



GAZETTE

The PCSNJ, Inc.

Winter Edition

December 2014

"Pusong Maharlika" Highlights PCSNJ 22nd Induction Ball

The Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey, Inc. has remained true to its vision and mission from the day it was founded. The organization proudly took the theme of "Pusong Maharlika" during its induction ball held at the Trump National Golf Club in Pine Hill, NJ last September 13. It was indeed a noble celebration of the twenty eight years of community service that has defined the character of the organization. The energetic Frances Estella headed the tireless induction ball committee.

Through cooperation and hard work by all, the affair was completely sold out. It was a night of elegance and nationalism with many of the guests giving up their tuxedos and western gowns and proudly wearing their Filipiniana inspired formal attires. Maria Camaio and Mike Palis masterfully emceed the affair with wit, humor and vivacity.

The affair began with the singing of the national anthems. The beautifully blended voices of Maria Nieva, Gilda Lipot and Arelyne Pacho-Ramos mesmerized the audience who responded with a thunderous applause. Then Ruben Alvarez gave a deeply spiritual and inspirational prayer before all sat down to enjoy the evening's meal of prime rib, salmon, chicken or a vegetarian dish. The people were also treated to a variety of authentic Philippine desserts donated by the new president, Dr. Liz De Leon.

Jonathan Magpantay, the president-elect gave the welcome address. He also mentioned his hope that many more from the youth group component of the organization will be inspired to join as adults just as he did.

Jennifer Rosero, another member who hailed from the youth group introduced



PCSNJ, Inc. and PCY 2014 officers being sworn in at the Pusong Maharlika induction ball on September 13, 2014

the guest speaker, Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban, the president of Seton Hall University. Dr. Esteban heaved praises and encouragements to the organization for its continued service to the community. But he specially congratulated the organization for having inspired members of the youth group to join as adults. He said that the organization has been successful in forming a solid character amongst the youth who joined as adults and contributed their talents in providing community services.

John Gentless, mayor of Stratford where the Philippine Community Center is located, was proud and happy when he was asked to be the inducting officer. Mayor Gentless did a solemn induction of the new set of officers. (*The list and photos of the new set of PCSNJ and PCY is on page 7 of this publication*)

Liz De Leon gave her inaugural address. She promised to continue the tradition of community service. In addition, because of her medical background, she also hopes to set up programs and information seminars dealing with health issues particularly related to Filipinos. She (continued on page 6)



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Notes From the Editor

Welcome to the Christmas issue of the Gazette. We are pleased to provide our readers with a great variety of information and photos showcasing different activities of our organization, the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey (PCSNJ) Inc. within and outside the community. We are so grateful and thankful, to our article contributors who provided us with ongoing comprehensive activities and photos from each affair. We are also deeply grateful to our layout editor, Dr. F. Apollo M. Arenas, who put together this publication with dedication, diligence and excellence. Likewise to Frances Estella, for minutely proofreading its content and format with great care and patience.

This issue features messages from our newly inducted President for 2014-2016, Dr. Liz De Leon, PCY President 2014-2015 Matt Fontanilla; incoming President 2016-2018 Jonathan Magpantay, and Immediate Past President, Senn Fontanilla. It also features recent affairs of the organization that included the 22nd Induction Ball, Memorial Mass, Wine Tasting, weekly Line Dancing and Zumba Nites. We are so proud to provide special feature to our distinctive oldest member, Mommy Vicky Peralta, who celebrated her 92nd birthday at the Center hosted by her family and friends.

This publication contains a good number of photos showing active participation of both adults and youth to many events and community projects. We are so proud of our youth as they serve as "ambassadors of goodwill of PCSNJ" and our "future leaders". They performed modern and native dances to several occasions and volunteered their services to charitable and community projects. Their rendition of "singkil", an intricate native dance from the Philippines was performed at two special

occasions. The photos of the dancers in their colorful elegant Philippine costumes are included in this issue.

Christmas at PCSNJ is celebrated annually in many ways. One of them is the Christmas Extravaganza held today, December 13. It is participated in by talented youth and children with songs, musical instruments, poems, demonstrations of karate and gymnastics, among others. The "Nativity Scene", the birth of Jesus Christ, is the highlight of this event where participants reenacted different nativity roles. All are dressed up at their best as they romp around the Community Center. Favorite Filipino and American dishes are served. To wrap up this joyous event, Santa Claus surprises and cheers the kids and distributes gifts.

