



El Boricua

House of Puerto Rico San Diego Newsletter EST. 1975

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023



Instagram.com/HouseofPuertoRicoSanDiego

www.HouseofPuertoRico.com

hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com



@HouseofPuertoRico

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, ANTHONY L. FLORES



¡Saludos! I hope all is well with you and yours. It has been an incredible year, and together we have accomplished a great deal!

Here is a summary of the many activities in just these last couple of months:

- Congratulations to our 2023-2024 **Queens Court!**

Queen Sarahi

Princesses Avery

Princess Isa

Princess Lucia

Pee Wee Princess Ariana

- The **Doña Casilda Pagan** and **Kelvin S. Carlisle** Scholarships were presented to two well-deserving recipients, *Nia Hector* and *Nyla Hector*. Congratulations!

- **Viernes Social - Salsa Dance Classes** are very popular, and now we offer classes twice per month! If you haven't joined yet, you're missing out! Register soon before the class fills up!

- Our **Puerto Rican Book Club** hosted the author of *Fantasmas*, **Charlie Vazquez** online via Zoom. Members and friends got to meet and chat with him about his book and upcoming projects.

- Our **Youth Program** members enjoyed a Halloween crafts event on the lawn. They enjoyed the activity so much, they requested to do it again in December!

Community Engagement Highlights:

- The **Latino Lawn Program** was a great success, and featured food and entertainment from five countries: Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Spain.

- The Hector family represented HPRSD with info booths at the Aquarium of the Pacific's

--**Baja Splash** event in Long Beach, CA.

--and at the **Afro-Latino Education & Arts Collective Inc.'s Festival**.

- Joe Carballo represented HPRSD at the **National Conference of Puerto Rican Women's Luncheon**, in Mission Viejo, CA.

Community Partner:

On Friday, October 20th, HPRSD presented a *Complimentary Dinner* hosted by **Billy Ocasio**, President and Chief Executive Officer, and **Veronica Ocasio**, Director of Education & Programming, of the **National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture** in Chicago, IL. Members and friends had an opportunity to meet Billy and Veronica in person, and to learn more about their lives, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts & Culture, their recent Gala, community investments and new projects they are working on! They made a \$1,000.00 donation to House of Puerto Rico San Diego! Thank you, Billy and Veronica, for your support and mentorship!

Thank you HPRSD members for your continued support, we could not accomplish what we are doing without it.

We will be having our annual elections at our next meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2023. We will vote for the Executive Board and Board of Directors positions! You must be a member and be current with your membership dues to vote and run for a board position. If you are interested, let us know!

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With my deepest appreciation,

Anthony L. Flores

Presidente/President, House of Puerto Rico San Diego (2023)



MEMBERSHIPS

RENEWING MEMBERS

- Zahydie & Joe Anandono
- Victor & Daisy Barreto
- Rick Chriss
- Martin & Julie Crespo
- Margarita Gallagher
- Janira Gonzalez & Angel Fontanares
- Ralph & Sophia Muniz
- Sonia and Nelson Lamas
- Ana Zentella

NEW MEMBER

- Mary Ann Davila Rodriguez & Omar E. Santiago Lopez
- Eva Noriega

LIFETIME MEMBERS

- Veronica & Billy Ocasio

Coloque la cámara de su teléfono sobre este código QR para acceder a la página web de Membresía para unirse o renovar ahora!

We count on your membership fees to help develop programs that promote our culture. Our fees have been the same for many years and it is time to give them a little bump, starting January 1, 2024. We will email you 1-2 months before your membership expires to remind you of renewing. Please renew or begin your membership by going to our website!

As of October 9th, we have 100 Member Households with 156 voting members.

**HPRSD is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, so your membership donation is 100% tax-deductible.*

We have heard your requests, so you now see the new categories of Individual and 5-year. Many of our children are now over 18 and we wanted to make sure they and others had a more suitable category.

