



HOLA ALOHA HELLO

Newsletter * Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association Spring 2026

Hola, Aloha, Hello—welcome to all our SHHA members, old and new. Our team has introduced a new format and header image designed to make our newsletter easier to read. We always welcome your ideas for further improvements to both our newsletter and website.




Our new Webmaster, Jayne Basques, is currently enhancing the website’s features and has added a new GALLERIES item to the header navigation bar. In this section, you can view 27 Recognition Letters from Hawaii, California, and U.S. government officials. You will also find links to photo albums for each day of the September 2025 UC Davis Inaugural International Conference and SHHA social events: www.sphha.org/galleries

In response to conference feedback, we have hosted two social events to provide members the opportunity to mix and mingle with other Spanish descendants and share stories. In December, we held an event in the South Bay, and in March, we held an event in Winters, visiting the Winters Museum Spanish Exhibit.

We are planning more events in various locales across Northern California to reach out to our members. We hope to offer events that provide educational Spanish history, conference video series, Spanish dance classes, and a potential Sugar Cane Plantation tour in Hawaii. When we plan events, we will post them on our website and the SHHA Facebook Group (bit.ly/facebook-shha), and send emails to our members with the details. Stay tuned, as we are looking into the events we will host over the next few months. If you’d like to get involved in our SHHA Committees, we have openings for a Treasurer, Public Relations/Media Adviser, and positions within the cultural, partnership, and historical teams.

Beverly J. Cordodor Baker *Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association President*

Did You Know

- Tomato: The tomato was domesticated in Central America and spread to North and South America before the Spanish arrived. It was taken to Europe by the Spanish explorers, in 1550. 
- Potato: The potato, native of Peru and taken to Europe by the Spanish explorers in 1550, is known all over the world and by a multitude of names. 
- The Story “Chorizo”: When ready to butcher the pig, one of the women gets a porcelain pan and adds a 1liter of water with a pinch of salt and stirs it with a wooden spoon. This pan is held under the throat of the pig, so that the blood follows into the pan. Meanwhile the woman is stirring the blood so that it won't coagulate. Next morning, chop onions and bread mixture. Then add the pork, salt, oregano, allspice and other spices and stir well. Let it sit for several hours and then it is time to make the blood sausage, morcitta. 
 - Procedure. Tie one end of the morcitta before you start to fill the sausage. Leave the string long enough to tie the other end, an: to make 7 to 8 sausage links. Repeat until all the ingredients are used. Dip the morcillas in a galvanized tub for one half hour. Occasionally puncture to let the air out. Take and drape them on a pole to dry for a few days. Recipe provided in the newsletter.

In this Newsletter:

Notes from the SHHA President

Did You Know

Reconnect Your Roots: How Our Genealogy Team Can Help

Conversation with Members Who Met Family at the SHHA 2025 Conference

Spanish Clubs of California

Tour of Spain

A Cheerful March Gathering in Winters

Sant Jordi Day

Update on Ley de Memoria Democrática Process at the San Francisco Consulate

Spanish Style Chorizo Recipe

Helpful Resources

Reconnect Your Roots: How Our Genealogy Team Can Help

Patricia Ruiz Steele
Genealogy Team Member



Tracing your family history—especially across multiple countries and migrations—can feel overwhelming. Whether your ancestors journeyed from rural Spain to plantation-era Hawaii and later settled in California, or followed another complex path, our guidance can save you time by locating them on one of the ship manifests.

Family history research today involves far more than basic online searches. Records are scattered across archives, languages, and jurisdictions. Names change. Spellings shift. Borders move. Our Genealogy Team is here to help uncover your family's story. And it all begins with a simple Request Form.

For those of us with a burning desire to “find our ancestors,” my thoughts turn to how fortunate we are if we have long-ago photos and have listened to family folklore. Where did they come from? Why? When? Who were their neighbors? Are there any descendants hidden in Spain, waiting for us to find them? And, are they looking for us? So many gaps!

