



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

**MALIGAYANG
PASKO AT
MASAGANANG
BAGONG
TAON !**

★ Volume 15, Number 2



P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Fall 2005



FAAGC General Membership Meeting on January 21, 2006

The first general membership meeting for the year 2006 will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2006 at Ridge View High School (4801 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29229), starting at 3:00 p.m. Plans for upcoming activities and proposed projects will be discussed during the meeting.

This is a POTLUCK get-
continued on Page 7

ANNUAL FIL-AM CHRISTMAS PARTY SET FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

The annual Columbia Fil-Am Family Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2005 at the St. John Neumann School gymnasium (721 Polo Road corner Miles Road, Columbia, SC 29223), starting at 5:30 p.m.

The holiday celebration will feature a catered Chinese buffet dinner with *lechon* and Filipino desserts in addition to a surprise-filled program of activities for both children and

adults. There will be an early visit by Santa and dancing to DJ music.

All Association members, supporters and friends (and their families) are invited to this fun-filled, festive occasion. Tickets are required for admission and dinner and are available from any FAAGC officer listed on Page 2. To ensure an exact count of people served and an accurate amount to pay the caterer, par-
continued on Page 4

WIS-TV To Feature Philippine Christmas Customs

Philippine Christmas customs and other traditions are planned to be highlighted in a live telecast during the WIS-TV early morning show scheduled for Friday, December 23, 2005.

FAAGC President Alan Geoghegan recently received the request from Lucas McFadden of the "Live with Lucas" show on WIS, who wrote that "it would be cool
continued on Page 8

USC Fil-Am Students to Present Philippine Cultural Showcase

The Filipino American Student Association (FASA) of the University of South Carolina is now organizing the **Second Philippine Cultural Showcase** at USC. Scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2006, it will be held starting at 7:00 p.m. in the Russell House Student Union ballroom on the USC-Columbia campus.

According to FASA president A.J. Alon, the showcase

will include a variety of Philippine folk dances and Tagalog songs. A dinner consisting of uniquely Filipino dishes, including *adobo* and *pancit*, will be served.

He adds, "FASA will appreciate any sponsorship, financial, or other support from the Fil-Ams in the area."

FASA is also inviting other Fil-Am youth groups in the
continued on Page 7

Smithsonian Institution To Celebrate Filipino American Centennial in 2006

Filipino Americans — their struggles, contributions, challenges and achievements — will be showcased in 2006 in a series of events and activities as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., will observe the 100th anniversary of Filipino immigration to the United States.

Centered around the theme of "A Century of Challenge and Change: The Filipino

American Story," the Smithsonian will commemorate the centennial of Filipino migration to the U.S. with special events, a curriculum guide, public programs, a documentary, a commemorative program and a traveling exhibition that will provide a historical overview of Filipino Americans and their unique roles in American society.
continued on Page 7



(Left Photo) The Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe performers smile for the traditional post-performance photo at the last gala; *what happened to the guys — camera-shy?* (front, l-r): Marissa Massie, Cecille Geoghegan, Tessie Kenerson. (back, l-r): Bernadette Yavis, Cecille Wessinger, Imelda Go, Odessa Brinkman, Raquel Bagnal, Aileen Alon, Precy Walker. (Right Photo) The Fil-Am 15th Annual Gala special guest, the Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D., the Bishop of Charleston (second from right), poses with (from left) AJ Alon (FASA President), Rudy Dizon (former FAAGC Executive Board member), and Alan Geoghegan (FAAGC President).



The President's Corner by Alan Geoghegan
EXPLORING WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Greetings to all FAAGC members and friends and a fantastic fall season to all!

A new set of FAAGC Officers were inducted at our recent gala at Embassy Suites, ushering a new era for our Association. From the few empty seats and favorable comments received so far, it was truly a success and we thank everyone who made it happen. The room was transformed with Filipiniana ambience; it almost felt as if we were not even in a hotel.

As we move from Halloween into Christmas, I am reminded of how in the Philippines, there is a certain respect to those who have passed away, culminating with *All Souls Day* which is an event I have personally experienced and cherished in Manila and Cebu.

As Christmas beckons, we welcome you all to our annual Christmas celebration at St. John Neumann School's gymnasium on December 10th. The spirit of fellowship and *bayanihan* or community will surely be evident that night.

