



Filipinas



JULY 2019

The Official Newsletter of the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

2ND MULTICULTURAL EVENT

THEME: UNITY IN DIVERSITY CLASSICAL AND TRADITIONAL DANCE TROUPES OF VARIOUS CULTURES

Saturday, July 20, 2019 • 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

ENRIQUE AND MERCEDES QUINTO STAGE

PHILIPPINE CENTER • 200 Church Street West Mifflin PA 15122

DONATION SPONSOR: \$50.00 | ADVANCE DONATION: \$10.00 | AT DOOR DONATION: \$15.00

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

Teodora Schipper Speer - 412.491.8617 | Fanny Eudela Spanos - 412.327.5586 | Rowena Lavador - 724.822.1933



FAAP Picnic and Cultural Appreciation Day

Sunday, August 11, 2019
11:00am to 5:00pm

BLUEBERRY HILL PARK FRANKLIN PARK BOROUGH
1604 Blaines Way Blueberry Hill Park The Activity Center Building, Franklin Park Borough PA 15143
Telephone: 412 366 4115 | www.franklinparkborough.us

JOIN US WITH FUN ACTIVITIES:

- Palaro such as the parlor games, volleyball tournament and Filipino Traditional parlor games
- FAAP Tawag Mang Tanghalan (adult & kids)
- FAAP Dance Troupe Performance
- A taste of Philippine Cuisine and celebrating cultural diversity
- Basket and Mystery Gift Raffles
- Wide open fields and you can do lots of fun field activities

Wheelchair accessible:
Access to playgrounds, basketball court, tennis court, etc. (No pets please)

WHAT TO BRING:

- Lawn chairs, blanket, or tent for your family
- Juice, soda or bottled water (No Alcohol)
- Your favorite fruits or dessert to share

FAAP Members: FREE
Non-Member/Guests: \$15.00 (Adults) \$10.00 (age 5 to 12)
Free under 5 years old or \$40.00 per family

MEMBERSHIP:
Student \$20
Single/Individual \$30
Family \$50

LIFETIME:
Couple \$300
60 yrs and older

FOR MORE INFORMATION, KINDLY CONTACT:
Joji Smith (Chair) 706-266-7786 | Sheila Requiron (Co-Chair) 412-265-8393

12TH ANNUAL FAAP FALL CLASSIC
(20K, 10K, 5K RUN • WALK)

FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PITTSBURGH
SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 • 8:00AM-12:00PM
NORTH PARK HARMAR PAVILION
(TRAIL RUN)

REGISTER: [HTTP://FAAP5KRACE.YOLASITE.COM](http://FAAP5KRACE.YOLASITE.COM)

PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS AN ORPHANAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER PROGRAMS BY THE FAAP

SAVE THE DATE:

64th FAAP Anniversary & Induction Ball

Saturday, October 19, 2019 • Double Tree Hotel | 101 Mall Blvd, Monroeville, PA 15146

Contact Persons: Teodora Schipper 4124918617 | Evelyn Abola- 412-302-2868

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FAAP SCORES BIG WITH THE PNR AND THE PHILIPPINE CENTER



It is indeed a blessing that after 20 long years, the Filipino community of Pittsburgh **finally** has its very own Philippine Nationality Room (PNR) at the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. The PNR will be our lasting legacy for the people of Pittsburgh and, most especially, the next generation of Pittsburgh Filipinos.

Very special thanks go to Fr. Manny Gelido and the PNR Task Force for saving the project and turning it into a reality. Their patience and perseverance brought us the realization of our long-held dream: building a better community through cultural diversity and developing a deep and lasting appreciation of Filipino culture.

Our dream of having a Philippine Center to call our home has been fulfilled. Because of this, we have been able to successfully celebrate:

- * Mother's Day
- * Father's Day
- * Our First Santa Cruzan event and
- * Araw ng Kalayaan (Independence Day)

Hearty congratulations to all those who headed the above events!

We certainly look forward to our upcoming **2nd Multicultural event on July 20, 2019**. Those who attended last year's event can attest to that successful first one. We look forward to continuing that tradition!

