

A monthly publication of
the Filipino Association
of Greater Kansas City

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www.filipino-association.org

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2013 September Affair Sets Records!

With a projected gross income of \$70,000, and estimated net proceeds of just over \$38,000, this year's edition of the annual gala event of the Filipino Association is most certainly headed for the record books!

'This is a marvelous record, an astonishing achievement,' says Maria 'Bing' Sakach, 2013 FA-GKC President.

Headed by a dynamic and dedicated third generation quartet, the celebration also featured not one but three honorary chairs! In addition, the founders and the past chairpersons of previous September Affairs since 1971 were honored at the event held on September 28, 2013 at the Westin Kansas City Crown Center Hotel, one of the select few in the metro area to win and maintain the coveted AAA Four Diamond rating.

Kevin Bautista, Executive Chair of the event, said he was thankful for the honorary chair, major contributors, underwriters, advertisers and volunteers who helped support the September Affair. 'We did it again!' said Kevin. 'This year's event raised more than we could ever expect, making it an incredible success for our Association. Our goal was to not only meet budget, but to see how far we could push the limits and what more we can do for the Association.'

This year's theme celebrated the very elements that has kept the association prosper and flourish for the past 45 years and will continue to do so: **INSPIRED** by our past for the building of a great foundation; **STRONG** through our members and volunteers; **PASSIONATE** in sharing our unique heritage and culture; **RESILIENT** through changing times, fueled by innovation and evolution, yet guided by our tradition; and **DRIVEN** from within to move, act, serve, and make a difference for our community.

After cocktails at the foyer, the evening began with Masters of Ceremonies, Curtis Jay and Jennifer Dent, welcoming the 423 stylishly garbed guests. The Sampaguita Choir sang the United States and Philippine national anthems while a special Color guard, featuring some of the Association's own

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2013 September Affair Event Chairs Bernadette Rabang, Kevin Bautista, Claudette dela Cruz and Cindy Kulphongpatana pose for a photo)

Shrimp Dinner

When: *Held October 12, 2013*
 Where: *Filipino Cultural Center*
 Sponsored by: *FCC Foundation*
 Entertainment: *Sampaguita Choir*
Hazel Abad
Dr. Olivia Iway
Delia Yzon
Dancing... Lots of it!
 DJ: *Ambet Yabut*
 Cost: *\$30*
 Fun Value: *Yup, PRICELESS!*



Board Members of the Filipino Cultural Center Foundation are all smiles after another successful Shrimp Dinner

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From the Editor...**Away...****But Not Forgotten!**

By Ping Bayani

We've done it before, many times before – having to give up one thing for another. We change schools, addresses, even spouses! We get new friends, new gadgets, new braces! CHANGE is one of the constants in life. My zip code may be new but my KC roots are deep and alive, just like my LA roots have remained when my job took me to the Heartland. Our memories allow us to be in more than one place at a time, albeit via electronic or virtual visits. Similarly, though miles away, we need to keep our love for the Philippines intact. We must hold on fast to our links to Filipino communities of which we've been a part. Something of 'us' always remains in places past. Feelings and presence may come and go but not if you lock them up in a special place in your heart and mind!

From the President...

(Below is President Bing Sakach's report at the Filipino Association's October General Meeting)

Good evening to all! Welcome guests and thank you for being here tonight.

I would like to invite everyone to offer a moment of silence for the repose of the soul of John Rosas, brother of our member Ernie Rosas, who passed away unexpectedly.

So, I have about 2 months left of my term. I am actually having mixed feelings. I have been saying that this year has gone by fast. At last year's September Affair, I was just saying I have 3 more months before I take office. Now, there are only 2 left before I step down! Wow, does this mean I can finally go on vacation? I mean me and Peter!

As President, I still have the Halloween, Volunteer and Christmas Parties lined up. We're also trying to shoot for one last Pinoy Breakfast, but we'll see.

I just want to take this opportunity again to thank the September Affair Committee headed by Executive Chair, Kevin Bautista and of course his angels, Cindy, Claude and Bernie. I also want to thank Tita Baby (*Bautista*) for being behind all of us, pushing us to do more. She is like the mother to all of us; she wants to see us succeed. Unfortunately, she is not here tonight to hear what I just said. The whole team did such a wonderful job! Again, words cannot express my appreciation to each and everyone. Likewise to our generous donors, Tita Lisa Hopkins, Tito Ric Labayen, Tito Billy and Tita Bing (my tukayo). I am so honored to have that extended family connection with you all. Thank you for making this year's September Affair another memorable one. Kevin will give a detailed report on this.

Right after the glamorous weekend, we are back on duty, and I am talking about the 'first couple'. Thank you to my husband, "Filipino convert", Peter Sakach for doing this huge favor for me. The NASCAR is very challenging, don't you think? You will never fully appreciate those who have done this before until you are in their shoes. Hats off to Tito Paul (*Delos Santos*), Tito Mike and Tita Adela (*Tan*), Tito Neo (*Rabang*) and those before them - we truly appreciate you. And to Peter - great job coordinating the volunteers; thanks for all the hard work during this event. I feel your frustrations and it is what it is. Don't worry; you have 2 more months to go too. ☺

So, tomorrow is Shrimp Dinner and next week is the Medical Mission 5K. Both of these events are project of the Filipino Cultural Center Foundation. If you haven't bought your tickets for tomorrow's dinner, I still have available tickets and you can also buy them at the door. Don't miss out on this. If you can help me set up tonight, your ticket will be 50% off.

