



# The Scoop!

THE PUERTO RICAN UNION OF MUTUAL AID

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy December members!

I do hope everyone had a wonderful thanksgiving. First off, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and efforts on the 85th/Night in Puerto Rico Anniversary dance and the first annual Holiday Craft Fair. I have heard nothing but positive things in regards to the new direction of PRUMA. Although we are still having a little bit of growing pains we will continue to push forward and excel.

We are planning on some more renovations of the Center and at this time if anyone would like to make any donation of goods, services or monetary please contact [prumacenter1937@gmail.com](mailto:prumacenter1937@gmail.com) all help is good help.

We will be holding elections on December 18, 2022 starting at 9:00AM so please come and vote.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the New Year's Eve dance. Please get your tickets early to ensure that you can have access to the venue as most of you know the 85th anniversary sold out and it was a huge bummer for a lot of individuals who did not get their tickets.

Blessings to all,

Monique Gonzalez - Jaimes



## Election Time during December's General Meeting!

Please use the cut out and mail the Ballot printed on page 5 and vote for 2023 PRUMA Board. For more questions please contact Alyssa or Monique. Ballot must be post marked no later than December 17, 2022

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## DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Henry Rodrigues	12/7
Ruben Berrios	12/7
Pamela Caraballo	12/11
Myra Pagan	12/27

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@PRUMA

## UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE & POTLUCK

Sunday, December 18, 2022  
ELECTION DAY  
1:00 pm at PRUMA Center

## UPCOMING EVENTS

-New Years Eve Dance: Saturday, December 31, 2022

## Sunshine

Member Jose "Jojo" Castillon passed away peacefully surrounded by those that loved him most, on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. He was 52 years old. Jose is survived by his loving wife of 19 years, Rene Castillon, his two daughters Zoe and Kyla Castillon and his son Dallas Goodman. His father Gilberto Castillon, brother Savino Herrera, sister Maria A. Ruybal and many nieces and nephews, all of which he played a significant part in their lives.

Jose was a devoted husband, father, son and friend. He lived his entire life in Union City. Jose worked for Kaiser Permanente as a store keeper II for over 27 years. Jose graduated from James Logan High School, class of 1988. He was an athlete and was on the Varsity Football and Wrestling Team. He dedicated his free time to coaching. In his early 20's he coached his nephew Paul Maldonado, which sparked his coaching journey. He coached his daughters Zoi and Kyla's softball teams as well as his son Dallas in baseball and basketball. Jose would eventually mentor countless kids within his 25 year coaching span. Jose or "Hoss" as he was known by his camp family, spent many summers as a camp counselor and director at YMCA camp Loma Mar in Santa Cruz. Jose was a lifelong Raiders fan. He enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved going to the movies, playing board and card games. He was a trivia fan and always welcomed a great conversation.

## Sunshine CONTINUES

He was known for his big, compassionate heart, his contagious laugh, his amazing sense of humor and his competitive personality. He will be immensely missed.

Edward Quinones and Glenn Hernandez both had daughters pass away this month. The obituary for their daughters will be presented in January's newsletter.

Please keep all these PRUMA members in your prayers. Holidays are always very hard when someone is no longer around to enjoy the holiday.

Prayers needed for the ill: Doris Melendez had another ailment and is making a comeback. JoAnn Carvalho is recovering from her surgery. (Nothing stops that lady for too long)



# Coquito Recipe

Puerto Rican | Drink



<https://www.delishdlites.com>

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 12 oz can evaporated milk
- 1 14 oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 15 oz can cream of coconut (like Coco Lopez)
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cup white rum
- cinnamon sticks for garnish

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Mix all the ingredients in a blender on high speed.
- 2) Refrigerate for 1 hour.
- 3) Shake well before serving.
- 4) Serve cold and garnish with cinnamon stick.

# EVENTS

Tickets for the New Year's Eve Dance will be available at the December meeting!

  
PRUMA  
Presents

# 2023

NEW YEAR'S EVE

*Celebration*

Saturday December 31st  
8:00PM

616 E St. Union City, Ca. 94587

Music By  
"Jibaro Son"

Featuring Ricky Castillo & Johnny Rodrigues

Tickets  
\$ 35.00 in advance  
\$ 40.00 at the door

Contact Yolanda for advance tickets  
(510) 816-0194

 

*Dress to impress* *Midnight Toast*





## Celebrate Nochebuena – Puerto Rico Christmas Traditions

Christmas Eve trumps Christmas Day for most Puerto Ricans. This is when a typical Puerto Rican Christmas dinner is served, consisting of lechón (roast pork), pasteles (patties), and arroz con gandules (rice ‘n beans). The traditional Christmas dessert is tembleque, which is a kind of custard with coconut, cornstarch, vanilla, and cinnamon. After dinner, many Puerto Ricans attend a midnight mass known as the Misa de Gallo or “Rooster’s Mass.” You might just catch a live reenactment of the nativity scene.

