



North American Basque Organizations, Inc.

# HIZKETA

hizketa eginez, elkar hobe ezagutzen dugu

Uda 2007 Summer

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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## Bizi Emankorra: NABO's lifetime contribution award

NABO's "Bizi Emankorra" award is presented to a person who has made significant contributions to NABO and/or who has given extraordinary commitment to Basque culture in North America. This year's recipients are Francois Pedeflous (above) and Jean Unhassobiscay.



## NABO Presi- dent's Message



NABO is embarking on some initiatives that includes collaborating with other Basques in the Diaspora (people of Basque origin/identity that live outside the Basque country). At our Winter meeting we hosted the president of the federation of Basque organizations in Argentina, Mariluz Arretxe (pictured above), who shared with us some of their more successful ideas. We are also continuing our dialogue with Basque organizations in Canada and Mexico.

This international communication will culminate with this summer's IV World Congress of Basque Communities. It is an exciting time to be engaged in this exchange of ideas that will most certainly benefit all of us. The spirit that animates NABO of sharing energies and resources is there at the international level as well. Now with new technologies we can bring our scattered Basque world a little closer.

In preparation for the World Congress, NABO is at work developing a four-year plan from 2008-11 that aims to develop some new initiatives to supplement our existing programs to keep our communities going strong. We welcome your input and ongoing support.

*Mary Gaztambide*

NABO President

## S.F. Winter NABO meeting

In conjunction with the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center's 25th anniversary celebration, NABO held its annual Winter meeting that featured some new initiatives including the visits of the Presidents of FEVA and the Euskal Kultur Erakundea Pantxoia Etxegoin as well as the Basque Government's Minister of Culture, Miren Azkarate.

There is no doubt that the events required a huge amount of hard work; e.g., it isn't very easy accommodating 900 people for a meal! It was another impressive festival put on by our Basque friends in the Bay area. Thanks to their efforts across these last 25 years, we all had something to celebrate together. *Zorionak* (congratulations) & mil esker!

## KANTUKETAN In Quest of Singing

Basques love to sing: it is one of the most distinguishing elements of Basque culture. Song accompanies important moments, deftly sweeping aside geographical barriers and differences of dialect, creating an atmosphere of shared time and place as voices join together.

However the social practice of singing in Basque, though incontestably dynamic, has today been somewhat affected by a dwindling of collective memory and a lack of effective means of transmission.



"Kantuketan" (In Quest of Singing) originated as part of an overall effort by the EUSKAL KULTUR ERAKUNDEA (Basque Cultural Institute) to reverse the trend of less singing in Basque. Their aim was to conserve a heritage and pass it on. This cultural organization of the Iparralde or north side of the Basque Country graciously offered to share their exhibit with the North American Basque Organizations, Inc (N.A.B.O.) and the Basque-American community.

This exhibit is an ongoing effort to reconnect with our collective Basque memory and to promote Basque singing to a new generation. To bring you Kantuketan we have partnered with EUSKO JAURLARITZA--the Autonomous Basque Government of Euskadi--which has through the years demonstrated consistent support of efforts to promote Basque culture throughout the Basque Diaspora or Basque immigrant communities around the world. We have also joined forces with the BASQUE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER of Boise, Idaho, where this exhibit will reside when not touring. It will be at the NABO Convention in Winnemucca. See the NABO website for more information.

## Basque Studies Growing

Things are boding well for Basque Studies in institutions of higher learning illustrated by three events in Nevada, Idaho and California. It is becoming more crucial to develop effective means of transmitting knowledge about the Basques if we hope to see our heritage endure. Thus the development and success of Basque Studies gives us the means to better inform ourselves and others about the Basques.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Center for Basque Studies (CBS) at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Center was acknowledged by a special resolution from the State of Nevada legislature. The text of the resolution recognized the CBS for its efforts in investigating the role of Basques in the state of Nevada, and furthermore as playing a central role in the investigation of Basque culture around the world and the importance of the *Basque Library* that began with a donation of 750 articles by the late Robert Laxalt to this day with over 50,000 volumes of published materials, photographs, oral histories, films, etc. Then the representatives congratulated the CBS delegation with the statement *Zorionak eta urte askotarako*, a wish that these forty good years will be followed by many more.

Then last April in Idaho an International Basque Studies Conference/Memorial Tribute was held that included representatives from ten universities that are interested in creating a Basque Studies Consortium in that will be similar to a "NABO" or federation of schools and indi-

## BASQUE STUDIES CONSORTIUM



viduals engaged in Basque Studies to benefit from shared resources. NABO was represented by our president Mary Gaztambide as this coincides with NABO's motto of Recreate + Educate = Perpetuate. We are hoping for the success in the creation of a Basque Studies Consortium as it will enable NABO and our member club/organizations to further their educational efforts.

[www.naBASQUE.org](http://www.naBASQUE.org)



Jim Jausoro

The Idaho conference featured two invited speakers from Europe, Ibon Mendibelzua (currently a delegate of the Basque Government in Brussels) speaking about the

Basques in the European Union and the Rev. Alec Reid (Director of the Redemptorist Peace Ministry) speaking from his direct experience with the current Basque peace process. Then the weekend concluded with a memorial tribute to Jim Jausoro.