After the big dinner tomorrow, we need to burn all that we're going to eat. So sign up for the 5K walk/run for next week. It will be at Shawnee Mission Park. We will have a guest who will lead the prayer, his name is Christopher White - he is one of the participants during the last Boston Marathon when they had the bombing.

(Continued on page 16)

2013 September Affair... (Continued from page 1)

present and former serving members of the Armed Forces, presented the national flags.

Following tradition, welcome remarks were given by Executive Chair Kevin Bautista, followed by an address from President Bing Sakach, who gave special recognition to the founders of the September Affair event, Dr. Arnulfo and Shirley Sulit. Just before dinner, the invocation was given by President-Elect Edward Tumanut.

Two large screens displayed event sponsors, table hosts, past September Affair chairs and photos of various Association activities in its 45-year history. Guest pianist, Mathew Winterhaulter provided smooth mood music while guests dined in decadence with a delicious four course dinner, a trio of desserts and premium coffee and tea.

With the common theme of 'DRIVEN', Jennifer Dent (on behalf of her late father, Dr. James Hopkins, the Principal Honorary Chair in Memoriam), Drs. Belino and Olivia Iway (Honorary Chair) and Dr. Ric Labayen (Honorary Chair, in memory of Dr. Nita Labayen) delivered their keynote remarks, expounding on how the Association had impacted their lives and giving words of wisdom to the next generation of leaders.

The evening's spectacular entertainment package was delivered by the Paco Dance Academy who performed a modern and passionate ballroom dance number with fiery moves and daring lifts and the Association's very own Sinag-Tala Dance Group who started the program with an energetic *Panderetas de Amor*, a Philippine folk dance with a definite Spanish-flair, complete with tambourines and bamboo castanets, and ended with the exotic and ever-famous *Singkil*, beautifully staged amidst dazzling costumes, with the regal princess, stately prince, attentive umbrella girl and mobile princess' ladies all gliding in and out of fast-clicking bamboo poles, seemingly unaware of the awed audience.

Of course, no September Affair would be complete without dancing, dancing and more dancing! The outstanding Multiphonic Band made sure the guests were kept on their feet, with the huge dance floor never empty up to the final notes of the night.

At the end of the impeccable and thoroughly enjoyable evening, our four young September Affair Chairs had this to say: 'We want to thank our wonderful team for all the hard work they put into one of the most exciting and highly successful gala affairs ever.'

Executive Chair, Kevin Bautista, shared his thoughts: "When people asked me if I was stressed out, I simply said 'I was stressed but I hope you didn't see it'. I know we planned everything to almost every detail and things were set in place. I believe the team was well prepared and they had the necessary confidence to achieve success. This well-deserved achievement belongs to the team and our supporters. It has been a wonderful journey; I am truly appreciative and I can't thank people enough!"

Judging from the comments below, there's certainly plenty to be thankful for...

"It's exciting that the net income earned will be a record that will be hard to beat," says Mirla de los Santos, FA-GKC Finance Committee Member and September Affair Reservations Chair. "The committee's goal was to guarantee a net of at least \$25,000; they have far surpassed that goal!"

"That was the best September Affair ever, hands down," co-emcee Jennifer Dent chimes in.

"Responsibilities were delegated to the right people who got the most accomplished for their roles. This event was planned and executed with impressive leadership," says committee member and current Philippine Nurses Association of Greater Kansas City President (PNAGKC), Elvie Leone.

"We're truly proud to be part of the team. The next generation is ready", former September Affair chairs Mayie Vilkins and Angie Chico-Agustin agree.

"Kevin, his co-chairs and the rest of the team have raised the bar so high that I can wish only the best for the next September Affair chairperson. Whoever is next, I wouldn't want the job." says Lisa Hopkins, former September Affair chair and wife of Principal Honorary Chair in Memoriam, Dr. James Hopkins.

President-Elect Edward Tumanut is already working on that. Says he, "This was the most I have ever been involved in, from turning the theme into working design for the invitations, setting up an event website, helping with public relations and putting the souvenir program together. I even had the opportunity to help choose the menu! I truly enjoyed working with the team. I hope I can count on them again next year!"

And of course, beaming proud parents always have the last say!

"Our son headed the event and gathered a key team to ensure every last detail had the right amount of attention given to it. Kevin was inspirational in bringing out the best in everyone to ensure the end goal was met. My husband, Cris and I are very proud of him," said Lilia Bautista, Kevin's Sergeant-at-Arms and former president of the Association.



(Editor's note: Below is the Welcome Address of Kevin Bautista, Executive Chair for the recently concluded and widely successful 2013 September Affair)

EXECUTIVE CHAIR'S WELCOME ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 2013 September Affair.

For the past 45 years, we have proven ourselves that we can do anything! We have become an amazing representative in the fabric of Kansas City, flourishing in our mission and achieving so much throughout our history. Tonight we celebrate the energy generated by combining creativity and a fearless desire to lead. We owe many thanks to our founders for taking those giant leaps, so we embrace the past and look to it now for inspiration. We are driven, pushing the Association forward with resiliency, responding to the current times yet holding true to our traditions. We are investing passionately in our cultural center projects and sharing our unique heritage. We continue to use our strengths bridging our officers, members and volunteers together in the spirit of cooperation.

Tonight's celebration is historical and extraordinary, as we will hear for the first time in the Association's history from three Honorary Chairs. We will also recognize past September Affair chairs, whose talents have brought a September Affair each and every year since 1971. I thank all of tonight's major contributors, advertisers, table hosts and of course you, our guests, for your support and generosity.

