



A monthly publication of the Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City

9810 West 79th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

www.filipino-association.org

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Message from the FAGKC President

Maria 'Bing' Sakach

Ahhh... my last message as President. Mixed emotions, for sure! First and foremost, I had a great time. It was a big responsibility to be President of such a big organization.

Some people would say it was hard and indeed, it was! But with a group of people working together for a common goal, nothing is impossible. I cannot deny it was very challenging and for those who have 'been there, done that', I'm sure they'll agree. To those of you who have worked closely with me, you know what I am talking about - stress, tears, frustration. But at the same time, I am proud to say this is a big accomplishment for me personally! And I want to take this opportunity to thank you all once again from the bottom of my heart. Twelve months ago, I wasn't sure if I could do it; I just knew there was no turning back. I am 'it' - the President of the Filipino Association. I tell you what though, the pats on the back and the kind words actually kept me going.

So many people to thank, not just for what we did in the month of December but for the entire quarter! In October, we had NASCAR and the Shrimp Dinner. We had a little break thereafter but then November came with a vengeance, bringing with it a level of stress that seemed endless! Tired as we were, we had to do mobilize to give back to the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan.

Thank you to those involved with the Pinoy Breakfast, the collection, packing and shipping of relief goods, the benefit concert production, Rockhurst High school, all the performers, Phil and

Paco Vitug, the Zumba fund raiser. To all our generous donors, the tv and radio stations for the publicity and all the volunteers who shared their time for this cause, *maraming salamat!* The response from the community was overwhelming! We got emails and phone calls from so many people, many of them strangers to us! It was crazy, but it was awesome at the same time.

Special thanks go to the breakfast crew headed by Linda Francisco, Car and John Contre-ras, Angelo and Carlo Santos and Neo Rabang for working so hard. We almost ran out of food but somehow, we managed! Thanks to those who donated desserts, to Mary Ann for the fruits and Joy Schute for the *palitaw* and Carol for the cookies. It was our biggest break-

(Continued on page 8)



TAMBULI STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Ping Bayani
Contributor
this issue: Kevin Bautista

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1/2 Page	\$35	\$360
Full Page	\$50	\$480



It's a lifetime ago...almost. Simpler times, gentler times perhaps. Bamboo cannons, handmade noisemakers, sticks and stones, bottle caps... or just good old human shouts! But the joys a new year brings are ever the same then and now – the promise of better times ahead, the challenge of fresh opportunities, the chance to forgive and be forgiven. New dawn, new leaf, new life. Happy New Year, all!

From the Editor...What a Year!

By Ping Bayani

What a year 2013 has been for the Philippines and Filipinos!

SPORTS: 'Pambansang Kamao' Manny Pacquiao got back on the winning track in boxing. Reigning IBF light fly-weight champion John Riel Casimero successfully defended his title twice. Add the names of Merlito Sabillo and Bruno Escalante in the litany of up and coming Pinoy champs. In basketball, 'Gilas Pilipinas' national team ended the streak of powerhouse South Korea and made it to the FIBA World Cup finals, eventually losing to Iran. The Philippine national soccer team, the Azkals (short for Asong Kalsada) climbed up the ranks and is becoming a respected team in Asia. At the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Game, Filipinos took home a gold and bronze medal in Latin dancing (Yes, Virginia – in some countries, ballroom dancing is considered a sport!). In billiards, Rubilen Amit won three international titles, including the prestigious Women's World 10 Ball title, coming from behind to beat the legendary Kelly Fisher of England. And on the men's side, Dennis Orcollo added several international titles to his already long string of billiard victories, winning the US Bar Box Championship Open 10-Ball, the US Open One Pocket Championship, the 888.com World Cup of Pool 2013 and the gold medal at the SEA Games gold in the 10 Ball Competitions. The country even made great strides in women's volleyball, competing internationally for the first time since 2005 in the AVC Zonals and landing in 3rd place, thereby gaining a slot in the AVC Championship. In chess, Wesley So had a banner year. A chess grandmaster when he was barely 14 years old (making him the eighth youngest in history), Wesley continues his winning ways at his now ripe age of 20! He is now in the Top 30 Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) rankings, ranked second in the Juniors FIDE list. In 2013, So finished first in several international competitions: the Reykjavik Open, the standard and blitz crowns at the Calgary International Chess Classic, the triple crown at the 2013 Las Vegas International Chess Festival, the World University Championship and the 17th Unive Chess Tournament. And in another first, Manila-born Marlon Stockinger became the first Filipino to ever win a formula race in Europe, as a hailed member of the Lotus Formula One Team. We also have several Pinoys in the UFC and MMA arenas!

