates, wine and pâté for the raffle: The Basque Cultural Center, Crissa Imports, Guernika Restaurant, La Fringale Restaurant, Lapuyade, Le Chalet Basque Restaurant, Nouveau Trattoria, and Pastis. Last, but not least, to Lorraine Etcheverry for organizing the Reno/Tahoe Trip every year!”—2000

Betty said that the goal of the Women’s Club is to make the Center a welcoming place for the members’ children. She, herself, has made the Center a welcoming place with decorations for the BCC events which are often her creative ideas. She also gets to the Flower Mart at 6 a.m. to buy flowers for the Altar at Mass.



*Women’s Club first officers Secretary Suzanne Arotzarena, Treasurer Anita Arduain and President Suzanne Elicetche (left to right above) found time to relax on a bus trip in the early 80’s which became an annual event during the BCC’s first 25 years.*



**ALICE JORAJURIA**  
*President: 1994, 1995*  
*Treasurer: 1989-1993*



**LORRAINE  
 SALDUBEHERE  
 ETCHEVERRY**  
*Vice President:  
 1983, 1984*



**MARLENE CORDOVA**  
*Vice President:  
 1985, 1986*  
*Treasurer: 1994, 1995*



**CAROLE UHARRIET**  
*Vice President:  
 1987, 1988*



**MARIA ARRIADA**  
*Vice President:  
 1989-1995, 1998-2007*



**EVELYN LAHARGOU  
 BARRENECHE**  
*Vice President:  
 1996, 1997*



**SUZANNE  
 AROTZARENA**  
*Secretary: 1983, 1984*



**YVONNE SORHONDO  
 CUBURU**  
*Secretary: 1985, 1986*  
*Treasurer: 1996, 1997*



**MAYTE OCAFRAIN**  
*Secretary: 1987-1995,  
 1998-2007*



**ANITA ARDUAIN**  
*Treasurer: 1983, 1984*



**LOUISE SAPARART**  
*Treasurer: 1985, 1986*



**VICTORIA ETCHETO**  
*Treasurer: 1998-2007*



**LILLY SALDUBEHERE**  
*Sergeant at Arms:  
 1982-1992*



**ISABELLE OCAFRAIN  
 BUSHMAN**  
*Historian: 2002-2005*

1982

## *First Eguberri (Christmas) Party*

The newly elect officers of the Women's Club, President Suzanne Elicetche, Vice President Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry, Secretary Suzanne Arotzarena and Treasurer Anita Arduain had several items on the agenda of their first meeting on November 28: the Children's Room, Aerobic Dancing, Family Style Dinners, Mardi Gras, and Arts and Crafts. It was decided to meet the second Sunday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and carpooling was offered to encourage attendance. Esther Anchustegui Bidaurreta was the Marin contact and Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry and Annie Guecamburu were the Peninsula contacts.



*Above: December 18, 1982 was the first Children's Christmas Party: Adults standing in the back: Carmen Arriada, Maria Sapparrart, Elda Indart, Mayte Ocafrain, Annie Guecamburu, Emilia Apezteguia, Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo, Mary Curutchet, Pedro Zalbidea. Children standing: Unknown, Evelyne Etcharren, Isabelle Laxague, Xabier Berrueta, Christine (Kiki) Ocafrain, Joanna Castanchoa (with camera). Children kneeling: Isabelle Ocafrain, Carol Apezteguia, Natalie Elicetche, David Indart, Nicole Ocafrain, Michel Alfaro, Michael Indart, Iker Zalbidea and Erik Irola (bottom corner).*

*Right: Santa Claus Aita Cachenaut has youngest BCC certificate member Thomas Curutchet on his lap at the 1982 first Children's Christmas Party. Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu was Santa's helper.*

1985 President Joe Castanchoa said, "Volunteers from the Women's Club helped to brighten the Center's atmosphere with some Christmas decorations funded by the Catering Board. The following ladies graciously combined their efforts to carry out the project: Anita Arduain, Marlene Cordova, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mary Curutchet, Suzanne Elicetche, Lorraine Etcheverry, Yolanda Gorostiague, Vickie Idiart, Anna Iriartborde, Margie Irola, Mayte Ocafrain, and Louise Saparart. Our appreciation goes to Jeanette Rudden for sharing her artistic ideas and to her mother who has on several occasions shared her knowledge of the wholesale flower business and assisted us in our needs. The ladies were especially grateful for the assistance Pierre Iriartborde gave them with his hammer and nails. Last, but not least, our thanks to

Suzanne Negueloua and Longs Drugs for the decorations they donated from their annual Christmas Party which made the Banquet Room look so very festive."

In 1990 "Santa's Helpers" included Andre and Anita Arduain, Pierre Bigue, Joseph and Florence Castanchoa, Johnny Curutchet, Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry, William Etchegoin, Dominique Hauscarriague, Michel Marticorena, Suzanne Negueloua, and Leon Sorhondo.





In 1992 Gratien Etchebehere built a beautiful fireplace on the banquet room stage for the children's Christmas Party. It felt like they were sitting in their own living room next to a cozy fireplace as they visited Santa Claus! The Women's Club took over the holiday decorations and those for New Year's Eve as well. Recent volunteers have included Betty Alzugaray, Maria Arriada, Anita Arduain, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mary Curutchet, Germaine



Top: 1983 Children's Christmas Party with Santa Aita Cachenaute. Some of the children in the picture: Elisa Andueza, Javier Andueza, Michael Andueza, Carol Apezteguia, Maria Apezteguia, Marcel Bigue, Nicole Cordova, Maitexa Cuburu, Remi Cuburu, Natalie Elicetche, Evelyne Etcharren, Valerie Etcharren, Denise Etcheverry, Valerie Gorostiaque, James Goybenetche, Christine Guecamburu, Eric Irola, Giselle Irola, Michele Mazeris, Isabelle Ocafrain, Xavier Ocafrain, Mark Unhassobiscay.

Bottom: Santa's helpers Danielle Espinal, Chantal Etcheverry, Brittany Chamalbide, and Arantxa Arriada with Olentzero (Xabier Berrueta) and Santa Claus (Alain Urruty) in 2004.

Alfaro, Vickie Etchecto, Marie Sorhouet, Carmen Salaburu, Mayte Ocafrain, Elda Indart (and Pedro Salaburu who does the ladder climbing for the Christmas decorations)! In 2002 Olentzero (the Basque Santa Claus) visited the Women's Club annual Eguberri. In 2003 and 2004 both Olentzero and Santa Claus visited the children.

## 1983 – A Year of Firsts

### MARDI GRAS, BUS TRIP, HALLOWEEN PARTY AND CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

In January Mary Curutchet and Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry headed the first Children Room's project to gather toys, records, games, puzzles, etc., in good condition from the membership. Louise Saparart headed a project to gather recipes from the BCC members for a cook book. In September Ann Saldubehere organized the first trip to Hearst Castle (which the Women's Club revisited in 1990 adding the Danish town of Solvang). November 20 was the first Christmas Boutique to raise income for the Children's Room. Vickie Idiart offered needle point and cross stitch lessons on Tuesday evenings to make hand-made items for the boutique.



Left: As exercise was a topic at the first Women's Club Meeting, Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo volunteered to teach aerobic dancing beginning January 19, 1983.

Right: Women's Club Secretary Suzanne Arotzarena modeled Fashion Show spirit at the April 8, 1983 Women's Club and Teen Club sponsored event.

## Mardi Gras Flourished For Five Years

On February 19, 1983 the Women's Club sponsored the BCC's first Mardi Gras celebration with a hot buffet and live music—\$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. In bringing happy reminders of old 'Fugazi' events in San Francisco, the Mardi Gras flourished for five years. In 1985 the women whose help with the decorations set the mood for a wonderful evening included Betty Alzugaray, Anita Arduain, Marlene Cordova, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mary Curutchet, Lorraine Sadubehere Etcheverry, Mayie Etcheverry, Yolanda Gorostiague, Vickie Idiart, Jeannette Rudden, Louise Saparart and Carol Uharriet. In 1986 Yolanda Gorostiague donated clown decorations she made herself for the table decorations. In 1987 Mr. Lasarte, Marlene Cordova's father, donated the bottles of wine that decorated each table along with balloons.



*First Mardi Gras 1983: Simon Bidaureta, Loretta Bidaureta, Jeannette Rudden, Robert Rudden, Gratién Etchebehere, Marie Claire Etchebehere, Jean Gorostiague, Yolanda Gorostiague, Marie Elu, Louis Elu.*



*1984 Mardi Gras Winners "Amatxi" Anna Iriartborde and Dorothy Unhassobiscay (ready for bed in curlers). Also pictured are Yolanda Gorostiague (far left) and Louise Saparart (far right). Other winners in 1984 included Jean Paul Barthe, Jean Paul Mendisco, Yvette Saroberry DeGuerro and in the children's category, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea and Henri Ocafrain.*



*Women's Club President Sue Elicetche announced the 1986 Mardi Gras Winners (left to right above) Emile Castanchoa (Indiana Jones), Marcel Castanchoa (Basque Ape), Linda Alfaro (Raggedy Andy), Michael Alfaro (Chicken Little), Mary Curutchet (Gingerbread Man) and Patricia Kelly (Gingerbread Woman).*



## Bus Trip Thrived As An Annual Event

Micheline Alfaro helped organize the Women's Club first trip to Reno on March 12-13, 1983. It was the only Reno-Tahoe adventure that was "WOMEN ONLY". Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry organized the next trip to Lake Tahoe on April 7-8, 1984. It was a great success (even with the men present)! On Sunday there was a snow storm people hadn't seen since they left their beloved Pyrenees 35 years ago. Lorraine did such a great job that, not only did the Tahoe-Reno trip become an annual Women's Club event, but Lorraine has organized it every year through the Center's 25th Anniversary. She and her "waitresses" kept the trip running smoothly from start to finish and kept the participants full of delicious goodies if not full of money!



*First Women's Club bus trip to Reno in 1983: Marie Secail, Amelie Sorhondo, Mayie Ocafrain, Nati Otezia, Anunci Aspiroz, Margie Irola, Esther Anchustegui Bidaureta, Annie Guecamburu, Dorothy Unhassobiscay, Michu Chiramberro, Mary Curutchet.*

*1984 Bus Trip to Tahoe: Juliette Putts, Jean Pierre Negueloua, Marie Jeanne Idiart, Susan Negueloua, Grace Franchisteguy, Kattalin Erdozaincy, Leon Franchisteguy, James Saldubehere, Bertrand Erdozaincy, Robert Rudden, Arnaud Idiart, Marianne Pebet, Jeanette Rudden, Bernard Pebet, Jean Gorostiague, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Yolanda Gorostiague, Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry, Dominique Arotzarena, Sr.*



*2006 Bus Trip: Back row: Etienne Jorajuria, Alice Jorajuria, Joseph Jorajuria, Gratien Bidondo, Anastasio Apestequia, Marlene Cordova, Maria Barreneche, Suzanne Negueloua, Margie Irola. Middle row: Robert Chiramberro, Christine Chiramberro, Sara Jorajuria, Marguerite Etcheverry, Oregito, Pierrot Jauregito, Rosario Marion, Emilia Apestequia, Marianne Pebet. Front row: Josette Indart, Carol Uharriet, Elda Indart.*



## Halloween

October 30, 1983 was the first Halloween Party. For a number of years members brought baked “treats” for the children to enjoy, and prizes were awarded for the best costumes. The 1985 Halloween costume judges Marcel Castanchoa, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Linda Franchisteguy Orellena, Louise Saparart (Mistress of Ceremonies) and Women’s Club President, Sue Elicetche, awarded Toys-R-Us and Musicland certificates for best costumes to: Patrick Etchebehere (Devil) and Mathew Etchepare (Cowboy), under two years; Arantxa Arriada (Flamenco Dancer) and Aimee Marie Goyhenetche (China Doll), 2-4 years; Paul Iriartborde (Ewok from *Star Wars*) and Philip Zubeldia (Skeletor), 5-8 years; and Marcel Bigue (Old Lady) and Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo (Christmas tree), 9-12 years.

In 1986 costumed youth under 12 years old were served chicken and French fries and went home with a brand new two dollar bill in addition to candy, cupcakes and cookies! The Arotzarenas donated all the pumpkins which highlighted the Halloween decorations. Jean Etcheverry also donated the pumpkins for the annual Halloween Party for several years including 1995.



*First Halloween Party on October 30, 1983 (Some of the children in the picture): Back Row: Christine Guecamburu Vanhooose, Maria Alleman, Christine Iriartborde Jones, Michelle Ondarts Golden, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea (scarecrow), Lynda Ocafrain (hobo) and Women’s Club President Suzanne Elicetche. Front Row: Denise Etcheverry Benson (cookie), Nicole Ocafrain, Nathalie Elicetche, Danielle Cordova Camou, Evelyne Etcharren, Maitexa Cuburu, Nicole Cordova, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo, Joseph Goyhenetche (superman), James Goyhenetche (devil), Xavier Ocafrain (cute little girl!!).*



*Halloween 2003: Stacy Curutchet holding Gabriella, Lisa Negueloua Quigley holding Claire, Chloe Duhalde, Cedric Duhalde, Rosemary Arriada Keiper holding Ryan, Alain Camou with Eric, Idoya Salaburu Urruty holding Naia, Daniel Camou, Jean Iriartborde, Juliette Camou. Sitting: Amanda Bushman, Joelle Ratra, Joana Arrechea, Amaia Caballero, Renee Iriartborde.*



*Women's Club Vice-President Maria Arriada is selling baked items in 2006 at the Christmas Boutique which has taken place yearly since 1983. Initially begun to raise money for the Children's Room, boutique proceeds have funded college scholarships since 1988.*

### **1984 – First Mothers' Day**

On May 13, 1984 the Entertainment Committee declared Mother's Day and Ladies Day. Women competed in the finals for the Women's Racquetball Tournament Championship. The Committee also encouraged members to "treat your favorite lady to lunch" at the BCC following the Tournament. The Women's Club began selling t-shirts with the Basque logo on them. In 1988 a new shipment of t-shirts were sold at the same May 1984 price of \$7 for children and \$10 for adults. 1986 began a tradition of selling raffle tickets for prizes which that first year was a handmade bedspread made by several of the BCC's talented women.



*Women's Club President Alice Jorajuria, Mary Curutchet and Vice-President Maria Arriada announced the raffle winners on Mother's Day 1994.*

### **Children's Room Formation**

On September 29, 1984 Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry organized a meeting to discuss how to entertain members' children when they visit the Center. The temporary Children's Committee met and drew up a list of recommendations which were presented and approved by the Board of Directors in October.

BCC President Joseph Castanchoa said, "... Florence and I attended a meeting where they discussed that something needed to be done about the children running in the lobby and in the bar area disrupting business. She suggested the toy closet be re-stocked and locked and only opened on Sundays during certain hours..... There were a lot of donated Formica tables stacked around the perimeter of the room. Florence asked me to get the Building and Grounds Committee to cut the table legs so children could kneel and play at them. The others could be used upstairs in the directors' room for meetings and to play mus. The Women's Club would buy a TV/Video. Lorraine Etcheverry took these proposals to the Board of Directors and also asked for a budget to purchase a couple of sofas, replenish toys, rent videos, etc. The Children's Room was a huge success and many more families began coming to the Sunday lunches because their kids liked to play there. Timoteo and Aida Urberuaga became regulars. They came from San Jose early on Sundays because their daughter, Ana Luce, liked the Children's Room. Best of all, it worked pretty well to keep the kids entertained and out of the hair of employees and customers."

The Committee worked on making the Children's Room enjoyable for all young age groups- including the addition of a heavy duty ping pong table (built by Building and Grounds under Jean Gorostiague), a mini golf table (built by Christian Castanchoa who had enjoyed it as a youth at the neighborhood recreation center), a couch for mothers and a porta-crib for the baby. Jean Gorostiague, Michel Marticorena, Joe and Marcel Castanchoa and Timoteo Urberuaga did the attractive oak woodwork. The Board of Directors funded the purchase of toys and more were donated. In 1985, in one of his BCC newsletter messages, President Joseph Castanchoa commented, "The toy closet doors which were originally a sliding-door type had to be changed by Bernard (Begnats) Goyhenetche because some clever Basque child found a way to maneuver his body in between the doors to get some toys. It was always a challenge to find ways to outwit the kids who were always a step ahead."

Members volunteered to supervise the Children's Room on Sundays under Chairperson Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry. Volunteers included Betty Alzugaray, Lucille Elu Andueza, Anita Arduain, Carmen Arriada, Maria Arriada, Victoria Berrueta, Esther Anchustegui Bidaurreta, Florence Castanchoa, Marlene Cordova, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mary Curutchet, Marie Claire Etcheberri, Linda Etcheverria, Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry, Yolanda Gorostiague, Gracian and Nadine Goyhenetche, Maria Huarte, Vickie Idiart, Barbara Iriartborde, Margie

Irola, Alice Jorajuria, Isabelle Laxague, Mayie Ocafrain, Mayte Ocafrain, Julie Ondarts, Jeannette Rudden, Carmen Salaburu, Louise Saparart, Marie Sorhouet, Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo, Carole Uharriet and Aida Urberuaga.

Video movies began being scheduled. The December 1984 films shown were: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Ice Castles*, *Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Superman I*, and *War Games*. Parents remarked how much more eager their children were to visit the Center because there is something for them to do in the Children's Room.

The following guidelines were implemented for the Children's Room:

1. Identification with name tag.
2. No food or drinks allowed except in lounge area.
3. No hanging in or out of windows or playing on window ledges.
4. No wrestling or rough play.
5. No smoking.
6. Observe any rules posted in areas of Children's Room.
7. Parents assume financial responsibility for damage to room and equipment.
8. The person on duty is only in charge of supervising use of equipment. Child care is not provided.
9. The person on duty who gets the key from the Manager is responsible for any problems arising in the room while the key is in their possession and must return the key to the Manager.



*Carole Uharriet, Marlene Cordova and Women's Club Secretary Suzanne Arotzarena admiring the Children's Room transformation in 1984.*

### Children's Room Donations (acknowledged in BCC newsletters)

Jan 85	Small television	Mr. and Mrs. Jean Bidart
Jan 85	"Sturdy" ping pong table	Jean Baptiste Saparart
Feb 85	Child-proofed toy closet doors and cabinet to house the new 25" TV and VCR	Begnat Goyhenetche
Feb 85	The 25" TV and VCR	Women's Club Boutique profits
Feb 85	The oak woodwork	Jean Gorostiague, Michel Marticorena, Joe and Marcel Castanchoa, and Timoteo Urberuaga
Feb 85	Patched and painted the walls and the closet doors	Jean Baptiste Saparart
Feb 85	Arranged the carpet installation	Jean Gorostiague
Feb 85	Upright vacuum cleaner	Lilly Saldubehere
Mar 85	Children's books	Yvette Barreneche
Jan 86	Shampooing the carpets	Robert and Missy Lafitte
Jul 86	Sofa and love seat	Women's Club Boutique
Sep 86	Colorful play desks	Arnaud Duhart
Sep 86	Shampooing the carpets	Robert and Missy LaFitte
May 89	Color television	Bill and Jeanette Etchegoin
May 89	Video cartridges	Auguste Indart family
Ongoing	Kept the room clean during the week	Mary Curutchet
May 93	\$1,000	Chris Hildebrant





Marie Claire Etchebehere, Yolanda Gorostiague, Josephine Curutchet are at the 2005 Women's Club dinner. This annual event began in 1985 to honor the outgoing and incoming officers.

### 1988 – Women's Club Established a Scholarship Fund

The proceeds from the 1988 Christmas Boutique went towards a \$250 scholarship fund for college students. To qualify the student had to be 1) be a member of the BCC or, if under 21 years of age, claim membership through family membership, 2) be a member in good standing (dues paid in full for the year), and 3) be a full time college student.

Christine Iriartborde Jones was the first scholarship winner announced at the Board of Directors elections in June 1989. She said, "I have enjoyed Humbolt with all its scholastic activities and the overall family atmosphere, and I want to thank you for helping procure a more successful year." The 1991 recipients also wrote a thank you to the Board of Directors. Johanna Castanchoa said, "...The \$250 will help finance the remainder of my college education at San Francisco State where I am in my final year of studies to be a physical therapist." Jean Luc Chiramberro said, "...I am starting my third year at the University of California, Davis, majoring in Communications and French. Because of the rising cost of tuition I hope the Women's Club is able to continue this source of financial aid to encourage Basque higher education." In 1999 the Board of Directors began matching the Women's Club scholarship fund permitting two more scholarships to be awarded.

#### Women's Club Scholarship Fund Winners

1988/89: Christina Iriartborde Jones	1990: Patrick Elicagaray Diane Ourtiague Arduain	1991: Johnna Castanchoa Raymond Jean Luc Chiramberro	1992: Xavier Berrueta Nicole Ocafrain
1993: David Indart Isabelle Oillarburu	1994: David Indart Henri Ocafrain, Jr.	1995: Henri Ocafrain, Jr. Nicole Ocafrain	1996: Maitexa Cuburu Diane Etcheverry
1997: Nicole Cabalette James Goyhenetche	1998: Arantxa Arriada Bernadette Arriada Joseph Goyhenetche	1999: Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia Bernadette Arriada Remi Cuburu James Goyhenetche	2000: Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia Remi Cuburu Celeste Etchepare Xavier Ocafrain
2001: Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia Olivia Bidauretta Joe Goyhenetche Mark Sorhouet	2002: Arantxa Arriada Diane Etcheverry Joe Goyhenetche Nathalie Sorhouet	2003: Olivia Bidauretta Stephanie Etcheverria Matthew Etchepare Nathalie Sorhouet	2004: Patrick Etchebehere Diane Etcheverry Nathalie Sorhouet Jean-Marc Sorhondo
2005: Lisa Etchepare Dominica Goyhenetche Jean-Marc Sorhondo Maidere Sorhondo	2006: Stephanie Chiramberro Annette Erdozaincy Jean Marc Sorhondo Maidere Sorhondo	2007: Alexandra Barreneche Daniel Goyhenetche Dominica Goyhenetche Anna Jayo	2008: Nick Biduarreta Dominique Erdozaincy Katie Etcheverria Jerome Goyhenetche

## Father's Day

Father's Day was first mentioned in the July 1985 BCC newsletter, "Father's Day on June 16th began with a General Informational Meeting followed by the annual election for board members...A delicious luncheon, topped off with Baked Alaska (Titu's gift to the Dads in the crowd), was followed by a raffle of door prizes compliments of the Women's Club. Winners included Pierre Fernandez (leather sports bag), Roger Barreneche and Bernard Pebet (Cognac) and Teodore Ondarts (gift certificate). Florence Castanchoa ended the meal with a toast to Joe Biscar (Ttotte) in a poem selecting him 'Aita' of the Center which he loves so well. After lunch everyone enjoyed a good handball game in which Auguste Lapeyrade and Pierre Uharriet were victorious over Marcel Etcheverry and Ganix Iriartborde – a perfect end to a perfect day for all the Dads."

While it was certainly fitting to entertain the Dad's with pilota games, in 1989 the Basque play, Nevadarat Joan Nintzan, was performed. The story appropriately followed Battitta's life as he left his Basque home and sweetheart and struggled in the United States. In 1993 the Women's Club made Father's Day a special event at the Center by raffling twelve BCC lunch certificates following the Sunday lunch. In 2007 Aitaren Eguna as Father's Day has been called since 2005 coincided with the General Membership Meeting and Elections as it had when it was first introduced in 1985. However, there were no pilota games played.

## Erramu Eguna (Palm Sunday)

Erramu Eguna is another frequented member event beginning with Mass at Notre Dames des Victoires Church in San Francisco and moving onto the BCC for lunch. In the first quarter century there were often pilota games for the membership to enjoy. Palm Sunday lunch is first mentioned in the March 1985 BCC newsletter, and a very exciting handball game was played. Joe Berterretche and Paul Sallaberria of Chino nearly came back from a 21 to 7 deficit to upset the BCC's Marcel Etcheverry and Noel Goyhenetche who held on to win 25 to 23! In 1996 the Women's Club added the Easter Bunny to the Palm Sunday festivities along with taking a souvenir photo with him (thanks to Elizabeth Barthe).

## Arts and Crafts

On June 13, 1999 a one and a half hour arts and crafts activity was prepared by Yvonne Arduain Goyhenetche for Basque youth from three to six years of age. This was an agenda item at the Women's Club first meeting in 1982 - an opportunity for the younger children to get to know one another and enjoy creating some art projects at the same time. Maitexa Cuburu helped Yvonne in 2000 when the arts and crafts were added to the Halloween festivities, and Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman joined the team in 2001.



*Above: Active participants on the Women's Club team over the years, Carmen Salaburu and Mayi Sorbouet sold raffle tickets on Mother's Day 2006.*

*Left, top: Erramu Eguna (Palm Sunday) April 9, 2006: Easter Bunny Mary Curutchet and Women's Club Vice-President Maria Arriada.*

*Left, bottom: On October 29, 2000 Maitexa Cuburu guided Nicole Ourtiague, Cedrick Duhalde, Alysa Goyhenetche and Joelle Ourtiague in an Arts and Crafts project while Women's Club President Betty Alzugaray looks on.*



*Mother's Day 2006 Women's Club active participants. Standing: Anita Arduain, Mayi Sorhouet, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Secretary Mayte Ocafrain, Evelyne Lahargou Barreneche, President Betty Alzugaray, Mary Curutchet, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Carole Uharriet, Vice President Maria Arriada. Kneeling: Germaine Alfaro, Carmen Salaburu, Arantxa Arriada.*



# YOUTH ACTIVITIES

## *Teen Club to Youth Committee*

### 1982

The first youth meeting with members' children 14 to 25 years old took place on November 24. The main topic was activities they wanted the BCC to organize for them. A ski trip was on the top of their list. On December 22 nominations for Teen Club officers were held. All teenagers whose parents were members were eligible.

### 1983

On February 9 President Rhonda Arotzarena Scharton, Vice President Nicole Hauscarriague, Secretary Anita Curutchet Ratra, and Treasurer Bernadette Petoteguy Jensen were voted into office. The first Teen Club ski trip, \$45 for round trip transportation and one night's lodging, took place February 26-27. The Teen Club and Women's Club co-sponsored a Fashion Show at the monthly dinner for members on April 8. A first dance was planned on April 29 with Music Master costing \$5 per person, and the youth participated in a Talent Show at the Friday night Member's Dinner on May 13.

Winners were: Maitexa Cuburu and Evelyne Etcharren in the fandango contest (7-10 years old), Nicole Curutchet and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea in the jota contest (10-13 years old), Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde and Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi in the jota contest (13 years and over), Anton Laxague in a banako contest (7-13 years old), Joel Urruty in a banako contest (13 years and over), and Michelle Arduain Ourtiague in an irrintzi contest.

### 1984

In January the newly elected officers of the Teen Club were President Anita Curutchet Ratra, Vice-President Rhonda Arotzarena Scharton, Secretary Rosemary Goyeneche, and Treasurer Alain Negueloua. In February Rhonda coordinated a World's Finest Chocolate Bars fundraiser – perfect timing as two-thirds of the cases were sold at the BCC's 2nd Anniversary! A ski trip was planned in March and Teen Club Dances featuring DJ Jean Paul Barthe were held in May and October.



*Several of the BCC's first Teen Club officers are pictured in this photo. Mattin Zubietta did a workshop with the dance group and was photographed with them in 1984 when his contributions to Basque culture were celebrated. Back Row: Anita Curutchet Ratra ('83 Secretary, '84 President), Rosemary Goyeneche ('84 Secretary), Nicole Hauscarriague ('83 Vice-President), Dominic Arotzarena, Rhonda Arotzarena Scharton ('83 President, '84 Vice-President), Yvonne Goybenetche Wood, Michelle Arduain Ourtiague, Mattin Zubietta. Center Row: Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde, Eric Oillarburu, Jaqueline Unbassobiscay, Linda Alfaro. Front Row: Alain Urruty, Yvette Gorostiague, Jackie Saparart, Joelle Iribarren, Joel Urruty.*

## 1985

In February the Teen Club set up their own Junior Board of the Center with the election of seven members: Rhonda Arotzarena Scharton, Patxi Aspiroz, Marcel Castanchoa, Jean Louis Curutchet, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Rosemary Goyeneche and Lisa Negueloua Quigley. The Teen Club's March snow trip started off on a good foot with a sunny clear day and a full bus of 46 people including the teens, their families and friends. Good times and laughter on the bus were only surpassed by adventures in skiing. There was boasting that no one was injured - the only near casualty occurred to the only non-skier. Theodore Ondarts slipped on a pebble on his way to Burger King!

In August Teen President Marcel Castanchoa presented a choice of a day at Santa Cruz or a trip to the Manteca Water Slides. In September a "Friday the 13th" dance was held (\$3.50 per person) with music by Jean Paul Barthe. While a Great America trip was planned in October and an overnight ski trip to Heavenly Valley in December (reservations to Jean Louis Curutchet) Marcel said, "It became hard to get things off the ground." The Youth were involved in their schools and committing to the BCC Teen Club became more challenging.



*Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra and Yvette Saroberry DeGuero at the BCC Teen Club's ski trip to Heavenly Valley in 1983.*

## *GURE EUSKAL ETXEA* July 1985 Newsletter

"In looking back at the Teen Club's activities, we realize we couldn't have accomplished them without the help and support of many people. Noel Erdozaincy and Leon Sorhondo have guided us since the beginning. Without them we'd never have gotten organized. Special thanks to both of you.

Thank you to all the adults who chaperoned our first activity - the ski trip. Thank you to Jean Paul Barthe for being such a terrific DJ at our 'Go Hawaiian' dance. Special appreciation to our 'bartenders' Anita Arduain, Elizabeth Barthe, and Mary Curutchet and all the people who worked on decorations - especially Florence Castanchoa.

Due to the generosity and kindness of the mothers who donated baked goods and those who sold them at the San Francisco Basque Picnic on June 2, our Bake Sale was a huge success. Our \$280 profit was in large part due to all the support we received from the Ladies' Club. Another successful activity was the Volleyball Tournament at the N.A.B.O. Convention in Winnemucca, Nevada. We left with both the junior and adult trophies."

The last mentions of the 1980s Teen Club in the BCC newsletter were in April 1986 when the Fresno Junior Basque Club invited the BCC Youth to participate in some friendly competition during their NABO Convention and in February 1987 when a last Youth Group Meeting was announced.

## 1992 - 1996

With the ongoing goal of encouraging friendships through varied youth activities, Leon Sorhondo began to reintroduce a favorite activity of the 1980s - ski trips. Sierra Ski Ranch was the January 1992 destination for 22 young adults, 13 and over, and 27 went to Sugar Bowl in February. Everyone had a great time from learning to ski and acquiring new friendships to snowball fights started by Aita Jean Elicagaray. The Women's Club donated \$130 toward gas and chain rentals on both trips. The Etcharren and Elicagaray families donated the use of their vans on both trips. Aita Elicagaray, Gracian Goyhenetche, Vincent Inchauspe and Johanna Castanchoa Raymond and Marcel Castanchoa were the chauffeurs and chaperons. Aita Elicagaray, Johanna and Marcel also taught the beginners how to ski! The Basque youth became ski enthusiasts, and annual trips were planned through the 1996 fifth trip to Sierra-at-Tahoe.

Leon Sorhondo planned summer activities beginning in May 1992 when he organized a 21 mile bike ride around the Nicasio Reservoir and in June, a three day, and two night back-packing trip to Point Reyes National Park. No experience was necessary - just a strong back and willingness to share a good time and team cooperation. A 1993 "Desolation Wilderness" experience near the Lake Tahoe area offered beautiful scenery, solitude, exercise, adventure, clean air and exceptionally good company to

14 participants. Leon offered backpacking adventures through 1996. Marcel Castanchoa helped coordinate some of these events including the 1994 backpacking excursion at Point Reyes.



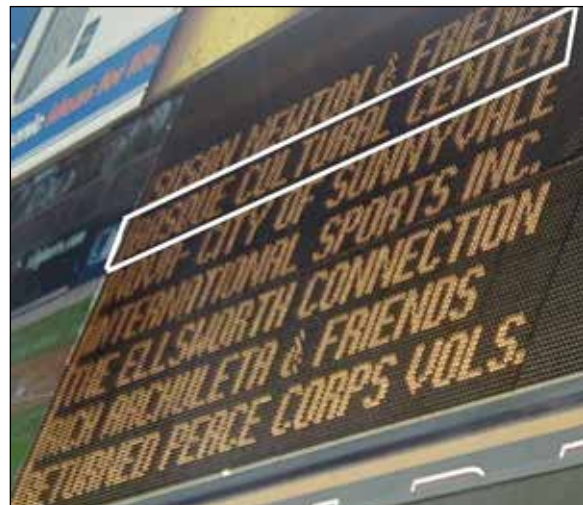
1992 Sierra Ski Ranch participants: Eric Oillarburu, Alain Urruty, Evelyne Etcharren, Nicole Ocafrain, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman.

## 2003 – 2004

In September 2003 teens were invited to a Youth Committee Meeting to reestablish activities geared towards their age for the third time since the BCC opened. This time a broader youth age range was reached. Isabelle Ocafrain-Bushman moderated the youth activities and meetings were held on the first Wednesday of the month. On November 13 Pizza and Movie Nights were initiated with the showing of “Finding Nemo” to attract the younger children (haurrak). They were advertised as “Xabi Presents” as Xabier Berrueta facilitated them and were presented six times in 2004 for the haurrak. The older youth attended a 2003 Sharks hockey game. In 2004 the Youth Committee organized a March 12 Bowling Night, March 28 Oakland Arena Warriors Game, July 31 Giants Baseball Game, and October 29 Halloween Dance.



Daniel Camou with Shark's mascot in 2003 at the HP Pavilion in San Jose.



The Basque Cultural Center's attendance at the July 31, 2004 Giants Game at SBC Park was announced on the scoreboard.



2003 Sharks hockey game participants: Back Row: Alain Camou, Jeff Bushman, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Christian Iribarren, Marc Sorhouet, David Alfaro, Dan Sampior, Jr., Remi Cuburu, Jerome Goyhenetche, Sara, Jean Marc Sorhondo, Francois Ithurralde, Alain Saroberry, Natalie Sorhouet, Maidere Sorhondo, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu. Front Row: Daniel Camou, John Falxa, Xavier Berrueta.



