



# Filipinas



JULY 2020

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

## APPEAL FOR MONTHLY RECURRING DONATION TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS

*Teodora Schipper Speer Chair: FAAP Fundraiser Committee*

I am very pleased to inform you that we have made progress in raising funds for the renovation of the stage at the Philippine Center and for our operating costs. Because of Covid -19, all of our scheduled fundraising events were cancelled. While we made some great strides, the FAAP has a lot to be accomplished before the end of this year. The FAAP needs to raise a matching fund of about \$25,000 in order to build the Filipiniana stage. We have a chance to get a matching grant from the Equity, Arts and Education Funds. Jun Calejesan has submitted the sketch, preliminary drawings and is trying to get help for the design from senior architectural students from UP for a reasonable cost.

We need your support for this stage renovation and the Commercial Certified Kitchen at the Center.

**Would you consider giving a recurring monthly donation of \$5.00, \$10.00 or more to help us build the Filipiniana Room and Commercial Kitchen?** Your donation will be matched. Thank you very much for your generous donation through the years. Your support has enabled us to promote, preserve, and perpetuate the Filipino heritage, as well as promote cultural diversity through our three pillars - Charity, Cultural and Education.

Please consider making a monthly donation to FAAP through one of the following methods:

1. **Facebook:** Search "FAAP The Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh" on Facebook, click Donate, then indicate One-Time or Monthly Donation and enter your payment method.
2. **FAAP website:** Go to [www.thefaap.org](http://www.thefaap.org), click Donate Online, then enter your payment and contact information in the form. Do not forget to indicate a recurring monthly donation!
3. **By check:** Address check to "The Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh" and mail to FAAP Treasurer at 200 Church Street, West Mifflin, PA 15222.

If you have any questions, we would be very happy to provide you with additional information on how you can volunteer and support our beloved FAAP.

For info call: **Teodora Schipper Speer- 412-491-8617** or **Jun Calejesan-724-728-2296**.

### THE FAAP WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OUR RECURRING MONTHLY AND ONE TIME DONORS TO THE FAAP.

Carroll de Vera Roberts  
Leilani Mears  
Flordeliza Villanueva  
Teodora Schipper  
Rafael & Mani Quimpo  
Fanny Spanos  
Osorio & Cynthia Calejesan  
Marcel Schipper  
Stephanie Buzza  
David Speer  
Bruno Lucarelli  
Andres & Fely Ticzon

Grace Aguirre  
Anna Mamuric  
Leilani Sabik  
Malou & Bob Harper  
Drs. Erson and Eloisa Religioso  
Dr. Daniel Wagner  
Guin Mabunay  
Nicholas & Nene Grado  
Araceli & Joe Victoria  
Norie and Tom Thomas  
Leilani Mears  
Junriz Delos Santos

Sarath Kotharu  
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Santhosh Kolalmath  
Gaurav Krishna  
Hannah Locop  
Bibhuti Aryal  
Lydia Manalo  
David Shively  
Chandrakar Aman  
Sarmi Biswas

Jocelyn Klenk  
Mitesh Chitalia  
Ima and Mark Knapp  
Joji and Thomas Smith  
Andrew Fredley  
Alfredo Gabriel  
Jari & Letty Jariwala  
Jocelyn Kenk  
David G. Speer  
Isabelo & Lany Toledo  
Special Friends of the FAAP



# Message

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



At the last FAAP board meeting on June 20, 2020, we discussed the issue whether to hold our annual picnic or not. We diligently reviewed the CDC and the State of PA guidelines on how to proceed. In the end, we realized that the picnic despite the fact that it would have been held outdoors puts the event at the level that carries the highest risk of possible spread of Covid 19. We all have observed strict isolation these past three months and we do not want to disregard what we have gone through for a day of gathering.

After this crisis is over, probably when a vaccine is available, we will once again have our summer picnic, share our Filipino dishes, watch our kids dance and play and definitely gather again to enjoy the camaraderie of our families and friends.

On a happier note, the FAAP Fall Race will be ran. Mark Knapp has made all the necessary adjustments and modifications on how the race will be conducted making the event highly compliant with the CDC and state guidelines thus putting the event at the level of a very low risk for the possible spread of the virus.

As for the events for the remainder of the year:

The Mckeesport International Village Festival has yet to be decided by the organizers, the same goes with the Dragon Boat Festival. The Moraine State Park Festival has been cancelled, same goes with the Consular Outreach and our Fall Induction Ball.

