

# ee

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## The Basque Country present at Shanghai Expo



ee

NATIONAL BASQUE-ARGENTINE WEEK IN HONOR OF  
MAR DEL PLATA'S BICENTENNIAL



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## GURE GAIA



## ELKARRIZKETA



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# CENTRO VASCO DENAK BAT



## MAR DEL PLATA 2010

30 DE OCTUBRE AL 7 DE NOVIEMBRE

EUSKO JAURLARITZA



GOBIERNO VASCO





Message sent by the Lehendakari to Mar de Plata on the occasion of National Basque Week 2010

**E**skerrak eman nahi dizkiet Euskal Aste Nazionalaren antolatzaileei aukera eman didatelako ekitaldi nagusi horretako parte hartzaileei hitz egiteko. Agenda dela eta, ez dut abagunerik izan Argentinara joan eta zuekin batera ospatzeko Amerikako euskaldunen arteko senidetza jai hori; hala ere, hor dago nire gobernuaren ordezkari bat, euskal gizataldeekiko dugun konpromisoaren erakusgarri eta Atlantikoaren alde bietako euskaldunoi argi egiten digun su-garrari bizirik eusteko gogoaren adierazgarri.

Amerikako euskaldunen historia urratu baten kontakizuna da. Mendeetan zehar, askok igaro behar izan dute itsasoa, aukera bila eta gerraren lazturatik ihesi. Eta mirari izan da, nahiz eta joan beharrak samina eta etxea uzteak herrimina eragin, horra joan eta gizatalde ireki eta abegitsu bat aurkitzea, euskaldunak integratzen jakin izan duena.

Gaur harro ospatzen duzue euskaldunak zaretela Argentinan. Eutsi egiten diezue gure kulturari, hizkuntzari eta ohiturei; harremanak estutzen dituzue zuen artean, baita Euskaditik harro begiratzen dizuegun euskaldunokin ere. Horregatik, zorretan gaude zuokin, eta horregatik sendoa da gure konpromisoa zuen herrialdeetan Euskadiren ordezkariak zaretenokin.

Jaurlaritzan daramadan urte eta erdian, Brasileran eta Estatu Batuetara –Boiseko Jaialdia dela eta– egin dut bidaia. Bi toki horietan izan dut aukera hitz egin eta bizipenak partekatzeko euskal gizataldeekin. Eta ikusi dut, atzerrian euskaldun izateak ez diela euskalduntasuna moteldu; aitzitik, aberastu eta osotu egin die euskalduntasuna. Eta horrekin batera, pertsona pluralak eta ezberdinak gizartean nola integratu erakusten digu. Izan ere, euskaldun izateko era asko daude, munduan euskaldunak beste, eta zuek sentipen hori gidatzeko bide bat erakutsi duzue.

Argentinako Euskal Aste Nazionalak aurten jarduera ugari eta erakargarriak bildu ditu eta bi eragingarri berezirekin batera ospatuko da: alde batetik, Maiatzeko Iraultzaren Bigarren Mendeurrenarekin; eta bestetik, Argentinan euskara zabaltzen lagundu duen 'Argentinan Euskaraz' programaren 20. urteurrenarekin. Izugarri goza dezazuela eta zuen alaitasun irrintzia Euskadiraino iritsi dadila, Euskadin maitasunez eta mirespenez begiratzen dizuegu eta.

I should like to thank the organizers of National Basque Week for giving me this opportunity to address the participants of this major event. Unfortunately, due to a busy schedule, I was not able to travel to Argentina to celebrate this festival with you however, a delegation sent by my Government was able to attend as proof of our commitment to the Basque communities and of our desire to keep the light that shines on Basques, on both sides of the Atlantic, burning.

The story of the Basques in America is one of people being torn from their roots. Throughout the centuries, many have been obliged to cross the oceans in search of opportunities or to escape the horrors of war. And despite the pain of leaving, despite the nostalgia for a home left behind, many discovered, miraculously, an open and welcoming community which has successfully integrated all Basques.

Today you celebrate with pride as Argentinean Basques. You keep our culture, language and traditions alive, maintaining the bonds that exist not only between the Basques that live in that country but also with those who live here, in the Basque Country, who look on you with pride. For that reason, we owe you a great debt and our commitment to you, the ambassadors of the Basque Country in your respective countries, is unwavering.

During the 18 months I have led this government, I have travelled to Brazil and the United States, to attend Jaialdi in Boise. In both countries I have had the chance to talk to and share experiences with members of the Basque communities. I have seen how, instead of diminishing their sense of identity, the fact that they live abroad only increases their feeling of being Basque. Moreover, we can learn from them how to integrate people from different backgrounds into one community. Because there are as many ways of being Basque as there are Basques in the world and you are an example of how to channel this feeling.

This year's National Basque Week in Argentina, features a full range of activities and events, with the added attraction of coinciding with the Bicentennial of the May Revolution as well as that of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Argentinan Euskaraz" program, which has helped you over the years to increase the use of the Basque language in your country. I hope that you will enjoy this event and may your shouts of joy may be heard here in the Basque Country where you are regarded with affection and admiration.

# Munduan zehar

## News in brief



THE ENE 2010 PRIZE OF EUSKO IKASKUNTZA, AWARDED TO THE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION SUSTRAIAK-ERROAK OF PARIS

The 2010 Euskal Etxea ENE Saria Prize (ENE, Euskararen Nazioarteko Eguna or International Basque Language Day) was awarded to the Sustriak-Erroak Association of Paris, founded in 1981 and based at the Paris Euskal Etxea. The prize is awarded every year by Eusko Ikaskuntza, the Basque Studies Society, in recognition of an entity located abroad for its work in the dissemination and spread of the Basque language and culture. The president of the entity, Iñigo Leturia, accepted the award.

[www.eskualetxea.com](http://www.eskualetxea.com)



THE BOOK AND EXHIBITION ON THE WORK OF CRISTOBAL BALENCIAGA, BRILLIANT BASQUE FASHION DESIGNER, HAVE BEEN PRESENTED

Work of historian Miren Arzalluz and published by the San Sebastian-based publishing house, Nerea, the book "Cristóbal Balenciaga, la forja del maestro [Cristóbal Balenciaga, the Master's Forge] is a biography of this brilliant designer in the world of fashion. The book traces Balenciaga's development from his first experience helping his mother in his hometown of Getaria, to his triumphant years in Paris. For the time being, the book, presented on October 27, 2010 in Donostia, was published in three

language versions, Basque, Spanish and French. An exhibition with more than 70 works by this Basque fashion designer opened its doors to visitors in October at the Reina Sofía Institute in New York, and will be on show until February 19.

[www.nerea.net](http://www.nerea.net)



THE EUSKAL ETXEA OF ASUNCIÓN PLANS TO ORGANIZE A BASQUE WEEK IN 2011, THE YEAR IN WHICH PARAGUAY CELEBRATES ITS BICENTENNIAL

As 2011 is the bicentennial year of Paraguay's "Jason" Euskal Etxea, Asuncion has made the initial arrangements to organize a Basque Week, the aim of which will be to highlight and to disseminate the history of the Basques in that country and to increase an awareness of everything Basque and of the current situation of this country with regard to its cultural life, tourism and economy. Contact has already been made with the Basque Government through the Basque Citizens and Communities Abroad Department and the Delegation of the Basque Country in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.



TRIBUTE BY THE EUSKO ETXEA OF SAN JUAN TO JOSE ARAMBURU AND THE END-OF-YEAR EXHIBITION "BASQUE FARMHOUSES"

The end-of-year event organized by the Eusko Etxea of San Juan, close to the Andes, took the form of "Basque Farmhouses", an itinerant exhibition

that will be on display in San Juan from December 16 to 22. Its local coordinator, Silvia Urbicain de Bene, and the president of the Eusko Etxea, Esteban Marticorena, highlighted the positive response from the public as well as the important collaboration of the Municipality, whose culture director, Luis Meglioli, took part in the inauguration. Just a few months previously, on the occasion of the San Ignacio festivities, the Eusko Etxea offered a posthumous tribute to one of the founders of the institution in 1952, José de Aramburu.



BERTSO BAZKARIA LONDRESKO EUSKAL ELKARTEAN, AMETS ARZALLUS ETA JOKIN URANGA BOLTSA LAPURTU ZIETENARI KANTARI

Arras aktibo eta ekimentsu ibili da 2010ean Londresko Basque Society edo Euskal Elkarte. Euskal Etxeak-en azkeneko zenbakian ere aipatu genuen horren berri. Hainbat proposamenen artean, abuztuaren, uda sasoiko ekitaldiak bururatzuz eginiko bertso-bazkaria ekarri nahi izan dugu hona. Hendaia Amets Arzalluz eta Azpeitiko Jokin Uranga izan ziren abuztuaren 28an egin bertso saioko gonbidatuak. Umorez aritu ziren, bazkaldu baina pixkat lehenxeago boltsa lapurtu baitzieten taberna batean. Horrek eragindako komeriak gaudituta, pasadizoa bertsogai bilakatu zuten, arratsalde goxo bat pasatuaraziz Bethnal Green-eko euskal egoitzara bildutako lagunei.