Do not down our annual general membership meeting, elections and picnic on **Aug. 11 at the Blue Berry Hill Park, Franklin Park, at the Activity Center**. As always, we will be serving a variety of Filipino foods, having fun activities and providing the opportunity to make new friends. We strongly invite all our members and friends to attend the picnic. Your voice in the election of our Board of Directors, who will serve a 2 year term is very important. The Board fulfills the duties of governance, oversight and decision-making re the best interests of our organization. Carrying out our mission requires a Board that provides a stable and strong working environment.

There is tremendous excitement for our **63rd Induction Ball that will be on OCTOBER 19, 2019** at the Double Tree Hotel in Monroeville. PLEASE DO SAVE THE DATE! Details will soon follow.

Members and friends, you have been so generous in sharing your precious time and treasure to help make our Philippine Center a more functional, well-maintained and beautiful place we can call home. Today, we are appealing for your continued support in order to keep it functioning beautifully and well. Volunteers are needed and appreciated no end for our Clean-up day on July 27 and 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. Please note that our 10K matching funds drive continues until the end of the year and this will go towards the renovations of the Philippine Center.

Finally, I invite everyone to become a member of our beloved FAAP. Your Time, Talent and Treasure will always be appreciated.

Thank you very much! Maraming Salamat po!

Fanny D. Eudela Spanos
FAAP President 2018 & 2019

Follow us: www.theFAAP.org | FAAP Tambayan | FAAP Dance troupe



FAAP
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

July 20	Multicultural Show	Oct. 5	Dragon Boat Festival
Aug. 3-4	Regatta at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park	Oct. TBA	Western PA Fall Cleaning
Aug. 11	Picnic	Oct. 19	63rd Induction Ball
Aug. 13-15	McKeesport Int'l Village Festival	Oct. TBA	YFAP Food Bank Volunteer
Sep. 8	Fall Classic Race	Nov. 9	Q4 Board Meeting
Sep. TBA	Canfield Fair, Canfield, Ohio	Dec. TBA	Greensburg Filipino Priest Christmas Party (DT performance)
		Dec. 14	FAAP Christmas Party



Celebrating "Nanay's Day"

By Majo Walker

On May 12, 2019, everyone and their mother - pun intended - attended FAAP's 3rd Annual Mother's Day Brunch. The meaningful event was held at the main event hall of the Philippine Center. The attendees enjoyed a wide array of nostalgic Filipino breakfast dishes namely: tapa, longganisa, daing, and hotdogs, all served with sinangag (garlic fried rice) and fried eggs. The program began with the Switch It Up Challenge, a contest introduced at the Philfest in Florida. The dance was led by the YFAP and continued with games and dancing for kids of all ages. Contestants were able to share about their mother's quirks and special moments. The audience were entertained with all the lovable and funny Nanay stories. The program ended with a dance party and everyone saying I love you to their moms.



Santacruzán

By Lani Mears

On May 19th, the FAAP celebrated its first ever "Santacruzán" at the Philippine Center. It was a gorgeous day as the Reynas and Angels made their procession on the streets of West Mifflin, showcasing to the community this long standing, honored tradition in the Philippines. The Reynas looked radiant in their gowns, planked by handsome arch bearers, holding the beautifully decorated arches. The Angels were equally beautiful and precious as they were truly angelic. The Reynas represented were "Reyna De Las Flores", which was portrayed by Joy Wichryk (stand in for Bernadette Zunica); "Reyna Fe", portrayed by Cerina Wichryk (stand in for Talia Villao), "Reyna Esperanza", portrayed by Haley Novak; "Reyna Caridad", portrayed by Mary Claire Rethage, and "Reyna Elena", portrayed by Tiffany Thomas. The angels were Lyana Joy Arboleda, Riley Cecilia Mears, Elise Siegert, Tia Leona Villao, Thea Shelby Thomas, Faith Aguirre, Justine Worthington, and Seth Walker.

The festivities started with the procession, then the introductions of the Reynas and Angels in the function hall of the Philippine Center. The FAAP Dance Troupe entertained the audience with their outstanding performances. There was also a surprise "Harana" number. The celebration ended with delicious Filipino food for dinner.

The event was a fundraising campaign to raise funds for the Charity, and Cultural Committees, and for maintenance and improvements on the Philippine Center. The online and in-person donations collected were over \$7540.00, which will really help out further the FAAP initiatives. On behalf of the FAAP, we would like to thank all the people who donated, and special thanks to the reynas & angels, together with their families. Of course we could not have put out a great event without the unwavering support of our volunteers, including the dance troupe.