Making A Difference

We need to explore how

we truly can make a difference, as our Association's motto dictates, both locally and back home.

On the local front, for example, we are looking at ways our dance troupe can again be more active within the community. In October, we had a FAAGC-FASA Philippine video showing and we started a Tagalog class held at USC.

We also envision a closer connection to the Philippines and we are studying various projects to support, such as the *Gawad Kalinga* initiative where marginalized, displaced and poorer communities are being transformed.

continued on Page 7

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

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**www.FilAmSC.org
 www.FAAGC.org**

e-mail: **faagc@hotmail.com,**
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(Editor's Note: This message and photo of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did not arrive in time for inclusion in the printed souvenir program for FAAGC's **15th Annual Gala**; hence, we are reprinting it here to share with our readers her message. As they say, *"better late than never."*

In her cover letter, Ma. Lourdes P. Varona, corresponding secretary for the Office of the President of the Philippines, requested "[our] support in pushing forward" the "President's 10-Point Agenda designed to 'beat the odds' and to bring about a reinvigorated Philippines" by printing it with the message. FAAGC Secretary Odessa Brinkman was instrumental in getting GMA's message.



**MALACAÑAN PALACE
 MANILA**

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia** on the occasion of your **15th Annual Gala**.

Your contribution to our quest for economic development and national stability cannot be overemphasized. Our OFWs represent the best of our national culture and heritage and we are all proud of you. I am glad that your association has endured for years to help our less fortunate *kababayans*. In preserving Filipino culture, uniting our *kababayans* in Greater Columbia and promoting friendship and cooperation between your host country and the Philippines, you have done a great service in promoting goodwill for our country abroad.

I urge all of you to remain committed to enhancing the lives of our people. With your prayers and invaluable support, I am confident that we shall beat the odds and achieve peace and prosperity for all our people.

May you have a successful celebration.
Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANILA
 10 September 2005

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

"BEAT THE ODDS" - this will be our battle cry and agenda for the next six years"

—President Gloria M. Arroyo

What it stands for:

- B** - Balanced budget
- E** - Education for all
- A** - Automated elections
- T** - Transport and digital infrastructure to connect the country
- T** - Terminate the MILF and NPA conflicts
- H** - Heal the wounds of EDSA
- E** - Electricity and water for all barangays
- O** - Opportunities for 10 million jobs
- D** - Decongest Metro Manila
- DS** - Develop Clark and Subic

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 P.O. Box 24112
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The *Fil-Am Bulletin* is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communications with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (*as well as financial donations*) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

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Motions & transitions

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **LOUIS & LUISA McKNIGHT** of Sumter, SC. Long-time area residents, she is originally from Cebu while he is a USAF retiree.

★ **DORAN & REMY VAUGHT** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from Antequera, Bohol, while he is a South Carolinian who works as a machine and design engineer at Westinghouse. They like bowling, fishing, softball, and hunting. They have three children: Jacob Christopher, 2; William Nicholas, 1-1/2; and Matthew Henry, 2 months. ❖

Come Back Soon

➤ FAAGC extends its thanks and best wishes to former officers **JOJO & EUGENIA GOYENECHÉ** who recently moved to California. Jojo served as an Executive Board Member in 2003-2005 while Eugene was the Assistant Secretary in 1994-95. ❖

Just A Reminder

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2005-06 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label on Page 6 of this newsletter — if there are three asterisks (*) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire soon.**

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of membership dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC.

Please complete the enclosed renewal form and send your membership dues as soon as possible. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; email: helenqda@yahoo.com). ❖



The **FAAGC 2005-2006 Directory of Members** will be available hopefully at the Christmas Party. Members are enjoined to get their copy at the party or at the general membership meeting on January 21, 2006. ❖

~ Congratulations ~

➤ **JUSTIN ANDERSON** is the 2005 recipient of the the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* annually given to deserving new high school graduates who proceed to college. A student at Midlands Tech, he is the son of Leroy & Lulu Anderson of Columbia, SC.