The celebration of this joyous holiday will not be complete without the PCSNJ Choral Group visiting homes and nursing facilities and serenading them with Christmas carols. The Choral group headed by its musical director, Jojo Jordan, has been practicing this tradition annually since early 1990's. This year, the group will once again serenade homes and nursing facilities with Christmas carols.

We hope you will enjoy our Christmas issue and we wish all of you a "Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon."

Linda Juliano
 Gazette Editor



Incoming PCSNJ President: Welcome Address

Welcome to the 2014 PCSNJ Induction ceremony and ball. The theme for tonight's event is called "pusong maharlika" which roughly translated, means a "noble heart." This noble heart is realized through our collective dedication and commitment to community service.

As an adjective, the word noble means "having or showing high moral principles and ideals." In 1986, the PCSNJ was formed on a foundation of high moral principles and with service to the community as its centerpiece. Over the years, I have witnessed firsthand how the PCSNJ has made a difference. And now years 28 years later, we are

here tonight to induct our new officers and renew our commitment to community service.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask that you join the PCSNJ tonight in renewing your own personal commitment to community service and to encourage your respective organizations and membership to do so the same. For together as one community we can accomplish a great many things.

Many thanks to Senen Fontanilla and his administration for their leadership, and to the planning and ad committees for organizing our induction ball. Congratulations to President Liz De Leon and my fellow officers. And thank you all for sharing in this occasion.



*Jonathan Magpantay, Esquire
 Incoming PCSNJ President
 2016-2018*

Dr. Liz De Leon: President's Inaugural Speech

Tonight, we celebrate "Pusong Maharlika", noble hearts filled with a generous spirit. The noble and the generous...that is the soul that has made PCSNJ, the Philippine Community of Southern New Jersey Incorporated, what it is today. We look back tonight at 28 years of our existence and remember, even memorialize, all the things that we have done.

How befitting to be celebrating here at Pine Hill, at South Jersey's highest point. The winding road leading to this banquet hall reminded me of PCSNJ's journey to this top. That has been a long road, twisted and heartbreaking at times. I think of the noble leaders, past and current officers and dedicated members who guided us along the way. I see those ever present faces here tonight, in our gatherings, in our projects, in our successes and our frustrations, in our laughter and in our tears, in my dreams. I stand on your shoulders, all of you...YOU who refused to fall to the insurmountable and saw only the beauty of our destiny. I am humbled in your presence.

Our Philippine Center, the only one of its kind in the entire state is a testament to our singular purpose. Years of caroling and endless fundraising culminated in 2003 with our historic acquisition of the center. From a virtual empty shell it now boasts a banquet hall with a stage and a dance floor, a conference room and a Filipiniana library. A host of social cultural events now grace our center. There's line dancing on Wednesdays, Zumba on Thursdays, Tagalog classes for our youth in the summer, health and cultural seminars, meetings of various organizations, the Christmas extravaganza. It has become a vibrant center for our activities.

A full ceiling length mural depicting Jose Rizal and our cherished ideals overlooks the main hall. Conceived and painted by our own

Eddie Cruz, it is a constant reminder of who we are, what we are about and the reason why PCSNJ exists in the first place. The Eddie Cruz Memorial Fund, dedicated to the preservation of our center, now memorializes those ideals and Eddie's legacy. I thank his family and friends for their generosity.

In the years to come I have 3 top priorities:

The first is to engage young leadership. It is therefore very opportune that our president elect is Jonathan Magpantay. When he assumes office in 2 years he will be the second youngest PCSNJ president, after 1st president Ray Pelaez, to hold that office. Some would say, a rather handsome one, too. The future of our organization lies in harnessing our young members into positions of leadership.

A good example of that is the wonderful job Ron and Maria Ramos do for our golf outing. Let's listen to them, to our youngest members in the PC Youth, to our young adults, to their aspirations and their ideas.

My second priority is to focus on the health of our community. Among Asian Americans, Filipinos have the highest death rates for breast, prostate and lung cancer. We also have among the highest rates of diabetes, hypertension and kidney failure. We need to educate our Filipino community on these realities and adopt strategies on how we can lessen the effects of these conditions. In addition, there are very rapid changes in healthcare delivery system in this country that affect all of us. So many options. High deductibles. Many al-



ternatives. Now more than ever, we should emphasize preventive care, regular exercise, a good diet. After tonight, we may have to limit our intake of lechon. Let's start with education, self-control, and I intend to make use of available resources from the health care systems in the area including Virtua to see how we can partner to help uplift the health of our community.