(Continued on page 6)

FAGKC CHRISTMAS PARTY



Not a member of the Filipino Association yet?
Here's the link to the Membership Page on our website:
<http://www.filipino-association.org/membership/>



TOURISM AND TRAVEL

What to do in Manila -

When you have no particular place to go...Part 3!

(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* (<http://www.thepoortraveler.net/2013/03/15-great-destinations-near-manila-philippines/#>) and the PDOT (Philippine Department of Tourism) have 15 suggestions.

The first 12 were featured in previous issues:

1. Trek to the Crater of Taal Volcano
2. Beat the Heat in Tagaytay City
3. Dive in Anilao, Batangas
4. Church-Hop from Lipa to Taal, Batangas.
5. Beaches of San Juan, Matabungkay, Nasugbu, and Calatagan, Batangas
6. Mt. Pinatubo
7. Anawangin and Nagsasa Cove, Zambales
8. Borawan and Dampalitan Islands, Quezon
9. Festivals in Quezon, Batangas, Rizal or Pampanga
10. Art and Culture in Angono, Rizal and Paete, Laguna
11. Waterfalls and Lakes in Pagsanjan, Pangil and San Pablo, Laguna
12. Make a Splash in Puerto Galera, Mindoro

In this third and final installment, we give you the last three recommended places to visit.

1. Go Bird-watching in Freedom Islands.

This one is not near Metro Manila, it is *in* it! Freedom Island and Long Island, collectively called Freedom Islands, lie off the coast of Paranaque and Las Pinas. More formally known as *Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area*, the Freedom Islands have a huge ecological role in the area. It is the last remaining mangrove forest and salt marsh frontier in Metro Manila. These two islands also serve as a sanctuary for many marine lifeforms and a refuge for more than 80 species of birds, both local and migratory. However, the Freedom Islands are under threat. The garbage the city produces - an awful lot of them - has found its way to the islands. You cannot swim here but if birdwatching makes your day, you don't need to travel to Pampanga or Batangas for it. The closest site is within Metro Manila.



One of several remaining cannons on Corregidor Island

2. Brush Up on History on Corregidor Island.

Corregidor is just a ferry ride away from Manila. You'll be surprised that while many city dwellers have visited many islands in the far corners of the country, a good lot of them have never set foot on Corregidor. This tadpole-shaped island lies at the mouth of Manila Bay and was a strategic military base during World War II. The remnants of the past remain standing and are just waiting for curious, open minds to come take a look. If ghost-haunting is right up your alley, they say it is also the place to be but maybe that's too extreme.

3. Retrace the Death March in Bataan.

Sounds like an emotional torture but this activity can be very enlightening and rewarding to history buffs! And since you're already in Bataan, don't miss the chance to visit Mt. Samat and some of the province's beaches. If you can also visit in November, take part in *Pawikan Festival* and witness the turtle hatchlings' return to the sea.



Satellite image of Freedom Island, courtesy of Google Maps



One of several memorials to the Death March of World War II

CELEBRANTS PAGE

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

January Birthdays

Claude Cepeda	1
Arvin Figueroa	1
Magno Gabales	1
Precy Huebner	1
Lydia Geroche	2
Joe Hicks	2
Emilie Turalba	2
Grace Buenavista	3
Michael Lee	4
Edward Tungol	4
Lina Zubiri-Sequerra	4
Hannah Crain	5
Perla Horst	5
Mathew Daniel Macaraeg	5
Rene Menzies	5
Jon Miciano	5
Tad Macaraeg	6
Todd Sampson	6
Mario Abenoja	7
Letty Rabang	7
Arnulfo Sulit	7
Rowena Vergara	7
Jennifer Aquino	8
Precy Buzick-Mulach	8

Carlos Miguel Mamuric	8
Pedro Cordero	9
Kent Dobson	9
Michael Tan	9
Elsie Winicov	9
Gathel Giesbrecht	10
Nicole Herrera	10
Letty Quiason	10
Amie Valera	10
Joe Viles	10
Alyssa Campbell	11
Claudette dela Cruz	11
Henna Fuller	11
Bryan Jomar Paat	11
Ashley Sampson	11
Sergio Alaniz	12
Don Downing	12
Loreta Mithelavage	12
Bebie Cawley	13
Mila Christmas	13
Dennis Paat	13
Walter Giesbrecht	14
Brayden Bringer	15
Mariah Zxara Nel Tatad-Tarrago	15