	N/A	NEW January 1, 2024	CURRENT 2023	NEW January 1, 2024
	INDIVIDUAL	INDIVIDUAL	*HOUSEHOLD	*HOUSEHOLD
Annual	N/A	\$35	\$35	\$40
5 - YEAR	N/A	\$155	N/A	\$175
10 - YEAR	N/A	\$300	\$250	\$400
Lifetime	N/A	\$550	\$500	\$750

*Household: 2 adults, plus children under age 18

Special offer: From January 1-31, 2024, ONLY, you can upgrade your membership and we will include the membership fee you have already paid for the year, towards the upgrade. For example, if you paid your Household fee of \$35 in October 2023 and want to upgrade to a 5-year household at \$175, we will minus the \$35 from the \$175, making it only owning \$140. We want you to receive the benefits of membership to the fullest extent possible.

Remember to use GOOGLE TRANSLATE if needed!

RECUERDE USAR GOOGLE TRANSLATE SI ES NECESARIO!

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SAVE THE DATES

MIEMBROS Y AMIGOS MEETINGS (& POTLUCK, BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE)

ALWAYS THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH (EXCEPT NO MEETING IN DECEMBER)

AT LA CASITA AT 3:45 PM FOR A 4:00 PM SHARP START

Noviembre 4 - ELECCIONES, NO DICIEMBRE

Upcoming Celebrations:

- December 1st & 2nd, *December Nights*
- December 16th, *Annual Christmas Gala*

Follow us on Instagram!



@HOUSEOFPUERTORICOSANDIEGO

EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

December 1st & 2nd, *December Nights*

email us to volunteer!

hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com or message us on Instagram

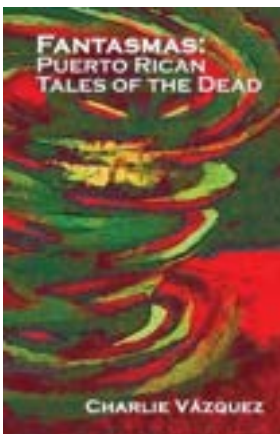
ZOOM BOOK CLUB: HOST ISABEL SCHECHTER



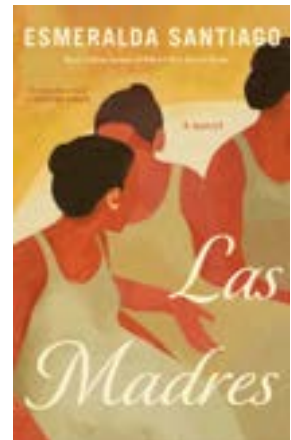
Connect with the House of Puerto Rico San Diego community while enjoying fiction and non-fiction books that are set in Puerto Rico, about Puerto Rico or Puerto Ricans, or written by Puerto Rican authors. Book selections are chosen by book club members, so if you have suggestions for books, please send an email at hprsd@houseofpuertorico.com. We always welcome new people to join us. You do not need to be a member of the

House of Puerto Rico San Diego to attend the book club.

For our **October** book club, we had a great discussion with author [Charlie Vázquez](#) about his short story collection, [Fantasmas: Puerto Rican Tales of the Dead](#). We discussed stories from the collection as well as his inspiration for the stories and his writing process. We are looking forward to seeing more of his work in the future. In the meantime, you can read his Latin Noir novel, [Contraband](#).



For our **November 14th** book club, we will have **Esmeralda Santiago**, author of [Las Madres](#) join us. The book is available at both the San Diego Public Library and the San Diego County Library. HPRSD members may also check out a copy of the book from the Casita library. Please register by sending an email to hprsd@houseofpuertorico.com.



The book club will not be meeting in **December** and will return in **January**.

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DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Our very own **Dr. Ana Celia Zentella** is being honored as this year's awardee for the Distinguished Career Award by the Association of Latina/o and Latinx Anthropologists!

The purpose of The ALLA Distinguished Career Award is to recognize an outstanding senior anthropologist's contributions to the field of Latina/o/x anthropology in the areas of research and publications, teaching, service to ALLA/ AAA and community and public engagement.



NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

We are voting at our next meeting! Board Members.

Executive Board

One-year terms

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

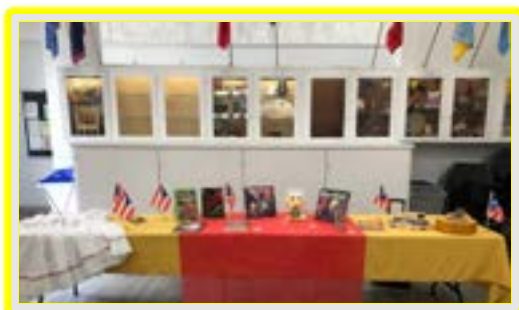
Board of Directors

Three-year terms

Director

LADIES AUX

The House of Puerto Rico San Diego had the honor of hosting the October HPR Ladies Auxiliary.