## *BCC Lagunak Coed Softball Team*

In April 2004 Evelyne Etcharren registered BCC young adults in a co-ed South San Francisco Softball League (played in Orange Park and Terra Bay Park). After a rough summer start with two close losses, the BCC Lagunak never missed a beat once the uniforms came in!!!! Inspired by the green, red and white uniforms, their pitching, defense, hitting and consistent cheerleading, the team went on a six game winning streak and rode that momentum into the playoffs. On that fateful last night of summer, September 21, behind the usual clutch play characteristic of the BCC Lagunak, the team won its tense semi-final 5-3 and Championship game 16-9!!

In 2005, the BCC Lagunak went on to win back to back Championship titles with a dramatic Championship game last inning play at the plate. A 9-8 victory and an 18 game unbeaten winning streak led to a long night of celebrating at the Basque Cultural Center!!

### *2005 and 2006*

In 2005 moderator Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman and the Youth Committee continued to attract and connect Basque Youth with a Warriors vs. Lakers Basketball game in January, Pizza and Bowling in April, a Giants vs. Cleveland Indian Baseball game in June and a two mile hike on Sawyer Camp Trail in September. In 2006 a Pizza and Game Night was scheduled in July and a Pizza and Bowling at Brentwood for ages 3-12 was organized by Rosemary Arriada-Keiper on November 11. In December 2006 all ages bused to Sacramento to watch the Golden State Warriors.

The holidays became even more 'sweet' with Evelyne Etcharren's first Gingerbread Etxea Workshop in 2005. Friendships deepened while decorating an assembled 10" x 13" gingerbread house with icing and candy. The success of this event can be measured by it becoming an annual Christmas activity. Youth were further invited into the spirit of the season by participating in a toy drive in 2004 and 2005. Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman helped the young adults bring the gifts to the Samaritan House. In 2006 the youth group donated items sent in holiday packages for our Armed Forces deployed overseas in Iraq to help boost their morale and holiday spirit!



*The 2005 Spring Champions were: Back Row: Jean Luc Chiramberro, Justin Pebet, Dave Indart, Marc Basterretche  
Center Row: Xabier Berrueta, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Lynne Basterretche Garat, Evelyne Etcharren, Aimee Goyhenetche, Danielle Camou, Christie Iribarren, Xavier Salaburu. Kneeling: Mike Indart, Aitor Berrueta, Xavier Ocafrain. Not pictured: Caroline Izoco Chiramberro, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Philip Elicagaray, John Falxa, Philippe Garat, Nathalie Oroz Barreneche, and 2004 players: Marianne Arotzarena Martinon, Aline Izoco Elicagaray, and Sandra Indart.*



*Camp Sawyer Trail Walk 2005: Back Row: Annette Erdozaincy, Stephanie Chiramberro, Youth Moderator Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Mark Sorhouet, Francois Ithurralde, Nicolas Bidaurreta, and Jerome Goyhenetche. Kneeling: Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mayte Ocafrain and Nathalie Sorhouet.*

## *Euskal Dantzak and Udaleku*

Basque dance is a first introduction to their rich cultural heritage.



*The Basque dancers at the opening of the Basque Cultural Center in 1982: Top Row: (l-r) Patricia Elicagaray Haffar, Marie Helene Sapparrart Solis, Mary Aleman, Linda Alfaro, Yvonne Hauscarriague, Dominique Arotzarena, Patxi Azpiroz. 2nd Row: Marianne Arotzarena Martinon, Nicole Curutchet, Diane Ourtiague Arduain, Michele Ondarts Golden, Rosemary Arriada Keiper, Christine Iriartborde Jones. 3rd Row: Aitor Berrueta, Bernard Ithurralde, Anton Laxague, Evelyne Ourtiague Young, Yvette Gorostiague Fatham, Aline Urruty. 4th Row: Isabelle Oillarburu, Steve Barreneche, Marie Louise Laxague Rosecrans, Christophe Moustirats, Isabelle Aleman, Xabier Berrueta. 5th Row: Daniel Unhassobiscay, Denise Etcheverry Benson, Michel Alfaro, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Annette Hauscarriague, Nicole Ocafrain, Maite Azpiroz, Josette Urruty, Alain Urruty. Front Row: Carol Apezteguia Brosius, Philippe Iribarren, Evelyne Etcharren.*

For Basque youth, dancing is one of their first introductions to their rich cultural heritage, and like many things, it is much easier to learn when very young. If there is hesitation on starting this new venture in life, it is soon replaced by an eagerness to see Basque friends at dance practice. The young Basque dancers are among a select group of people the entire world over who still actively perform the dances of their ancestors. San Francisco Zazpiak Bat Dancers have been asked to perform at numerous events like *La Ligue de Henri IV Banquet* which they did for several years including its 100th Anniversary in 1995 and Mendiko Euskaldun Club's (Gardnerville) 25th Anniversary in 2005. They have danced in California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. In 1993 they went international and performed in the town of Elizondo in the Basque Country during the *Baztandarren Biltzarra* on July 18. They were very well received and made the front page of the local newspaper!

The Gazteak (Little Group) Basque dance practice has taken place on Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the BCC's Kantxa from January to June for most of its first 25 years. Children need to be seven years of age by the San Francisco picnic to join the Gazteak dance practices. They join the Zazpiak Bat Dancers for young adults when they reach high school. Their dance instructor Valerie Etcharren Arrechea said, "I have a program where I give community

service hours to high school students who help teach. This has helped a lot. The teens help teach dance and get involved in the community. The youth see that the teens are interested in them." Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Jean Louis



*More Basque dancers at the opening of the Basque Cultural Center in 1982: Back Row: Christine Iriartborde Jones, Patxi Azpiroz, Yvonne Goyhenetche Wood, Yvette Barreneche, Ronda Arotzarena Scharton. Middle Row: Yvette Gorostiague Fantham, Aline Urruty, Linda Ocafrain, Joelle Iribarren, Isabelle Goyenetche Duhalde, Jaqueline Unhassobiscay. Front Row: Xabier Berrueta, Josette Urruty, Alain Urruty, Jean Luc Chiramberro, Eric Oillarburu.*



Curutchet, and Idoya Salaburu Urruty have accompanied the dancers on the accordion during the BCC's first quarter century.

The Chamalbide-Torpey family is a great testimony to the love of their heritage and learning Basque dancing as Patrick and Ophelia made the 200 mile round trip from Elk Grove to San Francisco every Saturday when their daughter, Brittany, started dancing in 1999. She said, "Dancing at the BCC is so much fun because you can make a lot of new friends, and it is a great way to learn new things. Being a dancer for so long has been so much fun because I am able to teach younger children without any trouble....Without Valerie and Isabelle I would never have accomplished these skills." Shane and Chris started dancing in 2002. Shane admitted, "The best thing about the BCC is the people that I have met. Everyone that I know is always cheerful and having a good time. I enjoy the Anniversary dinners and late night dances that seem to go forever." Shane plans to continue to dance 'for quite while' to meet as many people as he can! Chris commented, "The thing I love most is coming to San Francisco and learning new dances. My favorite dance is learning Ezpata Dantzak (Sword dance)..... I think Valerie is nice and funny. If we goof off she will be mad, but she is never too mad!"



*Saturday Gazteak dance practice in 2006 (starting on the left and going clockwise): Nathalie Sorhouet (helping), Christine (Kiki) Etcheverry, Jesse Kvarna, Julia Hurley, Cedric Duhalde, Nicole Ourtiague, Anne Marie Chiramberro (helping), Micaela Ribí, Daniel Camou, Danielle Espinal (helping), Chloe Duhalde, Joelle Ourtiague. Valerie added, "More recently Nick Bidaurreta, Brittany Chamalbide, and Lisa Etchepare have helped teach. Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman helped until four years ago."*



*The speed and coordination of the Zazpiak Bat dancers is captured as they practice the weave section of the "Mendikuteko Arku" in the Kantxa in 2006.*



*Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman (right, in top photo) played the accordion for the dance groups. Her mother, Mayte, said, "Isabelle made her accordion debut at the BCC's 1983 New Year's Eve Party (top photo) in front of 375 spectators. She was only nine years old. You could not hear a fly, only my heart pounding as we were so proud! She had been taking lessons from Michele for only six months prior to that night." Jean Paul Barthe is in the background. Idoya Salaburu Urruty also played the accordion for the dancers and Mireille Acheritogaray accompanied her on the Pandareta. In 2002 (bottom photo) they accompanied the San Francisco dancers at the NABO Convention hosted by the BCC.*



## Music Camp to Udaleku

Basque Cultural Summer Camp transmits pride in cultural heritage – sparks the seed of feeling Basque.



*Friendships spanning three states are arm in arm on the last evening of the BCC's first Udaleku in 1991: Salt Lake City's Kate Ithurralde, Elko's Sebastian Elu and San Francisco's Joseph Goyhenetche. They are the next generation proof of NABO's second President Jim Ithurralde's statement, "Now we don't have Utah Basques, Nevada Basques, California Basques and Idaho Basques. We're ALL Basques!"*

Udaleku, initially known as Music Camp, offers the young Americans of Basque descent the possibility of getting to know the culture, history, customs and language of their ancestors. Because of his experience and passion with Basque dance, Pierre Etcharren was inspired to start annual two week Music Camps. With his daughter, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Pierre has helped organize this event the numerous times it has been hosted in San Francisco. The Basque Cultural Center has hosted Udaleku every four years since 1991.

Pierre explained that Udaleku "constitutes the quarry of our clubs, our generation replacement. Giving them the chance to take part in Music Camp and acquire a deeper knowledge of their culture, their history and customs is the greatest contribution we can provide to their training as people, as well as to our future as American Basques." Udaleku courses are brief, but they catch the attention of the participants.

The 1991 NABO Udaleku hosted by the Basque Cultural Center along with the San Francisco Basque Club and the Marin-Sonoma Basque Club took place at Notre Dame des Victoires Church Hall and School in San Francisco and had 60 participants. Camp teachers included Alain Camou and Jean Louis Curutchet. They were assisted by Evelyne Etcharren, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Valerie Gorostiague Fatham, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, and Isabelle Oillarburu (along with Jeannette and Rosemarie Echamendy from Bakersfield, Edu Sarria from Boise and Maite Maisterena from Chino).

"It was two weeks of intensive cultural training sprinkled with San Francisco sight-seeing and a day trip to

Great America. They demonstrated what they learned at a dinner held at the Basque Cultural Center on the last day of their cultural camp. What did the children think of their experience? Their laughter and zeal in performing speaks for itself. So does the standing ovations they gave to their teachers and Pierre and Valerie Etcharren. So does the hugs and tears they exchanged at the end of the night when they said farewell to their new friends from other Basque communities in the Western United States who were total strangers twelve days earlier. Congratulations to our future dantzaris, pilotariaks, txistularies, accordion players, mus players and Basque cooks – and to their teachers who taught them so well!" (*The First Ten Years 1982-1992*)

The 1995 NABO annual Camp was not only held at the Basque Cultural Center for the first time, but there were two camps in one! For the youth interested only in pilota there was conditioning and playing for two hours each day for two weeks at a cost of \$150.00. For those desiring the music camp in addition to pilota, the program was all day long for the two weeks for a \$250.00 fee. The camp was run by the music camp teachers, who came from Spain, New York, Gardnerville, Bakersfield, and San Francisco. In 1999 Coach Unsain and his wife (from the Basque Country) taught the basics of handball and the Basque language. In order to encourage all members' children to attend, the Basque Education Organization jointly with the Basque Cultural Center covered \$100 of the \$250 fee for the Camp for Member's children.



*1993 NABO National Junior Mus 1st place Champions, James and Joseph Goyhenetche (13 to 17 years) representing San Francisco and Pierre and David Minhondo (6 to 12 years) representing Marin were honored on a float in the Elko Convention parade (above). Four year old Jerome sat in for big brother James who was marching in the parade with the San Francisco Klika.*

*“Not only does Udaleku provide children an opportunity to learn new skills, but it establishes friendships and a network of acquaintances that will last well into the future.” — Valerie Etcharren Arrechea*



*The 1991 Udaleku was the first one hosted by the Basque Cultural Center. San Francisco Bay Area: Christelle Alfaro, Christophe Alfaro, Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia, Arantxa Arriada, Tommy Curutchet, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Philip Elicagaray, Celeste Etchepare, Dianne Etcheverry, Joseph Goyhenetche, Martin Huarte, Eric Irola, Nicole Lafitte, Jennifer Laraburu, Pilar Miral, Marijane Miral, Xavier Ocafrain, Nathalie Oroz Barreneche, Xavier Salaburu, Marc Sorhouet, Miguel Ybarra, Sabrina Zubillaga. California (outside of Bay Area): Mary Bordagaray, Jon Cenoz, Josette Daramy, Kattaline Etchamendy, Dominique Etcheverry, Michelle Iturriria, Dominic Othart, Janae Othart, Julie Othart, Jordana Perry. Idaho: Anna Marie Aramburu, Mark Babson, Jose Bengoechea, Nick Bicandi, Sarah Wood. Nevada: Melisa Aguilar, Angie Arraiz, Noel Arraiz, Jesse Arriaga, Raquel Bengoechea, Tammy Duque, Elizabeth Eizaguirre, Sebastian Elu, Juan Fernandez, Teresa Fernandez, Julie Granata, Josette Iribarne, Shaun Jackson, Anna Rae Lecumberry, Joey Leonis, Anamarie Sarrete, BeckySarratea, Dominica Yturbidre. Oregon: Xanti Alcelay, Tara Dominick. Utah: Anthony Ithurralde, Kate Ithurralde. Udaleku coordinators: Pierre Etcharren and Jean Leon Iribarren (far left).*

## **Mus – Udaleku Highlight**

The first mus lessons at the BCC took place on Saturday, June 9, 1984, for children seven years of age and older. If not learned at the BCC, it's definitely picked up at Udaleku Cultural Camps.

In her 2005 *www.enskosare.org* article on “Mus Craze in the United States”, Idoya Salaburu Urruty interviewed BCC Member Anton Laxague who, with Pierre Ausquy, represented the United States at the International Mus Championship in Mar del Plata, Argentina in October 2003. He said he was taught and played mus at the Basque Cultural Center. According to Anton, “Mus is a great strategy game that allows the young and old the opportu-

nity to play and compete against one another. The younger, newer mus players have the chance to compete with the older, more skilled players. This inspires the younger generation to improve and develop their own strategies while motivating the older generation to keep on playing as they see the youth participating and sharpening their skills.”

The BCC hosted Junior Mus tournaments in the early nineties, and the winners represented San Francisco in Regional (California) tournaments. Regional champions went on to compete in NABO's National Junior Tournament which took place at their annual convention. The 1993 NABO Junior Mus Txapeldunaks in both age categories

were BCC member children. However, James and Joseph Goyhenetche represented San Francisco and Pierre and David Minhondo represented Marin. James and Joe won back to back 1st place NABO Championships (13 to 17 years) in 1993 and 1994.

The BCC has continued to host the Junior Mus Tournaments to the present. The txapeldunaks now represent the San Francisco Bay Area as all the NABO clubs are included in the competition (BCC, Basque Club, Anaitasuna and Marin).



*Giselle and Philip Irola were 1994 NABO National Junior Mus 1st place Champions (ages 12 and under).*



*Above, left: Annette Erdozaincy (top) and Martine Idiart were the 2004 NABO National Junior Mus 1st place Champions (ages 13 to 17).*



*Above, right: Danielle Espinal and Frederic Alfaro were the NABO National Junior Mus 1st place Champions in 2005 and National 2nd place Champions in 2007 (ages 13 to 17). They are pictured above at the BCC's 2007 Mission Angel Island challenge.*

### *Junior Mus Txapeldunak*

YEAR	1st Place – Ages 12 & Under	2nd Place – Ages 12 & Under	1st Place – Ages 13-17	2nd Place – Ages 13-17
1992			Isabelle Ocafrain Xavier Ocafrain	
1993	Tommy Curutchet Mark Sorhouet	Giselle Irola Philip Irola	James Goyhenetche* Joseph Goyhenetche*	Bernadette Arriada Xavier Ocafrain
1994	Giselle Irola* Philip Irola*		James Goyhenetche* Joseph Goyhenetche*	
1995	Pierre Idiart Jean Marc Sorhondo		Katrina Elicagaray Mark Sorhouet	Tommy Curutchet Miguel Ibarra
1996	Pierre Idiart Jean Marc Sorhondo	Lisa Etchepare Nathalie Sorhouet	Katrina Elicagaray Mark Sorhouet	Frank Vicondoa Jon Viscay
1999			Erica Fosse Nathalie Iturburua	Nick Bidaurreta Jean Paul Acheritogaray
2004	Nekane Colburn Christina Etcheverry	Cedric Duhalde Ashley Winslow	Annette Erdozaincy* Martine Idiart*	Danielle Espinal Yvonne Romeo
2005	Daniel Camou Cedric Duhalde	Chris Chamalbide Jessie Kvarna	Frederic Alfaro* Danielle Espinal*	Anne Marie Chiramberro Gabe Erdozaincy
2006	Amaia Etcheverry Ashley Winslow	Daniel Camou Cedric Duhalde	Nick Bidaurreta Jerome Goyhenetche	Anne Marie Chiramberro Gabe Erdozaincy
2007			Frederic Alfaro** Danielle Espinal**	

\* Won NABO National 1st Place

\*\* Won NABO National 2nd Place



## Udaleku 2007

Lisa Etchepare wrote about Udaleku 2007 in [www.EuskoSare.org](http://www.EuskoSare.org)

“In 1977, N.A.B.O. put on the first Music Camp. Today, 30 years and a name change later, the Udaleku legacy lives on. This year, seventy-two children from the United States, Europe, and Canada, gathered in San Francisco, one of the original locations of the 1977 music camp, to prove that while times change an interest in Basque culture lives on. The camp took place at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center, who donated both the location and meals to Udaleku. It was a perfect setting, where large rooms could be used for classes and the Kantxa was available for ongoing Pilota.

This year at Udaleku, we were fortunate enough to sport a very talented staff. Employing a new, more hands on, method in Euskara, Idoia Salaburu Urruty used the book *The Girl Who Swam to Euskadi* by Mark Kurlansky as a means to make the Basque language more available to her students. As an incentive to practice and remember what was learned in class, each student was given a copy of the book at the end of the two weeks. The books were donated by Center for Basque Studies and the Basque International Cultural Center.

In an effort to get children excited about pilota, pilotari Egoitz Amantegi was sent by the World Pilota Council to instruct. He, Fred Alfaro, and John Falxa taught children the basics of the sport. The pilota portion ended with a pilota and pala tournament. Especially important about pilota is the fact that you can play on any wall – not just in a fronton. This is something children can continue at home.

In dance, instructors Isabelle and Christian Larralde, Anne Marie Chiramberro, and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea focused on teaching dances from the province of Behe Nafarroa and Lapurdi including Euskaldunak and Sorgin,

Makil Txiki, and Quadrilles. Several older participants were also taught a fandango that Christian choreographed himself. This was the beginning of a new system of dance instruction at Udaleku, where every region will be presenting dance from a different province.

In classic music camp tradition, card tables were broken out every spare minute as participants honed their skills for the traditional Udaleku mus tournament, organized by Danielle Espinal and aided by Erica Fosse. For our last class, the participants of this year’s Udaleku were happy to once again have Aita Martxel Tillous and Caroline Izoco Chiramberro to teach txistu. The students learned songs ranging in difficulty from Oi Pello Pello, to Agur Jaunak, to the biribilketa Elizondo.

Additionally, this year at Udaleku we sought to expand what was taught in the culture aspect of the curriculum. This included two cooking classes, one taught by Juan San Mames where participants learned how to make paella and one by Valerie Etcharren Arrechea where students learned how to make Gateau Basque. Students also attended lectures on subjects such as “Famous Basques” and “The History of Carnival Dantza” which were given by Teresa Franzoia and Lisa Etchepare.

Camp however, was not all classes and lectures. Participants encountered a small slice of San Francisco and immigration history on their day trip to Angel Island, and pulled out their orange and black for a Giants baseball game against the San Diego Padres. These outings were sponsored by the San Francisco Basque Club, Fresno Basque Club, and Basque Educational Organization. Additionally, the days were broken up by trips to the park and to a local bowling alley.”



*Aita Tillous taught txistu in the BCC's new solarium at the 2007 Udaleku. The students learned songs ranging in difficulty from Oi Pello Pello, to Agur Jaunak, to the Biribilketa Elizondo. During his time in the United States, he has served as the txistu instructor at NABO's annual Basque camp for youth.*



## *Udaleku 2007 Participants*

*Micaela Arambel, Monique Arretche, Jacquelin Arretche, Juleann Badiola, Carina Barajas, Matea Berria, Taylor Berterretche, Jaime Brown, Sebastian Calderon, Daniel Camou\*\*, Chris Chamalbide\*\*, Christian Curutchague, Anna Davis, Mia DiGiovanni, Elena Echeverria, Rachelle Etcheverria, Amaia Etcheverry, Wyatt Etquist, Aline Elquist, Elena Erreca, Joseph Esnoz, Emily Esnoz, Hailey Etchart, Madison Etchart, Julia Etchart-Bader, Katie Ferguson, Chloe Ferguson, Kristina Franzoia, Matt Fosse\*\*, Isaac Gamboa, Danielle Gaztambide, Marcel Gaztambide, Andrew Goyhenetche\*\*, Alex Goyhenetche\*\*, Maialen Goyhenetche, Marcus Helton, Julia Hurley\*\*, Austin Indaburu, JJ Indaburu, Christian Indaburu, Jackie Iriart, Christina Iriart, Christian Jaureguy, Jake Jaureguy, Caitlyn Johnson, Kali Kester, Erik Kvarna\*\*, Jesse Kvarna\*\*, Daniel Gatón, Oihan Larralde, Jokin Larralde, Amaia Lesaca, Vanessa Manjarrez, Catherine Morgan, Garazi Murua, Kimberly Neely, Joelle Ourtiague\*\*, Nicole Ourtiague\*\*, Joshua Rose, Alexandria Sabarots, Monserrat San Mames\*\*, Taylor Sealy, Bianca Soares, Anika Terpstra\*\*, Nikolas Terpstra\*\*, Angela Tipton, Elena Tipton, Gianna Valero, Jessica Yriarte, Javier Zubeldia, Miren Zubillaga.*

*\*\*The San Francisco Bay Area participants at the 2007 Udaleku at the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center.*



Euskara promoted through Education Committee, Alegria Plays, Euskara Committee and the

## BASQUE EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION

1983

Directors on the BCC Board served as consultants for special seminars (lasting 26 weeks) on the Basque language in U.C. Berkeley's Linguistics Department. In April 1983 Basque language classes were offered for the first time on Monday nights by Martin Minaberry and on Thursday nights by Mayte Ocafrain to adults and teenagers. Mayte said, "Teaching Basque to children and to some adults in the first years of the BCC was a challenge, but personally very satisfying. In the beginning I taught Basque to the children during their Basque dance class breaks. I prepared Basque 'lessons' using an alphabet I made on tape. I also held evening classes for adults."

Following the June 12, 1983 annual Board of Directors election, all volunteers who contributed their time and services to building and maintaining the operation of the BCC were treated to a free luncheon. After lunch, the Alegria group performed "Ibaneta", a play set in the time of Charlemagne crossing the Basque Country through Roncesvalles. In the Fall of 1983 the Board of Directors established an Education Committee to promote the cultural aspects of the Basque Cultural Center. Franxoa Bidaurreta was the director appointed to Chair the committee.



1983's "Ibaneta" performers included: Guillaume Irola (sitting), Franxoa Bidaurreta, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., Jean Leon Cuburu, Johnny Curutchet, Danielle Michelena (kneeling), Jean Paul Mendisco, and Bernadette Petoteguy (standing).



The cast of the 1983 play "Ibaneta" was introduced by Jacques Unhassobiscay (at the mike). Left to right are: Guillaume Irola, Roger Larre, Mayie Goyhenetche Galzagorry, Jesus Arriada (priest), Maurice Negueloua, Unknown, Johnny Curutchet, Bernadette Petoteguy Jensen, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Danielle Michelena, Anna Iriartborde, Pierre Iriartborde, Jean Leon Cuburu, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., (behind Jean Leon, barely visible), Martin Minaberry, and Jean Paul Mendisco.



*Martin Minaberry was instrumental in the formation of the BEO and its library collection in 1984. For many years in the BCC's first quarter century the books were not accessible. All the books are now cataloged, and the library was re-dedicated in 2009 and named the Martin Minaberry Library in honor of the man who was passionate about Basque education. He died in 2001.*

## 1984

There was an attempt to merge the San Francisco Basque Club with the Basque Cultural Center. This was not the first time. In a letter dated November 22, 1981 to BCC President Jean Gorostiague, Martin Minaberry said, “...I believe the Basque Community in the Bay Area cannot afford two distinct organizations which have most of their members in common, without a split in strength and energy – which would defeat the entire purpose of both organizations....Now on the one hand there is a very nice place; on the other hand there is an association which has 21 years of tradition and well organized activities.....As the present President of the S.F. Basque Club I want to present a plan to you..... regarding this cooperation.....”

When the second attempt was made to merge the two Basque organizations in 1984, Martin Minaberry was Secretary of the San Francisco Basque Club as well as on the BCC's Education Committee. To avoid the tax liability from transferring the monetary assets of the Basque Club to the BCC, a charitable organization called the Basque Educational Organization (BEO) was created with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption. The Articles of Incorporation of the Basque Educational Organization were signed on February 15, 1984 by the officers and directors of the Basque Club. The second attempt to merge the two organizations also failed.

According to the accountants of the BCC, a charitable organization was needed in order to provide a tax shelter. Already set up and not being used, the BEO became an opportune vehicle for the BCC to foster Basque cultural activities. The BEO was set up to require its Board to be BCC members.

The Education Committee was still active in May as the BCC newsletter (Vol. 3 No. 5) acknowledged Mrs. Hobart Lovett's donation to help begin the BCC's Basque Library. “She and her late husband frequented numerous Basque restaurants including over 1,000 dinners at the Obrero Hotel. At one time the Lovetts had one of the largest private collections of Basque literature in California. They donated numerous books to the Basque Library

at the University of Nevada. The Education Committee is extremely interested in accumulating materials for our library. If you can help, call Franxoa Bidaurreta.”

On Election Day, June 10, 1984, Alegria performed “Hiru Ziren”, the story of three Basques who come to the United States seeking their fortune. One returns to the Basque Country to marry, one inherits his uncle's fortune and remains in the United States, and one (who was a pampered child) is discouraged and becomes a bum. Jacques Unhassobiscay directed the play. Marie Helene Azcona and Dorothy Unhassobiscay did makeup; Jean Paul Barthe handled sound equipment; and Elizabeth Barthe video filmed the play.



*Jean Leon Cuburu, Franxoa Bidaurreta, and Martin Minaberry in the 1984 production of “Hiru Ziren”. The background scenery was done by Frederick Fuldain, Jean Baptiste Saparart, and Yvette Urruty.*



*The cast of 1984's “Hiru Ziren” included: Standing: Jesus Arriada, Anna Iriartborde, Alain Negueloua, Jean Paul Mendisco, Jacqueline Unhassobiscay, Maurice Negueloua, Mayte Ocafrain, Johnny Curutchet, Josianne Idiart, Martin Minaberry, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Guillaume Irola, Jean Leon Cuburu, Jean Claude Barnetche, and Franxoa Biduarreta. Kneeling: Jose Marie Pagola, Joelle Iribarren, and Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra. Listed in program and not pictured: Jean Paul Barthe, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., Noel Goyhenetche, and Pierre Iriartborde.*



*In the early years there was an annual play written in the native Basque tongue for the community to enjoy, and the amateur BCC “Stars” delighted their audiences with their performances.*

In December 1984 Chairman Martin Minaberry sent a letter requesting support in the BEO’s effort to “make the unique cultural activities of the Basque people available for public education . . . . For the first time the Basque Educational Organization is available to ask for charitable contributions.”

### 1986 – 1988

BEO Board of Directors Franxoa Bidaurreta, Jean Baptiste Bidaurreta, Prosper Doyhenart, Frederic Fuldain, Jean Leon Iribarren, Martin Minaberry, Pablo Perez and Nancy Zubiri listed the goals of the BEO, projects completed to date, future projects and the BEO’s relationship with the BCC. By providing information to the Basque community on its culture, language, etc., the BEO hopes to perpetuate interest in Basque history and heritage.

Nancy Zubiri recalled the many times driving down from the North Bay with Franxoa Bidaurreta from 1986 to 1988 for meetings at the BCC for the fledgling Basque Educational Organization. “Franxoa, Jean Leon Iribarren, Martin Minaberry and I, plus a few others from time to time, gathered on the sofas in the Children’s Room to talk about the many ways we would like to promote the culture.” Nancy talked about visiting Bay Area schools including one in South San Francisco and making presentations on the Basque culture in foreign language classes. “Students enjoy hearing about other cultures, and we benefit by teaching them about the Basques.”



*Performers in the January 17, 1988 play “Hazparneko Anderia” were (top) Dominique Arrabit, Martin Minaberry and Anna Iriartborde and (bottom) Guillaume Irola, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Anna Iriartborde, and Johnny Curutchet.*



*The third BCC election Sunday performance on June 8, 1986, “Xuri Gorriak”, was appropriately about elections in the Basque Country some 50 years ago. Performers included (left to right above) Mayte Ocafrain, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Jesus Arriada (Priest) and Guillaume Irola.*





## Basque Educational Organization

*The goals of the Basque Educational Organization, as listed below, have been carried out during the Basque Cultural Center's first quarter century, many with the involvement and support of the BCC's Board of Directors.*


- **COORDINATE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS RECITALS OR SHOWS BY PERFORMERS FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY.**

The first venture of the Basque Educational Organization, the recital of the Basque tenor singer Valentin Aguirre, was held at the First Unitarian Church in San Francisco on October 14, 1984. Even those who were not opera regulars, among the 160 who attended, appreciated the beauty of Mr. Aguirre's voice when he sang familiar Basque melodies such as the "Cradle Song", and the audience showed much admiration for Josu Gallastegui's nimble fingers flying over the piano keyboard playing "Viva Navarra". Martin Minaberry, Chairman of the B.E.O., acknowledged the San Francisco Basque Club for donating the publicity and to the coordinated efforts of the BCC's Education and Entertainment Committees – Publicity: Florence Castanchoa, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry, Jeanne Mazeris and Anne Saldubehere; Tickets: Martin Minaberry (printing), Noel Erdozaincy and Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry (sales), Joe Castanchoa and Leon Sorhondo (collecting); Hospitality: Franxoia Bidaurreta, Jean Baptiste Bidaurreta and Martin Minaberry; Ushers: Basque dancers Rhonda Arotzarena Scharon, Marianne Arotzarena Martinon, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde, Rosemarie Goyenetché, and Anita Curutchet. [This information from the BCC's *Gure Euskal Etxea* November 1984 newsletter verifies that the BEO did not replace the Education Committee initially. It also demonstrates that many of the BEO's activities were and are a cooperative effort with the Basque Cultural Center.]

The Basque Educational Organization  
presents

**VALENTIN AGUIRRE**  
TENOR

JOSU GALLASTEGUI, PIANO



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1984-3:00PM  
AT  
1ST UNITARIAN CHURCH  
(CORNER GEARY & FRANKLIN STS.)  
SAN FRANCISCO

ALL TICKETS \$5.00



*On November 7 and 8, 2003 during the 5th Basque Cultural Day event Juan Mari Beltran (far left), a prominent figure in popular Basque music (including the txanbela, adarra, txalaparta, txistu, tamboril, flauta-ttuntuna, dultzaina, alboka), was brought to perform with his band.*

On November 11, 2005 the BEO partnered with the Boise Basque Center and the Basque Government and targeted the youth of the Basque community to showcase the contemporary and urban use of Euskara. They brought over two of the Basque Country's top rock and roll acts: Berri Txarrak ("Bad News") of Lekunberri (Nafarroa) whose 4th album, "Libre" was distinguished as best album in Spain by Rock Sound magazine and Betagarri of Vitoria-Gasteiz (Araba), an eight piece SKA-Band popular in Europe and Japan. Presenting Basque Rock Live had many benefits: 1) an attraction that would have great appeal to the younger generation, both Basque and non-Basque as well, 2) a chance to showcase the use of Euskara in a more contemporary venue, showing that although Euskara is one of Europe's oldest languages, it is also a modern and living language, and 3) a chance to attract a different general public audience, that would not normally visit the Basque Cultural Center, and show them what Basque is and what Euskara is. The bands played in San Francisco, Reno, Hollywood and Boise.

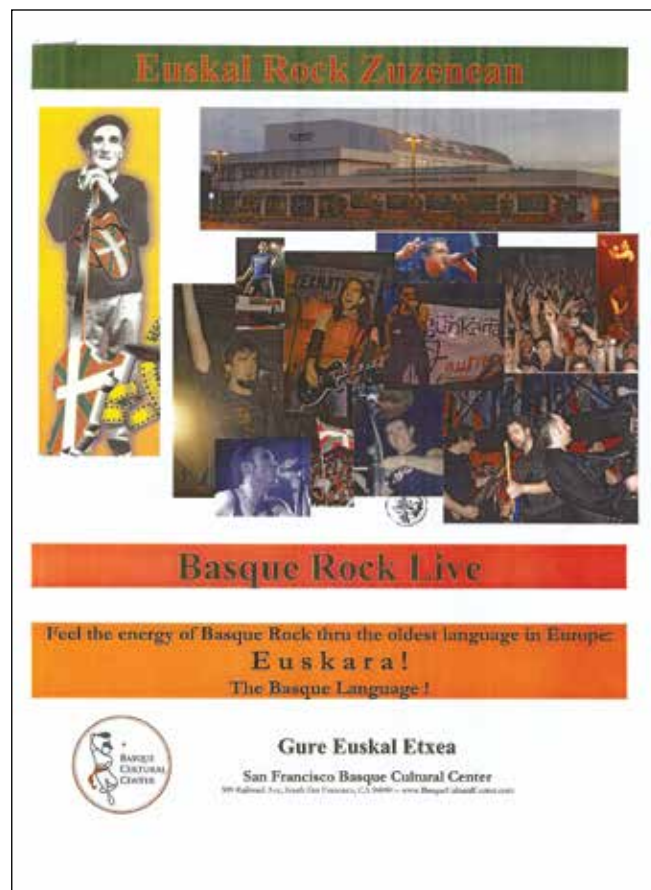
On June 6, 2007 the Basque Choir Ladarbaso Abesbatza from Errenteria, Gipuzkoa performed at the BCC before competing at the California International Choral Festival and competition in San Luis Obispo. They have performed in festivals, concerts and competitions throughout Spain and won two prizes at the International Choral Competition in Spittal, Austria.