This event would not be a success without the effortless dedication of the planning committee. On behalf of my co-chairs, Cindy, Bernadette and Claudette, I thank each and every one of you for all your hard work and outstanding contributions in planning this event. I know how much time and energy this gala has demanded and I deeply appreciate all your efforts. Thank you for sharing this journey with me and thank you for putting the trust in me as your executive chair. I hope you remain inspired, passionate, strong, resilient and driven!

Ladies and gentlemen, this evening, we are not just simply saluting history, but we are also out there making it - building a better, stronger and more proud community.

Thank you and have a great night!

*Kevin Bautista,
Executive Chair
2013 September Affair*



The 2013 September Affair Committee taking a break from its planning meetings

SEPTEMBER AFFAIR 2013 IN PICTURES *Photos courtesy of Armando Balino Costas & Jim Jarvis*







A Brief History of the SEPTEMBER AFFAIR

By Manuel P. Pardo, M.D.

The very first September Affair was held in September of 1971 at the Muehlebach Hotel in Downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The idea came from Mrs. Shirley Sulit, the brains behind Dr. Arnulfo Sulit, who was president of the Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City in 1971. Shirley remembered the movie September Affair as well as the popular tune, September Song. Perhaps closer to her heart was the fact that the fiesta in their hometown of Bais, Negros Oriental, in the Philippines, is celebrated in September. Little did Shirley know this first official social event of the Filipino community in Kansas City would become an annual major social event many years later. It has evolved into a tradition that many Filipinos in Kansas City look forward to. Even members who have moved away from Kansas City make it a point to come back to attend the September Affair Ball to reunite with old friends and renew past acquaintances.

The September Affair also became the major fund raising event that would lead to the rallying cry to build a Filipino Cultural Center - "*Pangarap at Pag-asa*" (The Dream and the Hope). A review of past September Affair souvenir programs have such endearing and heartwarming themes such as, "*Bayanihan* (The Spirit of Cooperation); "*Kasaysayan At Kinabukasan*" (History and The Future); "*Recuerdos*" (Memories); "*Mga Perlas Ng Ala-Ala*" (Pearls of Memories); "Celebration of Generations;" "Fusions of Generations;" "A Legacy of Leadership;" "Rise to the Challenge;" "*Bukas Palad*," (A Culture of Generosity); "Memories and Vision;" "Filipiniana"- Filipino Culture.

Years later the dream has become a reality. A Filipino Cultural Center was completed in 2000 in Overland Park, Kansas and is now the proud home to the Sinag-Tala Performing Arts Troupe, a place for our monthly meetings, the venue for our annual Fiesta Filipina, a place for Filipino Breakfast, as well as special events, like concerts by the U.P Concert Chorus and the Loboc Children's Choir. A miniature Filipiniana Museum proudly exhibits a small collection of Philippine arts and crafts, costumes, baskets, musical instruments, books, furniture, and costume jewelry. And to think the doubters and pessimists early on thought the project was "too ambitious." They said, "Not in my lifetime," "It will remain a dream," "We are not that big a group," "How can we ever pay for it?" We all proved them wrong!

The Sinag-Tala Performing Arts Troupe, founded in 1972 has been a main feature during the entertainment portion of many September Affairs. In 2012, the Sinag-Tala Performing Arts Troupe celebrated its 40th Year Anniversary with a major performance held at the Folly Theatre the previous evening of the September Affair, with a special dance performance featuring past Sinag-Tala dancers during the September Affair event.

Fashion shows and the presentation of debutantes have been highlights of the ball in the past. A professional photographer taking pictures of the debutantes once remarked, "The choreography and beauties I have seen tonight are better than the Jewel Ball." Fellow Filipinos from out of town have been impressed by the unity and camaraderie in our Association. They are struck by the "lack of outdoing one another" or the ostentatious display of jewelry and elaborate *ternos* by famous designers commonly seen in other Filipino events elsewhere. The focus of the Filipinos in Kansas City has always been, "A Celebration of Filipino Culture." The elegance, pageantry and sophistication evident in our September Affairs are always a class act the Filipinos in Kansas City can be proud of.

Let the tradition continue for many more Septembers for the succeeding generations.

FAGKC's Sapphire Anniversary: 45 Years... and Growing!

By Lillian Gonzalez Pardo, M.D.

As the Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City celebrates forty-five years after its formal incorporation, it is important to ask the question "What has sustained us this long?"

As an eyewitness to the growth and development of this organization, from its inception to the current day, I feel both qualified and compelled to tell our story and answer the question at hand. As an association we have had our ups and downs, our highs and lows, but for the most part we are an inspired and driven group of people that respects the majority. This principle has led us down the rightful path toward a positive direction for the common good of its members and the community.

When we first started, some of you had not been born yet (the young ones), some had been active participants for years (the young once), and some were in-between (the middling middle ones of more recent vintage). The most important element in our longevity is the human element, the people, who drive the passion for the ideals we hold dear: the preservation and promotion of our rich shared cultural heritage. The spirit that holds us together has strengthened all of us as we value and respect each other.

We draw our inspiration from the leaders and pioneers who, by their example, have shown us that anything is possible, that we can dream a collective dream and together, we can make it come true.

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SENIORS CORNER

Minutes of Senior Council Meeting

Senior Council Meeting October 12, 2013

Dr. Mila Tiojanco reported on and discussed the Community Outreach Program development.

The Community Outreach Program has been developed and structured and approved by the Board.

Requests for community outreach assistance, ideas or projects will be addressed to the Community Outreach Committee. The Committee will review requests or projects and if merited, will get Board approval.

The Committee will follow procedure as delineated in the program and direct the project to completion.

