

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN-SoCal

NUESTRAS VOCES

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE AND RIGHTS THROUGH
MENTORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



VOL 1, AUG 2021

WHO WE ARE

NACOPRW is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization seeking to promote the full participation of Puerto Rican and other Hispanic women in the social, economic and political life in the United States. The Southern California Chapter (SoCal) achieves this by educating, developing leadership among Puerto Rican women and providing role models for our youth and our community.

NACOPRW-SoCal celebrates what unites all of us: our love and respect for Puerto Rico, its traditions and people.

BOARD MEMBERS:

*ANAIDA COLÓN-MUÑOZ, ED.D., PRESIDENT
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For more information about our chapter, membership or donations visit us at:

www.nacoprwsocal.org

EDITORIAL – ENTRE NOSOTRAS

PRESENTING OUR EDITORS FOR THIS ISSUE:



Nilsa J. Thorsos



Nicole Hernández

Mentorship Is Tradition...

In our culture, there is a deep tradition of giving and altruistic practices manifested in many ways. One famous example is “La Parranda.” We receive friends and family in the middle of the night during Christmas and launch into festivities, sharing whatever we have in the kitchen. Traditions pass down community values and social connections, and we honor such practices at NACOPRW. Our mission statement states that we are **“Preserving our heritage and rights through mentorship and leadership for a better tomorrow.”** Our annual scholarship, and soon-to-be established Mentorship Program, are direct ways we leave legacy and work toward the self-determination of all Puerto Rican/Hispanic/Latinx women. We are pillars of our community, and we invite our readers to think about mentoring and paying it forward.

Women's Equality Day- August 26, 2021

Let's celebrate on August 26th the anniversary of the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, which granted the right to vote to women. Go to our website and see NACOPRW-SoCal's recording of Vision 2020's Toast to Tenacity (featuring Marjorie Patton, 1st VP, NACOPRW-SoCal), honoring 100 years of this historical date.



EL FOGÓN BORICUA

by Sonia Colón-Lamas

EL CORAZÓN of Puerto Rican Food...SOFRITO

"The heart of Puerto Rican food is Sofrito. I can't imagine a Puerto Rican household without some form of Sofrito in their refrigerator. Sofrito comes from the Catalán verb "sorrier" which means to gently fry. The Spaniards introduced sofrito to the Caribbean and Latin America starting in the 1500's. Sofrito is simple to make, but adds powerful flavoring to any recipe that is cooked in some type of liquid like stews, soups and rice and beans dishes.

Ingredients:

Recipe Makes 1 Quart

1 green bell pepper cut in pieces and take the seeds out
 1/2 ib. of ajíes dulces...they are hard to find in California, so I add:
 1 red and one yellow bell pepper
 1 large onion
 10 cloves of garlic
 1 bunch of Cilantro
 1 bunch of Culantro or flat leaf Coriander (you can find in Asian markets)

Directions:

1. Cut vegetables in pieces and add to your blender or food processor. If too thick you can add some olive oil.
2. Pour into a glass container and refrigerate.
3. My Mami Milla taught me to pour it into ice trays, freeze and store in a refrigerator bag
4. Sauté with olive oil at medium temperature as the base of many delicious Puerto Rican recipes.



Have you missed any of our past events?

Here is the most recent addition to our YouTube Channel:

Orgullo Boricua: Puerto Rican Women Making a Difference

Hosted by our President Anaida Colón-Muñíz, she presents Puerto Rican women who have broken barriers. Meet our honored guest **Antonia Jiménez, Director for the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) County of Los Angeles**, as she receives the **2021 NACOPRW-SoCal's Orgullo Boricua Award.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BruGPSrvX4c>

iWEPA!