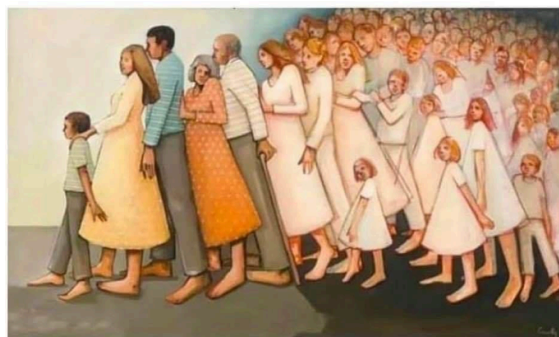
As I began my research, I found surprises along the way. For example, I had studied the Orteric ship's manifest minutely and reveled in the details, examining names and reading their vital statistics, yet I still overlooked an important piece of information. When I finally saw it, my mind grew weak with excitement. Suddenly, the enormity of my family's sacrifice in leaving their village in Fuentesauco quadrupled the pain they must have felt. I read the name of the person they'd left behind in Spain: their mother. My abuelita never saw her abuelita again.

That overwhelming news changed my thinking from who, why, where, and when to “how did they feel?” I stormed my cache of emotions over the past twenty years, and shifted my focus to acknowledge that these people were real, not just names and facts on a growing family tree.

We know most Spanish emigrants had no choice but to leave their homeland; they were poor and needed to feed their families and secure a future. But I asked myself, “How did they feel?” But that will take a deeper dive into their history. I found Rob Boddice's book, *The History of Emotions*, explored how emotions intersect with other lines of historical research—emotions and senses beyond the facts—and I wanted to dive deeper. Those emotions may have shaped our ancestors' actions within their families.

But, for now, we can begin a family quest through the ship manifests. Complete the request form, and a member of our team will assist you.

Request Form: bit.ly/genealogy-help



Behind me are all my ancestors giving
me strength. Life passed through
them to me. And in honor of them
I will live it fully.

Conversation with Members Who Met Family at the SHHA 2025 Conference



One of the most moving moments for my sister and me at last year's Hawaiian Spaniards Conference came out of nowhere, the kind of moment you don't realize is life-changing until you're standing right in the middle of it.

My sister was waiting in line at the taco truck on Saturday, making small talk with a couple of women beside her. She mentioned our cousin, Irene —how we'd just lost her, how deeply we felt her absence, and how she had been the last true Spanish speaker in our family. Her passing marked the end of a chapter for us, a quiet closing of a door that had been open for generations.

One of the women grew still, then said softly, "Irene was my cousin too."

In that instant, the air shifted. Strangers weren't strangers anymore. They kept talking, and soon we realized that our families had been intertwined far longer than any of us knew. All of our ancestors had sailed from Marbella, in southern Spain, on the same ship —the SS Willisden. More than a century ago, they crossed an ocean together. And more than a century later, their descendants found each other again... in a taco truck line, of all places.

It felt like Irene had reached across time to give us one last gift: a reminder that family doesn't disappear. It circles back. It finds you. Sometimes in the most ordinary places, on an ordinary Saturday, when your heart is open enough to notice.

Don Conrard



I was thrilled to be able to attend the conference in September in order to learn more about the trials and tribulations that my grandparents, uncles, and aunts endured during their journey from Pozuelo de Zarzon to California.

I had previously researched their journey but did not have much success gaining an insight as to their trials.

At the conference I was able to not only gain much information about their travels but also I was able to meet two of my cousins from Spain!

Maria Estrella Sanchez Corchero and Eli Sanchez Corchero were two of the speakers for the conference. I had not met them previous to this time. They are so very friendly and shared to both myself as well as my sister Sherrie Crespin about their lives and family. It was interesting to find out that both my sister and I were very much just like our cousins and family in Spain. What a very special time it was to just sit and talk with them and of course we were asked to come see them in Spain.

My thanks to those who worked so hard to put this conference together which resulted in our connecting with the Corchero Family in Spain.

Tom Corchero

Spanish Clubs in California

The SHHA is currently working on a project to form a coalition between the remaining Spanish clubs to strengthen and promote our Spanish legacy for future generations. Stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter.

Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association -

www.sphha.org

- Location: Supporting Northern California
- Created in 2023
- Mission Statement: The Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association honors the heritage of our ancestors by promoting Spanish culture, researching ancestral lineage and fostering partnerships.

San Benito Spanish Club - Unión Benéfica Española de Hollister

- Created in 1928
- Located in Hollister / San Juan Bastita
- No Website
- A mutual aid society event/funeral lapel ribbon for the Unión Benéfica Española in Hollister, San Benito County, California, USA.