After completion, the committee will give report including financial statement.

Donations will be directed specifically to the FAGKC Community Outreach Program and disbursements will be approved by the Committee and the Board.

Special discussion: *Requests for financial assistance by INDIVIDUALS for urgent or emergent necessity was separately reviewed and evaluated. Bulletin from IRS addresses this Issue. Contributions directed to the relief of a specific individual cannot be deducted, e.g. funeral expenses, medical bills. YOU CANNOT INDICATE THAT THE CONTRIBUTION IS FOR A SPECIFIC PERSON.*

Therefore, FAGKC policy is: Requests for urgent or emergent individual assistance will be directed to the President.

The President may notify the membership. All contributions should be sent directly to the individual without involvement of FAGKC.

Questions and discussions were entertained.

* * * * *

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...

Hmm. With the chill in the air, thoughts of the holidays cannot be too far away! How would you like to harvest your own chestnuts? Sounds like fun? Filipino Association and Senior Council members have been invited to do just that – spend a day gathering those yummy nuts in Weston, MO - with visions of eating days ahead! If interested, contact FAGKC President, Bing Sakach at (913) 226-5161 or Senior Council President Carmen Chico at (816) 820-7429. Happy harvesting... and eating!



Sapphire Anniversary...

(from page 8)

Did we ever think, even twenty or thirty years ago, that we would have our very own Filipino Cultural Center, built from the ground up and with amenities and ample room to meet and celebrate our culture? This is our proverbial home away from home, where we gather to share our favorite *adobo*, *pancit*, and *lumpia*. This is where our *Sinag-Tala* has found its own rehearsal space and, most importantly, a permanent exhibit space to showcase our cultural artifacts. This is the place where people from all over the greater Kansas City and beyond gather for our *fiestas*, picnics, and other celebrations.

Survival and longevity happen because we nurture growth by listening to internal and external voices within our community, by welcoming new ideas and by developing and training new leaders who continue to serve for the greater good. Past leaders need not step aside but are there to help and mentor new ones, to remind us to respect tradition and not abandon them, and furthermore, to recognize the contributors that made our success possible. Respect of our elders is an inherent Filipino tradition, and our adherence to this value bonds us together year after year.

Like the *narra*, our national tree, we have remained strong and resilient; we can bend with the wind yet not be blown over by it. We have withstood our share of bumps in the road, but we have moved on and carried out our educational and cultural mission with a vision for tomorrow that will be sustained by the next generation.

Mabuhay!

TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Cebu Hosts Ecotourism Conference

(Press release from the Dept of Tourism, Chicago Office)

Under the auspices of the UN World Tourism Organization, PATA and DENR, the Department of Tourism in cooperation with the DISCOVERMICE will hold the **5th World Ecotourism Conference** in Cebu on November 13 – 15, 2013. With its theme of **“Marine and Coastal Ecotourism: Oceans of Uncertainties. Waves of Opportunities”**, the event is expected to draw about 200 foreign and 100 local participants.

The World Ecotourism Conference is the world's most important ecotourism conference for developing countries. It aims to pool political, financial and intellectual resources to empower both public and private sector practitioners, professionals & stakeholders in engaging and enforcing sustainable and practical tourism development policies and practices in every aspect of tourism development, management, financing and marketing. A soft launch of the updated Philippines National Ecotourism Strategy (NES) will be organized during the hosted lunch on 13 November 2013.

A Magical Journey with the Wizard of Kans-OZ

By Verne Quiazon

(Editor's note: My friendship with the author goes way back to our college days in Manila. After many years of hither and thither, Verne and his wife, Anabelle, finally made the trip from Northern California to our neck of the woods. I hope his favorable impression of KS, MO and the Greater KC area hits a note and makes us proud!)

It has been a long-standing invitation – for me and my wife, Anabelle, to visit our good friend Ping Bayani in Kansas City before he finally relocated back to Southern California. It took an equally long time before we finally managed to come and visit. But visit we did last September ... and went to see Kansas and Missouri.

(Continued on page14)

What to do in Manila when you have no particular place to go...

(Editor's note: So you're in the Metro Manila area. You've got a day or two (or three) to while away. Somehow, watching the antics on Showtime or following the tele-seryes does not appeal to you. And you've been getting your 8 hours of zzz's, thanks to the air-conditioner, so sleeping during the day seems redundant. What do you do? Where do you go? Well, The Poor Traveler (see link below) and the PDOT (Philippine Department of Tourism) have 15 suggestions. Here are the first five – the rest will follow in future TAMBULI issues.

<http://www.thepoortraveler.net/2013/03/15-great-destinations-near-manila-philippines/#>

1. Trek to the Crater of Taal Volcano.

If you love admiring it from afar, you're going to love it even more when you're actually on the volcano. It only takes two to three hours to get to the jump off point in Talisay, Batangas. From there, you can rent a small boat to take you to the volcano island. Prep for a rigorous trek because its slopes, while not as steep, can still drain all your energy especially when the sun is harsh. (And unless you're trekking at night, I'm telling you: clouds or no clouds, the sun is harsh!) If long treks aren't on your favorites list, there's always the horse option, for a fee of course.

How to get there: From Manila, take the bus to Batangas and get off at Tanauan City Proper. If you're renting a boat from Taal Lake Yacht Club, ride a jeepney to Sampaloc and get off in front of TLYC. It's on your right side. You can also take a jeepney at Tanauan City to Talisay Town Proper.

