



# GAZETTE

## The PCSNJ, Inc.

Summer Edition

July 2014

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER : By: Senen A. Fontanilla

The responsibility of a PCSNJ, Inc. president actually lasts six years. He starts as a "President Elect" or a "president in training" for two years. He works closely with the Sitting President to learn the goals and ways of the organization. After the two years of "training" he becomes the Sitting President who will direct, manage and lead the organization for two years. Then he assumes the role of Immediate Past President for two more years during which he acts as an adviser to the Sitting President. Hence, the organization demands a six-year commitment from its Presidents.

The founders of the organization made sure that whoever serves as the president is one who is dedicated and fully understands the vision and mission of the PCSNJ, Inc. Thus, a member can only be nominated for president if he had held another office for a year prior to being nominated.



L-R, 2012-2014 President Senen A. Fontanilla, Pres. Elect Liz Fong-Deleon and Immediate Past President Frances M. Estella

The founders also made sure that the sanctity of the election of the president and the officers is upheld and preserved. Thus, members acquire the right to vote only after six months of active membership prior to any election. The "six-month residency" to be eligible to vote takes care of the problem of "flying voters" or the "hakut system" that has plagued so many organizations in the past.

Although fulfilling, it was not an easy walk in the park for me as the president of PCSNJ, Inc. There were some bumpy roads along the way. Difficulties at times seemed overwhelming and at times problems felt all encompassing. The support and the belief of the members of the organization gave me the courage and the strength to navigate through those bumpy

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Editorial Staff  
Editor-in-Chief: Ruben Alvarez  
Associate Editor: Frances Estella  
Layout Editor: Apollo Arenas

### PASSING THE TORCH OF LEADERSHIP .....By Ruben N. Alvarez

There is something great happening with PCSNJ that one cannot help but notice during its annual meeting and election of officers. It was our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, who said "the youth is the hope of the fatherland". When PCSNJ, Inc. was founded the original members were then in their early thirties or middle forties. It has been twenty-eight years and now that some of the original members though still actively involved have reached or are near their golden years. Some have even passed away. Some have changed their residence and their proximity no longer allows active involvement. But it is also true that some have lost interest. There were times when PCSNJ, Inc. was having serious concerns about who is capable and is willing to take the helms of leadership. In short the founders and original members of the organization are aging and a time will come they will have to slow down.

As an original member of PCSNJ, Inc. and one who took the leadership of the organization in its early years, I have always looked at the organization like an open circle where members can go in and out according to their particular life situations. Some must take a break to raise young children. Others take a break due to professional responsibilities. But when some members go out and stay out who will maintain the circle? In fact will there be even a circle?

In many organizations many of their leaders and consistently active members are first level immigrants. Many of these organizations at one time had numerous vital programs with impressive simultaneous ongoing projects. They were able to do this because they had a large dedicated and tireless youthful membership. (continued on page 2 )

**President's Corner** (Continued from page 1)

roads as we moved closer and closer to our goals. I just moved on believing those bumps on the roads happen for a reason. Sometimes things did not always work out the way we wanted. But I was never discouraged. I felt optimistic that with unwavering dedication and hard honest cooperative labor ,every road, even the bumpy ones, will eventually lead to new and even greater accomplishments. As the president, I decided never to look back just to rest on our past accomplishments. I believe the road of life was never meant to be traveled backwards.

I will reach the final destination of my being the Sitting PCSNJ President on August 31, 2014. Indeed, the road had some bumps, twists and turns and I would like to thank all the officers, council members and committee chairpersons and members for their support and help. Some of them even took the wheel during those times when I had to take a short nap to recuperate from the tolls of leadership made even more complicated by responsibilities to my family. September 1, 2014 is the beginning of the road for my new role as the BACK SEAT DRIVER (Immediate Past President). I will be a quiet back seat driver who will be always ready to help should the sitting President (the real driver) asks for directions.

**Passing the Torch of Leadership** ( from page 1)  
But now that their active members have significantly grown smaller they found it necessary to scale down their projects to levels that are more manageable by the state of their current membership. Some organizations could not even scale down - they simply faded away. Now no one hardly mentions Delaware Valley Association of Pilipinos, Maharlika Club, Filipino Cultural Alliance, Filipino Professional Association. These were at one time very active organizations that were not able to sustain their membership and eventually went out of existence.

Something great is happening in PCSNJ indeed! Some members of the youth group are now adults and have found it worthwhile to join the organization. There is Jennifer Rosero, who not only joined the organization as an adult, but also assumed leadership by taking the position of corresponding secretary. We have Ron Ramos, another person from the youth group who not only joined the organization but also brought his wife , Maria. She has been serving as treasurer and has just been re-elected for another term. Eddie Rosero and his wife joined the organization after he finished his medical education. Winchell Delfin has also been elected as a member of the council. Another from the youth group, Jonathan Magpantay, still leaves his image to some original members as that young energetic boy performing the Igorot dances during those cultural shows PCSNJ used to produce around Christmas time. Jonathan, now a lawyer, is the president-elect. These mem-

bers from the youth group add so much vitality and fresh ideas to the organization. To all former PCY members who are now regular life members, you all give hope to the future of the organization, specially former PCY Presidents—Jojo and Andoni Pelaez, Jeffrey Tagle, Melissa Deleon and Noreen Delfin. And if this trend continues, if more youth or if the so-called "second generation" Filipinos are willing join as adults, and if these youths continue their willingness to take over the leadership, we can be assured of the health, vitality, and longevity of PCSNJ, Inc.

The Annual Meeting and Election last June 7, 2014 went very well. There was a lot of laughter, camaraderie, goodwill and optimism. The set of officers starting September 1, 2014 are:

President : Elizabeth Fong-Deleon  
President Elect: Jonathan Magpantay  
Immediate Past President : Senen Fontanilla  
Corresponding Secretary: Sylvia Tagle  
Recording Secretary: Maria Camaiore  
Treasurer: Maria Ramos  
Auditor: Diana Bondad  
Historian: Josephus Jordan

Newly elected Council Members

**Council Member 2014-2016** Florinda Mangulabnan

**Council Members: 2014-2017**

Winchell Delfin      Consuelo Cagande-Maestrado  
Gavina Marshall      Emily Palis



## ELIZABETH FONG-DE LEON 23<sup>RD</sup> PRESIDENT of PCSNJ, Inc.

By Mike De Leon

Our President-elect for 2014-2016 is Elizabeth Fong-deLeon, MD, or simply Liz to most of us. A longtime member of PCNSJ, Inc. she has served as Council member over several years, has spearheaded various fund-raising campaigns and events and has been an integral part of many PCSNJ social, cultural, educational and charitable activities. Liz takes on this daunting role as President while keeping her current position as Section Chief of Neonatology and Medical Director of the CHOP Newborn Care Network at Virtua, overseeing the care of sick newborns in the Neonatal Intensive Care Units at the Voorhees and Mt. Holly campuses.

Liz assumes the role of presidency with trepidation but with resolve and commitment, drawing her confidence from the legacy of those presidents and leaders who have come before her. The past achievements flash like surreal dream: the struggle to build a Filipino Center to its fulfillment, the most noble of all; then there are the countless fundraisers, the fun-filled socials, the health and social programs of zumba and line dancing, the independence day celebrations, the educational symposia, scholarship awards, the outreach to the victims of natural disasters, the youth members dancing at Carnegie Hall. Standing on the shoulders of these past

leaders, she sees PCSNJ as an organization in transition, and her sights focus on the diverse priorities of her goals. On one hand, the times call for invigorating the youth and a stronger emphasis on engaging them. Within their ranks lie them who will succeed the old guard of PCSNJ. The energy and spirit of the PC Youth is vital, their presence is the promise that PCSNJ will endure. So the election of youthful and energetic Jonathan Magpantay as President elect is timely and auspicious.

On the other hand, Liz believes that there should be increased sensitivity to the needs of our senior citizens. They represent our history, and the fount of tradition and wisdom. How we care for them, their physical and emotional needs, and guard them from the danger of being marginalized defines PCSNJ as an organization.

Liz was born and raised in San Juan, Rizal, a bustling suburb of Manila. She was the only daughter among 4 children born to Albert and Rosario Fong, hard-working immigrants from Canton, China. She describes memories of a poor childhood, of frequent dinner meals consisting of scrambled eggs and ketchup during the early years of her parents' struggling business venture. This was a biscuit

factory, a mom and pop operation in which the children had assigned tasks. Liz spent her weekends typing payroll cards and doing collections in Divisoria. Even as the business started to flourish in later years, the children stayed engaged while pursuing their studies with an expectation to excel.

Liz attended St. Scholastica High School, and obtained her degree in B.S. Pre-Med cum laude and Doctorate in Medicine from the University of the Philippines. She did her residency in Pediatrics at the University of Illinois in Chicago, and completed her fellowship training in Neonatal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania-Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Neonatology Program in 1980. Liz started her career as a young attending at Cooper Hospital before moving to Virtua-West Jersey hospital in 1993 where she continues to care for premature and sick newborns. She has enjoyed the overwhelmingly gratifying experience of accompanying families on their babies' journey to recovery, and of being witness to the personal success stories of those very same babies.

That same devotion exemplified in her professional life defines her attitude to community service and church ministry. A dedicated choir mem-



ber of Christ Our Light Parish in Cherry Hill, she sings at the 9 AM mass, and once served as Music Coordinator. She has been Co-Chair of the Misa de Gallo ministry at the same parish since its inception 22 years ago. She was past President of the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Association in America (UPMASA) Delaware Valley Chapter and chaired the first Grand Reunion of the national organization in 1986.

