



LA ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE NUEVA IBERIA

(LAENI, INC.) IS A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT* VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION INCORPORATED IN THE CITY OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA IN 2012. LAENI SERVES AS A VEHICLE FOR THE RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF THE SPANISH ANCESTRY AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN NEW IBERIA AND THROUGHOUT LOUISIANA. LAENI, INC. ENCOURAGES, SUPPORTS AND DIRECTS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES INVOLVING EDUCATIONAL, CULINARY, MUSIC, AND ART EXCHANGES WHILE CREATING AN AWARENESS AND DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR LOCAL SPANISH HERITAGE AND CULTURE.

WWW.NEWIBERIASPANSHFESTIVAL.COM

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hola Amigos,

I hope that you and your family are doing well this holiday season. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation of a very successful El Baile del Rey, The King's Ball. This event was held the first Friday in October and was by far our biggest King's Ball. I would like to congratulate our outgoing royalty King VII, Matt Lopez and Queen VIII, Chloé Mixon of a job well done fulfilling their call of duty.

Congratulations to our newly crowned 2024-2025 Spanish Festival King VIII, Mr. Donald Segura along with his newly crowned Spanish Festival Queen IX, Miss Chacelyn Peltier and their royal court.

I am delighted to announce we have lots of projects happening this quarter from our "Bless a Resident" gift donation drive to our Crochet Ceiling Competition and Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festivals contests.

If you know of someone interested in participating in our projects please feel free to share this information along with them.

Our Board of Directors have been in full swing gearing up for our 2025 Festival. Our 11th Annual El Festival Español de Nueva Iberia will take place on April 11-13, downtown Bouigny Plaza. If all goes as plan, our festival may be one of the first to use the newly constructed Amphitheater and Stage which will be located to the rear of the existing Bouigny Plaza Pavilion.

Our committees are working hard gathering vendors for 2025 Festival. If you know of anyone interested in competing in the cook-off, car show, arts & crafts show, or would like to setup a booth for our genealogy exhibits please share this information along with them.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING EVENTS P. 1

LAENI PROJECTS P.2

LAFF CONTESTS | MERCHANDISE P.3

FEATURED FAMILY P. 4

MEET THE BOARD P. 5

FUN FACT P. 6

ROYALTY TRAVELS P. 6

2025 VENDOR APPLICATIONS P.7

CLOSING REMARKS P. 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

Queen City Christmas Parade | December 14, 2024

Runs from Lee St. to Jefferson St. | 5:30pm -7:30pm | Main St. New Iberia

New Iberia Advent Activity ~ Spanish Night | December 18, 2024

5pm - 7:30pm | Sliman Theatre

Louisiana Association of Fairs & Festivals Convention 2025

Feb 6-9, 2025 | Crowne Plaza | Baton Rouge, LA

Los Isleños Fiesta | March 15 & 16, 2025

St. Bernard, LA

2025 Spanish Festival | April 11-13, 2025

"New Iberia, The Lost Treasure" Recovering Memories

Chateau Flamenco Festival | May 10, 2025

New Orleans, LA



LAENI Projects



SPREAD LOVE & KINDNESS TOGETHER

Imagine the smiles you'll create by providing nourishing meals and items to families and individuals who are facing difficult times. Let's contribute and fill the mini pantries located at the libraries to help our residents of New Iberia!

Drop-off Location:
Iberia Parish Library- Main Branch

NOW thru December 20th
8:30am - 5:30pm

Things you can bring to contribute the donation drive



Canned Food



Apparel



Hygiene Products

Visit Our Website For More

newiberiaspanishfestival.com

CROCHET CEILING CENTERPIECE COMPETITION

Collection has begun for this exciting new project!
OPEN TO ALL AGES

If you would like to enter the competition please drop off your 2'x2' panel to Church Alley Cafe by Thursday, January 2, 2025, 12 NOON.

Entries must be unframed/unsupported and blocked to size. Designs maybe 100% crochet or embellished with cross stitch, embroidery, etc. All yarns and other recycled, crochet-friendly materials are acceptable. Please include a tag with your name, contact number and email address on your panel.

Winner and finalists' panels will occupy the centerpiece of the Crochet Ceiling. In addition to "bragging rights" and a feature location in the crochet ceiling centerpiece, the winner will also receive a loaded gift basket from LAENI, Simple Faith Coffee Company, Church Alley Café and Bistro and other local businesses.

BLESS A RESIDENT

4th Annual Christmas donation drive for our residents of New Iberia.

Hola, just reminding everyone about our Bless a Resident Donation Drive going on now through December 20th. You can donate canned food, apparel, and hygiene products. We have multiple drop off locations that are ready!

The items received will help stock the mini pantries throughout New Iberia and around Iberia Parish at the Iberia Parish Libraries.

These mini pantries are here for neighbors to help neighbors in times of need. On Sunday, December 22nd all items collected will be dispersed to the mini pantries.

