Canary Islands Descendants Association

Descendants Celebrated on August 6, 2011

280th Anniversary of the First Cabildo of the Villa de San Fernando

On August 1, 1731, by order of the Viceroy of New Spain, Don Juan de Acuña, Marques of Casafuerte, instructed the governor to select six men, from among the heads of these fifteen families, to serve as councilmen (regidores) one as chief constable (alguacil mayor) one as secretary and notary public (escribano de consejo y publico), and one as manager of the property and funds of this commonwealth (mayordomo de los bienes y propios). These officials, shall have the power to select two ordinary alcaldes to administer justice. Since these nine men are to hold office during their lifetime, their selection shall be made from among those deemed most capable.

See Descendants Celebrate Page 5

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

We wish each one of you a wonderful celebration with your Families. Remember this is the perfect opportunity to share the story of our Ancestors.

New Canary Islands Descendants Website

www.cida-sa.org

The Board of Directors is proud to announce the unveiling of the CIDAs new website. The website will allow both members and the general public to communicate with the association as well as keep everyone up to date with the latest CIDA news and information.

Some of the features of the website include an “About Us” page giving basic information about the founding of the association along with a little history and accomplishments of our ancestors. There is also a page on the Purpose of the Association as well as a list of the current Board of directors and their email addresses. The “Membership” page outlines the different types of membership categories and the associated fees. The website includes a “Guestbook” and has a number of “Links” to other related topic websites. A “Download” page allows everyone to download the latest in newsletters as well as membership forms.

See Page 2-New Website

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE IN JANUARY 2012
Canary Islands Descendants Association

Purpose

A. To encourage and promote all educational studies and historical and genealogical research that enhance the historical, cultural and civic significance of the accomplishments of the sixteen original Canary Islands families who founded the Villa de San Fernando, now the City of San Antonio.

B. To foster and perpetuate the preservation of documents and artifacts identified with the culture and life of the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, Texas.

C. To initiate, and promote programs, lectures and civic events which are intended for the general public, and which are conducted to memorialize historical sites and buildings associated with the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio, such as San Fernando Cathedral.

D. To establish and promote the celebration of significant days and commemorative civic events that celebrate those special days linked to the Canary Islanders’ history in San Antonio for example: February 2 - Feast day of La Virgen de la Candelaria, Patroness of the Canary Islands; March 9 - Commemoration of the day the 16 families arrived at the Presidio San Antonio de Bejar; and August 1 - Commemoration of the establishment of the first civil government in 1731.

E. To remain non-political in structure and activity, yet a viable civic entity.

New Website (continued from Page 1)

Also found on the website is the official “List of Families” used by the CIDA to determine membership eligibility. The list contains the names, ages and descriptions of the 56 Isleños sent by the Spanish Government to settle San Antonio and establish the first official government in the province of Texas.

Finally one of the best features of the website is the ability to “Submit Information” to the CIDA. In today’s world of electronic information, more and more groups and organizations are turning to electronic distribution of information. While convenient, it also makes it imperative to have accurate email addresses. Email addresses can be submitted quickly to the CIDA so that information can be assimilated into our data base without interruption. You can find the website at: www.cida-sa.org

The Canary Islands Descendants thank our member Steve Gibson for developing our website and for serving as the Webmaster. It is fantastic. Thank you Steve!!!

Membership Meeting Scheduled for November 20th.

Membership meetings are held in a classroom at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando which is located one block away from San Fernando Cathedral, on the corner of Commerce and Camaron Streets. There is some parking available in the rear of the building. Access to the classroom is through the rear of the building from the rear parking lot. Front doors may not be open.

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 20th at 2:30 PM at the AT&T Community Centre at San Fernando. We are always in need of Speakers to keep these meetings vibrant and interesting. Contact Clem Perez if you want to speak about your Ancestors or if you know someone who can speak at our meetings. See you there!!!

CIDA ITEMS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

There is no better way to celebrate your heritage than to give CIDA items to your children and relatives. Give the gifts that will be cherished for a lifetime. We have CIDA medallions with the family names on them, cups, coverlets, study guides and other items. These items can be mailed to you. For item prices and shipping information contact First Vice-President Armandina Sifuentes at 210-524-9252 or e-mail her at dinagsif@att.net. Celebrate your heritage give CIDA items.

Newsletter Contributions Needed

This newsletter will be published each month that a membership meeting is held. This is your newsletter, please submit any articles, items that pertain to the Canary Islanders that would be of interest to the membership. It has been suggested that each of the sixteen families should be featured in the newsletter. If you want to share what started you on your genealogical quest, or any interesting information, documents about your Canary Islands families, please contact Gene A. Chapa at geneC1731@att.net or at 512-445-9685. All submissions are appreciated.
Historic Downtown San Antonio Building a Total Loss

A historic downtown San Antonio building with ties to the Canary Islanders burned on early Saturday morning, October 1, 2011. The building owned by Mr. David Carter and Mr. Paul Carter was a total loss. The building was located at East Commerce and North Main Avenue. The building was known as the Wolfson Building built in 1880 and was the site of Wolfson’s Dry Goods and Clothing Store. It later housed a furniture store.

The fire was believed to have started in a barbecue restaurant which had just located in the building earlier in the year. The building according to the San Antonio Express-News had burned to the ground in 1904. It was then rebuilt. Plans for the location were unknown at the time of this article. The fire also damaged an adjacent building that housed the City of San Antonio Financial Department.

Through the generosity of the Carters the Canary Islands Descendants Association Museum was located in this building from the late 1990’s until approximately 2002. This location was also the site for our membership meetings.

