

## A. EUSKARA CLASSES IN THE SPRING 2016

The 2017 spring semester basically continued with similar groups as the ones we had in the fall 2016. Usually the biggest variations in the groups and classes happen after the summer break, when some clubs reorganize their groups and teachers; it's also in the spring semester when typically the number of students decreases.

At this point we don't have a definite number of students this semester, but by the end of it we will have an accurate head count. We will report on it in the summer NABO meeting.

The most noticeable differences from this semester to the previous one are the next:

1. We recovered the Los Banos School in California, where Christine Barbot Etxepare resumed the classes with a Euskara group. We congratulate and thank her for her dedication.
2. We will start another Skype group in Denver Colorado (we have a teacher thought Skype in Rocklin CA). The teacher will be Samine Irigoien who is located in Washington DC and who teaches also a class in that city.
3. We also resumed the classes in Elko Nevada, where Anita Anacabe Franzoia will teach a group on Sundays.
4. Probably the biggest differences comparing to other semesters happened in Montreal, Canada, where three of our teachers went back to the Basque Country after a few years of hard work teaching in that city. We are referring to Amets Santxez Muniain, Jenofa Berhokoirigoin and Goizalde Galartza. We truly thank their effort and contribution, and we hope the next teachers are equally generous.
5. Finally, we continue to work with other clubs trying to get them involved in the teaching of Euskara and hopefully we will get more groups going in the next few years.

Once again we can't stress enough our Thanks to all our teachers and the people involved in promoting the teaching of Euskara in each one of the clubs.

(As Mary Lou Urrutia has had a change in circumstances and now has time, she asked to remain with the NABO Calendars. The committee will consist of a team dedicated to searching out photos, a team for dates and proof readers.)

All invoicing for 2017 calendars have gone through the treasurer. Some calendars were sent directly to individuals, at \$7 per calendar. The cost to mail a calendar is about \$3.00, and \$4.00 for two. We might want to consider increasing the cost to \$10. 15 calendars cost \$6.45 to ship, and up to 40 is \$13.45. Some clubs mentioned that the ordering system could use improvement.

**Deadlines for the 2018 Calendar: May 1st for both photos and dates.** This will allow a month to work on the content of the calendar and have them ready for mid July. Clubs will be able to pick them up at the Reno or Gardnerville picnics.

## MEMORIA BIZIA

PEDRO OIARZABAL

“Memoria Bizia” is a research project initiated in 2014 with the goal of collecting, preserving and disseminating the history of Basque migration and exile through the direct testimonies of elders of Basque origin, born in the Basque Country as well as in the United States and Canada, and who are currently residing in any of the two countries. “Memoria Bizia” is participatory and open project, being the members of the different Basque communities central to the design and execution of the project. It aims at empowering the communities by being pro-active in conducting oral history interviews towards their preservation for future generations.

The outcomes of “Memoria Bizia” are clear. Sixty one volunteers have been trained in the Oral History method, tailored to the specific requirements of the project, in nine workshops. This has resulted in the creation of ten community-based interviewing teams; seven in the United States and three in Canada. As of the time of writing this report, 131 people had been interviewed in twelve States/Provinces of the United States and Canada, among them, for instance, there are Delfina Uriarte, the oldest member, so far, of the Basque diaspora in the US, with 101 years old, born in Busturia; followed by Carmen Garmendia of Boise, 97, and Rita Etchepare, born in Patterson, now 98 years old. In addition to those interviewing teams, there is an associated project that shares the goals of “Memoria Bizia.” Consequently, “Memoria Bizia” has assembled the largest and most extended network of volunteers ever built with the only purpose of recording our living history.

In sum, the target population by age, gender (balance), and geographical diversity goals had been successfully achieved: i.e., 74% of all interviewees are 70 years old or older—18% are 90 years old or over- with an average of age of 80; 44% of the interviewees are male and 56% female. The interviews had taken place in forty two cities across the States and Canada. In sum, we have been able to video record over ninety hours of interviews, totaling 11,000 years of testimonies. The preservation and dissemination of the collected testimonies, as part of our intangible heritage, need to be guaranteed. Our efforts have to go now in that direction.

“Memoria Bizia” is very well positioned to further carry out the goals of preserving and disseminating the interviews. The project has the support of nine associated academic institutions in the United States and Canada and two non-academics, the Basque Museum of Boise and Sancho de Beurko Association (*Fighting Basques Project*). Of those three are the official repositories of the project, in addition to the University of

Deusto's Library. The associated institutions' strong and unconditional support clearly reinforces the value and the validity of the project.