Daunting as her personal accomplishments are, they are matched by an unerring devotion to family. She is married to Miguel de Leon, her medical school sweetheart whom she swept off his feet sometime between Biochemistry and Physiology in the freshman year. She is the mother of 4 children, all of whom have served as President of the PC Youth group (PCY). She considers them her crowning achievement: Eric is a business entrepreneur in Charlotte, NC, Michelle a surgical resident, Miggie a second year medical school student, and Melissa is a college sophomore majoring in Psychology at Northeastern University in Boston. She has loved and nurtured them, (continued on page 19)

## A Perfect Time to Tee Off By Ruben Alvarez

Under the able leadership of Ron Ramos, 35 golfers gathered at the Ramblewood Country Club. The weather was perfect to play golf. The temperature hovered around 70°F and there was a gentle breeze. The players were organized into nine teams composed of four golfers in each team. The "scramble" format was followed. In this format each member of a team tees off on each hole. The best shot is selected and all the members of the team play the second shots on that spot. The best of the second shots is again determined and again the rest play their third shots from that spot. The process is repeated for the rest of the remaining shots.

The golfers started

driving their golf cars to the greens at 1:00 p.m. Laughter, and oohs, ahhs and clapping can occasionally be heard from the fields. Some played like professional. Some were very competitive, while some played just for fun. There were players who were very concerned about their form while others were more concentrated on the distance they can drive their golf balls. At 4:30 p.m. players started submitting their score sheets to the pro shop. At 5:00 all gathered for dinner and the award ceremonies. Senen Fontanilla, the PCSNJ, Inc. president, thanked everybody for participating in the golf tournament and stated that the proceeds of the charity golf tournament will finance many of the organization's projects. He also thanked those who supported the

event by being "Golf Hole Sponsors".

Rudy Calalang, Rudy Garcia, Jon Garcia and EJ Legarda who made up Team 2A came in first place in the team competitions. Second place were Nilo Escritor, Jek Pangilinan, Eddie Cuartero and Laddie Aguila who made up Team 4B. Coming in third place was Team 2B made up of Anthony Romulo, Justil Cruz, Pol Leyesa and Rolando Estopia. In the individual awards, Ralph Ramos garnered "Closest to the Pin", Maya Blazina got Longest Drive (Female) while Drew Masciangelo got Longest Drive (Male). There was also 50/50 draw which Kevin Agness won.

Ron Ramos gave out the trophies to the winners and encouraged all to participate in future charity golf competitions. He also thanked his wife Maria, who



helped at the registration desk and his mother Arelynne Pacho-Ramos who made up the bags of snacks that the golfers took with them to the fields for refreshments. Ron reports that the golf tournament was not only an enjoyable event but it also raised some needed funds for the various projects of the organization. He reports that after all the collectibles are obtained, \$2,000 would have been raised.

## A Message from the New PC Youth President: Matthew Fontanilla 2014-2015



The Filipino youth are the future of the Filipino community. I have been involved in PC for as long I can remember, taking part in the Christmas play as an Innkeeper more or less than a decade ago.

Come September I will be a Senior at my school, Cherry Hill East. I am involved in Theatre, serving as a member of my school's chapter of the International Thespian Society, and a member of the Symphonic Band playing the Saxophone.

As Vice President of PCY I assisted in many events benefiting the Filipino community, such as helping out the Filipino Consulate at the Center, and also our local community by volunteering with other members of PCY at Comcast Cares Day in Philadelphia. As President, I aim to continue our Community Outreach through volunteering projects not only for the Filipino community but the local community as well. I pledge to increase PCY membership by aggressively recruiting local Filipino kids and teens into PCY in order to preserve Filipino culture in our community for the years to come.

### PC Youth Officers 2014-2015

**President—Matthew Fontanilla**

**Vice President : Jeff Annonuevo**

**Secretary: Arianna Fontanilla**

**Treasurer: Joelle Jordan**

**Public Relations: Jerome Malaran**

\* \* \* \*

### **Council Members**

**Vivienne Maestrado**

**Ashley Maestrado**

**Jasmine Nop**

**Joshua Ramos**

**Leon Nable III**

**Daniel Nable**

## SENIOR AWARDS

By Tippin Toledo-Alvarez

The Senior Citizen Committee under the chairmanship of Jingkie Aseron had its award ceremony at the PCSNJ Community Center on May 25, 2014. The program started with the singing of the Philippine and the USA national anthems. It was followed by a welcome speech from Liz de Leon, the president-elect. Then Nap Juliano followed with a very inspirational and spiritual prayer. Awarded for their outstanding community services were Victorina Peralta, Aida Camba, Domingo Camba, Francis Talambayan and Hermie Aczon.

Jingkie Aseron described Mrs. Peralta, the former chairman of the Senior Citizen Committee as a tireless dedicated worker who was forced to retire due to limited physical mobility brought about by her advanced age. She gave up her chairmanship at the age of 91. Jingkie however pointed out that when she calls Mrs. Peralta for some information she is amazed at Mrs. Peralta's ability to think sharply in spite of her age. Jingkie added that she is inspired by Mrs. Peralta's continued support and interest in the activities of the Senior Citizen Committee. Because Mrs. Peralta could not make it to the center, Tippin Alvarez, her daughter-in-law accepted

the award for her.

Jingkie praised Domingo Camba as one who is always at the center making sure the building is in good order. Domingo is said to be always fixing something or just simply making the building more beautiful. Jingkie mentioned the beautiful storage shed behind the center that was built under the leadership of Domingo.

Aida Camba, Domingo's wife was also recognized for her leadership through the years. She was once the president of the Filipino American Association of Southern New Jersey (FASSJ). She was described as a consistent worker in numerous capacities in all the programs of PCSNJ.

Domingo and Aida expressed joy over the presence of Lory and Joy, two of their children, and some of their grandchildren during the ceremony. The audience warmly applauded when the grandchildren presented Aida with a bouquet of flowers! Aida also thanked Nonoy and Elsie Almario who drove all the way from the Jersey shore to see Aida accept her award. Aida said that it was the Almarios who set her up the path of community service when she joined FASSJ.

Hermie Aczon, the current president of the Filipino Executive Council

of Greater Philadelphia was cited not only for her leadership but also for quietly helping the community during various affairs through generous donations of food which she herself prepares.

Dr. Francis Talambayan, a former president of the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, was also honored for his numerous community services. However, because he was not able to get away from his professional obligations, his wife Christie, accepted the award for him. Christie thanked the members of PCSNJ, Inc for all the help and support they have given to her husband that made his presidency of the council successful and very productive.

The Senior Citizen Committee also gave special honors to Jojo Jordan and April Talambayan. Jojo was cited for all the years he has been directing the PCSNJ choir. He has been involved with choir since it was founded in 1986. April Talambayan was honored for the unselfish ways she has been graciously sharing her dancing and musical skills during numerous community affairs. April has shared the elegance of her talents not only in New Jersey but also in the neighboring states. All the honorees received certificates from the organization handed by Senen Fontanilla, the current president of PCSNJ assisted by Jingkie and Arelynne Pacho-Ramos.

After all the awards were given, Gody de Jesus and Ruben Alvarez delivered inspirational messages in honor of senior citizens in general. Both recognized the contributions of senior citizens in their efforts to leave a better world behind. Then April, dressed in an elegant orange gown, performed two flute numbers to entertain the guests. She received a standing ovation.

Senen Fontanilla gave the closing remarks before everybody helped themselves to some refreshments. The day ended with a fellowship filled with laughter and goodwill.



## A SALUTE TO SENIOR CITIZENS By Ruben Alvarez

During the award ceremony sponsored by the Senior Citizen Committee, Ruben Alvarez, the seventh president of PCSNJ, was asked to deliver a speech to salute senior citizens. There were strong suggestions from those who were present to print the speech to honor senior citizens in a bigger public forum.

A Salute to Senior Citizens  
By  
Ruben Alvarez

I will begin my talk with a little story this afternoon. A young boy was talking with his grandfather one evening. The young boy asked, "How was life grandfather, when you were young?" The grandfather said, "Oh when I was young we did not have HD TV, no supersonic jet liners, no computers, no iPods, no cell phones, no I-phones." The boy responded. "Oh my! You must have had a difficult world then - without the things that we have now." The grandfather laughed, looked at the boy, and said: "You are definitely right. We did not have your computers, no lap tops, no I-pads, no I-phones or digital televisions. We know that those things can make life more convenient and enjoyable. That is why we studied and worked so hard and invented them so you can have them today.

I feel humbled to stand here and salute the senior citizens. It is rather awkward for me to do that because to salute you I am also saluting myself - for I too have reached that age to merit the title, "golden-ager". Most of us are probably retired but I am sure that we left indelible marks in the professions and jobs we did when we were young. Yes - we no longer can run as fast, swim as far, or do those fancy dance steps on the dance floor. Sometimes our knees ache, our backs hurt and our fin-

gers show the ravages of arthritis. But we are still the golden elements of society because we have acquired wisdom. I am not talking about intelligence or wisdom that is up here in our heads. But I am talking more about the wisdom that is found in our hearts. It is the wisdom that we acquired as we journeyed through life - for amidst the ups and downs of our lives, we have become keenly aware and deeply appreciative of what are really valuable in life. It is kind of interesting when I ask other golden-agers what are really important in their lives. They often answer with memories of families, friends, and human relationships. There is a transition that takes place when we grow older. It is that time that we uplift ourselves - our lives - to greater causes and eventually we cast our eyes towards the heavens. We desire to serve greater causes because although our bodies have aged, our spirits have remained young, strong and vibrant. Our young spirits are now seeking to share the wisdom of experience. First and foremost of all, we are compelled to share the wisdom that we can trust the lord, for we have experienced and learned that the Lord will always be there to help us overcome obstacles and trials of life. Our wisdom also compels us to show that our greatness is measured not by the size of our bank accounts or by the grandeur of our houses, but by how much we are able to give of ourselves to others, our kindness, our generosity, our compassion. Our strength can be measured by our ability to forgive those who have offended us. Our magnanimity can be gauged by how we react and forget what we perceived as transgressions against us.

