

FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER COLUMBIA, SC



26TH ANNUAL GALA



SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 ~~~ COLUMBIA MARRIOTT HOTEL



2015-2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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1991-92



The first FAAGC Executive Board (1991-1992)

(front, l-r) **Susana Pasicatan** (First Vice President), **Eva Rigney** (President),
Minerva Wheedleton (Second Vice President), **Helen Alon** (Secretary).
(back, l-r) **Cindy Tefft** (Board Member), **Jun David** (Board Member),
Remie Morales-Sarmiento (Treasurer), **Grace Collins** (Board Member).

President



CECILLE JACOBSEN

First Vice-President



TESS HILL

Second Vice-President



ALAN MATIENZO

Treasurer



MIRIAM ESCHENFELDER

Secretary



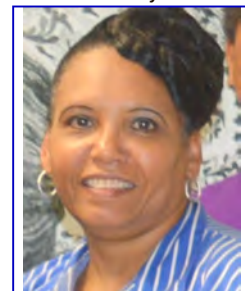
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ANNA TEMPLES

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CARLOS AREVALO

Executive Board Member



AL COCKEREL

Executive Board Member



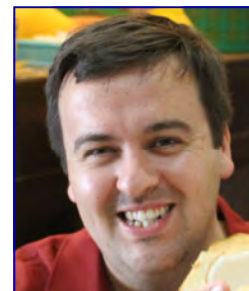
GLENN DE GUZMAN

Executive Board Member



PETER LIUNORAS

Executive Board Member



JAMES ORLICK

**"Together We
Make A Difference"**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

e-mail: FAAGC@hotmail.com or FilAmSC@yahoo.com

website: www.FilAmSC.org



FILIPINO-AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia, SC

25TH ANNIVERSARY 26TH ANNUAL GALA



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016
COLUMBIA MARRIOTT HOTEL, COLUMBIA, SC



6:00 Reception (*Door opens at 5:30 pm — cash cocktails at the Sports Bar near the ballroom*)

6:30 ♦ National Anthems: *United States* **Demetrio Matienzo**
Philippines **Hannelore Peña Ignacio**

♦ **Invocation** **Alan Matienzo** (FAAGC 2nd Vice-President, 2015-2017)

♦ **Welcome Remarks** *Emcees* **Faye Colley** & **Alan Geoghegan**
 ▶ Recognition of Attendees (FAAGC Past 1st VP, 2013-2015) (FAAGC Past President, 2005-2009)

♦ **Opening Remarks** **Cecille Jacobsen** (FAAGC President, 2015-2017)
 ▶ Recognition of Benefactors/Sponsors/Donors

7:00 Dinner

FAAGC Video Showcase **Pete Jacobsen**

Piano Performance **Dr. Nancy Elton**
 ▶ Selections from the works of Chopin, Liszt & Debussy (*Introduction by* **Tess Hill** (FAAGC 1st Vice-President, 2015-2017))

8:00 CULTURAL SHOW [*featuring three (3) generations of Filipino / Filipino-American performers*]

♦ *Pandango Santa Clara* **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** — Youth Group

♦ *Fan Dance* **Hiyas-Min** (The Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston, SC)

♦ **Presentation of 2016 FAAGC Awards:**

▶ FAAGC Lifetime Members **Helen Alon** (FAAGC Past President, 1994-1997)

▶ *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* Recipients **Tess Hill** (FAAGC 1st Vice-President, 2015-2017)
 & **Miriam Eschenfelder** ((FAAGC Treasurer 2015--2017)

♦ *Dungdungwen Kanto* **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** — Adult Group

♦ *Mazurka Boholana* **Hiyas-Min** (The Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston, SC)

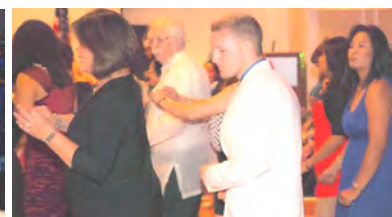
♦ **Presentation of 2016 FAAGC Awards:**

▶ FAAGC Service & Other Awards **Cecille Jacobsen** (FAAGC President, 2015-2017)

♦ *Tinikling* **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** — Youth Group

♦ *Modern Fusion Dance* **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** — Adult Group

9:00 ~ 12:00 Gala Ball *Music by* **DJ VERNON MONROY**



F Don't forget to get your FAAGC Door Prize / Raffle Ticket F
 Proceeds will benefit our **Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Fund** and **Charitable Initiatives**



Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC

(An All-Volunteer, Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

EIN 57-0942802

Email: FAAGC@hotmail.com

Website: www.FilAmSC.org

"Together we make a difference"

Honored guests, members, and friends — **welcome to our 26th Annual Gala** and thank you for joining us celebrate our Silver Anniversary.

It says on a well-decorated sign, **25th Anniversary** ... already? Wow, that's a long time — a very significant period of tenacity of a group of good people. One may question how is that possible? Well, I found out the secret ingredients in staying together — I call them perseverance, determination, and commitment. All three requires endurance.

I was not there in the beginning, but I am mostly thankful to those pioneers for their intelligent ideas to carry out their vision. I can only imagine how they all started while they were in the prime time of their careers and child-rearing years. But look where we are now! FAAGC has become one of the many respectable organizations in our community.

We are still dancing the *tinikling*, we are still getting together regularly, and still trying to be nice with each other.

It has been a great journey — the miles are long but awesomely sweet. For a while, I keep looking back and wondering whether I am still on track but I choose to look forward and keep going. There are more challenges ahead and parties to attend; but when I sum it all up, I wouldn't want to miss any of it.

Many, many thanks to all of you and your support; the love and patience you put into the organization is unforgettable. You are awesome and remember, *together we make a difference*.



Cecille Jacobsen

FAAGC President, 2013-2017



Eva Rigney

FAAGC President, 1991-1992

During the early stages of FAAGC, there were times when I found it difficult to convince our "*kapwang* Filipino" to join the Association. But a core group persevered because we strongly believed in the importance of having an association for the Filipinos in Greater Columbia.

Filipinos are proud, hard-working people and, when away from the motherland, continue to yearn for "Filipino-style" camaraderie. FAAGC has provided a means to fulfill that yearning. As we think back to the beginning of FAAGC, who would believe that a quarter of a century could slip by so quickly?

Serving as the first President of the FAAGC remains one of the greatest honors of my life. The friendships from those times have lasted a lifetime. Here is my warmest appreciation and thanks to all officers past, present, and future for keeping our Association alive and strong.

But one more time, let me say this — we all owe a great debt of gratitude to **Dr. Remedios Morales-Sarmiento**, who had the vision and was the driving force to get this Association formed. *Thank you, Dr. Sarmiento!*



Minerva Wheedleton

FAAGC President, 1992-1994



June 19, 1993

FAAGC and Hiyas-Min (The Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston) present "Karilagan (beauty) — The Philippine Cultural Show" at the Koger Center for the Arts -- a first-of-its-kind-show in Columbia.



Dec. 4, 1993

FAAGC's "Christmas in the Philippines" float wins the Grand Marshal's Award as best over-all entry in the 40th annual Carolina Carillon, South Carolina's premier holiday parade.



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"Together we make a difference"



Helen Alon

FAAGC President, 1994-1997

First, let me take this opportunity to welcome all of you tonight as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary Gala in this very same hotel and ballroom where we held our first gala 25 years and 17 days ago.

FAAGC was founded with a purpose of preserving our cultural heritage through introduction into our adopted American culture. As a founding member and the third president of this organization, I experienced some of the most trying years due to its infancy and formative years. I really never envisioned that we will last this long.

Watching the organization grow up into its adulthood, as it had its ups and downs considering the many types of personalities, people and leadership we had, I still have the same vision that with the right leadership, we can last as long as we have that same ideals of preserving our treasured culture, even though in the last several years I sensed that the excitement may not be there anymore due in part to social media.

As many of FIL-AM organizations in most cities worldwide really haven't lasted as solidly as we have, as I look back, after 25 years, I've always asked myself how I got involved for so long up to now. I guess it's because of my commitment and belief in the essence of this organization — that's why, as Marj Pena noted during our 20th anniversary, "today, we are standing proud and strong." I hope that whoever will lead this organization in the next 25 years and beyond will have the same purpose, passion and resilience as the ones we had in the past. As our motto says *"Together, we make a difference."*

So, please enjoy tonight's celebration, relive the wonderful memories of the past, and look forward to the future.

Kudos to the members and officers, past and present, who have all contributed to the success of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia.

The Fil-Am's success in the twenty-five years of its existence in bringing Filipino traditions, cuisine, and culture to the greater Columbia area and more importantly to the younger generation of Filipino-Americans will continue as long as we include more committed members who may or may not have Filipino blood in them.

I am sorry to miss the twenty-fifth anniversary gala but I wish everyone — members, guests and their families — to have a good time and to enjoy the cultural presentation.



Nieves McNulty

FAAGC President, 1997-2001



Congratulations to all on the 25th Anniversary of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia**, South Carolina. We thank you for all the support from our past and present officers, dedicated members, and their families.

We can make a difference in our Fil-Am community if you believe and support the mission of our great organization. **GOD BLESS!!!**

Peter Liunoras

FAAGC President, 2001-2003



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"Together we make a difference"



Mabuhay ang FAAGC on its 25th Anniversary celebration. Congratulations to all past and present FAAGC officers, members & supporters from 1991 to 2016.

What a great accomplishment the Filipino-American community in the area has achieved !!!

