



GAZETTE

The PCSNJ, Inc.

Winter Edition

December 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This advent season brings us to prepare for the coming of our Savior – it's a time to pave the way of His coming through repentance, forgiveness and humility. As a community of believers, we pray that when Christmas day comes, the spirit of joy is within our hearts, mind and spirit. Let us join hands and celebrate this special holiday with family, friends and the community.

As we look back through the years we became members of this community, we were excited and happy to work with dedicated, talented and committed members. They were always there to give a helping hand! I surely recall that nothing will prevent us from participating in most PCSNJ Activities – rain or shine, snowing or dry – at meetings, educational events, choir caroling, memorial services, just to name a few.

Today, most members have the same or even more enthusiasm than before. There are of course challenges and changes in the present era, but through it all, we come together and proceed with what we plan to do. Our Philippine Community Center gives us a safe place to come together and hold meetings and activities, educational, charitable and scholarship programs. It is also a venue where we provide services to the greater Filipino community for their personal, businesses and community needs. Most of all, it is a place where we build our physical and mental health through weekly line dancing and "Heart to Heart" workshop. It is a place to participate in cultural activities such as halo-Halloween, Parol-making, Christmas nativity and senior citizens group. Our newly updated Filipiniana library contains books and artifacts about Philippine history and culture..

Moving forward, I feel confident that our goal and objectives for 2024-2026 could be fulfilled with the help of each other. Goal are : To empower, collaborate, initiate and serve all community endeavors.

Here below are the objectives:

- Empower officers and members in programs as scheduled in our Calendar of Activities
- Collaborate plans and efforts with other member organizations under the umbrella of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia
- Initiate training through educational programs to engage the young and elderly in reaching out the poor, sick and forgotten.
- Accomplish community projects within the time parameters and the guidelines of the PCSNJ Constitutional By-Laws. "Leadership is not about authority but serving others with humility." (Matthew 20:26)

Here are the objectives:

- Open businesses and personal opportunities to Filipinos and non-Filipino businesses by placing ads in the PCSNJ website, Facebook, and Gazette.
- Introduce new topics and workshops in educational seminars for the young and adults.
- Offer income producing events such as concerts of cultural dances and songs, "Bingo" games, tournaments, and walkathons.

With high hopes, dedication and input of seasoned officers and members and the support of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, I am confident that we will be able to achieve our goal and objectives.

May this Christmas Season bring us love, togetherness, goodwill, Joyful connections and blessings to the less fortunate.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!

All the best,
Erlinda B. Juliano, MSED
Professor Emeritus University of Pennsylvania
PCSNJ President 2024-2026

PCSNJ 27TH INDUCTION BALL AND 38th YEAR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, Inc., a 501(C)3 non-profit Corporation, celebrated the 38th Anniversary and 27th Induction Ball on August 17, 2024, Saturday, held at Auletto Caterers in Deptford, New Jersey.

The affair started with the Welcome Address delivered by the President Elect - Mr. Jerome Ancheta, followed by the recognition parade of the past PCSNJ and PCY Presidents. The Philippine Consul General - Senen Mangalile from New York was the Special Guest of the night and blessed by Fr. Efren Esmilla- Auxillary Bishop of Philadelphia.

Inaugural Addresses of both PCSNJ President 2024-2026 –Erlinda B. Juliano and PCY President 2024-2026- Isabel “Ivy” De la Torre. Brief Remarks was also delivered by Outgoing President - Augustina B. Aquino, addressing her fulfilled accomplishments and satisfactions being one of the Past PCSNJ Presidents.

The following officers for the period 2024-2026 were inducted that evening:

Erlinda B. Juliano-President, Augustina Aquino - Immediate Past President, Jerome L. Ancheta-President Elect, Aliena Magpantay-Treasurer, Annabelle Maccherone - Recording Secretary, Aida Mercado-Corresponding Secretary, Christopher Ian Lim-Auditor and Leonilo Mercado - Historian.

The following Council Members are: Ruben Alvarez- one year term, Purificacion Ancheta, Emma De Jesus, Consuelo Cagande- Maestrado and Arelyne Pacho-Ramos.

The PCY officers were also inducted for the period 2024-2026:

Isabel “Ivy” De la Torre-President; Nolie Juliano-Vice President; Zoe Fox Ramos-Secretary; Roman Fox Ramos- Treasurer; Leah Ramos- Public Relation Officer. Advisors: Reggie Ramos, Andres Aquino and Carmen De la Torre.

Longevity and Legacy plaques were also presented in recognition of Dr. Restituto Estacio and Mrs. Virginia Luz. The party ended at 11:00pm and closing remarks was made by Dr. Arelyne Pacho-Ramos. Everyone went home with satisfaction in their face celebrating our Cultural Heritage.