Thank you, volunteers, Joe, Wanda H.,
Carmen, Steven, Ron, Ellie & Isabel!

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DOÑA CASILDA PAGAN & KELVIN S. CARLISLE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES



Scholarship Committee Member Monica Green, Awardee Nyla Hector, Awardee Nia Hector, President Anthony Flores, & Scholarship Committee Member Ellie Ramos (Jaime Chávez not in attendance)

LATINO LAWN PROGRAM

All participating Houses reported a huge success for the FIRST ever Latino Lawn Program. This collaboration made for an amazing day in beautiful Balboa Park.



A sampler from the House of Mexico, House of Panama, House of Spain and the House of Peru!



Queens Court Coordinator Wanda W., (mama de la Princesa Avery) Sarah de la Casa de Norway, y TerriSue (mama de la Princesa Lucia)



Princesa Isa, Princesa Lucia, Reina Sarahi, y Princesa Avery



Jessica (mama de Pee Wee Princesa's), Pee Wee Princesa Ariana, Wanda W., Princesa Avery, y el Presidente

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE, JOE CARBALLO

January 2024, Outreach Coordinator, Joe Carballo is looking for people to join his team. We currently have Brittany McKnight performing the role of Social Outreach Coordinator. Let us know if you think this committee is right for you.

DID YOU KNOW?



From December 10, 1898 (the date of the annexation of Puerto Rico by the United States) up until 1952, it was considered a ***felony to display the Puerto Rican flag*** in public; the only flag permitted to be flown on the island was the flag of the United States. The flag was perceived as a symbol of rebellion and radicalism.

During this time, thousands of Puerto Ricans were detained, 3,000 Puerto Ricans were arrested within a week in November 1950. You would be fined \$10,000 for owning or even waving the Puerto Rican flag.

The flag of Puerto Rico was designed in 1895 to promote the ideal of Puerto Rican independence from Spain. It consists of five alternate red and white horizontal stripes with a single white five-pointed star resting in a blue triangle.

The three red strips symbolized the blood from the brave warriors, the two white stripes victory and peace after obtaining independence, the (original) blue represents the sky and sea with the white star being the island.

Source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Puerto_Rico

QUEENS COURT CROWNING

Pee Wee Princess Ariana, Princess Isa,
Queen Sarahi, Princess Lucia &
President Anthony



YOUTH PROGRAM

Melissa Cyr, Youth Program Coordinator

**Stay tuned to our Social Media
for announcements!**



OCTOBER EVENT





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MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

MEMBER: ANA CELIA ZENTELLA BEEN MEMBER SINCE: 2001

BORN IN: THE BRONX, NYC



WHAT DREW YOU TO THE HOUSE OF PUERTO RICO?

I was first attracted by the celebration of our culture and important events, and of course the good food and opportunities to dance salsa hooked me [and dominos hooked my husband, QEPD]! BTW, our contribution to the garita reads S. Bronx after my name and El Barrio for my husband, Roberto Cabot.

AND WHAT HAS KEPT YOU INVOLVED?

I am committed to doing what I can to support the hard work of Ralph, Sophie, Joe, Daniel, Rosario, Jose' and many others then and now [Tony and Dee, mil gracias!]. I think it is crucial to keep the House in Balboa alive, so that all of San Diego becomes informed about nuestra isla del encanto, y nuestra gente. We need to support critical efforts to help islanders, and we owe it to the children who are being raised here, far from la patria.

MEMBER: ELISE, STEPHEN & CONSTANCE CARUSO

BEEN MEMBER SINCE: JANUARY 2000

**BORN IN: ELISE, BRONX, NYC
STEPHEN, BROOKLYN, NYC
CONSTANCE, SAN DIEGO, CA**

ELISE



WHAT DREW YOU TO THE HOUSE OF PUERTO RICO?

We wanted to meet with people to expose our family to the culture.