### Grapes for Good Luck

Fireworks have become a traditional event for New Year’s Eve and if you have view from a mountain, you will see a steady succession of fireworks once the sun goes down. At the stroke of midnight, local tradition demands that you eat 12 grapes for luck. You’ll also find some people sprinkling sugar outside their house for good luck or throwing a bucket of water out the window to expel all the negatives of the old year and get ready for a fresh start.

### Collect Grass for the Camels

On the evening of Jan. 5, children will collect a shoebox full of grass and a large container of water for the Magi’s camels and place the items at the foot of their beds. In the night, the three kings will come into their rooms, take their supplies and leave a present under each child’s bed. In our family celebrations, the gifts given are generally small tokens that would fit into the shoebox.

### Celebrate Three Kings Day

This day celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, when the Three kings visited the newly born Christ Child in Bethlehem bearing him gifts. This tradition is repeated and reflected in present day with the belief that on this eve the Three Kings will visit every good child to deliver them gifts.

There is not much known about the original Three Kings other than that they came from the East bearing the three traditional gifts of Frankincense, Myrrh, and Gold. On the night Christ was born, they were drawn by a “mysterious light” which became a star that hung in the western sky. They followed this sign to Bethlehem, where they arrived (a little late) to honor Christ’s birth. In fact, the “12 Days of Christmas,” which is so often believed to end on December 25, actually begins on the 25th and runs through January 6, culminating with the Feast of Epiphany, or “The Adoration of the Magi.” This marks the official end of the Christmas Season in Puerto Rico and there is a large celebration in San Juan, where children can go to La Fortaleza, the governor’s mansion, to receive free gifts.

## Did you know these Puerto Rican Christmas Traditions?

### 1st Holiday Craft Fair a big Success!

Once again a big thank you to all those that supported the Holiday Craft Fair at the PRUMA Center! But we need to give JoAnn Carvalho a big round of applause for all the work and efforts to make it so! Looking forward to next year's Holiday Fair!

Check out our website for pictures of the 85th Anniversary Celebration!

Thank you to all those who attended our 85th Anniversary Celebration, "A Night in Puerto Rico"! A special thank you to JoAnn Carvalho for all her hard work and coordination and her many helpers! It was a huge success and this biggest event PRUMA has had in years!





# Holiday Traditions, Puerto Rico Parrandas: A Puerto Rican Music Christmas Tradition

Posted on December 18, 2012 by Captain Tim

Puerto Rican culture shines brightest during the holiday season. Lasting from the end of November through the end of January, there are many Christmas traditions that are unique to the island. One of our favorite traditions is the Parranda. Parrandas are the Puerto Rican version of caroling. It is marked by singing traditional Puerto Rican music called Aguinaldos (Christmas Songs) and using traditional instruments, including Guitars and Cuatros, tambourines, maracas, palitos, and guiros.

## How does a Parranda Work?

A small group of people (parranderos) get the party started by surprising a friend at their house with music from Puerto Rico. Once the musicians have congregated on someone's porch, they begin an as alto navideno, or a Christmas assault. This song awakens and greets the homeowner who must come to the door and let the musicians in. The musicians squeeze into the house and continue to perform aguinaldos. They usually get started after 10pm so that one is awoken in surprise. Then, as a group, they continue to the next house. Each house visit grows bigger through the night as more neighbors join in. The parranderos are usually plied with drinks and food, and perhaps a little homemade Coquito (Puerto Rico's version of eggnog) and then on to the next house. Usually, things wrap up around daybreak, with the last house usually providing something heartier like an asapao, or stew.

## What is sung at a Parranda?

Music is a particularly important aspect of Christmas in Puerto Rico. The Aguinaldo provides the basis for much of the music that accompanies the parranda. Although the word aguinaldo in Puerto Rican Spanish, means "gift," it also refers to a Christmas song, especially if performed in a lively folk style. This use of the word equates the playing of Christmas songs with the giving of gifts. And if sung well, it is indeed!



Unión Puertorriqueña de Ayuda Mutua  
(Puerto Rican Union of Mutual Aid, Inc.)

Executive Board Election for 2023

December 18, 2022

Instructions to the voter: To vote you must place a check in the checkbox next to the nominee you wish to see in office.

## **President:**

## **Vice President:**

☐ Alyssa Escoto

## **Secretary:**

## **Treasurer:**

☐ Michelle Escoto

## **Assistant Treasurer:**

## **Board of Trustees:**

☐ Al Jaimes

☐ JoAnn Carvalho

☐ Veronica Nunez

☐ Yolanda Ramirez

☐ Glenn Hernandez

## **Sergeant at Arms:**



PRUMA  
P.O. Box 1540  
Union City, CA 94587

Tickets for the New Years Eve Dance can be bought now.

Please let Yolanda know how many tickets you would like.  
yolandammouse@gmail.com  
Home Phone: 510 471-1477  
Cell Phone: 510 816-0194