Philippine Consulate Outreach 2024 By Nilo Mercado

PCSNJ hosted another yearly Philippine Consulate General Outreach mission last October 27, 2024. The purposes of the mission were the following: Renewal of the Philippine Passport, Application for Dual Citizenship, Special Power of Attorney and other Legal Matters regarding Immigrations.

The outreach was headed and organized by Alexis Santos with the participation of the PCSNJ President- Linda Juliano, President Elect- Jerry Ancheta and volunteers (mostly PCSNJ members). The volunteers assembled in the center at 7:00 o'clock in the morning for orientation, instruction and prohibition. Everyone was instructed precisely to show respect, patience and compassion to all applicants, because sometimes there will be unexpected offensive treatment that the volunteers may encounter.

The actual mission started exactly at 9:00 a.m. Enormous amount of people showed up with variety of needs regarding immigration services. The Consul Team was headed by the Deputy Consul General Ricarte Abejuela who supervised the whole process aided by Alexis Santos, Linda Juliano and Jerry Ancheta.

Astounding amount also of walk-ins were received with complaints of inability to make an appointment on line due to difficult access on scheduled outreach website. They said, the latter wasn't senior friendly or easy. Most of the applicants at that time were seniors and most of them are not computer literate or technology updated. Suggestion: Would it be possible that the Consul Team be lenient to process walk-ins application since their website are not friendly accessible. This problem was already brought up to the attention of the organizer-Alexis Santos.

However, in totality, the outreach was successful. Desired outcome was obtained. Couple of applicants underwent oath-takings as dual citizen, Passports were renewed and other legal documents were processed.

Closure of the mission was exactly at 3:00p.m. The Consul and his team were acknowledged by the organizer, PCSNJ members and volunteers with full of gratitude and appreciation of their services. Lastly, all participants of the outreach mission have their picture taken before the team's departure.





Greetings to all the officers, members, friends, and family.

I am here at the close of a wonderful experience as President of the great Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey and I am filled to the brim with PRIDE. Two years ago, I spoke about building bridges. I spoke about a vision of uniting the past with the future, and finding the best in both. To be honest, I wasn't sure how we would accomplish this. I was stepping into the role with only a hope that this organization would be better off today than two years ago. During the course of my presidency there were mighty challenges, small victories, huge strides forward, and innumerable setbacks. Through it all, though, I have had an experience of a lifetime, and for that, I am grateful to each and every one of our members, officers, and supporters. THANK YOU.

I think I speak for all the past presidents when I say the first year of presidency is a whirlwind and it can be very difficult to find your bearings. I was fortunate to have remembered my mission of uniting the past and the future. What better way to do this than to revitalize the original mission of PCSNJ which was the Philippine Community Center and ensure the future of our organization would always have a home.

The renovated President's Office, which is dedicated to my late husband, Founding Member and Past President Andy Aquino, brings a defined space in which our organization can conduct business.

Our renovated Filipinana library, which houses our cultural history, is a place where the older generation can lose themselves in memories and the younger generation can find themselves immersed in history.

Our dedication to building maintenance and upgrades to the interior and exterior of the center will ensure that the decades long investment our organization has made will continue to be strong symbol of our accomplishments and will not wilt with time.

We have also stabilized rental procedures, ensuring our center attracts top-tier tenants who can thrive in our space. We've secured the rental of both spaces of our building. The former Milanese space, which had been abandoned for several years and had been in very bad condition, which I described as "not fit for human habitation," has been rented. The rental of this space in particular is a game changer for PCSNJ now fully renovated by the renter, with all the renovations to remain in our pro perty, making the most significant boost to our assets and potential yet!

I am truly overjoyed at the current state of our Philippine Community Center and I thank all of you who have collaborated on this monumental project.

Our Youth Group reignited its passion over these past two years. The PCY have not just organized events on their own behalf but have been valuable in contributing to our PCSNJ events as well. I am most proud of their own creation of a special rock garden in the space behind the center that they named "The Kindness Rock Garden." Each rock in the garden has been hand painted by members of PCY and PCSNJ, making each piece a unique addition to the garden. This was a project - organized on their own – which they called the president brainchild, vision, and initiative - in other words "Batang isip."

The PCY plans to continue to work toward the completion of a mural painting depicting our Filipino youth culture and tradition. Thank you, PCY, for being such valuable members of our community and for giving us peace of mind in the future of our Filipinos in America.