[www.zintzilik.org](http://www.zintzilik.org)



THE BASQUES OF SALTO, IN URUGUAY, SANG "TXORIA TXORI", MARKING THE END OF THEIR 2010



## ART WORKSHOP SEASON 2010

As a Basque contribution to the Week of the Immigrant, the Basque Club "Saltoko Euskaldunen Taldea" of Salto set up its stand and shared with members of other communities several "gifts" such as the performance by María Fernanda and Gabriela (mother and daughter), who sang a number of the most popular Basque songs such as "Txoria Txori" and "Ilargia" to a guitar accompaniment. The president of the Center, María Cristina Juanena, was clearly moved by the representation of the Navarran tradition of the running of the bulls and shouting "Pamploneses, gora San Fermin". The film "Palabra de Vasco" was shown and the dantzaris of the neighboring city of Concordia gave a dance performance. To mark the end of the season, an exhibition was inaugurated with works created in the art workshops directed by María Angela Juanena, vice president of Saltoko. The photo shows some of the students of the painting workshop.

<http://saltokoeuskaldunentaldea.blogspot.com>



EUSKAL ETXEA OF MURCIA:  
SAN FERMIN, OLENTZERO, SAN SEBASTIAN, SPORTS ... JUST A FEW BUT HIGHLY DEDICATED MEMBERS

It is not one of the historical Basque centers, nor does it have several hundred members such as the large Euskal Etxeas, but despite their limitations, the members of the Euskal Etxea of Murcia work tirelessly to make their contribution to the universe of Basque communities. Its multitasking president, Unai Sánchez, from Irun, plays Olentzero, promotes Basque language classes, prepares dinner for events such as San Sebastián or San Fermin, or pays tribute to Basque teams and players during their stays in Murcia. And he is assisted by people like Arantzazu, Pantxo, Lola, Virginia, Joseba... among others.

[www.euskaletxea-murcia.com](http://www.euskaletxea-murcia.com)



TALK REGARDING "BASQUE ROOTS" AND THE PUBLICATION OF A BASQUE COOK BOOK IN THE CITY OF CORONEL MOLDES

The Basque Club "Gure Zainak" of Coronel Moldes, in the province of Córdoba in Argentina, is taking the first steps to secure its recognition by the Basque Government. For the time being, it has been recognized only at a local level. Among its activities, every Tuesday it broadcasts a radio program on Basque themes, "Euskal Unea"

(Basque moment). Last August, it celebrated San Ignacio once again and in September it took part in the talk on "Basque Roots" in the festivities held to mark the 106 anniversary of this town of 9000 inhabitants. Another important event was the presentation of the book "Cocina vasca campesina (Basque Rural Cuisine)" written by the president of the center, Marita Echave.



YERBA BUENA-KO GIZATALDEEN I.GO FESTAK TUCUMANGO EUSKAL KULTUR ELKARTEAREN PARTAIDETZA LORTU ZUEN

Euskaldunak partaide antolatu da 2010eko azaroan Tucuman probintzia argentinarreko Yerba Buena hiriko Gizataldeen Lehenengo Festa. Tucumango Euskal Kultur Elkarte kideak hartu zuten euskal standa antolatzeko ardura. Italiarrarekin batera, bisitatuenetako bat izan omen zen. Euskal elkarte buruzagiek oso pozgarri eta eraginkortzat jo dute partaidetza, interes bizia harrapatu baitzuten jendearengan euskaldun jakiteko. Festako Erreginaren lehiaketan, euskal ordezkaria, Maria Andrea Pedraza, lehenengo printzesa hautatu zuten.

<http://scvdet.blogspot.com>



## A TEAM REPRESENTING THE BASQUE COUNTRY WON THE INTERNATIONAL MUS COMPETITION OF LA

A team representing the Basque Country, Angel Rivero and Juan Antonio Vicente from Bizkaia, won the 33rd World Mus Championship held in Los Angeles, California, USA, on August 30 to September 5 between 13 teams representing the Basque Country and Basque centers in France, Argentina, Spain, the United States, Chile, Australia, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru and Canada. As usual, the organization of the event at the hands of NABO was excellent. Those taking part paid tribute to Pierre Etcharren, the first person to organize the championship and a keen player of mus. The team representing France, Roger and Pierre Mendiondo from Lower Navarre, came second. The picture shows the mus players wearing typical cowboy hats.

[www.globalmus.com](http://www.globalmus.com) [www.nabasque.org](http://www.nabasque.org)

# Munduan zehar



THE CITIES OF SANTIAGO AND VALPARAÍSO HOSTED THE EIGHTH BASQUE CINEMA SEASON IN CHILE

A result of the collaboration, once again, of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Euskadiko Filmategia-Filmoteca Vasca and the Basque Country Delegation in Chile and Peru, the 8th Basque Cinema Season was held on October 12-17 in Santiago and Valparaíso Chile. Full-length films "Sukalde kontuak", "Zorion Perfektua", "Akelarre", "La Noche del Escorpión", "Querida Bamako" and "Mi hijo Arturo" were shown as well as a selection of eight short films from Kimuak 2008.



"LOS VASCOS EN VILLA MARIA (HISTORIAS DE VIDA)" [THE BASQUES IN VILLA MAIRA (LIFE STORIES)] WAS PRESENTED AT VILLA MARÍA, CORDOBA

On November 23 and within the 54th Culture Week organized by the Eusko Etxea in Villa María on the occasion of the anniversary of the institution, the book "Los Vascos en Villa María (historias de vida)" was presented at the headquarters of the Euskal Etxea in Villa María. The book, which contains stories and photographs of 42 Basque families settled in the area, allows the reader to reconstruct the history of the Basques in the city based on personal accounts. The presentation was attended by large number of people and closed with the performance of the dance and choral group of the Eusko Etxea.



THE CELEBRATIONS HELD TO MARK 50 YEARS OF THE BASQUE DANCE GROUP "OINKARI DANTZA TALDEA" IN BOISE, USA, HAVE ENDED

Founded in 1960 and a regular event in the Basque community in Boise, as well as among the general population of the city as a whole, the events are held to celebrate the first half-century of this outstanding entity of Idaho concluded in December with a mass dinner which marked the end of a complete year of activities in which his support, relevance and level of participation enjoyed by the work of the boys and girls of Oinkari in favor of Basque and Basque-American culture was left in no doubt. Oinkari is one of the best known groups of dantzaris of the Diaspora, having performed throughout the United States and Canada, on several occasions in the Basque Country, as well as at the Shanghai Expo in China in September.

[www.oinkari.org](http://www.oinkari.org)



QUEBEC-EKO EUSKALDUNAK ELKARTEA EKIMENTSU; BERE ELASTIKOA MUNDUAN ZEHAR ARGAZKITU DUTE

Urte lanpetua burutu du Quebec-eko Euskaldunak elkarteak Montrealen. Hitzaldi sorta antolatu dute urtean zehar, hilabeteroko bigarren ostiralean. Euskara eta dantza ikastaroak, eta txalaparta tailerra ere egin dira. 2010eko

otsailean euskal etxeko talde bat New Yorkera bidaiatu zen Ellis Islandeko euskal erakusketaren inauguraziora. Ohiko afari eta elkarretartezeez gain, Laetitia Munduteguy-k elkartearentzat diseinatutako elastikoak lortu duen arrakasta behar da aipatu. Bordelen eta Parisen jendeak jantzita atera dizkiote argazkiak, eta baita, beteak beste, Zeelanda Berrian ere. Idatzi euskaldunakquebec@yahoo.com helbidera zeurea lortu nahi baduzu.

[www.euskaldunakquebec.com](http://www.euskaldunakquebec.com)



COLOMBIA HELD THE SEVENTH BASQUE WEEK OF BOGOTA AND THE FIRST BASQUE WEEK ORGANIZED BY THE BASQUE CLUB OF MEDELLIN

Between September 5 and 11, Bogota was the scenario of another Basque Week, which began at the Parque Gernika in Bogota in the presence, among other dignitaries, of the Basque Citizens and Communities Director Julián Celaya, the Delegate of Euskadi, Iñaki Martínez, José María Gorroño Mayor of Gernika and Francisco Abrisqueta, president of the Euskal Etxea of Bogotá. A season of Basque films and a concert by the tenor, José Antonio Urdiain, were among the highlights of the program. For its part, the Basque Club "Luis Miguel de Zulategi" of Antioquia held its first Basque Week on October 11-14, with an interesting program of talks, concerts, theater, dance and gastronomy.





Parade and joint performance of the dance groups of the Euskal Etxeas taking part in the closing ceremony on Sunday.

# National Basque Week of the Bicentennial in Mar del Plata

Urte berezia bizi izan dute 2010ean Argentinan, zenbait efemerideren ospakizuna bildu delarik Mar del Platan egin den Euskal Aste Nazionalera. Urtea berezia izan da oso herrialde osoan, Argentinak bere independentzia prozesua hasi zeneko Bigarren Menduurrena ospatzen baitzuen. Nazio mailako ospakizunekin bateginik, euskaldunek Bigarren Menduurrenako Euskal Astea deitu dute 2010ekoa eta nazio harrotasun argentinarra present egon da euskal sentimentuekin uztarturik. Horrekin batera, 'Argentinan Euskaraz' programak hogeitun urte betetzen zituen; eta ehun urte bete dira baita ere Pello Mari Otaño bertsolari eta euskaltzale handia hil zela Argentinako Rosarion.

In a year of great importance for many Argentinians with the celebration to mark the Bicentennial of the May Revolution, a large number of Argentine Euskal Etxeas joined the commemorative celebrations by organizing a number of different activities in their respective headquarters. They were joined by the Basque-Argentine community as a

whole, who also made National Basque Week of the Bicentennial the main event of the year, held on this occasion in the coastal city of Mar del Plata from November 1 to 7, 2010.