The October 6, 2007 Basque Cultural Day, Urazandi Eguna, culminated with a dinner show featuring the renowned Basque singer, Anne Etchegoyen from Donapaleu, Baxenabarre, who sang traditional Basque songs with classical arrangements accompanied by violin, guitar and piano.

**• GATHER DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCES ON ANYTHING RELATING TO BASQUE CULTURE. THIS IS MOST LIKELY TO BE BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS.**

In February 1985 a beautiful oak cabinet donated by the Basque Club and built by Jean Gorostiague was installed in the upstairs meeting room of the BCC to house the Basque library. Frederic Fuldain, who was on the BEO Board, contributed his large personal collection of Basque books. Many books were donated by the San Francisco Basque Club, the Basque Cultural Center, and private collections in the Basque community. Martin Minaberry, Jean Leon Iribarren, and Nancy Zubiri were the library contact persons and helped keep the library open on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. According to Nancy, "Frederic was perfectly happy to spend Saturdays at the Center's library to allow people to access the books, while he wiled away his time reading about Basque topics."

In 1986 complementary subscriptions to *Herria*, *Ager*, *Berriak*, *Ateka*, and *El Diario Vasco* were added to the library. Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaute donated a one year subscription of the weekly newspaper *Herria* so it was available to both Basque and French readers. For Spanish readers the



*El Diario Vasco* was received daily and for French readers the *Ager* and *Berriak* were received bi-monthly. In 1996 the Basque Government donated many books for the BCC library.

On March 19, 1988 Martin Minaberry and Nancy Zubiri coordinated and advertised a book-signing reception featuring Robert Laxalt and William Douglass, the two most prominent authors of Basque books in the United States at that time. On March 28 and 29, 2006 the BEO promoted a reading and book signing of Mark Kurlansky's latest work, *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell*. Mark Kurlansky is a best-selling author of numerous non-fiction books including *The Basque History of the World* and *Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World*. One of his latest works *The Girl Who Swam to Euskadi* is a bilingual book in English with a Basque translation of a small child that accidentally swims to Euskadi from the Atlantic Coast. He frequently illustrates his own books and has been writing about the Basques for 30 years. He has the extraordinary ability to take unrecognized cultures and make them known to the world.

**• TEACH BASQUE LANGUAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE BCC AND TO EXTEND THESE SERVICES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

In October 1988 the BEO offered beginning and advanced language classes charging \$15 tuition for classroom materials. In 1989, 24 students enrolled in language classes. The growing popularity was attributed to Joseba Perez de Heredia, a graduate student sent from the Basque country for six months to teach the classes. The BEO was pleased with the response to the classes and hoped to work out an arrangement with the Basque government to have a student sent every six months to teach Basque.

In 1990 the BEO found a teacher, Irene Goikolea, to resume Basque language lessons at the Center. Irene was also available to teach reading and writing to advanced Basque speakers. In 2001 the BEO requested the BCC members' input to determine levels of instruction. At this time two sources were provided. BEO Director Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo could be contacted for adult Basque language classes, and BCC Director Valerie Etcharren Arrechea could be contacted if interested in having children seven years of age and younger learn Basque (through *Gure Xitoak* which Valerie began on March 3, 2001). In the October 2001 newsletter, it was announced that the BCC had acquired two computers, one server and one terminal for the HABE language program from Euskadi.

In 2002 Robert Acheritogaray was appointed a member of the BEO, and in 2003, while a Director on the BCC Board, a new Euskara Committee was developed that Robert volunteered to head. "When we first started with HABE I was excited because I had hoped to learn Basque as well. I think Pierre (Etcharren) was the one who thought the BCC needed an Euskara Committee. When he brought it up nobody wanted to be the chairperson. I thought it was unusual to have a non-Basque speaker head of Euskara, but I didn't want the project to die so I volunteered. In 2003 the whole HABE process was cumbersome. HABE was developed to learn Basque in Euskadi via computer and with the help of a teacher. The BAC (Basque Autonomous Community) government exported the idea to South America. Then they figured that North American Basques could use it as well. We tried very hard to get things going. We got the computers and Philippe (Acheritogaray) worked very hard with the tech folks from EH (Euskal Herria) to work out the never ending bugs. We had seminars with folks from the Basque Country and even though we had many technical glitches people stayed interested and tried the program. The software for BOGA was way smoother and more fun to use. The real challenge was that you needed a Basque instructor to tie it all together. We got a volunteer to start the class, but she relocated to the Basque Country a little before I did. Without a teacher the program in San Francisco stalled but the Euskara Committee lives. I'm proud that many people in our club and in many NABO clubs now look at learning Euskara in a positive way to maintain culture instead of placing a monetary value on what financial reward it would bring."

In 2004 Robert presented an informational seminar and demonstration to learn Euskara from home with BOGA (Basque Language Class), and Juan Jayo became Chairperson of the Euskara Committee. In 2005 beginner students and those with some knowledge of the language were encouraged to attend two hour free, low key and "user friendly" BOGA classes.

**• GENERATE GREATER INTEREST IN THE BASQUE CULTURE BY SPONSORING RESEARCH AND WRITING PROJECTS AND/OR CONTESTS.**

The topics and winners of the four essay contests sponsored by the BEO during the Center's first 25 years were:

- |      |  |  |
|------|--|--|
| 2000 | Mark Sorhouet                          | What being Basque means to me?   |
| 2001 | James Goyhenetche                      | How did the immigration of Basque Sheep herders impact the development of Basque Culture in America?   |
| 2002 | Olivia Bidaurreta<br>Aimee Goyhenetche | How has the Basque Cultural Center enriched my life as an American Basque?   |
| 2007 | Lisa Etchepare<br>Jean-Marc Sorhondo   | How has the Basque Cultural Center enriched my life? What needs to happen to ensure that the BCC continues going strong for the next 25 years? |

**• DEVELOP AND PRESENT A YEARLY SERIES OF BASQUE CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS, FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES.**

The BEO showed its first film entitled *Land of the Basques* in the BCC's Children's Room on December 15, 1986. It was a one hour documentary on the Basque country narrated in English. In 1996 a Basque Musical Play, *Elkanoen Semeak*, about the Basque "Sons" who have influenced history and the United States, was shown following Sunday lunch. This Basque story in song and dance touches on the lives of El Kano, the Sailor who completed a courageous voyage around the globe after Magellan died; Ignatius Loyola, the Pilgrim; Jose Maria Iparragirre, the Poet; and Pette Artzaina, the Shepherd.

Throughout 1998 six videos depicting the history of the Basque Country from Prehistoric time to the 20th Century were shown at the Center. Since they were kept in the video cabinet after initial viewing, there were always opportunities to view the collection. In 2004 Christian Iribarren coordinated advertisement and support of *The Last Link*, the rich and dramatic story of the Basque and Bearnais shepherding cultures, shown at the Delancey Street Theatre in San Francisco. For over 5000 years,



shepherding has been a way of life in the Pyrenees. Basque immigrants brought this culture to the American West in the early 20th Century. Less than one hundred years later shepherding is almost an extinct occupation in both France and the United States.

In 2004, the BEO presented a special screening of Julio Medem's important documentary *La Pelota Vasca*, which explores Basque nationalism through candid interviews of some 70 politicians, intellectuals, artists and victims of violence on all sides of the Basque issue. The screening was followed by a lively discussion led by Center for Basque Studies professor, Dr. Joseba Gabilondo.

In the fall of 2005 the BEO in conjunction with the BCC offered a Basque Film Series which showcased three feature-length films along with a couple of short works to give the BCC members a taste of Basque cinema. This introduction and discussion was well received, and the Basque Film Series has become an annual event. In October 2006 *Obaba* was shown. A journey into the soul of the Basque country, *Obaba* is based on the popular short story collection *Obabakoak* by Basque writer Bernardo Atxaga and was the 2006 Academy Awards Oscar candidate from Spain. In June 2007 *Aupa Etxebeste*, a comedy about keeping up appearances and the first feature film made in the Basque language in over a decade was shown.

**• RESPOND TO ANY PUBLIC INTEREST AND/OR QUESTIONS REGARDING BASQUE THEMES. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE INFORMATION ON BASQUE FOLKLORE, CUSTOMS AND HISTORY AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

In 1988 the BEO mailed a holiday order form to purchase Basque cultural gifts. This included Basque Christmas cards and postcards with hand-drawn scenes of the Basque country produced by a Basque artist especially

for the BEO, videos (*The Basque Shepherd* and *Land of the Basques*), a book (*Pete Aguerberry: Death Valley Prospector and Gold Miner*) and a cassette recording of Elgarrekin, the San Francisco Basque Choir. In 1999 the BEO hosted a lecture by Begonia Pecharroman entitled, "Searching for Miren" discussing the role of Basque women in American Basque literature.

Nancy Zubiri, recalls with great enthusiasm the BEO initiating the idea of a "Basque Cultural Day". She designed the flyer for the first Basque Cultural Day in 1993 and thought it was especially fitting that the first Basque Cultural Day was dedicated to Jean Leon Irribarren, "He was a crucial part of the BEO as he was to all the Basque organizations he was involved in because he promoted the culture."

Professors Bill Douglass, Jose Mallea Olaetxe, Linda White, and Carmelo Urza from the Basque Studies Program of the University of Nevada, Reno were the featured speakers for the first Basque Cultural Day. Topics discussed included the tree carvings that Basque shepherders left behind in the aspen groves in the high mountains of the American West, the advantages and disadvantages of teaching Batua: the unified Basque language that combines all the various dialects; and what the future holds for Basque culture in the United States.

This unique event also included a first-of-its-kind Basque cooking workshop by Louis Marticorena (the BCC's Manager at that time and former head chef of La Bourgoine Restaurant in San Francisco), a handball workshop, a dance workshop, professional handball videos from the Basque Country, and a photo exhibit presented by the Basque Studies Program of the University of Nevada, Reno. The events were all free except for the cooking workshop which required a \$25.00 fee. Basque accordionist Jean Flesher and his band offered the evening entertainment.



2005 Basque Film Series: Andrea Adams, Pedro Oiarzabal, and BCC President Xabier Berrueta. Pedro Oiarzabal of the Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada, Reno, hosted the film by giving background information and historical context. He also moderated a discussion session after the screenings.



Nancy Zubiri signed her first book, *A Travel Guide to Basque America*, published September 1998 at the third Basque Cultural Day in 1998. She helped form the first Basque Cultural Day in 1993.

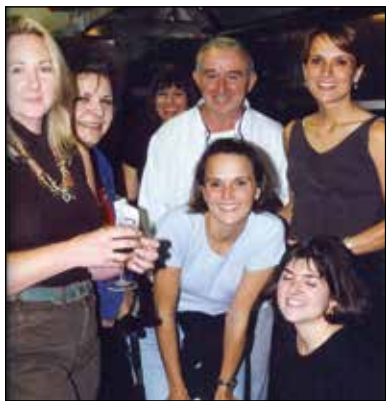
The 1994 Basque Cultural Day event included the first Gateaux Basque Baking Contest sponsored by the Women's Club. Marie Simone Barreneche was the first place pastry winner of \$75, Jean Felix Galzagorry won \$25 for second place and Maria Arriada won a BCC lunch ticket for 3rd place. Through the BEO Nancy was actively involved in the 1994 Basque Cultural Day as well. The BCC Board also supported these cultural events. Nancy recalls Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray being the Board representative working with the BEO in 1994. She commented, "Everyone was very pleased with the success of the Basque Cultural Day events, and Louis Marticorena's cooking demonstrations were a valuable contribution."

Master Chef Louis Marticorena's Basque Cooking Workshop Demonstrations in 1994 and 1998 included Scallop and Salmon Mousse, Confit de Canard, Stuffed Veal, Floating Islands, Piperade, Stuffed tomatoes, Basque Chicken, Paella, and Caramel custard. The 1998 Cultural event also included an Art Exhibit of renowned Basque artist from Paris, Mattin-Laurent Partarrieu, Dr. William Douglas and Dr. Linda White from the University of Nevada, Basque Dance and Handball demonstrations, and Basque Wine Tasting.

On October 14, 2000 the fourth Basque Cultural Day was dedicated to the Basque-American Shepherd. To prepare for Artzain Eguna (Shepherders' Day) the BEO

video interviewed Basque Cultural Center members who previously herded sheep in the United States. This video will give future Basque-Americans an opportunity to learn how many of their grandparents and great-grandparents came to the United States and what they had to endure. The success of Artzain Eguna was in the attendance of some 400 people and their interest in the topics given by guest speakers—William Douglas ("The History of the Basque Shepherd"), Joxe Mallea ("Speaking Through the Aspens"), and Nancy Zubiri ("The Basque Boarding House"). The lectures were video taped and a book was compiled of photos and stories of *The Basque Shepherders in the West*.

Most of those honored at the BEO tribute to the "Ameriketako Eskualdun artzainak" (America's Basque shepherders) were BCC Members as well: Jean Arambel, Julian Aramburu, Gratien Alfaro, Angel Arriada, Jesus Arriada, Pierre Ausquy, Pierre Begorre, Dominique Berhan, Martin Chiramberro, Jean Baptiste Daramy, Arnaud Duhart, Jean Pierre Etcheber, Dominique Etcheverry, Jean Pierre Elissondo, Louis Elu, Leon Franchisteguy, Frederic Fuldain, Jean Gorostiague, Emil Goyhenetche, Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche, Pierre Goyhenetche, Dominique Hauscarriague, Jean Laxague, Charles Moustirats, Pedro Salaburu, Jean Sorhouet, Ferdinand Tapia, and Jean Baptiste Urruty.



*Louis Marticorena, surrounded by women eager to learn his recipes, did cooking demonstrations at the 1993, 1994 and 1998 Basque Cultural Day events.*



*Basque Shepherders who celebrated their contribution to their Basque heritage and the forming of the American West on October 14, 2000 were Back Row: Ferdinand Tapia\*, Jean Belleau, Jean Baptiste Goyhenetche\*, Angel Arriada\*, Jean Arambel\*. Front Row: Frederic Fuldain\*, Benat Salaberry, Charles Moustirats\*, Jesus Arriada\*.*

*\*Basque Cultural Center founding members*

In the BEO's 2001 essay contest (How did the immigration of Basque Shepherders impact the development of Basque Culture in America?), 1st place winner James Goyhenetche reflected on what his Aitatxi did for him. "But like my Aitatxi, many of these shepherders came to love citizenship in the United States, continuing their proud Basque heritage and building their families in a new home. They were able to function in a foreign place keeping their culture intact. The earliest methods of keeping their culture united began when many shepherders would come to neighboring Basque boarding houses to take a break from the isolation of the hills. Boarding houses became a dominant enterprise to support the Basque communities. (Goicoechea, 1992) It was a place to celebrate their heritage by communicating, singing, dancing, and playing cards. A lonely herder could also find companionship there. When my Aitatxi, Pierre and my Amatxi, Catherine moved to San Francisco, they opened up a Basque restaurant and Boarding House in the downtown area at 1208 Stockton Street called the Obrero Hotel. Even in San Francisco they were visited by shepherders who would come and stay with them on vacation or make a stop on their way to France and Spain. This was a place where Basques could be Basque and feel a cultural and linguistic security. The Obrero Hotel, which my Aitatxi started with all the hard earned money he had saved over the years from his long hard days as a shepherd, was a great contribution for Basque culture in the United States."

In 2003 the BEO joined NABO, hosted a NABO meeting at the BCC and produced its fifth installment of Basque Cultural Day which was titled Zubi Zuri (A Bridge to You). Their goal was to build a bridge to learn more about Basque history, art, and culture which they did with six lectures presented to the public. The Basque Cultural Center, The Center for Basque Studies, the Basque International Cultural Center, and the North American Basque Organization played significant roles in assembling the speakers and performers for Zubi Zuri. Professor Jeronima

Echeverria, Associate Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Professor of History at California State University, began with a talk on the history of Basque boarding houses. The Center for Basque Studies' faculty members gave insightful presentations with Joseba Zulaika lecturing on "Jorge Oteiza's Life and Work", and Gloria Toticaguena spoke on "Basque Diaspora-Homeland Relations." In addition, Ph.D. student Pedro Oiarzabal spoke on Basque identity in the world, and Ph.D. student Imanol Galfarsoro gave a presentation on the London Euskal Etxea. Best-selling author Mark Kurlansky, who penned *The Basque History of the World*, spoke about his book and current events in the Basque Country.

On October 6, 2007 the BEO hosted "Urazandi Eguna", the BCC's 6th Basque Cultural Day presenting authors from the Basque Government's landmark book series on Basque immigration – *Urazandi* (From Overseas). Dr. Gloria Toticaguena gave a presentation comparing and contrasting the immigration experiences of Basques in New York, Boise and Australia. Dr. Xabier Irujo presented the immigration experience of Basques in Uruguay while Ms. Argitxu Camus presented the history of the North American Basque Organization. Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal presented research findings from his work on the San Francisco volume of the *Urazandi* series.

This recording of the history and development of Basque communities world-wide began in 1999, and Basques are the only group to have such an extensive resource of information in over 20 countries. The San Francisco Urazandi volume got very actively underway when the Board of Directors selected Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal as the author and editor in 2006. In an interview, Dr. Oiarzabal praised his team of volunteers which largely includes the BEO. "I have a wonderful team of people from the San Francisco Basque community helping me with the project. This community-based approach to the project is an added value of great significance for its success."



Left: In 2002, the BEO provided an informational booth on the Basque Country at the NABO Convention hosted by the Basque Cultural Center at Orange Park in South San Francisco. The exhibit, prepared by BEO directors (pictured Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo) provided the visitor with some Basque history, culture, geography and also with photographs showing the varying Basque landscapes. Right: 2003 Basque Cultural Day Zubi Zuri speakers: Gloria Toticaguena of the C.B.S.; Mark Kurlansky, author of *The Basque History of the World*, Pedro Oiarzabal of the U.N.R. Center for Basque Studies; Joseba Zulaika, director of the C.B.S.; and Imanol Galfarsoro.



### BEO Chairman Philippe Acheritogaray

“As the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center celebrates its silver anniversary in 2007, the Basque Educational Organization (“BEO”) continues to be an active part of the BCC as an educational arm. Since 1984, the BEO has organized a variety of educational events and initiatives at Gure Euskal Etxea, which have included the library, Euskara (Basque language) classes, theatrical performances in Euskara, video productions, Basque film, and Basque Cultural Days.

Currently, the BEO is focused on working with the Urazandi Committee made up of representatives of the San Francisco Basque Club, the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center, the Anaitasuna Basque Club, and the Basque Educational Organization to produce the San Francisco volume of the Urazandi series, which are books documenting the history of the most important Basque clubs and communities in the world. Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal is incorporating data from nearly 120 individuals via interviews and focus groups and 250 surveys by members of the San Francisco Basque community into chapters including Immigration, Basque Communities, Basque Clubs, Boardinghouses and Restaurants, the Basque Cultural Center, Basque Culture, Politics and Religion. Marie Laxague Rosecrans has kept the BCC membership informed on the book’s progress almost every month in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* Newsletter since November 2006.

The volunteers who organized and implemented BEO projects since 2002 were Robert Acheritogaray, Xabier Berrueta, Florence Castanchoa, Franxoa and Esther Anchustegui Bidaurreta, Yvonne Hauscarriague, Nicole Hauscarriague, Anna Iriartborde, Anton Laxague, Juan Jayo, Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo, and Idoya Salaburu Urruty.

The BEO is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that relies on generous donations and would like to thank all those who have contributed over the years. The BEO would also like to give the Basque Cultural Center and Basque Cultural Center Restaurant a special *mil esker* for their very generous contributions and support. Special thanks also goes out to the Center for Basque Studies of the University of Nevada at Reno for their collaboration in many of the BEO events.”



*BCC President Xabier Berrueta (far left) pictured with the 2007 BEO Board of Directors: (left to right) Secretary Nicole Ausquy Sorhondo, Vice-Chairman Yvonne Hauscarriague, Anna Iriartborde, Chairman Philippe Acheritogaray, Franxoa Bidaurreta, Treasurer Esther Anchustegui Bidaurreta. The BEO Board is standing in front of the oak cabinet donated by the Basque Club and built by Jean Gorostiaque in 1985 to house the Basque library.*

# THE RESTAURANT

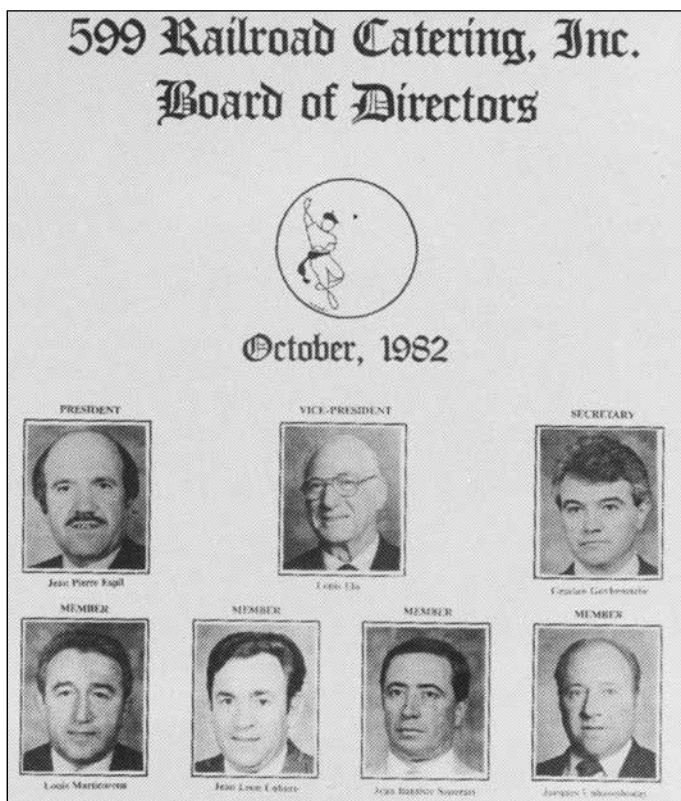
*On egin dizuela janak eta kalterik ez edanak.*

May the food do you good and the drink do you no harm.



*In 1998 the Basque Cultural Center purchased the above painting of renown Basque artist Mattin-Laurent Partarrieu for the entrance of the restaurant.*

As the Basque Cultural Center’s opening Manager with her husband, Ganix, Anna Iriartborde is the primary source for the restaurant’s beginning story. “As soon as we found out the cost of building a fronton (mid-1981), it seemed wiser to shelter under the same roof a restaurant that could raise money to reimburse the necessary loans. The Board of Directors made the move to open the Basque Cultural Center restaurant to the general public. What we needed now was to find a manager able to organize and operate the entire establishment. As a member of the Board, Ganix Iriartborde, my husband, was repeatedly pressed to accept that position. I felt a stirring in my heart. I saw that many members, including Ganix, worked hard during the construction period, while I was not able to participate. Was it now the time to do my part? On the other hand, my mother was very sick in the Basque Country. Ganix and I decided to open and manage the Center until summertime when we would leave to see my mother.”



*In October 1982 the Board of Directors announced the formation of a new corporation, the “599 Railroad Avenue Catering, Inc.” responsible for the operation of the restaurant. The first seven Board members were: President Jean Pierre Espil\*\*, Vice President Louis Elu\*\*, Secretary-Treasurer Gracian Goyhenetche, and Directors Louis Marticorena\*\*, Jean Leon Cuburu\*\*, Jean Baptiste Saparart and Jacques Unhassobiscay.*

*\*\* held the first House Committee Meeting on February 11, 1982.*



### First House Committee Meeting

Managers Ganix and Anna Iriartborde arrived one week before the Members' Opening on February 7. Chef Gabriel Elicetche and Ganix ordered the necessary supplies for the opening. On February 11 the House Committee, later named 599 Railroad Catering, Inc., held their first meeting. Jean Leon Cuburu, Louis Elu, Jean Pierre Espil, and Louis Marticorena were present. The House Committee suggested that ordering be done by the Manager only and reported the wages for the different jobs. Based on four hours of work and subject to change according to union regulations the hourly wages were: Bartender \$7.85, Waitress \$3.40, Second Cook \$8.00, Dishwasher \$5.18. In 1982 drinks ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.50; in 2007 drinks cost \$4.25 to \$6.50.



The BCC's 1st Managers, Anna and Ganix Iriartborde, are sitting in the "sukaldia" lovingly built by BCC members in 1982 (top). Anna recalls working on it with Frederic Fuldain, Ray Caballero, and Angele Goyeneche. It served as a reminder of the Basque kitchen in Euskal Herria where the hearth fire burns giving warmth to the house (Gure Etxea) where the family gathers. Anna said the only decoration at the opening of the restaurant was this impressive fireplace on which Frederic Fuldain sculpted the coat of arms of the seven Basque Provinces. In 2006 (bottom) Anna and Ganix are enjoying the BCC's Jaialdia with Aita Tillous.

## Anna Iriartborde's Restaurant Story February – May 1982

### February 13, 1982

"A group of volunteer young ladies arrived accompanied by their husbands. While the men mounted tables and chairs, the women unpacked and washed the dishes, glasses and silverware. Thanks to these dynamic and energetic teams, the tables were set for 420-430 persons for the next day's meal."

### February 14, 1982 – Member Opening

"That day we first served 115 meals to children. Their mothers took care of serving them. Then they cleared the tables and reset them again for the adults. Volunteers waited on tables and even paid for their own meals. Angele Goyeneche, who specializes in making our traditional Basque cake donated her time and baked enough for 500 persons at home in her family stove oven. It is remarkable how so many people worked in such harmony and with all their heart. The day ended in good humor, everyone delighted. Judge for yourself, the total income of \$13,000 was raised in a single day. Monday we returned to clean up. Except for two or three private parties, the Center was closed for the rest of the week."



Gabriel Elicetche (left) was the BCC 1st Head Chef in 1982. He helped organize the kitchen during its infancy period. Pierre Corcessin (right) worked in the kitchen in the early 1980s.



*“So we took a chance and opened without a permit.”*

—Anna Iriartborde



*The Banquet Room is being set up for the Members' Opening in 1982 (left) and the 25th Anniversary in 2007 (right).*

#### One More Worry

“Being a new business, we did not have any established credit with either the Board of Equalization or suppliers. No one wanted to take a risk. Before opening, any new business must deposit an estimated tax amount of \$30,000. Obviously we already were in the red tape with many debts and no money in our treasury. I called our personal accountant, Henry Sante who was familiar with our past credit as operators of the Des Alpes Restaurant and Sea Captain Motel. He assured us that he could obtain credit towards a business of our own but discouraged us from taking a risk in which we might lose all our savings. Not thinking about negative prospects, we asked him to prepare the necessary documents that Ganix and I signed. All week long salesmen of many companies came like flies on honey to propose their supplies, but they would not wait until the end of the month to be paid. One of the only exceptions was Golden Gate Meat Company where Michel Arduain and Jean Acheritogaray had been working for many years. The company trusted their Basque employees and we got all the meat we ordered. The produce market treated us the same, too, thanks to Basque employees like Dominic Artzarena, Jean Leon Ocafrain, and Michel Marticorena, just a few who spoke for us.... Mr. Sante was a tremendous help to us setting things up so we could get credit to operate a new business and he made arrangements with the State Board of Equalization so we could pay the \$30,000 later instead of upfront like they required.”

#### February 19, 1982

“We were preparing the dining room for the Basque Club banquet to take place on Sunday, February 21st when two city hall representatives confronted me saying: ‘We read the Center’s opening announcement in the paper. We want to inform you that you cannot serve food to the public without a permit.’ Speechless and in panic I called our President Jean Gorostiague who went to the City Hall. Jean explained we would have a hearing next month, but we couldn’t wait until then to operate. So we took a chance and opened without a permit.”

#### February 21, 1982

“Despite the detailed preparation (for the Basque Club banquet), the day ended in a fiasco. One hundred persons more than anticipated showed up, expecting to be served the same menu as those with reservations. They should have accepted the last minute course arranged to accommodate them, but criticized instead. Chef Gabriel Elicetche was personally confronted by angry persons and consequently gave a week’s notice of job termination. Without a dependable cook I felt lost and disoriented.”

#### February 22, 1982 – Opening Day of the Restaurant and Bar to the General Public

“The dining room had only four naked walls. There was not a single shelf, drawer, nor counter. The only decoration was an impressive fireplace with a wood mantel on which was sculpted the coat of arms of the seven Basque Provinces. The entire chimney was designed, constructed, mounted and installed by Frederic Fuldain. He is without

*"It is remarkable how so many people worked in such harmony and with all their heart."*

—Anna Iriartborde

doubt a real artist and his work was profusely admired at first glance by each visitor. Pierre Etcharren made the cast iron piece, and Yvette Urruty painted a few pictures, one of which was the Tree of Guernika, to decorate the naked walls. But more was needed to operate a restaurant. At my first request Jean Baptiste Jauretche donated and installed some bar shelves with a beautiful mirror at their center. Jean Gorostiague donated a small counter with shelves and drawers. There was only one telephone behind the bar and access was difficult. Immediately reacting to my comment about this, Noel Goyhenetche donated another terminal for the entrance of the restaurant. Great! Things looked a lot better already."

"On the opening day to the general public, there were few personnel. Chef Gabriel and husband, Ganix were in the kitchen, Joe Gestas tended the bar, Marie Helene Azcona, Mari Jose Zabala and Jose Mari Pagola waited tables; Guy Jeffroy was the lunch time dishwasher and Hipolito washed dishes at dinner. I took charge of the cash register and was available to help here and there as needed. From the first day, the business boomed. People poured in and the crew worked double shifts. This was too much. At lunch some customers complained of slow service. We hired more personnel: Jean Pierre Minaberry for the kitchen, Jean Leon Cuburu, Isabelle Lesaffe and Mercedes Gestas to tend tables. Mercedes brought her newborn baby Christele in a wicker crib, which was put in the supply room where she could see and check on her easily while she worked. Annie Goni worked as a waitress weekends and a cute youngster, Mark

**OPENING  
FEB. 22**  
**Basque  
Cultural Center  
RESTAURANT**  
599 Railroad Ave., So.S.F.  
French & Basque Cuisine  
**COCKTAILS**  
LUNCH Sun.-Fri. 11:30-2:30  
DINNER Tues.-Sat. 5:30-9:30  
Family Style Dinners  
Parties • Banquets  
• Weddings  
Private Meeting Rooms  
Available  
FREE PARKING • 583-8091

## Basque Cultural Center dining

The long-awaited BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER restaurant will open to the public Monday, Feb. 22, featuring French and Basque cuisine prepared by Chef Gabriel Elisetche, who received his culinary experience at Le Cyrano, Amelio's and L'Escale. The center, a large building in South San Francisco and open only to its members, is managed by JEAN and ANNA IRIART-BORDE. Serving lunch and dinner. Private meeting rooms also available. Ample free parking ...

Azcona worked as bus boy. In the meantime, to our relief, Chef Gabriel decided to stay on. Later we hired Patrick and Henry Poyrimou as reliefs. Weekends were already reserved for communion, anniversary, and banquet parties. Working in the banquet room were bartender, Robert Lafitte; waitresses – Victoria Berrueta, Josephine Curutchet, Isabelle Echaide, Isabel Laxague and Mayte Ocafrain – always ready to help, even at a last-minute call from me. Bernard Iribarren and Leon Lucu also came on weekends to help in the kitchen. Mary Curutchet was always around doing volunteer work helping with a variety of tasks such as cleaning and setting tables, collecting glasses left in corners, and even cleaning showers and restrooms after the ball players. On weekends, every Saturday Joe Castanchoa, with his tools hanging from his belt, donated time to repairing broken tables and chairs, and rendering other emergency services to alleviate our burden."

"Everyone cooperated beautifully. Not a single employee ever told me 'this is not my job' or 'this is not in my job description'. Of course the situation was not always rosy. Sometimes the pressure was so heavy it made the



*Top: Jean Leon Cuburu, behind the bar getting everything ready for the Member's Opening in 1982, was on the House Committee that became the 599 Railroad Catering, Inc. Board. He also worked in the BCC restaurant. Also around the bar: Pierre Etcharren, Guillaume Irola and Michel Marticorena.*

*Bottom: The restaurant bar as it looked until 2002 when the top of the bar was padded as part of the restaurant being soundproofed.*



situation tense. Mistakes and sometimes inter-personnel relations became difficult, but in the end we found solutions for each problem. We were not deaf to burning remarks indirectly addressed to us, but the attitude of most of the members was comforting. We could feel trust and appreciation and this encouraged us and warmed our hearts. The restaurant operated at maximum, especially on weekends serving an average of 190-230 dinners and 50-90 lunches. Meanwhile the permit to serve food to the public was granted. At last I felt relief. The South San Francisco City Hall had been very good to us. “

**May 1982**

“I will never forget Mother’s Day was the biggest and busiest day at the restaurant. We had 150 reservations for 5:30PM and the same number for 7:30PM and still more people came wanting to eat without reservation. After serving 330 a la carte meals, we had to stop food service because we ran out of supplies. The shelves were literally empty. So many members could not be fed making one feel guilty for the huge error of provisions.”



*Miguel ‘Hipolito’ Ramirez and Josephine Curutchet have worked in the BCC Restaurant from its opening through the present time. In the 1980s they were photographed while working (left and center). Josephine is with her husband, Sebastian (far left). In 2007 (above) they are at the 25th Anniversary. In 2010 the BCC honored Josephine and ‘Hipolito’ for more than a quarter century of dedicated work.*



*Recalling the first BCC wedding reception of Roger and Monet Bonson in June 1982, Manager Anna Iriartborde said, “To the disappointment of the groom’s father, Henry Bonson, the couple had chosen a buffet reception, which was a style new and not yet adopted by the Basque milieu, especially for weddings. He was pleased in the end because Chef Gabriel Elicetche (pictured on the wedding day talking with Auguste Lapeyrade) invested his best professional skills and, with the help of a complete crew, prepared an exquisite buffet. It was a memorable day to be talked about for a long time. “*



## *Members' Sunday Lunches Began*

The July 1982 *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter announced that the members' Sunday lunch had started, "The luncheon will include soup, an entree, a main course, salad, coffee, wine and dessert." In the beginning, it was the young workers, like Michelle Arduain and Joelle Iribarren, who worked the members' lunches because they passed a basket for tipping and the members were not very generous. Later this was changed by the directors and the \$1.00 tip per ticket guaranteed the workers a fair reward.