Our PCSNJ line dancers who have been dancing for a cause for years now have not just contributed to charitable education for youth back home in the Philippines, but have been a pillar of this Organization during my presidency. THANK YOU.

All of the various Chairs spearheading the PCSNJ into the community, thank you for your time and dedication and for keeping the spirit of charity, culture, and education at the HEART of everything we have accomplished over the past two years.

As I reflect on that vision I shared two years ago, I find that the most important bridge WE have built over the past two years is PRIDE. Pride has different meanings for each person. For the older generation, it can also be Pride in all we have built and everything we have accomplished. For the younger generation, it can be pride in who we are and who we have yet to be. I hope we continue to share this pride both young and old, Past, Present, and Future. I hope it unifies us from generation to generation. I hope our bridges remain firmly grounded in the past and continue to grow never ending into the future.

Thank you for two years as President of this great Organization and for always instilling PCSNJ PRIDE!

Yours truly,

Agustina Aquino

PCSNJ, Inc. Immediate Past President, 2024-2026



PCSNJ- UPMASA Lecture By : Arelyne Pacho-Ramos,MD



An educational seminar was held at Philippine Community Center in Stratford, N.J last November 17, 2024, Sunday. Sponsored by UPMASA (University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society Association) chaired by Dr. Arelyne Pacho-Ramos and co-sponsored by the Educational Committee of PCSNJ chaired by Emil Rotaache along with the support of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni.

The title of the topic was Heart to Heart, since the heart disease is the number one killer in the United States of America. Dr. Kenneth Dulnuan, an experienced Filipino Cardiologist in the United States was introduced by Dr. Liz De Leon. He shared his knowledge about preventing or slowing down of acquiring heart disease, stroke and diabetes mellitus. He accentuated more on healthy lifestyle like eating meats in moderation, fresh foods (not processed), less salt, less sugar, less fats, exercise and enough sleep for 7-9 hours. That's the kind of lifestyle he suggested everyone should follow if they want to live longer.

Chair yoga and low intensity exercises were introduced by Dana Loftus especially for seniors concluded the session.





MEMORIAL SERVICE . . . By” Arelyne Pacho-Ramos, MD

The PC Senior Citizen Committee hosted the Memorial Prayer Service at Philippine Community Center in 205 S.Whitehorse Pike, Stratford ,NJ last Saturday, November 2, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

The Prayer Service commenced by registering the participants and their deceased relatives and friends within the last 2 years.The center accommodated almost 100 participants including the volunteers. Sumptuous breakfast and lunch were served during the occasion.

The Emcee- Mayette Baglieri introduced Femy Whitzell to deliver the Welcome Address and the Opening Remarks for the occasion. Presentation of the deceased community members were projected by Alex Giron in the slide show. Also pictures of some deceased members were displayed in front of the audience.

The mass was officiated by Fr. Mike De Leon and the choir from the Filipino Apostolate of South Jersey led by Jojo Jordan assisted the service. The participants voluntarily gave their donations and offerings for the cause. Acquaintances and recognition of long missed friends happened while eating their meals. Everyone was comfortably situated while the memorial service and Eulogies were rendered by mostly PCSNJ members like: Dr. Alfie Masecampo, Aliena Magpantay, Gloria Pineda, Jing Sto. Domingo and Gilda Litot.

Following the eulogies, entertainments was rendered: 1.) There was a video showing the singing priest from Bukidnon, Philippines 2.) Piano playing by Jannelle Louise Montero 3.) Vocal Solo by Marilyn Easterday singing How Great Thou Art.

Closing remarks was delivered by the PCSNJ President- Erlinda Juliano and the PCSNJ President Elect- Jerry Ancheta. Both gave their sincere gratitude and greatly appreciated the committee for another successful service to the community.





CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA By: Reginald Ramos

The Annual Christmas Extravaganza sponsored by the Philippine Community Youth was held at the Philippine Community Center on Saturday, December 14, 2024 from 11am to 3pm. Over 100 people attended the event where they gathered with lots of food, fun and festivities. PCSNJ, Inc. President Linda Juliano and PCY VP Nolie Juliano gave welcome messages to the guests.

The Extravaganza started with the Nativity Play which starred an all star cast of young talent. The children acted out the story of the Birth of Jesus narrated by Leah Ramos (PCY SRO) and Zoe Fox-Ramos (PCY Secretary). After the play, the guests enjoyed lunch which include pancit, menudo and fried chicken. There were many donations of food from generous individuals including a tray from Manila Cafe.

The next part of the program showcased the many talents of the youth like Juliana Magpan-tay, Kaitlyn Lang, Dayle Nalud, Rachel Harad and Makaelah Harad. Then, Vangie Catajoy led the singing of "The Twelve Days of Christmas", where everyone participated in singing this PCSNJ favorite. The table that sang "Three French Hens" was the clear winner with their enthusiasm and vocals.