2019 KALAYAAN/FATHER'S DAY

By Cynthia Calejesan

"Kalayaan" or Freedom is a very important word indeed! When you pair it with "Father's Day", it becomes even more important – and that's what we did when we celebrated them together on Sunday, June 16 at the Philippine Center. Considering that both days are usually celebrated with family, the FAAP was pleased with the number that came as well as the participation of parents, children and friends.

Dependable and charming hosts for the double celebration were Rowena Lavador and Marie Young who both kept the fun activities going.

Providing education and gravitas to the celebration of Kalayaan Day were Jaime and Evelyn Abola who arranged a display of various Philippine history books as well as discussed Philippine history tidbits. Wish we had been able to do more than just browse through them because they were quite a treasure trove. By the way, those present included relatives of Evelyn visiting all the way from the Philippines to attend the historic Philippine Nationality Room dedication at the Cathedral of Learning.

Fun fact: Independence Day in America is July 4; in the Philippines, June 12. We used to celebrate both on July 4th but it was later decided to change the date in the Philippines to June 12th (the day in 1898 when the Philippine Revolutionary Government headed by General Aguinaldo declared its independence from Spain).

Games included a "Wine" raffle (bottles donated by our generous members; thank you, as always, for your contributions). Everyone who bought a ticket was a sure winner so those whose names were picked were certainly happy campers bringing their prizes home!

Another fun and challenging game involved couples dancing on a piece of paper which was folded into smaller and smaller sizes. Congratulations to Aira Racoma and Jason Chan for pulling off the winning feat!

Needless to say, the selection of foods prepared by the FAAP and committee members were much appreciated by all!

Many thanks to Gabby Young who gave everyone a beautiful rendition of "Ako ay Pilipino!" There was no better way to end this patriotic celebration.



Election: Candidates & Proposed Amendments

By Jun Calejesan (Chair of Nominations & Elections Comm)

The next FAAP election will occur at the next annual picnic on August 11. To be eligible to vote, you must be at least 18 years old and must have become an FAAP member or renewed your membership by July 31. Questions can be directed to the Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, Jun Calejesan at juncalejesan@gmail.com.

The following candidates and proposed amendments have been approved by the current Board of Directors.

CANDIDATES TO THE BOARD:



Jaime Abola

* Married to Evelyn; three children Ramon, Pepe, and Carlos (all Dance Troupe alumni); two grandchildren Ben & Jackie.

* FAAP member since the 70s; served as President (1989, 2013, 2014), Board member, Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Committee Chair (Festivals, PNR). Current Treasurer. Co author of 1989 SPNP ByLaws, & incorporator of FAAP.

* Former President and Treasurer of Century United

Football Club, one of the biggest youth soccer club in the area. Retired.



Junriz de los Santos

* BS and PhD in Chemistry Univ of Philipines and Carnegie Mellon U

* FAAP member over 10 yrs; Board member and YFAP Comm Chair (2014-2017); active Dance Troupe member over 5 yrs.

* Senior Scientist/Chemist at Sharp Edge Labs, Inc.



Irna de Leon Knapp

* Married to Mark; three children Josh, Alexandra, and Aubry (all Dance Troupe alumni)

* FAAP member since childhood in the 70s; served in many capacities as President (2004), Board member, Committee Chair (Cultural, Nominations and Elections). Current Chair of Sports and RecreationComm.

* Works as a Clinical Registered Dietician.



Lani Mears

* Married to Tim; residing in Valencia, Pa; four children Alex, Logan, Preston, and Riley.

* Member since 2012; served as Board Member, Secretary, and Finance Committee). Current Information & Systems Officer.

* IT Manager at PNC Bank, Business Advisor for Beam Data (software startup company), and Board Member of PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership & Service Engagement), PMP Certified, Women in Tech

EDGE 2019 Cohort, Member of Vibrant Pittsburgh Diversity & Inclusion Council, Connector for "All for All" and former President of PNC's Asian American Employee Resource Group



Michael Mendoza

* Graduate of American University in Washington DC . Just returned to Pittsburgh to establish his residence in the area.

