



www.MYPFSA.org

March 2021

Newsletter



**Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America.
Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.**

- Oscar Handlin

Executive Secretary Corner



- **Product books:** Product booklets have been mailed out to Fraternal Activities Committee members and Board of Directors. If you would like to learn more about our products please contact the home office.
- **Expansion:** The PFSA sales team continues to expand. Earn a referral bonus by referring anybody who would be an asset to the sales team!
- **Soon to come:** PFSA is creating a new ALL IN ONE directory. Look for that in the mail!
- **Prior year annuity contributions:** Due by April 15th
- **Immigrant Week :** Come join us at our virtual event on Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10 am!

ATTENTION COUNCIL SECRETARIES:

- ◆ **Membership Reports:** Revised membership reports have gone out to council secretaries.
- ◆ **Fraternal Council Annual Reports:** The Board of Directors approved the new deadline for the fraternal council annual reports to be March 31st. The Rules of Procedures have been revised to reflect March 31st as the deadline for Annual Reports moving forward.
- ◆ **Home Office Connection:** We would love to connect with you, Council Secretaries! We will be conducting a zoom meeting and conference call in the next couple of weeks. Please be on the lookout via email & mail for the invite.
- ◆ **Feedback:** PFSA Home Office wants to hear from you! We are always working towards improving our service. If you have any suggestions that can help the Home Office improve please email any suggestions to mypfsa@mypfsa.org. **Positive feedback is also very well welcomed!**

New Members 2021

Council Number	Council City	New Members
7	Gustine/ Newman	2
98	Ferndale	3
38	Modesto	6
1	San Diego	1
21	Los Banos	1
26	Stevinson/ Turlock/ Hilmar	2
18	Stockton	2

A Friendly Reminder

⇒ MARCH 2021

Monthly Challenge - March 7th - 15th is Portuguese Immigrant Week - Let's Celebrate our Heritage! Cook Portuguese Food from Family origins and share on Facebook or Celebrate your family Origins, culture, sport, and traditions!

*Did you
miss the
deadline?*

⇒ MARCH 6th, 2021

Virtual Portuguese Immigrant Week Wreath Ceremony - See page 6

⇒ March 31, 2021

2020 Fraternal Council Annual Report Deadline

⇒ APRIL 2021

April is National Volunteer Month

Pick a local charity and do a Members in Action Project or Have a Virtual Easter Party and share photos on Facebook.

⇒ APRIL 24, 2021

The PFSA Board of Directors decided to CANCEL the PFSA Annual Family Picnic due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

⇒ May 2021

◆ Celebrate Mother's day

- Share a picture of your mother and share on Facebook

◆ Make a difference month.

Supreme President, Dr. Monique Vallance



1. **When did your Portuguese ancestors come to the United States?** My mom's side of the family came in 1969, and my dad's came in 1959.
2. **Where are they from?** My mom is from São Jorge in the Azores, and my dad is from Aveiro, Portugal.
3. **Do you know why they came to the United States?** My mom's family came because of the war in Angola. Back then, all the young men were drafted to fight in Angola when they turned 18. Since they wanted to make sure that people didn't try to get out of this, there was a law that boys over the age of 14 couldn't leave the country. My Uncle Joe turned 12 in 1969, and my grandparents decided that it was a good time to go to the United States so that both my uncles could avoid the draft. My grandmother had siblings here in the US, and they applied for a green card for her, and it was granted. They arrived in September, 1969. My dad's family came to be with family. His grandfather came in 1920, and he was able to get his citizenship. However, my grandmother couldn't come with him because she was already married and over 18. For years, they waited for a chance to immigrate here. In 1957, a volcano erupted on the island of Faial, and then Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy was able to convince the government to raise the immigration quotas for Portuguese people to allow for refugees from the Azores. (Back then, each country had a limit of how many people could immigrate here). Because of that, my grandparents were finally able to immigrate here with my dad. When my dad landed in NY, they stopped to eat at one of the small cafes in the airport while they waited for their connection to San Francisco. He was given a plastic fork to eat a piece of cake, and while he was eating, the fork broke. He had never seen a plastic fork before, so he freaked out because he thought the owners were going to be mad that he broke their fork!
4. **What is your favorite Portuguese dish?** Where to start?? As for sweets, I love filhoses and papas de arroz. For savory, bacalhau de natas (salted cod fish with cream, French fried and cheese) is my absolute favorite.
5. **What is your favorite thing about being Portuguese?** There are so many things! Obviously, I love the history. But I think my favorite thing about being Portuguese is the feeling of family and the bonds we all share with our culture and language. I love that if I meet a stranger that is Portuguese, we automatically have so much in common. And a lot of times, we know the same people! When I was in college, I lived in North Carolina, and I never realized how much I would miss being