My third priority is to consolidate our fundraising activities. Our primary fundraiser this year will be a major raffle. Let's aim for a very successful fundraiser and then spend the rest of the year concentrating on the projects we need to accomplish.

We are gathered here tonight to induct the new officers of our organization. And we all know that induction is actually a call for service. Service to the community, to those less fortunate, to those marginalized, to those affected by natural calamities. It is active citizenry, a responsibility, no, an obligation to be aware of the problems in our community and a calling to be part of the solution. People flee from organizations like ours because all we do, they say - is ask for money. Well, that is only 99% true. Fundraising is (continued on page 4)



Dr. Liz De Leon: President's Inaugural Speech (continued from page 3)

just the practical realization that our noble efforts do need cash to get going. During the Typhoon Yolanda calamity you will be proud to know that PCSNJ raised or was an active conduit for over \$40,000 in donations. Giving is good. We give because we know we are more fortunate than those we serve. People not only contribute their money, more importantly they give of their time, some of their professional expertise. You know who you are. And I thank all of you who have made that sacrifice. We serve because we want a community of helping hands. In the end, we all believe that each of us do want to help our neighbors in need. For many Filipinos, it is the Christian flowing in their veins. And there are many of you here tonight who have

served, far more than I can imagine for myself, in my lifetime.

This year, Mike and I were blessed with the gift of our first grandchild. She could not make it here tonight, but if she did, she'd probably be wondering what the fuss is all about. One day she might yet know that she was part of my inspiration. When I think of the many things I want for her, I know I want to leave her a better world to live in.

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, my kababayans. Let us serve. Let us make a difference. Let us leave this world better than when we found it. For our community, for those we love – for the future... of those we love.

Thank you. Maraming salamat po.
- Pres. Liz De Leon



Pres. Liz De Leon and husband
Dr. Mike De Leon



PCSNJ Inc. Youth President's Speech



The Filipino community has been growing in America for many years now. But unlike many other ethnic communities, ours is unique. We have a community center, a special privilege that others can't claim; and a community that does so much for not only for our own members, but for our local community as well. We have a strong Youth community, one that is involved year-round.

Over the course of a year, PCY was involved in many events ranging

from annual events, like the Christmas Extravaganza, the Filipino Consulate outreach, which we had this past March, bringing Filipinos from all over the Delaware Valley area to our local community center.

However, we can't be selfish and only attend to our needs, but we have to work together in order to make the local community better through volunteerism, like what we did a few months ago at Comcast Cares Day. And with the help of the members of PCY and the Filipino community, I aim to have PCY more involved in our local community projects. And with your help, we can help both the Filipino community and the local community through a clothing drive that has already been underway.

Today's Filipino youth are unique. Born to Filipino parents, but raised in American culture. We know the taste of Filipino foods; kare-kare, adobo, lumpia. But many of us have grown to prefer American food; McDonald's,

KFC, Burger King.

But, it is still important to know our heritage. The Filipino youth of today are the pillars of Filipino community in the years to come. But what's the use of having community leaders who don't know their heritage? Thanks to the Filipiniana library at the center and the Filipino Summer Workshop, we can provide an environment for Filipino youths to learn more of their heritage. And, in the years to come, I hope to utilize that space to do just that.

Last month, my family and I went to Las Vegas and California. The one thing that struck me the most wasn't the heat, but the number of Filipinos everywhere, so much so that I was no longer surprised when I heard people having Filipino conversations. But even though Filipinos are much less in number here; we do so much more together, and create closer (continued on page 10)



Outgoing President's Speech

On September 8, 2012, I was inducted as the 22nd President of PCSNJ - and I am glad to report that the past two years have been the most interesting and I would say some of the more productive years of my life.

I am fortunate to have a team of dedicated officers and council members with me during these two years. I compare this team to a group of super heroes - who were always there when needed. A quote from a Batman movie has stuck in my head whenever we have a team meeting that goes like this ... "it's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me". A perfect quote for PCSNJ officers and members...

To rephrase the quote: "It is what we do that defines us"

1. It's the guidance and moral support of the Past President, Frances Estella and then President Elect, Liz De Leon.

2. It's all the Council members who came to our meetings so we can deliberate on issues, make plans for the good of PCSNJ and its members.