* FAAP member as a teen; served as an officer in the YFAP youth group and was a member of the Dance Troupe. Would like to help the administrative side of the FAAP in organizational behavior, events

responsibility, and potential new internship program.

* Executive Artistic Director of his own company, La-Ti-Do DC/NYC.



Becky Quemado

* Married to Rodel; four children Yani, Alissa, Miguel, and Dalisay

* FAAP member since 2005; served in various capacities as President (2016, 2017), Board member, Committee Chair (YFAP, Christmas Party, Cultural, Education, Fund Raising). Current Immediate Past President.

* Social worker and teacher by training; passions for community organizing and development, organizational and leadership development, and event planning. Loves to cook and bake.



Carmen Shively

* Married to Pastor Dave Shively; two children Kelem and Charise, and grandchild Sam.

* FAAP Member for 19 years; served in many capacities as Board member, Committee Chair (Festivals, Membership, Christmas, Picnic, and Consular Outreach).

* Works as a medical technologist.



Joji Smith

* Married to Tom; three children and Lola of three.

* FAAP member since 2008; served as Board member and Committee Chair (PICNIC, Christmas Party, Festivals).

* Full time homemaker when she is not volunteering for the FAAP. Loves to cook.



Teodora Schipper Speer

Born in the Bicol region & lived in Puerto Princesa. Has three sons and five grandchildren.

* FAAP member since the late 80s; served as President (2009, 2010, 2015), Board member, Treasurer, Committee Chair (Nominations & Elections, Voices of Wisdom, Folk Festival, Christmas Party, PICNIC, Induction Ball, Phil Nationality Room)

* Lives in Squirrel Hill with husband Dave to whom she has been married since June 2015.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS:

1. Governance

Current

§ 2.0 Governance. The regular affairs of the Association shall be managed by or under the direction of the Directors of the Association. Meetings of the directors shall be held at least once quarterly at such places as shall be specified from time to time upon notice, unless such notice is waived in writing.

Proposed

§ 2.0 Governance. The regular affairs of the Association shall be managed by or under the direction of the Directors of the Association **which will act in accordance with the Corporation's manual of operating procedures.** Meetings of the directors shall be held at least once quarterly at such place **within the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania,** as shall be specified from time to time upon notice, unless such notice is waived in writing.

Rationale

Puts focus on Manual of Operating Procedures. Allows flexibility of operations without necessity for frequent changes to the ByLaws

2. Treasurer

Current

§ 3.5 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep full and accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the Association and shall deposit and withdraw such moneys and other valuable effects of the Association in the name and credit of the Association in such depository as designated by the Directors. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit quarterly financial reports to the Directors.

Proposed

§ 3.5 Treasurer: The Treasurer **shall have custody of the corporate funds and securities and shall keep full and accurate accounts or receipts and disbursement in books belonging to the corporation and shall keep the moneys of the corporation in a separate account to the credit of the corporation. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the corporation as may be ordered by the Board, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements and shall render to the Chairperson and Directors at the regular meeting of the Board or whenever they may require it, an account of all his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation.**

Rationale

Modernize approach to financial transactions. Emphasizes Treasurer's custodial responsibility for the corporate funds and securities, not just the accounting, reporting, and transacting of the same.

3. Authorization

Current

§ 7.5 Authorization: All checks, notes, mortgages, evidence of indebtedness, vouchers, drafts, acceptances, contracts, assignments, or any other document binding the Association, shall be signed by the President and Treasurer, however the Treasurer may sign solely on any check for less than two hundred U.S. dollars (\$200.00), providing that the Treasurer receives written permission from the President prior to the execution of the check.

Proposed

§ 7.5 Authorization: **The President, along with the Treasurer, shall execute bonds, mortgages, and other contracts requiring a seal of the Corporation, except where required or permitted by law to be otherwise signed and executed, and except where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors to some other officer, or agent of the corporation.**

Rationale

From time to time, there is a need to revise limits of authority. This provision allows some of these changes – when deemed appropriate – to be covered through changes in the Manual of Operating Procedures rather than changes in the ByLaws.

4. Registrar

Current

§ 6.2.h Membership Committee: This committee shall be responsible for maintaining membership roster of the Association and will act as a liaison between members and the Board of Directors. This committee shall be responsible to gather relevant information concerning the new member and present new members to the Board for approval.