Grace Collins

FAAGC President, 2003-2005

First of all, congratulations to the FAAGC on its 25th. Anniversary!

To share a sense of '*bayanihan*,' or communal unity and a '*Filipiniana*' spirit in dance, public displays, food, news coverage and beyond to the community of Greater Columbia via our Fil-Am Association has been a rewarding experience with the many dedicated volunteers involved over the years.

What started as a response from our Association to the stricken victims from the Mount Pinatubo volcano eruption of 1991, later assisting various child welfare groups in Metro Manila as well as our fundraisers in late 2013 for the victims of the Haiyan/Yolanda typhoon via the Philippine Red Cross, our Association has been there in a time of need, while spreading the culture to the greater community in other ways.

The Philippines has always been special to me, especially since I was born there and lived in Manila in the 90s bringing lifelong memories and experiences. I look forward to the next 25 years of our Fil-Am Association!

Salamat Po (thank you very much) and *Mabuhay* (Live!)



Alan Geoghegan

FAAGC President, 2005-2009

CONGRATULATIONS to the **Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia** (FAAGC) on the celebration of its *25th Anniversary* and *26th Annual Gala* !!

This is indeed an important and wonderful milestone of the organization. For the past 25 years, the FAAGC has been a driving force in showcasing the Filipino culture not only in the city of Columbia but throughout the state of South Carolina and in the neighboring states. The organization and its members have forged strong relationships within the communities that we live in and provided opportunities not only to share our customs, traditions, food, and *bayanihan* spirit with our American and International compatriots but also the medium to pass these traditions to our children, the next generation of Filipino Americans. Thus, our children, though they have grown as Americans in our adopted country, remain steeped in our rich heritage of cultural traditions often expressed through our dance and music. Indeed, they learn from us as we learn from them — a true exchange of intercultural awareness within our communities and within our families!



Marj Pena

FAAGC President, 2009-2013

For 25 years, the FAAGC stands proud and strong through the constant presence and stewardship of the founders of our organization. But over the years, it has also grown by embracing new members and the next generation who will carry our organization into the future! Yes, life has taken us to many unexpected places, but love always brings us home. And in Columbia, South Carolina, FAAGC is the big extended family that is our home! Congratulations to everyone! Together, we have made this all possible!

Congratulations to all on the 25th Anniversary of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia**, South Carolina. We thank you for all the support from our past and present officers, dedicated members, and their families.

Columbia FIL-AM Scholarship Program



KATHLEEN
AREVALO



ROY
BALACANAO, JR.



JOAN ROSE
PEÑA

A Columbia Fil-Am Youth Scholarship program

has been often discussed since the formation of the Association in 1991. Officially started in 2002 by the FAAGC Executive Board through the initiative of Peter Liunoras (FAAGC President, 2001-2003), the **Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship** awards are given to Fil-Am college-bound high school graduates whose families are currently paid FAAGC members and who (or their parents) have participated actively in Fil-Am activities. As specified by the Executive Board recently, criteria are involvement in FAAGC (50%), academics (30%), and interview and essay (20%).

Funds for the scholarship program are generated from donations, raffles during FAAGC gala and Christmas events, food sales at basketball tournaments, and from 2004 to 2010, fund-raisers by the Ridge View High School (RVHS) **Fil-Am Youth Club** under the direction of Peter Liunoras.

FAAGC presented the first **Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship** award at the 13th Annual Gala on September 13, 2003. Since then, award certificates (and checks) have been presented to deserving and qualified students every year during the annual gala. Interestingly, most of the past scholarship recipients had been **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** performers at one time or another.



JOEY SZOKE III

Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Recipients

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2016: ★ Kathleen Arevalo | ★ Roy Balacanao, Jr. |
| ★ Joan Rose Peña | ★ Joey Szoke III |
| 2015: ★ Denise Daquilanea | ★ Severina Lowder |
| ★ Angelica Robichaud | |
| 2014: ★ Jonathan Jacobsen | |
| 2013: ★ Darryl Arevalo | ★ Justine Flora |
| ★ Khoi Nguyen | ★ Michael Sanchez |
| ★ Shannin Scott | |
| 2012: ★ Elaiza Apan | ★ Kirkwood Bautista |
| ★ Nicole Daquilanea | ★ Douglas Miguel Tupas |
| 2011: ★ Christine Arroyo | ★ Karen Magsino |
| ★ Nicole Phillips | ★ Nicholas Roberts |
| ★ Joseph Szoke III | ★ Nicole Victoria |
| ★ Andrew Whitmire | |
| 2010: ★ Paul Adcock | ★ Nicole Anderson |
| ★ Fides Elamparo | ★ Steven Do |
| ★ Sean C.A. Tupas | |
| 2009: ★ Jessamine Cuaresma | ★ Jeffrey Noble |
| 2008: ★ Butch Deo Elamparo | ★ Christian Ysmael Tupas |
| ★ Mark Allen Viray | |
| 2007: ★ Raquel Bagnal | ★ Michelle Peña |
| 2006: ★ Aileen Leigh Alon | ★ Jasper Lim |
| ★ Christian Elamparo | ★ Marianne Magapan |
| ★ Fay Manapat | |
| 2005: ★ Justin Anderson | |
| 2004: ★ Danielle Glenn | ★ Amanda Goyeneche |
| ★ Michaela Kenworthy | ★ Michael McNulty |
| ★ Judith Peña | |
| 2003: ★ Raymund Elamparo | |

**CHARLES & BEV
GOYENECHÉ**

(Hartsville, SC)

**PETER & OLGA
LIUNORAS**

(Columbia, SC)

Compliments of:

**GEORGE & NIEVES
MCNULTY**

(Columbia, SC)

**JAMES & DEEDEE
STEWART**

(Goodyear, AZ)

Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe

Helen Alon

*Coordinator
Youth Group*

Gina Castaneda

*Assistant Coordinator
Youth Group*

Tess Hill & Reyna Funderburk

*Coordinators
Adult Group*

PANDANGO SANTA CLARA

This is a variation for children of the more popularly known *Sayaw sa Obando*, one of the few Philippine fertility dances performed to honor the Obando town patroness, Santa Clara. The youth version involves the use of colorfully decorated wide-brimmed hats in playful dance sequences.

Dance Instructor: Helen Alon



Jaxen Castaneda, Ashley Rabaca, Brandon Clark

**Maddison Berends, Angel Temples, Gyles Gregory, Phia Rabaca, Wayne Lynn, Jasmine Flora,
Paul Daniel Pena, Phina Rabaca, James Gregory, Alisha Rabaca, Julia Szoke**

TINIKLING

One of the world's most exciting folk dances, this most famous of all Philippine dances is a favorite among performers and audience alike. In imitation of the long-legged *tikling* bird, the dancers nimbly hop in and out between bamboo poles which are clapped together vigorously and rapidly in time with the music, whose tempo gradually accelerates.

Dance Instructor: Joette Flora



Slow Version

**Jasmine Flora
James Gregory
Julia Szoke
Gyles Gregory**

Moderate Version

**Phia Rabaca
Phina Rabaca
Joy Mangacat
Jasmine Flora**

Fast Version

**Alisha Rabaca
Ashley Rabaca
Jaxen Castaneda
Paul Daniel Pena**

26TH ANNUAL GALA

THE PERFORMERS

Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe

DUNGDUNGWEN KANTO

A graceful dance choreographed to the Ilocano folk song *Duayya ni Ayat* (Lullaby of Love) that is popularly known by its first line *Dungdungwen Kanto* (I Will Love You).

Dance Instructors: Reyna Funderburk & Alan Matienzo

(clockwise, from left)
Tess & Walter Hill
Teresa & John Ziegler
Gina & Jon Castaneda
Perlita Singleton
Alan Matienzo
Reyna Funderburk

(not in photo — Yani Irag-Gould)



MODERN DANCE FUSION

Choreographed by Reyna Funderburk



(clockwise, from left) Diana Dingman, Reyna Funderburk, Teresa Ziegler, Jon Castaneda, Walter Hill, Alan Matienzo, Josephine Battle, Cecille Geoghegan, Sheena Shearer, Tess Hill, Anna Temples, Gyliza Ramos Gregory, Faye Colley



HIYAS-MIN

THE PHILIPPINE CULTURAL SOCIETY
OF CHARLESTON, SC

FAN DANCE

This dance features intricate hand and arm movements along with shimmering costumes. The dancers gracefully manipulate the fans while emphasizing their small steps which is a sign of good social upbringing.

Choreographed by The Dancers

Flor Agner ♦ Liza Bickley
Aileen Francisco ♦ Nelia Boykin
Maria Hatzl ♦ HenGie Quindo

MAZURKA BOHOLANA

This is a traditional Spanish influenced ballroom dance from the Bohol province. It is usually performed during fiestas. It is based on the Polish national dance *mazurka* that was popularized throughout Europe and in the colonized lands like the Philippines during the Spanish times.