A noted psychologist named Abraham Maslow, devoted a great deal of his life studying the process of growth. And he said some of us are able to achieve the pinnacle of growth when we develop genuine care and concern for others - thus we take up greater causes. We reach that level of growth



when we leave something greater than ourselves for the world that we will leave behind. We take on charitable causes, we volunteer our skills, help poor students go to school, and many more sublime activities. People who achieve this level of growth find life exciting and they feel their importance and usefulness to the very end of their lives.

But Dr. Maslow is also a realist. He cautioned that there are also those who are stuck into satisfying only their own desire for material enhancements and see only their own needs. They make their lives revolve only around themselves. Their actions are often guided by asking the question "What is in it for me?" This way of living often leads to suspicions, insecurity, and disconnection to society, isolation, loneliness, and finally - degradation.

But let us be mindful that in spite of our age we still have that sparkle for daily life. We are now retired and free to follow those endeavors that can really thrill our hearts. In my house, our garden has never been as beautiful, and the flowers inside the house as plentiful. We are not tied to jobs and we can venture to other countries - learn about other cultures and promote better understanding as we share our travel experiences with our grandchildren. Others learn how to bake, play an instrument or even paint beautiful pictures or take exciting photographs. For surely - these are really the golden years of our lives.

# REBUILD HILANTAGAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Eileen Morales-Pelaez, M.D.



Last year, the Raul Pelaez clan resolved to have a family reunion and spend the Christmas and New Year Holidays with Mamita Fely. Christmas was going to be in Cagayan de Oro City while New Year was going to be in Bantayan, an up and coming resort area much like Boracay was in its early years. But then, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda hit!

The initial response of the family elders was to move the New Year's venue to another resort. But the young people of the California contingent argued that the group should still go to Bantayan and see what can be done to help. The Cagayan de Oro contingent also argued that the best way to help is to go there and thus help the economy of the place.

Thankfully, Anika resort where we had the reservation was hardly damaged by the storm. The owner, Nelson Yuvalllos, wisely used containers for his units. This was quite a novel innovation but the units withstood the onslaught of the storm.

Led by the matriarch Mamita Fely Pelaez, our group of 36 people left Cebu City by bus on December 29. It was a fun 4-hour ride to the port of Hagnaya in the northern part of Cebu Island. Hagnaya is the port where we were supposed to take the ferry ride to Bantayan. However, by the time we got there in the early afternoon, the waves were too high and the sea too rough for the ferries to cross. We ended up staying overnight at the Hagnaya Beach Resort. This resort was also in the direct path of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda but was only partially destroyed and was actually used by volunteers soon after the typhoon hit.

The next morning, December 30, the seas had calmed and we were able to board the ferry for the one hour ride to Bantayan. Anika Resort as promised was left intact by

the typhoon. The only evidence of the recent storm in the compound were the almost headless coconut trees whose damaged leaves were turned westward. However, in the surrounding areas, the enormity of the damage wrought by the typhoon was very much in evidence. Houses were torn down. Other resorts were utterly destroyed. Tents donated by Shelter Box and the Islamic Relief Foundation were all over. The locals told us that soon after the typhoon, everything was brown and there were no leaves on the trees. By the time we got there which was about a month later, everything was green. The trees were full of leaves. Such is the power of nature. It can destroy but it can also rebuild in a hurry.

That afternoon of the same day, Nelson had us gather at the beach for a program presented by the children of Hilantagaan. Hilantagaan is an islet which is situated across the resort of Bantayan. Nelson had hired a teacher to teach these kids modern dances to take their minds away from the terror of the typhoon. He also provided them with uniforms for their presentation. He and his family had resolved to help these children.

So there they were happily performing their giling-giling and cha cha chas for us, the memory of the typhoon almost forgotten. Afterwards, Nelson and family distributed lunch boxes containing rice and chicken to the kids plus fifty pesos each. The resort guests also contributed money for the kids.

The next day, December 31, the young people in our group rode in 2 bankas to Hilantagaan to offer help where needed. They had checked with Nelson beforehand about doing volunteer work and Nelson had suggested Hilantagaan which was dear to his heart because he had seen that because of their location, they had received very little help. Armed with some building materials bought at the suggestion of Nelson, the

group set sail for Hilantagaan.

In Hilantagaan, the group saw the same devastation from the typhoon. They toured the area and visited the schools, both elementary and high school.. They met with the barangay captain and the principal of the elementary school, Mrs. Hijapon. They helped clean some school offices and repair some ceiling and roof. But obviously, more help is needed and one day is certainly nowhere near enough to make a difference. And so they left with a resolve to help rebuild the elementary school.

And that is how the family's involvement with the Hilantagaan school came to be. To be able to help where help is truly needed is quite a noble task. To help in Hilantagaan where not just the roof but the whole building structure needs rebuilding is a formidable task. After consultation with architects and engineers, the best estimate for the rebuilding of the elementary school alone is around 2.8 million pesos which roughly translates to \$75,000. The goal is not just to put up a structure but to put up a building that will withstand the next super typhoon and can in fact serve as a shelter during such a time.

After consultation with 501(c)3 groups, we found out that the best way to send monetary donations to the Philippines is to send it to a foundation so it would pass IRS scrutiny. We were lucky enough to know Dr. Christine Solon-Perfecto, President and CEO of Impact Foundation of the Philippines. Impact Philippines is affiliated with Impact Foundation Worldwide which originated from the United Kingdom. Impact has been busy making boats for victims of Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the northern part of Cebu (continued on page 8)

## FILIPINOS RESPOND TO YOLANDA VICTIMS

For many Filipinos the memory of the super- typhoon Yolanda will be an indelible mark in their minds. And for those whose families were directly affected the ravages of the storm can still bring nightmares. To appreciate the strength of Yolanda it packed a landfall speed of 195 miles per hour with wind gusts reaching 245 miles per hour. It is described as the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in recorded history. Hurricane Sandy that did so much damage to the Jersey shore pales in comparison to Yolanda's strength. Sandy only reached a landfall wind speech of 80 miles per hour. This is why the devastation the Yolanda brought to the Philippines caught the attention of the whole world.

When the news programs aired the pain and suffering of the victims, New Jersey residents responded

quickly. Most coursed their donations through PCSNJ, Inc., because of its tax exempt status and also because of its close connections with the Philippine Consulate and its previous experience in giving charitable donations to the Philippines.

PCSNJ, Inc. Zumba group, under the leadership of Diana Bondad, sponsored a "Zumbathon" at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Cherry Hill. The ticket sales reached \$4020, additional donations summed to \$2206, food sales totaled \$320, the Chinese auction earned \$240 and Diana Bondad's workplace matched a bake sale that added to \$3492. The total fund raised by the "Zumbathon" was \$10,278. PCSNJ, Inc. donated \$5000 of the funds to Sagip Kapamilya. The Church of the Good Shepherd got \$1300 of the funds to direct such amount to their

By Senen Fontanilla

own choice of charitable organization.

Many other groups contacted PCSNJ, Inc. for advice and guidance on how to raise funds themselves. A group from Inspira Health at Woodbury, collected boxes of clothes, canned goods, baby diapers etc. and brought them to the center for PCSNJ, Inc. to take care of their mailing. Sr. Michele De Gregorio of the Dr. Margaret Regional School from Woodbury Heights prepared several boxes of relief good and gave these donations to PCSNJ, Inc. as well. The Masons from Philadelphia also handed their collection of \$1950 for PCSNJ, Inc. to manage and to direct to the victims.

The Kristin Encarnacion group also raised over \$10000 through

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## REBUILD HILANTAGAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (continued from page 7)

Island. You can view their activities on Facebook under Impact Philippines. After due diligence, Impact through Dr. Solon-Perfecto agreed to partner with us in the Rebuild Hilantagaan Elementary School project. As of this writing, Impact is building a big boat to use as transport for materials directly from Hagnaya to Hilantagaan.

As for fundraising, our first big donors are the University of the Philippines Alumni Society in America (UPMASA) which gave \$5,000, and the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, Inc. (PCSNJ) which gave another \$5,000. Included in the PCSNJ donation are the \$1,000 donated by Dr. Joan O'Shea of

The Spine Institute and \$2,500 given by the Virtua Medical Staff through Dr. Miguel de Leon. The rest of the amount are from various donations coursed through PCSNJ and fundraisers like the Zumbathon. These monies have been sent to Impact to start the project.

We are doing more fundraisers obviously to get to our goal. We conducted the "Haute Ukay-Ukay" last April 5 led by Suzanne and Tim Mallette utilizing donations from Suzanne's and Tim's friends. Many were designer samples and high end underwear. The sale netted around \$1700. For those interested in buying new unused girls' dresses ages 1-6 years old to send to relatives in the Philippines, we still have many. We also have adult dresses, men's clothing

and shoes. Everything is sold at thrift shop prices. All unsold merchandise will be sent to Hilantagaan.

Nacho Mendezona, one of the cousins, has opened a Facebook page "Rebuild Hilantagaan Elementary School". It contains the video of how the family came to decide on this project. It also monitors the progress of the project. For those who wish to donate to this project, it shows how to do it here in the US through PCSNJ and through Impact in the Philippines. Please share this page with your Facebook friends.