Proposed

§ 6.2.h Membership Committee: This committee shall be responsible for maintaining membership roster of the Association and will act as a liaison

between members and the Board of Directors. This committee shall be responsible to gather relevant information concerning the new member and present new members to the Board for approval. **The registrar shall be an ipso facto member of the committee.**

Rationale

The Registrar's responsibility revolves around maintenance and reporting of information related to membership.

5. Nomination and Election Committee

Current

§ 6.2 Standing Committee

(b) Nominating/Election Committee: This committee shall conduct all elections held by the members as well as by the Directors. The Nominating/Election Committee shall be composed of the previous past five FAAP presidents, a Board of Director as Chairperson, and one voting member. A past president must be an active member of the FAAP in good standing to serve on this Committee. In the event that one of the past five presidents is unable to or unwilling to serve, then the Board of Directors shall fill the vacant position. To prepare for the annual elections of Directors, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of qualified candidates following a selection process which includes open nominations from the general membership, screening, and interview. Such slate will be presented for approval by the Board prior to presentation to the general membership for election.

Nominations from the floor at the Annual Membership meeting are prohibited.

Proposed

§ 6.2 Standing Committee

(b) Nominating/Election Committee: This committee shall conduct all elections held by the members as well as by the Directors. The Nominating/Election Committee shall be composed of the **immediate** previous five **past** FAAP presidents, a Board of Director as Chairperson, and one voting member. A **past** president must be an active member of the FAAP in good standing to serve on this Committee. In the event that one of the **past** five presidents is unable to or unwilling to serve, then the Board of Directors shall fill the vacant position **with an active member of the FAAP in good standing.** To prepare for the annual elections of Directors, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of qualified candidates following a selection process which includes open nominations from the general membership, screening, and interview. Such slate will be presented for approval by the Board prior to presentation to the general membership for election.

Nominations from the floor at the Annual Membership meeting are prohibited..

Rationale

To avoid any ambiguity in the interpretation.

6. Directors

Current

§ 2.2 Membership: The Board of Directors shall consist of seventeen possible members:

(a) One member from the City of Pittsburgh, and two members each from the Allegheny County Suburbs North of the City of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Suburbs East of the City of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Suburbs West of the City of Pittsburgh, and the Allegheny County Suburbs South of the City of Pittsburgh as defined and set forth on Exhibit A and B. This geographical requirement may be waived by a majority vote of all Directors, but only upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, and only after it is deemed that a bona fide attempt was made to search for qualified candidates meeting said geographical locations.

(b) Six At-Large Directors including two from counties other than Allegheny. A Bona Fide attempt will be made to elect two At Large Directors from counties that border Allegheny County. However, in the event that no qualified candidates exist, any qualified member from Allegheny County may run for the vacant position.

(c) One Young Filipino American of Pittsburgh (YFAP) member, as elected by the YFAP.

Election: Candidates and...Continued from page 7

(d) The immediate **Past** President. If this position is held by a Director, they shall only have one vote in actions before the Board.

Proposed

§ 2.2 Membership: The Board of Directors shall consist of seventeen possible members:

a) ~~One member from the City of Pittsburgh, and two members each from the Allegheny County Suburbs North of the City of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Suburbs East of the City of Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Suburbs West of the City of Pittsburgh, and the Allegheny County Suburbs South of the City of Pittsburgh as defined and set forth on Exhibit A and B.~~

~~This geographical requirement may be waived by a majority vote of all Directors, but only upon the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, and only after it is deemed that a bona fide attempt was made to search for qualified candidates meeting said geographical locations.~~ Nine members from the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

b) Six At-Large Directors including two from counties other than Allegheny. A Bona Fide attempt will be made to elect two At Large Directors from counties that border Allegheny County. However, in the event that no qualified candidates exist, any qualified member from Allegheny County may run for the vacant position.

(c) One Young Filipino American of Pittsburgh (YFAP) member, as elected by the YFAP.

(d) The immediate **Past** President. If this position is held by a Director, they shall only have one vote in actions before the Board.

Rationale

The need for regional requirement has long gone away. The provision is now meaningless. The main focus is finding the most qualified candidate.

