

**THE IMPACT OF
WOMEN IN
BASQUE
COMMUNITIES**

A collection of pictures and words

The impact of women in Basque communities is exceptional, and deserving of special acknowledgement.

In October 2023, the Basque Educational Organization (BEO) hosted a speaking series, “Euskal Andreen Egintza Amerikan,” to talk about the impacts women made before us, the inner strength Basque women possess, and the future of women in our local Basque communities.

The thing is, we didn’t want the conversation to end here. So, we reached out to our greater community and invited everyone to contribute something special about women in their lives so we could create a collection of pictures and words. They poured in

We are very proud of this project, and we are grateful for all the participants. Thank you for taking the time to share these women, their lives, stories, and personalities.

This is just the beginning. We believe every woman should have a page in this book and we are committed to continuing this project.

If we were to collect pictures and words about every woman in our greater Basque community, how many pages do you think this book would be?

Let’s find out.

The Impact of Women in Basque Communities

A collection of pictures and words

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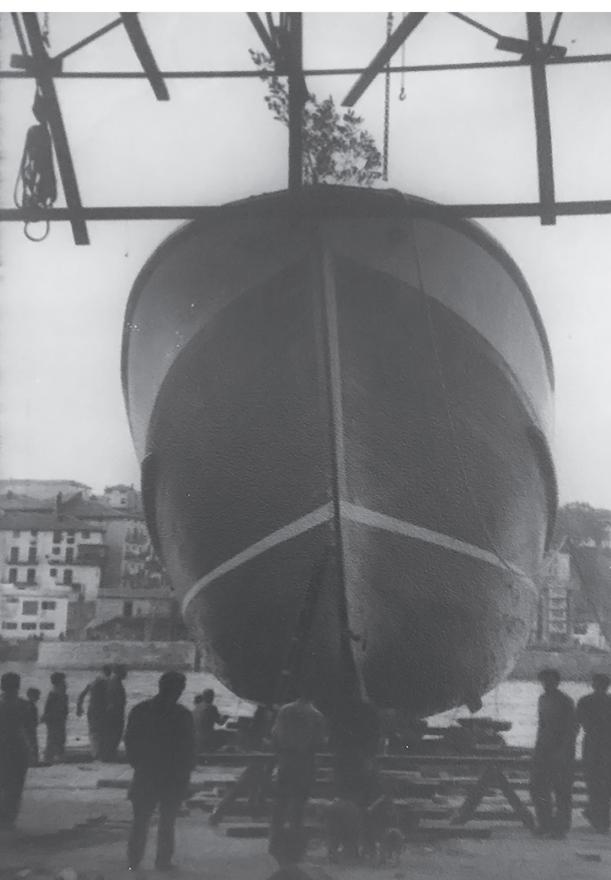
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“For most of history, Anonymous was a woman.”

Virginia Woolf

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to the past, current, and future women of the
Basque Educational Organization.



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This is my Brave mother, Maria Julia Goyarola (maiden name Andonegui). She is christening her father's boat, The Amazonas, in Bermeo Spain circa 1963. She married my father Pedro Goyarola in 1965.

She moved to the San Francisco Bay Area without a friend or cousin living in the area or, for that matter, in the United States. Not speaking a word of English, she raised two daughters and made a warm home for family, cooking a hot meal every evening.

The Chino Basque Club was founded in 1968. Only Basque men living near Chino could be members at that time. There was one exception: they needed a secretary to keep the minutes of the meetings, and that secretary was a woman.

During those early years, women worked tirelessly to help put on the annual picnic and monthly luncheons. They helped cook the meals with portable burners and then cleaned pots and pans by hand with a water hose. They did this for many years and all the while were unable to be voting members of the club.

In 1983, fifteen years after the club was founded, the Board of Directors voted on a resolution to allow women to become voting members, and finally pass.

There has always been a strong presence of women in the club. Today, the Chino Basque Club women are equally as strong, resilient, and determined as the men from 1968.

As a club, we thank all the women who have helped to keep the love of our Basque culture alive and well.

Mila Esker.

To the Women of the past,
To the Women of today,
To the Women of tomorrow.

A woman who is grounded in her family, faith and Basque culture.

Anita's life has been intertwined between her youth in the Basque community and its traditions in Susanville, California, where she only spoke Basque until kindergarten, to her adulthood in the Basque boarding houses of San Francisco, California. Here she met and married a Basque immigrant, and in turn operated and managed a family business while she raised a family in Gardnerville, Nevada. There was a strong Basque community in each of these locations, and always a woman of action, she helped to establish the Gardnerville Basque Club in 1981 and participated on the board in a multitude of capacities. Anita taught the Basque culture and traditions to her children and those of the community as a dance instructor and role model. Her influence is evident by her past students who sit on the board of



Locally, Anita worked to immortalize the Basque history of the Carson Valley by interviewing and compiling those stories in a book, and guided the local museum in curating a Basque sheepherder display. Anita expanded her role within the Basque community in NABO as the delegate and has helped to chair and organize the NABO Kantari Eguna in Gardnerville since 1990.

Those foundational pillars, family, faith, and Basque culture, have culminated Anita's life and have made her who she is. She is an incredible, strong, and motivated Basque woman focused on ensuring the enduring strength of our special Basque community.