Under the umbrella of the Argentine Bicentennial, other events were also incorporated into the program organized

by the Basque Club "Denak Bat" of Mar del Plata with the support of FEVA, the Basque Government and the Municipality of General Pueyrredón (Mar del Plata). Among these, of special importance were the ceremonies held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the "Argentinan Euskaraz", which has provided such good results for teaching Basque;





Headquarters of the Denak Bat of Mar del Plata during the early stages of the festival

and the centennial of the death of the great bertsolari and euskaltzale Pello Mari Otaño. Born in Zizurkil, Gipuzkoa, after settling in Argentina he spent much of his working life in Buenos Aires, city and province. He worked as a teacher of Basque in the federal capital, writing the lyrics for the Basque Opera "Artzai mutilla" which premiered in 1900 at the Victoria theater of Buenos Aires, and wrote a large number of bertsos, which have now become classics of their genre. He died in 1910 in Rosario, Santa Fe.

National Basque Week is an important event each year, bringing together members of the Basque communities and Euskal Etxeas and their friends from all over the country, in a meeting which is of both a serious and a festive nature. For those attending it is an opportunity to recharge "batteries", share the workload, tell each other about their

problems and solutions, and to keep up friendships and relations between individuals and entities that work throughout the year to promote Basque culture in their respective villages and cities, including Jujuy, Salto, El Chaco and Misiones, to the far reaches of Patagonia and Río Gallegos, in the province of Santa Cruz.

### Combining festivities and work

This year's event included the traditional workshops and meetings. With regard to Basque language teaching activities, the coordinator of the program "Euskara Munduan", José Francisco Zinkunegi, offered a course for "irakasles" who are already working or undergoing training and presented new material in 48-hour modules, as well as Internet resources for self-study.

Another Basque language activity was the "Euskodromo", conceived to draw the attention of participants at Basque Week towards the Basque language through a system of games and active participation.

The txistularis Maite Ariznabarreta and Nerea Balzola took charge of the txistu workshop, with twenty participants from all over the country. Library managers also met at the 12th Basque Library Meeting at the library of the "Honorable Consejo Deliberante" of the municipality. And the choir meeting ended with an excellent concert at the Oratorio Capilla Unzué in Mar del Plata, given by the choirs "Camerata de la Luna", of the Euskal Etxea of Villa Mercedes, "Gure Abestiak", of the Basque Club of Tandil and "Camerata Vocal" of the National University of Mar del Plata. With a repertoire in Basque and Spanish, the three choirs offered an excellent recital to those attending Basque Week and to an audience made up of choral music lovers.

In addition to the dantzaris of the Itxas Argia Dantza Talde of Getxo, who offered a number of excellent performances at different stages of the program, some of the most notable participants in Basque Week from outside Argentina included members of the Association "Euskal Argentina", who had travelled from Iparralde and who took part in the tributes paid to Pello Mari Otaño, by singing some of his "bertsos" in addition to a number of improvised popular songs typical of traditional Basque festivals. Susana Ardanaz Otaño "Txuri", granddaughter of the bertsolari, was particularly moved by the "bertsos" composed by the "bertsolari" of the Diaspora, Joxe Mendiague (Aldude, 1845-Montevideo, 1937), 110 years ago



Participants at the meeting of students and teachers on the Euskara Munduan program



Txistu workshops, given by the local txistularis Maite Ariznabarreta and Nerea Balzola





General view of the FEVA meeting during the Basque Week of the Bicentennial



Aizpea Goenaga, Julián Celaya, Ricardo Basterra (President of FEVA), Elvira Cortajarena and Andoni Martín

on March 11, 1900, extolling her grandfather. After being sung by members of "Euskal Argentina" she was given a copy of the "bertsos".

## FEVA Assembly

Both inside and outside the program, participants at the Basque-Argentine assembly had the opportunity of visiting exhibits including the itinerant photography exhibition "Caseros Vascos", of taking part in patriotic tributes such as those made to the Tree of Gernika and the monuments raised in honor of General San Martín, with a performance by the Army Music Band, or of attending talks and events dealing with the history of Euskal Herria or the current political situation in the Basque Country.

The Annual Assembly that the Federation of Basque-Argentine Entities (FEVA) organizes every year during Basque Week brought together some 40 Euskal Etxeas. The meeting got under way with a few words of greeting from the president of the host entity, the "Denak Bat" of Mar de Plata, José Martín Azarloza, and with the first of

the talks given by Ricardo Basterra, president of FEVA. A delegation from the Basque Government made up of Julián Celaya, Basque Citizens and Communities Director, Aizpea Goenaga, Director of the Etxepare Institute and Andoni Martín, specialist of the Foreign Affairs Department, travelled from the Basque Country to take part, accompanied by Elvira Cortajarena, Delegate of the Basque Country for the host nation Argentina, as well as Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

As every year, one of the decisive points of the program was the Song and Dance Show which took place on Saturday night at the Radio City Theater of Mar del Plata. More than 30 dance and music groups took part in the show during which tribute was paid to those who began the "Argentinan Euskaraz" program 20 years ago, which is now called "Euskara Munduan".

## Euskal Herria, (one and diverse)

Throughout Saturday afternoon and evening, the hubbub, music and merry-making spilled over into the adjacent

streets in an animated kalejira headed by the zanzantzarrak of "Agoizko Joaldunak", followed by "txistularis, trikitalaris, albokaris, dantzaris", Basque-Argentineans and the general public who, accompanied by ikurriñas and Argentinian flags jumped and danced along the entire route to the Radio City Theater.

There were performances by groups from all over the country during the entire show, which kicked off with the dantzaris of the "Beti Alai" of Mar del Plata. During the intermission, the bert-solaris Gorka Berasategi, Egoitz Zelaia and Unai Ormaetxea dedicated some bertsos to the Argentine Diaspora. Amidst loud applause, seven students (today teachers) of the first barnetegi of "Argentinan Euskaraz", in 1990 in Tandil, received commemorative gifts: Miren Arozarena, Cecilia Canz, Rosana Entizne, Irene López de Vicuña, Gabriela Mendia, Marigen Mujica and Teresa Zavaleta. Tributes were also paid to the teachers they had at that time, Miren Josu Uriarte and Gurutze Arrieta who had travelled to Argentina from the Basque Country especially for this event.

In addition to the show, the procession and mass performance on Sunday morning of all the "dantzaris" taking part in Basque Week, which took place just before the lunch that marked the end of the event, was the best moment of the entire event for those who like the color, movement and energy transmitted by the hundreds of "dantzaris", from several dozen Euskal Etxeas and cities throughout Argentina, who danced dances that they had learnt in places hundreds or thousands of kilometers from each other, even further in the case of the performance of the Itxas Argia Dantza Taldea of Getxo, in the Basque Country.



Elvira Cortajarena and Aizpea Goenaga accompanied by Txuri Ardanaz Otaño, following the tribute to her grandfather, Pello Mari Otaño



Aurkeztutako  
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sentimentu  
eta gogo  
sakona

Winner of the poster competition,  
designed by Adriana Hernandezorena and  
Daniel Molina, of Mar del Plata

Prize Winners  
for works  
relating  
to Basque  
culture

The artistic creativity and ability in both Basque and Spanish of Basque-Argentinean youngsters, children and adults was highlighted during Basque Week at the prize giving ceremony for the artistic competitions organized by FEVA and the host Euskal Etxea. Horacio Marotto Etxezahar, a student of Euskaltzaleak, won the competition for the logotype designed to celebrate 20 years of Argentinan Euskaraz. In the literary competition, individual category in Basque, the prize was won by irakasle from Tandil, Valeria Aramburu, for her work "Gure sekretua-Our secret". In the group category, the winners were the students Rocío Basterra Guillermo Iturrioz and Gabriela Scafetto. In Spanish, the winner was the individual work entitled "Hizkuntza edo arima-Language or Soul" by Juan Itcea from Gral Rodríguez, and the group section "Lagunak euskaragatik-Friends through Basque", was won by Martha Schorr and Ena Mari Erastes.

With regard to the poster to announce Basque classes in Argentina 2011, the winners was the design by Adriana Hernandezorena and Daniel Molina, from Mar del Plata. The aim of the "Publicity spot" competition was to show and disseminate Basque language through a video. The competition was won by the group made up of Sergio Amundarain, Irma Biscaichipy, Marta Caldubehere, Lilian Elozegui, Emilse Etcheverry, Nora Huici, Elsa Jtten, Nerina Martínez, Ignacio Mirant-Borde and Juan Ondona, from Bahía Blanca, directed by Rosana Entizne. There were prizes for the





Moment during the music and dance performance on Saturday night at the Radio City Theater in Mar del Plata



Detail from the dance performance on Sunday at the Patricio Peralta Ramos Boulevard

youngest participants too. The winners of this year's giant poster competition were members of Denak Bat from Mar del Plata, Juan Cruz and Milagros Actis; Kiara Alessa Linzoain; Yanina Angelucci; Sofía Arambarri; Lautaro and Santiago Ariznabarreta; Guillermo Balzola; Bautista y Maite Contreras; Luken Enev Garay; Markel Enev Garay; Ainara and Lorenzo Etchegaray, Agustín, Juan Ignacio and Manuel Gaillour; María Galván Usubiaga; Leire Gomez Iriberrí; José and Leire María Gorostegui; Mariano Andrés, Mikel Tobías and Santiago Horiánsky; Martín Iriberrí; Ainara, Juan Pablo, Laitete, Iñaki Isasmendi; Francisco Mario; Lorea and Mateo Millan; Rocío Mora; Manuela and Francisco Ortigoza; Aitor and Andoni Palazzo; Bianca and Ornella Pilegi; Pilar Retenaga; Delfina Salaberry; and Catalina Sarries, all of them students of Maite Ariznabarreta and Nerea Balzola.