7. Voices of Wisdom

Current

§ 6.2 Standing Committee

(j) "Voices of Wisdom" Committee: The rationale for this Committee emanates from the idea that there are current members who possess a wealth of information and wisdom gained from extensive and varied experiences within the association. This committee will exist for the sole purpose of acting as a resource, lending of their time, energy and experience as needed and when asked, their knowledge and advice on the various activities conducted regularly by the association. It can also act, in times of conflict, as peacemakers and resolve conflicts. The Committee is strictly voluntary and is not required to issue reports.

Proposed

§ 6.2 Standing Committee

(j) "Voices of Wisdom" Committee: The rationale for this Committee emanates from the idea that there are current members who possess a wealth of information and wisdom gained from extensive and varied experiences within the association. This committee will exist for the sole purpose of acting as a resource, lending of their time, energy and experience as needed and when asked, their knowledge and advice on the various activities conducted regularly by the association. It can also act, in times of conflict, as peacemakers and resolve conflicts. **At the formal request of at least three Board members, the committee can be asked to investigate an issue and file a recommendation to the Board.** The Committee is strictly voluntary and is not required to issue reports.

Rationale

There is a need to provide a more active role for this committee. It is felt that providing a mechanism to obtain its service will facilitate the process.

Philippine Nationality Room Dedication Day

By Jaime Abola

If you were not at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning on June 9, 2019, then you missed the event that Pittsburgh's Filipino community had been planning and anticipating for over twenty years. On that date the Philippine Nationality Room (PNR) at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning was formally dedicated twenty-one years after the project was first approved by the Samahang Pilipino ng Pittsburgh, the FAAP's predecessor organization.

The event commenced with the formal turnover ceremonies held at the Heinz chapel in which the Reverend Father Manny Gelido, PNR Task Force chair presented the University's Chancellor Patrick D. Gallagher with the symbolic key to the room. The ceremonies which included speeches from the chancellor, the university provost, Fr. Manny Gelido and the New York Philippine Consul General Claro Cristobal also featured music from Mindanao performed by the group Kinding Sindaw from New York.

A procession of Santacruzans from each of the PNR task force member organization next led the celebrants to the Cathedral of Learning's Commons room. Following another series of welcome speeches including one from the consul and University's Vice Provost for Global Affairs Vincent Armony, was a dance program featuring performances from both the FAAP dance troupe and that from the Philippine-American Performing Arts of Greater Pittsburgh (PAPAGP). Consistent with the day's theme of Pagdiriwang (a Celebration), the FAAP dance program appropriately entitled Sariling Atin (a Celebration of Philippine Dance Heritage) featured dances from the people of the Cordillera Mountains, the Lumad from Mindanao highlighted by the recent exciting addition to our dance repertoire, Paunjulay, a pair of Spanish influenced numbers and ending with the street dance of Dinagyang. The historical arc tracing our people's history was culminated by a barrio suite performed by the PAPAGP dancers. An exhibition of Philippine art featuring both paintings and sculptures helped create a truly Filipino atmosphere that was rounded up by the free merienda (snacks) provided for the guests. It was reported that close to five hundred guests toured the Philippine Nationality Room that afternoon.

The evening festivities began with a Catholic Mass of Thanksgiving con-celebrated by Fr. Manny and a few of the Filipino priests currently assigned to the Greensburg Diocese. The day's event concluded with a gala dinner at the University's Alumni Hall. The dinner program included speeches this time given by the room's architect of Record and former FAAP president Warren Bulseco, Fr. Manny, Consul Cristobal and Vice Provost Armony. The evening's entertainment included a fashion show featuring the Santacruzans and a dance presentation by the group Kinding Sindaw Melayu Heritage. The day's celebration ended with dinner guests dancing to the music provided by our perennial DJ Christian Roylo.

The event which was featured in many of our local media brought together the different segments of our relatively small Filipino community that became fragmented nine years ago

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over disagreements regarding this very project. After having raised over \$275,000, several of our members including some former presidents abandoned the FAAP in 2010 over disagreements arising from changes in the FAAP's bylaws. Their departure led to a dispute over the ownership of the project. Claiming ownership over the project, the FAAP sought the University's recognition of our right to complete the project. After meeting for two years with the different factions, the University decided in 2012 to terminate the project and returns the funds raised. A write-in drive by our members asking the university to give our leadership more time to resolve our differences before terminating the project led to a meeting between the then director of the University Center for International Studies, Larry Feick and the 2013 incoming President Jaime Abola. At that meeting we were able to extract a promise that the university will not interfere nor show favoritism among the different factions in exchange for a promise to seek a third party to help us reconcile our differences and forge a path towards the project's completion. Father Manny Gelido had previously indicated a willingness to help in the matter and on June 2013 a meeting was held with representatives from the FAAP, PAPAGP, The Philippine-American Medical Society of Western Pennsylvania (PAMS) and the United Filipino American & Friends (UFAF) on Father Manny's invitation.