#### Future Steps

- To decide on continuing supporting "Memoria Bizia."
- To further assess the project:
  - Increase the financial and human resources (e.g., explore the possibility of hiring a managing director on a part-time basis).
  - Evaluate the added value of the volunteers in the project as one of the pillars of the project.
  - Evaluate the training, the quality of the interviews and the volume of work carried out by the volunteers.
- To conduct new interviews, while identifying others scattered in different archives:
  - Need to revitalize the existing local interviewing groups.
  - Need to activate local interviewing teams that have not been fully mobilized.
  - Need to create new interviewing teams, add new associated projects.
- To draw a strategic plan for the preservation and dissemination of new and old interviews that could be gathered in a near future:
  - Create an online repository in collaboration with the specialized archival institutions associated with the "Memoria Bizia" network.

#### REPORT BY PATTY MILLER:

The Memoria Bizia tracking sheet provided by Pedro Oyarzabal indicates the following interviews had been **completed between January-November, 2016:**

**Elko, NV**– Gretchen Skivington Team – 2; Cassandra Stahlke Team – 1 (working on indexes for 2016)

**Bakersfield, CA** – Steve Bass team – 4 – all indexes completed

**Vancouver, BC** – Zurine Fermin Team – 2; Paula Laitu Team -1 – all indexes completed

**San Francisco, CA** – Valerie Arrechea – 1; Marie Jose Durquet - 1 (2016?); Nicole Sorhondo – 1 (2016?)

**Boise, ID - Community History Team (Toni Berria, Patty Miller, Connie Urresti)**

Boise, ID- 5; Caldwell, ID – 2; Eagle, ID -1; Emmett, ID – 18; Mtn. Home, ID – 2;

Nampa, ID -3; Sweet, ID-1

Indianapolis, IN -1

Adrian, OR – 1; Arock, OR – 1; Burns, OR- 13; Jordan Valley, OR- 5; Ontario, OR-4;

Vale, OR – 3

McDermitt, NV – 5; Paradise Valley, NV – 1; Winnemucca, NV – 1 (+ 5 additional interviews in NV in Nov not incl.)

Pomeroy, WA -1, Yakima, WA – 3 (Idaho team is working on all indexes – not completed)

#### **BASQUE COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT, Basque Museum & Cultural Center**

The Basque Museum's Community History Project Team completed 5 additional video interviews since the NABO meeting in Rocklin, CA, bringing a total of 77 interviews for 2016.

The videoing schedule has already begun for 2017 and the Community History Team

hopes to record many more individuals from communities in Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, and possibly Montana throughout the year.

The Basque Museum is working with a Web design firm that is designing a new, interactive website for the Museum that will feature much of the information gathered during the community research project.

Although it will take time to process and upload much of the information that has been collected and will continue to be gathered, two or three communities should be represented on the website in 2017.

### **BASQUE MUSICIANS IN THE AMERICAN WEST**

Please take a moment to visit the Basque Museum & Cultural Center's Website at [www.basquemuseum.com](http://www.basquemuseum.com) If you know of a musician from your community or family who is not currently represented, please contact the Curator, Amanda Bielmann, at the Basque Museum & Cultural Center 208-343-2671 or [amandab@basquemuseum.com](mailto:amandab@basquemuseum.com) We will need biographical information and would also like to have a photograph of the musician. If an audio or video recording is available, it's wonderful to be able to listen to the clip of the musician playing as well.

### **BASQUES IN THE MILITARY**

#### **Research Published on Nevada Basques who participated in WWII**

The University of Nevada, Reno, featured a presentation this past October by Dr. Pedro J. Oiarzabal entitled "The Fighting Basques Project: Basques of Nevada in W.W.II," based on research by Guillermo Tabernilla, a military historian from the Sancho de Beurko Association. It deals with Basque participation in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, and has recently been published in *Saibigain*, available at the following website: <http://www.fightingbasques.net/en-us/Saibigain-Magazine>

Dr. Oiarzabal is a researcher at the Pedro Arrupe Human Rights Institute at the University of Deusto and holds the Jon Bilbao Research Fellowship on the Basque Diaspora at UNR. He also coordinates, alongside Nerea Mujika, the director of the Institute for Basque Studies at Deusto, the "Ondare Bizia" or Living Heritage Project. For more information visit: <http://dkh.deusto.es/en/community/ondarebizia>

#### **Exhibit Slated to Open on Basques in the Military**

The Basque Museum & Cultural Center has been collecting information on Basques in the military as part of the Community History Project and for an exhibit that is scheduled to open by Veteran's Day in November, 2017. If you or a relative has served in the military, would you please send a quick note to the Curator, [amandab@basquemuseum.com](mailto:amandab@basquemuseum.com)

Please include with the subject: **Basque Veteran Submission: Full name of soldier, branch of military, rank if known, and time-period served. If you have a photo of the military personnel in uniform, that would be wonderful too.** Our hope is to recognize submissions through an interactive portion of the exhibit that will be viewed by literally thousands of visitors and students who tour the Museum each year. The

Basque Museum would like to be able to represent as many Basques from as many states and branches of the service as possible.

