



# Next Meeting

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**La Fonda Restaurant**

8633 Crownhill Blvd

Dinner at 6:30 Meeting at 7:30

**In lieu of a Regular Meeting in December, we will once again have our Christmas Party**

If you haven't sent in your registration form, please do so ASAP. Please bring an un-giftwrapped toy to be donated to the San Antonio Children's Shelter by our group. It must be unwrapped so they know if it is for a boy or girl.

You will have a chance to win a designer Christmas ornament as a door prize, so get ready to have some fun!



## **Upcoming Meetings**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Guest Speaker: Joe Perez**

Presentation: Annual State of the Chapter Report and Showing of the Veterans Day Parade Video

**February 7<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker: Gus Martinez**

Presentation: Soldado de Cuera

**March 7<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker: Stella González**

Presentation: Juana Navarro Alsbury

## **Happy Birthday!**

**Dec 8**

Bill Bowlin

**Dec 12**

Robert Thonhoff

**Dec 14**

Rose Marie Le Penta

**Dec 16**

Lynda Normand

**Dec 19**

Frank Galindo

**Dec 20**

Robert O'Bryan

**Dec 26**

Adam Dominguez

**Dec 29**

Jesse Benavides  
Elizabeth Salinas

## **San Antonio Chapter Officers:**

**Governor**

Joe Perez

**Deputy Governor**

Ricardo Rodriguez

**Treasurer**

Alex Zamora

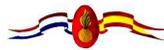
**Secretary**

Tim Thatcher

# San Antonio *Conservation Society*

## Heritage Educational Tours

Once again, our chapter participated in the annual Heritage Educational Tours sponsored by the San Antonio Conservation Society. The tours are given at various historical places throughout the city to fourth grade students from various local schools. Every year, for this endeavor, our uniformed members give presentations at the Spanish Governor's Palace to groups of school children before they tour the historic Spanish Colonial residence. This year, we gave presentations on four different days about Bernardo de Gálvez and Spain's participation in the American Revolution as well as Spanish influence on our continent. Those who were able to participate this year were Jesse Guerra, Roger Valdez, Alex Zamora, Tim Thatcher, Joe Gonzalez and Joe Perez. This is yet another one of our events where we fulfill our mission of educating the public.



# Isleños: A Root of America

By Ken Korman

There's a good reason why New Orleans spends so much time celebrating and preserving its many regional cultures. Historically, some of those cultures nearly have been lost — in some cases coming closer than many would believe possible.

A telling example lies at the heart of writer-director Eduardo Cubillo's documentary *Isleños: A Root of America*, which had its U.S. premiere at the recent New Orleans Film Festival and will receive a weeklong run at Chalmette Movies. The film traces the southeast Louisiana history of the Isleños, a people indigenous to the Canary Islands, an autonomous community of Spain located off the coast of Africa. Some 2,000 Isleños traveled across the Atlantic Ocean in 1778 at the behest of Louisiana governor Bernardo de Galvez (whose father was governor of the Canaries), in part to help protect New Orleans from attack by British forces. They later played a key role in the Battle of New Orleans.



The Isleños established five settlements in the region (and founded St. Bernard Parish), one of which fully maintained its Spanish language heritage and unique Canary Islands culture until the late 20th century. But, as eloquent St. Bernard Parish historian Bill Hyland explains in the film, evidence suggests that the Isleños lost their identification with the Canary Islands sometime in the 19th century. Many in the community assumed that “Isleños,” which translates to “islanders,” referred to the Louisiana island of Delacroix, where the Spanish-language settlement moved after the Civil War.

It took the sleuthing of another historian, an Isleño named Frank Fernandez, to reestablish the historical connection to the Canary Islands in the 1970s. Otherwise, a full understanding of Isleños culture might have remained out of reach forever.

That revelation — and the joyous reaction to it among Isleños interviewed for the film — sets the tone early for *Isleños: A Root of America*. In addition to celebrating Isleño culture, Cubillo's engaging hour-long film is intended as an act of preservation. It makes a strong case for the Isleños as a uniquely influential regional force.

The film examines the early history of Isleño settlers in Louisiana before moving on to the Battle of New Orleans (incorporating footage from recent reenactments) and the Isleños' colorful history as fur trappers, fishermen and suppliers of Cuban rum and whiskey to New Orleans during Prohibition. The deep influence of Isleños on regional music is found in the stories of early jazz sensation Alcide Nunez and accordion player Joe Falcon, who made the first-ever recording of Cajun music in 1928.

Outlandish, possibly apocryphal stories such as one in which an Isleño saved a grateful Al Capone from drowning in a Louisiana storm are hard to verify, but that doesn't diminish their entertainment value — or their capacity for illuminating the Isleños' worldview.

*Isleños: A Root of America* features far higher production values than generally found in regionally themed documentaries. Cubillo runs a film production company based in the Canaries, and his documentary was co-produced by the islands' Television Canaria. All of which helps give *Isleños: A Root of America* the flavor of a letter sent by a distant traveler to the folks back home, some of whom may be wondering what their expatriates have been up to for the last 240 years. The answer, as it turns out, is quite a lot.

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The above article appeared in the online news magazine "Gambit" on October 27, 2017.

The video attached to the article may be found at the link shown below.