The holiday spirit continued with games for the children and adults. The Great Face Race and Cups were played and the winners received prizes. Finally, the time came for the arrival of the Special Guest, Santa Claus. He brought his sack of goodies and treats which he gave to all the girls and boys. They sat on Santa's lap whispering their wish list as many pictures were taken and a lot of memories were made.

The Committee of Rodelia Bennett, Reggie Ramos and Sylvia Tagle thank all the guests for coming out and celebrating this Christmas Extravaganza!





PAROL MAKING WORKSHOP by: Reginald Ramos

A Parol Making Workshop was held at the Philippine Community Center on Sunday, November 24, 2024 from 2 to 4pm. Nearly 50 people attended the event where participants were given hands-on instruction on how to create their own parol. The parol is a symbol of Christmas in the Philippines that represents the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the Three Wise Men to the Baby Jesus. The event was sponsored by the Philippine Community Youth. In preparation for the event, the officers of PCY held a meeting to fine tune their parol making skills. As soon as everyone got their parol kits and found a seat, PCY Advisor, Reggie Ramos welcomed the guests, introduced the PCY Officers and showed a short Disney video about parols. PCY President Isabel delaTorre started the workshop with the first set of instructions. The other officers along with Co-Advisor Carmen delaTorre circulated the room to give additional assistance. The guests enjoyed gluing and cutting their colorful creations while spending time with family and friends. Christmas music and a festive spirit filled the air as the guests put the finishing touches on their beautiful parols.



PCSNJ SPONSORED SIMBANG GABI BY: REGINALD RAMOS

PCSNJ, Inc. celebrated Misa de Gallo on Sunday, December 22 at Christ Our Life Church in Cherry Hill. Father Philip Ramos officiated as many of our members contributed with scripture readings, the gift of singing and giving the offertory. The congregation was served a variety of breakfast foods after mass. We appreciate all the donations of foods and the countless volunteers who made this annual Christmas event full of faith and fellowship.



Halo Halloween Report 2024 By: Reginald Ramos

On Sunday, October 21, 2024 Philippine Community Youth hosted Halo-Halloween at the Philippine Community Center. The Center was decorated by the youth with skeletons, pumpkins, ghosts and goblins. There were candies, baked goods and pizza provided for snacking. Halo halo was made available with a \$5 donation. There were 60 guests who attended and many of whom wore scary costumes and masks. The event had a variety of Halloween themed activities to keep the costumed crowd entertained. The Haunted Hallway brought guests through a dark hallway full of spooky spiders and jump scares. Furthermore, it led to the conference room where they listened to a ghost story. The children got to release a lot of their energy by playing Monster Musical Chairs and Pumpkin Patch Smash, where they stomped on balloons. Toilet Paper Mummy and the Dangling Donuts game provided many laughs and funny moments. Finally, the children participated in a costume parade where the PCY voted on the top costumes.



From the Line Dancing Committee by: Ruben Alvarez

The Line Dancing program of PCSNJ, Inc. has been going on for 19years. Why has this program lasted this long?

When one joins line dancing for the first time, one will notice right away is the friendliness of the dancers. Everyone is so welcoming. All are very supportive and willing to help those who are still learning. Some experienced dancers, like Julius Jamora, will even offer to take the novices aside to give them one on one special assistance. Some new dances however, would rather just sit first, watch and then join when they feel they have learned the steps.

Line dancing is offered every Wednesday from 6:00 PM. The first hour is usually for new dancers where the emphases are on instructions and practice. Annabelle Macherron volunteers her time teaching the new dancers by breaking down the steps into small components making dances easy to learn. Jerry Ancheta starts the program from 7:00 PM till 9:00 PM. Jerry is the program chair and also the very abled deejay playing selected music.

Filipinos like to eat and socialize. The line dancers are no exception. Each one brings a special dish to share with all. And for about thirty minutes, dancing stops so people can dine and talk with each other. Line dancing also holds a monthly birthday party for those born in that month. During these birthday celebrations, people bring more food and desserts. The community center is also brightly decorated to honor the celebrants. These dinners and birthday celebrations does a lot in solidifying the connections and friendships of all those who attend line dancing.

There is a nominal fee of \$7.00 on the regular weekly line dancing and \$10.00 on the special monthly birthday celebration. The fees are allocated to the building fund and the Lily Ancheta Memorial Scholarship fund. The scholarship fund provides funding to poor but deserving students in the Philippines.