The children of La Plata's Euzko Etxea received special mention. The group made up of María Victoria Arbeletche, María Antonella and Gustavo Bevilacqua, María Eugenia Bifaretti, María del Rosario Cairo, Juan Bautista Elverdin, Celina and Amparo Montes de Oca, Martina Pastor Pulido, Lander Ibai and Jon Zelai Sainz de Rosas, together with their teachers María Emilia Cairo and María Laura Galarraga, received a gift for the card they presented. Zorionak to all of them!



"Txikis" from Mar del Plata after receiving the prize at the closing banquet





Concert by Peter Ansorena and the Band of Txistularis of Donostia at the Retiro Park in Madrid

## Excellent reception by the Catalonian public of the "Euskal Herria Sona 2010 festival

From October 30 to December 11, Barcelona was the scenario for the 13th Basque music festival "Euskal Herria Sona", one of the different shows offered by the Euskal Etxea of the capital of Catalonia to the people of Barcelona so that they can sample and enjoy, without leaving their own city, the dynamism and vibrancy of Basque culture, in this case with regard to the world of music.

During the six-week festival, a total of 13 concerts were given by 14 singers and groups from the

Basque music scene (including both newcomers and well-established artists) in a number of different halls and scenarios in Barcelona. Musical styles ranged from folk and rock to punk and jazz. Almost half the concerts were completely sold out and it is also worth mentioning that the singers from Iparralde, less well known to the Catalonian public, received an ecstatic response in their performances.

[www.euskaletxea-madrid.com](http://www.euskaletxea-madrid.com)

## The Euskal Etxea of Madrid organized its first Basque Week

From September 27 to October 3, the Euskal Etxea of Madrid organized the first Euskal Astea-Basque Week in its more than 40 years of existence. In order to share with its fellow citizens of Madrid the finer points of Basque culture and traditions and to offer its members as well as the general public of the capital of the Spanish state a good excuse to get to know all things Basque and the Euskal Etxea, the Basque Club of Madrid drew up a program that included an exhibition, roundtables and the testimonies of Basques in Madrid, music, folklore, herri kirolak and even aquatic sports competitions at the Retiro Park, which attracted a good deal of attention in the press and among the public of Madrid.

Basque Week was inaugurated by the President of the Center, Jon Zaballa, at a ceremony attended by the Basque Citizens and Communities Director, Julián Celaya, and Luis Asúa, councilor and president of the Retiro district, and ended on Sunday with a concert by the Choral Society of the Euskal Etxea.

[www.ehsona.com](http://www.ehsona.com)  
[www.euskaletxea.cat](http://www.euskaletxea.cat)

## Basque Ballet in Berlin

The first presentation of the Euskal Etxea of Berlin (Germany) since its official recognition by the Basque Government, captured the attention of the public of the German capital. A large audience made up of Basques and admirers of the Basque Country attended the concert held on October 30 at the Regenboge-fabrik.

Some even had to stand or sit on the floor while they watched the videos and the choreography "Euskal Herria" based on the poems by Joseba Sarrionaindia and Xabier Lete, offered by the San Sebastian-born dancer, Mikel Aristegui, who has resided in Essen for the last 20 years.

[www.mikelaristegui.com](http://www.mikelaristegui.com)







Basque Films poster, the 3rd Basque film season in Caracas

## 3rd Basque film season in the capital of Venezuela

Zinea zetaz Caracasen. Hirugarren urtez Zine Vasco jaialdiak, euskal zinemagileek Euskal Herrian eta munduan eginiko filme eta laburmetraien selekzio bat erakutsi du joan den urri-azaroan Caracasen. Filmak Chacaoko Kultur Zentroan eman ziren, orotara 20 labur eta hiru luzemetraia. Antolatzaileen xedea, "ekoiztetxe, zuzendari, gidoilari, aktore, leku eta gaien ikuspegi txiki bat ematea, zazpigarren arteak horien bidez euskal kulturaz ematen duen lekukotasuna" ezagutzearren, Zinemaldiko koordinatzaile nagusiak, Vicente Corostolak, adierazi duenez.

As in the past, this, the third film Festival, features a selection of short and full-length films produced by Basque artists in Euskal Herria and throughout the world, brought to the cinema screens of Venezuela through the Basque Film season. The films were shown at the Chacao Culture Center in El Rosal from October 25 to November 3 and attracted large audiences. Once more, the festival offered "a small selection of the work of producers, directors, scriptwriters, actors, locations and themes dealing with different aspects of the Basques (Basque Country, Navarra and Iparralde) through the seventh art", in the words of its coordinator, Vicente Corostola, who offered his thanks for the support provided by producers and directors, as well as by Kimuak, the Chacao Culture Center, Gráficas Etxea, Anónimo Studio and Guató.

Among others, the festival included short films such as "Panchito", by Arantxa Echevarria; Cruce, by Jon Cortegoso; Vecinos, by Aitor Aspe; Lo Bakarrik, by Iban del Campo; Una caja de botones, by Maria Reyes Arias; El Cheff, by Iñigo Kintana; Amona Putz!, by Telmo Esnal; La Barbería, by Algis Arlauskas; El nunca lo haría, by Anartz Zuazua; Bizitzako Kopa, by Enara Goikoetxea; Dolores, by Manuela Moreno; and Fábrica de Muñecas, by Ainhoa Menéndez Goyoaga; and the full-length films Mugaldekoak (La Red Comète), by Fernando Bernués and Mireia Gabilondo; Ori, by Miguel Ángel Jiménez; and Flores Silvestres, by Mikel Ardanaz.

[www.zinevasco.com](http://www.zinevasco.com)

## The Basque Government recognizes two new Euskal Etxeas in Montevideo and San José, Uruguay

At the end of last year, at the Cabinet meeting held on December 14, two new Basque clubs were recognized in the Uruguayan cities of San José and Montevideo, bringing to ten the number of Euskal Etxeas included during the period 2009-10 in the official registry of Basque entities abroad.

The first of these is the newly created Basque Club of San José de Mayo, located in the city of San José, in the department of the same name. Although the present Euskal Etxea was set up last year, it is located in an area with a high presence of Basques and was also linked to the independence process. The First Constituent Assembly was set up there in 1828 with a high participation of Basques. As of the 19th century the Basques were extremely active forming outstanding associations such as Euskaldunak Bat (1887), made up of young euskaltzales, the articles of association of which indicated that to be a member it was necessary to be a Basque speaker.

The second entity recognized by the Basque Government is the Euskaro Center, based in Montevideo. This is a historic entity founded in the Uruguayan capital in 1911 which, after undergoing a number of major changes and economic and management problems due to which it ceased to be recognized as a registered Euskal Etxea, it is once again an official center and is soon to celebrate its centenary on June 29, 2011.

With the recognition of both entities, Uruguay is now confirmed as the country with the third highest number of Basque clubs, following Argentina and the United States. FIVU, the Federation of Basque-Uruguayan Institutions, was founded in September 1997 in Montevideo.

[www.haizehegoa.org](http://www.haizehegoa.org)  
[www.centrovascocarmelo.com](http://www.centrovascocarmelo.com)  
[saltokoeuskaldunentaldea.blogspot.com](http://saltokoeuskaldunentaldea.blogspot.com)





The Lehendakari highlighted the economic and business capacity of the Basque Country in China

# The Basque Country Participated in the Shanghai Expo 2010

Lopez lehendakariak bidaia egin zuen Txinara 2010eko irail hondarrean. Asiar herrialdeak gero eta pisu handiagoa du munduko ekonomian eta lehendakariak bertan dauden euskal enpresei babesa erakustez gain, sostengua erakutsi nahi izan zien Txinarekin lanean hasi nahi duten euskal ekimenei, aukera galdu gabe Txinako euskal etxe bakarra, Shanghaikoa, bisitatu eta bertako bazkide eta lagun errealitatea hobeto ezagutzeko. Lopezek Shanghaiko Erakusketa Unibertsala izan zuen helburu eta zenbait buruzagi txainatarrekin bildu zen. Expo-n Euskadiren Astea inauguratu zuen, Iñaki Azkuna Bilboko alkatea lagun, munduko hirien artean gonbidapen berezia hartua baitzuen bizkaitar hiriburuak Shanghaira leku propioz erakusketaratzeko.

In late September, Patxi López headed an institutional and business mission to China. This was the first trip by a Lehendakari to this Asian country, one of the most expanding and powerful economies in the world. A number of Basque companies already have a strong foothold there and many others seek an opportunity to set up business or develop trading relations. From the economic and commercial viewpoints, the mission led by the Lehendakari aimed to provide the Basque companies already installed there with support and to prepare the way for others by increasing institutional relations between the Basque Country and China.

One of the main events scheduled for the mission was the inauguration of Basque Country Week at the Shanghai Expo. This initiative exceeded its objective of attracting the attention of the Chinese public and those attending the Expo to Bilbao. This city had its own stand, specially invited by the organization. Attention was also drawn to the advantages offered by the Basque Country and its companies for industrial and commercial initiatives. Special attention was also afforded to tourism as China is now becoming a major source of tourists to the Basque Country.

The Lehendakari was accompanied by the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Guillermo Echenique, the Industry



minister, Bernabé Unda; and representatives of around 70 Basque companies, as well as the Presidents of the Chambers of Commerce, the employers Association Confebask, of MCC and of the Port of Bilbao, among others.