3. It's Recording Secretary Maria Camaio's accurate recording of the minutes of our monthly meetings and assistance in many events.

4. It's Treasurer Maria Ramos' taking care of our finances and automation of financial records, updating our website and helping at other events together with husband and council member Ron Ramos.

....IT IS WHAT WE DO THAT DEFINES US...

5. It's Educational Chair Linda Juliano with the assistance of husband and former PC president, Nap Juliano - directing and teaching Summer Filipino Leadership Program with our PC Youth.

6. It's Membership Chairpersons Sylvia Tagle & Lynn Mangulabnan's hard work in signing up over 120 new members in the past year. PCSNJ officially has over 385 members. If you are a new member -

those who signed just this past year - thank you. You are now a part of the fast growing PCSNJ family.

7. It's Charitable Committee Chair Edwina Jardinico showing compassion by sending cards or fruit baskets to our members during difficult times.

8. It's the Building Maintenance Committee members and volunteers - notably, past presidents Doming Camba, Gody Dejesus, Ted Gustillo, Ben Ramos and council member Willie Halina with his Kakampi group and the PC Youth - lending a hand to keep our center properly maintained and instrumental in the completion of several projects.

9. It's the Zumba group led by Diana Bondad and Cynthia Aragoncillo actively keeping our members hopping and healthy on their weekly Thursday night exercise sessions and raising money for the building fund. They are also instrumental in organizing a Zumbathon to help the victims of Typhoon Yolanda.

10. It's the camaraderie and tight bond of the line Dancers group - led by Jerry and Purie Ancheta - They faithfully come every Wednesday night and organized several events - not just to dance but to raise funds for the Lily Ancheta Memorial Fund and Building Fund.

YES, IT IS WHAT WE DO THAT DEFINES US

11. It's Scholarship Committee Annual Scholarship awards led by Chi-Chi Cagande and Eileen Pelaez.

12. It's the Senior Committee conducting the annual Memorial Service and projects involving PC grandparents and grandchildren now led by Jingkie Aseron after our beloved Mommy Vicky Peralta decided to step down.

13. It's the Caroling group led by Jojo Jordan and Liz DeLeon - spreading Christmas cheers by visiting members' homes during the holiday season.

14. It's the Filipiniana Committee with Past Chair Emma De Jesus and current chair Ali Magpantay work in maintaining our library and holding the Tiangge and Kamayan events.



15. It's the Gazette Editor Ruben Alvarez, Associate Editor Frances Estella and Layout Editor Popoy Arenas. You can see the current issue of the Gazette on your tables.

16. It's the PCY Youth led by Melissa DeLeon in 2013 and Justin Sosa in 2014. Volunteering during the Consulate outreach and several community projects. Always ready to assist other committees in all the events when our older members need help in the heavy lifting. Represented the PCSNJ in New York, Philadelphia and Ocean City with their cool dance performances.

17. It's about working together with other organizations like the FECGP - Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia at the Annual Independence Day Fiesta, the Veterans of Foreign Wars at the USS Olympia and Bataan Monument, the PNASNJ - Philippine Nurses Association of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia and UPMASA - raising funds to help rebuild the school building that was destroyed by Typhoon Yolanda in a small island called Hilantagaan near Cebu.

IT IS WHAT WE DO THAT DEFINES US.

In closing, I would like to thank my family, my wife, Miriam, our children and grandchildren for putting up with me during the past two years. Thank you to my parents, who were both present at my induction two years ago.
(continued on page 11)

“Pusong Maharlika” (continued from page 1)

informed the audience that the incidence of diabetes is highest among the Filipinos. She feels that the organization can play a vital role in the fight against diabetes.

Matthew Fontanilla, the new PCY president, followed with his inaugural speech. He stated that under the guidance of the adults, he hopes to identify more needed areas of community service that the youth can render. He also hopes to increase the membership of the youth group.

Pres. Liz De Leon presented a plaque of appreciation to Senen Fontanilla, the outgoing president, and a bouquet of flowers to his lovely wife, Miriam. In response, Senen Fontanilla thanked his family for their unwavering support and patience. He also thanked the chairmen of his various committees in implementing the various challenging sets of programs during his term. He thanked the members who contributed their skills during the building maintenance and beautification projects. He also thanked all the members for remaining united and focused on the community service goals of the organization. And never losing his flair for comedy, he willed his “superman cape” to Liz De Leon to give her “super powers” in fulfilling her responsibilities as president.