The line dancers have also been serving as ambassadors of good will for PCSNJ, Inc. They are often invited to perform at community events of organizations and religious events in the greater Philadelphia areas.

The line dancing program has lasted this long because the dancers have become close friends. It has become a close knit caring family where people are longing to see each other weekly and share their love of dancing.





Message from the President Elect

As I embark on this new chapter as President Elect, I am filled with gratitude, humility and a sense of responsibility. I am committed to serving our organization with purpose, determination and conviction. I envision a future where we all work together to achieve excellence, break down barriers and empower each other. This journey is not all about me, but all about us working together towards a common goal. My vision is to create a community where everyone feels valued, heard and empowered to thrive.

I will maintain to lead with authenticity, transparency, foster a culture of collaboration and innovation. I am excited to work alongside all of you and to see that we can achieve a productive future and continue building our PCSNJ community among us all.

Thank you for your trust on me.

Sincerely yours,
Jerry Ancheta
PCSNJ, Inc. President Elect 2024-2026

From the membership Chair By Bingle Tagle, Membership Chair

PCSNJ has always been actively soliciting members. The membership committee with the guidance of the current officers has updated the various membership categories and fees:

- Individual Lifetime Membership - \$100.00
- Yearly Individual Membership - \$25.00
- Former PCY Lifetime Membership prior to age 21 - \$50.00
- Yearly PCY Membership - \$5.00
- Senior Life member (62 and above) - Free membership (no voting rights)



Total lifetime members is currently 338. Senior members 29 . Honorary Members 8.

Qualifications for paid membership (annual and lifetime) are as follows:

- 1. Must be at least 18 years of age**
- 2. Is recommended for membership by at least two paid members of the association**

Editorial Board

Editor in Chief : Nilo Mercado

Layout Editor - Senen Fontanilla

Overseer/Editor : Erlinda Juliano

Contributing Editors:

Jerry Ancheta, Tina Aquino, Arelyne Pacho-Ramos, Bingle Tagle, Reginald Ramos,
Annabelle Maccherone and Ruben Alvarez.



PCSNJ, INC. OFFICERS 2024-2026

President : Erlinda Juliano
Immediate Past President: Agustina Aquino
President Elect: Jerry Ancheta
Recording Secretary: Annabelle Macherrone
Corresponding Secretary: Aida Mercado
Treasurer: Aliena Magpantay
Auditor: Ian Lim
Historian: Nilo Mercado

Council Members

<u>Term End 2025</u>	<u>Term End 2026</u>	<u>Term End 2027</u>
Ruben Alvarez	Maria Camaiore	Purification Ancheta
Senen Fontanilla	Arlene Gonzales	Consuelo Cagande-Maestrado, MD
Reginald Ramos	Merle Nable	Emma De Jesus
Michelle Santiago	Emil Rotaeché	Arelyne Pacho-Ramos, MD

PAST PRESIDENTS

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. 1986-1987 Ray Pelaez | 11. 1996-1997 Jose Magana | 21. 2010-2012 Frances Estella |
| 2. 1987-1988 Gloria Salugao | 12. 1997-1998 Eddie Cruz | 22. 2012-2014 Senen A. Fontanilla |
| 3. 1988-1989 Willie Masecampo | 13. 1998-1999 Domingo Camba | 23. 2014-2016 Elizabeth Fong-Deleon |
| 4. 1989-1990 Edwina Jardinico | 14. 1999-2000 Ben Ramos | 24. 2016-2018 Jonathan Magpantay |
| 5. 1990-1991 Clem Rosero | 15. 2000-2001 Carmelita Aseron | 25. 2018-2020 Diana Bondad |
| 6. 1991-1992 Godofredo De Jesus | 16. 2001-2002 Nap Juliano | 26. 2020-2022 Cynthia Aragoncillo |
| 7. 1992-1993 Ruben Alvarez | 17. 2002-2004 Ramoncito Jose | 27. 2022-2024 Agustina Aquino |
| 8. 1993-1994 Andres Aquino | 18. 2004-2006 Ted Gustilo Jr. | 28. 2024-2026 Erlinda Juliano |
| 9. 1994-1995 Amado Domingo | 19. 2006-2008 Arelye Pacho-Ramos | |
| 10. 1995-1996 Alfe Masecampo | 20. 2008-2010 Aliena Magpantay | |

ERRATUM

We are pleased to present the official newsletter of PCSNJ, INC. GAZETTE, which showcased events and activities during the last quarter of Year 2024. The technical staff took time to prepare, design layouts and review this 12-page newsletter.

We sincerely offer our apologies for any error that may occur by mission or commission.

EDITORIAL BOARD