2. Beat the Heat in Tagaytay City.

If for whatever reason (read: laziness) you don't want to trek, you can avoid getting physical and just admire the volcano and the lake from a distance, like most people do. Tagaytay offers the best views, with a lovely, cool atmosphere to boot. Visit the newly opened Sky Ranch and get into one of the coaches of their giant Ferris wheel, overlooking the lake. Not into rotating wheels? Spend a morning in one of the city's parks and gardens. The People's Park in the Sky has not been

(continued on page 11)



What to do in Manila... (from page 10)

maintained well but you might still want to stay to see a 360-degree view of the city. Or just enter a coffee shop, order a latte, and just ponder on why the hell you don't want to trek to the crater of the volcano you've been admiring from afar!

How to get there: From Manila, take a bus bound for Tagaytay or Nasugbu or you can also take a shuttle/van to Lemery at Starmall Alabang or Shaw. (Don't take the bus to Lemery; it doesn't pass through Tagaytay.) Either way, get off at Tagaytay Rotonda and take a trike or jeepney to your target destination from here.

3. Learn how to Dive in Anilao, Batangas.

Anilao in Mabini, Batangas is just three hours away, making it a favorite among Manila-based divers and future divers. One-day beginner courses are available to those who wish to learn how to, well, dive. Batangas waters host a wide array of marine wildlife that will blow you away.

If diving isn't your thing, you may also opt to climb Mt. Gulugod Baboy, an easy climb for professionals (probably the climb of my life if that were me) or take a boat to Sombrero Island and make love with the sun while flaunting your brand new bikini!

How to get there: Board a bus going to Batangas City and alight at Bolbok, just before Batangas pier under the flyover. Then take a jeepney to Anilao (Mabini).

4. Church-Hop from Lipa to Taal, Batangas.

From the petal shower site at Carmel Church to the sacred well of Sta. Lucia, from the magnificent Lipa Cathedral to the massive Taal Basilica, the biggest in Asia — the road from the city of Lipa to the heritage town of Taal is milestoned by grand churches and miraculous sites. Whether you're a believer or not, make a stop at these places and see what the fuss is about. If you have more time, roll out a bit more of your map and continue your journey to Calaca and Balayan, which also boast old, majestic churches.

Don't forget to dig in to some of the most delectable Batangueno dishes along the way! Missing bulalo, tapang Taal, lomi, and kapeng barako is a mortal sin!

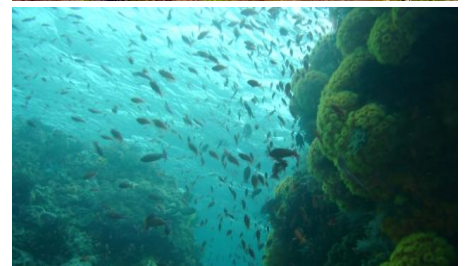
How to get there: Take a bus going to Batangas City or Lemery and get off at Lipa bus stop. Most points of interest in Lipa are accessible by trike. To get to Taal Town, take the bus again or a jeepney going to Lemery and ask the driver to drop you off in Taal.

5. Hit the Beaches of San Juan, Matabungkay (Lian), Nasugbu, and Calatagan.

San Juan harbors the province's most popular beaches today but if it's too crowded for you, drive to the other side of Batangas. Matabungkay used to be the "it" destination decades ago but it might still be a good place for a respite. Nasugbu is starting to be a great alternative, too, and the sight of Mt. Batulao is a constant invitation to awaken the dormant mountaineer in you. The barely touched shores of Calatagan offer front row seats to watch a spectacular Batangas sunrise. The Punta de Santiago Lighthouse is another point of interest.

How to get there: To get to Nasugbu, take a bus to Nasugbu. From here you can take a jeepney going to Lian or Calatagan

MORE SUGGESTIONS NEXT ISSUE!



CELEBRANTS PAGE

PLEASE ADVISE US IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION BELOW NEEDS TO BE UPDATED. THANK YOU!

November Birthdays

Mark Doronio	1	Evelyn Nelson	6	Venus Buckner	16	Caroline Cooper	22
Brandon Francisco	1	Nards Yrreverre	6	Jerry Hicks	16	Sean Nix	22
Jason Mullins	1	Grace Hipona	7	Dick O'Neill	16	Ben Alesna	23
Carina Pineda	1	Martin Still	7	Bong Tumanut	16	Jonathan Enriquez	23
Shaina Rivera	1	Becky Umali	8	Franklin Archer	17	Nancy Fernandes	23
Nathan Beins	2	Roland Dumuk	9	Roger Javillonar	17	Mariam Shahbazi R.N.	23
Lea Giesbrecht	2	Elvie Ganaban	9	Bryden Jaysan Paat	17	Richard Biggs	24
Tessie Javillonar	2	Gary Pricer	9	Ivy Rabang	17	Chyna Conde	24
Sylvia Aves-Spradlin	3	Metin DePaolis	10	Edward Tumanut	17	Dave Hopkins	24
Dena Brown	3	Andi Enriquez	10	Drake Wenciker	17	Brad Larson	24
Bianca Ferber	3	Sherilyn de los Santos	11	Debbie West	17	John Naldoza	24
Chelsea McCollam	3	Lary Lee	11	Mickey Abogado	18	Marietta Tungol	24
Brian Menzies	3	Fallon Russell	11	Joy Doolin	18	Nanette Beltran	25
Michael Yabut	3	Fe Abenoja	12	Vonn Harvey Francisco	18	Sandra Frazier	26
Anna Sarol	4	Raven Gaela	12	Lesley Tumanut-Pace	18	Connor Johnson	26
Mike Spradlin	4	Lindy Mamuric Glinoga	12	Jojo Tungol	18	Imelda Labayen	26
Arturo Alemania Abanilla	5	Mike Nix	12	Andres Ruffy	19	John Van Hengel	26
Nancy Canent	5	Clark Russell	13	Frank Sorio	19	Mila Haley	27
Irma Carey	5	Emma Deutch	14	Kevin Bautista	20	Febe Navas RN	27
John Navas	5	Jamie Frates	14	Erlinda Gabales	20	Amado Tabije R.N.	27
Isabel Simmons	5	Elsa Johnson	14	Jay Siron	20	Fuji Zoleta	27
Cecil Anterola	6	Ojie Mamuric	14	Bobby Starkey	20	Jason Cocjin	28
Nina Butkovitch	6	George Shepherd Jr.	14	Alan de los Santos	21	Raymond Javillonar	28
Cole Calderon	6	Eric Sorio	14	Alexis Pacis	21	Andrew Enriquez	30
Maxwell Connor	6	Tiffany Quinones-Johnson	15	Gemma Alemania-Snyder	22	Aaron Johnson	30
						Donnie Rodulfo	30