Supreme Youth President, Justin Valadao



1. **When did your Portuguese ancestors come to the United States?** My Portuguese Ancestors are incredibly recent, on my dad's side, his parents (aka, my grandparents) were the ones who came to the US. While my mother is a Portuguese immigrant herself.
2. **Where are they from?** My grandparents on my dad's side are from Flores, while my mom came from Pico
3. **Do you know why they came to the United States?** My mom had to move as an earthquake had destroyed her home. My grandparents on her side had family that was living in the states already, specifically here in San Diego, so they decided to move here. As for my Avó and Avô on my dad's side, it was mostly for the American Dream. The story on how is more interesting for them. My Avô had to immigrate to the US first, so he could become a citizen, so once he and Avó got married, she could move into the US and become a citizen much easier.
4. **What is your favorite Portuguese dish?** It's hard to say since there are so many, but it's a tie between Bifanas and Carne Espeto, I'm just a sucker for meat dishes in general.
5. **What is your favorite thing about being Portuguese?** For me, it's the community. It genuinely feels like we all know each other in some way through other family members or family friends. At almost every event it seems like someone comes up to me to tell me how they know my parents, how much I've grown, etc. Most kids might find that awkward, but I revel in it, it's nice to be able to connect to people so easily

Supreme 20-30's President, Jason Deniz



1. **When did your Portuguese ancestors come to the United States?** My Grandfather and his family came to America in 1970. It was him my grandmother and their 5 kids. When they came to America for the first time. They actually had to make a crash landing because the landing gear wouldn't come down. So they had to crash land the plane on the runway, but luckily everything went well. What an introduction to America.
2. **Where are they from?** My grandparents came from Terceira Island in the Açores Portugal. More specifically they came from the town of Porto Judeu de Cima.
3. **Do you know why they came to the United States?** My grandparents came to see if they could find a better life. There was war during that time and 2 of my uncles were a part of the military and it was a crazy time. It wasn't easy at first being an immigrant here in America, but with hard work and the help of friends and family that were here they persevered and did well for themselves and their family. And they stuck to their Portuguese roots and traditions which I am extremely thankful for.
4. **What is your favorite Portuguese dish?** There are so many Portuguese dishes that it's difficult to decide on just one. I love Portuguese seafood dishes like Bacalhau, polvo, and cavalas assadas. But I think my favorite would have to be alcatra. That with a side of potato, papo seco, saor jorge cheese and a glass of red wine is the best.
5. **What is your favorite thing about being Portuguese?** My favorite thing about being Portuguese is our amazing culture. From the language to the time honored traditions, I love it all. From the festas, carnaval, vindimas, bullfights, and just Portuguese get together with family and friends, it's always a fun time. For me everyone knows I have a deep passion for the Portuguese Bullfights we have here. That would be one of my most favorite parts. It's like it's own little world inside of our Portuguese community. And being able to participate as a bullfighter has really shown me a new respect for the culture. But as a Portuguese community we need to be strong during these tough times in the pandemic and support these festas, businesses and organizations in order to keep them alive for us and our future generations to come. We pray that this will all be over sooner than later and that we can get back to all the wonderful traditions that keep our culture alive. ¡Força!



Celebrate Portuguese Immigrant Week

Portuguese Immigrant Wreath Ceremony Online

On Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 10 am



March 6 — 13 is Portuguese Immigrant Week

Due to Covid-19 restrictions meeting in person this year, join us virtually on Saturday, March 6 at 10 am via the comfort of your home by going to one of these websites:

Website: www.RTPUSA.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0gRhDeYeGuM>

Women's History Month

What is Women's History Month?

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

When is Women's History Month?

March is Women's History Month!

President Jimmy Carter's Message designating March 2-8,1980 as National Women's History Week.

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. "

- Jimmy Carter

CELEBRATING



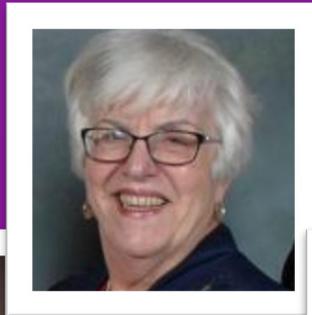
WOMEN!



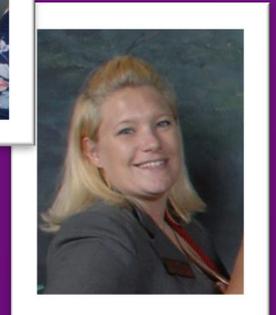
CELEBRATING



WOMEN!