For those who do not have Facebook, you can donate online through PCSNJ at <https://>

[www.facebook/](https://www.facebook.com/PCSNJINC)

[PCSNJINC](https://www.facebook.com/PCSNJINC). PCSNJ is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization and therefore your donation is tax deductible. For those living in the Philippines, you can donate to this project through Impact Foundation of the Philippines., BPI Account 3203-1297-76. Account name is Impact Foundation.

Please donate to this worthwhile project. Any amount, no matter how small, will be truly appreciated. You will be making an impact on the lives of the children of Hilantagaan for it is only through education that they can look forward to a better future. We thank you. The children of Hilantagaan thank you. (Pictures on Page 12)

## Celebrating the Battle of Manila Bay

By Sylvia Tagle

The Pvt. Tomas Claudio Post 1063 of the Veterans Of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary together with the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia , Inc. commemorated the 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Manila Bay aboard the USS Olympia at Penn's Landing last June 7, 2014. Adjutant to Post 1063, Senen Fontanilla, acted as the master of ceremonies. According to Purita Acosta, the president of the Ladies' Auxiliary, they have been celebrating the historic event for the past forty years. A handful of them started celebrating the event in 1974 in room 2002 in Philadelphia City Hall when William Green was the mayor of the city. The celebration was later moved aboard the USS Olympia in 1999.

According to Jesse Lebovics, the manager of the USS Olympia, he has been involved with the celebration for the past fourteen years. He hopes that he will continue to be involved for many more years to come. He explained that at one time the preservation of the battleship was questionable because funds were not available to undertake needed major renovations. But the City of Philadelphia along with the Historical Society of Philadelphia felt that the ship is too important to give up and serious efforts to raise the needed funds had started. The estimated cost to put the ship on dry dock and to do

the repairs is about forty million and five million had already been raised.

The celebration started with the International Bible Choir of Upper Darby singing of the national anthems of the USA and of the Philippines. The respective flags were raised simultaneously. VFW Post Commander Sostones Rivera and American Legion Post Commander Jimmy Peralta raised the flag of the Philippines. Thomas Nesbitt, past commander of District 1, Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars gave the invocation. Hermie Aczon, the president of FECCGP and Jesse Lebovics, Manager of the USS Olympia gave the welcome addresses. Proclamations of Philippine Independence Week were made by Nicholas Mattiacci from the office of the Office of the PA Governor and by Fernando Trevino from the Office of the Mayor of Philadelphia. Col. Orlando Suarez, Assistant Defense Attaché from the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC gave a short remark about the strong friendship between the USA and the Philippines and then introduced the guest speaker, Elmer Cato , Minister and Consul for Public Diplomacy of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC. Minister Cato reiterated the strong relationship between the USA and the Philippines saying that the relationship is mutually beneficial for the interests of both countries. He also expressed gratitude for the help the USA has been ex-

tending towards the rehabilitation of the areas that were severely damaged by the typhoon "Haiyan".

Councilwoman Maria Quinones-Sanchez representing the Philadelphia City Council came after prior commitments to make another proclamation. She stressed the important contributions of the Filipinos towards the welfare and economy of the city of Philadelphia. She cited many Filipino owned businesses in the city.

The commemoration proceeded with the laying of the wreath by the current Binibining Pilipinas, Lara Dedios Mabanta and Little Miss Maria Clara Melissa Laurencio. This was followed by playing of TAPS by Eric Guzy from the International Bible Choir. Then the crew of the USS Olympia fired the canon for the gun salute.

The final entertainment was provided by the Philippine Folk Arts Society Rondalla. The rondalla played "Ako ay Pilipino". When the audience clam



ored for an anchor the theme of the various branches of the arm service were played to the delight of all. Post 1063 Auxiliary President Purita Acosta gave the closing remarks. She thanked everybody who have been supporting the event and invited all to a small reception and fellowship held on a section of the park close to the battleship.

Senen Fontanilla also announced forthcoming Filipino events and invited all to the Independence Day Picnic to be held at Cooper River Park (by the Rizal monument) on June 14, 2012. Everyone then proceeded to the pier for the much needed refreshments . The Filipino Channel's Don Tagala was on hand to cover the event and the event was broadcast on TFC's Balitang America on June 12, 2014.



## THE FILIPINIANA AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE . . . By: Chichi Cagande

The Filipiniana Award given to graduating high school students came to signify exemplary academic achievement. When one is said to have been a Filipiniana Scholarship recipient, the general public reaction has been " the awardee must have been a very smart and excellent student to win such a prestigious award." Almost all Filipiniana Award recipients finished college with honors.

To qualify for the Filipiniana Award, one must be in the top 20% of their classes. Because the donors to the awards are all Filipinos, the Scholarship Committee has made it a requirement for the recipient to be of at least some Filipino descent.

We wish the Filipiniana Award recipients our congratulations and best wishes. You are the crème dela crème of Filipino students. You are the shining models for our youth to emulate. Good luck to all of you !

### The Filipiniana Scholarship recipients for the year 2013-2014 are:

Albert Enriquez - Cherry Hill HS West  
 Angela Jordan - Washington Township HS  
 Josiah Jordan - Pennsauken Township HS  
 Bryn Mella - Camden Catholic HS  
 Jaclyn Navarro - Eastern Regional HS  
 Kimberly Joy Arimado Pacis - Williamstown HS  
 Sidney Reyes - Highland Regional HS

### PCSNJ Achievement Award:

Denisha Lucio - Deptford Township HS

### Leadership & Community Service Award

Dean Justin Sosa - CHHS East

### Lily Ancheta Memorial Scholarship Awardee

Floriza Mangulabnan - Highland Regional HS

### PNASNJP, Inc. Scholars

Melissa Evelyn Laurencio—Vineland HS  
 Angela Corpuz - Highland Regional HS

## GOODBYE: By Dean Justin Sosa – PC Youth President 2013-2014



To my surprise, the term of presidency is already coming to a close. As PCY president, I was introduced to many events unlike other events. Most definitely the highlight was when the PCY and I were invited to perform at The Outstanding Filipino Americans award ceremonies in New York City. Further research into this event made ours jaws drop at its prestige. It was an honor not only to be given the opportunity to perform our hip hop tinikling routine but also to receive a nomination in the Youth category. Although we did not get the award, we still enjoyed performing.

Last December, the PCY and I also participated in the "Simbang Gabi" novena. I remember attending these

mass services as a small child not realizing I would eventually help by taking charge of the passing of the collection baskets and bringing the offerings to the altar. The number of attendees grew significantly from year to year. The devotees became multi-racial instead of being exclusively Filipinos. The increase shows how much the Filipino community has been inclusive in all its activities. All are welcome to join in the truest spirit of acceptance and hospitality.

After some of the PCY members and I aided in the cleanup of the backyard of the community center last summer, we participated in another exciting event called "kamayan". The "kamayan" is a social event where friends eat together without the use of silverware or plates. People eat with their bare hands food served on

banana leaves. The "kamayan" helped many recall this social event that often took place during the olden times. Participating in activities such as the "kamayan" allows people to become more connected with their heritage. As for myself, although I have been connected with the Filipino culture through performing folk dances, I consider the "kamayan" as another wonderful connection to my cultural background.

Rising from a council member all the way to the Presidency of the youth group has given me the opportunity to grow as an individual. Being part of the youth group was more than just having fun and meeting new friends. It gives young people the chance to find them-

selves and to experience aspects of themselves they have never seen before. As for myself, I had not been the most outgoing person. If it weren't for my mother asking me to join this organization, I would most likely to have remained shy as I was prior to my experience with PCY. Now I feel confident enough to be a leader and to make a difference. I'd like to give a personal thanks to those I have met in this journey. I also owe it to them in helping me find myself. Building close friendships creates an environment that makes one want to come back again and again. I will always want to come back again and again. Long live PCY! Mabuhay ang PCY!

## Philippine Independence Day Picnic : By Frances Estella

On June 14, 2014, Filipinos gathered at the Cooper River Park to celebrate the Philippine Independence Day. The day started with a parade, followed by flag raising ceremony and wreath laying at the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal and the Bataan Death March Memorial which was attended by several officials from Camden County and the townships of Cherry Hill and Voorhees, with special guest of honor from the Philippine Consulate in New York, Consul Zaldy Patron. Officers and members of various Filipino organizations, members and lady auxiliaries of the Veterans of Foreign Wars led by Commander Tony Rivera and representatives of American Legion Veterans were also present. The Flag Raising portion of the program was chaired and emceed by PCSNJ, Inc. President Senen Fontanilla. Some Filipinos went to the park at the break of dawn to set up tents, tables, and chairs for their respective organizations. As the morning progressed, food and drinks have been brought to the park for everyone's consumption. The stage and chairs have also been set up by Camden County workers for

the entertainment portion of the picnic program. DJ Manny Dizon provided the sound system. Local government officials greeted the enthusiastic crowd and invocation was led by Pastor Darius Nable. At noon, free lunch was served at every booth. PCSNJ's tent once again had the longest food line and its hard-working picnic committee led by Nestor Aquino and Diana Bondad served enough food to the hungry picnic crowd. Lunch was followed by entertainment provided by talented local performers representing various Filipino organizations who wowed the audience with their singing, dancing, rondalla, and rock band playing. The entertainment program was co-ordinated by Frances Estella as she has done in the past 4 years. Grace Rustia and Ferdie Luyun were the lively emcees who rallied the crowd to their feet when PCSNJ's line dancers and zumba participants showed off their dancing skills. One hour of the program was dedicated to TFC Hour hosted by Don Tagala and Monette Rivera. They brought talented singers and engaged the

audience in quiz shows and games. A segment of this live show will be broadcasted in Baltang America. They especially thanked PCSNJ, Inc. for making their presence possible at the picnic. Goodwill was seen all around the park from members of various organizations welcoming all to their food table, to free clinic and medical check given by UPMASA doctors, to clean-up of the park by all after the day's event. Kudos and thanks to FECGP President Hermie Aczon, and Camden County Liaison Officer Gwen De Vera.