The 2001 BEO Scholarship winner James Goyhenetche said, "Another strong point of the BCC, on the continuing preservation of the Basque culture, is the very large banquet room. It has served a countless number of times as a place where hundreds of Basques could come together

and eat, drink, laugh, sing, and recount the stories of our forefathers. It's a place to pass down oral tradition. Sunday afternoon lunch is always my favorite, whether I'm eating blood sausage or dipping my bread in Louis' oxtail stew. So many times I have put my arm around the Basque person next to me and rocked back and forth as we sang Basque songs and drank wine. I have laughed with my Basque friends and relatives and played Mus when our bellies were full... Without the Basque Cultural Center, I would be unable to share so many Basque memories and keep alive the traditions of my Basque forefathers. I know if my Aitatxi were alive today he would be so proud of me for continuing the existence of the Basque heritage which he so proudly preserved and passed down to me. ...."



*Above: The Members' Sunday lunch frequently ends with singing. In 2006 Aita Martxel Tillous (right) is joined by Pierre Etcharren (second from left) and Johnny Curutchet (center standing).*



*Banquet Room at the 1983 Children's Christmas Party (left, top) and set up for the 25th Anniversary in 2007 (left, bottom).*



Banquet Room Bar in 1982 (left) and as it looks in 2007 (right).

### MEMBERS' SUNDAY LUNCH PRICE DURING THE FIRST 25 YEARS

Date	Members \$	Children \$	Member's Guests \$	Non-Members \$	Without Reservations \$
7-1-1982	7.00	5.00		9.00	5.00 extra
3-9-1985*	8.00	5.00		12.00	
3-1-1986	9.00	5.00		13.00	
1-1-1988	10.00	6.00		14.00	
7-1-1994**	12.00	6.00		16.00	16.00
2004-2007	15.00	6.00	20.00	25.00	25.00

\*March 9, 1985

*Due to some abuses that were occurring with the members' Sunday lunch tickets they could no longer be purchased at the bar. The Board of Directors took turns selling luncheon tickets near the door and collecting them from each person at the table. Members were encouraged to carry their membership cards with them to verify current membership status.*

\*\*July 1, 1994

*On Father's Day in June 1994 190 people were served and only 120 had made reservations! To avoid upsetting the kitchen crew, the Board requested that members make reservations in advance. Without reservations, the non-member price began being charged. Prices remained the same for TEN years! In 2004 due to a dramatic increase in meat prices since 2002 (in some cases almost doubling), member lunch prices were increased.*

## October 1982: 599 Railroad Avenue Catering, Inc Formed

The Board of Directors announced the formation of a new corporation, the 599 Railroad Avenue Catering, Inc. The new corporation was responsible for the operation of the restaurant and reported directly to the Board of Directors of the Basque Cultural Center. Gracian Goyhenetche, the new restaurant corporation's Secretary Treasurer explained, "The second corporation was formed because the original Board had so many decisions to make that meetings were going longer and longer, sometimes past midnight. We were making decisions about what color the plates should be and what kind of forks we had to buy, and most of us on the General Board really did not have a lot of restaurant experience. So we thought it made sense to create a separate committee. When we originally started this separate committee, it wasn't a corporation. It would handle all the restaurant things which kept the

General Board from getting tied down in detailed restaurant decisions. The committee then became a corporation to protect the non-profit status of the Basque Cultural Center."

Within the Catering Board, a new finance Committee was set up with Jean Baptiste Saporart as Chairman and Jean Leon Cuburu, Louis Elu and Jacques Unhassobiscay as members. Louis Marticorena and Jean Pierre Espil were designated as the only Board members who would directly deal with the Manager on all Board affairs. Gracian Goyhenetche was appointed spokesman for the Catering Board at the Center's Board of Directors meetings.

On November 13, 1982 the key locks for liquor and office rooms were changed for security reasons. Only the President of the Center, the newly elected President of the Catering and the Manager would have access.

### 599 RAILROAD CATERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jean Pierre Espil**  
President 1982  
Director 1983



**Roger Minhondo**  
President 1986, 1987, 1988  
Vice President 1989  
1st Vice-President 1990  
Director 1984, 1985, 1991-2007



**Louis Elu**  
President 1983, 1984  
Vice-President 1982, 1985



**Alphonse Acheritogaray**  
President 1989, 1990  
Vice President 1986-1988,  
1997-2007  
Treasurer 1993-1996  
Director 1983, 1984, 1985, 1991,  
1992

"My proudest moment during my time on the board was recruiting our dedicated Manager Francois

Camou and talented Chef Michel Veron. These gentlemen have been instrumental in the success that our restaurant business enjoys today. Francois has been able to institute very effective financial controls and excels in public relations. Michel has elevated the level of discipline and hygiene in the kitchen, has improved the menu, runs a very tight ship, and is militant when it comes to controlling food costs. He's also especially skilled in desserts and baking. During the time Francois and Michel have been working together at the Basque Cultural Center, the restaurant's business has doubled."



**Jean Leon Cuburu**  
President 1985  
Vice President 1983, 1984  
Director 1982



## 599 RAILROAD CATERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)



**Jean Baptiste Lorda**  
President 1991 - 2007  
2nd Vice-President 1990



**Jean Baptiste Saparart**  
Secretary-Treasurer 1987-1989  
Treasurer 1982, 1983  
Director 1986



**Joseph Castanchoa**  
Vice President 1991-1996  
Director 1983-1990

“Probably the most monumental and impressive activity that occurred while I was in office was the International Mus Championships which were held at the BCC and the Spanish Cultural Center. The Center provided excellent meals

and entertainment which was a credit to the hard work of the Catering and Entertainment Committees.....For me it was reward enough to work with a group of people who liked each other and worked well together. I respected the knowledge and experience each brought with them, especially Roger Minhondo and Jean Baptiste Lorda. I enjoyed the Saturday lunches; a lot of Catering business was done at these meals which the chef, office manager, and manager attended. It gave the Catering an opportunity to discuss in a less formal manner what was working and what was not.”



**Mayie Etcheverry**  
Secretary 1990-1996  
Director 1986-1990



**Robert Acheritogaray**  
Secretary 1998-2005  
Treasurer 1997

“Alphonse taught me that it’s OK to laugh at a meeting, and as the years go by and you’re still involved, it’s down right necessary! As much as I appreciate the humor, I respect how he communicates with our members. People feel com-

fortable coming to him to resolve issues. The Wednesday special is a great response to member’s requests. There was a problem on Wednesday’s lunches for a regular group of members who met on that day. They brought the problem to Alphonse. He brought it to the catering board, and at that meeting we came up with the Wednesday special that worked for the restaurant and made the members happy.”



**Gracian Goyhenetche**  
Secretary 1982, 1983  
Secretary-Treasurer 1984



**Lorraine Saldubehere Etcheverry**  
Secretary-Treasurer 1985, 1986  
Secretary -1997



**Susanne Elicetche**  
Treasurer 1998- 2003

## 599 RAILROAD CATERING BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CONTINUED)



### **Rosemary Goyeneche**

Secretary 2006-2007

Director 1998-2005

“In 1998 I was approached by Alphonse Acheritogaray to join the Catering Board. At the time I was the Catering Manager for Air France, French Airlines. I was happy to accept this invitation, as I looked forward to learning from

the group of directors, all successful in different ways. This was useful for me in my professional life, as well as fulfilling in a personal interest in the restaurant business. Having been active with the Basque community since my childhood and having been a waitress at the BCC during my years at San Francisco State University, I wanted to

contribute to the future of this wonderful establishment. .... I remember when the BCC first opened and wondered how it would be in the future. Happily, 25 years later, I am proud of what it has become. I have attended many events, from anniversaries to communion parties, eating scrumptious dinners and lunches at every event, whether it was at the restaurant, banquet room or the barbeque events.”



### **Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray**

Treasurer 2004- 2007

Director 1998-2003

## DIRECTORS



### **Roland Cherbero**

2004-2007



### **Gratien Etchebehere**

1990-2007

“I have been involved with the maintenance of the BCC thru the Catering Board from 1982 to 2000. I was the ‘Official Plumbing Man’! Whatever needed to be fixed or replaced I took care of.

From backed up sewers, to repairing the toilets, showers or broken pipes in the kitchen, to redoing the plumbing in the front bar, I was there for the Catering Board. I happily donated those years, and I know they were appreciative of my labor of love. In 1990 I received a plaque in ‘Appreciation of Outstanding and Generous Service and Support for Generous Maintenance Donation’.”



### **Leon Franchisteguy**

1984-1989



### **Eric Garat**

2006-2007



### **Jean Gorostiague**

1987-2007



### **Louis Marticorena**

1982-1983



### **Jacques Unhassobiscay**

1982-1983

June 11, 1983

### Membership Began to Benefit from Catering's Success

Beginning with Begnat and Anne Marie Goyhenetche's wedding, members received a discount of 10% for parties of 25 or more. On June 20, 1998, the Catering Board implemented a 20% member's discount on restaurant meals and banquets. While sharing in the Catering's success was wonderful news for the membership, members

were reminded that the gratuity should be based on the full amount of the meal before discount in consideration of the servers. In September 2001 the Board of Directors and the Catering Board approved an exciting lunch special on Wednesdays for Basque Senior Citizens over 55 years of age – soup or salad and one entrée with wine for \$12 (which was increased to \$15 in 2004).

## *Six Manager Transitions Before the Center's Second Anniversary*

Following Anna and Ganix Iriartborde, there were seven short term Managers, six before the BCC's second anniversary. In June 1982 the Housing Committee (as the 599 Railroad Catering was called before official formation in November 1982) composed of Jean Leon Cuburu, Louis Elu, Jean Pierre Espil and Louis Marticorena, found a new Manager.

Anna Iriartborde recalled, "Ed Keyser came to the BCC from the Alexis Restaurant on Nob Hill. An impressive background included L'Etoile and 16 years at the Ritz Poodle Dog. Quickly realizing the huge responsibility he would face as manager, he lost courage and wanted to quit the first week. However, he had to respect the contract he signed for a month's duration. When Ganix and I left the Basque Center on June 15, 1982, we paid all the outstanding bills of the restaurant. At that time, there was \$50,000 left in the general checking account at the bank, and the inventory (wine, liquor, food) was valued at \$12,000. This was encouraging for the future success of the business. It took another month to find a replacement (for Ed Keyser). Jean Pierre Espil acted as interim substitute, neglecting his own business to help out. Jean Baptiste Saparart and Jean Leon Cuburu assisted him as much as they were able."

In August 1982 David Donati, a University of San Francisco graduate who worked at Maxwell's Plum, became the Manager. In November 1982 Pat Jones was installed. Then Martin Errecart managed the Center for six months until he went into business for himself.

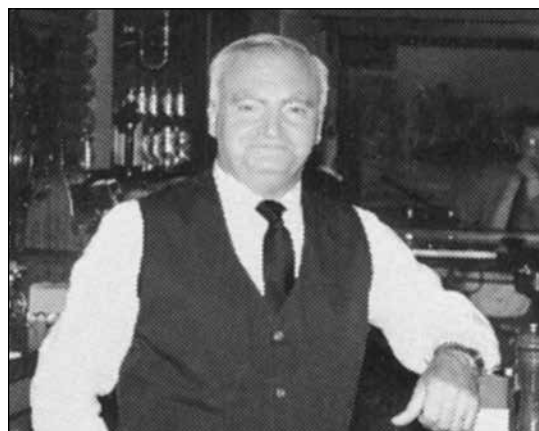
In July 1983 Marcel Mocho took over. He managed the BCC when the Mini-mondials took place. Jean Felix Galzagorry had just become the BCC's second head chef on June 4th. BCC President Joseph Castanchoa complimented Jean Felix and his staff for the excellence and variety of all the meals served throughout the 1st World Pilota Tournament in the United States held at the BCC.

In March 1984 Martin Errecart was reinstated as Manager of the Cultural Center. He took over the Second Anniversary Celebration weekend at the last minute. The events of the weekend flowed so smoothly, many weren't even aware of the management transition – nor of the fact that six manager transitions had taken place before the second anniversary of the BCC!

In 1985 Tom Ward was installed as the BCC's 7th Manager and last short term Manager, and Pierre (Tito)

Palomes became the BCC's third head chef.

The BCC's President 1983-1985, Joe Castanchoa said, "In the beginning there was a big turn-over of managers (some good and some not so good). I remember one Catering meeting when Louis Elu was president (1983-1985). He had been given the task of firing one of the managers. He asked me if I would stay and be a support for him when he did this. We became even better friends after that. I enjoyed sitting with Louis and his wife, Marie, at many Sunday lunches. He was a man who really loved the Center. I, personally, am grateful that we had a man like Jean Pierre Espil there to help us through those rough times when we were experiencing difficulties with managers, among other things. There were times when he left his own business to come and act as host during the transition of one manager to another. One time he even had to help out in the kitchen."



*Martin Errecart managed the Center for the first six months in 1983 until he went into business for himself. In 1984 he took over the second Anniversary celebration weekend at the last minute. The events of the weekend flowed so smoothly, many weren't even aware of the management transition – nor of the fact that six manager transitions had taken place before the second anniversary of the BCC!*



## 1986 – Louis Marticorena Began Ten Years As the BCC’s Manager

Leon Franchisteguy, BCC President 1985-1988, is proud to have introduced the person who managed the Center for a decade. “I can recall a point in time when the restaurant’s managers were arriving and departing at an alarming revolving-door clip. So I introduced Louis Marticorena to the Board, and after a brief interview we had a manager for the restaurant who stayed for over ten years. He revised the way the restaurant was managed, helped make it a more profitable achievement.”

Louis Marticorena began work as the BCC’s Manager on January 14, 1986, his wedding anniversary! The February 1990 issue of *Gourmet Magazine* praised his skill, “The restaurant, which welcomes non-Basques, is managed by Louis Marticorena, a name well known to San Franciscans whose dining-out memories predate the eighties. The son of a Basque sheepherder who lived in California until the Depression struck, Marticorena found his calling as a classically trained chef and came to San Francisco 25 years ago. He was Chef of Restaurant de France (the best of the old Basque eating places), La Mirabelle, and, until it closed in 1981,

the redoubtable La Bourgoigne, a classic French house.”

Louis kept the dining room running smoothly and left the cooking to his Head Chefs, Pierre (Tito) Palomes, the BCC’s third Head Chef in 1985; Michel Campillo, the fourth Head Chef in 1990; and Patrick Farjas, the fifth Head Chef in 1992. Michel Campillo was praised in the February 1990 issue of *Gourmet* which said his “stews of lamb, veal or oxtails are a big lunch draw, and on Thursdays the lamb shanks braised in white wine with mushrooms and tomatoes tend to sell out quickly.” The January 24, 1990 edition of the *New York Times* noted his use of fresh foods and his specialties. “Under the direction of Chef Michel Campillo the restaurant kitchen relies heavily on local suppliers and growers. Farms in Santa Rosa and Mendocino counties supply rabbits, chickens and produce, while the Pacific Ocean yields fish and seafood. The restaurant’s Basque specialties include poulet a la Basquaise; seafood crepes rich in bay scallops, red snapper, crab and shrimp, and boudin noir with apples and potatoes.”



*New Year’s Eve 1988:*

*Standing: Louis Marticorena, Marie Helen Azcona, Michel Oxoby, Michelle Arduain Ourtiague, Emile Castanchoa, Christian Ourtiague, Johanna Castanchoa Raymond, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde, Rosemary Goyeneche (on the Catering Board since 1998), Eric Sanchez, Bernadette Petoteguy Jensen, Joe Jordan. Kneeling: Robert Lafitte.*



*Manager Louis Marticorena was also a Chef extraordinaire, creating pastries like the croquembouche (cream puff tree) he served with Arantxa Machin (center) and Jose Pepe Sanchez (right).*

### October 17, 1989 - Loma Prieta Earthquake

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck the Bay Area at 5:04 pm, just before the third game of the World Series at Candlestick Park; the worst earthquake since 1906. The tremor collapsed a section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. Damage was estimated at almost three billion dollars in San Francisco.

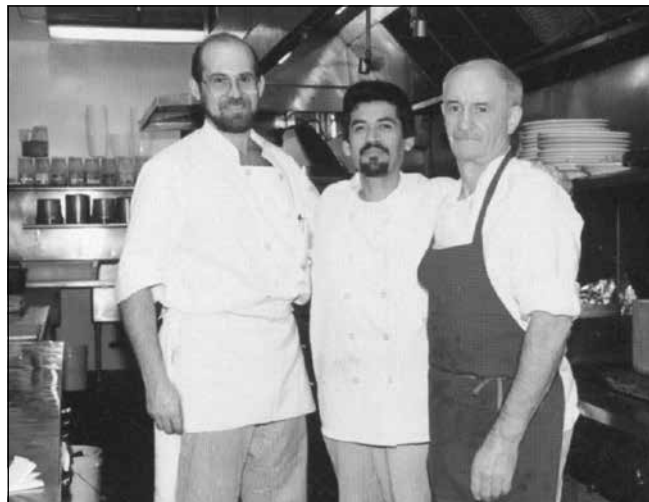
Denise Ourtiague, BCC member working as a waitress in 1989 has a vivid memory of the earthquake. “I was there the night of the earthquake in 1989. It was a Monday. We were setting up the tables for 150 people the next day. Monique Falxa wanted to drag me out of the building, and I didn’t want to go. I was grabbing the bar in the Banquet Room, like I was going to hold it! Monique stayed there with me. How many times did she say, ‘kauska si da’ (stubborn)! All the bottles were on the ground. It was pretty shaky. The kantxa had a big crack, too. Louis (Marticorena) was in the parking lot. He could see the building going like this (hands swayed back and forth) – and he was so worried because the workers were inside. ...He said he didn’t know what to do. He looked white as a ghost. He had a responsibility; it was a closed day, but we went to set up for the next day. They were cooking the chickens which we were unable to serve because the earthquake forced us to close. They called some homeless places, and they took all the chicken already cooked.

We lost in one way, but we made somebody else happy. It wasn’t open for a few days to clean up the mess and the cracks and to check the pipe lines.”

Monique Falxa vividly remembers that day as well and her great frustration that Denise was not running outside with everyone else. Monique said, “I saw the chandeliers swaying back and forth and making a lot of noise and heard the dishes crashing on the floor. It was scary! When I saw the floor rolling (her hands made a motion like waves rippling up and down), I thought, ‘This is it!’ I’d never experienced an earthquake and thought the Center was going to fall on us, and I was going to die! Everyone had left the Center, but Denise stayed behind holding on to the bar.”

Two days after the earthquake BCC Bartender Joe Jordan created a drink that could indeed cause the seismograph in everyone’s stomachs to go off the Richter scale! His delicious *Shake and Quake* drink was recognized in *Bartender Magazine* which goes all over the United States, and Joe applied and was issued a Cocktail right for the recipe. (1 oz. Furst Bismarck, 1 oz. Schonauer Apfel Schnapps, and 1 oz. Sweet & Sour Mix. Fill with soda and stir. Add a dash of Blackberry Brandy and a dash of Sloe Gin. Garnish with lime and cherry)

Joe was also the winner of a three way tie for First Place with the Best Picon Punch. The contest was sponsored by Remy Martin of New York, Cointreau and the Picon



Above, left: Restaurant workers in the late 1980s: Diane Ourtiague Arduain, Monique Falxa, Mike Indart, Denise Ourtiague and Isabelle Oillarburu. In a 2006 interview Denise recalled the effect of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake on the BCC. Monique also talked about her ‘first earthquake’ experience.

Above, right: The BCC’s 5th Head Chef, Patrick Farjas with Assistant Chefs Roque Madrigal and Joseph (Tote) Biscar. BCC President Joseph Castanchoa said, “In the 1980s following Saturday night weddings and parties which went until the early morning hours, banquet tables would often still be up and un-cleared Sunday mornings. In addition to waking up to lock the building and gate when the partiers finally left, Joe (Biscar) would help the morning waitresses clear, sweep, and re-set the tables before the members came to eat.”

Left: Joe Jordan, BCC bartender from the early eighties to 2007 when he passed away, made an award-winning Picon punch, a traditional Basque drink, and received a cocktail right for his *Shake and Quake* drink inspired by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.



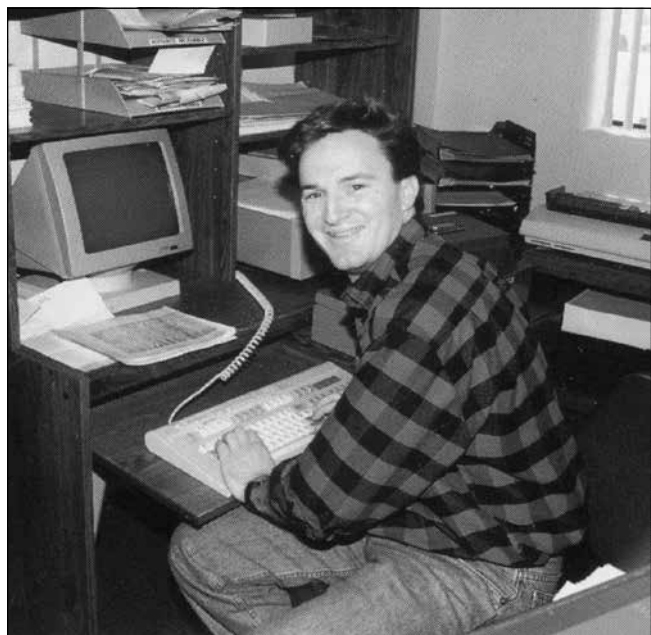
people. It was held at Washington Bar and Grill in North Beach on November 10th. Other participants included bartenders from Moose's Restaurant at Washington Square, Star's Restaurant, Alfred's and other fine restaurants.

In 1990 *Gourmet Magazine* said, "(The Basque Cultural Center) maintains a large and pleasant restaurant with a high standard. The traditional cooking is several cuts, and then some, above the old boardinghouse fare, and the value is still remarkable." In 1991 *Dining Out* wrote, "The space is charming in its simplicity, with red carnations sprucing up each table, a cozy bar stretching the length of the room and lots of birthday singing all around. This seems to be a popular place in which to celebrate, particularly for families. And the service proves unfailingly gracious and efficient."

Members turned out in great numbers to have one of Louis Marticorena's desserts – especially his Grand Marnier soufflé. Perhaps it was this special dessert that caused great attendance at several of the Women's Club annual dinners. 1993 was a memorable year for Louis

personally as well as professionally. As a Master Chef he did a first-of-its-kind Basque cooking workshop at the first Basque Cultural Day in October. (Due to its great success, he did two more cooking demonstrations during the 1994 and 1998 Cultural events.) That same year Louis and Marie became grandparents of not one, but two grandchildren born on the same day, June 11, 1993!!! Daughter Yvette and Roland Cherbero had a son, Nicholas, and daughter Jeannine and Kurt Grismer had a girl, Jacqueline.

In 1999 Louis Marticorena was honored by the French Consulate and the Klika and Zazpiak Bat dancers. On June 9, 2002, after almost 20 years of service as the BCC's Manager and Chef, Louis changed his chef hat and apron for a Raider's Cap and fishing rod to enjoy a well deserved retirement..... but not entirely. The week of festivities of the 25th Anniversary ended with a crowning touch on Sunday night with Louis's "kauserak", another special dessert that ended several BCC celebrations during its first 25 years.



*Above, left: Emile Castanchoa was the BCC's Assistant Manager (called the Office Manager) during its first decade.*



*Above, right: Louis Marticorena (right) at the 2006 24th Anniversary celebration with Chris Hildebrant (left) of Chrissa Imports who's been a generous contributor to many BCC celebrations.*

*Right: Louis Marticorena began work as the BCC's Manager on his wedding anniversary January 14, 1986. He retired in 2002, but continues contributing his culinary expertise. He's pictured with his wife, Marie, in 2006.*





### 1996 - Francois Camou, Current Manager Started

With the assets of a Masters Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and language proficiency in French, Basque and English, Francois Camou took over the management of the Basque Cultural Center in March 1996. He was hoping to play a lot of handball, but has been too busy managing the Center.

Months after becoming Manager, the BCC Board expanded the restaurant and on August 25, 1996 Francois Camou welcomed members to toast the remodeled restaurant. He said that more than 250 lunches and dinners are typically served each day and the enlarged restaurant could accommodate 90 customers at one seating.

2002 saw two honors for the BCC Restaurant. The Board of Directors of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce honored the Basque Cultural Center with the 2002 Outstanding Business Award in the category of Business Success. Chamber of Commerce President Andy Scherer honored Manager Francois Camou as the BCC representative at a dinner on January 24, 2003.

In addition the restaurant was rated as a "jewel" on "the edge of industrial" South Francisco in a Zagat review. The letter of congratulations said, "Your restaurant has been featured in the recently published Zagat Survey 2002 Restaurant Guide, and we are pleased to present you with a Zagat Decal signifying your inclusion. By prominently placing this decal in your establishment, your customers will recognize that your restaurant has been included in the

most trusted restaurant guidebook in the world. As part of our survey process we solicit the opinions of hundreds of thousands of diners every year. The resulting ratings and comments are the basis for our best-selling guides covering 120 markets worldwide." The Basque Cultural Center Restaurant has been featured in the Zagat Restaurant Guide every year since its initial inclusion.



*The restaurant was remodeled in 1996, the same year Francois became Manager. Two wheelchair accessible bathrooms were added along with a 'new room' (above) that has a maximum capacity to seat 50.*



*2001 Restaurant workers with Louis and Francois who have managed the BCC during most of the BCC's first 25 years: Hostess Anna Inda, Louis Marticorena, Alyse Goni, Vanson Suen, Aimee Goyhenetche, Harold Piel, Veronique Balcea, Joe Jordon, Joseph Goyhenetche, Manager Francois Camou.*

*The Center was already familiar to Francois when he considered managing it. He participated in the NABO handball finals at the Center in November 1986. The BCC's Claude Oyharcabal and Maurice Negueloa (left) were victorious over the future BCC Manager and Mike Aphessetche (right) representing Chino.*



*On behalf of the Basque Cultural Center Restaurant, Manager Francois Camou was presented the Outstanding Business Award for Business Success in 2002 by State Senator Jackie Speier (our 2008 Congress woman representing the 12th district of California).*



*BCC Manager Francois Camou in 2006 (left) at a member function with his wife, Lisa, and children Daniel (born in 1998) and Juliette (born in 2001) and (right) with his brother Alain in 2006.*

*“Basque in glory with family-style dining.”*

“Basque in glory with family-style dining.” This was the title of Patricia Unterman’s January 18, 2007 article in *The Examiner* which began, “San Francisco used to be known for its Basque restaurants, especially in North Beach, where young and old on a budget congregated for huge, hearty, family-style dinners of really good quality at astonishingly cheap prices.....I didn’t realize how much I missed these generous, low-key meals until I ate, recently, at the Basque Cultural Center, a bona fide community center and cultural institution hidden away in a residential neighborhood in South San Francisco....”

This article is a reminder of the dinner specials served family style that are a signature of the Basque dining experience. And while the entrees have changed at the BCC, the family-style dinner specials have always generously included soup, salad, TWO entrees and ice cream from 1982 through 2007!

There are specials each day at lunch and dinner in addition to the family style choices. The cuisine has an upscale appeal while welcoming in the casual diner. From various preparations of lamb, duck legs and fresh fish, the restaurant serves large portions with the flare of the old country. Thursday lunch is one of the most popular boasting lamb shanks as an entrée with meat so tender it doesn’t even require a knife.



*Michel Veron became the BCC’s Head Chef in 1996. He stopped working in 1999, but returned in 2001 and is the BCC’s current Head Chef.*

**FAMILY STYLE DINNER SPECIALS**

<b>Day of Week</b>	<b>1982 Menu Items</b>	<b>1982 Price</b>	<b>2007 Menu Items</b>	<b>2007 Price</b>
Tuesday	Oxtail stew and Roast Leg of Lamb	\$7.95	Chicken Crepe and Veal Roast	\$17.95
Wednesday	Sweetbreads and Roast Beef	\$7.95	Oxtail Stew and Pork Loin with applesauce	\$17.95
Thursday	Lamb stew and Chicken	\$7.95	Veal Cheeks and Poulet Cordon Bleu	\$17.95
Friday	Trout and Prime Rib	\$8.50	Salmon Basquaise and Leg of Lamb	\$18.95
Saturday	Beef tongue and Veal Cordon Bleu	\$8.50	Seafood Crepe and Roast New York	\$18.95
Sunday	Sweetbreads and Cross-Ribs	\$7.95	Lamb Stew and Prime Rib	\$18.95





*Left: Marie Helene Sapparrart was the BCC's Assistant Manager from October 1999 to February 2008. She met her husband Jose Solis at the BCC while both of them worked there.*



*Right: 2001 kitchen crew: Juan Carlos Hernandez, Jose Solis, Jean Michel Duhalde (who started in 1996 and is a current Sous Chef), Miguel "Hipolito" Ramirez.*



*24th Anniversary in 2006: BCC's first Head Chef (and later Executive Chef of San Francisco's Carnelian Room) Gabrielle Elicetche, Marc Unhassobiscay visiting from Euskal Herria, and current Sous Chef Philippe Garat who started in 2000.*



*2006 Employee Appreciation dinner: Katie McGill, Pembe Ozgurgen, Maria Arriada, Aimee Goyhenetche, Deborah Marshall, Anna Inda and Stephanie Pereira.*



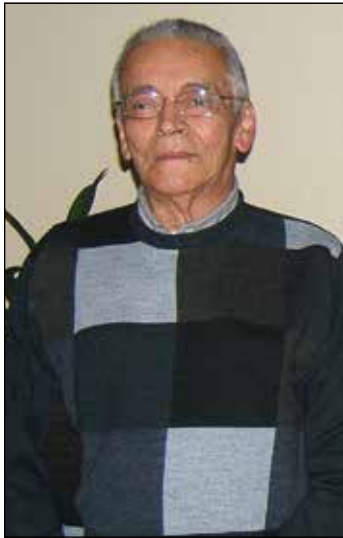
*2006 Employee Appreciation dinner: Back: Walter Castro, Jose Santana, Tony Molina, Robert Walker, Gabriel Chavez, Carlos Barrera, Juan Carlos Hernandez and Carlos Szarata Zuniga Front Center: Aita Martxel Tillous and Gary Greenwald.*

## What Makes the BCC So Great?

According to Nancy Zubiri it's the restaurant that makes the Basque Cultural Center great! "Anyone who has visited some of the Basque cultural centers in the United States will admit the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center is by far the best. While researching my book, *Travel Guide to Basque America*, I talked to people from all the Basque clubs in the United States. Most clubs would like to have their own center, but only a few do, and none can compare with the one in South San Francisco. I have heard this from many Basque-Americans. I believe this is mostly due to the original founders' foresight to include a restaurant and bar in the plans. Because of the restaurant, there

are always staff people at the club. As a result, the center is always open and members can drop by anytime for all kinds of activities, particularly handball. This accessibility to the center and the handball court has played a major part in keeping the Basque culture alive in the Bay Area."

Undoubtedly what makes the restaurant great are the outstanding reviews throughout its first quarter century about the mouthwatering menu selection. In its 25th Anniversary year the BCC Restaurant was voted *Best Bite of 2007* on a list of the top ten places for great tastes in San Francisco!



*Carlos Collado (left) has been the BCC's Janitor since 1986. Anna Inda (right) has been the BCC Restaurant hostess since September 23, 1987. She connects her BCC start date with Pope John Paul II's visit to the United States. He was in a motorcade going down Geary Street in San Francisco as Anna was on her way to her first day of work at the BCC. Carlos and Anna were honored by the BCC in 2010 for their years of dedicated work.*



*2007 Catering Board: Back Row: Jean Gorostiague, Roland Cherbero, Roger Minhondo, Gratien Etchebehere, Eric Garat. Front Row: Rosemary Goyeneche, Jean Baptiste Lorda, Alphonse Archeritogaray, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray.*

### Manager Francois Camou at the 25th Anniversary

"I want to congratulate the members of the Basque Cultural Center on their 25th Anniversary. It is inspiring to see how the need to keep pilota in the Bay Area alive began the hunt for a location for a handball court. Today, we are all proud to be members of one of the world's best cultural centers. Not only as a Basque center, but even locally we're envied by all ethnic clubs including Italian, German, Chinese, Irish, Spanish, Palestinian and Mexican who come regularly to see why we are so successful.

I am proud to be here during this momentous occasion as your General Manager. Many people, including myself, were not sure what I was doing when I had accepted the position. Yet, I was determined to do my best. I did not want only to commit to the manager, so within my first three months I also purchased a membership from Pascal Arbelbide who was returning to the Basque Country.

In September 1993, I received a call from Alphonse Acheritogaray asking me to attend a catering meeting in December and discuss the possibility of taking the reigns at the Center. However, in December, I received another call saying that Louis was going to stay on as Manager. No problem, I already had a career with the Pebble Beach Company and was honored for being thought of.

A year later, Lisa and I got married and ten months after we purchased a house in Monterey. Two months later, almost two years after the first call, Mr. Acheritogaray called and asked me to come to the January 1996 meeting. I remember that first meeting and Etienne Jorajuria, BCC

President, asking me what I could do to make the center better. I did not know any improvements were needed!

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Basque Cultural Center, I am proud to begin my twelfth year as General Manager. Thanks in part to the Catering and BCC Board of Directors for giving me the liberty to build the business of the restaurant. I remember when I asked the Catering Board why the member discount was only used for banquets and suggested rewarding the members that come to the restaurant on a regular basis. My motion was granted and a 10% discount was honored in the dining room. Three months went by and the board saw no major financial impact on the business, so they decided to raise the discount to 20%. The BCC's response soon after was to lower the dues in half because the rent checks were constantly increasing.

Besides being a world renowned cultural center, the restaurant has become famous with yearly reviews from Zagat and numerous newspaper reviews. By allowing the restaurant to flourish, we are able to continue to improve the facilities and still provide reasonable prices for members and patrons. Also the restaurant enables the BCC to budget the many cultural activities that we enjoy throughout the year.

I want to thank Alphonse Acheritogaray, the Catering and BCC Board of Directors over the years, the kitchen and dining room staff and all the members for the success of the Basque Cultural Center."