During the trip, the Lehendakari visited the Mondragón Corporación Cooperativa (MCC) industrial estate in Kunshan and the plants set up by other members of the co-operative group, Batz, Fagor Arrasate, Orkil and Orbea. Against this background, López signed an agreement with the governments of Kunshan and Qiandeng to facilitate the introduction of Basque companies in the region, which will allow the Mondragón group to extend its business park by more than 200,000 m<sup>2</sup> in order to accommodate new companies

## The Basque Country, a bridge between China and Europe

The Lehendakari gave a talk at the CEIBS Business School, one of the main schools of its type in Asia, in which he portrayed the Basque Country as a "new connecting route" between China and Europe, taking advantage of strategic aspects such as "know-how, technology and innovation" and the opportunities offered by Basque shipping, railway and airport connections, to which he added the high-speed train. "We can and want to be the bridge that joins these two great powers", he declared. In the afternoon, López had a meeting with the Governor of Jiangsu, the region in which a third of the 130 Basque companies installed in China are based.

But the aim of Basque Country Week was also to provide information about the Basque Country and to promote its tourism. The Shanghai Universal Exhibition, which received a record number of 70 million visitors, was the ideal occasion to do this. Patxi López inaugurated Basque Country Week at the Expo with an event in which Eneko Atxa, Juan Mari Arzak, Martín Berasategi, Andoni Luis Aduriz and Pedro Subijana took part. Clothes designed by the companies Jota más Ge, Jon Fiz, Ian Mosh, Mercedes de Miguel and Alicia Rueda were put on show, in a "mixture" of Basque cuisine and fashion to demonstrate to the world the "modernity and innovation that define the Basque way of doing things".



"Auresku" of welcome for the Lehendakari, from Nick Bicandi, "dantzari" of the Oinkari group of Boise



Signing agreements with the government of Kunshan and Qiandeng



Basque chefs and designers supported the Lehendakari's message with their presence



The presentation included a "txalaparta" demonstration (to which the taiko, a Chinese instrument, was added) and the traditional Basque dance of Agurra (a dance that expresses respect and greeting). There was also an exhibition of Basque dances by the Basque-American group Oinkari, which had travelled expressly from the North American city of Boise, representing the Basque Diaspora as an integral part of the world of the Basques at the Shanghai Expo.

The Basque expedition led by the Lehendakari also witnessed and took part in the splendid welcome given in Shanghai to the city of Bilbao, as a dynamic and emerging capital. For the Chinese organizers, Bilbao is an international model of a city that has successfully overcome a number of crises and has reinvented itself, transforming itself from an outmoded city model to a symbol of modernity and an icon of urban regeneration, the so-called "Guggenheim effect".

## Bilbao, symbol of a modern Basque country

The Mayor of Bilbao, Iñaki Azkuna, played host during the Lehendakari's visit to the Bilbao stand at the Shanghai Expo, leading him on a tour of its installations, which included a large model of the city. The inauguration was also attended, among other personalities, by the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durao Barroso, the President of the Spanish Congress, José Bono, and the Mayor of Madrid, Alberto Ruiz Gallardón. During his visit, the Lehendakari drew attention to the need for "Bilbao to promote itself in this large market", to provide an image of "a modern, supportive, sustainable and competitive Basque Country, open to the world and determined to be a reference model in the world".

On the last stage of its visit, the Basque delegation travelled to the district of Jing An to visit the headquarters of the Shanghai Euskal Etxea and to converse with its members. The China Euskal Etxea is a recently created Basque club, founded on January 22, 2005, made up mainly by young professionals born in Euskal Herria who work in the Basque companies which have been set up in that country. A meeting place for Basques and an important shop window of Basque values in China and of China in the Basque Country, it plays a significant role in letting the Chinese know a little more about Euskal Herria.

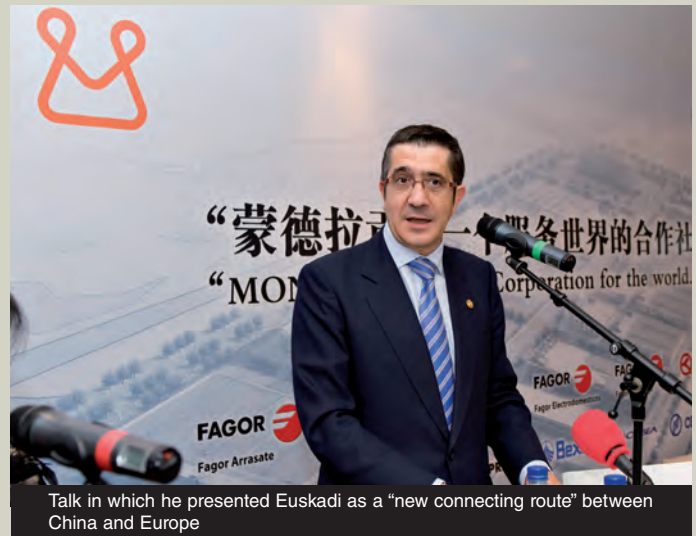
The Lehendakari was received at the center by the president of the Sino-Basque entity, Ander Azkue and a number of other officers from the center, who gave an account of the different activities in which they are involved. In the presence of the Lehendakari and of Mayor Azkuna, the Euskal Etxea presented the Ábaco de Oro to José Mari Aldecoa, on behalf of MCC. In his address, Aldecoa cited the words of Manu Beristain, a pioneering businessman in China, who died nine years ago and who said that "we need deep roots in the earth, but what



Together with Mayor Azkuna, watching the audiovisual presentation of Bilbao next to a model of the city



At the Basque industrial estate in Kunshan, with its building which houses the management offices and meeting rooms and has the appearance of a Basque farmhouse



Talk in which he presented Euskadi as a "new connecting route" between China and Europe



Meeting with the Governor of Jiangsu, Luo Zhijun





The Lehendakari and his wife, Begoña Gil, with Iñaki Azkuna at the Euskal Etxea in Shanghai

emerges on the surface must be like a reed, because it is necessary to adapt oneself constantly to the developments which are happening in China. If we want to be successful here we must not be like a strong and immovable oak", Al-decoa recalled, clearly moved.

Shortly before returning to the Basque Country, the Lehendakari summed up by highlighting the image of "strength, unity and the sense of being a country" conveyed throughout the week in Shanghai, "something in which the Basque companies who travelled to China, those who are already established in this Asian giant and the institutional representatives of the Chambers of commerce, the Mondragón cooperative and the other economic agents involved have collaborated".

[www.irekia.net](http://www.irekia.net)

[www.bilbaoexposhanghai2010.com](http://www.bilbaoexposhanghai2010.com)

[www.shanghaikoeuskal.etxea.com](http://www.shanghaikoeuskal.etxea.com)



Exchanging presents with the directors of the Shanghaiko Euskal Etxea





## José Félix Azurmendi, journalist

**"The fact that there are few Basques in the world is not always a disadvantage – sometimes it can be used to awaken interest"**

**G**azteenek iritziemaile eta solaskide gisa ezagutuko dute, irratiz nahiz telebistaz. Beste batzuk, kazetaritza idatzian egin duen lanagatik, edota Radio Euskadiko zuzendari gisa, lehenago Deiaiko zuzendariorde gisa, edota zaharxeagoek Egin egunkariko zuzendari zela, beti auzipean epaitegirako bidean, hau 1980en hamarkadan. Ibilbide luzea du, aberatsa, eta bertan leku garrantzitsua daukate Venezuelak eta Caracasko Euskal Etxeak. Azken urteotan, EITBko nazioarteko emisioen alorrean aritu da zuzendari, eta hortik hartu zuen erretireta 2010eko apirillean. Durangon 1941ean jaioa eta Markinan hazitakoa, hari berezia dauka Latinoamerikarekin. 70 urte beteko ditu martxoaren 31ean Jose Felix Azurmendik, askok kontaktu eta baliabide ugari kazetari legez aurkeztuko luketen pertsona, solasteari uko egiten ez diona, esanez edo iradokiz, hondarreko urteotako euskal historia hurbilaren hamaika pasadizo ageri eta ezkutuen jakitun.

According to the way one looks at it, interviewing José Félix Azurmendi is both the most difficult and the easiest thing in the world. In a publication such as EUSKAL ETXEAK, in which space is limited, it is not easy to sum up an interview full of quotations, anecdotes and experiences, many of them personal, of digressions into other subjects that delve into related ideas and then return to the original theme. One of the features of this highly versatile journalist, who has worked for the press, radio and television, and has his own Internet blog, is his role in recent years as a specialized observer and columnist in the social and political life of the Basque Country – a social and political life that is certainly of great interest to the Diaspora.

The issue which we used as a pretext for conducting this interview was his retirement a short time ago. In recent years he has travelled all over America as director of the internatio-



nal broadcasts of EITB, the Basque radio and television company, or, as they would say in America, as Director of the Basque Channel, the name which he himself made up when he became head of EITB's programming for Europe and Spanish-speaking America.