## PCY JOINS OCEAN CITY'S TRIBUTE TO THE PHILIPPINES

By: Merle Nable

Filipino residents of Ocean City advocated for San Jose, Oriental Mindoro and Ocean City, New Jersey to be declared as sister cities. Under the leadership of Rene and Mary Ann Sese, this became a reality five year ago. Since then, Ocean City has held its annual "Tribute to the Philippines". The Philippine Consulate General New York, the Filipino Executive Council, the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey Inc., and the Philippine Nurses Association of Southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been supporting the celebration. Other organizations in the tri-state area have now also been participating.

The PCY dancers, also known as MODiFYD – Modern Filipino Youth Dancers, were invited to perform during the tribute. The group has innovated the dance "tinikling". They do the dance in the hip hop style using the music "What Do Pinoy Say" composed by Mikey Bustos. The MODiFYD has been performing under the leadership of the sisters Noreen and Winchell Delfin. Dancing with them are Jeff Tagle, Rommel Corpuz, Patrick Banzali, Joseph Valenzuela, Caled De Asis, and brothers John and Dean Sosa. The dance routine was so well received that the audience requested another number from them. The group then performed "Opo Pinoy Style" which is an amusing parody of Gangnam Style. The audience was asked



to try the tinikling under the supervision of the MODiFYD. Many happily tried to the further amusement of the remaining spectators.

The PCSNJ MODiFYD group was followed by many more performers coming from the tri-state region with Deputy Consul General Zaldy Patron acting as the Master of Ceremonies. There were also many vendors in the area selling souvenirs and various Philippine handicrafts and delicacies. Once again, this event was a great success.



## AN APPEAL FOR HELP FOR THE HILANTAGAAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

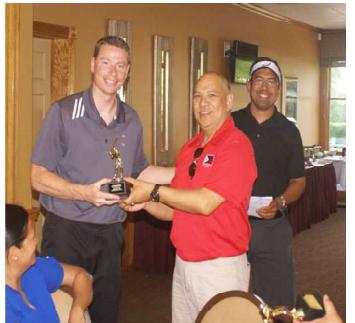
Please donate and help this school that has little or no resources to recover from Typhoon Haiyan.

For more info watch the video at <http://youtu.be/5iPZOJ0iSMM>



## Philippine Fiesta 2014





## Bayanihan Goes On .... By Senen Fontanilla

When one looks at the Community Center the way it looks today, it is very hard to imagine that it was once an abandoned dilapidated old Produce Junction store with torn musty carpets and big holes in the roof. The holes were so big that one standing in the main hall inside the building can see the sky. It is even hard to imagine that the building metamorphosed to what is today through the hands and sweat of the members themselves. Members took some time off from their professions to work on the building. Hence, in the true spirit of 'bayanihan', doctors, teachers, accountants, dancers, nurses, engineers found themselves working together. The Community Center is a labor of love.

Every set of officers since the building was acquired made some improvements to the center in addition to the usual repairs and maintenance. The lobby was created with a beautiful inside door. Wall mirrors now covers one wall. Wooden floors have been laid down. The main hall now has a sound system. Different art works decorate the walls and even enough chairs have been ac-

quired to seat a large audience during PCSNJ, Inc. functions.

The set of officers and members of 2012-2014 also made significant improvements to the Community Center. The parking lot was sealed and paved in September 2012. An anonymous donor gave enough funds that enabled Rene and Kevin Fontanilla to paint the interior of the building during their free times from November 2012 to January 2013. In the spring of 2013 the men's and ladies' restrooms were painted and "state of the art" hand blowers were installed in each. The center's front doors were replaced with two beautiful aluminum doors with panic locks. In the fall of 2013 Doming Camba, Ted Gustilo, Ben Ramos, Gody de Jesus, and brothers Rene and Senen Fontanilla put their muscles together and constructed a big storage shed in the back of the building. It is actually a sin to call the structure a "storage room" since it was done so well and the structure is beautiful enough to be used as another conference room.

The landscaping that started in the fall of 2013 was completed in the

spring of 2014. New brick flower boxes around the building have replaced the old decaying railroad planks. When the members planted flowering plants they gave the building the much needed curb appeal!

This summer, Doming Camba, Ted Gustilo, Gody de Jesus, Rene, Matthew and Senen Fontanilla put their muscles together once again. They power washed and then painted the entire exterior of the building. A new awning is still to be installed over the front door. Perhaps this project will be completed during the term of the next set of officers. But as of the present the center looks like it is prime real estate property! The Community Center is a living proof that together we can do great things. Special thanks to the Line Dancers, Zumba Group, Senior Committee and other committees who have continually and consistently raised funds for the building maintenance and improvement. They are symbols of what are really good in Filipinos.





## GREAT WORK - CONGRATULATIONS! By: Sylvia Tagle

Another year of hard work, fulfillment, and dreams come true. It is rewarding to see the results of those staying-up late night studies, trips to the library, cramming for big exams and so on and so forth. Learning doesn't stop at graduation. It is not the end of the road. This is just the beginning.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014:

Claudine Laygo -from Rosa Middle School to Cherry Hill High School East  
Christine Malonzo - from Carusi Middle School to CHHS West

From CHHS East

Rachel Adap - to The College of New Jersey-Nursing  
Alex Aquino - to Camden Community College - Physical Therapy  
Mark Bacolod - to Penn State University - Engineering  
Thea Camba - to Eastern University - Nursing  
Rommell Corpuz - to Rutgers NB - Computer Engineering  
Cyksha Dixon - to Rutgers Camden - Nursing  
Erika Diaz - to Burlington County College NJ Stars - Biochemical Engineering  
Justin Moulic - to Valencia Community College- University of Central Florida - Physical Therapy  
Destin Nufable - to Richard Stockton College of New Jersey- Pharmacy  
Ludwig Van Gabriel - Cum Laude - to Drexel University - Mechanical Engineering  
Rachel Rivera - to Rowan University - Biochemistry  
Dean Justin Sosa - Cum Laude - to University of Arts and Sciences Phila. - Physical Therapy  
Ryan Silva - to Rutgers – Nursing  
Paula Tan - to Montclair State University- Media Studies

From CHHS West:

Adriel Bustonera - to Camden County College - Physical Therapy  
Jason Caspe - to Norwich University - Criminal Justice  
Marcus Angelo Berberabe - Rutgers NB - Accounting

From Highland High School:

Alexa Balmores - to Camden County College – Sciences  
Angela Corpuz - to Monmouth University - Nursing  
Floriza Mangulabnan -to Widener University - Nursing  
Leon Nable III - to Camden County College - Occupational Therapy  
Jeremiah Nofrada - to New York University - Sciences  
Juan Carlos Nicdao - to Rowan University - Music  
Eliza Octavo - to Drexel University - Nursing  
Sidney Reyes - to Drexel University - Game Designs  
Eric Padernilla  
Patrick Bautista-Oba

From Winslow Township High School:

Aimee de los Santos - Camden County College - Nursing  
Patrick Sardona - Rutgers University - Nursing

From Deptford High School -

Denisha Lucio - Rowan University - BS Math

From Washington Township High School:

Angela Jordan - to The College of New Jersey- Business

### College Graduates:

**Sean Cosico - Rutgers - Biology**  
**Kevin Giron - Rutgers Camden - BS Arts and psychology.**  
**Christine de Guzman - Rutgers Camden - BS Arts in music**  
**Len Enslava - Rutgers- Business**  
**Jason Malaran - cum laude -Rutgers - BS Political Science**  
**Marc Mangulabnan - Neumann University - Doctor of Physical Therapy**  
**Kristine Velazco - Rutgers Camden – Business**  
**Michael Mangulabnan - Doctor of pharmacy- Magna cum Laude- Philadelphia College of Pharmacy**  
**Daryl Jericho Nable - Rutgers - Computer Engineering**

## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED By: Lloyd Vince Arceo.

I remember the day. It was a hot summer day. I received a text message from my adviser asking me to go to our school. She said she had good news for me. When I reached the school, my adviser smiled and gave me a letter with so much enthusiasm that I wondered what was going on. Then I opened and read the letter. "Wow!" That was the first word I said. I was the happiest person in the world. The letter was from Mr. Ruben Alvarez, offering me an opportunity to be a PCSNJ scholar.

Being a PCSNJ scholar has been a big blessing to me and my family. The money I have been receiving every semester has been a great help in meeting my financial obligations to the university. I know that college life is challenging. I must continue to burn the midnight candle to achieve academic excellence. I must have self-discipline, courage and perseverance. I must avoid distractions from my studies. The PCSNJ scholarship has allowed me to stay focused on my studies instead of constantly worrying whether I will have the money to meet my ongoing as well as my future college expenses. I come from a humble family and it is but normal for one of my background to worry about finances. For me, there is nothing sadder than being forced to stop studying because of lack of funds. This had been a tragic reality for some very capable students. The thought of having to quit studies can be both emotionally and mentally draining for me. However, with my PCSNJ scholarship, instead of worrying about finances I can concentrate and devote my energy to mastering subject matters, writing good term papers, completing worthy class projects and setting my

eyes on achieving a better life not only for me but also for my family after I graduate.

Although I have been communicating with Mr. Alvarez only through the Internet, I have come to know him to be a nice person who lives his religion. I feel very comfortable with him. He donates the money that PCSNJ uses for my scholarship. Aside from the financial support Mr. Alvarez also sends me clothes and gifts. He said he wants me to be able to blend in the college setting. I appreciate his gifts and I am truly thankful for them, but for me what is more important is, I feel that God has blessed me with another father who gives me good advice, supports and lifts me up when I am down, listens to my problems in school and always checks on me if I am doing fine.