*Left: BCC President Philippe Acheritogaray (center) awarded "two members that have been serving over 25 years on the Catering Board and have significantly contributed to the success of the restaurant, Alphonse Acheritogaray (left) and Roger Minhondo (right) with the BCC's Bizi Emankorra lifetime contribution award in 2010. Alphonse did his apprenticeship in Biarritz and at 19 was a chef training two apprentices. He worked in restaurants in Lourdes and Paris and immigrated to San Francisco in 1961 where he worked as a chef at L'Orangerie and then for the Gordon Getty family, retiring in 2000. Roger also completed his training in Biarritz and worked in Paris. Roger came to the United States in 1970 and was sponsored by Raymond Coscarat to work in his restaurant in San Rafael, Le Chalet Basque. Two years later Roger started the Gernika restaurant in Sausalito which he ran very successfully for over 25 years. In 2002 Roger had an opportunity to take over the restaurant he started at when he came to the United States and now runs Le Chalet Basque.*



*Right: Following the 28th Anniversary Mass, Nick Bidaurreta performed the Agurra (Dance of Honor) for the 2010 recipients of the BCC's Bizi Emankorra award. Alphonse (right) joined the Catering Board in 1983 and Roger (center) joined in 1984.*



## KABALKADA ❖ CAVALCADE

Carnival processions were important celebrations all over Euskal Herria that historically took place during Mardi Gras. However, they declined during World War II and never fully recovered their splendor. They are most characteristic of the province of Behe Nafarroa. There are several characters in the cavalcade and an order in their processing.

At the Basque Cultural Center a procession traditionally takes place at every Anniversary and celebrations that have Mass. While all of them have several Kabalkada characters, the tenth and twenty-fifth cavalcades were the longest as they introduced more characters including the Zigantiak and the Bolantak.

### *Makilariak*

The MAKILARIA leads the procession. Similar to a drum major he twirls a baton while marching or dancing to the music of the Klika.



*Franxoa Bidaurreta was the Makilaria at both the Opening and 25th Anniversary of the Basque Cultural Center. On March 28, 1982 he led the Klika out of the kantxa following the Inaugural Mass (left). On February 17, 2007 he was joined by two Makilari, Francois Camou and his son, Daniel. Together they led the cavalcade into the BCC to celebrate the 25th Anniversary (right).*



Left: In 1995 BCC President Etienne Jorajuria said, "It seems that each year someone in our Basque family adds something new and wonderful for our enjoyment. Alain Salumbide (left) has awed us with his baton skills for a couple of years at the picnics. This past year our youth are learning the baton skills, and both Michael Curutchet and Philip Irola did some fancy twirling and tossed their batons from the floor nearly to the ceiling of the kantxa!"

Philip Irola (below, left) and Michael Curutchet were Makilari at the 1994 Los Banos picnic. In 1995 Michael Curutchet (below, center) tossed his baton (right) even higher than the ceiling of the kantxa and still caught it to great applause at the San Francisco picnic in Petaluma.





## Zapurrak

The ZAPURRAK are an influence of the French army. They wear tall hats covered with black wool with mirrors on the front, leather aprons, and carry wooden axes over their shoulders. According to Juan Antonio Urbeltz, noted expert of Basque dance and culture, the origin of this character is the “basa jauna” (wild man) of Basque mythology.



*Pierre Etchebarne (left) and Andre Larre (right) were the Zapurrak at the March 27, 1982 opening of the BCC.*



*Simon Bidaurreta and Pierre Etchebarne were the Zapurrak at the 10th Anniversary in 1992 (left) and Alain Saroberry and Simon Bidaurreta were the Zapurrak in 1994 at the San Francisco picnic (right).*

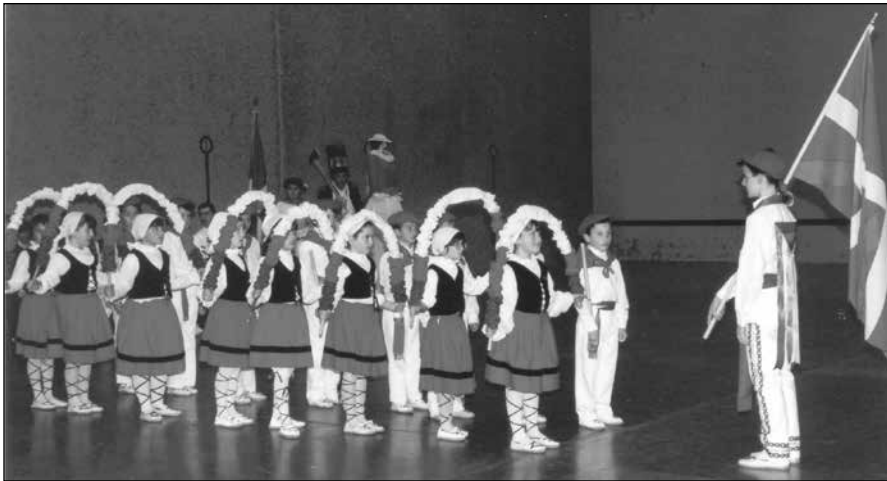


*Shane Chamalbide-Torpey and Nicolas Bidaurreta were the Zapurrak at the 25th Anniversary in 2007.*



## *Banderariak*

The BANDERARIAK are usually two young men who carry the Ikurriña (Basque flag) and the American flag. The Ikurriña Dantza traditionally begins the BCC's festivities and dance presentations to pay tribute to the Basque flag and the Basque homeland. In *Basque Dance*, John Ysursa said, "One interpretation is that this is an ancient ritual of petitioning for divine protection."



*Philip Elicagaray (left) carried the Ikurriña at the 1992 10th Anniversary. The Gazteak Group is doing the Ikurriña Dantza. Girls: Stephanie Etcheverria, Nathalie Sorhouet, Aimee Goyhenetche, Katrina Elicagaray, Celeste Etchepare, Nicole Lafitte, Lisa Etchepare, Michelle Woodland. Boys: Philippe Irola, unknown, Michael Curutchet, Mark Sorhouet, Tommy Curutchet, Joseph Goyhenetche, Tony Huarte.*

*Below, left: Marcel Castanchoa and Eric Oillarburu were the Banderariak in the mid-90s.*



*Below, right: Shane Chamalbide-Torpey unfurls the Ikurriña at the 24th Anniversary in 2006 as the other dancers bow down to pay tribute to it.*



*There were three Banderariak at the 2007 25th Anniversary: Jean Luc Chiramberro (far left), Jerome Goyhenetche (center) and Marcel Castanchoa (far right). The 25th Anniversary Cor de Chasse musicians were Thomas Curutchet, Alain Urruty, Begnat Goyhenetche (who played the French horn at the 1982 Opening) and Philip Elicagaray. Second from left is Johnny Curutchet who taught many youth to play the bugle and keep the San Francisco Klika replenished with enthusiastic participants during the BCC's first quarter century.*

## Zigantiak

The ZIGANTIAK are female giants, two to three meters tall and lightweight. Their clothing has changed over the years from elaborate “belle époque” dresses to white dresses with a red blouse and a white txapela. The Zigantiak made their United States debut in 1992 at the Basque Cultural Center. These two giants, one of the oldest traditions in the Cavalcade in Behe Nafarroa, were made especially for the ten year anniversary by Pierre Etcharren and his daughter, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea. Pierre built the frames, bodies and heads, and Valerie made the clothes for the giant ladies affectionately named Maritxu and Mirentxu!



*Left: Eric Oillarburu (left) and Nicole Ocafrain (right) carried the Zigantiak on their shoulders in their United States debut in the 1992 10th Anniversary cavalcade.*

*Right: Erik Kvarna (left) and Matthew Etchepare (right) carried the Zigantiak and Jerome Goyhenetche (center) was one of three Banderariak at the 25th Anniversary in 2007.*

## Basa Andereak

Historically, these wild women occupied the spot that the nexkatoak (young girls) take more frequently now. In some versions they dressed raggedly and in others they dressed more elegantly. Traditionally their faces are covered with some sort of veil. The BCC introduced the Basa Andereak at the 10th Anniversary and they were brought back for the 25th Anniversary.

*Left: Marie Helene Sapparrart Solis, Evelyne Etcharren, and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea were three of the Basa Andereak introduced in 1992 at the 10th Anniversary. The other ‘wild women’ not pictured were Christelle Alfaro, Diane Etcheverry, Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo and Idoia Salaburu Urruty.*

*Right: Nathalie Iturburua (left) and Danielle Espinal (right) are two of the Basa Andereak at the 25th Anniversary.*





## *Dantzariak*

The DANTZARIAK are those who dance following the cavalcade and historically are a more recent addition to the procession. At the BCC the Gazteak and Zazpiak Bat dancers perform. On the 10th Anniversary adults joined the cavalcade in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Zazpiak Bat Dancers. At the 25th Anniversary nexta-toak (girls) were joined by the Bolantak dressed in white with multicolored ribbons streaming down their backs. They wear a silk scarf around the back of their necks, the ends of which are tucked into the front of the pants like suspenders. Their pants are decorated with ribbons or bells.

### **Valerie Etcharren Arrechea**

Valerie Etcharren Arrechea has been the teacher of the Gazteak and Zazpiak Bat dance groups since 1984 and the Director since 1989 when her father, Pierre, retired. In addition to teaching all ages of Basque youth, in 1998 she opened up Basque dancing to adults of all “Ages and Stages” on the second Thursday of each month at the BCC. She has been an outstanding Basque dancer throughout most of the BCC’s first quarter century. She represented the San Francisco Bay Area with Jean Flesher in performing in the NABO dance troupe Iparaize. The dance group was formed from the United States finest Basque dancers to perform in Argentina.

Valerie became an expert on the txistu (a one-handed, vertical nose flute with three holes) to lead the dancers in practices and performances. She has offered Txistu

lessons since 1994 to those who have a beginning curiosity in playing this Basque instrument as well as to those who have several years of playing it, perhaps from Udaleku (Basque Cultural Summer Camp). Traditionally the txistu is accompanied by the danbolin (a small closed drum played with a single mallet) which Valerie Etcharren Arrechea has mastered as she has mastered Basque dancing.

While Valerie’s teaching and instrumental talents have been visible throughout the BCC’s first 25 years, many are unaware that she has done the majority of the costume sewing since 1989. She said, “There were three people who helped me with costume sewing for the 10th Anniversary Kabalkada: Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde, Elise Martinon Negueloua, and Marie Helene Sapparrart Solis. Yvette Etcheverry and Linda Echeverry Lacourrege have helped sew big group costume parts as well.”



*Valerie taught and led the Zazpiak Bat women dancers in the San Juan Zortziko dance of honor during several of the BCC’s Anniversary Masses.*



*At the BCC’s 11th Anniversary in 1993 Valerie played the txistu and danbolin to accompany the Euskal Dantzak.*





*The Txistu players at the 1982 BCC Opening (left) were Mattin Zubieta, Daniel Iribarren and Christian Iribarren. The txistu players at the BCC's 26th Anniversary in 2008 (right) were Valerie Etcharren Arrechea and Caroline Izoco Chiramberro.*



*Bandera Dantza - (making the Basque flag with cloth) mid-80s. Clockwise from top of the cross: Michelle Arduain Ourtiague, Isabelle Goyeneche Duhalde (costume seamstress), Yvette Gorostiague Fantham, Lisa Negueloua Quigley, Yvonne Goyhenetche Wood, Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi, (unknown), Anita Curutchet Ratra, Jaqueline Unhassobiscay, Rhonda Arotzarena Scharton, Evelyne Ourtiague Young and Joelle Iribarren.*



1992 Tenth Anniversary: Idoya Salaburu Urruty, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Angele Elicagaray, Isabelle Oillarburu, Marie Helene Sapparrart Solis, and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea in costumes from Navarra made for the dance Axuri Beltza.

Below: June 1994 Uztai Haundi (Big Arc) dance. Back Row: Isabelle Oillarburu, Danielle Cordova Camou, Nicole Cordova, Natalie Oroz Barreneche. Front Row: Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, Evelyne Etcharren, Elise Martinon Negueloua and Marie Helene Sapparrart Solis.



Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Zazpiak Bat Dancers at the 1992 10th anniversary of the BCC:  
 Standing: Guillaume Irola, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Mayte Ocafrain, Dominique Berhan, Jean Gorostiague, Yolanda Gorostiague, Henri Ocafrain, Johnny Curutchet, and Pierre Etcharren (who began teaching the Gazteak group in 1962). Kneeling: Maria Arriada, Bernadette Iribarren, Angele Goyeneche, Anna Iriartborde. Bernadette Iribarren Iribarren was in the original Zazpiak Bat dancers in 1961.





**Jean Flesher**

“I’ve been involved in several clubs over the years, teaching their dance groups, and in fact helped to start a couple of dance groups. When I moved to the Bay Area in 1986, I was approached by several people to teach the dance group. The experience was rewarding and there was a talented group of young ladies dancing at the time.

However, probably the most rewarding experience in my dance instruction history was the success with the young men that I taught in 1992 and 1993. At the time, the general consensus was that there never would be a young men’s dance group again in the Bay Area. ‘There wasn’t time to dance and do klika’, ‘there wasn’t interest’, ‘the young men think that dancing is only for women’, were responses that I heard again and again. However, I was approached by Valerie Etcharren and a couple of young men to try and start a group, and they proceeded to prove everybody wrong. There actually was interest, we all danced and most also played klika, and they did fantastic things. With one hour a week and some discipline they were able to learn several dances very well and pulled off some great performances including a couple of NABO conventions. They showed that they were proud of their culture, were interested in doing a good job and did have talent. Some had never danced before in their lives. I don’t think that I will ever forget those young men and their dance group.”



*Jean Flesher*



1



2



3





*Left: Zazpiak Bat men dancers at the 1993 NABO Convention in Elko. Teacher Jean Flesher (left) watches Philip Elicagaray's kick. Right: Xavier Ocafrain.*



*Left to right:  
1) James Goyhenetche  
2) Michael Indart  
3) Zazpiak Bat men dancers at the 1993 San Francisco Basque Club picnic.  
4) David Indart  
5) Bernard Ithurralde*

4

5

## Dance of Honor

“While liturgical dance once characterized many religious celebrations, it has essentially disappeared, and once again, the Basque country serves as a ‘living museum’ of things lost.” John Ysursa, *Basque Dance*, Chapter 5. Centuries ago, the Agurra (Dance of Honor) was only a religious dance performed around the altar during the Eucharistic Acclamation in celebration of the Body of Christ. Today the Agurra is also performed when someone is being honored.

The Zazpiak Bat women dancers did the San Juan Zortziko dance of honor throughout the BCC’s first quarter century. An early performance was in 1988 for

the President of the Basque Country, Lehendakari Jose Antonio Ardanza, when he visited the Basque Cultural Center. In 2007 the young women honored the NABO Bizi Emankorra recipients at the 25th Anniversary. The Zazpiak Bat young men first did the Agurra in 1996 at the BCC’s 14th Anniversary Mass. Gracian Goyhenetche said, “Joe (Goyhenetche) was a fabulous dancer. He could jump and kick as high as the best of the dancers and was so graceful and agile. The Basque priest often asked him to do the Dance of Honor after the Consecration at Mass. Because I was part of the choir, I could see him up close. It made me so proud to see him honoring Our Lord in front of all of the Basque people.”



*Mark Sorhouet performed the Agurra with Joseph Goyhenetche at the 14th Anniversary Mass in 1996 (left) and with Nicolas Bidaurreta at the 25th Anniversary in 2007 (right).*



*Left: In 2004 Shane Chamalbide-Torpey, Mark Sorhouet, Jerome Goyhenetche and Nicolas Bidaurreta did the Ezpata Dantza (Sword Dance of Honor) during Mass at the San Francisco picnic.*

*Right: The 2004 Zazpiak Bat Dancer photo shows all the young men and some of the young women who’ve done the Dance of Honor during the BCC’s 1st 25 years. Back (L to R): Chantal Etcheverry, Anne Marie Chiramberro, Aimee Goyhenetche, Annette Erdozaincy, Martine Jambon Idiart, Danielle Espinal, and Gabrielle Iturburua. Front (L to R): Nathalie Sorhouet, Jerome Goyhenetche, Joseph Goyhenetche, Shane Torpey, Mark Sorhouet and Nicolas Bidaurreta and Brittany Chamalbide. Not Pictured: Stephanie Chiramberro, Lisa Etchepare, Yazmine Ocafrain, Nathalie Urroz, Anthony Urroz.*





*2007 NABO Bizi Emankora recipients Pierre Etcharren, Grace Mainvil, and Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaute were honored by the SF Zazpiak Bat young women doing the San Juan Zortziko: Gabrielle Iturburua, Nathalie Sorhouet, Nathalie Iturburua, Brittany Chamalbide, Chantal Etcheverry, Danielle Espinal, AnneMarie Chiramberro.*

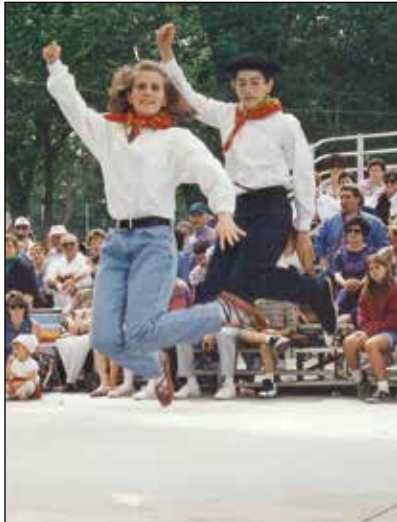
#### **Garaztarrak Arin Arin - San Francisco's Signature Dance**

Garaztarrak Arin Arin (a modern Basque dance) debuted at the Los Banos Picnic in 1995 and became the San Francisco Zazpiak Bat's signature dance. Teacher Valerie Etcharren Arrechea said, "We made friends with a few of the Garaztarrak dancers one summer (in the Basque Country), who let us come to their practice and learn the dance. We've been doing it ever since." At the 2008 Chino Convention John Ysursa commented that San Francisco's modern Basque dance Arin Arin inspires young dancers to learn Basque dancing.



*The Zazpiak Bat's signature dance, Arin Arin, debuted in 1995 with front line performers: Danielle Cordova Camou, James Goyhenetche, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, and Joseph Goyhenetche. Also dancing are Arantxa Arriada, Xabier Salaburu, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Eric Irola, and Mark Sorhouet.*





*Valerie Etcharren Arrechea and Joseph Goyhenetche excelled in high jumps with the first performance of the Arin Arin in 1995 at the Los Banos Picnic (left). In 2008 Lisa Etchepare and Nicolas Bidaurreta (right) upheld the excellence of San Francisco's much anticipated signature dance at the NABO Convention in Chino.*

### **Baso Dantza -The Highlight of Any Dance Performance**

Appreciating the BCC's Basque dancers at their best is when their timing and execution creates a photo in perfect unison. It's really not easy to do with the Baso Dantza – to have everyone on top of the wine glass at the very same moment without one drop of wine from any of the five glasses spill! However, when that moment is captured all the effort the young dancers put into practice week after week is captured in a masterpiece!



*Diane Etcheverry, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Nicole Cordova, Evelyne Etcharren and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea execute intricate steps around a glass of wine at the BCC's 17th Anniversary celebration in 1999 and then jump on top of it and balance there without spilling one drop of wine!*

2007 Zazpiak Bat and Gazteak Dancers at the 25th Anniversary



*Back Row: Maritxu, Yvette Gorostiague Fantham, Brittney Chamalbide, Nathalie Sorhouet, Danielle Espinal, Erik Kvarna, Shane Chamalbide-Torpey, Nicolas Bidaurreta, Jerome Goyhenetche, Valerie Gorostiague Montalvo, Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, Diane Etcheverry, Stephanie Oroz, Arantxa Arriada, Evelyne Etcharren, Mirentxu.*

*Middle Row: Franxoa Bidaurreta, Gabi Iturburua, Katrina Elicagaray, Chris Chamalbide, Ashley Winslow, Jesse Kvarna, Nathalie Iturburua, Elise Etcheverry, Erika Etcheverry, Anne Marie Chiramberro, Chantal Etcheverry, Francois Camou, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea.*

*Front Row: Amaia Etcheverry, Christine (Kiki) Etcheverry, Segan Ribí, Chloe Duhalde, Daniel Camou, Cedric Duhalde, Danika Ribí, Isabella Zalba, Joana Arrechea, Amanda Bushman, Madeleine Coli, Angelina Zamattia, Mattieu Acheritogaray, Vincent Kvarna, Julia Hurley, Nicole Ourtiague, Micaela Ribí, Joelle Ourtiague.*



## Musikariak – The Klika and Elgarrekin Choir

The BCC's MUSIKARIAK are the Elgarrekin Choir and Klika whose sounds signal the start of the cavalcade and occupy the last position of the procession.



Pierre Etcharren said, “The Klika developed from the French military marching band – so to say it is Basque – it really is not. Young Basque men learned to play the bugle or drums when they were drafted into the French Army. They brought their musical talents with them to the United States. Probably half of the Klika were in the French military marching band.

In the early 1960s Frederick Fuldain came up with the idea to form a Klika. I was at the Basque Club Directors' meetings where there was opposition to forming a San Francisco Klika. Frederick ordered the clarions in spite of the opposition. There was a band that disbanded and left drums behind. We salvaged about a half dozen drums from the top floor of Laraburu's Bakery. Jean Baptiste Saparart painted them with the Basque Flag. We still use some of the original drums from the 60s. (One of these



*Above, left: The sounds of the Klika announced that Mass was beginning as it led the Kabalkada into the kantxa at the 25th Anniversary in 2007 as it did every anniversary during its first quarter century.*

original drums painted by Jean Baptiste is pictured on the left.) We made our first appearance at the San Francisco Columbus Day Parade in October 1964.”

Today the San Francisco Klika is the only one in the United States to incorporate the playing of the cor de chasse (French horn). It is also the largest Klika due to the high number of second and third generation players that have maintained its excellence. Many of these players come from a tradition of playing in which their fathers and uncles had played in the Klika in earlier years. Many were taught to play at an early age by their dedicated teacher, Johnny Curutchet. Xabier Berrueta recalled, “Johnny Curutchet would teach us younger ones after handball practice. In the early 80's that included my brother Aitor, Patxi Machin, Mike Indart, David Indart and me.”

Dan Ourtiague said that he along with several young men his age just missed playing in the Klika at its Opening in 1982. “I was not in the Klika when it first opened. My first performance was in May 1982 at the NABO Convention in Bakersfield along with Bernard Ithurralde, my brothers Chris and Eric, Alain Anchartechahar and the Urruty brothers. We were in training, and in those days we had to be in training for one year before being able to perform in the Klika.”

The sounds of the Klika have been heard throughout the BCC's first quarter century announcing every Anniversary celebration and most Masses held at the Center. Since the BCC opened, the Klika has been led by Jean Paul Idiart, Edward Dunat, John Barreneche, Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., Alain Salumbide, Chris Bonson, Maurice Negueloua, Aitor Berrueta, Christophe Alfaro and Mark Sorhouet.





*The cor de chasse (French horn) is unique to the San Francisco Klika. At the 1982 Opening (left photo) the French horn was played by (left to right) Begnat Goyhenetche, Alain Erdozaincy (can't see face) and Noel Goyhenetche. At the 2007 25th Anniversary (right photo) the Cor de Chasse musicians were (left to right) Begnat Goyhenetche, Philip Elicagaray, Alain Urruty, and Thomas Curutchet.*



*The Klika's sounds announced and honored the consecration at Mass at every Anniversary as they did at the 26th Anniversary in 2008. BAC Lehendakari Juan Jose Ibarretxe is in the front row next to BCC President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman.*

*The Makilari at the 25th Anniversary Mass were (left to right) Daniel Camou, Dominic Camou and Francois Camou.*

Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., led the Klika during a good portion of the 1990s. In 1993 he announced weekly practices in the BCC's *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletters to prepare for the NABO Convention in Bakersfield. In 1995 BCC President Etienne Jorajuria thanked "Emile Goyhenetche, Jr. and the Klika for their hard work at weekly practices that resulted in the beautiful sounds at our 1995 13th Anniversary celebration." In 1998 under Emile, Jr., the San Francisco Klika won a prize for the Best Performer of the NABO Convention parade in Winnemucca.

Xabier Berrueta and Jean Pierre Elicetche coordinated the Klika for the 1996 NABO Convention in Gooding, Idaho. Xabi recalled, "The Klika had fun playing 'La Macarena', an old Spanish song from the 1960's that made a comeback and was the hit of the summer. Boise's Oinkari Dancers joined San Francisco's Zazpiak Bat Dancers in doing the Macarena's dance movements to the Klika's

music." In addition to being musically creative, the Klika exhibited great strength at the NABO Convention! Chris Bonson, Roger Bonson, Jean Pierre Elissetche, Bernard Ithurralde, Philip Labat, and Maurice Negueloua placed first by 'out tugging' the Boise runner ups and becoming the 1996 National Txoka Tira Champions. The Klika was responsible for San Francisco being the 1998 Txoka Tira Champions at NABO's Winnemucca Convention, too!

The 1997 NABO Convention in Chino (and its 40th Anniversary in 2008) was a tribute to all those in the United States who give of their time and talent to keep the Klika tradition alive! San Francisco presented the first all Basque-American Klika. Every Klika participant was born in the United States. These two years marked the largest assembly of Klika outside the Basque Country (combining San Francisco, Bakersfield and Chino).



*Left: The high number of Basque-American born players at the BCC's 16th Anniversary in 1998 demonstrates that the BCC's Klika will remain strong in the upcoming years. Back Row: Roger Bonson, Xavier Salaburu, Chris Bonson, James Goyhenetche, Marcel Castanchoa, Bernard Ithurralde, Philip Elicagaray. Middle Row: Roger Izoco, Tommy Curutchet, Francois Ithurralde, Xavier Berrueta, Xavier Ocafrain, Mark Sorbouet. Front Row: David Indart, Aitor Berrueta.*



*Sebastian Curutchet was in the Klika at the Opening of the BCC in 1982. He was still playing at the 24th Anniversary in 2006 (above).*

*The Cors de Chasse musicians were very clever and creative when they tossed and turned their French horns at the 1998 Winnemucca Convention. (No wonder the Klika won the prize for the Best Performer of the NABO Convention that year!)*



### Women in the Klika

Women were in the Klika in the BCC's early years. Michelle Arduain Ourtiague and Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra were 'batonists'. Anne Marie Ithurburn Goyhenetche and Denise Barreneche were cymbalists in the BCC's third Anniversary in 1985. Denise Azcona, Yvette Barreneche and Andrea Goyhenetche also played in the Klika.

In 2004 Aimee Marie Goyhenetche joined the Klika and made her debut at the BCC's Jaialdia Udazkeneko Besta. Her father, Gracian Goyhenetche said, "Aimee Marie is the first female – and at this date, the only female to play the bugle in the San Francisco Klika. I'm very proud of that in addition to her reputation for yelling the Irrintzina – long and strong."



*Shown in the photo above, Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra is the batonist at the first Los Banos NABO Convention in 1984 with brother Noel and father Emil (left) and brothers Begnat and Emile, Jr. (right). Emil Goyhenetche, Jr. led the Klika during the 1990s.*

*Ann Marie Ithurburn Goyhenetche and Denise Azcona (right) were cymbalists in the BCC's third Anniversary in 1985. Back Row: Begnat Goyhenetche, Alain Urruty, Pierre Labat, Xabier Berrueta, Steven Ithurralde, Francisco Machin, John Barreneche, Dominic Arotzarena, Edward Dunat, David Indart. Second Row: Bernard Ithurralde, Daniel Ourtiague, Johnny Curutchet. Third Row: Anton (Tony) Laxague, Michael Indart, Noel Goyhenetche, Aitor Berrueta, Philippe Iribarren, Eric Oillarburu, Joel Urruty. Drummers: Jean Flesher (large drum), Emile Goyhenetche, Jr., Michel Alfaro and Maurice Negueloua.*



*Aimee Marie Goyhenetche (left) made her debut in the San Francisco Klika at the BCC's Jaialdia Udazkeneko Besta in 2004. She is the first and only female bugle player in the Klika.*



Mark Sorhouet led the Klika at the BCC's 2007 25th Anniversary. His Klika spirit was expressed when Mark was the winner of the Basque Educational Organization's first \$300 scholarship contest in 2000 for submitting the best essay on "What Being Basque Means to Me". He wrote, "Being Basque is more than just being born into a unique cultural heritage. It is to live life with a passion that is expressed through our love of dancing, singing, handball, card playing, and the desire to preserve this from generation to generation. Basques form an informal brotherhood that allows them to always come together as old friends. To be Basque means also to have a jovial and free spirit, which accounts for our love of the outdoors, as well as our love of celebration and feasting. To be Basque means that you do all that you do to its fullest to bring fruition to your inner passion for life, family, friends, and heritage."



Mark Sorhouet (above, left) led the Klika at its 25th Anniversary. Cymbalist Xavier Salaburu (above, right) joined the Klika in 1992 when he was 14 years old. Xavier aptly expressed the sentiment of many of the young participants, "I joined the Klika because some of my really close friends are in it. My favorite memory of Klika is performing at picnics. I love being with my Basque friends and sharing the same interests."



**2007 Klika at the 25th Anniversary**

Top Row: Jean Luc Chiramberro, Johnny Curutchet\*\*, Tom Curutchet, Alain Urruty, Begnat Goyhenetche\*\*, Philip Elicagaray, Marcel Castanchoa. Second Row down: Arnaud Mendisco\*\*, Pierre Labat\*\*, James Goyhenetche, Eric Garat, Daniel Ourtiague, Francois Ithurralde, Bernard Ithurralde. Third Row down: Noel Goyhenetche\*\*, Frederick Alfaro, Remi Cuburu, Aitor Berrueta, Dave Indart, Michael Indart, John Falxa, Nicolas Biduarreta, Franxoa Bidaurreta\*\*, Chris Bonson, Roger Bonson, David Alfaro, Aimee Goyhenetche, Mark Sorhouet, Francois Camou, Shane Chamalvide-Torpey. Front Row: Rene Caballero, Michel Alfaro, Gratien Alfaro, Xavier Ocafrain, Maurice Negueloua\*\*, Xabier Salaburu, Daniel Camou, Henri Ocafrain.

\*\*played at the Opening of the BCC in 1982

## *Elgarrekin Choir*

The Basque choir “Elgarrekin” started in 1979. Jacques Unhassobiscay was determined to start a folk choir in San Francisco. Mattin Zubieta from Cambo was invited by the Basque Club of San Francisco to teach the Basque songs to those who were interested. By word of mouth and the concentrated efforts of Jacques and Mattin, a small group of singers began to get together. They so loved gathering to sing that when names were suggested for the newly formed choir, everyone immediately liked “Elgarrekin” because it means “all of us together”. Angele Goyeneche said, “Singing in the choir was our fun distraction since our youth. In the Basque Country I had choir practice every Sunday, and we sang for all events from marriages to funerals. The choir’s songs seem to brighten up every ceremony. At the same time, it’s a nice thing to unite at choir practice, like another ‘family’.”

The spinet piano in the Iribarren’s entry way was

where the young Basque choir met to interpret musical arrangements and put together their first repertoire. Yvette Urruty recalled, “We were about 7 or 8 people including my husband, Jean Baptiste, and I who attended practices at Jean Leon and Bernadette Iribarren’s home. Then we began to hold our practices at the Notre Dame des Victoires hall and more people continued to join. The reason we started singing was because there already was a Klika and txistu-laris, but no choir.”

The choir started to collect music, organize themselves as a four-part choir, meet regularly for practice, and perform. Mattin returned to the choir for the opening of the Basque Cultural Center in 1982 accompanying the choir with his txistu playing. By then the choir had grown to over 25 members. Practices have been at the Center on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. continuously during the first 25 years.



*Above: Elgarrekin Choir at the 1982 Inauguration*  
 Back Row: Jean Pierre Negueloua, Gracian Goyhenetche, Sébastien Curutchet, Théodore Ondarts, Jean Baptiste Urruty, Pierre Jaureguito, Jacques Unhassobiscay, Jean Paul Idiart, Jean Léon Iribarren, Juan Arrilaga, Pierre Etcharren, Guillaume Irola, Martin Minaberry, Mattin Zubieta. Front Row: Marie Simone Barreneche, Anna Iriartborde, Mayi Azcona, Kattalin Erdozaincy, Mayie Etcheverry, Bernadette Iribarren, Yvette Urruty, Danielle Michelena, Gracianna Uhalde, Malvina Oyharcabal, Jeanne Michelena, Mayte Ocafrain, Marie Helen Azcona, Mary Ann Goyhenetche Scully.



*“We started with Mattin Zubieta (left) at my house; before that we were singing with Father Tomei at Union Española (approx. 1963),”*  
 —Bernadette Iribarren.



*“Let’s not forget that being in the Elgarrekin Choir is a time we speak and learn our language, Euskara – the way we learned it and also the new ‘Unified Basque language’, Batua!” — Anne Marie Dubosco*

**Jeanne Mazeris**

Jeanne Mazeris was first asked to accompany the newly started choir on the piano. When Mattin Zubieta returned to the Basque Country, she took on the responsibilities as the Choir Director. Jeanne said, “In 1983, Mattin (again) returned to San Francisco and witnessed our progress. With his impetus, he encouraged and insisted that we record a cassette. His energy, drive, and humor were the push we needed. Notre Dame des Victoires Church had excellent acoustics, and a professional recording team set up their equipment in the nooks and crannies of the sacristy. The collaboration of everyone involved made for a successful session. We struggled, complained, laughed and cried; we became surprised and impressed with our own sound. In the end, we sang our hearts out very late into the night, exhausted and exhilarated by this unique and wonderful experience.”

Isabelle Laxague, a choir member since 1982, has fond memories of driving to Notre Dames Church for many consecutive nights to make the recording with Mattin Zubieta and Jeanne Mazeris. “I also appreciate the many sacrifices our directors have made for the Choir!”



*Members of the choir on the cover of the 1983 “Elgarrekin” CD recording:  
 Back Row: Jean Baptiste Urruty, Pierre Jaureguito, Jean Léon Ocafrain, Jean Léon Iribarren, Jean Goyeneche. Center Row: Jean Pierre Negueloua, Gracian Goyhenetche, Sébastien Curutchet, Théodore Ondarts, Jacques Unhassobiscay, Kattalin Erdozaincy, Jean Paul Idiart, Yvette Urruty, Bernadette Iribarren, Mayie Etcheverry, Danielle Michelena, Juan Arrilaga, Angèle Goyeneche, Mayte Ocafrain, Guillaume Irola, Pierre Etcharren, André Arduain, Martin Minaberry. Front Row: Suzanne Elicetche, Marie Simone Barreneche, Anna Iriartborde, Isabelle Laxague, Mayi Azcona, Yvonne Goyhenetche, Anita Curuchet, Joelle Iribarren, Michelle Arduain, Nicole Hauscarriague, Rhonda Arotzarena, Jeanne Michelena, Malvina Oyharcabal, Gracianna Uhalde, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagary, Mary Ann Goyhenetche Scully, Marie Louise Laxague, Jeanne Mazeris, Mattin Zubieta.*



### Gardnerville Contest and Pastoral Play

On April 23, 1988 the Elgarrekin choir participated in NABO's 1st Basque and Bertsolari singing contest in Gardnerville, Nevada, similar to the contest in Europe. Any person or group that was an amateur could participate. There were five categories of types of songs, all sung in Basque (old songs, new songs, rock, children 14 and under, Bertsolaris). The Elgarrekin Choir's second performance in Gardnerville was on September 16, 1989.