After several meetings spanning close to three years, an agreement was made to create a committee of representatives from the three major organizations, FAAP, PAMS and PAPAGP with Fr. Manny as chair. The agreement to create the PNR Task Force included a statement that the project was initiated by the SPNP and the FAAP. It also outlined the process by which the committee would operate to complete the project. The member organizations ratified the agreement in December 2015 and in January 2016, the first fund raiser resurrecting the efforts to complete the project was held at the South Hills Country Club. It would take an astonishingly fewer years (three to be exact) for the task force to raise the funds that the university estimated would be needed to complete the project even as the cost went up from the estimated \$300,000 in 2010 to \$509,000! The FAAP should indeed be proud of this achievement for not only did we complete this project at the same time that we had another major capital project, the acquisition of what we know now as the Philippine Center, we also raised by our estimate over \$330,000 of the total moneys raised for the PNR and in the last three years of fund raising, we were responsible for the largest amount from any one of the Task Force's membership organization.

Even though room is now completed and is being used as a classroom, the Filipino community's involvement with the PNR is not done. We now turn to the task of raising funds for the scholarship for international studies associated with the room. Anyone who has visited the room will have seen the display cabinets with artifacts from the Philippines helping to further tell the story of our people and our culture. We hope to continue to develop a curatorial vision for the display items helping make the room and the story that we want to tell a truly vibrant one. Plan a visit to your room at room 313, at the Cathedral of Learning. Invite your family and friends and share stories of where you came from. But also share your thoughts about the room with us. Thank you to all those who worked hard over the years to raise funds for this room but specially to those who helped us forge ahead in these most trying last nine years.



COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Nominations and Elections Committee (Chair: Jun Calejesan)

The slate of nine candidates recommended to the Board was approved at the recent 3Q Board meeting. Along with Board approved amendments to the existing ByLaws, this slate will be submitted to the general membership for voting at the next FAAP PICNIC on August 11 (Candidate names/background and amendments in other section of this Newsletter)

ByLaws Committee (Chair: Isabelo Toledo)

Refer to Board approved amendments (another section of Newsletter) to be submitted to the general membership during the Aug 11 PICNIC.

Cultural Committee (Chair: Fanny Spanos)

As usual, it was a busy period for the committee. It reported the following Dance Troupe performances in May & June : May 4 for The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (Wellsburg, WV); May 4 for Cleveland Medical Society (Cleveland, Ohio), May 11 for Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (Pittsburgh, Pa), June 9 Philippine Nationalist Room dedication (Univ of Pittsburgh), May 12 Mother's Day event (FAAP Phil Center), and May 19 Santacruzian (FAAP Phil Center).

Charity Committee (Chair : Lani Mears)

Accomplished since last report:

- June 1 Western Pa Conservancy Spring Planting Day.
- May 19 Santacruzian at the Phil Center (read article on "SantaCruzian")

Upcoming activities lined up include:

- Pittsburgh Food Bank Volunteer Day
- Western Pa Conservancy Fall CleanUp Day

Festivals Committee (Chair : Jaime Abola)

Three upcoming activities are included in the committees agenda : Aug 3-4 Regatta at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park; Oct 5 Dragon Boat Festival; and Aug 13-15 McKeesport Int'l Village Festival.

YFAP Committee (Chair : Rowena Lavador)

The committee reported raising \$911 as a result of its sponsoring the May 12 Mother's Day celebration. It also announced 2- upcoming activities: (1) YFAP Essay Contest related to trip to the 2019 Philfest in Tampa, Florida; and (2) 2020 Mr & Mrs Valentine Fund Raising Event.

