

Basque Minister for Culture Miren Azkarate joins the celebration

San Francisco Basque Cultural Center celebrates its 25th anniversary

The Basque Cultural Center of San Francisco, California, one of the largest Euskal Etxeas in the United States, celebrated its silver anniversary from February 13th through 18th with a wide array of events.

The celebratory occasion got underway with an emotional flag-raising event at the San Francisco City Hall, where the ikurriña hung from the balcony for the entire week.

Numerous members of the San Francisco club joined members of Basque clubs from all over the United States to take part in traditional dance, music and sports events. The program began on the 13th with a video on the 25-year history of the Basque Cultural Center presented by Elizabeth and Jean Paul Barthe.

On the 15th and 16th participants enjoyed cesta punta exhibition games featuring the champions from Joko Garbi of the Kapito Harria Basque Pelota federation of Uztaritz, France. Equally as exciting was the dance performance offered by Aintzindariak Taldea from Zuberoa, France, and entertainment by bertsolaris Gracien Alfaro, Martin Goicochea, Johnny Curuchet and Jesús Goñi, presented by San

«Cestapunta champions from Joko Garbi of the Kapito Harria Pelota Federation in Uztaritz entertained the audience with a display of their skills»

Francisco Euskal Etxea director, Frantxoa Bidaurreta.

Bilbao to host next meeting

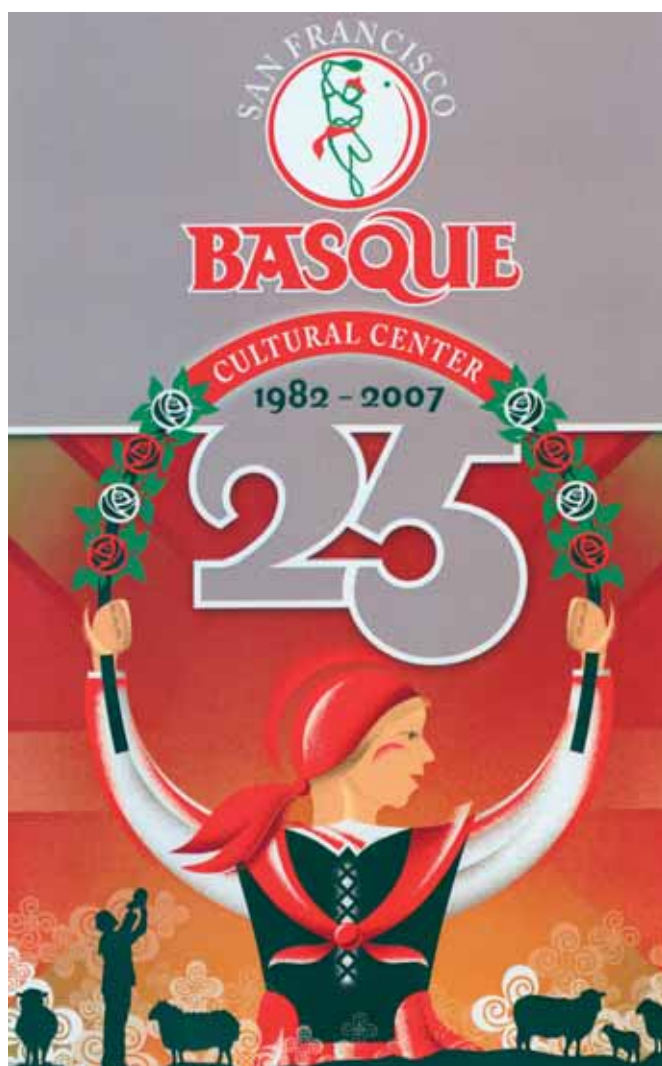
In this festive environment, the North American Basque Organizations – NABO – held one of its annual meetings, which was attended by special guests Miren Azkarate, Basque Minister for Culture, Josu Legarreta, Director of Relations with Basque Communities, and María Luz Artetxe, President of the Federation of Argentinian-Basque Entities.

Among other items, NABO presented to its member clubs the management report, the list of names chosen to represent NABO at the 4th World Congress of Basque Communities hosted in Bilbao next July, and the projects planned for the next four years.

The Minister for Culture presented the program for learning Euskara developed by HABE, the Institute for Basque Culture, Language and Adult Literacy. Josu Legarreta provided details on the 4th World Congress.

Between sessions, the meeting attendees went to see the “Kantuketan” exhibit on Basque song in four languages: Spanish, Euskara, French and English, presented by exhibit director Pantxoa Etchegoin.

Afterwards, María Luz Artetxe gave a presentation on the programs currently



being carried out by the Argentinean-Basque Federation.

Special focus on Euskara

The first hour on Saturday the 17th was set aside for a meeting between Euskara teachers working with the different Euskal Etxea language programs – *irakasleak* – and J.F. Zinkunegi from HABE. The Minister for Culture and the Director of Relations with Basque Communities were also present at the meeting. The materials created by the Institute for Basque Culture, Language and Adult Literacy (HABE) aimed at teaching Euskara online were presented, and an agreement was made to organize intensive courses for the *irakasles* in the United States and Argentina. The morning session ended with a discussion on the current situation in Euskadi led by Spokesperson and Minister of Culture for the Basque Autonomous Community, Miren Azkarate.

**«Hoita bat garren mendea eta, zazpigarren urtea,
Eguna hemezortzi garrena, bigarren ilabetea,
Gaur zure ganat etorri gira, Euskaldun Etxe Maitea,
Guretzat ezin baitaika izan nihun bertze bat hobe»**

Johnny Curuchet

«The ikurriña flew over the City Hall building for the week-long celebration»

Saturday afternoon entertainment included an entrance parade featuring the Benafaroa Cavalcade, performances by Sue Elicetche, the Elgarrekin Choir, the San Francisco Gazteak dance group and a pelota exhibition featuring the Joko Garbi pelotaris from the Basque Pelota Federation – Euskadiko Pilota Federakuntza.

After Sunday mass, celebrated by the chaplain and former chaplain of the U.S. Basque community, Aita Tillous and Aita Cachenaute, the 25th anniversary celebration was brought to a close. The President of the San Francisco Basque Cultural Center, Xabier Berrueta, the Basque Minister for Culture, Miren Azkarate, the Lieutenant Governor of California, John Garamendi, and NABO President, Mary Gaztambide, presented NABO's "Bizi emankorra" lifetime contribution awards to Joe Castanchoa, Bill Etchegoin and Jean Jaureteche.

Basque Minister for Education presents UPV programs in Colombia



Basque Minister for Education, Tontxu Campos, with Colombian Education Minister, Cecilia María Vélez.

The Basque Minister for Education, Universities and Research, Tontxu Campos, visited Colombia, where he was welcomed by Colombian Education Minister, Cecilia María Vélez White. Campos presented the Minister with details on the Basque Education System and on cooperation and research programs through the Basque Public University.

The Basque Minister traveled to Colombia with members of his team to meet with Colombian education authorities and discuss ways to support online teacher training and telecommunications subjects. The team from the Basque Department of Education, Universities and Research also presented the "Coexistence in the Classroom" programs, widely recognized by the educational community.