Mayie Etcheverry recalled, "In 1989 Father R. Idiart gave us a helping hand teaching us a comedy he wrote. Father Jean Pierre Etcheverry arranged all practices at the BCC to prepare for the show which we performed at the Los Banos Basque Festival in May 1989. The title was "Nevadarat Joan Nintzan" and the choir enjoyed singing parts of it as much as the Basque Community enjoyed listening to it."

Victoria Berrueta's favorite choir experience was this 'Pastoral' play in Los Banos. "I loved the experience very much, singing with the choir in a Basque play. Many good memories, but that was my favorite! We don't travel as much as we used to, but wherever we went I had a great time singing like in Boise, Elko, Chino, Bakersfield, Fresno, Los Banos, Reno, to name a few." Maite Ocafrain added, "It was stressful at times, afraid of not remembering the next line, but at the end, we all laughed and were pleased with our accomplishments. The best moment was having my own daughter, Isabelle, be our daughter in the play and my son, Xavier, played the role of alter server at the wedding along with my nephew, Henry."

Jeanne Mazeris directed the Choir at the BCC's 10th Anniversary in 1992 and continued as the director until mid-1994.



*1989 Pastoral Play in Los Banos: Guillaume Irola, Evelyne Etcharren, left. Choir participants: Theodore Ondarts, Yvette Barreneche, Gracian Goyhenetche, Yvette Saroberry, Anna Iriartborde, Marie Simone Barreneche, Isabelle Laxague, Victoria Berrueta, Jean Leon Iribarren, Yvette Urruty, Jean Leon Iribarren, Bernadette Iribarren, Mayie Etcheverry.*

*1989 Pastoral Play in Los Banos: Xavier Ocafrain, Aita Jean Pierre Etcheverry, Henri Ocafrain, Auguste Indart, Johnny Curutchet, Mayte Ocafrain, Isabelle Ocafrain.*



*Jeanne Mazeris directed the Elgarrekin Choir at the 10th Anniversary in 1992.*



**1994 Aita Martxel Tillous  
Became Elgarrekin Choir Director**

When Aita Martxel Tillous became the Basque Chaplain in June 1994 he also took on the responsibility of directing the Elgarrekin Choir. A few new members have joined the Choir Elgarrekin since 1994. Charles Moustirats was encouraged by his brother, Jean-Baptiste to join with him in Christmas 1997. Charles said, "Father Martxel Tillous is a very good teacher and his patience is enormous. That helps to keep all of us together. The nuns back home had me singing at four years of age, so I have been singing for as long as I can remember. At 76 years of age, I am one of the oldest members in the Choir. I don't know how much longer I will be able to sing. I wish younger men and women would join our Choir. Without singing, I think life would be monotonous."

Gracian Goyhenetche said, "My favorite memories singing at the Basque Cultural Center has been at the

Masses. To me it's wonderful to be there in the kantxa singing with the rest of the Basque Community looking down at us from the stands. It's not only the feeling of being part of the community but also offering our Basque songs and culture to our Lord. It's also great to have Jean Baptiste Moustirats direct us when Aita Tillous can't be with us." Yvette Urruty added, "Families especially appreciate it when we sing at the funeral Masses."

Gracianna Uhalde summed up the feelings of the Elgarrekin Choir singers, "I feel extremely fortunate to have been a part of the Basque choir. I joined in 1981 because I love to sing Basque songs...I also gained confidence in my singing voice because of the wonderful teachers such as Jeannie Mazeris and Aita Tillous. It is very important to keep the tradition of Basque singing alive! As I get older, my dream is to have the choir continue with the younger generation of Basques."



*Above: The Moustirats brothers, Jean Baptiste (left) and Charles (right) joined the choir in 1997. Jean Baptiste has directed the Elgarrekin Choir since 2007.*

*Left: Aita Martxel Tillous singing with the Elgarrekin Choir at the 2007 25th Anniversary.*



*Elgarrekin Choir in 2004: Back Row: Gracian Goyhenetche, Jean Baptiste Urruty, Jean Baptiste Moustirats\*, Charles Moustirats\*, Johnny Curutchet, Pierre Labat\*, Joseph Jorajuria\*, Henri Ocafrain, Jean Berhan, Andre Arduain, Pierre Etcharren, Jean Leon Ocafrain. Front Row: Marie Simone Barreneche, Gracianna Uhalde, Yvette Laxague, Victoria Berrueta, Yvette Urruty, Bernadette Iribarren, Mayte Etcheverry, Angele Goyeneche, Anna Iriartborde, Mayte Ocafrain, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray, Anne Marie Duboscq\*. (\*Members who joined the Elgarrekin since Aita Tillous became the Director.)*



*“I only hope that the younger Euskaldunak follow in our footsteps, because we’re not getting any younger! Just young at heart!”*  
 — Marie Simone Barreneche, Elgarrekin member since 1979



**2007 Elgarrekin Choir at the 25th Anniversary:**

*Back Row: Johnny Curutchet, Gracian Goyhenetche\*, Daniel Arrechea, Jean Baptiste Moustirats, Charles Moustirats, Jean Baptiste Urruty\*, Aita Martxel Tillous, Armand Lafitte, Robert Lafitte, Jean Pierre Elissetche, Jean Leon Ocafrain, Léon Sorhondo, Jean Berhan, Pierre Labat, André Arduain, Pierre Etcharren\*. Front Row: Germaine Alfaro, Marie Simone Barreneche\*, Gracianna Uhalde\*, Isabelle Laxague, Victoria Berrueta, Yvette Urruty\*, Bernadette Iribarren\*, Mayie Etcheverry\*, Angèle Goyeneche\*, Anna Iriartborde\*, Mayte Ocafrain\*, Antoinette Oroz, Christine Erdozaincy Elicagaray, Anne Marie Duboscq. (\* Members of the Choir since the 1982 Opening of the Center.)*



# THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

February 13th – February 18th, 2007

*Edozein txoriri, eder bere habia.*

Every bird thinks its own nest is beautiful.



The Ikurriña flew from the balcony of the South San Francisco City Hall for the week-long celebration.



## *President's Greeting in the 25th Anniversary Program*

Kaixo deneri,

"We have gathered to celebrate twenty five years of a vision that started long before there was a rocky dirt lot and some sketches on a few pieces of paper. Vision and desire became necessity transformed into reality and so here we are.

To the many of you who went through the labors and troubles of what in essence at one time was nothing more than a pipedream, there are not enough "eskerrak" in eskerrik asko to go around for bringing to fruition not just four walls and a roof but in all senses of the word, a united Basque community. It's a community that continues to grow and develop as we expand beyond Gure Euskal Etxea, our home, in our mission to extend our activities and projects, in an all inclusive environment, to all Basques, friends of Basques and those who have an affinity towards Basques.

A special thank you to the people and City of South San Francisco who we have nurtured a fostering relationship with over the years and will continue to in the years to come. South San Francisco personifies the open-minded awareness of plurality and the acceptance of all cultures, races and creeds which resonates throughout the Bay Area. The benchmark established here is envied throughout many parts of the world and even in parts of Euskal Herria. There are still parts of the Basque Country where fellow Basques cannot raise the Ikurriña, the Basque flag, in their own town halls. We Basques should be proud and thankful to be associated with a City who has allowed us to fly our beloved colors over City Hall without hesitation.

To those who have traveled from the different parts of the United States, Euskal Herria as well as Argentina....ongi etorri eta ongi pasatu. May your experience here with us be a memorable one and one that only leads to additional inter-community building in our diaspora network.

Lastly, I would like to address my generation of Bay Area Basques and subsequent generations. Enjoy this week and reflect upon what we have experienced and achieved over the past twenty five years. Remember, however, that the keys to the front door have been handed down to us by our forefathers and it is up to us to decide where our 'door of opportunity' will take us."

Eskerrik asko deneri,  
Xabier Berrueta, *Lehendakari*

*From the 25th Anniversary program:*

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**

**11:45 a.m.** Flag Raising Ceremony at the South San Francisco City Hall, 400 Grand Avenue, South San Francisco

**7:00 p.m.** Highlights of the First 25 Years of the Basque Cultural Center. Video presentation by Elizabeth and Jean Paul Barthe.  
*Admission: Free of Charge*

### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**6:00 p.m.** Joko Garbi (form of Jai-Alai) Exhibition Game featuring the Joko Garbi Champions from the Federation Kapito Harria (Uztaritz, France).  
*Admission: Free of Charge*

**7:00 p.m.** DINNER



*In front of South San Francisco City Hall after the Basque Flag was raised (lower right) to announce the beginning of the BCC's 25th Anniversary celebration.*  
*Back Row: Dan Ourtiague, Pierre Labat, Bernard Ithurralde, BCC Director Johnny Curutchet, Francois Ithurralde, Arnaud Mendisco, Felix Berrueta, South San Francisco Councilman Mark Addiego, BCC Vice-President Tony Espinal.*  
*Front Row: South San Francisco Vice Mayor Pedro Gonzalez, Council Member Karyl Matsumoto and Mayor Richard Garbarino; BCC Vice-President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, BCC Directors Jean Gorostiague and Pierre Etcharren.*



*BCC Vice-President Tony Espinal, Francois Ithurralde, BCC Director Johnny Curutchet, BCC Director Pierre Etcharren, Pierre Labat, BCC Vice-President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, BCC Asst. Secretary Philippe Archeritogaray, South San Francisco Mayor Richard Garbarino, BCC Director Jean Gorostiague, South San Francisco Council Members Mark Addiego and Pedro Gonzalez, Bernard Ithurralde, Arnaud Mendisco.*



The Silver Anniversary celebration of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center was announced by the sounds of the Klika at a Flag Raising Ceremony On February 13, 2007 at the South San Francisco City Hall. Klika representatives Johnny Curutchet, Pierre Labat, and Arnaud Mendisco had played at the Flag Raising for the Center's Opening ceremonies in 1982. The South San Francisco dignitaries were invited to a reception at the BCC following the raising of the Basque Flag which flew over South San Francisco during the week long celebration. In the evening the BCC's own videographers, Jean Paul and Elizabeth Barthe, presented highlights of a video history of the BCC's first 25 years.

At a February 15th dinner, BCC President Xabier Berrueta presented the City of South San Francisco with a plaque acknowledging their support of the Basque Cultural Center throughout its first quarter century. South San Francisco Mayor Richard Garbarino officially declared South San Francisco Basque Days for the festival. The Zazpiak Bat dancers entertained the visiting dignitaries which also included Miren Azkarate, Minister of Culture and Spokesperson for the Basque Government and NABO President Mary Gaztambide.

The North American Basque Organization held its annual winter meeting the morning of the 16th. The Basque Autonomous Community's Minister of Culture Miren Azkarate and Director of Relations with Basque Communities Josu Legarreta attended. The President of NABO, Mary Gaztambide was joined by the President of FEVA, María Luz Artetxe, who provided an overview of what

her active Basque community is doing in Argentina. This was the first time in history that the Presidents of the Argentinean and North American Basque federations came together. They worked independently until this NABO meeting at the BCC.. (FEVA is the parallel of NABO in Argentina which encompasses more than ninety organizations making it the largest Basque community outside of Euskal Herria.) The BAC presented the program aimed at teaching Euskara online (HABE), and an agreement was made to organize intensive language courses in the United States and Argentina.

Miren Azkarate accepted an invitation to speak about the current status of the peace process in the Basque Country in a Brown Bag Seminar and discussion sponsored by the BEO in collaboration with NABO and the BCC. The registration and complimentary lunch was organized by the BEO's Chairman, Philippe Acheritogaray.

Friday evening's dinner guests were entertained by the Elgarrekin Choir and America's Bertsolari Gratien Alfaro, Martin Goicoechea, Jesús Goñi and Johnny Curutchet. The Bertsolari improvised Basque verse to the delight of their audience. Then everyone moved to the kantxa to see the Ikurriña danza, a tribute to the Basque flag and the Basque homeland, performed by the Zazpiak Bat Dancers and a special men's Basque choir of BCC members who got together and practiced specifically for the 25th Anniversary celebration. A breathtaking performance by the Aintzindariak Taldea dancers and musicians from the Basque region of Zuberoa was the highlight of the evening.



*On February 15, 2007, BCC Vice-President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman (far left) applauds after BCC President Xabier Berrueta thanked South San Francisco for its support throughout the Center's first 25 years. Representing South San Francisco (left to right) Mayor Richard Garbarino, Vice Mayor Pedro Gonzalez, and Council Members Mark Addiego, Karyl Matsumoto and Joe Fernekas.*

*From the 25th Anniversary program:*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8:00 a.m.	NABO Meeting	<b>AINTZINDARIAK TALDEA</b>
5:00 p.m.	Joko Garbi	<b>Director:</b> Johane Etchebeste
6:00 p.m.	Dinner followed by entertainment: Elgarrekin Choir Bertsolari: Gratien Alfaro, Johnny Curutchet, Martin Goicochea, Jesus Goni	<b>Singers:</b> Michel Arrotce, Jean Bordachar <b>Txirula:</b> Jean Charles Sans, Philippe Uthurralt <b>Atabal:</b> Jokin Irungaray
8:00 p.m.	Performance by <i>Aintzindariak Taldea</i> , a folkloric dance and singing group from Zuberoa <b>Program:</b> Lehen Parte: Barrikada, Aintzina Pika, Satan Dantza, Ostalersa, Ahinki, Kantariak Bigerren parte: Bralea, Kadrillak, Aitzina Pika, Gorrets, Kantariak Hirugerren parte: Abiatze, Lagabota, Larraburu, Godalet Dantza, Azken Kantorea: Agur Xiberua	<b>Dantzari:</b> Aines Accoceberry Jean Pierra Accoceberry Maitesa Accoceberry Ximun Accoceberry Olivier Arcanuthurry Joimo Arhancet Mattieu Bengochea Christelle Elgoyhen Nadine Elgoyhen Antton Etchebeste Ana Iriart Christian Urte



*Left: Accepting an invitation to speak about the current status of the peace process in the Basque Country, Miren Azkarate, Minister of Culture and Spokesperson for the Basque Government, showed an English power point presentation.*

*Below: The Elgarrekin Choir entertained the dinner guests on Friday night.*







*America's Bertsolariak Martin Goicoechea, Gratien Alfaro, Jesus Goni, and Johnny Curutchet (left) were introduced by BCC Director Franxoa Bidaurreta (right).*



*Men's Basque Choir. Back Row: Johnny Curutchet, Armand Lafitte, Robert Lafitte, Leon Sorhondo, Philip Elicagaray, David Alfaro, Jean Pierre Elissetche, John Falxa, three Zuberoa musicians. Front Row: Gracian Goyhenetche, Jean Baptiste Urruty, Jean Baptiste Moustirats, Charles Moustirats, Jean Luc Chiramberro, Fredrick Alfaro, Nicolas Bidaurreta, Zuberoa musician, Andre Arduain, Pierre Etcharren, Pierre Labat. Flag bearer: Mark Sorhouet. Choir Director: Aita Martxel Tillous.*





*Mark Sorhouet swung the Basque flag over the Zazpiak Bat dancers bowed to honor the Ikurriña and their heritage.*



*Left and below: Aintzindariak Taldea, a troupe of performers from Zuberoa, gave a spectacular performance for the 25th Anniversary spectators.*



*Aintzindariak Taldea performers.*



*Aita Marcel Tillous posed with members of the Aintzindariak Taldea who were from his province of Zuberoa.*

*Aintzindariak Taldea musicians.*





*From the 25th Anniversary program:*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

**1:00 p.m.** Commemorative Photo taken of all those in attendance in front of the Basque Cultural Center

**2:00 p.m.** Opening Ceremony: Introduction by Basque Cultural Center President. Entrance parade featuring the Behe Nafarroa Kabalkada. American National Anthem sung by Sue Elicetche. Basque Anthem performed by the Elgarrekin Choir and San Francisco Gazteak Dancers. Opening address by Miren Azkarate, Minister of Culture from the Basque Government.

*Admission fee for ceremony and games:  
Adult: \$10.00  
Under 18: Free of charge*

**3:30 pm Pilota Games**

**JOKO GARBI** (form of Jai-Alai) featuring the Yoko Garbi Champions from the Federation Kapito Harri of Uztaritz, France.

**President:** Claude Migueltoarena

**Players:** Regis Dione, Bruno Irachabal, Eneko Pellerat, Eneko Sarratia, Fabien Villain

**EUKUS PILOTA** (Handball) featuring the Euskari Champions from the Euskadiko Euskal Pilota Federakuntza.

**President:** Jose Maria Aldamiz Etxebarria

**Players:** Jon Bengoetxea, Inaki Iza, Haritz Lasa, Ugaitz Renobales

*Haritz LASA / Jon BENGOETXEA  
vs. Ugaitz RENOBALLES / Inaki IZA*

**7:00 p.m.** Barbecue Steak Dinner

**9:00 p.m.** Dance with Kiki Bordatxo Taldea

Saturday afternoon, February 17th, festivities began when the Behe Nafarroa Kabalkada (Cavalcade) paraded around the BCC's parking lot and led the attendees into the kantxa. The American National Anthem was sung by Sue Elicetche and the Basque Anthem was performed by the Elgarrekin Choir and the San Francisco Zazpiak Bat and Gazteak dance group. The BCC's Minister of Culture, Miren Azkarate, delivered the Opening Address. A pilota exhibition featuring Joko Garbi champions and Pilota champions entertained more than 1,000 guests during the afternoon.

As soon as the pilota games were finished the kantxa was transformed into a dining room of long tables as it was at every anniversary and fall festival throughout the first 25 years. From all those years of practice, the BCC volunteers were an amazing, streamlined organization serving 2,098 guests on the 25th Anniversary weekend. FEVA's President, Mari Luz Arteche, said, "The army of ants which just does things so instinctively is amazing," referring to the volunteers who set up, served the guests, and cleared up the kantxa.

Dancing to the music of Kiki Bordatxo Taldea followed Saturday night dinner and Sunday lunch.



*BCC Director Pierre Etcharren (left) and BCC President Xabier Berrueta (second from right) posed with visiting dignitaries: (l-r) South San Francisco Vice Mayor Pedro Gonzalez and Mayor Richard Garbarino, and Minister of Culture for the Basque Government of Euskadi, Miren Azkarate.*





*Left: Makilari Franxoa Bidaurreta and Francois Camou led the Anniversary Kabalkada inside the BCC.*

*Right: BCC President Xabier Berrueta put a scarf around South San Francisco's Mayor Richard Garbarino making him an honorary Basque during the anniversary festivities.*



*Nick Bidaurreta, one of the 25th Anniversary Zapurrak, led the Zazpiak Bat and Gazteak dancers around the kantxa.*



*The Klika's exiting the kantxa signaled the end of the 25th Anniversary Weekend Opening Ceremony.*



*Pilota Champions from Euskal Herria played on both Saturday and Sunday.*

*The kantxa was full of spectators to see the Champion pilota and joko garbi players.*





*Cooks for the 25th Anniversary:  
 Gratien Etchebehere, Sauveur  
 Anchartechahar, Louis Marticorena,  
 Jean Acheritogaray, Roland  
 Cherbero, Euskal Herria visitor,  
 Daniel Arrechea, Leon Lucu, Eric  
 Garat, Jean Pierre Elissetche.*



*Kiki Bordatxo Taldea (left)  
 provided dancing music  
 throughout the 25th  
 Anniversary weekend. BCC  
 Member Rene Caballero  
 (right) helped out the band.*



*Left and below: Members and  
 guests danced to the music of  
 Kiki Bordatxo Taldea.*





*From the 25th Anniversary program:*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

**9:30 a.m.** Mass with Aita Tillous and Aita Cachenaout

PILOTA, EUSKAL JOKOA (Xalbador)  
Pilota, zure bidez, orok euskaldunak  
Bagarelako famak dituzte entzunak;  
Zuk eginak gaituzu denen ezagunak,  
Asko zor dautzu zuri gure nortasunak.

Plaza ixilik dago, iduri eliza,  
Beharien begiak pilotak dabilza,  
Jainkoak hango deiak baieztatu balitza,  
Taldetik ahulenak luke azken hitza.

Bainan zer da boza hau? Zer entzuten dut nik?  
Deiador bat bezla heldu urrundunik,  
Gure gazteriari pilotak erranik:  
Ez nezazula berex euskararen ganik!

Kirola ta hizkuntza, horra hor bi gauza  
Luza dezaketenak herriaren hatsa;  
Baldin ez bazerauku erdalduntzen plaza,  
Salbaturen garelako badut esperantza.

Gauza ezaguna da bizian iraupen  
Kirolak herri bati diola emaiten;  
Pilota maiteari leial egon gaiten  
Hak lagunt gaitzan gero euskaldun irauten.

Ceremony Following Mass: Opening Introduction by Basque Cultural Center President Xabier Berrueta. Address by Miren Azkarate, Minister of Culture from the Basque Government. Presentation of the Basque Cultural Center Bizi Emankorra to: Joe Castanchoa, Bill Etchegoin, Jean Jauretche

Address by NABO President Mary Gaztambide. Introduction of Dignitaries.

Barbeque Rack of Lamb Lunch

**4:00 pm Pilota Games**

**JOKO GARBI** (form of Jai-Alai) featuring the Yoko Garbi Champions from the Federation Kapito Harri of Uztaritz, France.

**EUKUS PILOTA** (Handball) featuring the Euskari Champions from the Euskadiko Euskal Pilota Federakuntza.

*Haritz LASA / Inaki IZA*  
*vs. Ugaitz RENOBALLES / Jon BENGOTXEA*

*Admission: \$10.00, Under 18: Free of Charge*

**Closing Ceremony** with Aintzindariak Taldea and local groups, followed by music and dancing with Kiki Bordatxo Taldea.

Sunday Mass was concelebrated for nearly 1,000 people by the current U.S. Basque chaplain Aita Martxel Tillous and Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout who was the U.S. chaplain and celebrated the first Mass at the BCC at its inauguration in 1982.

**Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout's Homily**

"During one of the mission days, I was preaching about family. In my opinion it was a homily that should have sunk in. I had two altar boys and I heard them snoring behind me.....I told the people, 'My altar boys are sleeping. This is enough for tonight because I'm not interesting enough.' One of them, let me tell you, is today your President or Lehendakari, Xabi, and the other is Aitor.

Yes, I was talking about family and today's Gospel has its own lessons. Beside our own families, we all make up one family. Today Jesus' lesson is this: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Wish good for others, share what you have in excess. Love your enemy also, because it's too easy to love your friends. Have mercy for others as your Heavenly Father has for you. Don't

condemn others or judge others.

Here is our Christian life that Jesus' lessons teach us. Yes, in one family, in this great Basque family also, these Gospel teachings are good for us. Always keep your love, likes, friendships and respect. Anyway, we always have to accept each another, understand each other, and speak to each other, and converse together because everyone has something to say. We also need to forgive each other, because there is no friendship without forgiveness.

May what Jesus has said enter into our hearts. May his spirit always be open to us. Jesus, Himself, asks us to go far, always deep in everything we do or with everything we come across.

And in this Mass what a beautiful thing for us to be united. Yes, with all those of the Basque country "hego alde and ipar alde" (south and north), but also with all those from here, without forgetting those who could not make it, and those who stayed home ill, or too elderly, and those who are grieving. How many Basques have died in these last few years, it is shocking. May they have everlasting joy. Amen."

*“Those who were children and youths then (1982 Opening) are now parents and for me an extraordinary thing is that you are following the ways of your parents and their responsibilities. We are getting older and you are there.”*

— Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaut



*Above: The kantxa was full for the 25th Anniversary Mass. Aita Cachenaut gave the homily as he had at the Opening Mass in 1982.*

*Left: Three Makilari led the 25th Anniversary Kabalkada into the Sunday Mass: Francois Camou, his son, Daniel, and his brother Dominic. Their impressive baton twirling awed everyone!*



*Left: Aita Cachenaut received the gifts from the Gazteak dancers during the Offertory procession.*

*Right: Four bertsolariak sang at the 25th Anniversary Mass: Jesus Goni, Martin Goicoechea, Johnny Curutchet (who sang at most of the BCC Masses throughout its 25 years), and Gratien Alfaro.*





*Aita Martxel Tillous concelebrated the 25th Anniversary Mass with Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaute.*

*Dignitaries joined BCC President Xabier Berrueta and Vice President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman at the 2007 Anniversary Mass: Miren Azkarate, BAC Minister of Culture (left) and California's Lieutenant Governor, John Garamendi, with his wife, Patti (right).*



California's 46th Lieutenant Governor, John Garamendi, made a surprise visit with his wife, children and grandchildren to the BCC's Silver Anniversary celebration at the Sunday morning Mass. Following Mass he addressed those gathered, "It is now 25 years that this community has successfully maintained the heritage, the culture, the dance, the athletic games, and most important of all, our faith. Being here today to spend a moment in reflection and in faith and to share with all of you in communion has made this an especially important day for Patti and my family."

The Lieutenant Governor presented the Basque Cultural Center with a special plaque stating: "Here is a resolution from the office of California's Lieutenant Governor commemorating this 25th anniversary and resolving that together with all of you that we'll never forget our heritage and faith and the incredible value that immigrants from all around the world bring to our America."





*The Gazteak dancers stand ready to dance the Ikurriña (rows left to right).  
 Row 1: Joana Arrechea, Danica Ribí, Micaela Ribí, Angelina Zamattia.  
 Row 2: Jesse Kvarna, Mattieu Acheritogaray, Ashley Winslow, Kiki Etcheverry.  
 Row 3: Cedric Duhalde, Vincent Kvarna, Daniel Camou, Amaia Etcheverry, Joelle Ourtiague.  
 Row 4: Amanda Bushman, Isabella Zalba, Madeline Coli, Segan Ribí, Chloe Duhalde.*



*Above: The Gazteak dancers bowed to honor the Ikurriña that was flown inches over their heads by Mark Sorhouet*



*Left: Zazpiak Bat dancers at the 25th Anniversary:  
 Left Row: Anne Marie Chiramberro, Erica Fosse, Brittany Chamalbide, Chantal Etcheverry. Right Row: Nathalie Sorhouet, Elise Etcheverry, Gabi Iturburua.*

BCC President Xabier Berrueta presented the Basque Cultural Center's "Bizi emankorra" lifetime contribution awards to Joseph Castanchoa, William Etchegoin (1908-1997) and Jean Baptiste Jauretche (1937-1996). All three were instrumental in the building of the Basque Cultural Center. NABO President, Mary Gaztambide presented the NABO "Bizi emankorra" awards to Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaout, Grace Mainvil and the BCC's Pierre Etcharren. The Zazpiak Bat dancers performed a tribute to all the recipients of the life-time contribution awards.

An outstanding performance by the Klika which

included three makilari for the Silver Anniversary ended the morning program. Their marching out signaled everyone to clear out of the kantxa for aperitif while BCC volunteers once again set up rows and rows of tables and settings to accommodate 898 guests for lunch. Like previous anniversary celebrations, but in a grander style, games and dancing followed lunch, and "Baratzuri Salda" (garlic soup) followed the dancing around 7:00 p.m. prepared by Philippe Garat and Hipolito. It, too, was grander than previous anniversary celebrations because it finished with Louis Marticorena's delicious "kauserak" for dessert.



*Above: On behalf of the Lehendakari and the Lehendakaritza (Office of the President) the BAC's Minister of Culture, Miren Azkarate presented a portrait of the Ajuria Enea; the Basque President's residence (the Basque "White House" so to speak) on the occasion of the BCC's 25th Anniversary.*

*Left: Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi addressed the BCC members and guests following the 25th Anniversary Mass.*



*BCC President Xabier Berrueta presented the Center's 2007 "Bizi emankorra" awards to William Etchegoin (received by his nephew, Victor Esain, and his sister-in-law, Florence Etchegoin ), Joseph Castanchoa (with his wife, Florence) and Jean Baptiste Jauretche (received by his wife, Margarita, and two sons, Richard and Jean Felix).*





NABO President Mary Gaztambide with NABO Bizi Emankorra Recipients: Pierre Etcharren (2006), Grace Mainvil (2006), and Aita Jean Pierre Cachenaute (2005).



On February 15th and 16th the Joko Garbi Champions from the Kapito Harria Pelota Federation in Uztaritz, France, displayed their skills in exhibition games.



Left: Members and guests danced to the music of Kiki Bordatxo Taldea Sunday afternoon with help on the tambourine from BCC member James Goyhenetche (far right.)  
 Right: The 25th Anniversary celebration ended with "Baratzuri Salda". Philippe Iribarren (standing) was in the Gazteak dancers at the BCC's Opening in 1982 and came from Euskal Herria where he now lives to celebrate its Silver Anniversary.

"On behalf of the Basque Cultural Center Board of Directors, I would like to give a big eskerrik asko to all members who helped, collaborated and volunteered their time in making the 25th Anniversary Celebration a more than memorable week.

The positive image and perception that we as a community left on the City, the Basque Government, the Lieutenant Governor, the Presidents of FEVA and NABO, NABO delegates, Basque TV and Radio media as well the general public is a testament to the hard work that the members of Gure Euskal Etxea have portrayed over the past twenty five years and will be permanently recorded in the minds of all those who came from Euskal Herria, the United States and parts beyond." —Xabier Berrueta, BCC President







# ❖ BILTZEN ❖ BEROTZEN ❖ POZTEN

Being happy.



❖ ETXEAN IKUSIA, UMEAK IKASIA ❖

What is seen at home is what the child learns.



# PROMOTING BASQUE CULTURE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



*Ages 0 to 5 in 2006: Back Row: Germano DiLorenzo, Rene Iriartborde, Angelina Zamattia, Ryan Keiper, Amanda Bushman, Johanna Arrechea, Marco Espinal, Jean Max Fawzi. Center Row: Cathleen Acheritogaray holding Alaia, Rosemary Caballero holding Anthony, Lisa Negueloua Quigley holding Claire, Sandra Indart holding Alyssa, Marianne Arotzarena Martinon holding Benet, Jean Louis Curutchet holding Frank, Valerie Etcharren Arrechea holding Peio, Idoya Salaburu Urruty holding Iban, Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi holding Nicolas. Front Row: Laryssa Larraburu Branshaw, Eric Camou, Juliette Camou, Anjalee Golden, Mehrin Golden, Amaya Caballero, Gabriella Curutchet, Gexan Arrechea, Naia Urruty, Megan Bushman, Briella Fantham, Amaya Keiper, Josef Haffar, Eric Anchartechahar. Not pictured: Charlize Golden.*

## *Fostering a Positive Association With the Gazteak (Youth)*

“There are classes for children in traditional Basque dancing, mus and Euskara, the notoriously difficult Basque language. We have to work really hard to keep the culture going here. There are so many things competing for peoples’ attention: Do you want to spend the day studying the Basque language, or do you want to go to the Giants’ game? The BCC is organizing outings that have nothing to do with Basque culture -- excursions to ball games or Monterey Aquarium. The most important thing right now is to preserve a sense of community among the next generation of Basques. The culture will follow.”

—Franxo Bidaurreta, 2006 Interview

“It’s going to be hard for the young ones to stay in this area because the cost of living is so high. But it would be nice to see them working with the Center because in another 20 years there aren’t going to be many of us immigrants left. They are going to have to pass what we give to them to their children. That is the key – to show and tell them where they come from. We were able to do that with our kids, and I hope they will continue to do that, likewise. When we grew up there were no TVs or cars, and this made the family very, very important. Every Sunday after Church, we would eat together and play mus. That doesn’t happen anymore. That’s kind of scary. The young ones are going to have to keep up, and I think that the Bay Area will be one of the strongest Basque communities in the country.”

—Etienne Jorajuria, 2006 Interview



“So we ask the question, why is it important to establish and maintain our heritage? Very simply we always need a community. When you have a supportive community, you feel a sense of identity. You can understand your philosophies and views, if you have a historical reference. Even when you feel you’ve drifted away because of lifestyle changes, you know that’s still in your core.”

—Robert Iriartborde, 2007 Hall of Fame Dinner



*Ages 6 to 12 in 2006: Back Row: Victoria Langlands, Joelle Ourtiague, Andrew Goyhenetche, Ricky Fuhrman, Dominique Arotzarena III, Cedric Duhalde. Second Row: Michael Espinal, Matthew Uhalde. Third Row: Mathieu Acheritogaray, Alexander Goyhenetche, Daniel Camou, Nicole Ourtiague, Alyssa Goyhenetche, Chloe Duhalde. Front Row: Lain Langlands, Jordan Arotzarena, Jean Iriartbrode, Jacqueline DiLorenzo, Julia Hurley, Brent Anchartechar .*



*Ages 13 to 19 in 2006: Back Row: Tyler Bonson, Travis Bonson, Frederick Alfaro. Center Row: Daniel Goyhenetche, Robert Uhalde, Jean Paul Acheritogaray, Dominique Erdozaincy. Front Row: Ann Marie Chiramberro, Stephanie Chiramberro, Annette Erdozaincy, Dominica Goyhenetche, Sophia Iribarren, Danielle Espinal. Not pictured: Nick Biduarreta, Jerome Goyhenetche, Jacques Larraburu.*



*“The most important thing right now is to preserve a sense of community among the next generation of Basques. The culture will follow.”*

—Franxoa Bidaurreta, 2006 Interview

#### GURE XITOAK AND THE 2002 NABO CONVENTION

In striving to make the Center more attractive to the youth, the BCC’s young adult women began forming recreational groups with very young children rather than waiting until they start learning Basque dances at 7 years old.

In March 2001 Valerie Etcharren Arrechea introduced Gure Xitoak (Our Little Chicks) on Saturday mornings from 11am-12 noon. It was an activity group for children under 7 years old to learn age appropriate Basque dances, songs, games and, most importantly, form friendships.

A lot of attention was given to making the 2002 NABO Convention hosted by the BCC attractive to the very young. Yvette Gorostiague Fantham was very creative with the children’s activities. Not only did the inflatable bouncer bring a positive association with the Basque Convention, but Yvette brought the historical running of the bulls to Orange Park in South San Francisco by having Gratien Etchebehere, Jr., dressed as a bull being chased by young children. A photo with the bull could be taken for a souvenir!