Choreographed by Lina Calub

Lita Monroy ♦ Julie Ednacot
Juliet Hugley ♦ Fely Encarnacion



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2015 ~ 2017 MEMBERS

Dan & Tess	ADCOCK	West Columbia	SC	Gene & Sally	ELLIS	Columbia	SC
Glenn & Kathrina	AGNGARAYNGAY	Columbia	SC	Chris & Miriam	ESCHENFELDER	Columbia	SC
Conrad & Rita	ALCANTARA	Columbia	SC	Jojo & Joette	FLORA	Columbia	SC
Noel & Helen	ALON	Columbia	SC	Ted & Lynn	FUGRAD	Columbia	SC
Edith	ALSTON	Hopkins	SC	Terry & Reyna	FUNDERBURK	Irmo	SC
Leroy & Lulu	ANDERSON	Columbia	SC	Patrick & Myla	GALILA	Columbia	SC
Ruben	ANGELES, Jr.	Columbia	SC	Alan & Cecille	GEOGHEGAN	Columbia	SC
Jordan & Ivy	ANTONIO	Columbia	SC	Imelda	GO	Columbia	SC
Carlos & Kathy	AREVALO	Columbia	SC	Ed & Yani	GOULD	Lexington	SC
Ruben & Chari	BAGNAL	Columbia	SC	Charles & Bev	GOYENECHÉ	Hartsville	SC
Lu & Merlyn	BAJAMUNDE		SC	Jimmy & Janet	HARRIS	Gilbert	SC
Roy & Carina	BALACANAO	Columbia	SC	Steve & Mhai Mhai	HASTEROK	Blythewood	SC
James & Edith	BARKER	Saluda	SC	Robert and Julie	HETRICK	Hopkins	SC
Steven & Josephine	BATTLE	Columbia	SC	Walter & Tess	HILL	Chapin	SC
Terry & Judy	BERENDS	Columbia	SC	Ralph & Lorencita	IACONO	Chapin	SC
Brian & Danilyn	BETENIZO	Hartsville	SC	Pete & Cecilia	JACOBSEN	Sumter	SC
Dominick	BRIGUERA	Columbia	SC	Ken & Emee	JENNINGS	Columbia	SC
David & Odess	BRINKMAN	Columbia	SC	Lianne & Michael	JOHNSON	Columbia	SC
Jason & Marie	BROOME	Irmo	SC	Jim & Tessie	KENERSON	Columbia	SC
Linda	BROWN	Columbia	SC	Don & Evelyn	LIESTER	Columbia	SC
Rodgerr & Aurelis	BROWN	Sumter	SC	Peter & Olga	LIUNORAS	Columbia	SC
Buddy & Sai	BURKE	Columbia	SC	DC & Jocy	LOCKE	Cayce	SC
JC	CALLAHAN	Graniteville	SC	Jim & Juvie	LOWDER	West Columbia	SC
Jonathan & Ginalyn	CASTANEDA	Lexington	SC	Lolita	LUCAS	Lexington	SC
William & Joy	CLARK	Blythewood	SC	Teresa	LUCAS	Lexington	SC
Andy & Luzviminda	CLIFFORD	Columbia	SC	Alan & Jennifer	LUCILLO	Columbia	SC
Al & Leila	COCKEREL	Columbia	SC	Rechel	LYNN	Camden	SC
Ron & Faye	COLLEY	Irmo	SC	David	MACK	Columbia	SC
Grace	COLLINS	Lexington	SC	Martin "Ike"	MAGAT	Columbia	SC
Carissa	COX	Irmo	SC	Joyce	MAMARIL		
Fred & Gloria	COYLE	Elgin	SC	Mitch & Juliet	MARTIN	Chapin	SC
Manny & Leah	CUARESMA	Columbia	SC	Alan	MATIENZO	Columbia	SC
Christopher & Elvy	DABROWSKI	Columbia	SC	Doris	MATOS	Columbia	SC
Rio & Mary Jane	DAQUILANEA	Columbia	SC	Sean & Shirley Grace	McGUINNESS	West Columbia	SC
Ben & Aida	DAQUIOAG	Columbia	SC	George & Nieves	McNULTY	Columbia	SC
Glenn & Taryn	DAQUIZ	Columbia	SC	Manuel & Eva	MIRANDA	Columbia	SC
Tony & Tessie	DE CASTRO			Bill & Amy	MONROE	Chapin	SC
Glenn & Carmela	DE GUZMAN	Columbia	SC	Joe & Lora	MURPHY	Lexington	SC
Chona & Gerry	DE TORRES	Columbia	SC	Matt & Joy	MYRICK	Columbia	SC
Harry & Lorna	DODSON			Marvin & Beth	NOBLE	Columbia	SC
Larry & Ruby	DURHAM	Columbia	SC	James	ORLICK	Columbia	SC
Carlton & Lisa	EDWARDS	Eastover	SC	Mike	PADUA	Columbia	SC
Carlton, Jr. & Amy	EDWARDS	Blythewood	SC	Susana	PASICATAN	Columbia	SC
Butch & Dhel	ELAMPARO	Columbia	SC	Victoria	PAYUMO	Columbia	SC
Charles & Vevian	ELDER	Columbia	SC	Lee & Polly	PEARSON	Dalzell	SC

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Association of Greater Columbia**

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2015 ~ 2017 MEMBERS

Gentry & Cheryl	PELTIER	Columbia	SC
Edsel & Marj	PEÑA	Columbia	SC
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Dolly	RITCHIE	Sumter	SC
Roger & Naty Akana	ROBERTS	Columbia	SC
David & Alma	ROBICHAUD	Columbia	SC
Keith Howard	SEYMOUR	Columbia	SC
Scott & Sheena	SHEARER	Lugoff	SC
Maria	SILVER	Columbia	SC
Eric & Haidee	SOSA	Columbia	SC
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Jeff & Anna	TEMPLES	Irmo	SC
Archie & Jessica	TEVES	Columbia	SC
Kermit & Candida "Eding"	THOMAS	Columbia	SC
Eugene & Francis	THOMPSON		SC
Neil & Bambie	TIJING	Columbia	SC
Terry & Liza	TUAZON	Columbia	SC
Eric & Kathy	VIRAY	Columbia	SC
Charles & Precy	WALKER	Columbia	SC
Francisca	WALKER	Wedgfield	SC
Warren & Myrna	WHITMIRE	Columbia	SC
Thomas & Nancydita	WILLIAMS	Columbia	SC
John & Teresa	ZIEGLER	Lexington	SC



Some FAAGC Lifetime Members
at the 25th Annual Gala

As of September 15, 2016, the persons listed above were paid FAAGC members for all, or at least part, of Association Year 2015-2016 and/or 2016-2017 (July 1 — June 30).

Many have renewed their FAAGC membership for 2016-2017 (a few even beyond 2017). We hope the rest, as well as others not on the list, will rejoin or join us soon.

At the **20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA** on Sept. 10, 2011, the **Columbia Fil-Am Association** honored those who had steadfastly supported and continuously sustained **FAAGC** from its beginning through its first **TWENTY (20) years** by recognizing them as **LIFETIME MEMBERS** (♦).

Others have or can become **Lifetime Members** if they have paid or willing to pay the equivalent of 20 years of membership (#).

Some exceptional persons have been honored as **Honorary Lifetime Members** (■). Per FAAGC By-laws Article III, Section 3, "Honorary membership may be extended by the Executive Board to any non-member with special contributions to the Association."

♦ Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members
Continuous Members since 1991

- ♦ Rita Houston ALCANTARA
- ♦ Noel & Helen ALON
- ♦ Edith ALSTON
- ♦ Lulu ANDERSON
- ♦ Ruben Matias BAGNAL
- ♦ James & Edith BARKER
- ♦ Linda BROWN
- ♦ Grace COLLINS
- ♦ Manny & Leah CUARESMA
- ♦ Tony & Tessie De CASTRO
- ♦ Gene & Sally ELLIS
- ♦ Jim & Tessie KENERSON
- ♦ Juliet MARTIN
- ♦ George & Nieves McNULTY
- ♦ Marvin & Beth NOBLE
- ♦ Alfonso+ & Susana PASICATAN
- ♦ Naty AKANA ROBERTS
- ♦ David & Cindy TEFFT

Lifetime Sustaining Members
Members for 20 years or more

- # Charles & Bev GOYENECHE (since 1991)
- # Lee & Polly PEARSON (since 1992)
- # Joy CLARK (since 1993)
- # Jim & Juvie LOWDER (since 1993)
- # Imelda GO (1993-94, since 1996)
- # Butch & Dhel ELAMPARO (since 1995)
- # Peter & Olga LIUNORAS (since 1995)
- # Charles & Precy WALKER (since 1995)
- # Warren & Myrna WHITMIRE (since 1997)
- # Lu & Merlyn BAJAMUNDE (since 2000)
- # Edsel & Marj PEÑA (since 2000)
- # Don & Evelyn LIESTER (since 2003)
- # David & Odess BRINKMAN (since 2004)
- # Carlton & Carmelisa EDWARDS (since 2006)
- # Pete & Cecille JACOBSEN (since 2006)
- # Maria SILVER (since 2009)
- # Walter & Tess HILL (since 2012)

■ Honorary Lifetime Charter Members

- Remedios Morales SARMIENTO
(FAAGC Treasurer 1991-1992)
- Eva RIGNEY
(FAAGC President 1991-1992)
- Minerva WHEEDLETON
(FAAGC President 1992-1994; 2nd VP 1991-1992)

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FILIPINO-AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia

MILESTONES OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION

... Twenty-five years (so far) and more to come ...

Accomplishments, Achievements & Moments in Time as Columbia FIL-AMs Make an Impact in the Community



June 9, 1991 Formal organization of the Association when its By-law are approved and adopted.

June 15, 1991 First election of officers, with Eva Rigney elected as first FAAGC president.

July 11, 1991 FAAGC becomes officially incorporated in South Carolina.

Sept. 7, 1991 First annual gala and inaugural ball.