AND WHAT HAS KEPT YOU INVOLVED?

We love many things especially the potlucks, hosting, December Nights Día de San Juan, and the Christmas gala.

The Bronx is a borough of New York City. It's known for Yankee Stadium, the home field of the New York Yankees baseball team. Dating from 1899, the vast Bronx Zoo houses hundreds of species of animals. Nearby, the sprawling New York Botanical Garden features a landmark greenhouse with rainforest and cactus displays. By the Hudson River, Wave Hill is a landscaped public garden with wooded paths and a cultural center.

Source: Google & Wikipedia



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QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS...

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, we will have an official procedure to submit them via email. However, we greatly prefer you to simply bring it up in our Miembros y Amigos Monthly Meeting. We always discuss anything from the membership/floor at the end of the meeting, so PLEASE bring anything up at that point if you are comfortable with that. Otherwise, the email procedure will be great. We ask, that if you have a concern, please offer at least one solution.

OUTREACH, QUEREMOS ESCUCHAR DE TI (WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU)

Estamos interesados en sus ideas sobre cómo hacernos mejores. Necesitamos sus comentarios y pensamientos. ¡Recuerda la [House of Puerto Rico San Diego](#) es SU organización! por favor envíenos un correo electrónico a hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com.

BORICUA SLANG

Guagua, is a slang term for the many buses that run through San Juan, Old San Juan and the surrounding communities. They're convenient because there are a lot of blocks to cover and the temperatures can be high, but don't count on the guaguas to run on schedule. They arrive when they arrive, without apology or explanation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers. As a 100% volunteer organization, we can only keep doing what we are doing with your help! We are in search of people to become involved. You can join any committee, all are welcomed. Tell us your strengths and we will find you a role!

Email us at: hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com

Our greatest need is for volunteers to Host the Casita on the weekends.

Nuestra mayor necesidad es de voluntarios para albergar

La Casita los fines de semana.

VIERNES SOCIAL



You asked for it! We have upped the Salsa Classes to twice a month! Getting ready for the Gala de Navidad!

Check us out on our Instagram to make sure you don't miss out!



#HOUSEOFPUERTORICOSANDIEGO

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VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Estamos buscando a alguien a quien le gustaría liderar el Comité de Cuidado de Casita. POR FAVOR, háganos saber para que podamos decirle lo que implica. Hemos estado trabajando en Roles y Responsabilidades para este puesto para que sepa todo lo que podemos pensar en lo que implica.

[**hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com.**](mailto:hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com)

We are looking for someone who would like to lead the **Casita Care Committee**. PLEASE let us know so we can tell you what it involves, We have been working on a Roles & Responsibilities for this position so that you will know everything we can think of that it involves. [**hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com.**](mailto:hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com)

LA CASITA HOSTING

We average 1000 visitors per weekend! As you can imagine we need hosts for La Casita every **Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm**. Hosting allows you the opportunity to share our culture with our many visitors. We hear so many wonderful stories about people's Puerto Rico experiences and adventures. High School students, this is an *exceptional* way to get your volunteer hours in! **Please contact Louis Williams at (619) 995-1287 or williams.louis@gmail.com to select your hosting day.**

¡Tenemos un promedio de 800 visitantes por fin de semana! Como te puedes imaginar necesitamos anfitriones para La Casita todos los sábados y domingos de 11 am a 4 pm. El hospedaje le brinda la oportunidad de compartir nuestra cultura con nuestros muchos visitantes. Escuchamos tantas historias maravillosas sobre las experiencias y aventuras de la gente en Puerto Rico. ¡Estudiantes de secundaria, esta es una manera excepcional de obtener sus horas de voluntariado! **Comuníquese con Louis Williams al (619) 995-1287 o williams.louis@gmail.com para seleccionar su día de hospedaje.**

GRACIAS HOSTS DE SEPTIEMBRE Y OCTUBRE

- Constance Caruso	- Martin Crespo	- Zelideh Leon-Rivera	- Davis Rodriquez
- Elise Caruso	- Jessica Estrada	- Jose Mercado	Melendez
- Steven Caruso	- Janira Gonzalez	- Ralph Muniz	- Queen Sarahi
- Joe G. Carballo	- Steve Hector	- Jaylen Pablos	- Louis Williams
- Dali Collins	- Wanda Hector	- Madeline Polonia	- June Yowell