Face-Painting with Basque themes and colors was also introduced at the 2002 Convention and became a part of the 2004, 2005 and 2006 Anniversary Weekends and the 2003 through 2006 Euskal Etxeko Jaialdia. The youth walked away with a little piece of Basque culture painted on them!



*Above, top: The youth were introduced to “soka tira” getting to feel all the fun adults have at Basque gatherings with the tug-of-war contest!*

*Above, bottom: Gratien Etchebehere, Jr. helped bring the “running of the bulls” to the 2002 NABO Convention by being the bull!*

*Left: Yvette Gorostiague Fatham (front left) chaired the “Kids Corner” making 2002 NABO Convention a lot of fun with some Basque culture. She is face painting symbols of Basque Culture with her team of volunteers.*



## AMA ETA NI – “MOMMIE AND ME” PLAY GROUP

In January 2004 Yvette Gorostiague Fantham started the Ama eta Ni Play Group (originally called Mommie and Me Play Group) as a place for mothers, fathers and grandparents to come with their children from birth through age five. The group met every other week and provided an opportunity to share in parenting experiences and allow babies to interact and get to know each other and make long term friendships with other families. Ama eta Ni provided a strong sense of community.



Top: In 2004 the Ama eta Ni group formed. Some of the young participants were: Bianca Ribi, Jessica Moulia, Giselle Moulia, Cedric Duhalde, Danica Ribi, Mikaela Ribi, Naia Urruty, Briella Fantham, Jean-Max Fawzi, and Chloe Duhalde.

Bottom: 2006 Ama eta Ni participants Naia Urruty, Claire Quigley, Ana Spano, Briella Fantham.

## “KOXKORRAK” GOIZ ESKOLA GROWING YOUNGSTER MORNING SCHOOL

### Introducing Children to Basque Culture and Language In Fun Micro Steps

“At the end of 2004, three young Basque women, Rosemary Arriada Keiper, Lucy Jaimerena Zamattia, and Idoya Salaburu Urruty began to seriously think that the Basque Cultural Center needed a program for their children to practice Basque with other children. Soon Koxkorak Goiz Eskola which in Basque means “growing youngster morning school” was born. A six month pilot program began in January of 2005 with 20 children registered and an average of 15 regularly attending. Due to the success of the program, it restarted in November of 2005 with 30 children

registered and an average of 25 attending per class. Also, Lisa Camou was added to the team of volunteers. The main goal is to provide an environment where Basque children can gain exposure to Euskara, interact and socialize with other Basque children, and experience various pieces of Basque culture through music, books, media, and games. Overall the program hopes the ‘koxkorak’ will develop an ear for Euskara, retain the key concepts learned, and spark future interest to learn Euskara, foster Basque friendships, and look forward to coming to Basque functions.

The current program meets every Saturday for two hours in the Children’s Room at the Basque Cultural Center. Children from the ages of 2-8 attend. The program consists of 6 main parts: Aurkezpena (Introductions), Beroketak (Warm-up exercises), Artea eta Eskulanak (Arts and Crafts), Jateko Ordua (Snack time), Kantatzen (Singing), Jolas Saioak (Games).”—Idoya Salaburu Urruty, 2007

Idoya represented the BCC as one of 35 participants in the 2006 Gaztemundu in Euskal Herria. The program focused on transmitting the Basque heritage through games and play, the key to keeping youth involved for the future. Participants were given a copy of the book *Euskal Jokoa eta Jolasa* published by the Basque Secretariat for Foreign Action. It contains an extensive catalog of educational and entertaining games and activities to help enrich the BCC’s “Koxkorak” Goiz Eskola program.

In a 2006 interview Leon Sorhondo said, “My daughter, Marielle, is able to go there and meet other kids, and she’s probably going to learn more Basque than my first two (now adult) children. Because it is hard to teach it at home, having a little bit of feedback from the school reinforces the home. It also helps when she sees other kids speaking Basque. So there’s hope for the future which is nice. There are a lot of Basque kids out there right now!”

Many of the youth who began in the Goiz Eskola program in 2005 are now a part of the Basque dance group (age 7 requirement), the next step in growing with their Basque culture. Idoya said, “Goiz Eskola has made a huge impact on the friendships of the little ones and their desire to continue coming to the BCC. We are actively looking for other young mothers of toddlers to continue the established Goiz Eskola program.”



At the end of 2004 (left to right above) Lucy Jaimerena Zamattia, Idoya Salaburu Urruty, and Rosemary Arriada Keiper, formed Koxkorak Goiz Eskola. In November 2005 Lisa Camou (far right above) joined the team of volunteers.



*“The future of the Basque Cultural Center will be determined by keeping the younger generation motivated about their Basque Culture . . . We are actively looking for other young mothers of toddlers to continue the established Goiz Eskola program.”— Idoya Salaburu Urruty*



2005 Goiz Eskola program participants: Left to right: Tennessee Hildebrand (Hawaiian shirt), Dominique (Barrenetche) Savage (Gap t-shirt), Ryan (Arriada) Keiper, Maite (Aramburu) Kvarna, Jessica Moulia, Eric Camou, Daniel Camou (behind Eric), Julia (Salaberry) Hurley, Chloe Duhalde, Gexan Arrechea, Naia Urruty (touching front sheep), Juliette Camou (holding doll), Amaya (Arriada) Keiper (on sheep laying down), Angelina (Jaimerena) Zamattia (on sheep standing), Giselle Moulia and Joana (Etcharren) Arrechea (together on sheep at far right).



“Patxi” on the white board is used to explain the different parts of the body (“gorputza”) in Basque. The youth touch their “sorbalda” (shoulders). Then Basque music about the body is played, and the children point to the part of their body that the song is instructing them to.



Idoya Salaburu Urruty guides the youth to learn more parts of their body in Basque. They point to their “buru” (heads).



*“Ama” Aline Urruty Moulia helps Giselle and Jessica Moulia knead “ogia” (bread). “Ama” Yvette Goyeneche Fawzi (right corner) works with Jean-Max (Goyeneche) Fawzi and Gexan Arrechea (to her left).*



*When the “koxkorrak” (children) finish kneading their “ogia” (bread), they are baked in the BCC’s kitchen. The children watch as Manager Francois Camou pulls the individual loaves out of the oven. Then, of course, the bread becomes a delicious snack.*

“The Basque Cultural Center has enriched and enhanced my life by teaching me that I can be Basque as well as American, that allowing characteristics of both cultures to simultaneously exist within me will make me a more well rounded and interesting person. The second lesson that the Basque Cultural Center has instructed me in revolves around the idea that one’s life should not merely be one dimensional but a complex and abstract painting full to the brim with vibrant colors and intense implications and meaning ..... In my numerous trips to the Basque Cultural Center I have often observed many of the other Basques. And this aided me in understanding how one must embrace the Basque heritage. I saw it in the tear that slowly rolled down a man’s cheek as one of Xalbador’s famous bertsus resonated throughout the ballroom through the voices of children, and in the revered silence of a Basque Mass. Embracing the Basque heritage through the Basque Cultural Center is portrayed by my father. As I continue to grow, I watch my father dedicate hundreds of hours to keeping the Basque Culture alive. His sincere dedication



*Olivia Bidaurreta holds her father, Franxoa’s, hand at the 1988 San Francisco Basque Picnic in Petaluma. What a fun introduction into her culture to be standing with her Aita as he led the Klika!*

and unremitting support has shown me the importance of the Basque culture and instilled within me the qualities of perseverance and ardor.”

—Olivia Bidaurreta 2002, BEO Essay Contest Winner

“My vision for the future of the Basque community and Basque activities, especially the Basque Culture is 1) not only staying grouped as a Basque community here, but 2) the very important thing to keep the Basque culture growing and going forward is to have exchanges with the Basque country. That is one thing that would be very helpful starting with the young children from 12 and up going over there and staying with families for a month or so, and the ones from there coming over here..... That would be like NABO started with the Basque Music Camps, now Udaleku. That’s pretty much what

was done so the young people know each other more. If you have friends in Europe, now you can stay in touch through the internet. I think that’s very, very important.

—Franxoa Bidaurreta, 2006 Interview



## 2007 BEO ESSAY CONTEST

*How has the BCC enriched my life? What needs to happen to ensure that the BCC continues going strong for the next 25 years?*

Lisa Etchepare and Jean Marc Sorhondo were the BEO's 2007 Scholarship Contest Winners to the above question. Both young adults acknowledge the importance and enjoyment of community and socialization, but place an emphasis on education. Lisa looks for the membership to provide education and wants language skills (read her last sentence). Jean Marc reinforces his little sister's Saturday morning Basque school (Goiz Eskola) that wasn't available when he was young.



**Lisa Etchepare**  
2007 BEO Contest Winner

“Whether hiding during dance practice breaks as a little kid, kicking back and relaxing on the couch during Sunday lunches listening as the voices of men singing at the bar drifted through the door, or dancing in the kantxa during Mass, the Basque Cultural Center has always been an important facet of my life. ....

If the goal of increasing participation is to put people more in touch with their Basque heritage, I am not convinced that the SF Basque Cultural Center is working to its full potential. ....Outings accomplish half of the mission statement of those trying to get the San Francisco Basque population more involved; they provide an easy carefree environment in which people can come in contact with each other and build friendships. If the BCC was merely a social organization, activities like these would be all it needed.....

However, since the goal of Basque Cultural Center is to keep traditions alive and pass down cultural knowledge from generation to generation.....some emphasis should be put on education. ....There are people within the Cultural Center that are more than capable of providing this information, and people are just as, if not more, interested in what people they know have to say, than what total strangers (ie., ‘experts from Europe’) have to say. .... These educational events do not have to be big and complicated, just something that remind people every once in while where we come from, and what we are carrying on.

The Basque Center is important to me, I want to see it survive for the next 25 years, but I would like to see it thrive with all of its part intact. It would be a shame if in 25 or even 50 years the bar was quiet because nobody remembered the words of the songs to sing them.”

## Jean Marc Sorhondo, 2007 BEO Contest Winner



*The 2007 BEO Essay contest wasn't the first time Jean Marc Sorhondo was a winner at the BCC. At the 1993 NABO Pilota Camp hosted by the BCC Jean Marc (left) won Pierre Idiart (right) at the camp's final handball tournament.*

“The Center has been a home away from home for many. I say this not because I am there all the time, but when I am there I feel at home. The second I walk through the only open door on the right, I know I will be greeted by countless people who I know or know my parents. It is a unique bond we share, and the Center allows a forum in which to share our special connection. Without the Center I probably would not see 75% of the people I do, at least not as often. It makes me happy to see my grandparents interact with their friends playing mus and engaging in conversation over a couple of Ricards.

I am particularly touched when I see my little sister Marielle going to Basque school every Saturday. Such a class is a very integral and pivotal part of continuing the legacy and following at the Basque Cultural Center. It is important to keep the youth involved and active with different events. I didn't have this option as a kid. The most important part is to keep the kids who are ages 10 and over involved. While there is Saturday school for the younger kids there are less structured activities for the older kids. There have been movie days and bowling days for the older kids, but these are more sporadic. I think an integral part of keeping the community vibrant is hosting more activities in which the kids spend time with other Basque kids. Perhaps having some artistic kids who aren't into dancing or handball paint a mural or collage for the Basque center would be a great means of gathering kids and have them form their own lasting permanent memory. Other organized events such as the group Sharks and Warriors games is a good way of appealing to members who may not be interested in Pala or Mus, but they can still enjoy the each other's company.....Another idea would be a one-day pala or handball tournament. I know they have



tournaments now, but it is very difficult to make a commitment once a week for multiple months with so many conflicting schedules. A one day tournament would make it easy to get everyone there and participating.

Growing up here, it is natural that one would acculturate to American society. The cultures do not need to be exclusive. I think the legacy of the Center will be dependent on being able to bridge the two. Offering a place for people like me, where we feel comfortable sharing with our American friends our unique culture, lends itself to promoting a lasting legacy. While it is bittersweet for me to look around the club and know that it is an aging group, I am hopeful that the torch will be carried by the next generation. We just need to ensure that the next generation is as rooted to this place we call our second home.”

### GAZTEALDI (TIME OF YOUTH) BASQUE YOUNG ADULT ASSEMBLY

Gaztealdi “Supporting Youth” was initially sparked by NABO to separate the young adults 16 to 20 years old from the 10 to 15 year age group all participating in the extremely successful Udaleku Cultural Camps. Jerome Goyhenetche represented the San Francisco Bay Area at the initial meeting to organize Gaztealdi in Elko in 2006. Under the guidance of John Yursa, he worked with five other regional representatives to keep teens connected to their heritage: Mateo Franzoia (Elko), Jacqueline Lanathoua Gatou (Chino), Natalie Maiola (Elko), Maite Maisterrena (Chino) and Dominica Zubillaga (Los Banos). Jerome contributed ideas to assist in the formulation of what Gaztealdi could be to encourage active participation of their age group while simultaneously developing organizational and professional skills for their future contribution to Basque culture in their communities. To better connect and attract young adults, it is important to know some history about the story of the Basques. The participants

were asked to read Mark Kurlansky’s *The Basque History of World* to provide an overview of Basque history and John and Mark Bieter’s *An Enduring Legacy* specific to the Basque-American experience in preparation for Gaztealdi.

That summer experience and a realization that so many are unaware of the Basque culture inspired Jerome’s senior high school project. He planned to “Increase Basque Cultural Awareness” with a power point presentation of a brief historical overview and an attempt to teach four non-Basque friends how to do the Basque dance *Banako*. Although Jerome did not anticipate that the *Banako* was a difficult dance to introduce to his peers, they did get caught up with the competition. Each team of two partners wanted to turn smoother and kick higher and began asking to practice longer to outdo the other team before Jerome video taped them! Jerome said, “The result was rewarding. They were extremely enthusiastic. They got a real taste of the Basque culture along with the class of students it was presented to.”

### GAZTEMUNDU PROGRAM

In 2006 in [www.EuskoSare.com](http://www.EuskoSare.com) Idoya Salaburu Urruty said, “Gaztemundu is an annual program started in 1996 and sponsored by the government of the Basque Autonomous Community’s Presidential office. Its initial goals were to expose young people from Latin America to all aspects of Euskal Herria and to get new generations actively involved in the Basque Centers. However, recent editions of Gaztemundu have been open to the youth of the entire Basque Diaspora and have had specific themes.”

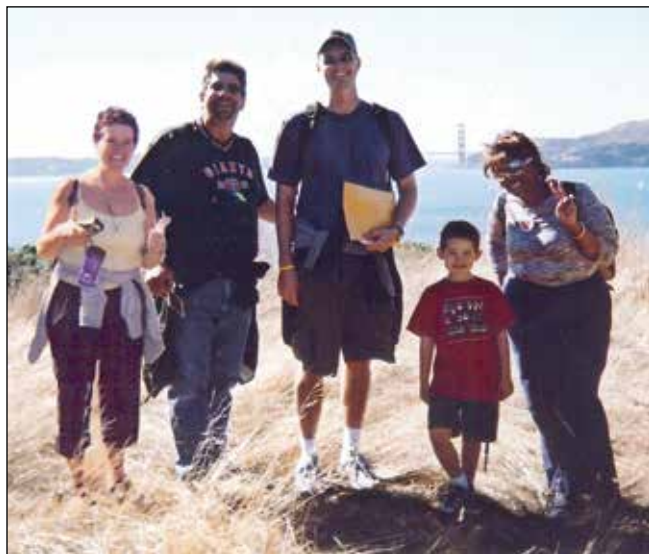
During the two week program in Euskal Herria young Basques meet from around the world and get to see how the homeland is developing as well as getting a feel for Basque community in other countries. In 2003, at Pierre Etcharren’s suggestion, the Gaztemundu was moved to July to coincide with summer vacation in the United States. The age range increased from 20 to 35 and applications



*Euskal Herria chef school teachers Santa Ramirez and Aitor Etxebarria (left) taught BCC members (right) how to prepare “pintoxak” on September 16, 2006.*

were selected by NABO rather than being sent directly to the Basque government. The overall objective of 2003 Gaztemundu was to explore the issue: How can we better promote the continuation of our Basque heritage among our youth? BCC members participated in 2002 (Valerie Arrechea), 2003 (Philippe Acheritogaray, Xabier Berrueta and Christian Irribarren), 2006 (Idoya Salaburu Urruty) and 2008 (Nicolas Bidaurreta and Lisa Etchepare).

In 2006 the program focused on transmitting the Basque heritage through games and play and was structured around the book *Euskal Jokoa eta Jolasa*. Idoya Salaburu Urruty said, "For many of us in the United States, our families immigrated here and we have adapted to the society we live in. However, there are those of us who want to have a cultural and ethnic community within our American society. This is becoming more difficult as more and more children are being drawn to American sports, boy/girl scouts, and other Americanized activities. How do we make Basque culture attractive to our children to ensure that we'll still have an active Basque Center in ten years? Gaztemundu has given participants numerous ideas and sparked discussions among members of various Basque club participants."



*Above: Mission Angel Island Gold Medalists: Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Mike Zamattia, Darryl Keiper, Ryan Keiper and Mia.*

*Right: Mission Angel Island Silver Medalists: Xabier Salaburu, Bernadette Arriada Lara, Mike, Lucy and Angelina Zamattia.*

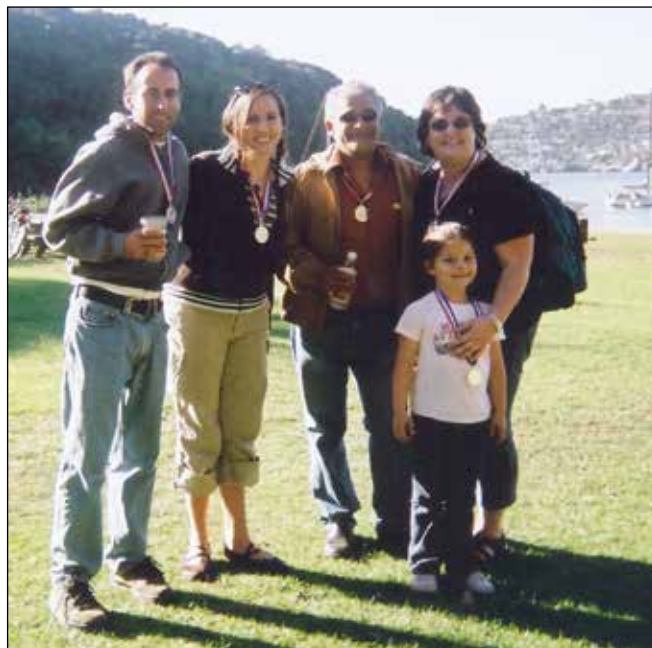
#### ACTIVITIES FOSTERING FUN AND EDUCATION

With insights gained through the Gaztemundu program there's been an added emphasis on cultural education at the BCC, gathering the community not only to socialize, but to be educated. Moreover, there is an increasing emphasis on educating the community about Basque culture as well.

Thanks to the support of the Basque Government of Euskadi which funded the airline tickets and three California Basque clubs that transported and hosted them, BCC members were treated to a cooking workshop by professional Basque chefs in 2006. NABO Facilitator, John Ysursa, explained that this was the result of a series of meetings between NABO and Basque Government representatives brainstorming activities to keep people coming to the Basque clubhouses. The three California clubs with buildings, Chino, Bakersfield and San Francisco, agreed to host this first-time experiment in September 2006.

Santa Ramirez and Aitor Etxebarria who are instructors at the Chefs School of Gamarra (Vitoria-Gastiez, Araba), prepared dozens of "pintoxak," ("tapas" in Spanish), bite-size portions of various foods which can be taken as a snack or combined to make a full meal. In workshops that went from two to three hours, samples and recipes were passed among the participants following an introduction of each that included some pointers on how to prepare them. The two chefs demonstrated why it is that Basque food today is rightfully famous and left the BCC member participants super-satisfied.

In 2007 Mission Angel Island was an adventure challenge for the Basque Cultural Center developing teamwork among all ages. Teams experienced an entertaining, unique and competitive event by amassing points within a time limit by performing tasks with varied levels of difficulty around Angel Island.





## *Fostering a Positive Association With the Local Community*

### **BASQUE IMPRINT IN SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO**

In 2006 Jean Paul Barthe said, "It's becoming rare that a Basque marries another Basque. To keep Basque alive we have to explain to the people in South San Francisco and San Francisco what Basque is. It's more than food and sheepherders. It's engineers, policemen, artists. I think it's very important to talk about this. Let's go in front and keep the Basque high!"

The Basque Cultural Center has connected with the local community with invitations to experience its culture from the Opening to the present. Likewise, it has supported South San Francisco when opportunities arose like during the 1989 earthquake, South San Francisco's Day in the Park, its 100th Birthday celebration and being the City's first business to install solar panels to model and encourage other businesses to become more environmentally conscious. South San Francisco has flown the Basque flag from their City Hall on several of the BCC's Anniversary celebrations. In 2007 City Officials planted a tree in Sister City Park in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the Gernika bombing and helped make their community more aware of Basque history.

### **STATE SENATOR QUENTIN KOPP SALUTES THE BCC FOR ITS HELP AFTER THE 1989 EARTHQUAKE**

The following letter sent to BCC Manager, Louis Martirena, by State Senator Quentin Kopp, is one which our members can indeed be proud for helping in a time of great need:

*Dear Louis:*

*The first phase of our recovery from the October 17, 1989 earthquake has passed. As we ascertain the longer term effects of the quake and begin to alleviate problems of homelessness and reconstruction, we find time to pause and thank those who were so generous when it was most needed.*

*The Basque Cultural Center responded quickly, generously and unhesitatingly to the needs of its neighbors. By providing over 100 free hot meals in a timely and cheerful manner, you helped those in need and provided an example to our community.*

*The genuine heroes of this disaster are people like yourselves, citizens of our area who shared, worked and survived together. This is truly the good stuff of our country. Once again, with many thanks and very real appreciation, I salute you.*

*Sincerely yours, Quentin Kopp, State Senator*

### **BCC SUPPORTED SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO'S DAY IN THE PARK**

Offered for the first time in 1997 and sponsored by the City of South San Francisco with donations from a number of local businesses, the outdoor fair was so well-received by the community that it has been enlarged and repeated

since then. It's held at Orange Memorial Park, one block from the Basque Cultural Center. Professional performers are a part of this event, and in 2002 the Basque Cultural Center began contributing to this neighborhood activity by sending its Basque dancers to enrich the South San Francisco community with the music and dance of its heritage.

### **GERNIKA GOGORATUZ REMEMBERING GERNIKA 1937-2007**

The Basque Cultural Center reminded Basques and non-Basque alike of the atrocities of Gernika on its 70th anniversary with a program from April 17-26, 2007. The attack on April 26, 1937, during the Spanish Civil War by the German Luftwaffe squadron was, at the time, the largest aerial bombardment of a town and the first purposeful bombing of civilians, a practice that extended into World War II and beyond.

Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal, author of the Bay Area's Urzandi volume *Gardeners of Identity*, presented the documentary *The Mark of Man* on April 17th and 19th and moderated a discussion following the film. Dr. Gloria Totricaguena, Director of the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, presented the history of the Gernika bombing on April 22nd. Basque Chaplain, Aita Martxel Tillous, celebrated a Gernika Gogoratuz Memorial Mass on April 26th.

South San Francisco honored the 70th Anniversary of Gernika's bombing when Mayor Rich Garbarino helped BCC Vice President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman and BCC Director Jean Gorostiague plant a Spanish oak in Sister City Park. The Commemorative Oak Tree Planting Ceremony took place on April 26th. Vice President Isabelle Bushman equated the bombing of Gernika to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers. The oak tree will make the South San Francisco community more aware of the Basque culture.



*BCC Director and txistulari Christian Iribarren honored the newly planted oak tree with Basque music following the commemorative oak tree planting by South San Francisco Mayor Rich Garbarino and BCC Director Jean Gorostiague and Vice President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman.*

## BCC DEDICATES SOLAR SYSTEM ON EARTH DAY APRIL 22, 2008

The Basque Cultural Center dedicated its state of the art solar electric system on Earth Day, April 22, 2008. BCC President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman and Building and Grounds Chairman Jean Gorostiague were joined by South San Francisco Mayor Pedro Gonzalez, Councilmember Rich Garbarino, and Roxanne Cruz, PG&E's governmental affairs liaison for San Mateo County to celebrate the commitment the Basque Cultural Center has made to the environment.

The system is designed to produce 33,500 Kwh of zero greenhouse gas emission electricity each year and will save the Basque Cultural Center significantly on its electric bills for years and years to come. The panels are warranted to produce electricity for a minimum of twenty five years. During this period the system will generate enough clean energy to reduce CO2 emissions by 70 tons.

Jean Gorostiague added, "We wanted to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and promote the use of renewable energy, so solar was the way to go." In the first 11 months of 2008, it should be noted that the system

reduced Co2 emissions by 40,185.96 kg, produced 57,408.52 kilowatt hours of electricity (equivalent to nearly the yearly consumption of six US households), and perhaps most importantly, in economically difficult times, saved the BCC \$8,611.28 in energy costs! Moreover, the Center's visible solar panels will inspire other South San Francisco businesses to be solar smart!

## BCC SUPPORTED SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The BCC also supported South San Francisco on the occasion of its 100th birthday on September 19, 2008. The city commemorated the momentous day with the dedication of a new Centennial clock. In its early history a clock attached to the old bank building at the corner of Grand and Linden disappeared, and finding a way to bring it back became a key project for the Centennial celebration.

The South San Francisco Historical Society solicited \$16,000 from 28 community organizations including the Basque Cultural Center. A plaque with all the donor names on a brick pedestal next to the clock shows the BCC's support of a community project.



*Left to right: South San Francisco Councilman Rich Garbarino, BCC President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman, BCC Board of Director Jean Gorostiague, South San Francisco Mayor Pedro Gonzalez and BCC Manager Francois Camou stand below the BCC's newly installed solar panels on Earth Day, April 22, 2008.*



## BCC MEMBERS SUPPORT COMMUNITY CAUSES

### 1990s

In the true spirit of Christmas designated donations were collected for the armed forces stationed in the Middle East in 1990 and 1991, Toys for Tots for needy children were collected for the South San Francisco Fire and Police Departments in 1995, and the BCC Youth collected donations for care packages to be sent to American troops deployed in Iraq in 2006.

### 1998

Member donations supported David and Danielle Elu who bicycled 108 miles in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee area for the Leukemia Society of America.

### 2003

Joseph Goyhenetche bicycled 3,900 miles from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. on a 63 day Journey of Hope to benefit PUSH America, the national philanthropic organization of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity to raise funds and awareness on behalf of people with disabilities. They played wheelchair basketball, performed puppet shows for children, and danced for hours with local groups that serve people with disabilities or “people with other abilities” as Joe aptly called them! He took those in wheel chairs out on the dance floor as he’d done with his Amatxi, Mary Ann Goyhenetche Scully. Other team members followed his example. He rode for people like Mary Ann who faced challenges every day with her disabilities. When presented with the Top Fundraiser award of \$9,155 in Washington, D.C., it was announced that Joe’s Basque Community in San Francisco was responsible for his achievement.

### 2004

On April 18 \$25 of each member’s \$40 lunch supported the victims of the Madrid Bombing. On July 10 and 11 Team Ximistra walked 40 miles for the fight against Breast Cancer and raised over \$38,000, the 5th largest amount due to the BCC members’ donations. On October 24 BCC Members supported Ana Alejandra and Mary Vizcay on their 26.2 Mile Marathon Walk in October for Leukemia and Lymphoma to Honor Martin Vizcay’s battle with the disease. In 2004 the annual BCC Golf Invitational began supporting the community when monies were raised for the Emile Jean Goyhenetche Memorial Fund.

### 2005

The 2005 Golf tournament was a fundraiser campaign for the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation in honor of the BCC members who suffered from this illness. In 2006 the golf tournament’s \$2,200 was raised for the South San Francisco Chapter of the Boys and Girls Club of America and \$200 supported Goiz Eskola to benefit the BCC youth involved in the program.

### 2007

The 2007 golf fundraising effort went to the Greater San Francisco Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Joseph Jorajuria, diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2001 and given 6 months to live, was in successful remission due to the MMRF’s assistance for a Stem Cell Transplant. He did a 5K walk for families facing the diagnosis of multiple myeloma and was supported by BCC members. In December Maitexa Cuburu began training to participate in the Kaiser Permanente half marathon in San Francisco for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society that the BCC membership also contributed to.



*Team Ximistra raised \$38,000 for the fight against Breast Cancer thanks to BCC members’ support. WALKERS: : Marianne Arotzarena Martinon, Yvette Alzugaray Mindeguia, Danielle Bidegaray, Danielle Cordova Camou, Jeannine Campos, Maria Campos, Maitexa Cuburu, Yvonne Sorhondo Cuburu, Katrina Elicagaray Melander, Aline Izoco Elicagaray, Evelyne Etcharren, Elise Martinon Negueloua, Antoinette Oroz, Nathalie Oroz Barreneche, and Stephanie Oroz. CREW: Martin Bachoc, Yvette Bidegaray, Caroline Izoco Chiramberro, Anna Marie Etcheverria Coleman, Mickey Coleman, Marianne Etcheverria, Kathie Goyeneche, Jenny Isom, Maitecha Jauretche and Pierre Jauretche.*

## Fostering a Positive Association With the Basque Community and Ventures

The BCC's reputation for being welcoming to the global Basque Community was established very early. A June 1984 letter received from Jose Miguel Mendiburu Cenos of the Mexican delegation which performed at the Center's second anniversary expressed his appreciation for the BCC's hospitality. "My brother and I want to thank the members of the Basque Cultural Center for all the attention we received. We are in admiration of the organization and the companionship which exists in your Center....I was impressed with the unity and enthusiasm with which all cooperate in favor of your Center, with the beautiful places we visited in that big city, and the opportunity to know you all which gave birth to a good friendship because those days I spent with you all. I felt like at home. Pepe Muso is recuperated completely. He started to play and is now in a championship. With no more news, I say goodbye with an affectionate hello to all the friends of the Basque Cultural Center."

In 2007 BCC President Isabelle Ocafrain Bushman commented on the World Pilota Council's First Pilota Championship held at the BCC from September 4-16. "I had the opportunity to speak with the participants and guests from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Chile, Euskal Herria, Ireland, Mexico and Venezuela, and they all agreed that this was the best international tournament they had yet to participate in. They could not speak enough of the kindness of our members and staff and how they were all welcomed to our Euskal Etxea with open arms."

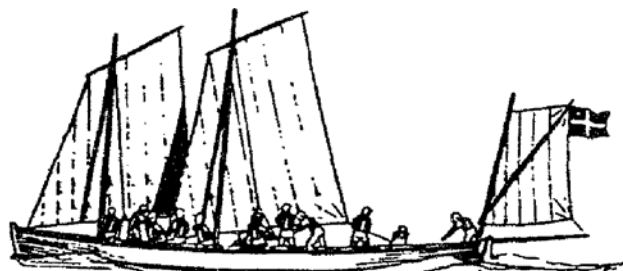
### SUPPORTING BASQUE PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY

In 1989 the BCC membership supported the National Monument to the Basque Sheepherder and a Basque documentary *Amerikanuak – Basque of the American West*.

BCC Director Jean Baptiste Aparart and Louis Elu were the BCC contacts for the fundraising effort for the monument to the Basque Sheepherder in Reno, Nevada designed to commemorate the sacrifices of thousands of young Basques, who for more than a century came from Euskal Herria to herd sheep. BCC members who wanted to take the unique opportunity to memorialize their loved ones on the plaque erected in Reno, Nevada contributed a \$250 minimum. Basques from around the world, including many from the Basque Cultural Center, gathered in Reno on Saturday, August 26, 1989 to dedicate a sculpture considered the first formal recognition of their cultural, economic and political achievements. The 22-foot-high bronze statue was sculpted by Basque artist Nestor Basterretxea, who said the project was designed to capture the loneliness and solitude of the sheepherder.

During the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, September 17, 1989, Stanley Bordagaray, a third generation Basque-American who is an accomplished videographer in the Bay Area, presented a short documentary on

Basque-Americans that he was producing. Bordagaray was seeking additional funds for the project that the BCC membership supported. In May 1994 his half hour documentary *Amerikanuak – Basque of the American West* was broadcast on KCSM, Channel 60 and was announced in the BCC newsletter.



In 1997 the BCC supported the construction of an original wooden Basque Trainera, a Basque fishing craft used for over a century and significant symbol of the Basque maritime culture. The Trainera was a gift of gratitude from the Basques of the Americas to their homeland, hence the vessel is named *Ameriketatik*. Currently, the trainera is located at the Donibane Pasaia port in Gipuzkoa. The BCC membership made tax deductible contributions to the \$75,000 project to ensure that future generations will know of the great impact the Basque culture has had on the maritime industry through boatbuilding, fishing, and exploration.

### SUPPORTING BASQUE COMMUNITIES IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES

"On Saturday, August 11, 1984, 15 year old Patxi Azpiroz competed with seven other young men and women and won the 1st place award at the Reno Picnic in the Junior Division. Needless to say, Patxi was beaming with excitement at his accomplishment – and why shouldn't he be proud – he did well carrying 140 pounds for a total of 615 feet (that's more than twice the size of a football field!). Patxi is a member of the Basque Cultural Center where he plays handball regularly. Patxi isn't the only athlete in the family. His father, Francisco Azpiroz and his partner, Jose Tellechea of Petaluma made a brave effort in the woodchopping contest, and even though they didn't win, they demonstrated the stuff champions are made of...." *Gure Euskal Etxea*, September 1984

"The BCC was well represented at the Jaialdi '87 Convention in Boise. The Klika, Zazpiak Bat Dancers and choir Elgarrekin performed several times throughout the weekend beginning with the Saturday morning parade. While many were lucky enough to ride in the parade, Evelyne Etcharren and Henry Ocafrain carried the San Francisco banner and walked the entire route. Congratulations for an outstanding representation of the Bay Area at Jaialdi '87...." *Gure Euskal Etxea*, July 1987



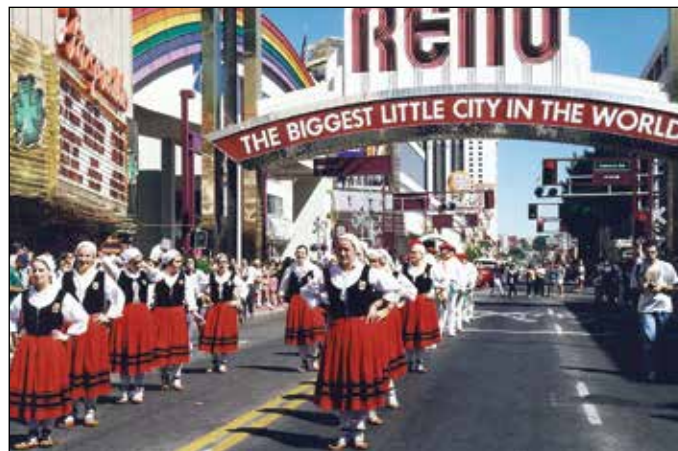
The Basque Cultural Center has richly supported the extended Basque communities in the Western United States as well as NABO, the organization under which they are all united. Four BCC members have been NABO Presidents: Jacques Unhassobiscay, Jean Leon Iribarren, Pierre Echarren, and Valerie Etcharren Arrechea, current President as of the publication of this book.