November Wedding Anniversaries

Eric and Maria Butkovich	6	Eric and Maria Butkovich	6
Steven and Isabel Simmons	10	Steven and Isabel Simmons	10
Stan and Elvira Berry	13	Stan and Elvira Berry	13
Vonn Harvey and Amy Francisco	18	Vonn Harvey and Amy Francisco	18
Alan and Cherry Russell	19	Alan and Cherry Russell	19
Martin and Janice Still	20	Martin and Janice Still	20
Neo and Letty Rabang	21	Neo and Letty Rabang	21
John and Glenda Naldoza	29	John and Glenda Naldoza	29



FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Minutes for General Meeting of October 11, 2013

Filipino Cultural Center, 9810 W 79th St, Overland Park, KS 66204



ATTENDANCE

Manuel Pardo MD, Fely Francisco MD, Carmen C. Chico, Rosario C. Bautista, Carl Estep, Kevin Bautista, Bing Sakach, Mila Tiojanco MD, Jocelyn Shute, Carolyn Lee, Celeste Robinson, Gia Vargas, Paul Delos Santos, Mirla Delos Santos, Daniel Maenle, Malachi Maenle, Armando Costes Balino, Cindy Kulphongpatana, Edward Tumanut, Bong Tumanut, Mike Dacuno, Glenn Porganan, Angie Chico-Agustin, Rizvend Pecana

Meeting called to order by President Bing Sakach at 7:30pm.

Call for Approval of the Agenda - Add Auditor's Report.

Call for Approval of Minutes of the last Meeting. Moved by Carmen Chico to approve, seconded by Manuel Pardo as corrected, i.e. Kevin Bautista's name was spelled incorrectly. All approved. No nays. No abstentions.

Guest - Mommy Charing, Bing's aunt, from the Philippines.

Celebrations - Wedding Anniversary: Peter and Bing Sakach; Birthdays: Carol Lee and Joy Shute.

President's Report: Bing Sakach

(Please see 'From the President' on Page 2 of this issue)

Board of Directors: Bong Tumanut

Discussions are on-going regarding the maintenance of the Cultural Center.

Riz Pecana is leading the efforts on security of our Cultural Center and the physical assets of the Association. The Board has decided to look at the assets and what needs to be insured. A group that will look into the assets has been formed. We need input on what needs to be done.

The Cultural Center signage is in the planning stages, along with the fencing.

Community Outreach: Mila Tiojanco

Community Outreach is a standing committee and it is one of the mission goals of the Association. There are now rules and regulations to guide community outreach. We as a group need to be out in the community. The Community Outreach program has been developed, structured and approved by the Board. Requests for community outreach assistance, ideas or projects will be addressed to the Community Outreach committee. The committee will review requests or projects and if merited, will get board approval. The committee will follow procedure as delineated in the program and direct the project to completion. After completion, the committee will submit

its report, including financial statement.

Donations will be directed specifically to the FAGKC Community Outreach Program and disbursements will be approved by the committee and the board.

Special discussion: Requests for financial assistance by INDIVIDUALS for urgent or emergent necessity was separately reviewed and evaluated. Bulletin from IRS addresses this issue. Contributions directed to the relief of a specific individual cannot be deducted, e.g. funeral expenses, medical bills. YOU CANNOT INDICATE THAT THE CONTRIBUTIONS IS FOR A SPECIFIC PERSON.

Therefore, FAGKC policy: Requests for urgent or emergent individual assistance will be directed to the president. The president may notify the membership. All contributions should be sent directly to the individual without involvement of FAGKC.

Questions and discussion was entertained.

Public Relations: Ed Tumanut

September was a busy month. The September Affair website got a lot of reservations and donations. Thank you to Armando for taking pictures and putting on them on the website.

Ed will be going to Jefferson City to be a guest Judge for an event for the Mid Missouri Filipino Association.

Tambuli -

A big issue came out in September. Please send articles to Ping Bayani at bayani0950@yahoo.com. The current issue is on the Association website.

Sinag Tala - No report.

Filipino Cultural Center Director - No report.

Auditor's Report: Mirla Delos Santos

Form 90 is due November 15 and there are no more extensions. If it is not filed we will lose our 501 c3 status. Bong Tumanut will follow up with Hans Vergara regarding the audit. It is suggested to start the audit earlier in the year.

Membership: Joy Shute

One person signed up for sponsorship last month. We had one late renewal and two new members in October.