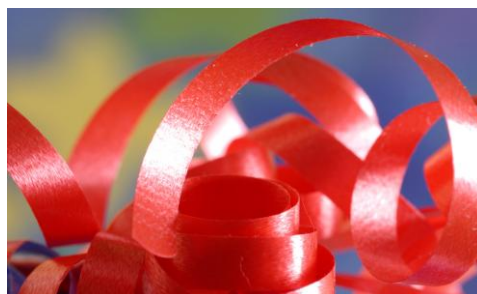
Annaliza Bagunu	16
Lita Doronio	16
Dan George	16
Michael Juan	17
Anna Samilin	17
James Gador	18
Dan Sulit	18
Marta Prigmore	19
Benny Tinio Jr.	19
Art Villamayor	19
Lito Pineda	20
Neo Rabang	20
Ernie Rosas	20
Rio Starkey	20
Vangie Sampson	21
Matt Shields	21
Mia Spurlock	21
Christopher Bringer	22
Alan Labayen	22
Joshua Spradlin	22
Eileen Cocjin	23
Arturo Quiason	23
Susan Dolina	24
Anna Sambitan	24

Wendell Train	24
Joan Viril	24
Jerice Anterola	25
Rasel DePaolis	25
Joan Dy-Gauwitz	25
Danny Galos	25
Shannon Tumanut	25
Rebecca Castro-Evans	26
Mel Carey	27
Vi Ignacio	27
Melissa Sullivan	27
Luz Conde	28
Cheryl Hunter	28
Elaine Suba	28
Francis Festiva	29
Cathy Lim	29
Luisa Lotuaco	29
Peter Saing	29
Henri Van Zandweghe	29
Emily Kalthoff	30
Nina Ysabel Estiva	31
Christine Robertson	31
Christian Sequerra	31
Lorenzo Zapata	31

January Wedding Anniversaries

Chuck and Ginger Stout	1
Arturo and Emmeline Quiason	2
Cesar and Luz Conde	2
Bob and Mila Christmas	4
Paul and Mirla de los Santos	9
Pedro and Esing Cordero	10

David and Beth Cordero-Merrick	10
Michael and Monchit Navarro	14
Randy and Pam Ames	14
Billy and Bing Iway	18
Ric and Pie Rivera	19
Danny and Janette Galos	25
Amado and Normita Mamuric	26



FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

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



THE MINUTES OF THE GENEREAL MEETING
AND THE TREASURER'S REPORT
WERE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLICATION.

What a Year...(from page 2)

PAGEANTS: International beauty titles and placements galore! Winner Miss World, Winner Miss International, Winner Miss Supranational (I bet this is new to many readers), 3rd runner-up Miss Universe, 3rd runner-up Miss Grand International (another new one!), Finalist, Miss Earth, Current title holder Miss Tourism International (until the new one gets crowned on December 31). I think a petition has been lodged by some pageant franchise holders to 'disqualify or ban' the Philippines from international pageants for at least a couple of years 'to give other countries a chance to win'! Even the men are getting some attention, placing well in the Mr. International and Manhunt International contests!

ARTS & CULTURE: At the 2013 Yeosu International Choir Competition and Festival, four Philippine Choirs brought home a total of 9 prizes! For this year's Asian Television awards, the Philippines got nine nominations - four for performance or hosting, five for programs. At the recently concluded Sing-Off program here in the US, the Filharmonics, a Filipino a capella group finished a respectable 4th place. At this year's World Championship of the Performing Arts held in Hollywood, CA, Philippine representatives dominated again, winning the six top prizes! At Galerie Zimmermann Kratochwill (GZK) in Austria, Filipino conceptual artists based in Manila took center stage with multimedia work using photography, video and sculpture, featuring Yason Banal (born in Manila, graduate of Goldsmiths College, a prestigious art school, home to the infamous Young British Artists (YBAs) movement from the late 1980s and 1990s) and Poklong Anading (born in Manila, trained in fine arts at UP, exhibiting extensively in the Philippines and abroad, with works shown at the Guggenheim Museum in New York).