## PILOTA

TERESA IPARRAGUIRRE

### Pilota Meeting Schedule

Monthly Pilota meetings via Skype will begin again. Meetings will be the third of the month at 6:30 p.m. PST. The meeting dates have also been added to the NABO online calendar. Anyone is welcomed to join by sending an email to [tiparraguirre76@gmail.com](mailto:tiparraguirre76@gmail.com) to be added to the group.

### World Pilota Council

On January 19th, the World Pilota Council had their election. Fernando Azkarate has been elected as the new President for the next four years. Kepa Arroitauregi will continue to be our contact person.

## UDALEKU

VALERIE ARRECHEA / KATE CAMINO

### Udaleku 2017: Chino, CA (June 28 - July 7)

Chino Basque Club, in conjunction with Southern California Basque Club, is in the final stages of planning this year's Udaleku. Instructors and aides have been secured. The camp will be held at the Chino fairgrounds. The cost of camp will be \$450 as per the 2016 Fall meeting. Registration will open on March 1st at 6:00 pm, PST. They anticipate accepting a total of 100 children, with room for 75-80 from outside the area.

**Udaleku 2018:** Reno, NV

**Udaleku 2019:** San Francisco, CA

## MUS

PIERRE ETCHARREN

**2017 NABO Finals:** Will take place on Saturday, June 10th in Caruthers, CA at the Campos Farm.

**2017 International Mus:** The Tournament will take place in California from August 26th until September 3rd. It will start in San Francisco in conjunction with the SFBCC Jaialdia, and finish in Chino in conjunction with their 50th Anniversary and the NABO pilota finals. Final details will be available shortly.

## JR MUS

GINA ESPINAL

This years Junior Mus Tournament will be held in Buffalo, WY at the NABO Convention, July 21-24, 2017

We will need the names of your clubs team by June 30th. This gives us plenty of time to hold a tournament at your local club. Please email me at [ginaespinal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ginaespinal@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions, need ideas or comments

## MUSIC

CAROLINE CHIRAMBERRO

no activity

## DANCE

JOHN YSURSA

**Euskal Dantza ikastaroa.** NABO is please to announce the resumption of Basque dance workshops to support our various dance groups. Furthermore, these will include educational elements to reach out to Basque youth to provide a fuller understanding of Basque culture. This Spring 2017 a series of workshops will be arranged featuring Dr. Inaki Goirizelaia (from the University of the Basque Country) a long-time dance instructor for his hometown dance group. If you'd like to arrange a workshop for your region/town, please get in touch with us.

## TXERRI SUKALDE TXAPELDUN

This year's contest will be held in Buffalo, WY in conjunction with the NABO convention.

## KANTARI EGUNA

No Report

The 2016 Kantari Eguna will be held in Gardnerville, NV in conjunction with their annual picnic.

## HEZKUNTZA / EDUCATION

JOHN YSURSA

**Basque Studies @ Universities.** There are more and more options emerging for college studies to delve deeper into Basque Studies. In addition to USAC programs, the University of the Basque Country also offers a summer week-long course. Then you also have our U.S. based universities that offer courses. To find out more, get in touch with us!

Does your club have an event that it would like to share in the news to inform about the Basque Diaspora? Get in touch with us so that we can help promote it!

**Basques in California project.** With a change in leadership following last year's election and new leadership, this project is on pause. The initial aim was to provide an overview of the California Basque story, from early California before the Gold Rush, to the present day. Much work was developed in this direction, and perhaps there might be a way yet to fully realize this. Stay tuned if something develops going forward.

**NABO REVOLVING LOAN****STEVE ACHABAL**

The C.A.R.L. committee has yet to receive any loan applications from any NABO affiliated groups to date. An article was previously ran in Astero regarding the program, and its' mission trying to garner interest. The NABO website is also a good source of information regarding the program as well as being where an individual/group can access the loan application form.