SPONSORING LEADERS OF THE FUTURE: 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

BY MARJORIE PATTON, 1st VP, NACOPRW So-Cal

NACOPRW Southern California Chapter sponsors an annual scholarship award for Puerto Rican/Hispanic/Latinx young and adult women. This year's Scholarship Awards program was incredibly competitive. Ten brilliant and talented young women submitted applications to earn two scholarships. As we embraced the difficult job of selecting the "best" two candidates through their essays, we immersed ourselves into the heads and hearts of these deserving women. Their journeys and tribulations were more than inspirational. They were hopeful, valiant, and sometimes unapologetic, as they should since they will be the leaders of the future. I invite you to visit our website (www.nacoprwsocal.org) and meet the five awardees. In the end, we awarded three scholarships of \$500 and two of \$100. Nonetheless, we are proud of all ten of this inspirational young women, WEPA!



Evelyn Cuautle
UCI



Jenisty Colon
Chapman Univ.



Lizette Valenzuela
UCLA

★ HONORARY MENTION TO ALEJANDRA BARBA AND JESSICA MARTÍNEZ ★

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



GRISSEL BENÍTEZ-HODGE

BY MILLY C. LUGO-RIOS - CONTRIBUTOR



Grissel has been very active in our chapter since she joined in 2020. She helped on the Orgullo Boricua Award event and was a member of our 2021 Scholarship Committee. We are honored to have you amongst us.

Grissel Benítez-Hodge was born in Añasco, Puerto Rico. Her family moved to New London, Connecticut at the end of her 7th grade. Being one of two non-English speaking Puerto Ricans at the school was challenging but this did not deter her from pursuing an academic career later in life. Since the 1970s, Grissel has been involved in organizations focused on social and educational services to the Spanish speaking community.

Grissel has a Bachelor of Arts in Hispanic Literature and Sociology and was awarded the Anna Lord Stauss Award for her commitment to volunteerism and the community. She obtained an M.Ed. in Higher Education Administration & Policy Development from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was attracted to NACOPRW because its members are women dedicated to advocating social issues.

Grissel lives in Irvine, CA with her husband of 58 years. Her passion is cooking and hopes to someday volunteer with Chef José Andrés and his World Central Kitchen.

Welcome Grissel!

Interested in joining NACOPRW-SoCal?

Go to www.nacoprwsocal.org/membership and complete & send us your application.

BOMBA CONNECTION!

Upcoming Events!

"When we help OURSELVES,
We find moments of
HAPPINESS,
When we help OTHERS,
We find lasting
FULFILLMENT."
Simon Sinek

**JOIN THIS
AMAZING
COMMITTEE!**

We're looking for
volunteers to support
our program. You can
make a difference in
these young scholars'
professional journey.

**MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**

Kick off meeting, Wednesday August 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Join by Zoom Meeting
ID: 890 5162 0016
Pass Code: 682658

Chapter Celebrations:

- ★ Congratulations to our dear Nicole Hernández who begins her studies towards her PhD at Arizona State University **iBomba!**
- ★ Congratulations to Anaida Colón and her husband Mac Morante on their 70th birthday celebration. **iBomba!**
- ★ Congratulations to First VP Marjorie Patton on her upcoming birthday. **iBomba!**

Stay tuned to our emails and Social Media announcements for details about our upcoming events:

- Mentorship Events
- Member Social
- Coquito Fundraiser preparations.

Send us your ideas to nacoprwsocal98@gmail.com

NACOPRW-SoCal joins the celebrations of Jasmine Camacho-Quinn's Olympic gold medal in the women's 100 meter hurdle.

Orgullo Boricua!

Meet our Newsletter Team:



Nilsa J. Thorsos
Editor



Nicole Hernández
Editor



Milly C. Lugo-Ríos
Contributor



Marjorie Patton
Contributor



Sonia Colón-Lamas
Contributor



Gloria San Miguel
Chair-NL Committee

Thank you to all our NACOPRW-So Cal members who gave us great feedback about our first issue. Our newsletter family is growing as we receive a new member and contributor, Milly C. Lugo-Ríos. A big THANK YOU to Nicole Hernández and Nilsa J. Thorsos for their amazing work as editors for this second issue. Continue sending us your ideas for articles, news about events or any celebrations within our chapter. We want to make this YOUR newsletter on every issue.