The PCSNJ scholarship is a great help in forming good characters in students like me. The scholarship program is a testament to the caring character of the organization. You have touched my life and I am certain you have touched many others as well. You have been an inspiration to many and you are worthy of emulation. I hope one day, I too will be able to join your ranks in making a difference in the lives of others. I am in the receiving end as of the moment. But I also look forward to my time to be in the giving end just like Mr. Alvarez and the members of PCSNJ.



## A Little Help and A lot of Love Went A long Way

By: Antonio Punzalan, Filipiniana Award Scholar 1989

Two decades and five years ago, I was given the opportunity to study abroad. I was admitted to the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The school was then the world's leader in teaching students how to access information independently through the use of numerous technology adaptations that have been designed specifically for the visually impaired. This wonderful twist of fate came exactly at a point in my life wherein there was so much confu-

sion as to what path I could to take as a blind person. The available opportunities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines were so limited. I was not willing to accept being at the mercy of others in order for me to do any kind of work in a sighted world. I was determined not to allow my visual impairment to rob me of a productive, full and happy life.

On September 11, 1989, 9:30PM eastern standard time, I arrived in Philadelphia to study at the Overbrook School for

the Blind International Program. The school had an international program that located and identified capable blind students from different parts of the world to stay for a year at the United States to study computer technology for the blind. I was chosen from the Philippines to join the 29 others from different countries.

I was able to take advantage of this opportunity through the generosity of the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey (PCSNJ). Mr. Ruben Alvarez, a mem-

ber of the organization, served as my host. I stayed with his family during the weekends and holidays. Mr. Alvarez, whom I also call Tito Ruben, was not only my host for he also became a father, a very good friend and a mentor even long after I have left the USA. The Alvarez family along with their friends gave me wonderful memories. I was also warmly welcomed to the homes of Rudy and Rose Virata, Senen and Miriam Fontanilla, Fred and Cecille Shocket, Oca (continued on page 22 )

## RARING TO LEARN By: Ruben Alvarez

As schools re-open, we are once more bombarded with the sights of eager students crowding into schools. In remote areas it is not unusual to see students hiking for miles or paddling across rivers and lakes to get to school. Parents are willing to make heroic sacrifices to support their children's education from kindergarten up to the time they finish at least a bachelor's degree. It is not unheard of for parents to sell or hock properties to pay for college tuitions. Many young elementary and high school students even work after school hours to earn for their school supplies and daily expenses. Many college students are also working students. It is indeed admirable to see such great love for learning.

It is reality however that there are some students, in spite of the inner motivation to go to school just could not financially afford to go. It is so sad to see students graduating valedictorian in high school end up as "drop outs". Although as valedictorians most get full tuition scholarships at universities they still could not take advantage of their scholarships because there is no money to pay for board and lodging if they must leave their villages to go to the cities where the universities are located.

People might say that if there is a will there is a way. Sometimes that "way" is when people who are able to help respond positively to their call for assistance. There are many in the organizations who give financial assistance to some relatives especially to those relatives back in the Philippines who have very limited resources. Far Eastern University and University of the East are two universities with the largest student bodies. The average cost of a four year degree in these universities is about P40,000 per semester plus other miscellaneous fees like library fees, laboratory fees etc. . At the University of St. Thomas (UST) a medical student pays about

P105,000 per semester. If one goes to Ateneo de Manila the basic cost will be P103,000 per semester while La Salle University operating in trimesters carries a P2,400 fee per unit. When we factor in the costs of textbooks the finances involved for one who works and earns in the Philippines can really be staggering. But for Juan de la Cruz who works as a taxi driver and his wife working as a washer woman the dreams of their children to finish college often remains just a dream.

Below is the information taken from several university websites.

### LA SALLE UNIVERSITY (DLSU)

From La Salle's website:

For Freshmen, 1st trimester 2012-2013  
Tuition fee per unit per trimester:  
ranges from 2,143 to 2,605  
New student fees — 3,029  
Miscellaneous fees — 5,528  
Computer lab fee — 3,430 to 3,704  
Engineering lab fee — 3,019  
Science lab fee — 3,019  
Psychology lab fee — 3,019  
Computer tech lab fee — 2,121  
NSTP fee — ranges from 3,214 to 3,907  
Comm in Writing fee — 6,599

There are other fees depending on the course/year/sem

Note: Freshmen are required to pay in full (NOT installment) for every term for the first 3 tri-semesters or first year.

Average Tuition and Other Fees for Freshmen

For 1st Trimester of 2010-2011

Business courses — 63,000 pesos

Computer Studies — 61,500

Education — 61,000

Engineering — 70,000

Liberal Arts — 60,000

Science — 66,000

Economics — 59,200

Tuition fee per unit for 2010-2011:

ranges from 2,071 pesos to 2,517 pesos

### FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY (FEU)

From FEU's website:

For freshmen, 1st Semester 2012-2013

BS in Accountancy (5 years) — 40,430

BS in Accounting Technology —

40,430

BS in Architecture — 42,146

B of Fine Arts Major in Advertising Arts — 41,204

BS in Biology — 44,190

BS in Medical Technology — 48,372

BS in Nursing — 45,498

BS in Commerce Major in Marketing Management — 39,914

BS in Tourism Management — 37,656

BS in Financial Management — 39,914

BSBA Major in Management — 42,104

BSBA Major in Business Economics — 39,914

BS in Information Technology — 44,982

Bachelor of Laws — 37,326

AB in Political Science — 35,876

Notes: Downpayment is 8,500. Discount of 5% for full payment within 10 days from start of classes.

### MAPUA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT)

From the Mapua website:

Tuition and miscellaneous fees for freshmen, 1st quarter 2010-2011  
Architecture — 30,507 cash; 31,867 installment

Electrical Engineering — 34,385 cash; 3,915 installment

Civil Engineering — 31,523 cash; 32,968 installment

Mechanical Engineering — 32,179 cash; 33,624 installment

Nursing — 25,211 cash; 26,059 installment

Hotel and Restaurant Management — 22,881 cash; 23,805 installment  
Information Technology, Computer Science — 34,502 cash; 36,151 installment

Multimedia Arts — 32,097 cash; 33,457 installment

### PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA (PLM)

Intramuros, Manila

From the PLM website:

PLM accepts applications only from Manila residents and from non-Manila residents who are

(continued on page 18)

## RARING TO LEARN By: Ruben Alvarez (continued from page 17)

valedictorians or salutatorians. For freshmen, Manila residents: Free tuition and miscellaneous fees

For freshmen, non-Manila residents:

Tuition fee per unit:

- 132 pesos for category 1 and 220 pesos for category 2

Miscellaneous fees: 1,771

Plus lab fees and other fees

Higher fees for non-Manila residents

taking Physical Therapy

and for all students taking Medicine and Law

### PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (PCU)

From the PCU website:

Down Payments for the 2010-2011 school year:

- 10,000 for Nursing, Hotel and Restaurant Management, Nutrition and Dietetics and related courses

- 8,500 (old students) and 6,500 (new students) for Business and related courses

- 7,000 for law and masteral and doctoral programs

### PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY (PNU)

Taft Avenue and Ayala Boulevard, Manila

From the PNU website:

1st semester, 2010-2011

1st year

Tuition fee per unit — 120 pesos

Miscellaneous fees: 1,145

2nd year, 3rd year, 4th year

Tuition fee per unit — 35 pesos

### ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY (SPU) MANILA

From the SPU website:

Tuition fee per unit per semester for freshmen, 2012-2013 — 1,149.26

2nd year — 1,097.20 per unit

3rd year — 1,044.78 per unit

4th year — 1004.60 per unit

Pay also miscellaneous fees

The increase in tuition fees was presented in a consultation meeting in February 2012. The increase was 5% over 2011-2012 fees. No increase in miscellaneous fees.

55k per sem for freshmen

### ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE

From the SSC website:

For freshmen, school year 2012 —

2013

Tuition fee per unit — 1,708 pesos

Special fees — 5,927

Miscellaneous fees — 1,810

Science lab fees — 350 to 2,700

Computer lab fees — 3,450

Fine arts lab fees — 2,050

HRM/Nutrition lab fees — 4,600

Psychology lab fees — 600

Mass Comm electronic newsroom

— 3,450

Music lab fees — 6,230

- 2% discount for cash payments

For 20 units:

Tuition — 34,160

Miscellaneous and special fees —

7,737

Cash — 41,214

Installment Plan B:

- 21,449 upon enrollment

- 10,474 July (Dec for 2nd sem)

- 10,474 Sept (Feb for 2nd sem)

For 25 units:

Tuition — 42,700

Miscellaneous and tuition fees —

7,737

Cash — 49,583

Installment Plan B:

- 25,719 upon enrollment

- 12,609 July (Dec for 2nd sem)

- 12,609 Sept (Feb for 2nd sem)

There are installments Plan C and

D

Lab fees not yet included in computation

Engineering and Industrial

Technology courses — 9,045 to

9,495

Food Technology — 7,845

Computer Education — 8,895

Art Education — 8,895

Home Economics — 8,895

### UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS (UST)

From the UST website:

Total fees for Freshmen, 2nd sem

2011-2012

Arts and Letters — 38,661 with PE;

40,472 with ROTC

- (Literature, Political Science, Journalism, Economics,

Philosophy, Communication Arts,

etc.)