The rest of our events such as Halloween, MultiCultural event, and our Christmas Party will be considered on a case by case basis with adherence to CDC and State guidelines and keeping in mind the safety of our members, families and friends as our first priority.

**Until then stay safe,**

**Evelyn Gonzalez-Abola**  
**President FAAP 2020**

# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 12** Cancelled: Summer Picnic

**Aug. TBD** Cancelled:  
McKeesport  
International  
Village Festival

**Aug. 1 & 2** Cancelled:  
Moraine State  
Park Regatta

**Sept. 12** Cancelled:  
Consular Outreach

**Sept. 13** Fall Classic

**Sept. 26** Dragon Boat  
Festival\*

**Oct. 10** Halloween Party\*

**Oct. 23** Cancelled:  
Induction Ball

**Nov. 8** Q4 Board Meeting

**Nov. 14** Multicultural Event\*

**Dec. 12** Christmas Party\*

**Dec. TBD** Christmas Carolling\*

*\*FAAP events and festival participation will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the guidelines from the CDC and the state as well as our responsibility to protect our members.*

# THE RACE IS ON! 13th Annual FAAP Fall Classic

## September 13, 2020

*By Irna & Mark Knapp*

There is a huge pent-up demand in the local area for a trail race. Given the COVID-19 restrictions and concerns, the first priority is the safety of runners, volunteers and guests. The following changes will occur in compliance with the CDC and PA State Health guidelines:

- Online advanced registration and payment only, thereby eliminating day of registration.
- Registration will be capped to a limited amount of runners.
- Race will have staggered starts in waves.
- Runners will be assigned staggered start times. This will lessen the amount of people at the start line.
- Runners will be required to wear their face covering at the start of the race.
- Runners will be instructed on to how to pass people and social distance while they are running.
- Eliminate aide stations, thereby runners will be required to self-support themselves to carry backpack of water and food.
- Food sales and Dance Troupe performance will be eliminated.
- Award Ceremony will be curtailed.
- All who are present will be required to wear face mask and practice social distancing.

Luckily, given the size of the FAAP Fall Classic races, the location outdoors and within the CDC and PA State guidelines, the race is on. We will continue to monitor the situation for any changes and thereby make additional modifications necessary. Should the race be canceled due to changes with the CDC and PA State health guidelines, refunds will be issued.

13th Annual FAAP Fall Classic benefits the FAAP and orphanages in the Philippines.

**Register and pay online:** [FAAP5Krace.yolasite.com](https://www.fAAP5Krace.yolasite.com)

For additional questions about the race, please contact Mark Knapp, Race Director. [attorneymarkknapp@yahoo.com](mailto:attorneymarkknapp@yahoo.com)

Other activities and events will be announced on "FAAP Tambayan" Facebook page, as businesses open during the green phase of Allegheny county. Anticipated events include Kayak Pittsburgh, Nature hikes, Hamilton the Musical, and others allowed per CDC & PA State guidelines for COVID19.

For other questions related to the Sports & Recreation Committee, please contact: [Irna de Leon-Knapp, Chairperson. irnadeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:irnadeleon@yahoo.com)



## FILIPINO GET OUT AND VOTE

We are urging everyone who are 18 years old and over, and who are birth or naturalized US Citizens, to please register to vote for the upcoming November election. Filipinos are under-represented when it comes to civic participation. According to AAPI Data, only 59% of eligible Filipino voters were registered and only 50% voted in the 2016 election. It is our civic duty to participate in this most important action for representation. You have until Oct 19 to register and vote for the 2020 Election. Please visit - <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

**FIL-AM  
VOTE**

**We Call on All  
Filipino Americans:  
Register, Vote, and  
Make Your Voice Heard!**



# Calling for Nominees to Serve on the FAAP Board of Directors

*By Becky Quemado*

A nominee should be an active FAAP member and should have served in a committee for at least 1 year. Qualified nominees will be included in the list of candidates. Election of Board members will be held at the Annual Membership meeting during the FAAP Christmas Party in December 2021.

Elected board members will serve a two-year term, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

Any active member can nominate. Deadline for submission will be August 31, 2020. The nomination and elections committee will reach out to the nominees. Nominations and Elections Committee will recommend nominees to the board. Board approved nominees will be included in the list of candidates for election.

Send your nominations to [becky.quemado@thefaap.org](mailto:becky.quemado@thefaap.org) with the name, telephone number, email address of the nominee and why this nominee is a good candidate.