Club Ibérico de San Leandro

- Created in 1925
- Located in San Leandro
- Serves as a vital social, economic, and political hub for Spanish immigrants, many of whom worked in local canneries and orchards. The club provided community support, insurance programs, and cultural activities, including Flamenco dancing and plays
- No Website

Asociación de Españoles de Silicon Valley -

www.aesv.org

- The Association of Spaniards in Silicon Valley (AESV) was founded on April 19, 1999.
- Located in Mountain View
- Mission: to create a meeting point for all Spaniards who are in the San Francisco Bay Area for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profit activities to foster, promote, and celebrate the culture and traditions of Spain, to promote and strengthen ties between Spain and California.

Club Ibérico de España Woodland -

www.clubibericodeespana.com

- Created in 1979
- Mission: to create a meeting place for all Spaniards in the Winters, Woodland and surrounding areas for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profit activities to foster, promote, and celebrate the culture and traditions of Spain.

Union Española San Francisco -

www.unionespanolasf.org

- Location: San Francisco
- Created in 1923
- Mission: striving to expand its cultural activities, and support of Bay Area cultural groups. By way of its sponsored monthly functions, Unión Española supports many cultural causes.

A Tour of Spain



El Caminito del Rey

(The King's Little Path) is a walkway pinned along the steep walls of a narrow gorge in El Chorro, near Ardales in the province of Málaga, Spain.

Its name derives from the original name of Camino del Rey (King's Pathway), abbreviated locally to el caminito.[1] The walkway was constructed in the early 20th century, but by the early 21st century, it had fallen into disrepair and was partially closed for over a decade. After four years of extensive repairs and renovations, it re-opened in 2015. It is a proposed unesco site. It is a fantastic 3.5 mile hike through a cave on to the trail along the canyon edge.

The walkway was built to provide workers at the hydroelectric power plants at Chorro Falls and Gaitanejo Falls with a means to cross between them, to provide for transport of materials, and to help facilitate inspection and maintenance of the channel. The construction began in 1901 and was finished in 1905. King Alfonso XIII crossed the walkway in 1921 for the inauguration of the dam Conde del Guadalhorce, and it became known by its present name.[4] The walkway is 1 metre (3 ft) in width and rises over 100 metres (330 ft) above the river below. www.caminitodelrey.info/en/tickets/buy

A Cheerful March Gathering in Winters

Kristen Ana La Follette

A lively group of around forty descendants, and Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association members, gathered in Winters on Saturday, March 14th. The afternoon began at the Margaret Parsons Room in the Winters Community Library. The space was bright, and welcoming as attendees arrived to spend time getting to know one another. With light background music, and refreshments, guests enjoyed catching up with other members they may not have seen since our conference in September 2025. Many joined an association event for the first time. It was exciting to meet new members of our extended Spanish Hawaiian family. Silent auction baskets, and association logo items, raised enough funds to cover the cost of the event, and put toward future socials.

After the gathering at the library, the group migrated to the Winters Museum. There they celebrated the conclusion of The Journey from Spain to Winters exhibit curated by board member Gloria Lopez. The exhibition featured a rich gathering of photographs, family stories, dresses, recipes, and family artifacts, documenting the Spanish Hawaiian community woven into the historic fabric of Winters. Many guests discovered connections to families featured in the museum, and even to relatives at the social. The group enjoyed home made sangria, roscas, polvorones, and rosquillas while exploring the museum.



The association aims to organize quarterly social gatherings in various regions across Northern California, as post conference survey responses included requests for more informal time to meet. The board is open to suggestions for events in your local area. Be on the lookout for the next get together!

Sant Jordi Day

Jackie Alcalde Marr



Love and Ink is the Air – Sant Jordi's Day Holiday

Love, Miguel Cervantes, William Shakespeare, Saint George, a dragon, and a princess. What do they all have in common? They're part of the history and celebration of the annual Sant Jordi's Day festival in Catalonia.

A rose by any other name... Sant Jordi's Day honors Saint George. The Catalán Courts officially named Saint George the patron saint of Catalonia in 1456.

The holiday is referred to in many ways: Sant Jordi's Day, Saint George's Day, La Diada de Sant Jordi, The Day of Books and Roses, and now World Book Day as well.