Drop off Locations:

Iberia Parish Library - Main Branch

Bi-Lo Supermarket

The Main Cup in Loreauville

A graphic for the 'Church Alley Ceiling Crochet Artist Centerpiece Competition'. It features a colorful crochet ceiling, a circular inset showing a crochet panel, and a central circular logo for 'La Asociación Española de Nueva Iberia'.

CHURCH ALLEY CEILING

CROCHET ARTIST

Centerpiece Competition

simple faith
COFFEE COMPANY

COLLECTION DATES:
NOVEMBER 1, 2024 - JANUARY 2, 2025

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WEEKLY COMPETITIONS
JANUARY 3 - FEBRUARY 6, 2025

DROP OFF LOCATION: CHURCH ALLEY CAFE
116 CHURCH ALLEY | NEW IBERIA, LA 70563

Competition Outline:

This fundraiser competition is to help defray cost of the installation of the annual crochet ceiling down Church Alley, which is displayed from the months of March-May. All are welcome to compete to have your very own design featured as the centerpiece of the crochet ceiling.

EST. 2021
CHURCH ALLEY
Cafe & Bistro

Hosted By:
CHURCH ALLEY CAFE

LAFF Contests

ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP POSTER

LAFF CONTEST
APPLICATIONS



Calling all artists, scholars, and writers!

We are pleased to announce that applications are open for our art, scholastic achievement, and writing competition. We are seeking talented individuals to represent the New Iberia Spanish Festival at the 2025 Louisiana Association of Fairs and Festival Convention.

If chosen, state winners in the writing and art competition can win up to \$150 in prizes. If chosen, scholarship winners will win up to \$500.

Deadline for scholastic achievement and essay participants is January 3rd. Art competition participants can turn in their entries on January 5th.

Email spanishfestivalsponsorships@gmail.com for more information!



Our 2025 Festival poster has been unveiled!

Thank you to award winning artist, Tony Bernard for this beautiful design. This original work beautifully depicts the Queen City of the Teche and incorporates New Iberia staples like red peppers and sugarcane.

Tony did an amazing job at tying in our Spanish roots and depicting the story of how our ancestors traveled along the Bayou Teche.

Please scan the QR code below to purchase our 2025 poster and T-shirt celebrating "New Iberia, The Lost Treasure: Recovering Memories."

You can also shop in person at Bernard Studios at 2819 Johnston St, Lafayette. Can't get enough of our 2025 design, take the original home! Contact Bernard Studios at (337) 654-7596 for more information or to place an order for your New Iberia Spanish Festival merchandise.



BERNARD STUDIO & GALLERY

FEATURED FAMILY

Written By: Hawley Gary, Jr.

"Garrido" GARY

My mother had a plaque with the story about Juan Garrido that was given to her by her grandson years ago. It sparked everyone's curiosity, but we did not understand it for many years. A few months before my father passed away, he gave me a handwritten sheet, which I didn't understand at the time. This sheet had his genealogy that went all the way back to Spain. My father never mentioned our Spanish heritage, we all thought we were French.

Years later, I was invited to a meeting at Ebar Reaux's house, invited as "Gary" from Spain to discuss a Spanish Festival for New Iberia. It was after that, that we reached out to other family members that had done some of the genealogy work on the Gary family. It was then that we learned all about our ancestors.

We have the history that takes us all the way to Juan Garrido, one of the founding family members that came to America from Spain lead by Francisco Boulogny in 1779. A big thanks to the work of my Aunt Lolita Gary. She did most of the work and her son shared it all with me.

I enjoy that I was at the first meeting that started the Spanish Festival for New Iberia and have come together with many families that I had no idea that I had a family connection with. I guess what I enjoy is how we have all come together to learn of our past and our current families' ties. I also enjoy watching the festival grow each year. It is a wonderful festival.

We keep the tradition by participating at the genealogy exhibit each year at the Spanish Festival. We participated in the parade and attend the festival each year as well. We also keep tradition by cooking jambalaya which is very close to Paella that was tradition in Spain.

On our family farm, we grow and raise lots of the food we eat, much as our ancestors did back in the day. We grow our own beef, pork, poultry, eggs and vegetables and fruit. We love living off our land.

**"I GUESS WHAT I
ENJOY IS HOW WE
HAVE ALL COME
TOGETHER TO
LEARN OF
OUR PAST AND
OUR CURRENT
FAMILIES' TIES."**





MEET THE BOARD

Written By: Donna Gary

My name is Donna Gary. I am married to Todd Gary and we have 3 children, Andre, Shelby and Landon. We live in Coteau on our family farm. I work at Sysco Food and have been in the foodservice distribution industry for 37 years. I grew up in New Iberia with my sister Carla and brother, Buddy. As high school sweethearts, Todd and I graduated together at Nish in 1984.

Tell us a Little about Yourself:

I teach CCD and am a Eucharistic minister at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church. I enjoy learning about my faith and attend a weekly bible study. I enjoy going to the gym and staying fit. I volunteer for the Spanish Festival and have a great time with my friends on the board. I also volunteered with my classmates putting on our class reunions for the past 30 years.