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Feliz
Navidad

SAVE THE DATE



SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16, 2023
6pm - 12am

GALA DE NAVIDAD



Featuring, Manny Cepeda Orchestra
and Music by, DJ Rick Chriss

Meal catered by *Jibaritos de la Isla*

pernil/chicken/vegetarian, arroz con gandules,
green salad, pastel, dinner rolls

PORTUGUESE HALL
2818 AVENIDA DE PORTUGAL
SAN DIEGO CA 92106

Pre-Purchased tickets
required, get yours at:



\$85 for members, \$95 for non-members
After December 1, 2023, \$100

Should you like to sit with someone who will also be purchasing tickets, place their name(s) in the comment section and we will do our best to accommodate.

Outside alcohol or food prohibited

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF PUERTO RICAN ARTS & CULTURE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

We are honored to share that Billy Ocasio & Veronica Ocasio, have become our Mentors.

We had a wonderful "get to know you" dinner. www.nmprac.org



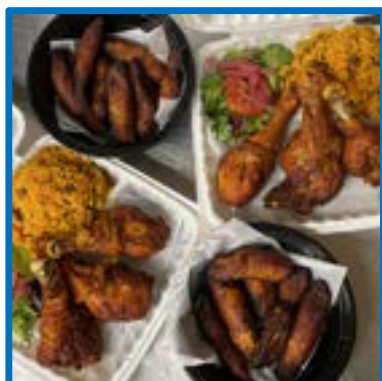
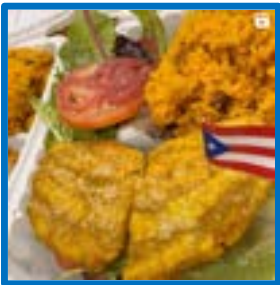
JIBARITO'S DE LA ISLA

Located inside La Luz Ultralounge

Weds-Sat 11am-8pm/ Sun 1-8pm

☎(858) 231-9428

www.jibaritoisla.com





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EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT:	Anthony (Tony) L. Flores	TREASURER:	Joe G. Carballo
VICE PRESIDENT:	Louis Williams	SECRETARY:	Dionne (Dee) Y. Flores
TRUSTEE:	Wanda Colon-Hector		

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

BOOK CLUB

Coordinator,
Isabel Schechter

CASITA CARE

COMMITTEE
Coordinator,
PENDING

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Coordinator,
Joe G. Carballo

CULTURE CORNER

Coordinator,
Joe G. Carballo

EVENTS

Coordinators,
Joe G. Carballo
Wanda Colon-Hector

LA CASITA HOSTING

Coordinator,
Louis Williams

MEMBERSHIP

Coordinator,
Dee Flores

MUSEUM

Coordinator, Joe G. Carballo
Carmen Acevedo-Belasco
Ron Kohl

NEWSLETTER

Editors,
Joe G. Carballo
Ellie Ramos

POTLUCK

Coordinator,
Elise Caruso

QUEENS COURT

Co-Coordinators,
Janira Gonzalez
Wanda Wease

SOCIAL OUTREACH

Coordinator,
Brittany McKnight

SOCIAL MEDIA

Coordinators,
Ellie Ramos
Reina Sarahi

SCHOLARSHIP

Coordinator,
Jaime Diego Chávez
Monica Green
Ellie Ramos

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Documentation Coordinator,
Ellie Ramos
Isabel Schechter

YOUTH PROGRAM

Coordinator,
Melissa Cyr

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

HONORARY

Aileen Alvarado-Swaisgood	Martin Crespo	Joe G. Carballo
Betsy Arcay	Anthony Flores	Ralph Costas
Wanda Colon-Hector	Cassie Pagan	Dr. Antonio Grillo



ADVERTISING

Are you interested in advertising your business in our newsletter?

What better way to reach potential clients? If so, please send information to the editor at:

hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com

The price list is for inclusion in 6 (six) published newsletters.

Business Cards \$100 Half Page \$175 Full Page \$250

All correspondence to the HPRSD should be addressed through our:

Website: www.HouseofPuertoRico.com

Email:

hprsd@HouseofPuertoRico.com

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