Traditionally, men give women a single rose, and women give men a book. But in the contemporary version of the holiday, you give a rose and a book to anyone – friends, colleagues, relatives- to say you care.



The Legend of Love Long ago, in the ancient walled pueblo of Montblanc, villagers were terrorized by the evil dragon who poisoned the air and relentlessly searched for flesh. To quell the dragon's wrath, villagers offered their sheep and other livestock, and the dragon ruthlessly devoured them. But when no animals were left, the villagers had to make other offerings. They created a daily lottery to select one poor soul to sacrifice for the good of all.

One fateful day, the king's daughter was selected. Despite his grief, he bade farewell to his daughter, and the brave princess went to the dragon's cave to meet her doom. But just before the dragon had his way, a handsome knight named Sant Jordi rushed in on a snow-white horse. (OK – maybe I embellished the legend by making him handsome, but can't you hear the trumpets sounding, anyway?) He battled with the dreadful dragon and pierced its chest with his mighty sword. The slain beast spilled his crimson blood on the ground.

On that very spot, a beautiful rose bush instantly sprouted, and its red blooms appeared. The knight plucked the finest rose and gifted it to the princess as a token of his victory and his love for her. And ever since, chivalric men have given deep red roses to their cherished women.

Alright, I get it. But where do Cervantes and Shakespeare come in?

The Honoring of Authors In 1926, Vicente Clavel Andrés, a Valenciano living in Barcelona, began a tradition that grew into a global phenomenon. As an author, journalist, and publisher, Andrés wanted to honor Miguel de Cervantes and promote books as well. King Alfonso XIII of Spain agreed. Originally planned for Cervantes' birthday, the celebration shifted to the date of his death. Why? Because William Shakespeare died on the same day, April 23, 1616 (although some history books note that the dates are slightly different because Spain adopted the Gregorian calendar and the UK still used the Julian calendar). So, in 1930, the holiday's date was moved to April 23 and merged with Sant Jordi's Day to honor both lovers and books.

In 1995, UNESCO also declared the holiday World Book and Copyright Day.



Festivities for Everyone Barcelona sparkles with love and literary spirits as the huge festival attracts people from Europe and beyond to celebrate. Every plaza and many streets, most notably La Rambla, are lined with tables stacked with towers of books of all kinds. Buckets of red roses wait patiently for someone to claim a stem, then give it to someone they care about. People mill from table to table and plaza to plaza to enjoy the many festivities the day holds.



Several government and cultural buildings are open and often offer public tours. Some of the key sites include The Casa de la Ciutat (Town Hall), Gaudí's Guell Palace, and the Palau de la Generalitat, a key location of the Catalán government. At Gaudí's Casa Batlló, the architect Designed the building to depict the dragon's scales, and huge red roses adorn the balconies of the iconic structure.

Dancers spontaneously join in Las Sardanas, a traditional circle dance of Catalonia that represents Unity and community. Other Common activities on the holiday include Music performances, author book signings, poetry readings, castells – human towers that can reach 10 stories - and plays that reenact the famous legend of the dragon, the knight, and the princess.

While Barcelona and Catalonia are the heart of Sant Jordi's Day, The holiday is celebrated in many cities in other autonomous communities, and each has its own flair. Alcoí, a town in Valencia, features parades and townspeople dressed in medieval costumes to re-enact battles between the Moors and the Christians.

In addition to re-enactments of the Christian reconquest of Cáceres, Extremadura also celebrates with a "burning of the dragon," a procession to the shrine of the Virgin of la Montana, a bonfire, and a search for two golden eggs hidden in Cáceres.

Let Your Love Show So, on April 23, tell someone you love them. Our own St. Valentine's Day will have passed, and you're sure to make a lasting impression. Grab a rose (or a dozen if you love them a lot!) and wrap up your favorite book. What a great way to share a bit of our Spanish heritage with others. And, if you want an even better dose of Sant Jordi, get on a plane and enjoy the holiday in Barcelona, Catalan style!



Ley de Memoria Democrática Process at the San Francisco Consulate

Katie Ichtertz Cordova



The Ley de Memoria Democrática process at the Spanish Consulate in San Francisco continues to move forward, with several consistent patterns emerging from recent applicant experiences.