(Continued on page 14)

(Minutes of General Meeting...continued from page 13)

Nominations: Lisa Hopkins

Lisa asked for a list of paid members as of September 30, 2013 so they can vote in the upcoming Association election. June 30, 2013 is the deadline for paid members to be eligible to be nominated.

Hospitality: Angie Chico-Agustin

Thank you to the volunteers at the September Affair. The Hospitality committee continues to call on the sick in the community.

Social Affairs:

Halloween Party- no report

Christmas- will report next month.

Pinoy Breakfast: No October breakfast. November breakfast is tentatively planned. Check the website.

Nascar: Peter Sakach via Bing

Thank you to all the volunteers to worked so hard and were very patient with him. He is calling for volunteers for next year. We need 20-25 volunteers each day. Peter does not know how much we made for the race weekend.

Senior Council: Carmen Chico

Attendance to the Senior Council meeting has been very well attended. Next meeting October 12, 2013 at 11:00am at FCC. Light potluck.

September had a field trip to New Roots for Refugees. The Senior Council donated \$1000 and saw the shelter that the money went to. They also saw the vegetable gardens.

The Senior Council Calendars go on sale starting October 12. Each calendar is \$10.

September Affair: Kevin Bautista

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the performers. We had lots of positive comments. Thank you to the Planning Committee. We had approximately 420 plus guests and a lot of them were new faces.

The Committee is still auditing the financials. We approximately grossed \$64,850. Net about \$38,000 which is a new record. The final totals will be revealed November 10 at the wrap up party.

This event had a lot of firsts for the Association.

- We had three honorary chairs. They were not solicited.

- We recognized all the past September Affair Chairs.

- We recognized the first September Affair Chair, Shirley Sulit.

- 92 pages was a record for souvenir program, with a lot of new advertisers.

The Westin has already reached out, wanting our business for next year.

Building and Maintenance: Neo Rabang

We need a commercial riding lawn mower. It took three days to mow the lawn with the push mower.

Treasurers Report:

Mary Ann Deming was not present to report. Angie Chico-Agustin brought it to the meeting. Need more details. Neo Rabang moved to approve the report. Mila Tiojanco seconded the motion but the vote was tabled till the next meeting.

Old Business:

Medical Mission 5K run is being re-evaluated.

Shrimp Dinner is October 12, 2013, 6:00pm at FCC.

It is a casual. Peel-and-eat shrimp and all the fixings will be served. There will be items for sale at the dinner. Tickets are still available. See a Board member.

New Business:

Nomination for 2014 Officers. Send nominations to Ed, Bing, or Lisa Hopkins. Need President –Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Submitted by:

Cindy Kulphongpatana, FAGKC Secretary

A Magical Journey . . . *(from page 10)*

When we told people we were going to Kansas City, they invariably asked: "What are you going to do there?" or "What will you see there?" And even as we were packing our bags, our grandchildren warned us to be on the lookout for tornadoes or we could end up in the Land of Oz as Dorothy did. True enough; the first thing that Ping showed us as we were walking out of the terminal building was the Tornado Shelter in the airport. And indeed, Dorothy and her story provided a very interesting background to our trip.

Anabelle and I did not go to the Emerald City to meet the Wizard of Oz. But Ping turned out to be a real Wizard showing us this wonderful place he called home for almost two decades. It takes a person who is really in love with a place and its people to be able to showcase it and make you appreciate the place just like he does.

We were inspired by the peace and serenity of Precious Moments Museum and Chapel in Carthage, MO. The chapel was a truly uplifting visit and the museum was a glimpse into the life and work of Sam Butcher. *(continued on page 15)*



Happy guests at the Shrimp Dinner, showing how it's done...one finger-lickin' bite at a time!

A Magical Journey ... (continued from page 14)

There was even a special section on the Philippines and the Filipinos who apparently have a special place in the heart of Sam. One of the 'jewels' in this section is a painting by former Philippine President Cory Aquino, given as a gift to Sam. Rare Precious Moments images on capiz shells in the museum, imposing hand-carved mahogany doors in the chapel and pictures of Mr. Butcher's house in the Philippines further emphasized his Philippine-connection!

We were awed by fabulous stone formations inside the Fantastic Caverns in Springfield, MO. Walking through those gigantic forms, I couldn't help but think: "There is a God." It is amazing how in those deep and dark caverns, nature was able to fashion such awesome works of art. Bit by bit, tiny water droplets from the cavern ceilings fashioned shapes, sizes and colors to enthrall and dumbfound any human being.

Branson was a different world all together. It was as much fun as Vegas without the vices. We thought three shows over the weekend would be a bit much but in the end, we could have gone to some more! We were singing, shouting, jumping and dancing with the performers and the audience as we got caught up in the shows. We reminisced the music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons and the sounds of the 60s. We sang along with the ballads and folk music of the Twelve Irish Tenors and were magically transported to the Emerald Isle. We worked out our voices hoarse to the music of ABBA and the sounds of the 70s. And to top it all, Branson was such a quaint, homely and welcoming place. The Ozark Mountains may not have the drama of the Rockies but it is an excellent place not just to have fun but to live in and raise a family.

Back in Kansas City, there was that leisurely walk in Shawnee Mission Park, savoring the freshness of nature and the challenge of climbing the tower. There were moments spent in prayer at the imposing Redemptorist Church, awesome with its high ceilings and Neo-Gothic architecture. Then, it was a relaxing coffee break at the Union Station, marveling at the grandeur of that massive structure.