Sports & Recreation Committee (Chair: Irna Knapp)

Refer to Flyer for the Sept 8 Fall Classic

Philippine Center (Facilities Manager: Tom Smith)

Accomplished for the period:

- Furnace upstairs replaced (both floors now have new furnaces)
- Drain in front of kitchen entrance opened up & working.
- Building outside wall facing parking lot was pressure washed and painted; hoping to do the rest of the bldg in July. In process of tackling the following challenges:
- Applying sealant to the parking lot (soliciting volunteers for Jul 27 schedule)
- Clean up of facilities especially after an event
- Gutter repair in back of building
- Commercial kitchen certification



SALITANG PILIPINO

Kaarawan - Birthday

Pagdiriwang - celebration

Paglalakbay - travel

Mapagmahal - loving

Pangungusap – Sentence

Maligayang Kaarawan. --- Happy Birthday

Siya ay mapagmahal na tao. ---- She (He) is a loving person.

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FILIPINAS Newsletter Policies and Guidelines

We welcome input from our readers. For consideration of print publication, please send an email to newsletter@the faap.org.

Letters, comments, and articles will be edited for accuracy, clarity, and length and should be in keeping with the FAAP Mission. All submissions should include the full name of the sender as well as contact information. Due to space constraints, we are unable to print items that are non-FAAP related. If you have related short news items, please consider for publication in FAAP Balita. Send an email to balita@the faap.org.

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Message from the Editor

As I collate for this issue, I can not help but be reminded about the many things that the FAAP does in the course of the year. Issue by issue, we talk about two or three upcoming events, even as we tell stories about the past three. If this is not enough to get your attention, look at the FAAP Calendar of Events ; or note the events that are being held at our just over a year and a half young Philippine Center.

These events do not happen by themselves. They are products of the collective efforts of many. Aren't we indeed so lucky that through all these years (going on 63), the SPNP/FAAP has been blessed by wonderful volunteers. To all you volunteers, the Newsletter Staff would like to say Thank You. To you the FAAP Board, whatever it is that you have been doing to sustain this interest in the organization, please keep on doing it.

To our members, we call your attention to the section regarding the PICNIC and Elections on August 11. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please renew by July 31, the cut off date to qualify to VOTE for our Board Candidates and Proposed Amendments. Thank you.



WELCOME to our New Members:

*DeLeonibus, Vega and Family
Snively, Joshua Lukas & Family
Manalo, Lydia (Lifetime membership)
Celda, Robert
Ibarra, Joanna
Melgarejo, Ivy
Patriaria, John Paul
Stokes, Georgina*



FAAP PHILIPPINE CENTER
 200 Church St, West Mifflin
 PA 15122

FAAP DANCE TROUPE CORNER

Fanny D. Eudela Spanos-President and Cultural Chair

We are inviting everyone - from 5 years old to adult of all ages - to join our Dance Troupe. Our regular weekly Sunday practice is from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. except holidays, snow days, and performances days. The Cultural Committee invites everybody to become FAAP member, join the Dance Troupe, learn Filipino folk dances and meet new friends during the dance practice. Joining is free and costumes are provided. What we need is your TIME, DILIGENCE, COMMITMENT and DEDICATION.

The committee wants to express its gratitude to all the dancers, parents, and volunteers. Special thanks to our Dance Director Jae Villao, our Artistic Director Lillian Stefanick, and our Junior instructors Jason Chan and Mary Claire Rethage for their continued commitment and dedication

Dance Troupe accomplishments:	May 11 - Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (Pittsburgh)
Feb. 9 - YFAP Valentines	May 12 - Mothers Day celebration
March 16 - Festival of Nations, West Virginia	May 19 - SantaCruzan
March 24 - Filipino Student Association- University of Pittsburgh	June 9 - Philippine Nationality Room Dedication
April 6 - Philfest, Tampa Florida	<i>Future activities:</i>
May 2 - La Roche College, Multicultural night	July 9 - Misa ng Nayong Filipino, Irwin
May 4 - American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Wellsburg,WV	July 20 - Multicultural event
May 4 - Cleveland Filipino American Medical Society, Cleveland ,Ohio	Aug. 11 - Picnic
	Sept. 8 - Fall Classic Race
	Sept. TBA Canfield ,Ohio
	Dec. 14 - Christmas Party Dance Recital.
	Follow us : the FAAP.org; FAAP Tambayan and FAAP Dance Troupe.