For special entertainment, Kirby Asunto gave a powerful rendition of

a “kundiman”. Because of her remarkable singing talent the audience excitedly requested an encore to which Kirby graciously obliged by singing a Broadway song. Kirby was followed by the PCSNJ, Inc. members who danced a complete version of the “Singkil” choreographed by Diana Bondad, Winchell and Noreen Delfin. The dancers performed more like seasoned performers of the Bayanihan Dance Company rather than people who just dance for recreation. They received a well deserved thunderous ovation. The music for everyone’s dancing pleasure was provided by PCSNJ’s own Jerry Ancheta. Jerry did not only provide the music but also lead the group in line dances once in a while.

Frances Estella, the event’s chairman, gave the closing remarks. She thanked all the people for coming to the affair. She also promised to find a bigger venue in the next affair so many of those who were not able to attend when the tickets were sold out can be a part of the festivities.

Because of the live orchids that were artistically arranged by Ruben and Tippin Alvarez and used as centerpieces, the final event of the induction was to raffle them off. Thus, as people headed home with happy smiles on their faces, the crowd also had a smattering of beautiful orchids in the hands of those who won the flowers to take to their respective homes as souvenirs to a celebration of the twenty eight years of service of PCSNJ, Inc. to the community.

- Ruben Alvarez



Guest Speaker Dr. A. Gabriel Esteban,
Seton Hall University President



Frances Estella, PC President 2010-2012
and husband Dr. Faustino Estella



PCSNJ OFFICERS 2014 - 2016



SENEN A. FONTANILLA
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



ELIZABETH FONG-DE LEON
PRESIDENT



JONATHAN MAGPANTAY
PRESIDENT ELECT



SYLVIA F. TAGLE
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



MARIA CAMAIOIRE
RECORDING SECRETARY



MARIA RAMOS
TREASURER



DIANA BONDAD
AUDITOR



JOSEPHUS JORDAN
HISTORIAN

COUNCIL MEMBERS



JERRY ANCHETA
2012-2015



NESTOR AQUINO
2013-2016



WINCHELL DELFIN
2014-2017



WILFREDO HALINA
2012-2015



CHI-CHI MAESTRADO
2014-2017



LYNN MANGULABNAN
2014-2016



GAVINA MARSHALL
2014-2017



EMILY PALIS
2014-2017



RONALD RAMOS
2012-2015



CHEL RODRIGUEZ
2013-2016



JENNIFER ROSERO
2013-2016



EMMA SOSA
2012-2015

PC YOUTH OFFICERS 2014-2015



MATTHEW FONTANILLA
PRESIDENT



JEFFERSON ANONUEVO
VICE PRESIDENT



DEAN JUSTIN SOSA
IMMEDIATE
PAST PRESIDENT



ARIANNA FONTANILLA
SECRETARY



JOELLE JORDAN
TREASURER



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PCSNJ Membership Update

PCSNJ's membership is steadily increasing and as of this date, we have 297 lifetime members, 1 annual member, 70 seniors (non-voting lifetime); and 8 honorary members. We welcome our new members :

Willie and Norevel Banzali, Paps and Arlene Gonzales, Nilo and Aida Mercado, Vangie Catajoy, Citas Bowie and Jeff Anonuevo.

There is always this big question "What do I get for being a PCSNJ member?" It is not an easy task to convince people to join and answer that question. PCSNJ has come a long way – we are a vibrant active organization that wants to do more for our members and our community. There is never a slow, dull and quiet time with all the year-round activities. The Center offers line dancing scheduled every Wednesday at 7pm and Zumba Nites on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Our organization also takes part in various outside events. In June each year, we support the Philippine Independence Day picnic at Cooper River Park in

Pennsauken, New Jersey. This year, the line dancers, zumbaers and PCYouth did a special number to the delight of the public – young and old. A good variety of Filipino food was provided for everyone to share and enjoy. In July, the PCY was invited to perform at the Annual Ocean City tribute to the Philippines. Last year, our youth was also invited at the Carnegie Hall in New York where they were nominated for the TOFA award.

Winding down a little bit to prepare for the Induction Ball in September, several members and youth members helped in the preparation of this event which was successfully celebrated on September 13 at the Trump International Country Club in Pine Hill.