In honor of women's history month PFSA would like to recognize all the amazing women who were and are part of the society. PFSA would love to feature every woman that has made a difference in the society but it is not possible with how many brilliant and amazing women there are. Please know we appreciate each and every one of you!



Empowered Women!



Bernice

“Not fragile like a flower
fragile like a bomb”

-Frida Kahlo



Angie

“Each time a woman stands
up for herself without
knowing it, possibly without
claiming it, she stands up for
all women.”

-Maya Angelou



Addie

“You’re a diamond
Dear,
They can’t break you.”

-Unknown



Alicia

A girl should be two things:
Who and What she wants.”

– Coco Chanel



Dominique

“Strong women don’t have
attitudes they have stand-
ards.”

-Marilyn Monroe



Sandra

“A strong woman looks a
challenge dead in the eye
and gives it a wink”

-Unknown



STAY TUNED!

POST-PANDEMIC
CELEBRATIONS
COMING

We will be getting together for a number of get togethers throughout California after the pandemic passes!

We plan to have events in the following regions:

Northern California, Bay Area, Central Valley, Central Coast, and Southern California

Stay tuned for dates and more details. It has been a long time and we miss our fraternal family. Timing will depend on when the various California counties allow for safe gathering. Stay tuned for more information in the future. Until that time, we hope you all stay safe and healthy!

April Challenge

Let's see your favorite Easter Photos



This Easter have a virtual Easter Party and share your favorite Easter photos on Facebook!



In Memoriam

The officers and members of PFSA would like to express sincere condolences to the bereaved families of PFSA Officers and Members

Fraternal Council	Name
38 Modesto	Natalie M. Miranda
44 San Jose	Robert M. Sol
31 El Nido	Anthony L. Machado
106 Riverdale	Alice Mendes
118 Elk Grove	Roy Nicholas
138 Stratford	Ruby E. Freitas
20 Merced	Liduino S. DaSilva
7 Gustine/ Newman	Leonard J. Trinidad
89 Hollister	Evangelina (Eva) Soares
38 Modesto	Natalia S. Cunha
53 Hughson	Larry Mendonca
38 Modesto	Mary L. Faria
20 Merced	Jack P. Deavours
30 Monterey	Oldemiro de Matos
113 Bayliss	Anthony B. Rocha
12 Oakland	Ardita Williams
60 Concord	Edwin Rose
66 Visalia	Rosa Cota
138 Stratford	Violante Medeiros
44 San Jose	Rita A. Sanchez
38 Modesto	Sebastiao Soares
138 Stratford	Marlene P. Silva
12 Oakland	Anthony A. Rocha



Protection • Fraternalism • Sociability • Assistance

Visit our Home Office, PFSA Museum
and J.A. Freitas Library

Portuguese Fraternal Society
of America

1100 14th Street, Suite E
Modesto, CA 95354

Phone: 209.702.6364
Toll Free 1.866.687.7372
Fax: 209.522.4032
E-mail: mypfsa@mypfsa.org
www.mypfsa.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.MYPFSA.ORG

"PFSA offers financial services to protect members and their families and provides cultural, social, educational and charitable activities."

@MYPFSA



WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU. CONTACT YOUR MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

Full Time Agents:

Joe Seamas | Lic. # 0C00867
joe.seamas@mypfsa.org
209-275-0200
Resides in Manteca

Susan Michele Gonzales | Lic. #0D55435
Susan.Gonzales@mypfsa.org
209-840-0749
Resides in Oakdale

Donald J Costa | Lic. # 0576728
Donald.Costa@mypfsa.org
559-972-4693
Resides in Tulare

Part-Time Agents:

Michael Fraga | Lic # 0H21634
mfraga1000@aol.com
707-499-9821
Resides in Arcata

Luisiana Drumonde | Lic. # 0G92473
oldjo4649@att.net
209-250-0109
Resides in Hilmar

Anthony Mendes | Lic. # 0D54132
agmendes@sbcglobal.net
559-859-2819
Resides in Kingsburg

Moises Lourenco | Lic. # 0C05496
moises.lourenco@mypfsa.org
626-315-5164
Resides in Cypress

Part-Time Agents:

Dominique Higgins | Lic. # 4034064
Dominique.Higgins@mypfsa.org
209-812-5240
Resides in Modesto

Stephanie Koch | Lic. # 4059388
stephaniekoch296@gmail.com
707-498-8805
Resides in Ferndale

Sandra Crivello | Lic. # 4087078
sandra.crivello@mypfsa.org
209-988-9156
Resides in Merced