Of further interest to the Canary Islanders is that the building was located on the site of the original homestead of Don Francisco Joseph de Arocha, one of the original Canary Islanders who arrived in 1731.

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of this building which was a focal point on the Plaza de las Islas. Many of the Descendants will have memories of the events held at this historic location.

LIFE’S JOURNEYS

Editor’s Note: We want to keep our members informed about major life events in our members’ lives. Please submit births, deaths, marriage or military deployments to geneC1731@att.net.

Obituary- Virginia Ruth “McGuill” Marquis (reprinted from The Corpus Christi Caller Times)
Virginia Ruth “McGuill” Marquis passed away on July 13th, 2011. Ruth was born in Refugio, Texas on December 5th, 1930. She was a descendant of Juan Curbello. She was survived by four sons, three daughters, three brothers and two sisters. She was the sister of Father Martin McGuill of Ft. Myer, Virginia. According to Trudi Watson, Father McGuill celebrated Mass in 1998 at San Fernando Cathedral. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.

Action! Action! New Members Needed

REMINDER OFFICER ELECTIONS NEXT FALL 2012

Members the information below merits repeating. Just like the general population our CIDA leadership is aging and we need to develop new leaders to step up to the plate. Officers will be elected next year and we need you to participate. We know many of you live out of town but you can help when you are in town. San Antonio members we need your help. We urge all members to come to meetings, and volunteer. It is appreciated. Please get your relatives and friends who are eligible for membership to join our organization. We will be planning a membership drive in the future. Please tell us what would be effective. Contact our Second Vice-President-Membership-Dorothy Perez regarding membership and applications. She can be reached at: phone 210-658-3184, e-mail alamocid@satx.rr.com
Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11, 2011, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

CIDA's Christmas Party

Come celebrate with us on December 11, 2011 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Estela’s Restaurant & Bakery 2200 W. Martin St.

Please RSVP by December 6, 2011
$10.00 per person
Limited Seating

Please make check payable to: CIDA and send it to: Clem Perez 1431 W. Lynwood San Antonio, Texas 78201

MEMBERS PLAN TO ATTEND-Beautiful Wallet and Purse to be raffled. It is these type of gatherings that help us share our family history. We will be raffling a leather wallet and purse from Paraguay generously donated by our cousin Julia Lopez. We will also have our CIDA items available for your gift giving. Bring your Christmas Lists.
Descendants Celebrate 280th Anniversary First Cabildo (continued from page 1)

The Canary Islands Descendants proudly celebrated the formation of the First Civil Government in Texas on August 6, 2011, at El Tropicano Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. Joining the Descendant’s with their celebration was Council Member Cris Medina, Council District 7, of the City of San Antonio City Council. Council Member Cris Medina, is a Canary Islands Descendant.

Judge Robert H. Thonhoff, Author, Master of Ceremonies and Historian Extraordinaire, gave a presentation titled Canary Islands Connection with the American Revolution. Judge Thonhoff’s lively discussion centered on the contributions of our Ancestors to the struggle for independence by the fledgling American nation. It is often said that an army travels on its stomach. We learned that it was Canary Islands beef raised in the San Antonio River Valley that fed the American Revolutionary Army. Transported from our Ancestor’s Ranches through the southern Colonies to help with decisive battles in the Florida peninsula. Our thanks goes out to our two speakers who enlightened us on the importance of the contributions of the Canary Islanders, past and present.

Our thanks go out to Clem Perez, Third Vice-President, Special Events for the hard work and effort put into organizing this event. Our thanks go out to all our officers and members for making this celebration a success. Thank you to Judge Thonhoff and Council Member Medina for their attendance and contributions. It is deeply appreciated.

Judge Thonhoff and Mrs. Thonhoff share a light moment with their daughter at the First Cabildo Celebration

Photo courtesy Clem Perez

Did you know?

The Canary Islands was the jumping off point for nearly all sea voyages to the New World. It was the Canary Islands where sea voyagers/explorers repaired their sails/ships and fueled up with food and water. Christopher Columbus maintained a home on one of the Islands. The ships of the Jamestown settlement sailed through the Canaries. They carried the settlers that would found the settlement of Jamestown in Virginia.

We Wish you and your Family a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!
**Newsletter will be sent Via E-Mail**

Future editions will be sent by e-mail only to e-mail users. Non-email users will continue to receive the newsletter by US Mail.

---

**Annual Dues**

Payable in January 2012

- Members: $25.00
- Associate Members: $15.00

Dues should be mailed to our treasurer:

**Mrs. Estela Quintero**

3735 Sunshine Ranch Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78228-2510

Thank you if you have already paid your dues.
Pass this information on to inactive Members.

---

**ADDRESS CORRECTIONS**

Please mail postal and e-mail address corrections/updates to:

**Mrs. Armandina Sifuentes**

207 Shady Rill
San Antonio, TX 78213-2927

or

e-mail: dinagsif@att.net

---

**Canary Islands Descendants Association Officers**

- **President**
  - Gene Arocha Chapa
- **First Vice-President**
  - Armandina G. Sifuentes
- **Second Vice-President**
  - Dorothy M. Perez
- **Third Vice-President**
  - Clem D. Perez
- **Treasurer**
  - Estela Quintero
- **Recording Secretary**
  - Socorro Morales
- **Custodian**
  - J. J. Zavala
- **Chaplain**
  - Rosie Anguiano
- **Immediate Past President**
  - Dorothy M. Perez

---

P. O. Box 40086
San Antonio, TX 78229-1086

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED