

Esparza Family

STAY CONNECTED

FEBRUARY 2024 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Esparza Family

As we bid farewell to the past year and step into a new one, it brings us immense joy to share the happenings, milestones, and events that have been achieved over the past year. Welcome to the 2024 edition of The Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants Family newsletter.

With love,

Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants Officers

Esparza School Events

School Donation and Anniversary Event

This past January 25, 2023, our organization was able to donate funds to the Gregorio Esparza Elementary, Northside Independent School District. Our donation went on to help with the 50th anniversary of the school opening. We were honored to be a part of the celebration and had over 40 family members who attended in person. Those who attended enjoyed refreshments, mariachis, and a beautiful program by the students, staff, and administration. We are continually building and fostering the relationship with the school through volunteer opportunities and donations. We are currently scheduled to do a presentation for the school Feb 14th and we will post pictures to our social media page after.

Fall Festival at Esparza Elementary



Our family participated in the Esparza Elementary fall festival in October. We were excited to be invited to join the school for this event and to help raise money for their programs. Thanks to all our volunteers representing our family. Volunteers were Peggy Huizar Guerrero, Terri Guzman, Roy Guzman, Eloise Rodriguez Garza, Elaine Molina Guzman, Bill Guzman, Emilie Gonzalez, Dolly Morales and Alex Morales.

Museum Exhibit

Esparza descendants were honored to be included in the “Tejanas at the Alamo: Conduits of Remembrance,” at the Alamo Exhibit in Dallas, Texas. An essay was written on Ana Salazar Esparza (wife of Gregorio) by Erlinda Huizar, Eloise Garza, Linda Leal, and Peggy Guerrero. The exhibit opened in March at the Mexican American Museum of Texas <https://tmamt.org/>, family members attending were Peggy Guerrero, Linda and Steve Bartz. This exhibit was also on display during the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

Reunion

On July 7-9, 2023, the Esparza descendants held a three-day Gregorio and Ana Esparza Family Reunion in Floresville, Texas. This year’s reunion was a huge success, and if you were able to attend, we are sure you would agree. We had over 600 family members in attendance and lots of fun and family history.

Portrait Unveiling

The reunion kicked off on Friday night with the unveiling of a commissioned portrait at the Longhorn Museum in Pleasanton, TX. The portrait was commissioned by the family and completed by Gary Zaboly. Many of our family members contributed pictures of family to bring Gregorio's image to life. The organization owns the rights to the portrait, and it was displayed at the Longhorn Museum in Pleasanton, TX. The portrait is now on display by the Daughters of the Republic in San Antonio, TX. During the time portrait was commissioned, the Alamo was also working on a gallery of defenders for the Alamo. Gregorio's portrait was one of the first to be commissioned and completed. The Alamo's commissioned portrait of Gregorio Esparza is on display at the Alamo in the Ralston Center.



Saturday was a full day that included lots of family activities including a cannon on site, a corn hole tournament, Esparza Loteria, and a family portrait.

Voices of the Cemetery

Sunday concluded with "Voices of Esparza Cemetery", written by Benny Garza, at the Esparza cemetery in Pleasanton, TX. The event included storytelling and reenactment of our ancestors where family members were dressed in period attire and provided a narrative of our ancestors' life at the time. The stories were based on ancestors of Manuel Esparza, his wife Melchora and their 11 children. The cast included Manuel Esparza- Benny Garza, Melchora Esparza- Terri Guzman, Gregorio Esparza- Tom Esparza, Juana Esparza Huizar- Mary Frances Zepeda, Elifonso Esparza- Frank Esparza, Simona Esparza Rodríguez- Estella Leyva, Ana Esparza Rodríguez- Claudia Jenks, Manuel Esparza, Jr.- Zachary Cerda, Melchora Esparza Bonilla- Peggy Guerrero, Clemente Esparza- Christopher Lopez, Maria Isabel Esparza Huizar- Erlinda Huizar, Petra Esparza- Becca Mendoza and Maria De Jesus Esparza Montez- Hortencia Contreras. Benny Garza and the cast did a fantastic job featuring Manuel Esparza, Melchora, and his children. You can find a [video of the event on our webpage](#).



The event raised funds toward costs for the next reunion to be held in 2026. If you would like to participate in planning the next reunion, visit our website for [Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants](#) for the latest updates. Planning typically begins a year before the event. Volunteers are always welcome, and it is a great way to connect with your heritage and other family members who help plan the event.

Fundraising

As a new non-profit organization, the Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants began its first big fundraiser by selling the 1st edition Gregorio Esparza Loteria set. With the success of the Gregorio Esparza themed Loteria game played at our family reunions, the organization worked with Eloise Garza, designer of the original reunion game, to produce a custom-made 1st edition for family and friends to enjoy. Each set includes traditional cards along with family cards that include pictures and historical information of our ancestors. If you are interested in purchasing a set, they are still available and can be purchased on our [website](#). All funds raised by the sale of the Esparza Loteria game support the mission of the Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants.



Merry on Main

This past Christmas we participated in **Merry on Main River Park Wonderland** by donating funds to host and exhibit a decorated Christmas tree at the river park in Pleasanton, TX. Several family members came together to decorate the tree with ribbons, cut-outs of the Gregorio Esparza portrait, and GEAD ornaments in honor of our ancestor, Gregorio Esparza, Alamo Defender.



Charter Members

Over the past year, 143 founding charter members joined the Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants. A charter member induction ceremony will be held at the Heritage Village, 1370 Church Hill Drive, New Braunfels, TX at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 17th. At the ceremony, each member will be formally inducted into the Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants and presented with a small gift for joining. To kick off our inaugural year, a celebratory cannon blast will be featured at this event.

If you have not RSVP'd for this event, please register [here](#) or by texting Jessica Pineda 512.663.6249 by February 12th. The venue has limited space. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you have family interested in joining our next class of members for this year, please have them reach out to our email address and check our website for an application. [application](#).

[RSVP Today](#)



Family Highlight

We will begin a Family Stories section in our newsletter and would like your help. The Family Stories section will highlight short stories from members about their family history including your family's connection to Gregorio Esparza. Feel free to it simple and provide pictures if you like. Please send your stories to info@gregorioesparzaalamodescendants.org