➤ **A.J. ALON** was one of nine students chosen nationwide to represent NASA at the *56th International Aeronautical Congress* in Fukuoka, Japan, on October 17-21, 2005. At the conference, he presented his summer internship research conducted through the NASA - Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) at the NASA-Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, OH. A junior at the USC South Carolina Honors College, he is the son of Noel & Helen Alon of Columbia, SC. ❖

THANK YOU

➤ *Special thanks to* **MERVYN & LORNA DE GUZMAN** of Columbia, SC, for their recent donation to FAAGC. ❖

FAAGC Benefactor Named Top UP Alumnus

Dr. Francisco S. Sy, a long-time FAAGC benefactor and member, was recently named the "2005 Most Distinguished Alumnus" by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA). He received the award from Dr. Emerlinda Roman, the first female UP president, during the *UPAAA Convention 2005* held in San Diego, CA, on October 8, 2005.



Dr. Sy was a tenured professor at the USC School of Public Health where he taught infectious disease epidemiology for 15 years. He served as the first faculty adviser of the USC Filipino American Student Association (FASA). He was named "1997 International Professional of the Year" during the 2nd annual *Columbia International Festival*.

After his USC stint, he became a Senior Health Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

He is now a Senior Health Scientist Administrator and

the Chief, Office of Community-Based Participatory Research and Outreach, in the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland.

The recipient of numerous national and international professional accolades, Dr. Sy earned his Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1984; Master of Science in Tropical Public Health from Harvard University in 1981; Doctor of Medicine degree from UP in 1975; and BS Pre-Medicine degree from UP in 1970. ❖

FAAGC, FASA Sponsor Tagalog Class at USC

A Tagalog class is now being taught by former FAAGC President Dr. Nieves McNulty, who is a math professor at Columbia College. The class is a collaborative project of FAAGC and the Filipino-American Students Association (FASA) of USC.

The class, which started October 16, is held every two weeks at USC's Russell House. Although class size has grown slightly from the initial seven, the class is being kept small to encourage more direct interaction between teacher and students. *For more information about the class*, contact **Nieves** at **781-9509** or **nmcnulty@colacoll.edu**. ❖

Santo Niño Fiesta On January 14

The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe is set to perform some Philippine folk dances during the upcoming *Santo Niño Fiesta*.

The 2006 Santo Niño event will be on Saturday, **January 14th** at the St John Neumann School Gym. The festivities include a procession at 4:30 p.m., followed by mass at 5:00 and dinner and brief cultural presentation starting at 6:00.

A generally well-attended Philippine religious celebration in the area, the fiesta is free to the public.

For more information, contact **Lorna de Guzman** at **(803) 782-8754**. ❖



Ang Pasko ay sumapit . . .

When many people dream of a white Christmas ... while others think of parol, misa de gallo, aginaldo...

The Philippines is oftentimes known as the land with the longest celebration of the Christmas season in the world. Christmas carols start hitting the airwaves and stores begin displaying Yuletide wares as early as September (*hmmm.... that sounds like being in the U.S.A.*). The commercial shopping season notwithstanding, due to its Catholic tradition, the Philippine holiday season begins on December 16 (with the start of *Misa de Gallo*) and ends on the first Sunday in January (when the Feast of The Three Kings is celebrated). In between a tapestry of traditions and customs unfolds in the Filipino households and communities.

Misa De Gallo

Celebrated at the rooster's hour (dawn), hence the name, *misa de gallo* (mass of the rooster), or *simbang gabi* (night mass) is a nine-day series of pre-dawn novena-masses that culminates with the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. In turn, the midnight mass in most churches is oftentimes an elaborate celebration, complete with a colorful reenactment of the Nativity scene.

Noche Buena

Traditionally, Filipino families partake of the special-dish-laden Christmas dinner or *noche buena* after the midnight mass.

Parol

The symbol of Philippine Christmas, the *parol*, traditionally a colorful star-shaped paper lantern, is found everywhere in almost every Christian house (and building) in the country. In San Fernando, Pampanga, the *parol* has become the ultimate in Christmas art and Filipino creative craftsmanship. The city's *Lantern Festival* showcases a kaleidoscope of elaborately designed, colorfully decorated and brightly lit *parols* of all shapes and sizes (*some are so gigantic that they are mounted on flat-bed trucks for the competition parade*).

Belen

A *belen* (nativity scene), from the most basic to the most elaborate, is generally

Christmas Party (*continued from* ty-goers (including children) need to turn in their tickets in order to be served. **No ticket = No food service.**


Tickets are \$12 each for members and \$13 for non-members (tickets for children 6-12 are \$5 each; children under 6 are free). Although tickets will be sold at the door, FAAGC requests that tickets be paid for, or at least **RESERVED**, three days in advance so it can finalize details with the caterer.