The BCC has supported members going to many Basque picnics and most of the NABO conventions by announcing them in the monthly newsletter, sending the San Francisco Klika and Zazpiak Bat dance group and by chartering buses for the members (1986 to Fresno, 1987 to Boise, 1993 to Elko, 1997 to Chino, 1998 to Winnemucca,

and 2003 to Elko to name those noted in the BCC's *Gure Euskal Etxea*.) The only convention not represented by the BCC in recent history was Buffalo, Wyoming in 2006 due to the great distance. However, the Zazpiak Bat Dance Group and Klika held a Reverse Draw Fund-raiser to support the Dancers and Klika going to the 2005 NABO convention in Rock Springs, Wyoming and were there to support the Winnemucca Convention in 2007. Moreover, the BCC Board of Directors has offered scholarships to members' children to encourage them to attend the Udaleku Cultural Camps like the one held in Buffalo, Wyoming in 2008.



*The Elgarrekin Choir participated in Boise, Idaho's first Jaialdi International Basque Festival in 1987 (left) and the second Jaialdi in 1990 (above).*



*The San Francisco Klika and Zazpiak Bat dancers supported most of the NABO Conventions like Winnemucca in 1998 (left) and Reno in 1999 (above).*



*The Artzain Etxea (Sheepherder's Wagon) that settled at the front left of Gure Euskal Etxea in 2002 was donated by the Euskal Lagunak Basque Club of Mountain Home, Idaho for restoration. It's a reminder that the sheepherder's wagon was home to thousands of Basque men who came to the United States to herd sheep in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Utah. These wagons were originally built in the late 1800s in Wyoming for the sheep industry. The BCC's Artzain Etxea was built by the Nicholson Sheep/Cattle Company in Idaho in the 1930s and was used until the 1960s when the company sold its sheep. Idaho's Euskal Lagunak Basque Club acquired the wagon from a farming family then donated it to the BCC. Only the frame of the wagon is original. The rest of the wagon was restored by J.C. Cantrell of Mountain Home, Idaho. (Information from 2002 NABO Convention program.)*

#### **BCC INFLUENCED FORMATION OF IPARREKO IBARRA BASQUE CLUB FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY BASQUES**



In December 2004 the formation of a new Basque club in the Sacramento area was announced in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter. Those forming this newest Basque Club are the children of BCC founding members Emile and Jeanne Goyhenetche and were active BCC members during its first quarter century.

Noel Goyhenetche, BCC Director from 1991 to 2002 and Vice President for eight of those years said, "The club was started by a suggestion made by my mother Jeanne Goyhenetche encouraging my sister Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra and I to start a club in the Rocklin/Roseville area. She told Aita Tillous how wonderful it would be because of the many Basque families that live or had recently moved into the area. She felt it would be a great opportunity for us to pass along our Basque traditions to all the

young children of the area as was done for us during our upbringing at the Basque Cultural Center. She persisted with her suggestion for a couple of years before we started seriously considering her desire of starting a club.

We continued making the 200 mile round trip to visit the Bay Area because of family and went to the Basque Center for different events. I always left the Center wanting to come back soon after and thought it was because I was missing the activities and events held at the Center. I came to realize that wasn't the case. It was the Basque people that the Center brings together who I had grown to love that I deeply missed.

Being involved in the Basque Cultural Center for many years, being on the Board of Directors and playing pilota, Klika and dancing were all things I love and are just some of the traditions I wanted to pass along to my kids. But being Basque is more than those activities, it's a deep rooted passion filled with traditions which drives our passion for life. It's enjoying the company of friends and family from near and far held together because of our common Basque heritage but brought together because of the many Basque Clubs throughout the States. Because of this it doesn't



matter where you go. If you find another Basque you have a connection and friend because of the heritage and traditions passed along over generations - something we all hope to continue.

Because of this upbringing which is part of most Basque families, it wasn't difficult to bring the local Basques of the area together to start our own Basque Club. It was my sister Allyn who organized the first club meeting. Through the hard work of the Board of Directors, Pat and Ophelia Torpey, Rosemarie Caballero, Mike Alfaro, Gilbert Petrissans, Janine Griesemer, Yvette DeGuero, Michael Uro and myself along with many other family and friends who have volunteered, we now have a club in which our children are learning about their heritage and traditions to pass along for generations to come.

The San Francisco Basque Cultural Center and clubs just like it throughout the United States have taught us

all the deeper meaning of being Basque. It is blessed with having a unique culture full of traditions and pride like no other. It is now our responsibility to pass along our unique heritage to generations to come."

Even though a name had not been chosen, dance and klika practices for children of all ages began on January 16, 2005. The Iparreko Ibarra (Northern Valley) Basque Club was incorporated September 14, 2005 and in October held it's first mus tournament, BBQ dinner and night of dancing and singing. It was supported by many BCC members. Four of them were the first mus tournament winners: 1st place: Maria Begorre and Michelle Chiramberro and 2nd place: Gracian Goyhenetche and Joseph Goyhenetche. In the February 2006 *Iparreko Ibarra* newsletter a membership drive was announced. With 99 members, the Club applied and was accepted as a NABO member.



*Left: BCC founding members Jeanne and Emile Goyhenetche encouraged their children to start a Basque Club for Sacramento Valley Basques. They were the second place Mus Champions (above) at the 2008 Iparreko Ibarra Basque Club Tournament.*

*Above: Noel Goyhenetche, BCC Director from 1991 to 2002 and Vice President for eight of those years was instrumental in the formation of the Iparreko Ibarra Basque Club for Sacramento Valley Basques. He's pictured celebrating the BCC's 24th Anniversary in 2006 with his wife, Yvonne Arduain Goyhenetche.*

*Allyn Goyhenetche Terpstra was instrumental in the formation of the Iparreko Ibarra Basque Club. She is pictured with her husband Mike Terpstra, and their son, Justin celebrating the BCC's 25th Anniversary in 2007.*



## *Establishing a Strong and Friendly Collaboration With Euskadi*

The first Congress of Basques of America in Euskadi took place in San Sebastian in 1982 – the same year as the opening of the Basque Cultural Center. BCC founding members Martin Minaberry and Jean Leon Ocafrain were the United States NABO delegates. The Basque Government was created two years earlier in 1980 under the Statute of Autonomy of Gernika, providing a measure of self-government for Basques of three provinces - Alaba, Biskaya and Gipuzkoa. As a result of the Autonomous Community Basques began to enjoy free elections and a free press under 'free state' status that allows them to provide their own administration. A delegate of the Basque Government to Basque communities living outside of Euskadi was set up.

In 1986 Jokin Intxausti Larrauri made an official visit to the BCC on its 4th Anniversary. Jokin's duties included the establishment of contacts with Basque communities around the world and the development of economic ties with other nations of the world. His stop in San Francisco was part of a tour of Basque Centers and Clubs of the United States offering assistance in the teaching of the Basque language, folklore and sports by providing teachers from Euskadi on a temporary basis and films to assist in this effort.

In 1988 Lehendakari Jose Antonio Ardanza, President of the Basque Autonomous Community (BAC) since 1985, toured the United States on a goodwill visit and a trade mission. He visited the Basque communities in Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and California en route to Washington, D.C. where he presented President Ronald Reagan with a Basque makila (walkingstick) as a gift to the American people. On Saturday, March 19, the Basque Cultural Center hosted a reception and luncheon in his honor. In the afternoon the Lehendakari went to the Alliance Francais for a book-signing gathering of Basque-American authors, then returned to the BCC with his wife for a larger reception with all of the BCC members.



*In 1988 Lehendakari Jose Antonio Ardanza was presented a plaque from San Francisco by Supervisor Richard Hongisto. Looking on are Board of Directors Jean Leon Iribarren, Louis Elu, Gracian Goyhenetche, Mayie Etcheverry, and Pierre Etcharren.*

In 1996 and 2005 the BCC requested the membership to register with the Basque Government. In 1996 the Basque Government asked all Basque Clubs to register with them. This would officially recognize the Basque Cultural Center as a Basque club outside the Basque Country. Registration would make the Club eligible for possible future benefits. The goal of the BCC Board was to have the BCC registered with accurate and full membership numbers. To accomplish this the registration forms were made available for several months through the newsletter as well as at the BCC General Meeting and Elections on June 9, 1996.

In the United States 2000 Census, BCC members were encouraged to mark 'Basque' as their ethnic origin to get a more accurate recording of the number of Basques in the United States. And similar to the U.S. Census which is recorded every ten years, the Basque Government wanted to update their 1996 statistical records in 2005. Again, their request was carried out by mailing the registration form in the BCC's newsletter with an article of encouragement to register.

In 2004 Euskadi's Minister of Justice, Joseba Askaraga, toured some of the Basque Communities in the western United States. On February 14 he gave a presentation at the BCC on current events in Euskadi including Ibarretxe's Plan and met with BCC members to discuss human right issues in the Basque Country with interested BCC members.

Every four years a World Congress of Communities throughout the Basque diaspora have gathered for a week of meetings in the Basque Country with the aim of creating a stronger synergy among the Basques worldwide since 1995. Half of the NABO Delegation to the IV World Basque Congress in Bilbao in July 2007 were BCC members and Directors: Philippe Acheritogaray was a voting delegate and BCC President Xabier Berrueta and Pierre Etcharren were invited guests.



*On Saturday, February 14th, 2004 the Basque Government's Minister of Justice spoke at the BCC. Pictured from left to right: Director of International Relations Inmaculada de Miguel, Nicole Hauscarriague, Minister of Justice Joseba Askaraga, Yvonne Hauscarriague, Cathleen Acheritogaray, Philippe Acheritogaray.*





*Left: On July 29, 2005 BCC President Xabier Berrueta presented the President of the Basque Government, Juan Jose Ibarretxe, with a plaque expressing thanks to him and the Basque Government for their continued support of the Basque Cultural Center and the Basque diaspora.*

*Right: On February 18, 2006 Josu Legareta, Director of Relations with Basque Communities, addressed the NABO delegates at a meeting at the BCC.*

## THE LEHENDAKARI VISITS THE BAY AREA AND BASQUE CULTURAL CENTER

In 2008 Juan Jose Ibarretxe, President of the Basque Autonomous Community ('Lehendakari' in Basque), began his San Francisco Bay Area visit by attending a flag raising ceremony at the City Hall of South San Francisco to begin the celebration of the BCC's 26th Anniversary. Mayor Pedro Gonzalez and BCC Vice-President Xabier Berrueta welcomed the Lehendakari to California and South San Francisco. Mayor Gonzalez underscored the Basque community's role in the cultural and social life of the city. The Lehendakari watched as the Basque Flag (Ikurrina) was raised to the sounds of the Klika and flew over South San Francisco City Hall through the weekend.

The Lehendakari was invited to speak at Stanford University. First he gave an overview of Basque history, the political topography of the seven provinces, some economic and social statistics and famous artists of the region. Then his presentation focused on his proposed road map to peace that he delivered to the Basque Parliament on September 28, 2007.

Lieutenant Governor of California John Garamendi met with the Lehendakari and stated their purpose was to look into ways in which California could work in collaboration with Basque institutions and exchange information on climate-related matters. The Lehendakari "made a commitment to collaborate actively in areas of mutual interest to Euskadi and California, including nanotechnology, social innovation and policies to fight climate change." His San Francisco visit was concluded by attending a special reception in his honor at the Basque Cultural Center on Saturday, February 16.



*Juan Jose Ibarretxe, President of the Basque Autonomous Community, spoke on the occasion of the BCC's 26th Anniversary in 2008 following Sunday morning Mass. He is the third Basque president since the introduction of democracy in Spain and the fourth in the history of the region. He was first elected Lehendakari in 1999 and was re-elected in 2001 and 2005.*

## *Technology and Education*

### *Bring the BCC Closer to Euskal Herria and Basque Efforts*

In 1995 Radio Irouleguy accepted Jean Paul Barthe's proposal to broadcast a program about Basque activities, interviews, and other interests in the United States. They allotted a one hour monthly broadcast that would be repeated throughout the month at various times so friends and families in Euskal Herria could hear about Basque happenings in the U.S. Jean Paul requested all types of news from the BCC membership: announcements of weddings, births, baptisms, sports events, interviews with Basques, etc. A copy of each radio program was given to the Basque Cultural Center so those who wanted to could hear what was broadcast in the Basque Country in French and Basque. In spite of being a great opportunity to show Basque unity and strength to friends and families in Euskal Herria, this project lasted only one year.

In 2000 the BCC's *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter announced that the University of Nevada's Basque Studies Program was offering an online course entitled Basque Culture and Politics by Joseba Zulaika. This was the first of at least twelve courses that the Basque Studies Program committed to develop thanks in part to a grant received from the Basque Government's Education Department. Topics included Euskera (four levels), Basque Film, literature, early Basque history, modern Basque history, gastronomy, and the Basque diaspora. Courses were offered in English, Spanish and Euskera.

In 2004 the BCC members could listen to Basque Radio in Euskara and Spanish on the website [www.eitb.com](http://www.eitb.com). Members could stay up to date on the latest pilota schedule, news, commentaries, and scores from the kantxas of the Basque Country by visiting [www.lapelotavasca.com](http://www.lapelotavasca.com) (also in Castilian and Euskara). They could watch two Basque television stations on the internet: Canal Vasco geared for Basques in the Americas and ETB SAT geared towards Basques in Europe.

Also in 2004 BCC members were notified via the newsletter that they could check out books from the Center of Basque Studies' library at the University of Reno simply by going to a local library. The website at <http://basque.unr.edu> detailed how to reserve the books, ideal for students and curious Basques wanting to learn more about their culture.

#### **BASQUE NETWORKING**

Basque enrichment is becoming increasingly available to the Basque diaspora and general public as well on the internet. There are numerous Basque sites to gather information. In a 2006 interview on [www.buber.net](http://www.buber.net) Dr. Pedro Oiarzabal, author of the Bay Area's Urazandi volume said, "Technology is there for the Basque diaspora to use, but we cannot forget that nothing can substitute our daily

experiences... The Internet offers the ability for us to be informed, to learn, and to connect with others with common interests.... In this sense, we can maintain our identity, for instance, by learning about our culture, language, and traditions, and sharing our experiences with others, Basques and non-Basques, in an unparalleled way. For example, our dancers can easily log into any Basque dancing web site and download photos, videos, melodies, music scores, and lyrics, and learn the steps of any traditional dance. A real instructor is being complemented by an online multimedia database, which is open 24/7. In addition, we can educate ourselves by consulting the online homeland media, and be informed about current affairs."

BCC member Idoia Salaburu Urruty has been the USA Representative for [www.EuskoSare.com](http://www.EuskoSare.com), an initiative of Eusko Ikaskuntza, the Basque Studies Society, which promotes information exchange from and about Basques around the world, through the internet and outside it. *EuskoSare USA* brings together the Basque community in the USA (Basques, descendants of Basques, and friends of Basques). It is an open and interactive network for all the Basques in the United States to share information, advice, news, important dates, and experiences relating to our common origin.

For example, in April 2007 Idoia connected a *EuskoSare* request for help to the BCC newsletter which announced the need for young people to help in the rehabilitation and restoration of the Azkarate Castle (near St. Jean Pied de Port) to be the future International Center of the Diaspora. *EuskoSare* participated in the momentum of this initiative. Idoia has also produced several online interviews and articles to promote an information exchange from and about Basques around the world.

On November 13, 2008 Lehendakari Juan Jose Ibarretxe launched a new website [www.euskaletxeak.net](http://www.euskaletxeak.net) for diaspora Basques and Basque Clubs of the world at the Basque Government Advisory Council for Basque Communities Abroad. The BCC's Xabier Berrueta is one of three representatives of Basque Centers abroad. The website is the tool for connecting the Basque centers to one another and to Euskal Herria. It will only be as effective as it is used. Everyone needs to participate!

#### **BCC ENCOURAGES EUSKARA, THE BASQUE LANGUAGE**

When asked what they would like to pass down to future generations, many members said they hope children will take advantage of the language opportunities the BCC is offering. Joe Castanchoa said, "I would like to see families take advantage of the language opportunities available now." Of course, the culture needs to be fostered in the family.



*“I see the Basque diaspora in 10 years closer together, as technologies are developed and used to shrink the world we live in.”*

—Philippe Acheritogaray, 2007 *Euskosare* interview

Euskara is the most distinctive ethnic marker of the Basque people and is truly a unique language. While the numerous dialects inhibited cultural unity, the unified language, Batua, is helping to keep Euskara from being on the endangered language list. The Basque Cultural Center has taken many steps to keep the Basque language in the forefront in order that it might be passed on to the next generations.

During the entire first quarter century, Masses have been said in Basque and all the songs sung by the Elgarrekin Choir have been in Basque. Thanks to the overhead projector, both Basques and non-Basques alike can sing the Mass in Euskara. Since 2001 the gathering of pre-school age children has incorporated an early introduction to Euskara which, prior to 2001 wouldn't occur until seven years of age when dance instruction began. Participation in Udaleku (Cultural Camps) at ten years further increases their Basque vocabulary.

The *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter chronicles an increase in using Basque words. For the first six years events were titled in English. The Autumnfest received a Basque name, *Udazkeneko Besta*, in 1988 and remained the only BCC annual event in Euskara until after 2000. In 2002 the Basque Cultural Camp was called *Udaleku* and *Olentzero* visited the children at Christmas. In 2004 the Children's Christmas Party became *Eguberri*. In 2005 the Members' Free Lunch became *Odolki Jatea*, Mother's day became *Amaren Eguna*, Father's Day became *Aitaren Eguna*, and the complimentary lunch to members 62 years of age and older became *Zahar-Gazte Bazkaria* (then *Esker Onezko Eguna* in 2006). Also, in 2005 the newsletter began putting the months in Basque as well as English. In 2008 *Euskara Corner* was introduced by Maitexa Cuburu, a mini-language lesson right in the *Gure Euskal Etxea* newsletter!

In 2002 HABE, the Basque Government entity responsible for adult Euskara education, installed the Basque language program at the BCC. But it wasn't until Boga that the language program took off. Boga is a multimedia PC software system for learning Euskara through the Internet. It is one of the tools (via HABE of the Basque Government) that is available to learn the Basque language. BOGA covers all the levels of learning Basque and includes a dictionary, grammar explanations, complete sets of learning lessons, native speakers pronunciation, etc. And it's all for free!


In 2007 the BCC offered a pilot program where up to five BCC members who successfully completed the Center for Basque Study's Basque 101 online course would be reimbursed for its cost after successful completion with a passing grade. BCC Secretary Philippe Acheritogaray was the contact person. Also, in 2007 BCC President Xabier Berrueta introduced a new idea to sharpen Basque lan-

guage skills called Afarria (The Dinner). What better place to practice Euskara skills than around the dinner table? He facilitated Basque conversation once a month at the BCC Restaurant.

Currently students are using the Internet-based program Boga and meet on Thursday evenings at the BCC for *mintza praktika* (speaking practice).

## EUSKARAREN NAZIOARTEKO EGUNA INTERNATIONAL BASQUE LANGUAGE DAY

In 1948 in Baiona, at the 7th Congress of the Eusko Ikaskuntza, it was decided that the feast day of St. Francis Xavier would be chosen to celebrate the Basque language, Euskara. December 3 is International Basque Language Day (ENE – Euskararen Nazioarteko Eguna), the date that not only the capitals, cities, and towns of the Basque Country celebrate their unique language, but all the Basque organizations worldwide as well, whether they are close or far from Euskal Herria.



# Got Basque?

Here are some of the options currently available for learning Euskara. To get more information about the ongoing adult Euskara class at the Basque Cultural Center, and for more general questions please contact the Euskara Chairperson, Idoia Urruty at 415-731-1287 or at [alainidoia@hotmail.com](mailto:alainidoia@hotmail.com).

**Taking Basque For College Credit** At present, two U.S. Universities offer Basque classes for college credit:

**BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY** 1910 University Drive - Boise - Idaho 83725 - 208/426-1000  
<http://www.boisestate.edu/>

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO** 1664 N. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89557-0042 - (775) 784-1110  
<http://www.unr.edu/>

**Correspondent College Credit Courses** <http://basque.unr.edu/> 775.784.4854, x254  
An introduction to the language through the development of written and conversational language skills and through structural analysis. Emphasis on Unified Basque (batua). Explanations and workbook exercises are geared specifically to the distance learner with little or no access to native speakers or instruction. 26 lessons, two progress tests, final examination.

**Center for Basque Studies**  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

**Learning Basque On Your Own**

BOGA is an online program for the learning of Euskara. It is one of the tools (via HABE) that is being made available online to learn the Basque language.  
For more information and to register, please contact Izaskun Kortazar at [izaskunkortazar@gmail.com](mailto:izaskunkortazar@gmail.com).

**Aurrerak**  
A Textbook for Studying Basque, Volume 1, by Linda White [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)  
Aurrerak is a comprehensive text for beginning-level students who are learning Basque (the Batua form approved by the Academy of the Basque Language) in a classroom setting or on their own. Each chapter introduces an element of grammar and offers students written and spoken exercises, vocabulary, dialogues, and other activities that demonstrate the language in action, plus Basque reading texts that will entertain while they illustrate the points of the chapter. The complexities of Basque grammar are explained in clear, easy-to-understand terms, and the dialogues and exercises introduce students to common idioms and the basics of social conversation.

Volume 1 covers material for the first two semesters of college-level language-classroom work. It is also designed to give independent learners a sound foundation in the language to allow them to make their own way in a Basque-speaking environment and to read basic Basque texts.

**Beginner's Basque with 2 Audio CDs**  
by Wim Jansen  
Provides an excellent introduction to one of the most ancient languages of Western Europe. It is ideal for both classroom use and self-study.  
[www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

**EuroTalk Talk Now! Basque :**

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For more options please check <http://www.nabasque.org/Euskara/solo.htm>

*There are increasing opportunities for learning Euskara, and the Basque Cultural Center keeps the membership informed and offers lessons.*

The BCC initiated Euskararen Eguna or Day of Basque in conjunction with the BCC's 24th anniversary and NABO meeting on February 17, 2006. There were presentations regarding the BOGA language program, the TPRS teaching method by Jenny Ysursa and the BCC's Goiz Eskola Children's program by Idoya Salaburu Urruty. On December 3, 2006 the BCC showed a special screening of the 2005 Basque Country Bertsolari Championships to celebrate Euskararen Nazioarteko Eguna. Each December 3rd, the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center also takes the opportunity to promote the different methods available to learn Euskara by presenting books, CDs and tapes and information on various curriculums.

In 2009 in *McClatchy Newspapers*, special correspondent Julie Sell said, "The world is losing languages at an alarming rate with thousands of tongues expected to disappear by the end of this century. Yet amid the losses, one community — the Basque people — is reviving a language that many once feared would die out. The language report released by UNESCO said endangered languages can be saved through a combination of government intervention and community will."

If it's true that endangered languages can be saved through a combination of government intervention and community will (and the UNESCO language report labels Euskara as 'unsafe', not 'endangered'), the Basque Cultural Center, with the BAC government's support is certainly incorporating opportunities to learn Euskara and enrich all who are interested in Basque culture.

In 2009 the Basque Government's new Lehendakari Patxi Lopez said, "The Euskal Etxeak network and, in general, the large number of Basques scattered all over the world, is one of the greatest assets of the Basque Country. You are our ambassadors abroad and as such your pride as Basques and all the work and effort you dedicate in order to uphold our traditions and to disseminate our culture and language in the four corners of the world has never been fully appreciated....The Basque government wishes to encourage this inexhaustible natural resource. We are going to maximize our links with Basques abroad. We will endeavor to ensure that those persons who wish to keep a little bit of the Basque country inside them receive whatever assistance we are capable of giving them."

Putting words into action, four Basque government officials embarked on a trip of high-level contacts with the Basque Diaspora. On July 27, 2009, the Basque Cultural Center hosted a special reception for the newly appointed Basque Government dignitaries Guillermo Echenique, Secretary-General of Foreign Action, and Julian Celaya, Director of Basque Communities. They were welcomed and met with the directors of the four Bay Area Basque Clubs registered with the Basque Government (SF Basque Club, Anaitasuna Basque Club, Marin-Sonoma Basque Association and the Basque Cultural Center). All four presidents attended in addition to the president of NABO and the USFP president.



*In 2009 the Basque Cultural Center welcomed the new Basque Government officials and invited the four Bay Area Basque Club Presidents to have a round table discussion with them. Back row: BCC Directors John Falxa, David Alfaro, Arantxa Arriada, and Gratien Etchebehere, Jr., Linda Echeverria, Jean-Baptiste Echeverria, Cecilio Echamendi, Pedro Salaburu, Juan San Mames, BCC Director Johnny Curutchet. Second row: Anne Marie Chiramberro, Basque Government Official Benan Oregi, Marisa Espinal, BCC Assistant Treasurer Maitexa Cuburu, BCC Treasurer Anita Arduain, BCC Assistant Secretary Stephanie Oroz, BCC Director Jean-Pierre Cabalette, Charles Elliot, Gina Aguerre, Jean-Pierre Elissetche, Basque Government Official Andoni Martin, Lisa Etchepare. First row: United States Federation of Pelota President Xabier Berrueta, Basque Club President Christian Iribarren, Marin-Sonoma Basque Association President Jose Ugalde, NABO President Valerie Arrechea, Basque Communities Director Julian Celaya, Basque Cultural Center President Philippe Acheritogaray, Basque Secretary-General for Foreign Action Guillermo Echenique, Anaitasuna Basque Club President Francisco Vicondoa, BCC Directors Pierre Etcharren and Jean Gorostiague.*



## COMPARED TO MANY BASQUE CENTERS THE BCC IS ALIVE WITH CULTURE—BUT WILL IT BE ENOUGH?

Pierre Etcharren and Franxoa Bidaurreta were interviewed in 2006. Pierre said, “The Basque Community will be a different Basque Community 50 years from now. I would say there will be more and more Basques who will be marrying non-Basques. ....Let’s hope that they don’t have to be born in the Basque country, and they don’t have to speak Basque to be Basque! That’s what I was told by the Minister of Culture (Miren Azkarate) when she spoke at our convention (in 2002). After Mass she said, ‘You don’t need to speak Basque to be Basque.’ There’s a lot of non-Basque who are involved in the Basque Cultural Center, and they do more than some that are 100% Basque and who are born in the Basque Country. ....Today the Basque Cultural Center is known and respected all over the world. There are a lot of Basque clubs, but there is no culture inside. Ours is not only a beautiful building, but one where the culture is alive.”

Franxoa Bidaurreta said, “The building is running and things are going really, really good, the business part and money, but the culture part..... Sixty percent of our pilota players are over 50 years old. The young ones are very, very few..... We have opportunity now because there is money that is not coming out of the members’ pockets. It is set up really well to handle expenses..... Yet the Basque Community is spreading farther away. They won’t be able to bring their kids to participate in activities like pilota and dancing. We have to do something about it.....otherwise, in another 25 years, people might be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the building.....The Basque Cultural Center just had a camp for ten days. That’s very nice; but it’s not enough. When are those kids going to get together to practice? .....The Cultural Center Board worries so much if they’re members or not. They shouldn’t be worried about it; they should be worried about pilota. If somebody is willing to participate in the Basque activities, they should be allowed to....”

The 2009 BCC Anniversary committee brought a dance teacher from Gipuzkoa, Joxema Mendiola, to facilitate a fandango workshop. For the very first time Basque dance lessons were open to the public. In the March 2009 *San Mateo Daily Journal* Bennett Spector wrote, “Interest in Pilota has been fading recently due to its relative obscurity, but the Basque Cultural Center is intent on increasing the sport’s popularity. There are currently more than 100 members of the Basque Cultural Center who play on a regular basis. To play Pilota at the Basque Cultural Center, you must be a member. While nearly 90 percent of the members are of Basque heritage, there is no requirement of ethnicity to join. Lessons are held on Saturdays and the public is welcome to watch members play each weeknight during late afternoons and evenings. Anyone interested in playing or watching Pilota will find information on the Cultural Center’s Website,

[www.sfbcc.us](http://www.sfbcc.us), or can visit the center at 599 Railroad Avenue in South San Francisco.”

The Basque Cultural Center is planting the seeds for their cultural activities not only to be seen and enjoyed by non-Basques but to be learned as well. What the future will bring is yet to be told.

Three of the BCC’s founding members, Jean Gorostiague, Johnny Curutchet and Felix Berrueta, attended the rally at the BCC on October 6, 2009. Former United States President Bill Clinton endorsed Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi. They commented that when they set up the BCC in 1982 they never imagined receiving a visit from a United States President!

It’s exciting to be open to the new possibilities that the next generations will bring to the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center!



*On October 6, 2009 BCC President Philippe Acheritogaray welcomed former United States President, William Jefferson Clinton, and California’s Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, one of the State’s best know Basque-American politicians, to the Basque Cultural Center.*

*“All of the Basque people here in California live in harmony— men and women from Baxenabarre, Lapurdi, Xiberoa, Bizkaia, Araba, Gipuzkoa and Nafarroa. I would even go so far as to say, on behalf of our society, that you are a shining example of peaceful coexistence.” —Lehendakari Juan Jose Ibarretxe at the BCC’s 26th anniversary in 2008*



The Basque Cultural Center’s oak tree, now more than a quarter century old, grew from an acorn of the Gernika Oak in Euskal Herria and was planted in the grounds of the Center at its opening in 1982. How appropriate that the President of Euskadi is with the BCC’s Board of Directors under the oak tree in 2008, a reminder when Basque politics were made beneath its branches in Guernika and where public affairs were debated after hearing Mass. In the 19th century practicality and progress necessitated the building of the Assembly House which was built on the foundation of the old Church (holy water founts can be seen at the entrance!) and near the Oak Tree that became the symbol of Basque freedom.



*Basque Cultural Center Board of Directors left to right: Stephanie Oroz, Tony Espinal, Arantxa Arriada, Jean Gorostiague, Xabier Berrueta (President of the BCC at the 25th Anniversary), Juan Jose Ibarretxe (President of the Basque Government), Isabelle Ocafrain-Bushman (President of the BCC in 2008 at the time of this picture), Anita Arduain, Mayie Etcheverry, Philippe Acheritogaray (President of the BCC at the publication of this book), Idoya Salaburu Urruty, Christian Iribarren, Jean-Leon Ocafrain, Johnny Curutchet, Pierre Etcharren.*





## *Gure Euskal Kultu Etxea* ❁ Our Basque Cultural Center

*Zure beharra sendi ginduen duelako aspaldian,  
Gure amentsa egi(a) bihurtu baitzizaukun azkenian.  
Etxe Maite, alegeratzen gaituzu gaur bihotzian  
Ordainduz penaz utzi gintuen orroitzapenak herrian!*

*Nola daiteke elez esplika, zuri dugun maitasuna.  
Deusez konpara ezin baitaika zuk egiten daukuzuna.  
Eginbidez betetzen tuzu bai gaua eta eguna,  
Erakutsirik arrotz orori, gure izen ta izana.*

*Zerbait berezi badu denentzat mundu huntako pasaiaik,  
Bizi guzian segitzen dira haurrean hartu usaiak.  
Guziendako eskaintzen tuzu kirol ta besta nasaiak,  
Oro elgartuz, pasatzen tugu zurekin oren lasaiak.*

*Etxe Maitea, xutitu zinen, asko neke ikusirik,  
Zabarrak eta gazteak, oro, elgarretarat bildurik.  
Gaur ere betan ez dago nehor zuri segitzen ez denik.  
Hemendik falta direnak oro, begira daude zerutik.*

*Goiz edo berant, etortzen baita urruntzerako eguna.  
Etxe maitea, nehoiz ez ahantz, zuri eskatzen duguna.  
Zure atea zabalik atxik, gonbidaduz Euskalduna  
Urte guziez, loratu daien, maitatzen dugun kultura.*

We felt a great need for you for a very long time,  
Eventually our dream became a reality.  
Dear Home, you bring happiness to our hearts  
Replacing our home sickness of our native home town with joy!

How could words explain the love we have for you.  
Nothing compares to the special gifts you give us.  
Fulfilling your role by day as well as by night,  
Thus showing who we really are to all those outside.

As we go through this world each of us has special gifts,  
What we acquire in our childhood follows us throughout our lives.  
You offer us a lot of entertainment and rich festivals,  
Many hours are enjoyed united with our friends.

Dear Home, you still stand on your feet after many hardships,  
Gathering old and young always working together.  
Among those there is not anyone who doesn't follow you today.  
Some that are not here any more are watching from heaven.

Sooner or later the day comes to say good-bye.  
Please never forget what we ask of you beloved Home.  
Always keep your doors open inviting the Basque community  
So that the culture we love will always flourish.

*Written and sung by Johnny Curutchet at the 25th Anniversary Mass*



*Etorkizuna, kontakizuna.* ❁ The future has yet to be told.





**BASQUE**  
**CULTURAL CENTER**

# BILTZEN - BEROTZEN - POZTEN

chronicles a quarter century history of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center from the stories of its founding members and the next generation.

**BILTZEN** is the coming together of Basques to build a place to house their culture. The BCC's logo of a pilota player is a reminder of the spark that ignited this endeavor of love; when in 1979 sixty-eight Basque handball enthusiasts each pledged \$500 to build a place of their own to play their beloved national sport.

**BEROTZEN** is the warming up as BCC members contributed their talents, efforts, and time to make their cultural center world renown. The pilota player on the cover symbolizes the logo coming alive out of the roots of his homeland and the empty dirt lot in South San Francisco.

**POZTEN** is the joy of seeing the next generations involved in passing their rich culture not only to their children but to the non-Basque community as well.

**ETORKIZUNA,  
KONTAKIZUNA!**