We welcome our new President, Dr. Liz De Leon and President Elect Jonathan Magpantay, together with the new sets of officers. Thank you to our Past President Senen Fontanilla for a fruitful two year term.

For December, our yearly Christmas Extravaganza for kids will be held on

December 13th at the Center.

Now that you had a glimpse of the exciting activities in our organization, we hope you will consider being a member of our prestigious organization. To become a member, below are the updated categories and fees:
Individual Lifetime membership: \$100
Annual Membership: \$25
Husband & Wife lifetime memb: \$150
Special Rate for current members for their spouse up to June 2015 - \$50
PCY Life Memb prior to age 21 - \$50
Senior Life member (65 and above) free (no voting rights)
PCY Annual membership - \$5
PCY members whose parents are life or annual members : no fee

For membership and other inquiries, please contact Bingle Tagle at bingle05@yahoo.com and Lyn Mangulabnan at 856-625-0075, Membership Chairs. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the upcoming Christmas Extravaganza!

- Bingle Tagle and Lyn Mangulabnan,
Chairs, Membership Committee

UPMASA PRESENTS “THE BROTHERS IN HARMONY IN CONCERT”

The University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Society in America (UPMASA), Delaware Valley Chapter, presented the “Brothers in Harmony in Concert” last November 8, 2014 at St. Andrews’ Methodist Church, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. UPMASA sponsored this group for the second time since they performed in 2012.

Here is a background of the group. The Brothers in Harmony Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was originally chartered in 1983 as the Easton, Pennsylvania Brothers in Harmony. The Brothers have racked up numerous successive major accom-

plishments, the most recent of which was a 6th place finish at the 2013 International Contest in Toronto. The chorus relocated to Hamilton Square, New Jersey. Since then they’ve seen a steady growth reaching 100 active members in July 2014. Many members travel over an hour to be part of this special organization. The Brothers are totally committed to excellence and look forward to more accomplishments. Their repertoire runs the gamut of the Beatles to Broadway in their unique a cappella style. The November 8 repertoire are: First Part:

Good Day Medley; As Time Goes by: Fool Such as I; Bridge Over Troubled Water; Georgia on My Mind; Tears in Heaven and With a Little Help from my Friends. Second part: Imagine; Pretty Woman; Oooh Baby; He Ain’t Heavy; Shenandoah; God Bless America and When I lift Up my Head.

This concert is a fund raiser

to support laptops for the Doctors to the Barrios Project and Hilantagaan School Rebuilding after typhoon Yolanda.



The officers and members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of UPMASA, named below, thank everyone for their untiring support that made this project a successful one: President Arelyne Pachon-Ramos, President Elect Rivera, Treasurer Cyrilda Tagle, Secretary Rebecca Ramirez, Auditor Eileen Pelaez, PRO Chelle Jose, Liaison to National Week, Board Members Liz and Mike De Leon and Tino Estella.



A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MOMMY VICKY

Last November 2nd the oldest regular member of PCSNJ, Inc. Mommy Vicky Peralta, celebrated her 92nd birthday party at the community center. The party was fondly hosted by the organization along with the friends of her son, Ruben and his wife Tippin, who call themselves the “Sunshine Group”. It was a potluck party coordinated by ever-working and the

always energetic Jingkie Aseron and Bingle Tagle. The PureJ Energy dancers presented a special exciting routine in honor of the celebrant. Our very own talented Jerry Ancheta and his lovely wife Purie, contributed their music and dancing instruction talents to make the affair really enjoyable. There were about one hundred happy guests who danced the afternoon away. Yoly Vedar baked

not only a delicious but also a beautifully decorated birthday cake for Mommy Vicky. Nestor Aquino, used his photography skills to capture the memorable event in pictures.

Mommy Vicky was also very happy to have her

very good friend present at the party, Nanay Naty Fontanilla. Mommy Vicky and Nanay Naty are the only remaining contemporaries. Mommy Vicky is only one month older than Nanay Naty. All

their other contemporaries have all gone home to God.

Mommy Vicky was touched by the kindness and love that all have been



showing her through the years. Ruben also expressed his gratitude to all who continue to make his mother’s twilight years really meaningful and happy. He said that he, his family and Mommy Vicky feel so blessed because they have been surrounded and continue to be surrounded by loving, caring and supportive friends. - Ruben Alvarez



Remembrance Mass Honors Departed Love Ones



The Senior Citizens' Committee, chaired by Jingkie Aseron, sponsored a Remembrance Mass last November 1st at the Philippine Community Center to honor and celebrate the departed ones of family members, relatives and friends in the Philippine community. Approximately one hundred fifty people attended this yearly event.