Families who are bringing their children to this fun-for-the-whole-family-affair are enjoined to bring a wrapped present (*just ONE each, please*) for each child to be placed under the Christmas tree for distribution by Santa during the party. Each present should be clearly and **LEGIBLY** marked with the child's **FULL NAME**

There will also be 50/50 raffle to benefit community projects in the Philippines and our *Fil-Am Youth Scholarship Fund*. ♦

ally found in most homes alongside a Christmas tree. In many poor homes, the "Christmas tree" is oftentimes just a decorated branch of pine or other trees.

Panunuluyan

 In many communities, the *panunuluyan* (Tagalog) or *panagbalay* (Visayan) is a reenactment of Joseph and Mary's vain search for shelter. A couple playing Joseph and Mary knock from door to door and is refused entry; they finally find shelter inside the town church whose altar has been converted into a life-size manger. Most often this reenactment precedes the Midnight Mass.

Aginaldo

In addition to the presents from parents and relatives, Filipino children receive more *aginaldo* (gifts) from their *ninongs* and *ninangs* (godparents) whom they usually visit on Christmas day.

Caroling

Filipino children (and even adults) relish the Christmas season as a time to "earn" some extra cash for just a song or two. The children go caroling door-to-door with homemade tambourines, maracas and other noise-makers, with the hope that their oftentimes out-of-tune rendition of Christmas songs is good enough for some cash dole-outs from homeowners. Of course, many better organized school/civic/church groups have made caroling a relatively easy, sure-way-of-fund-raising activity.

And speaking of caroling, here are some traditional Filipino carols...

ANG PASKO AY SUMAPIT

Ang Pasko ay sumapit,
Tayo ay managsi-awit
Nang magagandang himig
Dahil sa Diyos ay ang pag-ibig.
Nang si Kristo ay isilang,
May tatlong haring nagsidalaw,
At ang bawa't isa
Ay nagsipaghandog ng tanging alay.
Bagong taon ay magbagong buhay,
Nang lumigaya ang atmg bayan;
Tayo'y magsikap upang ating makamtan
Ang kasaganaan.
Tayo'y mangagsi-awit
Habang ang mundo'y tahimik;

Ang araw ay sumapit
Ng sanggol na dulot ng langit;
Tayo ay magmahalan,
Ating sundan ang gintong aral;
At magbuhat ngayon,
Kahit hindi Pasko ay magbigayan.

KASADYA

Kasadya niining taknaa
Dapit sa kahimayaan,
Mao ra'y among nakita
Ang panagway nga masanagon.
Bulahan ug bulahan
Ang tagbalay nga gi-awitan,
Awit nga halandumon
Sa tanang Pasko, magmalipayon.
Bag-ong tuig, bag-ong kinabuhi,
Duyog sa atong mga pagbati
Atong awiton ug atong laylayon
Aron magmalipayon.

ANI-A KAMI

Ani-a kami
'Ning gabii sa among panaygon,
Hinaut pa
Nga kaninyo dili makatugaw;
Pasko karon,
Panahon, panahon sa kalipay,
Kay natawo na
Ang Manunubos sa kalibutan.
Sa alas dose ang takna,
May natawo sa pasungan;
Ginatagna ug gipatu-ohan
Manunubos sa kalibutan.

