

Dear friends,

Our next breakfast is on Saturday, December 17th at La Casona (10 a.m.). During the past two years we have requested that you bring a gift for the children at Children's Village to our December breakfast. The kids at CV are mostly adolescent boys and girls just like we were when we arrived in this country (suggested gifts: stuffed animals, sports clothes, basket or soccer balls, electronics, caps, books, table games, make up and accessories for the girls, etc). If you want to share some Christmas joy with these kids bring an unwrapped gift to the Breakfast, it would be greatly appreciated by them.

The Memorial Mass for Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh will be held on Tuesday, December 20th at 7 p.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 2987 West Flaggler St., Miami, Fl. This year marks the tenth Anniversary of his passing and we want to remember Monsignor Walsh in a very special way. Please join us on December 20th to celebrate the Memorial Mass with a church crowded with Pedro Pan, like he certainly deserves.

We have been blessed with a successful weekend of activities last November and at this time we want to give thanks to all that participated and enjoyed the weekend with us. I will post some of the information in this Newsletter and you will be receiving videos and photos of the events separately in the next few days.

May your Christmas holidays be surrounded by love that Baby Jesus brings.....

Love,

Carmencita Romanach

OPERATION PEDRO PAN GROUP, INC. (OPPG)
A National Charitable Organization

www.pedropan.org

<http://www.facebook.com/OPPGI>

December 9, 2011

Pedro Pan News



*May the true meaning of Christmas shine bright in your
heart...*

*Board of Directors,
Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc.*

OPERATION PEDRO PAN: A 50 YEAR PERSPECTIVE



OPPG HISTORIC COMMITTEE CONFERENCE
OPERATION PEDRO PAN: A 50 YEAR PERSPECTIVE
November 18, 2011

Link: http://www.pedropan.org/events/111118-OPP_A50YearPerspective.html

Miami Beach Resort and Spa
4833 Collins Avenue
Miami Beach, Florida

OPERATION PEDRO PAN: OUR LEGACY

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc has a threefold mission statement. The second paragraph of our Mission Statement states:

"To document our history for future generations and to spread the knowledge of our exodus, as an important chapter of the history of Cuba and of the United States."

We were very pleased to have Representatives of different Colleges and Universities from the Miami area (Barry University, Florida International University, Miami Dade College, University of Miami,) and Miami Dade County Public Schools, present at our Conference last November, helping us fulfill that part of our mission statement and pass it on to the new generations.

A group of students from Barry University that attended the Conference published the following article in their blog:

<http://barryhistoryclub.blogspot.com/2011/12/operation-pedro-pan-50th-anniversary.html>

The History Club at Barry University

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

Operation Pedro Pan 50th Anniversary Conference



Children coming to Miami, FL from Cuba as part of Operation Pedro Pan

The state of Florida has a history that's very unique to the United States. Florida had one of the first towns ever established in North America (St. Augustine) and its socio-political landscape does not coincide with its geographic location. Miami, Florida is considered to be one of the most cosmopolitan and internationally influenced cities in the United States. One of the most interesting periods in Miami's history was the exodus of Cuban citizens leaving the island nation after the Cuban revolution of 1959 that placed Fidel Castro in power.

While many who study history know of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the revolution and the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, very few know about Operation Pedro Pan. According to the official history from [Operation Pedro Pan Inc.](#) "*Pedro Pan was a program created by the Catholic Welfare Bureau (Catholic Charities) of Miami in December 1960 at the request of parents in Cuba to provide an opportunity for them to send their children to Miami to avoid Marxist-Leninist indoctrination.*"

On November 18, 2011, a few students from Barry University were selected to attend and represent the university along with History Professor Dr. Jesus Mendez, PhD. The President of the History Club, Fernando Granthon and Vice President, Rebecca St. George, were invited to attend this important conference.

The first-hand accounts of the *Pedro Pans* (name given to the children who came to the United States under the program) and *Pedros Sin Pan* (name given to children who were

not able to leave Cuba) were told to the audience which consisted of many Cuban born people who shared similar experiences.

The History Club members in attendance do not have Cuban roots, so the first-hand accounts from the speakers was paramount in further understanding the experiences felt by the families during the exodus.



Dr. Carlos M. N. Eire, PhD presenting at the conference

Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University, Dr. Carlos M. N. Eire, PhD. is also a *Pedro Pan*. His book *Waiting for Snow in Havana* are his personal accounts of his life in Cuba and his experience in Operation Pedro Pan.

The presence of all of the attendees who each had a personal experience involving Operation Pedro Pan or life under the Castro regime as children had an overwhelming sensation of silent empathy. Those who didn't live throughout it can't fully understand the sacrifice of parents sending their children to live in a foreign land with only the hope that they will be safer away from their home. Those who do not share a cultural background of the Cuban community are reminded that regardless of ethnic roots, the spirit of humanity reaches across all creeds and nationalities.

The History Club is very privileged to have been able to be present to hear such historic accounts.



Barry University attendees

FIESTA CUBANA



**Our Fiesta Cubana was a complete success....
A very informal party with guayaberas
and conga lines.....
We will be sending pictures soon....**

MIAMI CONVERSACION



Miami Conversación on Hispanic Cultural Heritage, held at the anniversary celebration of Operation Pedro Pan on November 19, 2011, resulted in Dade Heritage Trust planning special events and the decision to update the State of Florida's Cuban Heritage Trail.

For more information on Miami Conversación go to the following link:

<http://www.dadeheritagetrust.org/content/miami-conversación-hispanic-cultural-heritage>

Gala Dinner

See below two samples of what our Gala Dinner was about.....

After a very nice dinner.....

Carlos Oliva and los Sobrinos de Juez, and our Pedro Pan DJ, Angel Canete kept us coming back to the dancing floor...

The Pedro Pan kids certainly know how to have a good time.....!!!



Please stay tuned for more pictures.....we are in the process of organizing them for all to enjoy!!!

Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh Humanities Pavilion Dedication



On November 20th, 2011 a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated by Archbishop
Thomas Wenski
at Immaculata/LaSalle High School.
The Mass was followed by the dedication of the original building as
Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh Humanities Pavilion

For more coverage on Operation Pedro Pan story go to:

<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/19/142534943/pedro-pan-childrens-life-altering-flight-from-cuba>

<http://univision23.univision.com/videos/video/2011-11-18/miembros-de-pedro-pan-se>

<http://npaper-wehaa.com/citypulse/2011/11/16/#?article=1441687>

Looking for Pedro Pan

ATTENTION:

1-If any of you have Kendall camp pictures (1961) we would appreciate if you send them to us. This was at the beginning of our Exodus and we don't have many pictures of Kendall camp although we are sure they must be some out there. Have a look in your old albums.....and share the pictures with us!!

If you have any other information or pictures you wish to share, please contact us at: members@pedropan.org

Saturday, December 17 at 10 AM - Breakfast/ Bring unwrapped Christmas gift

Place: La Casona Restaurant, Miami

Tuesday, December 20, at 7 PM- Memorial Mass for Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh

Place: St. Michael Catholic Church, 2987 West Flaggler St., Miami

Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 10 AM - Toy Distribution

Place: Centro Hispano Catolico Msgr. Bryan O. Walsh Day

Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 10 AM - Desayuno Martiano

Place: Felix Varela Hall, 3609 South Miami Ave., Miami, Fl

Operation Pedro Pan Group, Inc

A National Charitable Organization of the former Children of Pedro Pan

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