Rev. Father Jerry Gomez, who officiated the Eucharistic mass, gave an inspiring spiritual homily that honored the departed ones and which uplifted the spirits of those who were there. The first reading was read by Sylvia Tagle; Psalm was sung by Joelle Jordan; and the second reading was by Linda Juliano.

The Eucharistic mass was assisted by the angelic voices of the Filipino Apostolate Music Ministry headed by Bang and Marvin Alverio. Their music selections, both in English and Filipino, added to the reverence and solemnity of the mass.

Each of the newly departed names were called by Jingkie one at a time, and Linda Juliano, lighted a can-



dle for each of the following:

Gorgonio Aguirre
Rosario Batalla Cerezo
Maria Belen Laluz Cosico
John Dolchanezyk Jr.
Tessie Naidas Dungca
Bernardina Jordan
Jose Jose

Eugenia Legaspina
Brigida Fule Maranan
Noel Nable
Virgilio Redondo
Alfred Sta. Ana
Cecilio Tiangzon
Norma Manlapaz

Senn Fontanilla, PCSNJ Immediate Past President, gave the welcome address and Dr. Liz De Leon, PCSNJ President, the closing remarks. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the following in making this occasion organized and successful: Rev. Fr. Jerry Gomez, Dr. Liz De Leon, Senn Fontanilla, Jojo Jordan, Sylvia Tagle, Jerry Ancheta and the Filipino Apostolate Music Ministry.

We also thank those who donated food for fellowship for the occasion.

PCSNJ Choral Brings Holiday Cheers

The organization's choral group headed by Musical Director, Jojo Jordan, will once again provide Christmas joy and praise songs to homes and nursing institutions both in English and in Filipino. Carefully selected repertoire of classical and modern music in four voices will be sang by the group. This volunteer group of 10-15 members has been providing music to all as a yearly Christmas celebration to spread goodwill to others and to raise funds for building maintenance and educational programs.

To join the choral group, or to be part of this group, please contact Jojo Jordan at j20001@comcast.net or Liz De Leon at efd4pcsnj@gmail.com





Scholarship Fund Raising Wine Dinner

"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present."

Albert Camus

This year marks the 25th year for the Scholarship Fund. For years now we have held a wine dinner as the major fund raising event for our student scholars. This year it was held at Il Villagio Italian Restaurant on November 8, 2014. There were 44 PCSNJ members, friends and families in attendance. The special guest of honor was Philippines' Congresswoman of Cebu, Gwendolyn Garcia. She was touched by our commitment to help our kababayan in the Philippines and the fundraising event for the Hilantagaan Elementary School. She spoke of how she led the delivery of electricity to that region during her leadership as Governor of Cebu. It touched her heart to witness our organization helping and giving back to our motherland through the Scholarship and fundraising for victims of natural disasters.

Wine connoisseur, Gary Brady, entertained and enlightened us again with his wine expertise. He brought wines from Spain and France. This year we had a beer section also. The wines complemented the delicious Italian dishes and ended with a mouth-watering dessert wine. The highlight of the evening was the wine auction. The bidding war ranged



Wine dinner with special guest
Congresswoman Gwendolyn Garcia

from approximately \$45 to \$200! The whole event raised gross earnings of approximately \$5,500. This included outside donations in addition to the dinner and auction. Special thanks to Dr Eileen Pelaez, Dr Elizabeth Fong-De Leon, Maria Camaio and Senn Fontanilla for assisting in organizing the event. Special thanks, of course, to all our donors. Please stay tuned for more information on where our Scholarship Fund is moving towards to help more of our Filipino students. To paraphrase Camus, "The future relies on the generosity of the present."

- Consuelo C. Cagande-Maestrado, MD
Chair, Scholarship Committee

PCY Pres. Speech

(continued from page 4)
community. With your support, PCY will be strong contributors to both our community and our local community not only this year, but for the years to come

In the upcoming weeks and into the New Year, the main goal of PCY is to increase its membership. At the October PCSNJ meeting, I said that my personal goal is to double the number of active members, from 12 to 24, in order to have greater participation not only during my term, but that of the next Presidents to follow. Although a membership drive will be an ongoing project, I also aim to get PCY involved in a variety of community service projects.