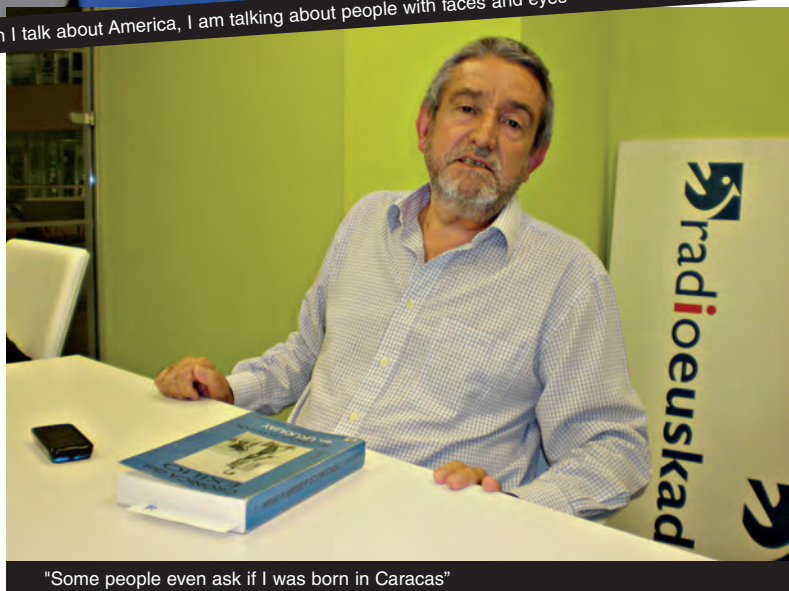
We met José Félix Azurmendi Badiola (Durango, 1941) at EITB's headquarters in Bilbao. We began the interview by referring to his professional career, which started in Venezuela, where he was lecturer in Journalism at the Andrés Bello University. Later, in the Basque Country, he accepted the challenge of directing the Egin newspaper in the 80s. He taught at the Basque Country University, was sub director of Deia, director of Radio Euskadi, where he formed part of the management team until he retired. During his entire career he has been a frequent contributor to radio and television debates on subjects relating to the situation in the Basque Country. We told him that he has a reputation for being a good conversationalist and a person who cultivated contacts, also in the Diaspora (that part of our reality and our past and recent history about which we have such a scanty knowledge but without whose contribution Euskal Herria would not be what it is today). Venezuela is an extremely important place in the life of José Félix Azurmendi.

"I have retired from a job that enabled me to meet a large number of people, especially in America and with Basque Americans. You say that you have the impression that I have many contacts and that I do everything possible to maintain them, and that is the truth. I will tell you that this is not only with those who feel that they are of Basque origin but also in general, with many people who I have met during my life, fundamentally in Latin America. As you know, I lived for nine years, almost ten, in Venezuela. It was there that I studied at University, got married and had children. We came back in 1977, but I keep in touch with the people who studied with me and with the students I had at the Catholic University of Caracas. I keep in touch especially with the Venezuelans I knew at that time and with the members of the Basque Club. But I also keep in touch with the people I have met over the years in Central America, in Guatemala, in Panama, in Costa Rica and so on. My wife is from Bogota and I have family in Bogota; I know and knew quite a lot of people in Peru, members of religious orders ..... some of them are no longer alive ... In the United States I have a number of more distant relatives on my mother's side who settled in the United States to play *cesta-punta*, and I am in very close contact with some of them. In short, I know America and when I speak of America I am talking about real people with faces and eyes".

"Some people even ask if I was born in Caracas. I was 25 when I went Caracas and 35 when I came back to the Basque Country. It was a very important time in my life. It was also a time when people were going to Venezuela from Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and so on, for political reasons. Caracas was a very interesting place at that time. In the case of the Basques,



"When I talk about America, I am talking about people with faces and eyes"



"Some people even ask if I was born in Caracas"

the refugees from the so-called Spanish Civil War and political emigration occupied positions of importance in the organization of the Basque Community. I should like to take advantage of this interview to publicize the fact that Euskomedia and Eusko Ikaskuntza have done a splendid job of digitizing large number of materials and historical documents, including Manuel de Irujo's correspondence with people all over the world, including the Basque Club in Caracas, and of making these easily accessible on the web. These reveal his drive and importance, the importance of the role he played and to what extent the Basque institutions in exile depended for so many years on the money provided by the Basque community and the Basque Club in Caracas".

## The ikastola in Caracas

"Later, new generations of exiles arrived in Venezuela, of which I consider myself to be one, also of a certain academic level and with a great national conscience.





"In America, Basque affairs have great potential"

For many years, in the Basque Club in Caracas we lived the Basque way of life in a way that was not possible in the Basque Country itself. At the Basque Club in Caracas, the Euskadi-Venezuela Foundation began to operate an ikastola with just over 100 children, including my own. They were children who spent all day in the magnificent installations of the Club. We are talking about 1968, 69, 70, 71, 72... The children began each day's activities with the Venezuelan national hymn and the "Gora ta gora" and raising the ikurriña and the flag of Venezuela. That could only happen in Venezuela, due to the kind of people who emigrated there, due to their economic level and the influence of the Basque families that settled there. The first Articles of Association of the Eusko Etxea of Caracas are clearly very "abertzale" in nature. Although this can be said to a certain extent of other Euskal Etxeas, this was not as clear as in Caracas".

"Caracas operated very well as a center, but it had the bad luck of being surrounded over the years by impoverished areas, ranchitos as they call them there. This is the case of other large, historic Basque clubs which are situated in apparently good areas during the day... When they were built, the city was different and this has nothing to do necessarily with the way today's social centers are conceived. Before, if there was no "trinquete" at the Basque center, there was no way of attracting people. Today, they tell you that that does not attract young people, that swimming pools or tennis courts would be necessary. There is no one at night in the places where a large number of historic Basque centers are located. That is the situation in Caracas".

## Virtual Basque centers

"I don't have any recipe for success, I don't know exactly what must be done, but what I do see very clearly is that something must be done if we want a future for the Euskal

Etxeas. In my opinion, much more use must be made of virtual Basque centers and we must look for a way of making people who have never entered a Basque center feel represented in something which is done or which could be done in these places. Throughout Latin America, there are many people who feel that they are of Basque descent or that they would like to know more about the Basques, and we should examine the way of attracting them, think of how they could take part in some of the activities and the only way I can think of doing this would be by doing things that appear in the mass media, including, of course, the Internet. It would be necessary to think about the actions that could be taken to tell them about future events and to convince them that it would be worthwhile taking part. I'm not only talking about the choirs or the folklore - that too - I am thinking for example about sports activities, talks by well-known personalities on different subjects, such as chefs, sportspeople, etc., publicized both locally and in general, so that people can get to know about our initiatives and (even those who have not taken part) can read the accounts or follow the stories after the event".

"The small cities model is interesting, for example, the province of Buenos Aires, where on many occasions, Basque centers act as social clubs for the whole community. In the case of some large centers, the historic Euskal Etxeas, with their solemn, beautiful buildings, one's spirit sinks through the floor".

## Presence in New York

"I am not sure whether politically organized Basques have had a clear perception of the interest all of this has from a cultural viewpoint, when at a cultural level, in the United States, Basque affairs have great potential. For example, in my opinion, we Basques cannot afford not to have a presence in New York. Today, New York is what Paris was in the past. The previous Basque Government purchased a small office for a



delegate and the thing is that if you do not have a presence in New York from the cultural viewpoint, you are nowhere. Fortunately, there are Basque language writers who are being well translated into English and who visit and take part in cultural events in New York. But they should have a reference and a permanent Basque support in the Big Apple. The fact that there are few Basques in the world is not always a disadvantage - sometimes it can be used to awaken interest".

"I remember, for example, two talks I gave before large audiences in Mexico, one at the Ethnographic Museum of FD and another at the historic Assembly Rooms of Acapulco. The people in the audience were not Basque, but I believe that of those who were taking part, I was the one who awoke the greatest amount of curiosity. And this is surely because they are constantly surrounded by Basque faces and no one has ever said anything. At the Ethnographic Museum, a woman asked me if I was a relative of Juan Azurmendi, and I told her that I wasn't, as far as I knew. She explained that Juan Azurmendi, of whom I knew nothing, is the one who did portraits of the industrial bourgeoisie of Mexico and contributed a great deal to the country at an ethnographical level. The truth is that wherever I have spoken as a Basque, my experience is that I have been very well received and I have known a lot of people who have



"In America they are surrounded by Basques, but no one has ever said anything"

shown interest in Basque affairs. What is more, I was not a professional speaker. I thought that if other people, more expert than myself, were to talk about the importance of the Basque presence in every country on the American continent, there would be plenty of people willing to listen. That is the job of the universities, of university students".



"If you do not have a presence in New York from the cultural viewpoint, you are nowhere".  
"Our artists and writers should have a permanent structure of Basque support in New York"





From left to right, Andoni Martín, Julián Celaya and Brian Lambkin

## Bilbao, venue of the AEMI Seminar and Annual Meeting

Last October, the AEMI, the European Association of museums, institutions and centers that study the migration phenomenon, held its Seminar and Annual Meeting in Bilbao. The Basque Country, which plays an active role in the Association through the Basque Citizens and Communities Department, hosted the event which, during the three-day Seminar prior to the Annual Meeting, reflected on and debated the subject of "Migratory Studies and the New Technologies".

"The Annual Assembly was inspiring", Brian Lambkin, president of the AEMI, declared. "Besides the warm welcome and excellent program prepared by the organization, I have an unforgettable recollection of the Minister [a reference to Guillermo Echenique, Se-

cretary-General of Foreign Affairs], who travelled straight from the airport on his way back from a trip to China just to be with us and to greet us on the last day of the meeting".

"We were very impressed by the energy and institutional commitment to maintain and develop a dynamic relationship between the Basque Country and its Diaspora. The efforts dedicated to the digitization and cataloguing at the highest level of a large amount of material on the history of Basque migration are admirable and will be of inestimable value for future generations".

[www.aemi.dk](http://www.aemi.dk)

[www.euskadi.net/euskaldunak](http://www.euskadi.net/euskaldunak)

## Patxi Lopezek bi bidaia handi egingo ditu atzerrira 2011ean

Patxi Lopez lehendakariak bi bidaia handi egiteko asmoa izango luke 2011ean. Lehena, urtarrilaren 16tik 26ra bitartean, Emirerri Arabiar Batuak eta Qatar helburu izanik, ehun enpresariko talde bateko buru, Euskadik enpresa, teknologia eta berrikuntza arloan daukan indarra eta gaitasuna ezagutzera ematea xede harturik, negozio aukerak lantzearen, besteak beste energia berriztagarriak, auto elektrikoa, berrikuntza eta parke teknologikoen alorrean. Bidaia berean, Energiaren Mundu Foroan parte hartuko du Lehendakariak, munduko beste zenbait lehen ministroekin.