Then this May, the emerging Basque Studies Program at California State University, Bakersfield sponsored its second annual symposium that was well attended and received. Featured speakers includes Steve Bass, Dr. Viola Miglio & Dr. Xabier Irujo. The hope is that these and other Basque Studies programs will continue to flourish.



### BA AL ZENEKIEN: Did you know? By Larry Trask

**Q:** How do the Basques refer to themselves, their country, & their language?

**A:** The Basques call their language *euskara* (dialect variants *euskera* and *eskuara*). The word *euskaldun* (literally, 'one who has Basque') means 'Basque-speaker'; the plural is *euskaldunak*, and this is what the Basques commonly call themselves. Where necessary, a native speaker is *euskaldun zahar* (literally, 'old Basque'), while a person who has learned Basque as a second language is *euskaldun berri* ('new Basque'). The neologism *euskotar* means '(ethnic) Basque', and can be applied to any Basque, whether or not he speaks the language; the word *basko*, borrowed from Spanish, has also been used in this sense. The Basques have traditionally called their country *Euskal Herria*, which means 'the Basque Country'; this designation includes the territory of the traditional seven provinces, north and south. The neologism *Euskadi* means 'the Basque state'; this is the name of the territory administered by the Basque Autonomous Government, but it is sometimes applied more widely to the entire Basque Country as a demonstration of political feeling.

### The Basque Peace Process

Basque society is poised at a crucial juncture: will peace prevail? It will be a hard road to realize this goal but the opportunity makes it worth the effort. So what is being done? What is being proposed to bring an end to decades of conflict?

Accepting an invitation to speak at

the San Francisco Basque weekend back in February, Miren Azkarate, the Minister of Culture & Basque Government spokesperson, gave a presentation that provided an overview of what is going on during a special forum. She was very forthcoming, prefacing her comments by acknowledging that her talk presented the views of a good many Basque nationalists who see the real path to peace as consisting of resolving two separate but inter-twined elements: the unresolved political situation and violence. To see her presentation online, and to see what you can do to join this effort for peace, go to the NABO website and follow the Basque Government link at the top.



Miren Azkarate

### Gaztealde: NABO's new educational program

How can we really appreciate the present if we do not understand the past? How can we expect to keep Basque culture vital and vibrant if we cannot successfully transmit knowledge from one generation to the next? With this in mind NABO is initiating a new program. It may continue to change but an Astero reader sent in a great suggestion that really captures our aim: *Gaztealde*-which means on behalf/support of youth. The three-day workshop runs from July 25-27 in Boise.

BASQUE STUDIES  
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

July 25-26-27, 2007  
Boise, Idaho

the basque museum  
AND CULTURAL CENTER

Teaching About Basques Workshop

**GAZTEALDE** On behalf/support of Youth

We're looking for some good men and women (age 16 & above) who have the will to step up and serve as teachers of Basque history and culture. If you have the will, this workshop will provide you with the means to teach more people of all ages about the Basques.

At a minimum, after completing this workshop each participant will be prepared to present a one-hour general introduction of the Basques accompanied with video, audio & images that will be provided you. The second goal is to foster contacts to create networks to share information. Visit [www.nabasque.org](http://www.nabasque.org)

IV. EUSKAL GIZATALDEEN  
MUNDU-BATZARRA  
ZUBIGINTZAN  
IV. CONGRESO MUNDIAL  
DE COLECTIVIDADES VASCAS

### NABO's Four Year Plan

Our Basque community here in the Diaspora is at a crossroads: what will we choose to define as being Basque in the 21st

century? What aspects of Basque culture will be chosen to emphasize and perpetuate?

Accordingly, NABO is preparing a four-year plan to help focus our energies. The plan consists of three interconnected parts with the overall goal of successfully linking the "dreams" (i.e., positive initiatives that benefit your club/organization) and the "doers" (the people who step up and get the necessary work done) to address our collective needs.



Euskalduna Convention Ctr in Bilbao

In the course of accomplishing this, we are also requesting data from our member organizations so that we can know their needs so that NABO can be more effective in providing resources that can hopefully assist. Our plan will be presented to delegates at our NABO meeting in Winnemucca & the World Basque Congress this summer in Bilbao with the theme of "Zubigintzan" or building bridges. The aim is to focus our resources and energies on worthwhile ventures.

### Gernika 1937-2007: A Dark Day for the Basques



Seventy years ago the Basque town of Gernika (Guernica in Spanish) was bombed purposely on a market day. This surprise attack allowed the Nazi war machine an opportunity to test its war theory of destructive bombing, while enabling Franco's Nationalist forces in the Spanish Civil War to prevail. The attack was later immortalized by Pablo Picasso's famous painting.

### EGUTEGIA: Upcoming Events

There is a full list of Basque events during this summer festival season at our website that includes:

- June 2: NABO National Mus Tournament San Francisco Basque Cultural Ctr.
- June 8-10: NABO Convention in Winnemucca, Nevada
- June 17-29: NABO Udaleku in San Fran.
- July 25-27: NABO Gaztealde in Boise
- Aug 11: NABO Kantari Eguna in Gardnerville, Nevada