March 1992 FAAGC sends funds from various fund-raisers to Mt. Pinatubo victims in an Angeles City orphanage.

June 14, 1992 During the second election of officers, Minnie Wheedleton is elected FAAGC president.

Dec 5, 1992 FAAGC participates in *Carolina Carillon*, the first time the Filipino-American community in the state is represented in SC's premier parade.

May 7, 1993 FAAGC starts its continuing participation in the annual *Asian/Pacific American Heritage* celebrations at Ft. Jackson, SC.

June 5, 1993 Minnie Wheedleton is re-elected president.

June 19, 1993 FAAGC and the Philippine Cultural Society of Charleston (*Hiyas-Min*) present ***Karilagan*** (beauty) -- **The Philippine Cultural Show** at the Koger Center for the Arts -- a first-of-its-kind-show in Columbia.



Oct. 9, 1993 FAAGC participates in the Florence First International Festival.

Nov. 6, 1993 The *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* makes first public appearance (*outside of FAAGC's own affairs*) at an international festival in Columbia.

Dec. 4, 1993 FAAGC's "*Christmas in the Philippines*" float wins the *Grand Marshal's Award* as best overall entry in the 40th annual *Carolina Carillon*, South Caro-



lina's premier holiday parade.

April 16, 1994 Helen Alon is elected FAAGC president.

May 30, 1994 FAAGC presents cultural show and educational exhibits at *Mayfest*, Columbia's premier spring festival, a first-time involvement of the area Fil-Am community.

Sept. 24, 1994 FAAGC presents cultural show at *Autumnfest*, Columbia's fall festival of arts and heritage -- another first-ever Fil-Am participation.

October 1994 FAAGC donates Philippine reference books to public schools and libraries; Start of continuing cultural mini-shows and educational exhibits at area schools, companies and community events.

April 16, 1995 Helen Alon is re-elected FAAGC president.

May 8, 1995 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officially recognizes FAAGC as tax-exempt, non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(4).

Dec. 31, 1995 FAAGC presents two cultural shows at *First Night Columbia*, a first-ever involvement in the city's New Year's Eve event.

Mar. 30, 1996 FAAGC participates for the first time in *Kids Day Columbia*.

April 6, 1996 Helen Alon is re-elected to a third term as FAAGC president.

June 16, 1996 FAAGC's Philippine display wins "*best country exhibit*" at the *First Columbia International Festival* held at the State Fairgrounds.



Dec. 7, 1996 The *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performs for the first time outside the state at a special holiday festival in Charlotte, NC.

April 3, 1997 FAAGC member Dr. Francisco Sy, a Fil-Am public health professor at USC, is named "*1997 International Professional of the Year*" at the 2nd annual Columbia International Festival.

May 9, 1997 Ushering in a series of events to celebrate the *Philippine Independence Centennial*, FAAGC sponsors the stage presentation "*The Philippines — Yesterday, Today and Forever*" performed by the Manila-based, world-touring Philippine Centennial Youth Delegation at the Ridge View High School auditorium.

May 18, 1997 Nieves McNulty is elected first two-year-term FAAGC president.

Nov. 21-23, 1997 The *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* performs for the first time at the *Festival of Trees*, the annual fund-raising event for the Children's Hospital of Richland Memorial Hospital.

Mar. 31, 1998 FAAGC charter member Noel Alon is named the "*1998 International Volunteer of the Year*" at the 3rd annual Columbia International Festival.

Aug. 29, 1998 The *Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe* serves as the opening act of the *FASA Philippine Showcase: Remembering The Past, Envisioning The Future.* A first-of-its-kind-show in Columbia (and the Southeast), the production, featuring the West Coast-based Fil-Am recording artists *Pinay*, was promoted by FAAGC member Fred Balangue under the sponsorship of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA).



April 18, 1999 Nieves McNulty is re-elected FAAGC president.



FILIPINO-AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia

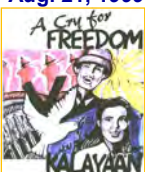
MILESTONES OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION

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June 12, 1999 FAAGC and Charleston's *Hiyas-Min* present **"Kalayaan (Cry for Freedom)"**, a joint cultural showcase to celebrate the "Centennial plus One" anniversary of Philippine Independence, at Columbia's Richland 2 District Auditorium (June 12) and at Charleston Southern University's Lightsey Chapel Auditorium (Aug. 21).



Oct. 11, 1999 At the invitation of fair organizers, FAAGC presents two cultural shows at the 130th South Carolina Annual State Fair, a first-ever Fil-Am participation.

Mar. 17, 2001 FAAGC president Nieves McNulty is named "2001 International Professional of the Year" at the 6th annual Columbia International Festival.

April 15, 2001 Peter Liunoras is elected fifth (and first male) FAAGC president.

Nov. 16, 2001 FAAGC co-hosts with the USC FASA a post-performance reception for *Bayanihan*, the world-renowned Philippine National Dance Company, after its cultural show at the Koger Center for the Performing Arts.

Mar. 30, 2002 FAAGC charter member Grace Collins is named "2002 International Volunteer of the Year" at the 7th annual Columbia International Festival.

April 20, 2003 Grace Collins is elected FAAGC president.

Sept. 13, 2003 FAAGC presents the first *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* award to Raymund Elamparo.

Mar. 6, 2004 The Sumter area Fil-Am community, led by FAAGC members Polly Pearson and Lilian Sheedy, participates for the first time at the annual Sumter Multi-Cultural Celebration.

Mar. 25, 2004 FAAGC past president Peter Liunoras is named "2004 International Volunteer of the Year" at the 9th annual Columbia International Festival.

April, 2004 The Ridge View High School (RVHS) Fil-Am Youth Club is formed under the direction of FAAGC past president Peter Liunoras. The club is instrumental in raising funds for the *Fil-Am Scholarship* project.

June 2004 By invitation of the Charlotte-based Philippine-American Association of the Carolinas (PAAC), FAAGC, through its 1st VP Alan Geoghegan, presents Filipiniana display at the Charlotte *AsiaFest*.

June 12, 2004 The *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performs at the first gala of the Filipino-American Association of Beaufort, Hampton and Jasper Counties of SC (FAABHJ) in Hilton Head.

February 2005 *Filipinas Magazine*, the internationally-circulated "magazine for all Filipinos," features an article on FAAGC written by 1st VP Alan Geoghegan (with editorial help from N. Alon).

Mar. 19, 2005 The USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA) presents ***FASA Night: A Philippine Cultural Showcase***, a first-of-its-kind event at USC featuring traditional and modern aspects of Filipino and Filipino-American cultures. AJ Alon, a pioneer *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, serves as FASA president with FAAGC treasurer George McNulty as the faculty adviser.



Mar. 27, 2005 Alan Geoghegan is elected FAAGC president.

May 1, 2005 FAAGC's Philippine display featuring a *sari-sari* (variety) store and motorcab motif wins "best exhibit" award at the 10th Annual Columbia International Festival.

Dec. 23, 2005 The Columbia Fil-Am community and Philippine folk dances, cuisine and Christmas traditions are featured live on "Live with Lucas" segments of *WIS News 10 Sunrise* show.

Mar. 23, 2006 FAAGC three-term treasurer George McNulty is named "2006 International Community Ambassador of the Year" at the 11th annual Columbia International Festival.

April 8, 2007 Alan Geoghegan is re-elected FAAGC president.

June 23, 2007 FAAGC participates for the first time in *World Refugee Day* celebration in Columbia.

July 27, 2007 FAAGC delivers donation from various fundraisers and matching Association funds to *Hospicio de San Jose*, a Manila orphanage.

Dec. 19, 2007 FAAGC delivers donation from the 2007 gala fundraiser and matching Association funds to *Hospicio de San Jose*, the *Asilo de San Vicente de Paul*, the ERDA (Educational Research and Development Assistance) Foundation (all in Manila), and the SOS Children's Village in Tacloban City, Leyte.

Feb. 9, 2009 FAAGC delivers donation from the 2008 gala fundraiser and matching Association funds to the Philippine National Red Cross.



FAAGC officers Leah Cuaresma (left) and Myrna Whitmire (right) pose with the assistant director and some staffers and children of the *Hospicio de San Jose* during their visit to deliver FAAGC's 2007 donation to the Manila hospice.

Photo: Manny Cuaresma



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April 12, 2009 Marj Peña is elected FAAGC president.

Aug. 29, 2009 The City of Columbia proclaims this date as *Filipino-American Day*.

Aug. 29, 2009 Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Willy C. Gaa and Columbia City Councilman Kirkman Finlay III (representing Mayor Robert Coble) attend the *19th Annual Gala*, the first-time either a Philippine Ambassador or an official city representative is in attendance.



Nov. 2009 FAAGC delivers donation from the 2009 Gala fundraiser and matching Association funds to the Philippine calamity victims through the Catholic Relief Services.

April 24, 2011 Marj Peña is re-elected FAAGC president.

Sept. 10, 2011 At its *20th Anniversary Gala*, FAAGC honors 18 families who have been members continuously since 1991 by naming them as *Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members*.

Sept. 21, 2011 FAAGC member Imelda Go establishes the *Friends of Internationals Scholarship Fund* at USC to help meritorious international students having financial hardships at USC.

Sept. 26, 2011 Noel & Helen Alon deliver 20-year (from 1991 to 2011) documentation of FAAGC to the Library of Congress (LoC) for its Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Collection.



Reme Grefalda (right), the LoC AAPI Collection founding curator, receives FAAGC documents.