Bigarren bidaiak AEBetako Ekialdeko kostalderaino eramango du Patxi Lopez, bertan baitute egoitza nazioarteko erakunde nagusienek, baita finantza arloko erakunde garrantzitsuek ere. Agenda ixteke, New York eta Washington bisitatuko dituela ziurtzat jotzen da eta ez da baztertzen goi mailako bilera politikorik ez eta euskal gizataldeen ordezkariekin biltzea ere. New York da, izan ere, Estatu Batuetako euskal etxe zaharrenaren egoitza, bi urte barru mende bat beteko duen Euzko Etxea of New York.

Ostera horiez gain, Europan ere mugituko da lehendakaria, besteak beste Bruselan eta Londresen, eta baliteke Alemaniara ere bidaiatzea.

## Reception for Basques living abroad

The Lehendakari, Patxi López, headed the official reception given to Basques living abroad, held at the headquarters of the Lehendakaritza during the Christmas festivities. About 180 people took part in this event attended by Basques born in the Basque Country and who, for professional or other reasons, are resident abroad, as well as by members of the Euskal Etxeak. The Lehendakari had the opportunity of conversing with some of these "Basque ambassadors" whom he thanked for the "pride" with which they bear the name of the Basque Country and encouraged them to act as "active agents" in the building of the Basque image in the world.





Gizataldeen V. Nazioarteko Batzarra 2011ko urriaren 2-4ean egingo da Donostiako Kursalean

The Lehendakari chaired the meeting of the new Advisory Committee

## The new Basque Communities Advisory Committee was set up in Vitoria

This is the body responsible for monitoring compliance with the directives passed by the World Basque Communities Congress. The new Basque Communities Advisory Committee, the consultative body of the Lehendakari for questions relating to the Diaspora and Basque Citizens Abroad, was set up on December 13, 2010, presided over by Patxi López himself. It was the full meeting of the new Committee, with many new faces, due to the logical renewals and appointments carried out in the different departments of the government represented on the Committee.

Of the Basque centers throughout the world, Jon Zaballa, of the Euskal Etxea of Madrid, represented the Euskal Etxeak of Europe; Alberto Sosa, from Bahía Blanca (Argentina), represented the Basques of Latin America; and Xabier Berrueta, from San Francisco, those of North America and Australia. Together with Guillermo Echenique and Julián Celaya, the committee was formed by representatives and specialists of the government, the provincial councils, the UPV-EHU and the Etxepare Basque Institute, among others.

The Lehendakari welcomed members of the Committee and gave an account of his experiences visiting Basques abroad during his visits to Brazil, Brussels, Bordeaux, USA and China. He emphasized the importance that networks of citizens living abroad represent for a country.

Delegates assessed the 2008-2011 Four-Year Plan and dealt with the organization of the Fifth International Congress of Basque Communities, which will be held from October 2-4 at the Kursaal in Donostia. Representatives of the Basque communities expressed their concern about subjects such as the aid allocated annually to Basque centers, reduced due to the ever greater number of centers, suggesting that the Department should take a strategic decision to increase its resources.

They also expressed interest in promoting cultural tours of Basque centers and spoke of the delays experienced in the payment of subsidies, proposing that the application period for emergency aid should be extended to the whole year.



## Commemoration of Basque Country Day

After being passed in the parliament with votes in favor of the constitutionalist block, the Basque Government held "Basque Country Day", for the first time, on October 27 at a ceremony in Vitoria-Gasteiz, attended by representatives of all the institutions of the Autonomous Community, with the exception of an official representation of the "abertzale" parties. This day, which as of 2011 will be an official holiday, was also commemorated by the different Delegations of the Basque Country, including those in Chile and Peru, as shown by the photograph taken at the ceremony held in the Jordanian capital (photo La Tercera).





Aizpea Goenaga at the inauguration of the Etxepare headquarters, together with Blanca Urgell (center) and Marijo Olaziregi (left).

# Etxepare, in operation

Lanean ari da jada Etxepare Euskal Institutua, eta azken hilabeteotan euskara eta euskal kultura nazioartean ezagutarazteko hainbat egitasmo eta ekimen jarri ditu abian. Marijo Olaziregik bat egin du Etxepare proiektuarekin eta Euskararen Sustapen eta Zabalkunderako zuzendari gisa baliatuko du, euskal literatura nazioartean zabaltzen duen eskarmentua. Euskara Mundiala izeneko kanpainaren bitartez zabaldu du Etxeparek, sarea medio, bere lehenengo mezua nazioartean. Institutua Londres, Frankfurt eta Guadalajarako liburu eta hizkuntza azoketan izan da eta munduko hainbat unibertsitatetan ematen dituen euskara eta euskal kultura irakurlegoen sarea zabaltzea da bere helburuetako bat aurtengo ikasturteari begira.

**T**he Etxepare Basque Institute was presented officially to the public on October 28, 2010 at the inauguration of its headquarters in the center of Donostia. The aims of this body, which depends on the Culture Department of the Basque Government, is to promote the teaching, study and use of the Basque language throughout the world, respecting the contributions of all communities that share this language, to contribute to the dissemination abroad of Basque culture in all its forms and languages and to provide Basque speaking communities throughout the world with news about the Basque Country.

"There is room in the Institute for all Basque cultural expressions", explained Aizpea Goenaga, who became the director and highest-ranking officer of the entity in June. Goenaga, well-known until now for her activities as an actress, producer, scriptwriter and writer, pointed out that Basque artists and creators are the "ambassadors of Basque culture and language abroad".

The Etxepare Institute is structured in two areas which cover the promotion and dissemination both of Basque culture in general and Basque language in particular. The Promotion



Aizpea Goenaga, director of the Etxepare Institute, in New York with Basque writers and the translator of the play written by one of them into English, following a literary presentation to the public of the Big Apple"



# Euskara eta euskal kultura nazioarteko plazara ekartzea du helburu Donostiako Prim kalean egoitza daukan Etxepare Institutuak

and Dissemination of Basque Culture area covers disciplines such as music, dramatic arts, visual arts, film, architecture and design. The aim of the Promotion and Dissemination of the Basque Language area is to promote the teaching, study, use and dissemination of the Basque language among the public in general and among public institutions at an international level.

Blanca Urgell, Regional Culture Minister, took part in the presentation of Etxepare, the complete name of which is the Etxepare Euskal Institutua / Basque Institute. The Culture Minister referred to the writer, Beñat Etxepare, after whom the Institute is named and who, in 1545, wrote the sentence and leit motiv "Euskara jalgi hadi plazara, mundura" (Euskera, go out into the square, into the world), emphasizing the dynamism of the situation of modern Basque which, in the same way as Etxepare had called for, seeks to go out into the world to offer its riches.

Aizpea Goenaga presented the logotype and institutional image of the Etxepare Institute and described the main lines of activity of the center during this academic year. One of the aims of the Institute is to promote more than 25 assistantships in Basque Language and Culture, which have already been established successfully in a number of different universities and countries throughout the world. The Institute is already working to extend this network with the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the United States being the main strategic countries. The new steps being taken within this strategy will strengthen the network of readers as the basis to program the international activities of Basque cultural groups, artists and creators.

Over the last six months, the Institute and its directors have attended and taken part in fairs such as The Language Show in London, United Kingdom, the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany; or the Guadalajara Book Fair, in Mexico. The Institute's director has visited the Diaspora and had important meetings with the Diaspora, such as the Jaialdi in Boise, in the United States; the National Basque-Argentina Week of the Bicentennial, in Mar del Plata; or the International Basque Language Day, held in Reno, together with members of the Zazpiak Bat Basque Club of Reno and the Center for Basque Studies of the University of Nevada.

Coinciding with the inauguration of its headquarters, Etxepare put the Euskara Mundiala campaign into motion, inviting Internet users from all over the world (both those associated with Basque culture and those who have never even heard anything about the Basques) to get a first-hand experience of the Basque language by recording with their webcams simple messages in this language, which has roots in pre-Indo-European Europe, but which continues to be a modern and forward-looking language in the 21st century. The messages recorded, from even the most remote parts of the world, can be seen via the campaign website.

www.euskaramundiala.net  
www.etxepareinstitutua.net  
www.kultura.ejgv.euskadi.net/r46-etxepare/es



Appearance of the EuskalEtxeak.net web site

## Institutional websites on the Diaspora

Together with the website of the Etxepare Institute, which is about to come into operation, other websites with links to the Basque Government provide Basque communities all around the world with information on matters dealing with the Diaspora and current affairs in the Basque Country:

- [EuskalEtxeak.net](http://EuskalEtxeak.net): this is an Internet portal created by and for Basque clubs, set up in 2008 in order to improve, foster and promote communications between Basque clubs, national federations and the Basque government itself in all their interrelations with every member of the Basque community. It contains sections dedicated to news, a digital archive of images and documents of the Diaspora, with more than 40,000 entries, a Basque centers search machine, etc., which can be syndicated
- [Euskadi.net/euskaldunak](http://Euskadi.net/euskaldunak): this is an institutional portal of the Basque Citizens and Communities Department of the Basque Government, containing information on the work performed by this Department headed by Julián Celaya, his staff, details of programs, aid and subsidy schemes, their details and dates, and in general, useful resources for the Euskal Etxeak and members of the Basque Communities
- [Irekia.net](http://Irekia.net): this is the flagship of the style of open government proposed by the government headed by Lehendakari López and is the backbone of his policy of transparency, participation, collaboration and communications with Basque society. Irekia provides full institutional information referring to the activities of the Lehendakari and the different departments and organizations of the Basque Government, including those relating to Basque clubs, with the international activities of the government, as well as with the activities of the Basque delegations throughout the world





The Olentzero of Sydney was played by Mark, an Australian member of the Basque Club, who repeated the role following his debut in 2009

## Once again, the magic of the Olentzero travelled around the world

Olentzero munduan batetik bestera ibili da abendu osoan euskal etxerik etxe opari-emaile. Diasporako hainbat euskal etxetan gurasoek ahalegin berezia egiten dute seme-alabek euskal ikazkinaren bisitak sortu ilusioa, irrika eta urduritasuna ezagutu eta gozatu ahal izan dezaten. Aurten ere Olentzerok opariak ekarri dizkie Diasporako euskal haurrei eta oso berezia den beste emozio handia gurasoei: seme-alabak euskal pertsonaiaren kondaira irriño batez betirako bihotzean gordeko dutela jakitea.