If your group would like more information regarding the C.A.R.L. program please contact Steve Achabal at [loan@nabasque.org](mailto:loan@nabasque.org).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE****MAYIE PETRACEK**

The Finance Committee has met three times since the last NABO delegate meeting. The primary focus of the meetings have been to discuss the current financial structure for Udaleku camps. As most of Aita Tilous funds were depleted due to the decision to support our NABO participants at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival we will not move forward with a recommendation on how to best invest the funds in this account. We continue to evaluate funding alternatives for Udaleku.

We have come to the realization that the finances reported in Quickbooks is not the full picture behind all expenses or contributions supporting Udaleku camps. To that end, we feel a survey is warranted to determine how do various clubs support Udaleku. This survey will be distributed by email. Please share this survey with your club in order that we obtain all the information necessary to develop a recommendation to bring back to the delegation.

In addition we are attempting to locate organizations that offer grant money to help supplement the fund. This is not the preferred option to generate funds as grant money is not always available. Finally, the Los Banos club is evaluating how to best take advantage of becoming a 501C-3 organization to minimize taxability and obtain charitable contributions.

**BASQUE GOVERNMENT****BENAN OREGI**

- **Basque Global Network**

The platform was launched in July 2016 and we are campaigning through facebook groups, LinkedIn and GoogleAds to get more members. As of today there are about 450 members and we will see how the one month campaign (January to February) impacts in all those Basques that are members of other platforms. The involvement of the Basque Clubs is crucial to help this internet community grow.

- **Grants 2017**

The timeline for the grants has not been open yet. We are in the process of establishing the grounds before we can call the grants (Plan of subsidies, Budget,...). Our goal

would be to open the process in spring (April?) and end it by summer (end of July), starting to pay the first installments in September. However, the calendar should vary.

- **Gaztemundu 2017**

As with the grants, we are not ready to open the process yet. But as it is stated in the Four-Year Plan 2016-2019, this year the subject will be music. So all musicians 18 to 34 keep in mind that the process will be open in the spring and the selected candidates should find out about the result of the selection process before late July. The program will probably take place in Vitoria-Gasteiz, in September (TBD).

- **Basques in California / Basques in the West**

This project to create an exhibit and website was started among the California Historical Society, the Basque Government and NABO. After CHS stepped down, the Basque Museum and Cultural Center in Boise will be the leading institution in the US. The website is half constructed and many aspects have to be determined. We can call it a work in progress. The Basque Government has assigned 30.000 € for 2017. If there is no progress during the year we cannot guarantee more funds for 2018.

- **Regional Meeting in 2017**

As stated in the Four-Year Plan, between World Congresses (2015, next on 2019), we should be celebrating “Regional Meetings” in each area. One of the areas is North America. This year we have to work together with NABO the best location and timeline to celebrate this meeting, where representatives of Mexico, US and Canada can gather and talk about their best practices and work on ideas about new projects in the short and longer term that can be taken to the next Congress.

#### Chairmen Contact information:

Calendar:	Mary Lou Urrutia	<a href="mailto:calendar@nabasque.org">calendar@nabasque.org</a>
History:		
Pilota:	Teresa Iparraguire	<a href="mailto:pilota@nabasque.org">pilota@nabasque.org</a>
Udaleku:	Valerie Arrechea	<a href="mailto:etcharren@msn.com">etcharren@msn.com</a>
Udaleku:	Kate Camino	<a href="mailto:info@nabasque.org">info@nabasque.org</a>
Mus:	Pierre Etcharren	<a href="mailto:mus@nabasque.org">mus@nabasque.org</a>
Jr. Mus:	Gina Espinal	<a href="mailto:juniormus@nabasque.org">juniormus@nabasque.org</a>
Euskara:	Martin Goicoechea	<a href="mailto:bertsolari@nabasque.org">bertsolari@nabasque.org</a>
Euskara coordinator:	Aitor Inarra	<a href="mailto:euskara@nabasque.org">euskara@nabasque.org</a>
Kantari Eguna:	Noel Goyhenetche	<a href="mailto:kantari@nabasque.org">kantari@nabasque.org</a>
Txerri Sukalde:		
Hezkuntza	John Ysursa	<a href="mailto:education@nabasque.org">education@nabasque.org</a>
Dance	John Ysursa	<a href="mailto:education@nabasque.org">education@nabasque.org</a>
Music	Caroline Chiramberro	<a href="mailto:music@nabasque.org">music@nabasque.org</a>
NABO Revolving Loan	Steve Achabal	<a href="mailto:loan@nabasque.org">loan@nabasque.org</a>