

EUSKAL NEWS

▪ Informative newsletter of the Delegation of Euskadi in the United States ▪

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Basque immigrant history exhibit on New York's Ellis Island

The Basque Government along with Boise's Basque Museum & Cultural Center is putting together a temporary exhibit on Basque immigration to the US. This exhibit will take place on Ellis Island, in New York, between February and April 2010.

The exhibit, spearheaded by the Basque Museum & Cultural Center of Boise will be called "Hidden in Plain Sight: The Basques". It will be partially available for viewing by the public during the international Basque culture festival, Jaialdi, in Boise, Idaho; and later on, in September 2010, it will become the featured exhibit in the main gallery of the Basque Museum.

According to 2008 attendance figures, 4 million individuals visited the Statue of Liberty and an estimated 2 million travelled to Ellis Island. It is expected that during the time that the exhibit is in New York, over 300,000 people could potentially learn about the Basque people thanks to this exhibit.



Battery Park, in NYC, where visitors can take the ferry to Ellis Island.

This event is of great importance, since the ancestors of most Basques who emigrated to the US in the period in which the Island operated as the port of entry from Europe went through there.

"It would be difficult to find a location where you reach as many people from as many different places, so it makes sense to open the exhibit in Diana Echeverria, a member of the board of New York, on Ellis Island, the place where so many of our ancestors travelled through to begin their new life so far from their native

land", says Diana Echeverria, a member of the board of directors of the Basque Museum, in an interview for EITB.

Source: EITB

The exhibit will be
showed between February
and April 2010

Basque Government offers scholarships to specialize in foreign action and in the field of the Basque centers

The Basque Government is granting two scholarships to young professionals desiring to specialize in foreign action and in the field of the Basque centers.

Applicants should be born in Euskadi or be a member of a Basque

center, should be under 30 years old and have a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

Selected applicants will carry out an internship at the Basque Government headquarters and will receive 15,800 euros. The deadline for the application

is on December 10th, 2009.

For more information on the application process, please call: 01134. 945018158, or write to: euskaletxeak@ej-gv.es

The Belgian region of Wallonia declares the Basque Country a priority market in biotechnology

The Belgian region of Wallonia has declared the Basque Country a priority market in 2010, with biotechnology included among the sectors selected to foment contact between companies. Both in Wallonia and the Basque Country, life sciences in general and biotechnology in particular are growing sectors.

Both bioregions, with the BioBasque Agency in the Basque Country and Biowin in Wallonia, as well as various institutions, are working to prepare the first event in the spring of 2010.

The announcement of the Basque Country as a priority market came during the commemoration of the first anniversary of AWEX, the Economic and Commercial Delegation of this Belgian region, at a ceremony held in Bilbao September 24th. At this event, the Economic and Commercial Advisor to the Wallonian Region, Frédéric Biava, revealed that in the Basque Country AWEX will focus on promoting contact between the biotech companies of these two European regions.

Source: Basquenews SPRI



Steel maker to invest on Basque mills in 2010

Arcelor Mittal, the world's leading steel producer, has announced its plans to invest €15.5 million in a number of group factories in the Basque Country, after registering an upswing in production in 3Q this year. The investment plan was announced by AM general manager Gonzalo Urquijo, when he presented the group results for the first nine months.

"I think we are over the worst," said group chairman Lakshmi Mittal, before acknowledging that the improvement in developing countries, stock replacement in warehouses and the upswing in car sales in Europe had all helped the group to get over recent losses.

Source: Diario de Noticias de Álava

Alava-based rail systems producer to invest 19 million euro in new factory in southern France



Management sources at Llodio-based rail systems producer Jez Sistemas Ferroviarios recently confirmed investments of €19 million on a new factory in the south of France. This new factory would enable the firm to increase turnover by 50 per cent in a year and a half to €68 million.

According to a company press release, the new facility, currently under construction and set for inauguration before 2010, is located on

a 25,000-square-metre site on the other side of the Pyrenees to Navarra, at Arberatzte, just 200 kilometres from Llodio.

Matériel Ferroviaire d'Arberatzte (MFA), as the new factory has been officially baptized, will focus on producing cast steel railway crossing pieces, which enable trains, light metro trains and trams to shift tracks safely and smoothly.