Appointment Booking Changes

The pattern for booking appointments appears to have shifted. Previously, new appointment slots typically became available between 12:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. Pacific Time from Tuesday through Thursday. The consulate had indicated to many applicants that this would change to 9:00 a.m. Pacific on weekdays, but that schedule has not materialized.

Over the past three weeks, we have instead observed a consistent pattern of new appointments being released on Fridays between roughly 5:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time. Based on this emerging trend, applicants are strongly encouraged to check the appointment website throughout Friday morning beginning at 5:00 a.m. Pacific.

In-Person Appointment Experiences

Feedback from members who have attended their in-person appointments continues to be very positive. Many report that their appointments were 10–15 minutes in duration, and that consulate staff were kind, patient, and helpful in both English and Spanish.

Since November, the consulate has completed more than 500 appointments related to Ley de Memoria Democrática applications. It has been so inspiring to see the jubilant photos and reviews coming from applicants who have finally completed this step of their journey!

Application Processing Timeline

The expected timeline for resolution following an appointment remains over one year, and in my personal estimation based on processing times for those who had their appointments in 2023 and 2024, possibly more than two years.

Many thanks to those who have shared their experiences along the way so the community can stay informed as the process evolves. You can find the latest updates and recommendations in our facebook group LMD San Francisco.

¡Suerte a todos!

Spanish Style Chorizo

Note: This recipe appeared in the Spanish Heritage Society of cookbook titled *Comida de Ami Cios* was president in 1990. Permission was given to publish this recipe in the *Club Espanol* cookbook by Carmen Cano Propin.

Sausage: Since the Middle Ages sausage making has been a means of curing and preserving of fresh meat with herbs and spices. Sausage is made from pork, beef, sheep, goat and game poultry, etc. Today, although fresh meat can be kept from spoiling with refrigeration, the cured sausage that dates back to the Middle Ages still continues to be a popular modern day food.



- 7 pounds lean
- 3 pounds pork butt fat, cubed
- 8 tablespoons salt
- 2 tablespoons peppercorns
- 3 tb black cayenne red pepper
- 1 tb crushed red pepper
- 1 tb finely minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon crushed oregano
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon fennel seed
- 3/4 cup brandy
- 1 teaspoon ascorbic acid or 1 teaspoon saltpeter
- 6 feet medium hog casing



Grind the meat and fat separately, throughout coarse disk and mix together.

Sprinkle the remaining ingredients on the meat and mix thoroughly. Cure the sausage in the refrigerator for twenty four hours. Prepare the casings.. Stuff the casings and tie off into four-inch links. Hang the sausage to dry for about eight weeks.

Clean casings as follows: Rinse under cool water to remove salt. Let soak for an hour. Rinse again over cool water, then get the end of casing, hold firmly over the end of faucet nozzle, then water on gently, then a bit, more force. This will flush out any salt and pin point any breaks in the casings. In place of cayenne pepper, you may use pimiento molido and white wine in place of brandy. To make longaniza, add 1/4 cup white vinegar. Makes 10 pounds.

Helpful Resources

Looking for help or inspiration when researching your own heritage? Check out these resources, available on our SHHA website (www.sphha.org). Resource books will be included in future newsletters.

- Hawaiian Spaniards Facebook Group
- Andaluces en San Francisco Bay Area
- Asociación de Españoles del Silicon Valley
- 1907-1913 Spain to Hawaii Ship Manifest Index
- University of Hawaii Evols Plantation History and Maps
- Traces of Spain
- Honoka'a Heritage Center Big Island Plantation History
- Laupahoehoe Train Museum Sugar Plantation Information
- Spanish Hawaiian Heritage Association Facebook Group

Contact Us

Do you have questions, suggestions, or ideas to share for future issues? Email us at sphha@gmail.com.

Featured Video

The best YouTube channels for learning Spanish in 2026 include: *Dreaming Spanish for Comprehensible Input*, *Easy Spanish for Real-life Conversations*, *Español con María/Juan for Engaging*, and *B1-C2 Level Lessons*. Other top picks for structured learning include *Butterfly Spanish* and *Spanish After Hours*.



Thank you, for reading!

www.sphha.org | bit.ly/facebook-shha | bit.ly/instagram-shha