How many Years Have you Been on the Board:

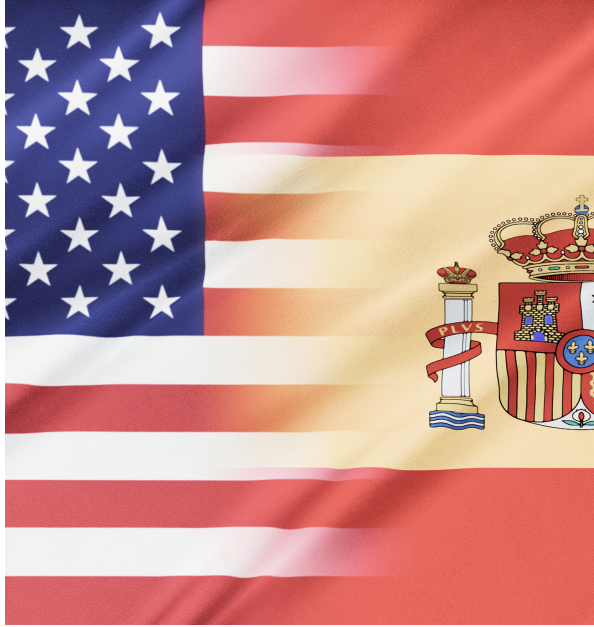
I have been on the Spanish Festival Board for three years. I am the chair for genealogy for the past two years. I work with the founding families and support them with exhibiting their ancestry. I volunteered at the festival the year prior to becoming a board member. I have great support from the other board members. We are such a great team.

What do You Enjoy Most About the Festival:

The festival weekend brings awareness to our Spanish heritage. Most people do not think of their family coming from Spain. We were taught about our French heritage, but not much about our Spanish background. When people hear about the popular family names such as: Romero, Lopez, Miguez, Viator, Pradas, Seguar, and Gary, they usually have a strange reaction when they realize that those names are Spain. I enjoy sharing this knowledge with others. I also enjoy the friendships with other members of the Spanish Festival board I have made throughout the years.

—
“WE WERE
TAUGHT ABOUT
OUR FRENCH
HERITAGE, BUT
NOT MUCH
ABOUT OUR
SPANISH
BACKGROUND.”
—

Donna
GARY



FUN FACT

4TH SPANISH GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA-
LUIS DE UNZAGA OF MÁLAGA, SPAIN WAS THE ONE
WHO COINED THE NAME
"UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

ROYALTY TRAVELS

Upon being crowned The New Iberia Spanish Festival's Miss Queen IX, Chacelyn Peltier has hit the ground running, traveling our great state and spreading the word about next year's "Treasure" of a festival! Chacelyn has enjoyed delicious gumbo at New Iberia's "Gumbo Cook-off," has an amazing time at the International Rice Festival in Crowley, rode in the local Halloween parade, traveled to Port Barre for the annual Cracklin Festival Pageant, and had a ball at the Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival Ball! Stay tuned everyone, we have a feeling this queen will continue to do great things this year!





2025 FESTIVAL VENDOR APPLICATIONS

Calling all Cooking Teams and Vendors!

Come and enjoy a taste of Spain down on the Bayou Teche. From the aroma of smells from the Paella/Tapas/ Jambalaya Cook-off to the many artists and crafters from around the state for our 3-day Arts & Crafts Show.

NEW THIS YEAR, we are expanding the cook-off and introducing a Children's Jambalaya Cook-off on Sunday of Festival weekend. Teams will consist of no more than 3 members between the ages of (9-16) WITH ONE ADULT Mentor.

Serving for the cook-off (Saturday & Sunday) will start at 11:30 AM with awards at 2:00 PM on Festival stage.

Shopping for last minute Easter gifts or Mother's Day presents our 3-day Arts & Crafts Show will feature local and out of town vendors. The Arts & Crafts show will open on Friday from 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Saturday from 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM, and Sunday from 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Please scan the QR Codes to download the applications if interested in becoming one of our 2025 Festival Vendors!

ARTS & CRAFTS



COOK-OFF



LAENI

Closing Remarks

GRADUATE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LAENI would like to acknowledge and congratulate two of our Spanish Family and Board Members on their upcoming Fall 2024 college graduations, Ms. Sydni LeBlanc from SLCC and Mrs. Lolo Greig from UL Lafayette.

Sydni has accepted a nursing position in the Medical-Surgical Department at New Iberia Medical Center post-graduation. Lauren works at in Human Resources and Administration at Stoploss in Broussard.



Feliz Navidad

FROM THE
NEW IBERIA
SPANISH FESTIVAL
ROYALTY

TRIP TO SPAIN

Malagueños Heritage Tour

JUNE 28 - JULY 9, 2025

Embark on a thrilling journey back to your roots with our exclusive trip to Málaga, Spain, tailored specifically for the Malagueños of Louisiana! Dive into the rich culture of your ancestral homeland, explore the stunning landscapes, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect with your heritage in a truly immersive way.