The LoC documentation consists of copies of all the issues of the Fil-Am newsletter (April 1991 to Summer 2011), souvenir programs of all galas and cultural shows (*Karilagan* and *Kalayaan*), By-laws booklets, *Directory of Members* booklets, Christmas Party programs, and a DVD of 1991-92 original computer files and digitized photos.

Oct. 15, 2011 FAAGC sponsors the very first *Columbia Fil-Am Basketball Invitational Tournament* involving six Fil-Am teams from Georgia and South Carolina at the Polo Road Park Recreation Center gym.



Mar. 31, 2012 FAAGC president Marj Peña is named "2012 *International Professional of the Year*" at the 17th annual *Columbia International Festival*.

April 13, 2013 FAAGC member Alma Robichaud is named "2013 *International Volunteer of the Year*" at the 18th annual *Columbia International Festival*.

April 24, 2013 Cecille Jacobsen is elected FAAGC president.

June 24, 2013 FAAGC delivers donation from various fund-raisers and matching Association funds to the Philippine National Red Cross.

Jan. 2, 2014 FAAGC delivers donation from various fund-raisers and matching Association funds for Typhoon Hainan (Yolanda) victims to the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Manila.

July 1, 2014 FAAGC delivers additional donation from various fund-raisers to assist Typhoon Hainan (Yolanda) victims to the ABS-CBN Foundation *Sagip Kapamilya*.



April 5, 2015 Cecille Jacobsen is re-elected FAAGC president.

April 18-19, 2015 The Philippines is the featured country at the 20th annual *Columbia International Festival*.



Aug. 9, 2015 FAAGC receives commendation from the State of South Carolina and the Southeast Network for the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in recognition of its work with the Filipino American community in the Columbia, SC area.



Oct. 19, 2015 FAAGC makes cash donation to the Columbia Harvest Hope Food Bank to help the October 2015 flood victims in South Carolina.



City of Columbia Proclaims FILIPINO-AMERICAN DAY

The proclamation reads as follows:

City of Columbia A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Filipino-Americans have made many valuable contributions to Columbia and they continue to influence and enrich our city economically, socially and intellectually. The Filipino-American population has been instrumental in enhancing cultural diversity, education; and

WHEREAS, the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) is a non-profit organization that was started in June of 1991 to bring awareness, understanding, and promote cultural diversity in the Midlands; and

WHEREAS, the FAAGC has donated funds to organizations in need that support education and cultural activities in Columbia and abroad such as the Hospicio de San Jose, a Manila orphanage; and

WHEREAS, the FAAGC has participated in many area city-wide events through the years including the Carolina Carillon, Columbia International Festival, and Kids Day; and

WHEREAS, the FAAGC is currently raising funds to build their own cultural center to serve as a resource for the community to learn about the Philippines and its culture.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Robert D. Coble, Mayor of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim **August 29, 2009**, as

FILIPINO-AMERICAN DAY

in the City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

(signed)
Robert D. Coble
Mayor

(signed)
Kirkman Finlay III
District IV Council Member



BLAST FROM THE PAST... 25 YEARS AGO...

THE FIRST YEAR OF FAAGC

June 9, 1991

► Amid the earth-shaking news that the once-dormant Mt. Pinatubo started erupting to become the world's most violent and destructive volcanic eruption of the 20th century, the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**, is formally organized when its By-laws are officially approved and adopted during a meeting at 216 West Springs Road, Columbia (Remie Sarmiento's residence).

♦ Although Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the Columbia area have been socializing with each other for years and even had a quasi-formal organization in the mid-80s, it was only in March 1991 that they started meeting regularly with the idea of getting together and forming an association. During this initial series of meetings, *interim* officers were chosen, with **Fe Cardona** as president, **Eva Rigney** as secretary, and **Remie Morales Sarmiento** as treasurer.

♦ A monthly newsletter was started in **April 1991**, with **Eva Rigney** as founding editor. (By June 1991, the newsletter was co-edited by Noel Alon & Eva Rigney. From October 1991 to February 1992, Noel Alon served as the editor. The newsletter was under an Editorial Board from March to June 1992).

June 15, 1991

► The Association held its first election of officers at a **Philippine Independence Day picnic-celebration at Sesquicentennial Park**. Elected to the First Executive Committee were: **Eva Rigney** (*President*), **Susan Pasicatan** (*1st VP*), **Ofelia Milligan** (*2nd VP*), **Helen Alon** (*Secretary*), **Remie Sarmiento** (*Treasurer*), and **Grace Collins, Jun David and Cindy Tefft** (*members*).

♦ Reporters from *The State* newspaper and TV stations WIS-10 and WLTX-19 came during the picnic. Although they were more interested in finding out how local Filipino families were coping with Mt. Pinatubo's devastation, they did provide some free coverage about the Association.

July 11, 1991

► **FAAGC becomes officially incorporated in the State of South Carolina.**

July 14, 1991

► **MINNIE WHEEDLETON** is elected as *2nd VP* as Ofelia Milligan had to resign due to her out-of-town work.

Sept. 7, 1991

► **First annual gala and inaugural ball** held at the **Columbia Marriott Hotel**, with **Lt. Gen. Charles W. Bagnal** as guest speaker and **Atty. David Rigney** as inducting officer.

Oct. 19, 1991

► **Mt. Pinatubo Fund garage sale** at the Alon residence.

Nov. 2, 1991

► **Halloween dinner-dance** at St. John Neumann Church social hall.

Dec. 13, 1991

► **First Annual Christmas Party** – Holiday Inn-Northeast

Feb. 15, 1992

► **Valentine's Day Party** – Days Inn (Sumter Highway)

April 12, 1992

► **First Easter Egg-hunt** at the Kenerson backyard.

June 14, 1992

► **Second election of officers** – Sesquicentennial Park –
♦ **Minnie Wheedleton** elected as President.

FAAGC 1991-92 Members: THE PIONEERS

***Lifetime Sustaining Charter Members who have been continuous FAAGC members from 1991 through 2016**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ♦ Gilda AGACER | ♦ Nandy & Julie IGAMA |
| ♦ Naty AKANA Roberts* | ♦ Lily IGLESIAS |
| ♦ Noel & Helen ALON* | ♦ Mike & Venus IVANOWSKY |
| ♦ Edith ALSTON* | ♦ Sam & Luz JACKSON |
| ♦ Leroy & Lulu ANDERSON* | ♦ Bonnie JAMES |
| ♦ James & Edith BARKER* | ♦ Jim & Tessie KENERSON* |
| ♦ Belen BENEDICTOS | ♦ Merle KNOWLES |
| ♦ Bert & Patty BENITEZ | ♦ Eric & Yolie KURVACH |
| ♦ Liza BERNARDO | ♦ Conrad & Zeny LAZARO |
| ♦ Peter & Maria BONZAGNI | ♦ James & Efleda LILLY |
| ♦ Carl & Linda BOWEN | ♦ Cesar & Nene MACATANGAY |
| ♦ Linda BROWN* | ♦ Phil & Tessie MALATE |
| ♦ Joe & Lita BROWN | ♦ Julieta MARTIN* |
| ♦ Rosie CABOT | ♦ Lety MATAWARAN |
| ♦ Jannette CANNON | ♦ Ruben MATIAS BAGNAL* |
| ♦ Tony & Tessie De CASTRO* | ♦ George & Nieves McNULTY* |
| ♦ Delia CHESTNUT | ♦ Ofelia MILLIGAN |
| ♦ Rose COETZEE | ♦ Marvin & Beth NOBLE* |
| ♦ Randy & Tessie COLLADO | ♦ Al & Susan PASICATAN* |
| ♦ Grace COLLINS* | ♦ Edgardo & Edith PECSON |
| ♦ Van de la CRUZ | ♦ Dom & Zenen PEREZ |
| ♦ Manny & Leah CUARESMA* | ♦ Alice PINEDA |
| ♦ Jun & Paz DAVID | ♦ Boy & Lita POWAO |
| ♦ Tina DAVIS | ♦ John & Lily RAGSDALE |
| ♦ Rosita DIZON | ♦ David & Eva RIGNEY |
| ♦ Gene & Sally ELLIS* | ♦ Rudy & Angie SANCHEZ |
| ♦ Amber & Linda FALLER | ♦ Jose & Fely SANTOS |
| ♦ John FALLER | ♦ Ralph & Remie SARMIENTO |
| ♦ Josephine FALLER | ♦ Mike & Anne SAYYAD |
| ♦ Gil & Vickie FRANCISCO | ♦ Sonia SCHOENK |
| ♦ Rosie GANDEE | ♦ Jess & Edie SEBASTIAN |
| ♦ Hector & Julie GALANG | ♦ Beatrice SHARPE |
| ♦ Gemma GESLANI | ♦ Pete & Laura SIAZON |
| ♦ Tommy & Rosie GODDARD | ♦ Norman SOBERANO |
| ♦ Jessie & Vera GONZALEZ | ♦ Aurora SUMAYDENG |
| ♦ Charles & Bev GOYENECHÉ | ♦ David & Cindy TEFFT* |
| ♦ Lorna De GUZMAN | ♦ Gil & Bella VALEÑA |
| ♦ David & Grace HARVEY | ♦ Eloida VILLAFRANCA |
| ♦ Rob & Vilma HINNANT | ♦ Al & Minnie WHEEDLETON |
| ♦ Precy HOLBROOK | ♦ Mark & Gloria YUTANI |
| ♦ Rita HOUSTON Alcantara* | ♦ Ramon ZOSA |

The recipient of **FAAGC's Mt. Pinatubo Fund** was the **Children's Home of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Inc.**, in Angeles City, Pampanga. The home could accommodate 150 children, but due to Mt. Pinatubo's eruption and the pull-out of Americans from Clark Air base, its "financial capability to feed and educate the children has been curtailed," as home director Zoraida Sazon wrote on April 1, 1992. With help from FAAGC and others, she was optimistic they "can again function at full capacity soon."