Our sister, Yvonne Hauscarrigue, has been a dedicated member of the Basque community throughout her life and is a perfect example of the modern Basque woman.

Yvonne is so immensely proud of her Basque culture and heritage. She immerses herself and lives it. Though she is employed as an attorney for the State of California, she dedicates herself as a President of the San Francisco Basque Club as well as a Lifetime Board Member for the Basque Educational Organization. You can easily find her at the San Francisco Basque Picnic, Basque events, and at many meetings at the Basque Cultural Center.

When you think of Basque culture, family is always the first thing that comes to mind. Yvonne always puts her family front and center. She is always there with warm soup when someone is ill, will leave surprises on your doorstep when you're having a bad day, and is always cheering in the front row of all of her nieces' and nephews' performances.

Her kindness knows no bounds. She gives so much to those around her and is continuously looking for ways to serve others.

Yvonne, like so many Basque women, demonstrates the leadership, strength, and power of a true Basque woman.

We love you Yvonne! We are so proud of you!





Anna Uhalde Bordato was born on August 17, 1915 in Artesia, California. Her father, Gratien Uhalde was from Banca, France, her mother, Marianna Borthagaray Uhalde, was from Bidarray, France. She was raised on her parent's farm, which she eventually took over; the farm stayed in our family for about 60 years. Anna lost her father when she was only 17, went to work at a bank, while maintaining the farm, and caring for her mother until her death.

While her life was not easy, she was a loving and giving woman to everyone she knew. She had two children, 11 years apart (my father would often say my brother came along because of the Pernod in France). She was 41 years of age when my brother Marty was born.

Both my parents would go out of their way to visit and maintain friends regularly - a lost art today. They always helped young Basques when they first came to this country. When thanked for her help, her response was always, "Why are we here if we can't help each other?" She was a rock when her son-in-law was seriously hurt. She was a good wife, a loving, comforting and supportive mother, an even more loving grandmother (although short-lived), and a good friend. I am proud to be her daughter.



Elisa Vidasolo Ancona, President of Euskal Etxea New York (from 2019 to 2023)



First generation in the United States, Elisa was born in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents, Julian Vidasolo Renteria (from Bakio) and Maria Luisa Vidasolo Lamiquiz (from Ibarangelu Akorda), married and came to United States in 1955. Her father, former President of Euzko Etxea of New York (EENY) from 1973 to 1978 and again from 1985 to 1986, came to the United States at a young age, served in the Korean War, and established himself in New York.

Elisa is married to Robert Ancona Peña, with two children, Christopher Ancona Vidasolo and Luke Ancona Vidasolo. Elisa enjoys spending as much time as possible in Euzko Etxea and her immediate family home in Ibarangelu Akorda.

Her brother, Juan Legorreta, current Vice President of EENY, recalls when she was a young teenager and the New York Basque Club was invited to Washington, D.C. to celebrate the U.S. bicentennial in 1976. "Her mother provided special Basque food and Elisa and other Basque teens in local costumes performed Basque dancing. Her parents were very involved in the influence and transmission of the Basque culture in the U.S. and Elisa continued their legacy as an Euzko Etxea member, and especially in the last four years as President."

Under her leadership, the Basque center in New York has been transformed, thanks to a complete overhaul of the association's administrative and financial management. Thanks to the association's newfound financial health, the physical space has also been refurbished. The Euskal Etxea in New York, which Elisa's father helped to acquire in 1973, is now more beautiful than ever. We should also mention the regularly occurring and much-anticipated "Pintxo pote" events, which are more successful every quarter.

Thanks to her energy, passion, skills, and total commitment, the Euskal Etxea of New York is in good shape today, physically and financially.

On behalf of the Basque community in New York, we'd like to say a heartfelt thank you.

Eskerrik asko bihotz-bihotzez





Jeanne Trounday Etchemendy - with her husband, John, owned the East Fork Hotel in 1917 for a few years. They eventually bought the Overland Hotel in 1921, and she operated it until her death in 1949. Her husband continued to run the hotel until the 1960's.



Josephine Incaby Sario - upon her arrival around 1918, she worked for the Etchemendy's at the East Fork. After she married her husband Jose, they built a large land holding and sheep business, which eventually was named the Sario Livestock Company.



Jeanne Aldax - arrived in the Carson Valley, Nevada, in 1919 and married Benat in 1921. Jeanne worked at the French Hotel, until she and her husband operated and owned a sheep ranch. Later this was converted to a dairy farm.

The Mendiko Euskaldun Cluba would like to celebrate these women who were among the first to immigrate to Carson Valley in Nevada; they became central figures within the Basque community. These women either owned, supported, or operated a sheep ranch or Basque hotel, and were instrumental to the success and longevity of the Basque community in Gardnerville, Nevada. The hotels were the center of the Basque community and the thriving sheep industry was the catalyst; their business successes were deeply intertwined. Beyond their success, these women were our matriarchs ensuring the Basque culture endured.

EVERY WOMAN DESERVES A PAGE IN THIS BOOK.

LET'S KEEP THIS CONVERSATION GOING.

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