Just like every year, December was once again a busy month for the Olentzero, the traditional Basque symbol of Christmas. The Olentzero began his international tour early with a visit on Saturday, December 4 to Vancouver, Canada, invited by the Zazpiak Bat Basque Society, which held its Christmas party with a meal enjoyed by young and old in the presence of the Basque "coalman", who distributed gifts among all the "txikis".

The following week, the Olentzero was welcomed at the Iparraldeko Euskal Etxea, the French Basque Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The party included games such as sokatira and mazorcas, a

dance workshop, dinner and an end-of-party dance, in addition to a play which gave a humorous account of the legend of the Olentzero, with "lamias", "galtzagorris" and other mythological creatures.

"There are not many "txikis" in our center", Norma Ríos secretary of the center, pointed out, "but those that did come were amazed. They look at Olentzero in astonishment and listened to every word he said. It was a beautiful moment for them and for us too, as, for a short while, we returned to our childhood", she explained, adding that "in spite of the differences with Argentinean customs, and although we still consider ourselves to be Argentineans, we feel

our roots very deeply. In spite of the distance, we live in Basque", she declared.

That same day, the Olentzero swapped the Argentinean summer for the winter of London, in order to take part in the lunch that the London Basque Society organized in his honor. Then, with hardly a moment to rest, he crossed the Atlantic to Washington DC, the snowy capital of the United States, where, once more, he was awaited by the young Washington's Euskal Etxea. From there, he travelled to Boise, Idaho, where boys and girls welcomed him singing the song "Olentzero begigorri" with all their might at the Basque Center. The mayor of the city, the Basque speaker, Dave





The Olentzero of Washington DC, a party that the recently formed local Etxea has organized since it was set up



The Olentzero of Mexico City, played by the veteran actor Juan José Arrieta



The Olentzero of Paris posing with a group of the youngest members of the Eskual Etxea of the French capital



The Olentzero of Chascomús, Argentina. Children queued for hours to sit on his lap. All the children of Chascomús were invited to receive him



The Olentzero of Vancouver, the Canadian version of this Basque figure

Bieter, was the master of ceremonies, taking it upon himself to fulfill the duty of telling the younger members of the audience about the legend of the Olentzero.

After Boise it was the turn of Australia, where the partners and friends of the Gure Txoko Basque Club of Sydney held their Christmas party once again in shirt sleeves and in the open air at the Centennial Park. "The little 'euskaldunes' here have the Olentzero and Santa Claus, but they never see Santa Claus, only in the shopping centers for the typical Christmas photos", Manu explained from the Gure Txoko. "Perhaps the thing that distances us most from Euskal Herria at this time of the year is the season, the

summer, when everything relating to the Olentzero is based in the winter, the cold, the snow ... Our poor Olentzero has to suffer the heat in those clothes!" he commented.

Continuing his tight schedule, the Olentzero showed up at the Euskal Etxea in Barcelona on December 17. He then travelled to Chascomús, in Argentina, where the Basque Club invited all the children in the town to come to the Euskal Etxea to discover the legend of the Olentzero and meet him afterwards. From there, he went to the Basque Club of Mexico, and then to Murcia, Spain, where he took part in the traditional meal organized in his honor by the Euskal Etxea of Murcia. After lunch, having

recovered his strength after so much travelling, the Olentzero distributed gifts among the "txikis" of the club.

Following these meetings—and many more visits by the Olentzero to all kinds of Euskal Etxeas and countries—there were also many Basque centers that did not want to lose touch with the Basque "coalman", despite the fact that they were well into the New Year. After handing out gifts throughout Euskal Herria, this genial "euskaldun" still found the strength to travel to Bordeaux, France, on January 9. There he was awaited by the boys and girls of the Eskual Etxea and the Maison des Basques, entertained with the tales of the storyteller, Xan Errotabehera.



# euskal etxeak



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GOBIERNO VASCO



# CUSINE D'AUTEUR



## Restaurant Alaia

Av. Río Magdalena-Canoa 80  
Col. Tlzapán San Ángel  
México DF 01090  
[www.alaia.com.mx](http://www.alaia.com.mx)

Alberto Ituarte, chef and owner of the Alaia, defines this establishment, which was inaugurated in 2002 in the south of the Federal District, as "Tradition and Avant-garde". Born in Mexico of a Mexican mother and Basque father, he studied to become a chef at the Advanced School of Cuisine of Donostia and did a number of internships at well-known restaurants in the Basque Country, with master chefs such as Arzak and Berasategui.

After returning to Mexico, he began a career as a chef-entrepreneur and has founded and managed, in addition to the Alaia, the restaurant Puerto Getaria (Insurgentes Sur 724, Colonia del Valle), together with the chefs Iñigo Aramburu and Benjamín Eljure; the Xaak (Mario Pani 200, Colonia Santa Fe), together with the chef José Luis Uribe; and the Zeru (Avenida de la Paz 37-B, Colonia San Ángel), together with the chef Imanol Sistiaga, all of them being among the top restaurants in the Mexican capital.

(recipe: Alberto Ituarte; photographs: María José Cruz Irastorza)

### SEA BASS WITH SQUID RINGS AND PEPPER COMPOTE AND SQUID'S INK VINAIGRETTE



#### PREPARATION:

- Crystallize the sea bass for 15 minutes at 80° C
- Fry the onion and pepper slowly until golden, set aside
- Meanwhile, chop 2 squid pieces, season and add the onion and pepper, set aside
- Cut the other 2 squid pieces to form rings, season with salt and pepper, set aside
- Finally, emulsify the vinaigrette with the squid's ink

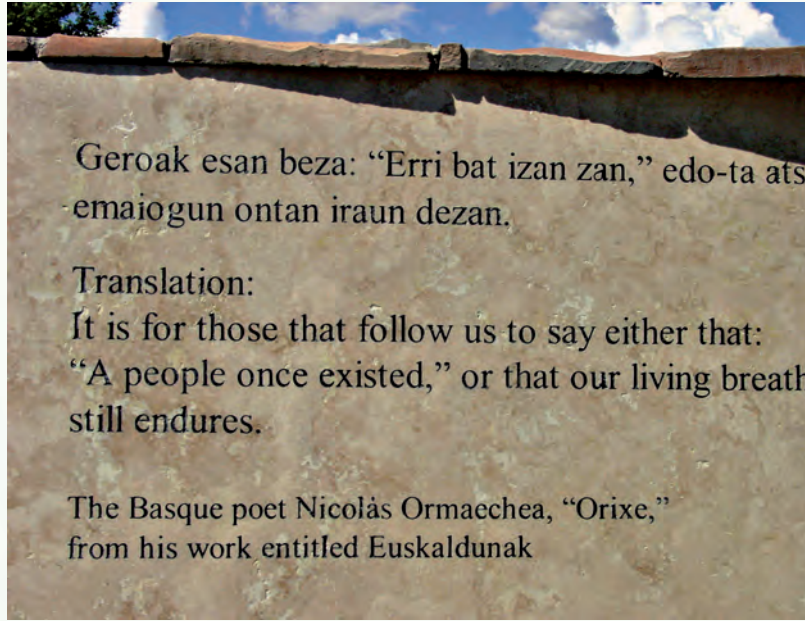
#### PLATE UP:

- Streak the plate with the vinaigrette
- Prepare a bed of squid and pepper compote and place on top the crystallized sea bass loin
- Place the squid rings on the fish

#### INGREDIENTS (1 portion)

- 1 sea bass loin, 250 gr.
- 4 squid pieces
- 40 grams of finely-chopped onion
- 40 grams of finely-chopped green pepper
- 20 milliliters of mixed vinaigrette
- 20 milliliters of squid's ink
- 500 milliliters of oil
- Salt and pepper

## POEM BY THE BASQUE POET ORIXE ENGRAVED IN STONE IN BOISE, UNITED STATES



*Geroak esan beza: "Erri bat izan zan", edo-ta ats emaiogun ontan iraun dezan*  
[May the future proclaim: 'Aquí existió un pueblo' o, mejor aún, démosle aliento para que pueda perdurar "Here existed a people" or, better still, let's give them confidence to enable them to go on] is the verse written by the Basque poet Orixe engraved in the Monument to the memory of the Holocaust in the Ana Frank park in Boise, Idaho, United States.

Originally published in the book 'Euskaldunak', this verse in Basque was chosen from among 2000 quotations to recall the suffering of the Jewish during the Second World War.

(photographic: Joseba Etxarri)

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