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April 2010

NIOSA® 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS **A Night In Old San Antonio®**

(These events are not *all* open to the public, but all are open to the media)

EVERY THURSDAY UNTIL APRIL 15, 9 to 11 a.m.:

Gathering of approximately 20+ volunteers from the Cascarónes Committee to decorate and stuff cascarónes, and the Decorations Committee to create flowers and other decorations used at NIOSA on booths, etc. Committees meet at the River House - behind Steves Homestead, 509 King William.

NOW UNTIL SOLD OUT:

The 2010 NIOSA poster is on sale at the NIOSA office (at 227 S. Presa) weekdays from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.; on the NIOSA website at www.niosa.org; and at Sigoloff Frame and Art at 8222 Broadway. Posters will be sold on the NIOSA headquarters front porch during NIOSA. The 17½" x 20½" posters are matted and signed and cost \$35. Produced in limited quantities and always a hot seller, the NIOSA medals are available for \$10 at the NIOSA office, on the NIOSA website and at The Fiesta Store on Broadway.

NOW THROUGH FRIDAY, APRIL 23:

Advance discount tickets (\$10 adult and \$1.50 children 6-12 years) are available through April 23, at all H-E-B grocery stores in San Antonio, Boerne, Bulverde, Seguin and New Braunfels; the Fiesta Store at 2611 Broadway; select San Antonio area military bases; the company store at USAA and Southwest Research.

- Advance tickets are available through April 11 online at www.niosa.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 12 THROUGH TUES. APRIL 20, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (including weekends):

Staging for NIOSA on the grounds of La Villita (more detailed schedule available upon request)

Requisitioning, storing and delivering provisions for 80,000 NIOSA revelers is both a science and an art, led by NIOSA chairman Nancy Avellar, vice-chairmen (Evelyn Williams, Charlie Hansen and Roberto Hinkson), NIOSA treasurer Kathy DeWaal, and 15 area chairmen who coordinate all aspects of supplying food, beverage, and entertainment throughout the annual four-night run.

STAGERS OF NIOSA: A trio of men who work endless hours in the weeks leading up to NIOSA, and then spend at least 18 hours a day, from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. all four days of the event, to keep the "wheels greased," seeing that the huge affair goes off without a hitch: Art (better known as "Artie") Dietel, Gene Willette, and Brad Dietrich. Assisted invaluablely by fellow volunteers Ed Lee and Ray Moren, these are the behind the scenes coordinators, or "stagers."

Other committees led by volunteers include canvas banners, paper banners, cascarones, cold drinks, coupons, coupon verifications, cups, decoration committee, electrical appliances, consolidated food supply, gates, ice, locks and keys, maps, paper supply, protocol, safety and fire, signs, souvenirs, advance ticket sales, and volunteer coordinator.

MONDAY, APRIL 19 – 11 a.m.: Official hanging of Rain Rock on tree outside NIOSA headquarters by NIOSA Chairman Nancy Avellar and her three vice chairmen (Evelyn Williams, Charlie Hansen and Roberto Hinkson) and Treasurer Kathy DeWaal to ward off undesirable weather. The rain rock tradition dates back to the late 1970s when NIOSA volunteer Sue Armitage assured then NIOSA chairman Joanna Parrish, who was fretting about ominous clouds, that she had hung a rain rock on their fence at home. Sue learned the good luck tradition while visiting a West Texas ranch as a child; a seasoned cowboy shared the secret of hanging a rock with a hole in it on a fence to ward off bad weather. That year, Joanna took her advice, and NIOSA was blessed with beautiful weather.

WHERE: Porch of NIOSA headquarters at 227 S. Presa (and Nueva Street)

TUESDAY, APRIL 20 – OPENING OF NIOSA:

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Last minute preparations and staging on grounds of NIOSA

5:30 p.m. - OPENING CEREMONIES OF NIOSA (gate in front of Little Rhein Steak House):

Ribbon-cutting with city and county leaders, San Antonio Conservation Society President Rollette Schreckenghost-Smith and NIOSA chairman Nancy Avellar. The opening parade immediately follows, led by Dr. Christopher Wallace, the “Huichol Shaman” of NIOSA, with the Third Infantry Old Guard Units from Washington, D.C. Fife & Drum Corps, and other bands leading Conservation Society and NIOSA VIPs, many local, state and national civic leaders, and members of Fiesta royalty including Rey Feo and King Antonio as it winds throughout the grounds of NIOSA.

5:30 p.m. - Gates open (gates close nightly at 10 p.m.; food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.). Coupon and alcohol beverage sales stop at 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21 – FRIDAY, APRIL 23 – NIOSA continues:

5:30 p.m.: Gates open to public (gates and coupon/alcoholic beverage sales stop at 10 p.m.; food sales and entertainment continue until 10:30 p.m.).

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28 – 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

Take-down/tear down of NIOSA booths and props

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010: NIOSITA for the League of Historic American Theatres, a non-profit membership association dedicated to sustaining America’s historic theatres for the benefit of their communities and future generations, La Villita.

NOTE: More detailed entertainment and staging schedules are available from Jeanne Albrecht.

NIOSA media passes and interviews must be coordinated through Jeanne at 496-6686 or jca@satx.rr.com.