## 2020 Simplicio Maramba Scholarship

*By Becky Quemado*

Every year, the FAAP honors outstanding senior high school students who are active members of the association. For this award, the FAAP considers students who advance recognition of the Filipino people through excellent academic achievements, outstanding extracurricular activities and participation in various programs of the FAAP. Deadline for the application is September 30, 2020.

### Selection Criteria

To be considered for the award, the applicant must:

1. Be a member of the FAAP with a minimum of two consecutive years of membership before the award.
2. Have a Quality Point Average of at least 3.0.
3. Be attending his/her senior year of high school.

### To Apply

1. Fill up the application form which can be downloaded here.
2. Obtain the following supporting documents:
  - a) Official school transcripts from junior year including QPA and class rank
  - b) Proof of standing on the honors list if the candidate comes from a school district that operates on a two-track honor roll system
  - c) SAT scores from either junior or senior year
  - d) Three letters of recommendation from the candidate's high school principal, the candidate's adviser or counselor and a character reference from a non-relative
3. Submit the completed application form with supporting documents to the Education Committee via email address [becky.quemado@thefaap.org](mailto:becky.quemado@thefaap.org).

For more information, go to

<http://thefaap.org/wp/our-three-pillars-2/education-page/maramba-scholarship/>



# Committee Report: YFAP

By Don Michael Mendoza

YFAP is rethinking the ways its members and parents can be of service to our FAAP community and still build fellowship together while staying apart. We hosted two zoom meetings in early June, led by YFAP President Jaimee Cabili and YFAP Chair Don Michael Mendoza, to hear the needs and concerns from the group's parents and members. Two virtual community service projects resulted from the gatherings: mask making for health workers during COVID-19 and a virtual food drive for those in need, which the ways to be involved will be posted in the near future by the YFAP officers.

More results of the meetings were that the YFAP is committed to working with the Dance Troupe Chair to create a timed rehearsal schedule, when the FAAP resumes in-person practices, the YFAP will help create a parent carpool schedule to get YFAP members to the center on time for scheduled activities, and also leading a further discussion with the FAAP Board and Officers about reviewing future event commitments for YFAP members to maintain productive and practical experiences for all. Any more feedback is welcomed by the YFAP Chair and should be sent to

[donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org](mailto:donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org)



**MAKING MASKS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

**MASKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS, MAKE AS MANY OR AS FEW AS YOU CAN!**

FABRIC CAN BE DISTRIBUTED FROM THE YFAP IF NECESSARY.

NEVER MADE A MASK? LINKS AND TUTORIALS WILL BE POSTED.

COMPLETED MASKS WILL BE PICKED UP BY YFAP OFFICERS WHILE RESPECTING SOCIAL GUIDELINES

**Contacts:**  
Don Michael Mendoza (Youth Chair)  
412-877-7459  
[donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org](mailto:donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org)  
Jaimee Cabili (Youth President)  
412-818-9185  
[jaimeecabili26@gmail.com](mailto:jaimeecabili26@gmail.com)

YFAP

**VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE**

FOR NONPERISHABLES AND ONLINE DONATIONS

Choose from the provided links to give virtually or contact us to have volunteers pick up and deliver goods (while respecting social distancing guidelines)

Don Michael Mendoza ([donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org](mailto:donmichael.mendoza@thefaap.org)) Jaimee Cabili ([jaimeecabili26@gmail.com](mailto:jaimeecabili26@gmail.com))

## All for All Coalition

The FAAP is initiating an effort to join the "All for All Coalition" which is an action-oriented collaborative network that aims to advance immigrant inclusion to create a welcoming region for all. The convener of this mission is The Global Switchboard, in collaboration with municipal partners, including Welcoming Pittsburgh, an initiative of the Mayor's

Office of the City of Pittsburgh and the Immigrant & Internationals Advisory Council of the Department of Human Services of Allegheny County. The coalition's action framework is anchored in the ongoing implementation of the Immigrant Community Blueprint: Helping Immigrants Thrive in Allegheny County, a comprehensive plan put out by the Allegheny County Department of Human Services in 2016 to address the gaps, inefficiencies, and missed opportunities in creating a more welcoming and inclusive region. The 130 action items that make up the Blueprint laid out a clear path for driving change. For more information on this initiative, please visit - <https://www.allforall.world/coalition>



# ALL for ALL

Taking the Immigrant Community Blueprint from Plan to Action

# Cultural Report

by J. Delos Santos

The FAAP has been invited to join in the Pittsburgh's World Refugee Day and Immigrant Heritage Month celebration for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's event has been moved online, with the virtual celebration taking place last June 17th. The FAAP sent recorded videos of the dance troupe's past performances showcasing the Banga, Jota Paragua, and Tinkling dances. (<https://isacpittsburgh.org/wrd/>)

The regular Sunday practices of the DT are still currently suspended, but with most of the state of Pennsylvania in green phase, there are discussions on how to conduct dance practices moving forward, be it virtual or in-person. Everything is fluid at this time and would depend on the progress of the pandemic in the foreseeable future.