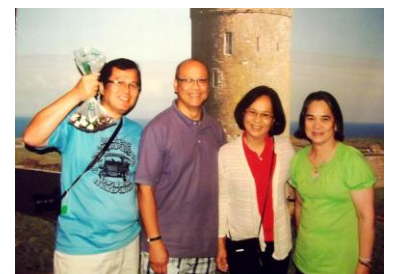
(Continued on page 16)



Painting by Pres. Cory Aquino



Precious Moments Collectible
Made in the Philippines on capiz!



Magical Journey author Verne with
Ping, Anabelle and Mila, about to
watch a show in Branson

A Magical Journey... (continued from page 15)

That would have been more than enough fun for a weekend but the Wizard that was Ping still had more surprises up his sleeves. He immersed us in history as we walked through the Truman Library and Museum. After the tour, I got to better understand many of the events that I only read about in history books and realized how the decisions made then still impact our lives today. I was also deeply impressed by how Christian values and principles inspired and animated the actions and decisions of Truman.

With all the wonderful places we went to, the awesome sites we visited and the fantastic shows we enjoyed, one could have said: "What a weekend that was!" and went back home happy brimming with lifetime memories. But the Wizard Ping was not yet done working his magic.

As he was showing us around, we did not meet the Scarecrow, in search of a brain. Instead, we met people so steeped in wisdom, earned and learned through years of living happy, abundant and meaningful lives. Ping introduced us to his friends who, rich in years as they were, generously shared with us the happiness and wisdom of all those years. We felt their warm hospitality as they welcomed us into their homes, sharing food rich with love and calories, laughter rich with fun and melodies and stories rich with lessons and memories. We are thinking of Cito and Tacing Jalbuena, Noy and Shirley Sulit, Nonong and Lillian Pardo, Jun and Evelyn Puno, Nita Panlilio West and our hearts are bursting with joy, gratitude and love to have been introduced by Ping to these lovable people.

Neither did we meet the Tinman, in search of a heart. Instead, we met a whole community that was full of heart – The Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City. We saw their heart and the love radiating in the home they built together – The Filipino Cultural Center. We saw their love for their roots in the Filipiniana Collection they put together. And we felt the love in their hearts in the lovely music the Sampaguita Choir made and the beautiful songs they sang together. They may be miles away from home but home is never more than a heartbeat away from them when they get together.

There was no Cowardly Lion, in search of courage, waiting for us down the road. Instead, we have met the most courageous people, carving out a life and building the future in the heartland of America. Right smack between the very cosmopolitan and sophisticated East Coast and the very liberal and highly technology-driven West Coast, there they are in the center of it all. They live and create what is best in America: warm, caring, concerned, committed, responsible and steeped in the Christian values and principles on which this nation was founded.

And by the way, our travelling companion was not Toto but Mila, Anabelle's sister – a most wonderful and generous person with whom we would always love to go on journeys.

Thank you for such a wonderful weekend, Wizard Ping Bayani. It was truly a vacation and a trip – somewhere over the rainbow!

From the President... (from page 2)

Tita Cory (*Sorio*) is looking for this year's FA Scholars. So make sure to send your nomination.

And speaking of nominations, we need to turn in nominations for 2014. I know there are some talents out there who are may be shy or may be scared. Please don't be - if you believe you can do it, you can definitely do it. God gave us our talents to share, so I am inviting you to do so. ☺ Please turn in nominations to Tita Lisa Hopkins or Tita Mayie Vilkins.

We are having our Halloween Party and it will be chaired by the youth group, *aka Sinag-Tala*, with the assistance of Gemma Alemania-Snyder.

Save the date, for "Volunteer Appreciation Day" on November 23. The Filipino Cultural Center Foundation is graciously making this event possible. I think I also have a silent donor, but I need to confirm that to make sure. This will be a special day for all the hard working volunteers who said 'yes' to chairing and co-chairing our activities as well as those who helped in our events and fund raisers for the year.

This is our – i.e. the Filipino Association and the Filipino Cultural Center Foundation) - way of giving back for all your time and effort. This is by invitation only and will not be posted on Facebook or the website.

Christmas Party will be December 7. Thank you again to my sister and Joy Schute for answering my plea to chair our last Social event. I hope the weather will cooperate.

December 22 is Filipino-American Day at Arrowhead with the Chiefs vs. Indianapolis Colts. Contact Riz Pecana for more information. Tickets are \$39 for good seats and payment is due by October 20.

Thank you all again for being here tonight and please stay for our October birthday and wedding anniversary celebration.

All the best,
Bing Sakach

Do you like to write and report on events?

Want to join the Tambuli staff?

Email me at

pbayani@filipino-association.org

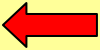


**FAGKC
Bowling
Fundraiser**

*Thank
You,*

**ANNIE
COVILLO**

*for
taking
the lead
on this!*



**RISE AND
DREAM TOUR**

*Thank
You,*

**CFCA
BARCLAY MARTIN
RYAN SUMICAD**



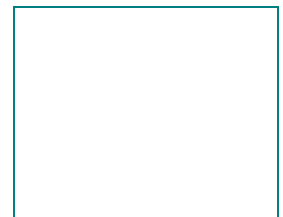


SHRIMP DINNER! Plates filled with seafood, air full of music; hearts filled with laughter, room full of friends... Ahhh! Life is good... except for the shrimp, even if he tries to mimic Gemma's pose! Or is it the other way around?

Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City
9810 West 79th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

*Mission Statement:
The Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City is a not-for-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization established to preserve, promote and enhance Filipino culture through education and cultural arts and to provide service to the community at-large through its projects and programs.*

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



(Please let us know if you'd rather receive an electronic copy of this newsletter. Thank you!)