Source: Diario de Noticias de Álava

The History of the Basques of San Francisco and the Bay Area subject of New book from the Center for Basque Studies

Under the title “Gardeners of Identity: Basque in San Francisco Bay Area”, Pedro J. Oiarzabal and the Center for Basque Studies at the University of Nevada released Oiarzabal’s last book. The book uses historical archive research and voluminous interviews to trace the history of San Francisco’s Basque population from the city’s prehistory to the present.

Under the Spanish Empire many Basques played key roles in the establishment of settlements throughout California, with particular emphasis on today’s San Francisco Bay Area.

Basque immigration continued as the region changed from Spanish, to Mexican, to American hands in the nineteenth century. Waves of Basque immigrants migrated especially in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, when many Basques arrived to work as sheepherders across the American West. Many also settled in San Francisco, where they formed landscaping enterprises, bakeries, boardinghouses and restaurants among many other businesses. As their population grew, they also formed associations, culminating in the building of the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco, which is an important meeting point for Basques in the area to this day.

Dr. Oiarzabal was born and raised in Bilbao, Basque Country and has spent much of his life between the Basque Country, Ireland, and the United States. He is a Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Nevada, Reno since 2007. Among his publications are *La Identidad Vasca en el Mundo* (2005) and *A Candle in the Night: Basque Studies at the University of Nevada, 1967–2007* (2007).

Basque Royal Academy head, Juan José Zearreta, dies

The current manager of the Royal Academy for the Basque Language/ Euskaltzaindia, Juan Jose Zearreta Urigoitia dekozea died in a car crash this month, aged 62.

The accident took place in the area of Muxika on a provincial road leading to Guernika.

Born in Zornotza in 1947, Mr. Zearreta Urigoitia dekozea dedicated much of his life to the promotion of Euskera, as both a spoken and written form.

At University in Deusto he was part of a group that began giving classes in Basque. He later became member of a commission for developing literacy in basque and partook in the creation of AEK (an association that continues teaching and promoting the language to this day).

He entered the Euskaltzaindia in 1973, though working in the area of economy. Two years later he became an associate member and in 2003 he rose to the position of Manager of the Academy.

Source: EITB

Members of the Basque diaspora will be able to follow the Bertsolaris’ championship 2009 in the Internet

Bertsolaritza fans living outside Euskadi will be able to follow Bertsolaritza championships and other events related to this world of verses.

Bertsozale Elkartea has set off several initiatives in the Internet with the main goal of allowing members of the Basque diaspora enjoy the Bertsolaris Championship 2009.

This championship will end on December 3th, 2009 and is broadcasted on www.txapelketanagusia.eu.

Source: Euskalkultura



N.A.B.O. sponsors Baztango Mutil Danzak workshops in Bakersfield and San Francisco

This month, the North American Basque Organization (N.A.B.O.) is sponsoring two dance workshops featuring “Mutil dantzak” of the Baztan region of Nafarroa in communities with considerable numbers of Basques in the area (San Francisco and Bakersfield).

The workshops are taught by a visiting instructor from the Basque Country, Patxi Larralde.

Mutil dantzak literally means “boys dances”, in which young people dance circle open. It seems that these dances were originally for young unmarried men.

There are nineteen dances, but not all are danced at the same time. The choreographic repertoire is pretty old. These dances share some things in common with the *iantziak*-dances from the Iparralde or northern French side of the Basque Country and the village of Luzaide in Navarre.



N.A.B.O. is sponsoring the workshops featuring “Mutil Dantzak”.

Usually, female participation in these dances during the official festivals is pretty controversial with people in favour and others opposed.

Source: Astero

John Garamendi, Democrat of Basque descent, wins election to Congress

Lt. Gov. John Garamendi of California, a Democrat of Basque descent, won election to Congress in a suburban and largely liberal district east of San Francisco.

Mr. Garamendi, who served in the Clinton administration, drew 53% of the vote.

The seat in California’s 10th Congressional district was vacated last June when Ellen O. Tauscher, a Democrat, resigned to take a top post in the State Department.

Last October, Bill Clinton Praised John Garamendi during the Basque Cultural Center Rally.

Source: The New York Times



November 14th
“Mutil Dantzak”
workshop in Bakersfield at the Kern County Clubhouse.

November 15th
“Mutil Dantzak”
workshop in Bakersfield at the Kern County Clubhouse.

November 21st
“Mutil Dantzak”
workshop in San Francisco at the Basque Cultural Center.

November 22nd
“Mutil Dantzak”
workshops in San Francisco at the Basque Cultural Center.