KLING, KLING, KLING

(Philippine version of *Jingle Bells*)
Heto, heto na
Ang Paskong masaya;
Nalalanghap ko na
Ang suma't kutsinta.
Mayroong tumutugtog,
Mayroong kumakanta,
O mano po, ninang, ninong,
Kami'y namamasko.
Hey,
Kling, kling, kling
Klang, klang, klang
Ano'ng tuwa't saya,
O kayo'y tumugtog na't
Kami ay kakanta.

~~~~~

*Pasko sa Pilipinas  
Kahit walang "snow"  
Basta't may regalo..*

First, I would also like to thank the membership for electing me an Executive Board member and for entrusting me with the responsibility of assisting with the recent gala. This faith in my abilities and sincerity means a lot to me since I am neither of Filipino descent, or married to a person of Filipino descent. Over the past three years the membership has truly made me feel welcome. It is my goal to let the community at large know about the innate welcoming feeling the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans extend to people. I hope I am succeeding in this goal.

As a matter of fact, I have come to see the members of FAAGC as extended members of my own family. Even my family continues to say that they have never seen or heard me happier than when I speak of my Filipino friends. I hope you see me as a productive member of this organization and continue to do so. *Maraming salamat po* (thank you very much).

Having made those statements, I feel impelled to state that I feel the 2005 gala was a huge success, not only in regards to attendance, but also public relations. As you are

## Membership Involvement Is Best Public Relations For The FIL-AM

by Keith H. Seymour

aware, it is my goal to combine my public relations and media contacts and talents with those of Alan Geoghegan, to increase awareness of Filipiniana within the South Carolina community. I believe the officers would agree that they and the Filipinos in attendance at the gala did a superb job of accomplishing this goal. This could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of the outgoing and incoming boards, as well as the input of the general membership, which is always welcome.

I am taking this as a positive sign of great things to come not only for the events sponsored by the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, but also for the increased input and involvement of its present and future members. The following are a few thoughts on the recent gala and some FAAGC events.

Incoming secretary, Odessa Brinkman, who was a real champion sacrificing her time without any complaint, ex-

pressed at a follow-up board meeting that she felt using the additional outlets of the *Catholic Miscellany*, church newsletters, and Alan Geoghegan's e-mailing *Filipinas Magazine* really helped bring in the attendance. Unless I am mistaken, by the time the gala announcement was published in *The State* newspaper, we were completely booked for the gala.

I hope to have some preliminary figures for planning the venue for next year's event by February. This way the board will be able to dispense with much of the planning, and I will be able to get the gala information out to more media outlets. The more public relations information the organization gets out, the greater membership we may obtain and retain. This means more money for the scholarship fund and other programs that FAAGC wishes to fund.

As important as media outlets and events are to expressing the Philippine culture, the best public relations program truly comes from *mga tao* (the

people). The impression that the membership makes upon the community is what makes the biggest difference. This is why it is so important to have input from the general membership, especially the younger members. FASA and the younger people (*i.e.* college students, children, grandchildren, *etc.*) should be encouraged to become a part of the Fil-Am. They are after all the future of this organization. I have briefly discussed getting the membership to submit articles for the newsletter. These articles may be about anything from a trip home to something concerning Filipino culture.

Regarding the innate hospitable nature of the Filipino community, Bishop Baker of the Diocese of Charleston was so overwhelmed by the hospitality of those present at the recent gala that, prior to leaving, he asked to be notified of the date for next year's gala. I also have it under the best authority that he really appreciated the gift of the *barong tagalog*, donated by Polly Pearson and Cecile Jacobsen, the former and present owners, respectively, of the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter.

I would like to end my comments by emphasizing that as we go into the upcoming calendar year, FAAGC is already planning for future events. Alan G. has received word that *Filipinas Magazine* will include a note about our Christmas Party, and by the time this newsletter comes out, I will have sent out announcements to the various media outlets concerning our holiday event.

Finally, I want to thank the board and the general membership for their patience with me during the gala planning. I was going through a rough period at the time, but was able to get through it and still fulfill my duties as a result of your understanding. Thank you again for your faith in me. ♦

## The GAWAD KALINGA Initiative in the Philippines

by Alan Geoghegan

**FAAGC is exploring different avenues which may bring us closer to community and cultural initiatives in the Philippines. Gawad Kalinga is one such project. The material below is edited from the Gawad Kalinga's website:**

[www.gawadkalinga.org](http://www.gawadkalinga.org)

*Gawad Kalinga* (GK) means "to give care" and it is an alternative solution to the problem of poverty in the Philippines. Its approach is integrated, holistic and sustainable — a concrete action plan to rebuild the nation by har-

nessing the best of the Filipino faith and our patriotism.