## Charity Committee: Summary Report for 2020

For the year 2020 to date, the following donations were made by the FAAP :

### FOR PHILIPPINE CHARITY CAUSES:

\$2,700 to "Five Loaves Two Fishes" (for a school project in village Apad in the island of Jomalig)

\$1,000 to Mother Teresa Spinelli Treasures, Inc (an orphanage in Tagaytay City)

### FOR THE LOCAL PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY CAUSES:

\$1,000.00 were donated to five local organizations as follows:

- \$600 to Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
- \$100 to Bethlehem Haven (formerly Miryam House)
- \$100 to Ronald McDonald House
- \$100 to Project Bundle Up
- \$100 to Brothers Brothers International



## Message from the Editor

We hope that you, your families and your friends in the U.S., the Philippines and abroad remain safe and well. It is now more important than ever to remain connected with each other. The newsletter is just one way in which we do so. While this edition will be printed, the FAAP Board of Directors are considering issuing the newsletter only electronically in the future. We hope that you continue to donate to the FAAP and the Philippine Center. Thank you for your support and your readership!

## Welcome to our New Members!

Lea Caballero  
Carlina Noto  
Andrew McElwaine

We encourage our members to renew their membership. Your dues contribute towards the Philippine Center's operations and renovations, as well as the support FAAP provides for our Filipino American community in southwestern PA. You may fill out the form attached and mail it along with a check for payment to 200 Church St, West Mifflin, PA 15122 or visit:

<http://thefaap.org/wp/become-a-member/>



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We welcome input from our readers. For consideration of print publication, please send an email to [newsletter@thefaap.org](mailto:newsletter@thefaap.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@thefaap.org](mailto:balita@thefaap.org).

### PUBLISHER

Filipino American Association  
of Pittsburgh, Inc.

## There is still time to fill out the 2020 Census!

The deadline to fill out the census survey has been **extended to Oct. 31, 2020** due to the challenges with Covid-19. There are still plenty of opportunities to fill out the census form. Please visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov). Remember, being counted is crucial to get the funding for your community. If your community did not get enough Covid-19 need based funding, enough testing supplies or PPE for health care workers, well, the government used the census data to determine where and how much supplies or funding are sent to various communities. Everyone living in the US should be counted. Please fill out your census form today!





**FAAP PHILIPPINE CENTER**  
200 Church St, West Mifflin  
PA 15122

## Covid-19 Cash Relief

Are you in financial stress because of COVID? Were you ineligible to receive the federal stimulus money? APALA Pittsburgh is taking applications for COVID-19 cash relief! Anyone in Southwestern PA who did not qualify for a federal COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment earlier this year is eligible to apply. This fund prioritizes undocumented immigrants who are not eligible to receive and federal or state economic relief.

Apply online: <http://bit.ly/3ib891K>

The application form is currently available in English and Simplified Chinese. We may be adding Vietnamese and Korean. Let us know if you need other language support.

If you have any questions, please DM us, text or leave a voicemail at 412-532-8517, or email [apalapgh@gmail.com](mailto:apalapgh@gmail.com).

# COVID-19 CASH ASSISTANCE

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Residents of Southwestern PA who did not qualify for a federal COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment earlier this year are eligible.

### WHEN TO APPLY?

Applications are currently open and cash assistance is given to applicants on a first-come first-serve basis. Disbursements start June 30th and occur weekly.

If you have any questions or need any assistance with this application, please **text or leave a voice-mail at 412-532-8517 or email [apalapgh@gmail.com](mailto:apalapgh@gmail.com)**.

**APPLY ONLINE:** [bit.ly/3ib891K](http://bit.ly/3ib891K)



Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Pittsburgh Chapter (APALA Pittsburgh) is a partner organization of the Welcoming Pittsburgh COVID-19 Cash Assistance Program. Funding for this program comes from the Open Society Foundations.