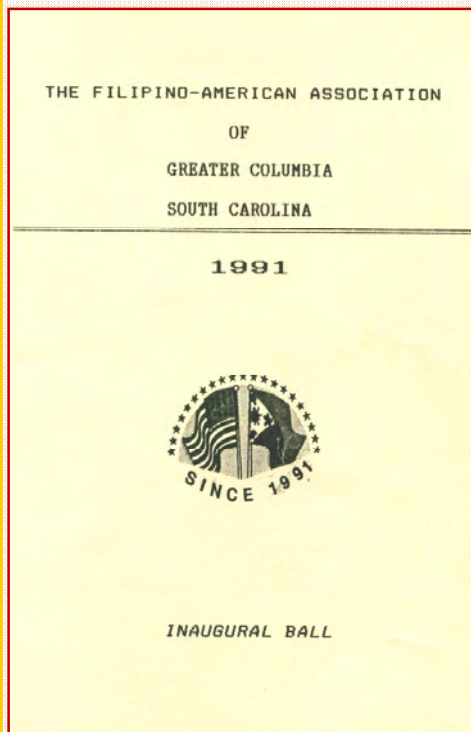
BLAST FROM THE PAST ... 25 YEARS AGO ... (First Gala ~~~ Sept. 7, 1991)



Drs. Minnie Wheedleton & Susan Pasicatan



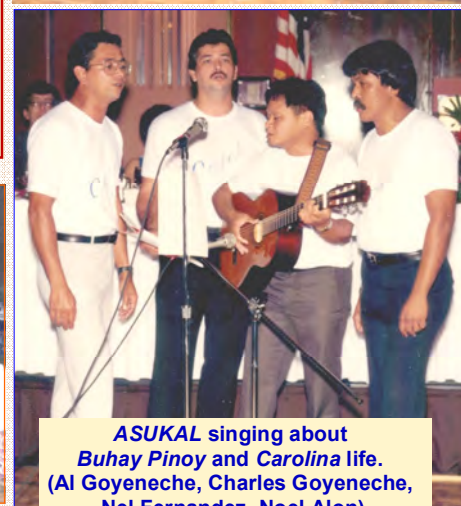
The 1991 officers at the gala presidential table :
Eva, Minnie, Susan, Helen, Grace, Cindy, Jun (not in photo: Remie)



INAUGURAL BALL PROGRAM GUIDE	
SEPTEMBER 7, 1991**COLUMBIA MARRIOTT HOTEL	
WELCOME-RECEPTION.....	6:45 p.m.
DINNER starts promptly at.....	7:00 p.m.
"Wind Beneath My Wings".....by Romel	
"Anything For You".....by Cindy	
"Unchained Melody".....by Eva	
National Anthems (Philippine and American)	
To be led by.....	Romel Lacson
Pianist.....	Lorna de Guzman
Invocation.....	Father Max Saldua
Opening Remarks.....	Eva Perez-Rigney
Induction of Officers.....	Atty. David E. Rigney
"Walay Angay"	
"Sarong Banggi".....	
Cindy Tefft	
Pangalay Dance.....	Lily Ragsdale
Musical Number.....	Asukal
Introduction of the Guest Speaker	
Remedios Morales-Sarmiento	
Guest Speaker.....	Lt. Gen. Charles W. Bagnal
Tinikling Dance.....	
Al & Cindy, Eva & Susan;	
Rogie & Michelle, Winslow & Carrie	
Surprise Number.....	Charleston Group
Closing Remarks.....	Eligio Corcuera-David
Minerva Antonio-Wheedleton	
Emcee	



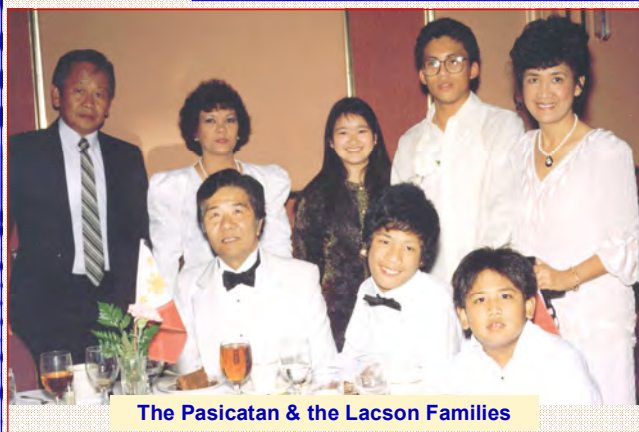
The Tinikling Dancers
Michelle Pasicatan, Rogie Lacson & Dr. Alfonso Pasicatan (with hidden Cindy Tefft)



ASUKAL singing about
Buhay Pinoy and Carolina life.
(Al Goyeneche, Charles Goyeneche, Nel Fernandez, Noel Alon)



Al Goyeneche, Charles Goyeneche, Grace Collins, Nel Fernandez, Billy Alston, Noel Alon, Jun David

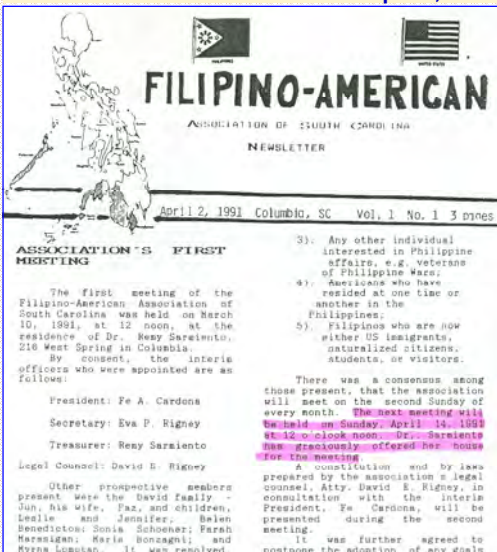


The Pasicatan & the Lacson Families

BLAST FROM THE PAST ... 25 YEARS AGO ...

... From shoebox archives and 5-1/4 floppies ... courtesy of the Pasicatan and the Alon families ...

The First Issue of the Newsletter—April 2, 1991



Articles from the first issue of the newsletter

ASSOCIATION'S FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the Filipino-American Association of South Carolina was held on March 10, 1991, at 12 noon, at the residence of Dr. Remy Sarmiento, 216 West Spring in Columbia.

By consent, the interim officers who were appointed are as follows:

President: Fe A. Cardona
Secretary: Eva P. Rigney
Treasurer: Remy Sarmiento
Legal Counsel: David E. Rigney

Other prospective members present were the David family - Jun, his wife, Paz, and children, Leslie and Jennifer; Belen Benedictos; Sonia Schoener [should be Schoenk]; Farah Marasigan; Maria Bonzagni; and Myrna Lomotan.

A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

The first meeting of the association has brought us new challenges and opportunities. As you can see from this issue of the Newsletter, there is a great deal of activities that is being planned. We are enthusiastically looking forward to new directions in policy and administration and participation in civic affairs. These are monthly endeavors. We need your support. It is the foundation upon which our new association will be built.

Let us bear in mind the words of Henry Ford, "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success."

Together, I am confident, we will succeed.



First Picnic & Election — June 15, 1991
~ Sesquicentennial Park ~
Dr. Laura Siazon, Dr. Teresita DeCastro, Letty Benedictos, Dr. Susan Pasicatan, Dr. Julie Galang



First Halloween Party — November 2, 1991
~ St. John Neumann Church Social Hall ~



First Christmas Party —
December 13, 1991
~ Holiday Inn - Northeast ~



First Easter Egg-hunt — April 12, 1992
~ Kenerson Residence backyard ~

FILIPINO—AMERICAN Association of Greater Columbia, SC

~ A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S ~ 26TH ANNUAL GALA

We would like to express our grateful appreciation to the following benefactors, sponsors, patrons, donors, advertisers, and other supporters:

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- ◆ Dr. Raj ALURI ~ Columbia International Festival (Columbia, SC)
- ◆ Carlton EDWARDS Sr. & Family (Columbia/Blythewood, SC)
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- ◆ Pete & Cecilia JACOBSEN (Sumter, SC)
- ◆ Demetrio & Mercedes MATIENZO & Family (Columbia & Rock Hill, SC)
- ◆ Lee & Polly PEARSON (Dalzell, SC)
- ◆ Edsel & Marj PEÑA (Columbia, SC)
- ◆ Mark & Priscilla RAMIREZ (Columbia, SC)

SPONSORS:

- ◆ Don & Evelyn LIESTER (Columbia, SC)

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- ◆ Helen Alon ◆ Reyna Funderburk ◆ Glenn DeGuzman
- ◆ Nenita Talisensky ◆ Teresa Ziegler ◆ AlanG ◆ NCA

BEHIND THE SCENE

2015-2017 FAAGC Executive Board ~ Gala Planning Committee ~

Reception Tables:

- Miriam Eschenfelder
- Leah Cuaresma
- Tessie Kenerson

Invitations / Tickets:

- Marj Peña

Decorations:

- Cecille Jacobsen
- Reyna Funderburk
- Doris Matos

Seating Arrangement

- Cecille Jacobsen
- Reyna Funderburk

Out-of-Town Guests

Coordinators:

- Miriam Eschenfelder
- Reyna Funderburk
- Tess Hill

Name Tags & Registry:

- Tess Hill

Emcees:

- Faye Colley
- Alan Geoghegan

Stage/Floor Managers:

- Carlos Arevalo
- Al Cockerel
- Glenn DeGuzman

Door Prizes/Raffles:

- Grace Collins

Photography:

- Carlton Edwards
- Marj Peña

DJ Coordinator:

- Cecille Jacobsen

Venue Coordinators:

- Cecille Jacobsen
- Miriam Eschenfelder
- Carmelisa Edwards
- Peter Liunoras

FAAGC Showcase Video:

- Pete Jacobsen

Dance Troupe Coordinators:

- Helen Alon (Youth)
- Tess Hill (Adults)
- Reyna Funderburk (Adults)
- Gina Castaneda (Adults)

Dance Troupe Instructors:

- Helen Alon (Youth)
- Joette Flora (Youth)
- Reyna Funderburk (Adults)
- Alan Matienzo (Adults)

Dance Troupe Costumes:

- Gina Castaneda
- Carmelisa Edwards
- Joette Flora
- Reyna Funderburk
- Helen Alon

Youth Dance Troupe Photography

- Marj Peña

Youth Dance Troupe Technical & Miscellaneous Support:

- Judy Berends
- Jon & Gina Castaneda
- Joy Clark
- Carmelisa Edwards
- Gyliza Ramos Gregory
- Jojo & Joette Flora
- Walt & Tess Hill
- David & Rechel Lynn
- Edsel & Marj Peña
- Philip & Anna Rabaca
- Celyn Szoke
- Jeff & Anna Temples
- Cecille Jacobsen
- Alon Residence—practice venue
- “Chauffeurs” of the Dancers
- Food Donors for the Dance Practices

Souvenir Program & Misc. etc. (for the final time):

- Noel Alon
- The LEGGZ Collective

~Thanks Y'all!~

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After producing 24 of the past 26 annual FAAGC Gala Souvenir Programs, NCA is now bidding y'all "so long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, goodbye, adieu, adios."

Noel Alon
(803) 738-0372
(803) 318-9868
NCA17@juno.com
AJCompuNet@gmail.com

THE ASSOCIATION IN ACTION — 2015 ~ 2016

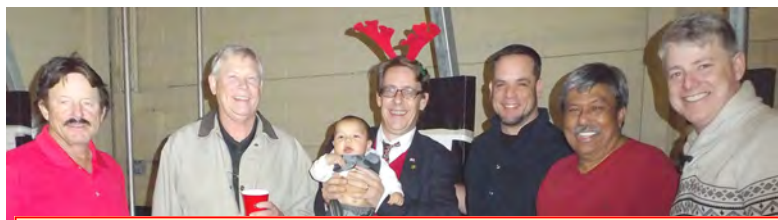


"A Taste of McEntire" Diversity Day celebration ~ Nov. 7, 2015 ~ McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C.



169th Fighter Wing's Family Day celebration ~ May 14, 2016 ~ McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C.

THE ASSOCIATION IN ACTION — 2015 ~ 2016



Christmas Party ~~~ Dec. 5, 2015 ~~~ St. John Neumann School



THE ASSOCIATION IN ACTION — 2015 ~ 2016



COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
◆ APRIL 16-17, 2016 ◆



COLUMBIA FIL-AM BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT
& FILIPINO FOOD SALE To Benefit Fil-Am Scholarship Fund
OCTOBER 17, 2015 ~ (Ridge View HS Gym) ~ MARCH 12, 2016



THE ASSOCIATION IN ACTION — 2015 ~ 2016



FAAGC in Out-of-Town Fil-Am Events



Greenville, SC

**Philippine American Association of the Carolinas (PAAC)
30th Annual Fiesta Night Gala ~~~ Sept. 26, 2015**



Charlotte, NC

**Filipino-American Community of the Carolinas (FACC)
28th Annual Gala ~~~ Nov 14, 2015**



COLUMBIA FIL-AM EXECUTIVE BOARDS THROUGH THE YEARS



1 1991-92: (front, l-r) Susana Pasicatan, Eva Rigney, Minnie Wheedleton, Helen Alon. (back, l-r) Cindy Tefft, Jun David, Remie Morales-Sarmiento, Grace Collins.



2 1992-93: (l-r) Minnie Wheedleton, Helen Alon, Randy Collado, Sally Ellis, Remie Morales-Sarmiento, Tessie DeCastro, Dom Perez, Marvin Noble.



3 1993-94: (front, l-r) Beth Noble (representing Marvin), Nel Fernandez, Gloria Yutani. (back, l-r) Dom Perez, Polly Pearson, Judy Salvador, Grace Collins, Sally Ellis, Minnie Wheedleton. (Not in photo: David Tefft)



4 1994-95: (front, l-r) Polly Pearson, Wilfred Jeffcoat, Linda Brown, Tessie Kenerson. (back, l-r) Eugenia Panela, Judy Salvador, Sally Ellis, Helen Alon, Grace Collins, Mark Yutani, Jerome Robinette.



5 1995-96: (front, l-r) Larry Smith, Wilfred Jeffcoat, Fred Balangue, Mark Yutani. (back, l-r) Judy Salvador, Linda Brown, Leah Cuaresma, Sally Ellis, Helen Alon, State Sen. Warren Giese (guest speaker), Grace Collins, Tessie Kenerson, Polly Pearson.



6 1996-97: (front, l-r) Fred Balangue, Wilfred Jeffcoat, Peter Liunoras, Ernest Ellis. (back, l-r) Linda Brown, Marie Salvador, Leah Cuaresma, Maria Aiken, DeeDee Stewart, Tessie Kenerson, Helen Alon, Bill Simmons.

	1 1991-1992	2 1992-1993	3 1993-1994	4 1994-1995	5 1995-1996	6 1996-1997
President	Eva Rigney	Minnie Wheedleton	Minnie Wheedleton	Helen Alon	Helen Alon	Helen Alon
1st Vice-President	Susana Pasicatan	Helen Alon	Sally Ellis	Sally Ellis	Sally Ellis	Ernest Ellis
2nd Vice-President	Minnie Wheedleton	Randy Collado	Grace Collins	Grace Collins	Grace Collins	Tessie Kenerson
Secretary	Helen Alon (7/91—2/92) Edith Barker (3/92—6/92)	Sally Ellis	Judy Salvador	Judy Salvador	Judy Salvador	DeeDee Stewart
Treasurer	Remie Sarmiento	Remie Sarmiento (July—Dec. 1992) Tessie Kenerson (Jan.—June. 1993)	Polly Pearson	Mark Yutani	Mark Yutani (July-Dec. 1995) Wilfred Jeffcoat (Jan.-June. 1996)	Wilfred Jeffcoat
Assistant Secretary			Gloria Yutani	Eugenia Panela	Leah Cuaresma	Maria Aiken
Assistant Treasurer			Marvin Noble	Jerome Robinette	Wilfred Jeffcoat (July—Dec. 1995) Naty Akana (Jan—June 1996)	Leah Cuaresma
Board Member	Grace Collins	Marvin Noble	Nel Fernandez	Linda Brown	Frederick Balangue	Frederick Balangue
Board Member	Cindy Tefft	Dom Perez	Dom Perez	Leah Cuaresma	Linda Brown	Linda Brown
Board Member	Jun David (7/91—2/92)	Tessie DeCastro (1992)	David Tefft	Wilfred Jeffcoat	Tessie Kenerson	Peter Liunoras
Board Member	Dom Perez (2/92—6/92)	Polly Pearson (1993)		Tessie Kenerson	Polly Pearson	Marie Salvador
Board Member				Polly Pearson	Larry Smith	Bill Simmons

COLUMBIA FIL-AM EXECUTIVE BOARDS THROUGH THE YEARS



7 1997-99: (front, l-r) Nieves McNulty, Peter Liunoras, Ofelia Milligan, Rowena Arroyo, Eloisa De Castro, Chari Matias-Bagnal. (back, l-r) Manny Cuaresma, Ernest Ellis, Edith Alston, Marie Salvador, Patrick Baens. (Not in photo: Imelda Go)



8 1999-2001: (front, l-r) Grace Collins, Philippine Consul Henry Bensurto, Jr. (guest speaker), Nieves McNulty, Bill Simmons, Edith Alston. (back, l-r) Tessie Kenerson, Helen Alon, Fred Balangue, Eloisa De Castro, Ruben Bagnal, Jon Glenn. (Not in photo: Joy Clark & Patrick Baens)



9 2001-03: (l-r) Ruben Bagnal, Rudy Dizon, George McNulty, Lulu Anderson, Marj Peña, Tessie Kenerson, Peter Liunoras, Tessie DeCastro, Polly Pearson, Diana Phillips, Hector Galang, Alan Geoghegan



10 2003-05: (front, l-r) Alan Geoghegan, Grace Collins, Jojo Goyeneche; (back, l-r) Marj Peña, Rex Santos, Amy Charles, George McNulty, Lily Iglesias, Dan Adcock, Merlyn Bajamunde, Charles Goyeneche, Rudy Dizon.