Accountancy — 42,197 without

ROTC — 44,008 with PE and

ROTC

Architecture — 55,169 — 56,980

Advertising Arts — 44,956 — 46,767

Industrial Design — 41,335 —

43,146

Interior Design — 42,542 — 44,353

Painting — 45,502 — 47,313

Commerce courses — 38,373 —

40,184

Physical Therapy — 44,090 —

45,901

Travel Management — 48,583 —

50,394

Special Education — 41,573 —

43,384

Nutrition and Dietetics — 48,364 —

50,175

Engineering, CE,EE, ME, IE (15

units) — 32,310 — 34,121

Chemical Engineering (17 units) —

39,496

- Engineering courses increase to

42k to 50k in higher years

Computer Science — 42,736 —

44,547

Information Technology — 42,736 —

44,547

Nursing — 53,611 — 55,422

Pharmacy — 45,421 — 47,232

Medical Technology — 47,175 —

49,986

Biology — 42,936 — 44,747

Chemistry — 48,310 — 50,121

Psychology — 44,257 — 46,068

Medicine — 105,858

Civil Law — 36,348

Note: UST plans to increase tuition

fees by 6 percent for the 2012-2013

school year. That's an increase of

about 72 pesos per unit (from 1,207

per unit to 1,279 per unit). Source:

March 13, 2012 issue of the UST

student publication The Varsitarian.

### UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPINES (UP)

From the UP website:

UP uses a socialized tuition system, meaning students pay based on their family income. The system is called Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP). A student applying for the lower tuition brackets need to show notarized financial documents that include tax returns, real estate tax

(Continued on page 19)

## RARING TO LEARN By: Ruben Alvarez (continued from page 18)

declarations, statements of assets and liabilities, water bills, electric bills, or municipal certification of unemployment.

Tuition fee per unit (UP Diliman, UP Los Banos and UP Manila):

- 1,500 pesos per unit for Bracket A (annual family income of more than 1 million pesos)
- 1,000 pesos for Bracket B (income of 500,001 to 1 million)
- 600 pesos for Bracket C (income of 250,001 to 500,000)
- 300 pesos for Bracket D (income of 135,001 to 250,000)
- Free tuition for Brackets E1 and E2 (income of 135,000 or less)
- student allowance of 12,000 pesos per year, Bracket E2 (income of 80,000 or less)

Miscellaneous fees = 2,000 pesos  
UP evaluates students' financial capabilities every year and changes their STFAP brackets to match their current financial situations.

There are members in the Filipino community in general who are helping generously for various personal reasons. A member in the Cherry Hill Filipino community who was able to finish his entire education from elementary to his graduate degrees based entirely on scholarships and stipends feel that now it is his time to give back to society. He has quietly and successfully financed the

college education of four Filipinos. An elderly woman who finished her Master's Degree in Social Work, under the International Fulbright Scholarship program, has made significant financial assistance to many in the Philippines. She says it is her way of thanking the Lord who she feels was really responsible for her scholarships. Thinking like a social worker she explains that in the Philippines, the benefits of a college degree, is shared by the whole family in ending the family cycle of poverty and ignorance. There is one however who gives financial scholarships to students who are college material but not honor students. She feels that not only gifted students strive for a college degree. There are also average college material students who diligently work for a college degree but do not make it to the honor roll. She explains that many are willing to help the gifted students but the average students are often ignored. Hence she directs her financial assistance only to those average students. She reasons that God does not love only gifted students. God also loves all - even the average ones.

There are ways to identify these needy students. Some identify these students from their household employees, through their fraternities

and sororities that they joined when they were in college, through the maintenance workers in the places of employments of relatives in the Philippines or through their local churches. Sponsors often set the terms of their financial assistance. Some require maintaining a certain point grade average. Some require the students to send original copies of their registration roster and a transcript of records every semester coming directly from the registrar's office.

Most who sponsor feel a certain amount of joy and satisfaction knowing they really made a difference in the lives of the students they had helped. They do not have a need to get anything material from them. Just having that feeling that they had helped is simply enough for them.



The Author is a graduate of FEU.

### Elizabeth Fong-de Leon ( from page 3)

and is able to draw them home with her exceptional cooking. Recently, she became grandmother to 4 month old Meiomi, the newest darling of the family and new found joy.

Our past often haunts and lifts us both at the same time. Liz' early austere life and the lessons from her parents' eventual success have kept her rooted in the tenets of perseverance, thrift, commitment and a strong work ethic. She knows that her dreams for PCSNJ will require all that and more, and invites everyone to ignite their hearts, their Pusong Maharlika as PCSNJ continues in its mission to serve.

Liz salutes her officers old and new, and thanks the members and the community for their generous and unwavering support.

Mabuhay!

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## HAPPY MOMENTS By Ruben Alvarez



Linda Juliano celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with her family and friends at the Mansion in Voorhees with her family and friends. The guests were treated to a buffet lunch and an assortment of delicious Filipino desserts. Linda is proud and happy to be 70 years old. And she has reasons to be. She is healthy and has not lost her passion for her professional responsibilities. She continues to teach Filipino at the Language Center of the University of Pennsylvania. She has been married to Nap Juliano for 48 years and both are looking forward to celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in December of 2016. During the party Nap and his two sons EJ and Francis pro-

jected family pictures on a screen. Pictures of their happy lives were shared with the guests. People saw Nap as a dashing handsome bachelor and saw Linda when she became an elegant bride. Nap and Linda are blessed with six children and eight grandchildren. Her grandchildren excitedly performed for their grandparents. Her granddaughter Anya Alinea sang the song from Le Miserable "Only on My Mind" and her granddaughter Alee Alinea performed her martial arts skills. Two lovely preschool granddaughters, Rory and Libby also danced with so much bravado and enthusiasm that all could not help but smile with amusement seeing young talents. Jerry Ancheta provided the music and taught some line dances. Nap is a former president of

PCSNJ and Linda has been the chairperson of the Education Committee but will soon be the editor-in-chief of the Gazette. Linda has been a consistent active member of the choir who has been lending her soprano voice during the yearly Christmas caroling project as well as during the Simbang Gabi services at Christ Our Light Church in Cherry Hill. More to power to you Linda and Nap.



More power also goes to Domingo and Aida Camba. In gratitude for a prolonged life and continued blessings, Manong Doming and Manang Aida, as fondly called by all, had a special Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Maple Shade, New Jersey. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Cesar Tolentino with the able help of Lory's son, Andrew as altar server. Among the many causes for thanksgiving, the couple celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and renewed their wedding vows. Mike and Liz De Leon, and Ray and Eileen Pelaez were the primary sponsors. The Camba children were present, along with three sons-in-laws, and ten grandchildren ranging in

age from nine to twenty-one years old. The family members did the readings and provided liturgical music for the entire Mass. Accompaniment was provided by Joy on the piano, and

by Linda's son, Philip on the guitar; Linda's children, Cecile and Julia and Lory's daughter, Nina, led the choir which consisted of the younger grandchildren. After the Mass, and after posing for some photographs, Manang Aida and Manong Doming continued their celebration of life, family, marital blessing

Continued on page 23



## Lily Ancheta Memorial Scholarship Fund .. By Jerry Ancheta

Lily Ancheta, a member of PCSNJ, succumbed to cancer a few years ago. However, her memory was kept alive by her loving and grateful husband, Jerry, who established the Lily Ancheta Memorial Scholarship Fund. Jerry and his co-teacher Annabelle Rios continuously raise the memorial fund through the use of their exceptional dancing skills and appealing personalities. For a nominal fee of \$6.00 Jerry and Annabelle have attracted many dance students who regularly attend the lively dance classes they teach at the Philippine Community Center every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30. Because of their common bond, enjoying dance, Jerry, Annabelle and their students all became very good friends. They even celebrate their birthdays together. All are very supportive of the memorial fund. Under the capable and inspiring leadership of Jerry, the dancers have raised enough funds to provide monetary awards to deserving students since 2006 and to make contributions to the beautification projects of the community center. Besides the nominal entrance fees, the dancers have sponsored themed activities like Hawaian Night, Cowboy and Halloween parties to increase their coffers. They were able to generate enough funds to install the wall of mirrors in the main hall, a sound system, a water dispenser and bathroom air hand

dryers. They were also able to purchase for the center a lawn mower, party tables as well as the computer tables in the conference room. One of their dancers, Tita Briones donated four big electric fans. For the school year 2013-2014, the Lily Ancheta Memorial Scholaship Fund recognizes the academic achievements of Floriza Mangulabnan and Sidney Reyes from Highland Regional High School who were both highly recommended by their teachers. The Memorial Fund will also give a special recognition to Justin Sosa, the outgoing president of Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey Youth Chapter better known as PCY. Sosa is being recognized for his leadership and services to the community.

Jerry has been twice blessed since he now has Purie in his life. Both are working hard as equal partners in making a difference in the lives of young people with limited means. Last year, the Memorial Fund started giving financial assistance to poor but deserving students in the Philippines. On the strong recommendations of Benedicta Dela Pena, the President of Saint Jerome's Academy of Bagabag Alumni Foundation, two of St. Jerome's graduates, Jericho Agoo and Manuel Tangonan have been granted financial assistance. Both are now attending college taking Bachelor of Science in Education. Jericho goes to St. Mary's University while Manuel goes to

Nueva Vizcaya State University. Both academic institutions are located in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Jericho Agoo is one of the two children of late Guilber Agoo and his surviving wife Dioleen. He graduated from high school at St. Jerome Academy in the top ten. He was described in high school as a consistently diligent student and very active in church related programs. He has been so determined to get a college degree in spite of his family's economic difficulties. He is now on his second year of studies.

