

# *LOS ISLEÑOS HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**LOS ISLEÑOS FIESTA 2024 scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

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**Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society of St. Bernard** has organized its 47<sup>th</sup> annual fiesta celebrating the cultural heritage of the Canary Islanders or Isleños who founded St. Bernard Parish in 1779 – 1780. **The festival will take place the weekend of March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at Los Isleños Museum Complex, 1345 – 1357 Bayou Road, St. Bernard, Louisiana 70085.** The hours on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> are 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> are 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The lineup of traditional folk music from the Canaries, Latin and popular music for Fiesta 2024 will not fail to please the public. The performance schedule for March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 is as follows:

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024      11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.      Opening Ceremonies

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Filipino Heritage Dance and Music

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Javier Gutierrez and Vivaz

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, continued**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Grupo Folklorico San Borondon, Tenerife Island

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Rockin' Dopsie, Jr.

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Boot Hill

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Opening Ceremonies

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Isleño Heritage Program

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Grupo Folklorico San Borondon, Tenerife Island

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Javier Olondo y Asheson

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Category 6

**The entrance fee will be \$5.00 per person, children 12 years of age and younger will be admitted free.**

**The cultural centerpiece of Los Isleños Fiesta 2024** will be performances by the Grupo Folklorico de San Borondon. Founded in 1979, San Borondon is headquartered in the metropolitan area of San Cristobal de La Laguna, the ancient capitol of Tenerife Island. La Laguna, as it is known generally, has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is a place which yielded colonists to Louisiana and St. Bernard Parish more particularly. This group over almost 45 years has performed throughout the Canary Islands, in the mainland of Spain and in other European countries. San Borondon is committed to preserving and publicly performing the folk music of the Canary Islands, which has been influenced by indigenous original inhabitants, the Iberian Peninsula, the Americas and Europe.

The Filipinos will also share their cultural heritage by performing traditional dances for the Philippine Archipelago. There will also be an outdoor table near the St. Malo marker manned Filipino descendants explaining their cultural heritage.

**LIVING HISTORY VILLAGE – Estopinal House and kitchen, Esteves House, Cresap Caserta House, the Native American village and medicine garden, the Calvin and Cinda Melerine Trapper's cabin and surrounding ground, opened for public viewing March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Living history displays will focus on traditional folklife/folkcraft in the Isleño descendants' community of St. Bernard Parish to be visited in the Living History Village area just beyond the Isleño Center and Coconut Island Barroom. Folklife demonstrations will include alligator farming, Teneriffe Lace making (Estopinal Kitchen), quilting (Esteves House), duck decoy carving, duck callers, model boat building, pirogue building, oyster knife fabrication, historic black smithing (wrought iron), and Native American culture represented in palmetto structures and a medicine garden presented by local descendants of the Houma Nation and other tribes. The Canary Islanders Heritage Society will return with a genealogy exhibition in the Caserta – Cresap House relating to the colonial settlements of Canary Islanders upriver at Valenzuela along Bayou Lafourche and Galvez-Town. Isleño Society member Jimmy Faust will present an exhibition with extensive genealogical information about the Canary Islander or Isleño families who founded St. Bernard in the Estopinal House. The Granaderos y Damas de Galvez and other groups representing the Spanish heritage of Louisiana will also be present in the Creasp – Caserta House and on the grounds. The hours for public visitation will be 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

### **LA COCINA ISLEÑA Y CRIOLLA (Isleño and Louisiana cuisine) – Food court pavilions, surrounding grounds**

The menu will feature Isleño food, fabulous grilled St. Bernard oysters, Louisiana fried seafood, hot dogs, hamburgers and homemade chili. Traditional Isleño food will include *ropa vieja* (pork shoulder roast cooked with garlic, onions and seasonings), *arroz con pollo* (chicken with rice), shrimp and grits (traditionally served on local trawl boats), *empanadas* (meat pies), *croquettas*, *caldo* (known as *potage* in the Canaries, a soup or meal in a pot with pickled pork as the base meat) and desserts such as *flan*, the famous vanilla flavored egg custard topped with caramel sauce. Don and Tammy Melerine will prepare their family recipe for *caldo*, continuing the tradition initiated by Don's mother, Cinda Rodriguez Melerine. The St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission will fund and operate the *tapas* bar in the Coconut Island Barroom. Spanish wines, cheese, chorizo (sausage) and the *tortilla a la Gallega* (Spanish potato, onion, bell pepper and *chorizo* in the style of Galicia) and fresh fruit will be served in the *tapas* bar. *Tapas* are the traditional small dishes served in bars throughout Spain including the Canaries. Natives of Galicia in the northwest coast of the Spanish mainland emigrated to St. Bernard throughout the late 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, so that Gallegos influenced the foodways of this community. Homemade desserts made by the dessert committee will include *tarta de tres leches* (three milk cake), banana bread, cupcakes and some sugar free desserts.

### **MODERN CRAFTS**

The modern craft booth section, largely located between Los Isleños and Ducros museums, promises to offer an excellent selection of items for sale including furniture, art, preserved vegetables and jellies and other items. The Silent auction will have excellent gifts and items to bid on such as artwork, gift certificates and other items. The Isleño Society Gift Shop will be fully stocked and presented on the fiesta grounds, offering for sale books about the Isleño heritage, Isleño cookbooks, tee-shirts and other inventory.

### **AMUSEMENT RIDES and Los Isleños Museum**

Mitchell Amusements will provide amusement rides for children in the parking lot of Los Isleños Museum Complex. Society historian Jerry Estopinal will open Los Isleños Museum to the public from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both days of the fiesta. The Calvin A. Melerine Nature Trail will also be opened to the public 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days of the fiesta.

### **MAJOR SPONSORS**

*Major sponsors of Fiesta 2023 are the Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation, Valero Oil, St. Bernard Parish Government, St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Department, St. Bernard Parish School Board and the St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission.* For additional information, please go to [www.losislenos.org](http://www.losislenos.org), Los Isleños Fiesta Facebook page and [www.visitsstbernard.com](http://www.visitsstbernard.com).