<https://www.bestofneworleans.com/thelatest/archives/2017/10/27/review-islenos-a-root-of-america>

## Spain and the American Revolution

Judge Ed Butler, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) President General 2009-2010, announced that the Ninth Annual Conference on the American Revolution will focus on Spain's involvement in the American Revolution. The conference will be conducted at The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD June 8-10, 2018. Several history scholars will be presenting scholarly papers at the conference. There will be time for participants to have informal meetings with these scholars. The SAR's Distinguished Scholar, Prof. Gabriel Paquette will conduct the meeting. Registration information will be available after January 2018.

When Judge Butler was president general his theme was "Remembering Spain". He has been directly or indirectly involved in recruiting Hispanics into the SAR.

We are fortunate to have as a dear friend to our chapter, Dr. Evaristo C. Martínez-Radio Garrido, who is a Marie Curie Research Fellow at University of Warwick in England. He is kind enough to send us articles relating to Gálvez that he runs across during his research. He recently wrote to us the interesting message below.

Dear friend,

I think this letter I have just found could be of your interest. It is about how Charlestown surrendered to the Spanish forces:

*“Translation of a letter from Mr. Chester, late governor of Pensacola, to Lord George Germain, dated at Charlestown the 2<sup>d</sup> June 1781.*

*My Lord,*

*I had not an opportunity of writing your Lordship before I sailed from Pensacola to inform you that the whole province of West Florida has surrendered to the Spanish Arms.*

*The enemy appeared the 9<sup>th</sup> of March and a few days after entered this harbour. Permit me to defer giving you, Lordship, a particular account of the siege til I return to England, which I hope to for in a short time, as I shall avail myself of the first good opportunity from this port, whether it be in the flag of truce that brought me from Pensacola (which is very leaky and cannot proceed on her voyage until she is repaired) or in the first other vessel of any sort that may sail from this to England.*

*We were obliged to offer to capitulate the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, and the day following it was signed, a copy of which I send you.*

*This would not have happened so soon if it had not been for the misfortune of a bomb falling on our powder magazine which blew up and carried away with it the principal part of the front of our advanced works, and killed a great many men. The few who escaped, spiked up the cannon and retired into the fort. I believe major general Campbell, commander of the British troops, was then of opinion that the other works could not hold out against such superior force supported by so great a train of artillery, he hoisted a white flag and sent an officer to the Spanish general with terms of capitulation, which I hope your Lordship will think as favorable as we could possibly obtain in our unhappy situation.*

*Major general Campbell and captain dean of the Navy were sent to the Havannah, and major brigade Campbell was to go to New Orleans. The other prisoners of war are sailed for New York, but are to touch at Havannah to take in provisions”.*

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Best regards,

Dr. Evaristo C. Martínez-Radio Garrido,

<https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/modernlanguages/academic/emrg/>

*Dr. Martínez-Radio Garrido is interested in military social history of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century. He has lectured on History and Spanish Civilization at the International University Isabel I (Spain, 2017), the University Eötvös Loránd in Budapest (2014-2015), the Spanish National Distance Learning University (UNED) in Asturias (Spain, 2010-2013) and the University of Oviedo (Spain, 2004-2008). I have also been invited to participate in different summer and additional courses and supervised some postgraduate works.*

# More Photos From the National Meeting



# Order of Granaderos y Damas de Gálvez

Minutes for the meeting held November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at

**La Fonda Restaurant**

**Submitted by Joe Perez**

## Attendance:

George Aguayo, Edward Aranda, Eileen Barrientos, Rafael Cavazos, Sylvia Escamilla, Joel Escamilla, Karla Galindo, Frank Galindo, Vivian Garza, Carlos Garza, Stella González, Joe González, Walter Herbeck, Yolanda Kirkpatrick, Deborah Knippa, Kevin Knippa, Cordy Lopez, Joe Lopez, Jimmy Peet, Briana Perez, Elizabeth Perez, Joe Perez, Manny Rodriguez, Tim Thatcher, Melissa Zamora, Alex Zamora, Joe J. Zavala

- The meeting commenced at 7:21 p.m.
- Frank Galindo gave the Invocation and Briana Perez led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Governor Joe Perez welcomed guests Kevin and Deborah Knippa, Edward Aranda, Vivian Garza and Carlos Garza.
- Treasurer Alex Zamora gave the Treasurer's Report for October. We had a Beginning Balance of \$2,060.17; Expenses of \$94.00 for p.o. rental for one year; Income of \$120.18 for membership dues, sales of books at the October meeting and dividend on our account; leaving an Ending Balance of \$2,086.35. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read was made by Briana Perez and seconded by Jimmy Peet. After a vote, the motion carried.
- Governor Perez announced the birthdays for this month: Roberto Flores and Manuel Lizcano on 11/8; Elizabeth Perez on 11/15; Sylvia Escamilla on 11/23; Karla Galindo and Michael Cristian on 11/28.
- Governor Joe Perez announced the upcoming events: National Meeting 10/3 - 10/5; Military Veterans Parade on 11/11 and Christmas Party on 12/2.
- Karla Galindo, gave an update on the National Meeting's Saturday night dinner at the Spanish Governor's Palace and that we are ready for the event with everything in place.
- At 7:35, Joe Perez suspended the meeting for dinner and at 8:06, he resumed the meeting.
- Joe then introduced Guest Speaker Joe Lopez who gave a presentation on his book Preserving Early Texas History; Essays of an Eighth-Generation South Texan. Joe gave an excellent presentation that was very well received. After his presentation, he answered questions and received comments from the audience. Several members purchased his book after the meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