GLOBAL NEWS: The earthquake in Bohol. Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda), the strongest typhoon ever recorded. The ongoing territorial squabble with China over some strategic and resource-rich islands. The continuing political tiff with Taiwan and Hong Kong stemming from the hostage situation and resulting death of Chinese nationals in the Philippines. The expulsions of OFWs from several countries. Filipinos included in Forbes' Listing of World Billionaires: Still the Philippines' richest man, magnate Henry Sy saw his net worth swell from \$9.1 billion in 2012 to \$13.2 billion in 2013. Tobacco and alcohol king Lucio Tan, meanwhile, saw his numbers increase by \$500 million from last year, keeping him as the country's second richest. Port investor Enrique Razon, Jr., the third wealthiest Filipino, also earned \$1.3 billion over a nine-month period, having recently taken the Solaire Resort and Casino at Manila Bay as his newest venture. New dollar billionaire Andrew Gotianun, the man behind real estate conglomerate Filinvest, entered Forbes' chart this year after his fortune surged from \$825 million in June 2012 to \$1.2 billion this March. Here's the complete list: 1. Henry Sy and family - \$13.2 billion (68th overall); 2) Lucio Tan and family - \$5 billion (248th overall); 3) Enrique Razon, Jr. - \$4.9 billion (258th overall); 4) Andrew Tan - \$3.95 billion (345th overall); 5) David Consunji and family - \$2.8 billion (503rd overall); 6) George Ty and family - \$2.6 billion (554th overall); 7) Lucio and Susan Co - \$2 billion (736th overall); 8) Robert Coyiuto, Jr. - \$1.6 billion (931st overall); 9) Tony Tan Caktiong and family - \$1.4 billion (1031st overall); 10) Andrew Gotianun and family - \$1.2 billion (1175th overall); 11) Roberto Ongpin - \$1.2 billion (1175th overall). Unavailable and/or incomplete data from the following 2012 billionaires prevented their inclusion in the current 2013 list: John Gokongwei Jr. and family - \$3.2 billion in 2012; Jaime Zobel de Ayala and family - \$2.2 billion; Eduardo Cojuangco - \$1.4 billion; Inigo and Mercedes Zobel - \$1.15 billion; Emilio Yap - \$1.1 billion

So there – more trivia than you could ever get from a single viewing of Jeopardy or a night of Trivial Pursuit! And why did I write this for my editorial? If nothing else, it is to underline the need to be curious, to be open to information, to even have some levity in the pursuit of knowledge, inconsequential as it may seem. When we close the windows of learning, the doors of life also slam shut! And we all know there's no fun being trapped inside a dark room. Best wishes for a blessed 2014!

The Raise Hope Gala - An Exciting Venetian-Inspired Medical Ball

The Philippine Medical Society of Greater Kansas City (PMSGKC) is thrilled to announce that they will host their annual Philippine Medical Ball, now renamed as the "Raise Hope Gala" on **Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** at The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center hotel.

Why is it called the Raise Hope Gala?

Dr. Yvonne Spurlock, current PMSGKC President says, "We simply want to convey the message that what we are doing is not just a fundraiser. Our previous Philippine Medical Balls celebrated our past accomplishments, but now, rather than making it an event about the past, we remind ourselves of what can be done for the future, the reasons why we do what we do, and how each one of us can be part of this good cause. In the end, we intend not just to raise funds for our continued efforts - we intend to raise awareness of the need, and, in the end, hope for those who will benefit. Renaming our event, the Raise Hope Gala fits this awareness. All proceeds from the Raise Hope Gala directly support the annual medical mission to the Philippines."

One night in Venice...

This year's gala theme, *Una Notte a Venetia – One Night in Venice*, will welcome guests with an exquisite atmosphere in an intimate setting. Guests are encouraged to don their finest for this black-tie formal affair, adding distinctiveness to a beautiful evening of fine food, entertainment and dancing. The event will include a cocktail hour reception, a multi-course dinner, dancing to the exciting sounds of a live band and a spectacular entertainment program, plus a host of surprises that will be unveiled during the event.

Formal invitations, along with ticket availability, sponsorship packages and benefit raffle ticket information will soon follow. More information will be available on our web site at www.medical-mission.org at the end of the year.

About the Medical Mission:

The Philippine Medical Society of Greater Kansas City, in cooperation with the Philippine Nurses Association of Greater Kansas City (PNAGKC) – along with non-medical volunteers, make an annual trip to the Philippines every year to serve those in need of access to medical care. Aside from a series of fundraising events, PMSGKC collects donations of supplies and applicable equipment of all types. These items are then sorted, packed, and stored prior to transport. All funds donated cover the costs of freight shipping and door-to-door delivery of supplies and equipment. The balance of funds is used to purchase other items. Specific medical supplies that may be endemic or have a short shelf life are purchased in the Philippines.

All missionaries pay their own way; however, the cost of their accommodations is covered during the duration of the mission. The 21st annual Medical Mission will take place in Angono Rizal, Philippines, located 19 miles east of the country's capital, Manila.

To learn more about the Medical Society and the medical mission, please visit www.medical-mission.org.

Contact:

Yvonne Spurlock, DO
President, Philippine Medical Society of Greater Kansas City
(816) 876-7796
spurlocky@yahoo.com
www.medical-mission.org

Message from our President... (from page 1)

fast - we netted more than \$2000, with all proceeds going to typhoon Haiyan victims.