11 2005-07: (l-r) Alan Geoghegan, Cecille Wessinger, Dan Adcock, Odess Brinkman, George McNulty, Bernadette Yavis, Keith Seymour, Precy Walker, Galen Manapat, Edith Alston, Mario Viray, Alan Matienzo



12a 2007-08: (front, l-r) Alan Geoghegan, George McNulty, Albert Taylor, Mario Viray. (back, l-r) Sally Ellis, Odess Brinkman, Myrna Whitmire, Leah Cuaresma, Tessie Kenerson, Cecilia Jacobsen, Precy Walker, Shirley McGuinness

	7 1997-1999	8 1999-2001	9 2001-2003	10 2003-2005	11 2005-2007	12 2007-2009
<i>President</i>	Nieves McNulty	Nieves McNulty	Peter Liunoras	Grace Collins	Alan Geoghegan	Alan Geoghegan
<i>1st Vice-President</i>	Peter Liunoras	Grace Collins	Tessie DeCastro	Alan Geoghegan	Alan Matienzo	Sally Ellis
<i>2nd Vice-President</i>	Ofelia Milligan	Bill Simmons	Tessie Kenerson	Julieta Iglesias	Mario Viray	George McNulty
<i>Secretary</i>	Eloisa De Castro	Eloisa De Castro	Marj Peña	Marj Peña	Odess Brinkman	Shirley McGuinness
<i>Treasurer</i>	Imelda Go	Jon Glenn	George McNulty	George McNulty	George McNulty	Myrna Whitmire
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Chari Bagnal (7/97—8/98) Racquel Dizon (9/98—6/99)	Edith Alston	Lulu Anderson	Amy Charles	Edith Alston	Albert Taylor (7/07—3/08) Carmelisa Edwards (4/08—6/09)
<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	Rowena Arroyo	Joy Clark	Polly Pearson	Daniel Adcock	Daniel Adcock	Odess Brinkman
<i>Board Member</i>	Edith Alston	Helen Alon	Ruben Bagnal	Merlyn Bajamunde	Galen Manapat	Leah Cuaresma
<i>Board Member</i>	Patrick Baens	Patrick Baens	Rudy Dizon	Rudy Dizon	Keith Seymour	Cecilia Jacobsen
<i>Board Member</i>	Manny Cuaresma	Frederick Balangue	Hector Galang	Charles Goyeneche	Precy Walker	Tessie Kenerson
<i>Board Member</i>	Ernest Ellis	Tessie Kenerson	Diane Phillips	Jojo Goyeneche	Cecille Wessinger	Mario Viray
<i>Board Member</i>	Marie Salvador	Roger Lawsin (7/99—6/00) Ruben Bagnal (7/00—6/01)	Alan Geoghegan	Rex Santos	Bernadette Yavis	Precy Walker (7/07—3/08) Bernadette Yavis (4/08—6/09)

COLUMBIA FIL-AM EXECUTIVE BOARDS THROUGH THE YEARS



12b 2008-2009: (front, l-r) George McNulty, Alan Geoghegan, Mario Viray. (back, l-r) Bernadette Yavis, Leah Cuaresma, Tessie Kenerson, Myrna Whitmire, Sally Ellis, Shirley McGuinness, Carmelisa Edwards, Cecilia Jacobsen, Odess Brinkman.



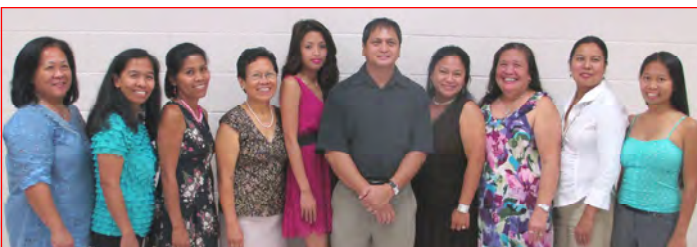
13 2009-2011: (front, l-r) Dan Adcock, Grace Balanquit, Jojo Flora. (back, l-r) Maribel Tijing, Wyda Viray, Shirley McGuinness, Cecille Jacobsen, Grace Collins, Carmelisa Edwards, Marj Peña, Cecille Geoghegan, Nieves McNulty.



14 2011-2013: (l-r) Bong Rances, Rio Daquilanea, Carlos Arevalo, Peter Liunoras, Grace Collins, Faye Colley, Odess Brinkman, Maribel Tijing, Nieves McNulty, Grace Balanquit, Carmelisa Edwards, Marj Peña.



15a 2013-2014: (front, l-r) Bong Rances, Cecille Jacobsen, Carlos Arevalo. (back, l-r) Tess Hill, Prescy Ramirez, Miriam Eschenfelder, Sheena Shearer, Alma Robichaud, Edith Alston, Jocelyn Locke, Faye Colley. (Not in photo: Eric Sosa)



15b 2014-2015: (l-r) Cecille Jacobsen, Jocelyn Locke, Tess Hill, Prescy Ramirez, Sheena Shearer, Carlos Arevalo, Miriam Eschenfelder, Edith Alston, Alma Robichaud, Faye Colley. (Not in photo: Eric Sosa, Peter Liunoras)



16 2015-2017: (front, l-r) Carlos Arevalo, Anna Temples, Tess Hill, Cecille Jacobsen, Miriam Eschenfelder, Reyna Funderburk, Doris Matos, Peter Liunoras. (back, l-r) Glenn De Guzman, Al Cockerel, James Orlick, Alan Matienzo.

	13 2009-2011	14 2011-2013	15 2013-2015	16 2015-2017
President	Marj Peña	Marj Peña	Cecille Jacobsen	Cecille Jacobsen
1st Vice-President	Cecilia Jacobsen	Carmelisa Edwards	Faye Colley	Tess Hill
2nd Vice-President	Carmelisa Edwards	Grace Balanquit	Eric Sosa	Alan Matienzo
Secretary	Shirley McGuinness	Odess Brinkman	Jocelyn Locke	Reyna Funderburk
Treasurer	Nieves McNulty	Nieves McNulty	Priscilla Ramirez	Miriam Eschenfelder
Assistant Secretary	Maribel Tijing	Faye Colley	Sheena Shearer	Doris Matos
Assistant Treasurer	Wyda Viray	Maribel Tijing	Miriam Eschenfelder	Anna Temples
Board Member	Daniel Adcock	Carlos Arevalo	Edith Alston	Carlos Arevalo
Board Member	Grace Balanquit	Grace Collins	Carlos Arevalo	Al Cockerel
Board Member	Grace Collins	Rio Daquilanea	Tess Hill	Glenn De Guzman
Board Member	Jojo Flora	Peter Liunoras	Francisco Rances (7/13-6/14) Peter Liunoras (7/14-6/15)	Peter Liunoras
Board Member	Cecilia Geoghegan	Francisco Rances	Alma Robichaud	James Orlick

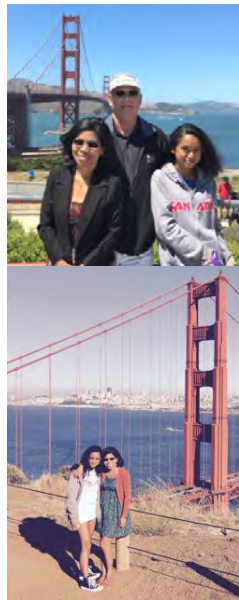
FAAGC OATH OF OFFICE

I, (name) , having been duly elected as (position) of the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, do solemnly pledge and swear: **THAT I will discharge the duties and responsibilities of my office to the best of my knowledge and ability; THAT I will obey the By-laws of the organization; SEE to it that every member is in good harmony and understanding; AND, as a faithful instrument of the Association, I shall carry this obligation without mental reservation. So help me God.**

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*Our hearty congratulations and sincere felicitations
to FAAGC on its Silver Anniversary!
Best wishes for the coming year and beyond!*



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*Congratulations and Best Wishes to the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia
on its 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration !!!*



Greetings from

THE MATIENZO FAMILY

Matt, Mercedes & Alan

Fort Mill & Columbia, SC



Congratulations FAAGC on Your 25th Anniversary !



CARLTON, SR. & CARMELISA EDWARDS



EDWARDS: Carlton, Jr., Amy, Trey, Brandon, Kaylee



SZOKE: Joe, Jr., Celyn, Joey III, Jenna, Chase, Julia

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ON ITS **25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA**

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GRANDCHILDREN: EAMON, EMMA, ADAM, LEON, & GEORGIA

***Best Wishes
from***



EDING & KERMIT THOMAS

**Sallie, Princess, Ginger,
Duke, Chico, Dudley**



CONGRATULATIONS to the
FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER COLUMBIA (FAAGC)
on their 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

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APRIL 1-2, 2017

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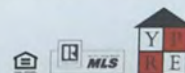


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Worship Service: 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

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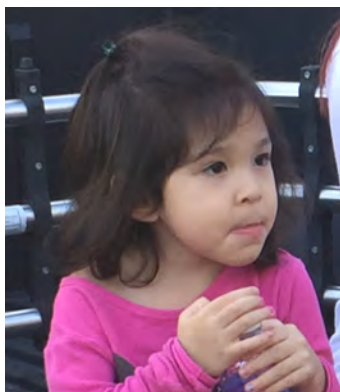
Contact : 803-767-2446



*"The Jacobsen family
celebrates with FAAGC.
Happy Anniversary, FAAGC,
and congratulations to the
whole membership for
keeping it strong!"*

Pete & Cecille Jacobsen

Sumter, SC





25TH ANNUAL GALA REVISITED





2015 Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Recipients



FAAGC Lifetime Members Recognized in 2015