Manuel Tangonan is the third child in his family of five siblings. He was active in extra-curricular activities and was once elected Chairman of the "Sanguniang Kabataan" during his high school years. Because of his extreme determination to earn a college degree, his parents made great sacrifices and sent him to college upon graduation from high school. However, due to financial shortage he was forced to drop out after

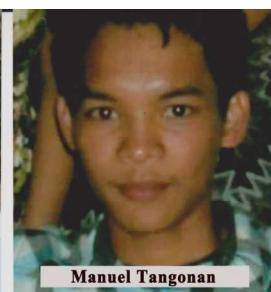


his second year of studies. He helped his parents for two years but his dream to get a college degree did not vanish. The Lily Ancheta Memorial Fund is now helping him make that dream a reality. He has returned to school and is presently on his third year of studies at the Nueva Vizcaya State University.

Jerry advises these students that success is not measured by what one accomplishes, but by the opposition one has encountered and by the courage which one has maintained in his struggle against overwhelming odds.



Jericho Agoo



Manuel Tangonan



Pure Energy Line Dancers

## A Little Help and A lot of Love Went A long Way (continued from page 16)

and Eva Villanueva , Hector and Sonia Vicuna and Vio and Baby Redondo They even gave me gifts during Christmas. I was invited to their homes during birthdays, baptisms and other special occasions. I will always remember the kind heartedness of Tito Ruben and Tita Tippin, his wife, and all their friends, and the people from PCSNJ. Because of their kindness and love I felt safe and secured and I was able to really focus on my studies

Paying for my airfare and health insurance were prerequisites to admission to the Overbrook International Program. PCSNJ, as an organization, shouldered my air fare and paid for my health insurance. The organization also gave me the computer software programs that I used in the Philippines to practice the skills that I have acquired until I reached the mastery level. Because I have these programs, I was also able to share some of the skills I learned with other visually impaired people in the Philippines. The assistance all of you extended to me became the corner stone that brought me to what and where I am today independent, happy, a contributing member to society and leading a full life.

The knowledge that I have acquired way back in 1989 have already been obsolete as technology changes from year to year. But the knowledge that I had acquired then made it possible for me to adapt to the ongoing changes. That initial knowledge paved the

way for my independence in terms of using the digital technology to do the work that I need in order to make a living for my family. I am now married with four children. At present, I am the president and owner of a small corporation which deals with civil and other construction related works as well as information and communication technology (ICT) products and services. I feel confident working with engineers and architects and people with no physical disabilities just as they feel that my visual impairment is not a distraction to developing a close working professional relationship. It is my technological knowledge that I am using to create our proposals as well as the other documentary and communication requirements that our clients and suppliers require. Our company has already been successful in accomplishing a good number of ICT and construction projects for a good number of individuals, corporations and even for the United States government on some of their infrastructure endeavours related to the Visiting Forces Agreement with the Philippine Government and alike.

It is my fervent desire to inspire others, with or without disabilities, who are struggling in life that there is always a chance to succeed. Together with this desire is my longing to inspire individuals and organizations like Mr. Alvarez and the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey to keep on

providing assistance to those in need. The help that you can render may spell the difference in someone's fate just like what you have done to mine.



Antonio Punzalan and family

## Filipinos Respond To Yolanda Victims (continued from page 8 )

the PCSNJ, Inc. 's name to make the donations tax deductible. Then the entire amount was directed to Gawad Kalinga.

The Virtua Medical Staff, care-of Dr. Mike de Leon ,donated \$10,000. Of the amount \$5000 was directed to Gawad Kalinga, \$2500 directed to the Hilantagaan Project . The organization also gave help to Karen Villaronte in the amount of \$2500. The storm did

serious damage to her immediate family.

As of the present many of the basic needs of the victims have not been met because of the scope and depth of the human devastation caused by the storm. The victims are still crying for help and PCSNJ. Inc. hopes that people will continue their assistance. PCSNJ, Inc. is always ready to help and to give guidance if needed.



Zumbathon Fundraising  
November 23, 2013

## IT IS A SPECIAL FASHION SHOW

There was excitement in the gym of the Church of the Good Shepherd as grandparents and grandchildren prepared for the fashion show. The program started with the singing of the national anthems. Abigail Rustia sang the Star Spangled Banner while Janette Jhocson sang "Lupang Hinirang". Pastor Darius Nable gave a very spiritual opening remark.

The grandchildren started the fashion show wearing their casual clothes. They walked across the stage with their smiling proud grandparents before a very amused audience. Cameras were flashing as relatives try to capture the moments on film. Then the grandchildren changed into their second outfits. Some sported beach wear and costumes while others donned on their fancier outfits.

The participants (grandchildren/grandparents) were:  
 Nolan Michael Sanko 2 years old and Juliet Harper 2 months old- --- Bingle and Ray Tagle  
 Brianna Toro 5 yo, Xander Toro 2 yo and Jocelyn Toro 11 months ----- Senn and Miriam Fontanilla  
 Bryan Lynch 8yo and Jacqueline Ramos 4 yo ---- Rey and Jingkie Aseron  
 Nolie Juliano 5 yo and Rory Juliano 2 yo ----- Nap and Linda Juliano  
 Isaiah Banas 5 yo, Micaella Banas 2 yo and Olivia Banas 8 months ----- Dr. and Mrs Eby Banas

Xavi Pelaez 3 yo and Ella Mallette 1 yo----- Ray and Eileen Pelaez  
 Jakob Serrano 11yo, Isabella Serrano 10 yo and Ju- lianna Serrano 8yo -----Johnny and Grace Rustia  
 Caydence Relevo 4yo ----Linda and Boy Canilao  
 Sophia Ambrose 7yo, Gavin Ambrose 5yo and Ava Maria Cruz 4 yo ----- Gloria and Bobby Cruz  
 Lemael Clark 7 yo and Jenelle Louise Montero 4yo -- Lemael and Jennifer Montero  
 Jacob, JB and Joshua Blazina ----- Arelyn and Ben Ramos  
 Francesca and Isabella Lombardo ---- Roger and Mildred Saldana  
 Finley Alvarez -----Jerry and Purie Ancheta

Jingkie Aseron organized and acted as the emcee. She introduced the models as they came on stage. In the end he thanked the models and the audience for all their support. She announced that all the proceeds of the activity will go towards the purchase of flower boxes to be placed in front of the community center.

Senen Fontanilla gave the closing remarks and invited everybody to continue the fellowship and to dine on the light lunch that was prepared by event's committee.



### Happy Moments : Continued from Page 20

and friendship at the Hibachi Grill Buffet.

If silent rivers run deep Manong Doming must be the deepest of all. The multi-talented but very unassuming Manong Doming is a former president of PCSNJ. He partnered with Eddie Cruz (deceased) in guiding everybody when the community center was transformed from a dilapidated Produce Junction store to what it is today. He is a very capable carpenter, plumber, electrician and roofer. He has been generously donating these skills to PCSNJ to keep the community center in top shape.

Manong Doming was really a chemical engineer by profession who spent most of his career on research and development in the coating industry. He had developed and commercially produced paint resins and varnishes for various applications, such as polyurethanes for floor and furniture finishes, paint resins for residential and commercial buildings. He explains that resin is a main ingredient in paint manufacturing. Manong Doming specially developed the resin to make the paint that was used when the White House was repainted during the Clinton presidency. He also developed the resin that was used to paint the UPS delivery trucks. He also worked on wire coatings for cars, truck starters and alternators and many more. Manang Aida has been serving the Filipino community for forty years and was once the President of FASSJ. Through the years, she used her strong networking skills as a successful realtor and as a committed Filipino leader to help raise funds for the Community Center. As an active member of PCSNJ, Manang Aida has been a member of the Fundraising Committee, Senior Citizen Committee and the choir.

## A Mother's Message . . . By: Natividad Fontanilla, FAAPI Mother of the Year 2005



A mother's life is a powerful and inspirational story of love, patience, compassion, sacrifices and faith. From the very moment she becomes a mother, her love is never ending and abounding to the very young she brings into this world. She develops the instinctive determination to know what is best to provide a life with joy and hope to each precious life she is responsible to care for. She aspires to keep each one from all forms of physical and spiritual harm, and guides each one with tender hands. It becomes her responsibility to make them understand the difference between what is right and what is wrong, teaching them respect and humility. Above all, she teaches them the love of God

and instills in them courage and loyalty in life.

Motherhood is a combination of joy and sacrifice through the long, rough road of life's trials. When times are hard and the problems seem too much to bear, she finds the strength to cope no matter how difficult the problem. She opens her heart and soul wide enough to take any difficult situation that comes her way with perfect resignation and self denial. Ordinary things appear wonderful when she is with those she loves.

When her children have grown up to the adult beings she had formed and molded with tender loving care, had reached that decision to part on their own ways, she would have a sigh of relief that she did not fail in the job she had endured so much in completing well. With a smile on her lips and her hand over her heart, she would bless each one of them – adieu.

## From the membership Chairs .. By Lyn Mangulabnan & Bingle Tagle

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

Annual Membership - \$25.00

Husband and Wife Life Membership - \$150.00

Former PCY Life Membership prior to age 21 - \$50.00

Senior Life member ( 65 and above ) - Free membership ( no voting rights )

PC Youth Annual Membership - \$5.00

PC Youth members whose parents are life or annual members do not have to pay a membership fee.



Our membership roll was increased with the approval of 88 new members at the last council meeting held on June 7, 2014. There were 18 new life members, 1 new annual member and 70 senior life members. **Total lifetime members is currently 284, 1 annual member , 70 Senior (age 65+) Non Voting Life members and 8 honorary members .**



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### Community Center Weekly Schedule

**Line Dancing**  
Wednesday 7 - 9:30 PM  
Contact Jerry Ancheta - 856-986-7862

**Zumba Class**  
Thursday 7:30 - 9:30 PM  
Contact: Diana Bondad 856-278-0231

**Center Rental Information**  
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Senn Fontanilla 609-509-6800