- Matthew Fontanilla
PCY Pres. 2014-2016



Dance and Zumba Updates



Singkil is a dance originating from Lanao del Sur, Mindanao and is said to be a dance of Muslim royalty. Legend has it that Singkil originated from the day the diwatas (fairies) played a joke on Princess Gandingan as she was taking a walk

in the woods. There are many versions of Singkil. PCSNJ/PCyouth members danced the Singkil during the induction ball.

The PCSNJ's Zumba /Line Dancing/PC Youth has performed at the following events: 2012 AARP Multicultural Festival's Parade of Nations; 2012 FAAP Centennial Ball, Hilton, Philadelphia, PA; 2013 FANHS 6th annual history month celebration, Joy Tsin Lau, Philadelphia PA; 2013 TOFA-NY award, Carnegie Hall, NY; 2013/2014 Annual Tribute for the

Philippines, Ocean City, NJ.

ZUMBA is on its 4th year at the center. Sessions, instructed by Cynthia Aragoncillo, consist of 1.5 hours of dancing to a variety of music such as salsa, cha-cha, bachata, modern hip-hop etc. 15-20 minutes toning routine was added to recently using 1-2lb hand weights. Hope to see everyone at the center every



THURSDAY from
7:30pm –
9:00pm. Zumba
class fee is \$
8.00 for non-
members, \$ 6.00
for members and
\$ 5.00 for stu-
dents (ID re-
quired).

-Diana Bondad-
Chair, Zumba Exer-
cise

“This and That” from PCSNJ Line Dancing Group

If one describes the activity at the center every Wednesday evening as mere dance lessons it would be inaccurate. The people who go to the center are more than just dance students. They are more like a circle of friends who support each other. The circle of friendship is always open to all who want to join regardless of the person's age or dance abilities. Every new person who walks in every Wednesday night is made to feel welcome and greeted with genuine warmth.

The PC Line Dancing Group is happy to welcome their newest members. First is Julius Jamora who comes to the group with a background in ballroom dancing. He lives in Philadelphia and came to the USA with a Fine Arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas (UST). He has earned multiple awards in window displays. He is the person who created those imaginative windows and artistic displays of Macy's. We are happy to have you Julius especially after we found out that besides your ability to dance, you also have a wonderful singing voice.

The line dancers also like to welcome a familiar face, Ruben Alvarez, the 7th President of PCSNJ. Although he practiced his speech and language pathology profession for years and years, dancing has been a part of his life. He is a trained ballroom dancer and during his earlier years in the USA, he worked as the male so-



loist of the Philadelphia Civic Ballet Company. He jokingly describes his dancing history to have taken place “fifty pounds” ago. He admits that his primary reason for joining the line dancers is to lose those unwanted and unhealthy pounds. Ruben feels that if he keeps on dancing with the group, the fifteen remaining pounds all shockingly displayed on his belly will also eventually melt away.

Congratulations to our October birthday celebrants. We hope that all like the “pot luck” food and the masquerade ambiance that was especially created for all the celebrants. We wish Yoly and Chievy a safe and enjoyable trip to Cambodia to see relatives and friends. We know that you will feel that a month in your country is too short a time.

We are all with you Nilo in your effort to help your cancer stricken relative in Davao. May we have a

good turn out on our fund raising party on Saturday, November 7 at the center.

Mommy Vicky sends her thanks for the wonderful dance routine that the dancers performed during her 92nd birthday party at the center last November 2nd. She feels so blessed to see the affection that all carry for her.

Invitations are extended to all to join us every Wednesday evening. All are welcome. If you join, you will also be helping the group acquire the funds needed to purchase window shades for the Center. We want to have more good friends, so please come and enjoy not only the dancing but also the fellowship and camaraderie.

- Purie Ancheta



Outgoing President's Speech (continued from page 5)



ago. My mother is here tonight but my father has joined the Lord but I am sure he is watching us from above with a smile on his face...saying...job well done ... OK KA ANAK ...

Before I go, I would like to call on our new president Dr. Liz De Leon for some last minute instructions.

I would like to pass on to you the special cape that would give

you super powers, energy and wisdom during your presidency. It will also shield you from evil. But Remember: with great power comes greater responsibility.

Mabuhay si President Liz De Leon !

Mabuhay ang PCSNJ!!!



- Senen Fontanilla
PCSNJ, Inc. President
2012-2014



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