Special thanks also to Beth Rosas and Henna Fuller and the nurse-members of the PNAGKC for managing the packing of solicited goods. Thank you to Jun Puno for his extended stays at the Filipino Cultural Center to accept donations. Thanks to Tita Mila and Mary Ann for writing thank you notes and keeping track of donations. Special thanks also to Jinky Bautista and Glen Balilo for bringing their friends and a team of engineers to help with the packing. They were also the last ones to leave to help with the clean-up, along with my brother-in-law John and my sister Car. Thank you to Art Villamayor and the Villamayor Balikbayan Shipping Company for giving us discounted rates to send those boxes. And thank you to Aris Villamayor for donating and hauling the boxes.

To the many who did private fundraisings, a BIG thank you. We may not know your names but life and *karma* will find ways to reward you! We have proven once again that the spirit of *bayanihan* continues to live and breathe in KC!

Last month, we were supposed to have the Volunteer Appreciation Day. It is our way of saying thank you for all you do. But with all that was going on with the Haiyan relief efforts, we had to cancel it. Thank you volunteers for making it easy for me to make this decision. And as most of you suggested, we will donate the money to the Haiyan fund instead.

On December 5, the Asian American Chamber of Commerce invited me to their last event of the year. It was also a fundraiser and they made the Haiyan victims, through the Filipino Association, their beneficiary! The FAGKC President-Elect and I had fun with their Karaoke contest and the awesome spread of food and drinks. They even made me speak during the event, so that was a great honor as well. Shortly thereafter, Sook Park, the Executive Director of the AACC, emailed to let me know that we were getting a \$2000 check for Haiyan relief. Thank you and hats off to the Asian American Chamber of Commerce for reaching out to us!

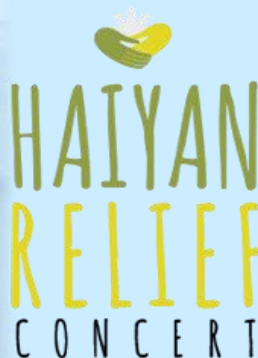
And of course, we had our Annual Christmas Party celebration! It was planned to be a low key celebration because of the multiple activities we've had in the community. But even then, we still had a pretty good-sized crowd. We had a lot of new faces! As always, kids had a great time with Santa. Thank you, Peter, for wearing the suit and making the kids happy. Special thanks to those who brought food and to the lechon donors, Cindy and Ely K, Jojie Doronio, Mila Tiojanco, Bong and Kelly Tumanut, Mary Ann Deming and Fely Francisco. Thank you, raffle donors - Tita Pipay, Car, Joy and myself. Special thanks to our DJ Clyde. It was a last minute request and he agreed to do it, despite the fact that he even had to play for the KC Sporting finals that afternoon. Last but not least, thank you to my decoration and set-up crew, Armando, Car, John and the boys and Angelo.

So, what is left? The New Year's Party! This is a membership campaign the Senior Council started 3 years ago. It's such a fun event so we hope you can come and experience it. We will also have the induction of the 2014 officers. Special thanks to Tita Lisa Hopkins for heading the Nominations Committee. She was so organized; she didn't need help in taking care of the ballots!

In closing, I want you all to know that it was a pleasure and an honor to serve this community. It made me a totally different person. It made me grow as an individual and it made me believe that if they can do it, I can do it too! And trust me, if I can do it, so can you! It made my marriage grow stronger in spite of our petty fights and arguments. It made me become more humble and patient...to a certain degree (*smiling!*).

Good luck to incoming President Ed Tumanut and to the 2014 officers. We will stand where you need us - behind you, beside you and if necessary, even in front of you! All the best in the remaining days of 2013 and the coming 2014!





 HAIYAN
 RELIEF
 CONCERT

*Details and pictures
 of the concert
 will be featured
 in the next issue
 of Tambuli.*

Siete cordialmente invitati...

RAISE HOPE GALA

Una Notte a Venezia
One Night in Venice

A benefit for the annual Philippine Medical Missions

03.15.14

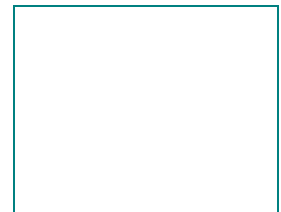
The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center
One East Pershing Road

Presented by the Philippine Medical Society of Greater Kansas City
More information to follow {} www.medical-mission.org

Filipino Association of Greater Kansas City
9810 West 79th Street
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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!)