What started barely five years ago in the Philippines as a simple but daring initiative has now become a growing multi-sectoral partnership driven by a vision of a new Philippines with NO MORE SLUMS.

Together with its partners, *Gawad Kalinga* is now transforming poverty-stricken areas, many of them now empowered to further improve their quality of life. The heartwork of GK volunteers is evident in the beautiful colors of the GK homes that have been

built for and with the poorest of the poor Filipino families nationwide. So far, 15,274 HOMES have been built in 579 COMMUNITIES.

*Gawad Kalinga's* achievements are a reflection of the sharing among different classes in society, and the partnership involving all sectors of society bridging the gaps that divide us as a people.

GK is also building International Villages, showing that poverty can be addressed if rich and poor nations learn to share resources to create a better world for all.

*continued on Page 7*



## Links Between the Philippines and the U.S. World War II Memorial

by Imelda Go

On May 29, 2004, the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. was dedicated after its construction began in September 2001. The memorial has 56 pillars that represent the 50 states, territories (American Samoa, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands), and District of Columbia, which supported the U.S. war effort then. There is no doubt that Filipinos and Americans stood, fought, and died together during World War II.

When I went to see the memorial recently, it was a beautiful Saturday afternoon with many people strolling and relaxing in the area. I stood with pride in front of the pillar with *Philippines* inscribed on it

**"The heroism of our own troops... was matched by that of the armed forces of the nations that fought by our side ... they absorbed the blows ... and they shared to the full in the ultimate destruction of the enemy."**

— President Harry S. Truman

The Memorial also had two pavilions, one for each of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, and these symbolized the war fought across the two oceans. Both pavilions have a fountain at their base, which has the names of key battles inscribed on them. For the Pacific Ocean pavilion, the inscriptions included Bataan, Corregidor, Philippine Sea, Leyte Gulf, Luzon, and Manila. These battles were fought in the Philippines.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the Japanese gained control of many islands in the Pacific including the Philippines. On December 8, a Japanese air attack crippled American air and naval forces in the Philip-



nese forces landed at Aparri and Vigan on the northern coast of **Luzon**. The largest invasion occurred at Lingayen Gulf on December 22. These invaders penetrated the **Luzon** shoreline and Gen. Douglas MacArthur withdrew sea forces into **Bataan** and **Corregidor** island. After Gen. MacArthur was ordered to retreat to Australia, he made his famous "I shall return" vow. On January 2, 1942, the Japanese occupied Manila.

On April 9, 1942, weakened troops due to hunger, disease, and casualties in **Bataan** surrendered to the Japanese. The American and Filipino troops, then under Major Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., were forced into what is now known as the **Bataan Death March**, which is actually a series of marches spanning approximately 55 to 60 miles where thousands perished. On May 6, 1942, Lt. Gen. Jonathan G. Wainwright surrendered the rest of the forces on **Corregidor** and in other parts of the Philippines.

The **Battle of the Philippine Sea** was a massive air battle on June 19, 1944, when the Japanese lost more than 400 fighter planes and three carriers. This was in contrast to a loss of fewer than 30 planes and three damaged ships for the U.S. forces. The battle significantly weakened Japanese fighting power and paved the way for the U.S. to be victorious in the Marianas invasion.

The capture of the Marianas

to send the huge new B-29 bomber on a nonstop flight of 1,400 miles to Tokyo and back. Construction of the airfields required for the B-29's began before the forces even gained control of the Marianas, and in late November 1944, the strategic bombing of Japan began.

Only two major campaigns in the Pacific remained, those in **Luzon** and in Okinawa. Even then Japan was essentially beaten — defenseless on the seas, air force gone, cities destroyed by incendiary bombs.

Because the Japanese forces were concentrated in **Luzon**, U.S. strategists planned to enter southernmost Mindanao, move to **Leyte**, and then to **Luzon**. In September 1944, naval reconnaissance concluded there was little Japanese activity in the Philippines. The strategy was changed to landing directly on **Leyte Island** (via **Leyte Gulf**) in October 1944. A series of naval engagements occurred that month, which left the Japanese fleet almost completely destroyed. Two and a half years after his vow was made, Gen. MacArthur finally returned to the Philippines.

In line with the overall strategy for winning World War II, the U.S. forces made a massive amphibious assault on **Luzon** along the shores of the **Lingayen Gulf** on January 9, 1945. Most of Japanese resistance in Luzon was overcome by the end of May 1945.

The Japanese conceded to defeat after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, and the Soviet declaration of war on August 8, 1945. The Soviet Union had an earlier non-aggression pact with Japan, which the Soviets broke when the Soviet troops invaded Japanese-held Manchuria

the war in the Pacific.

On August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered. Since the war in Europe had already been won on May 8, 1945 ("Victory in Europe" — V-E Day), September 2, 1945 ("Victory in Japan" — V-J Day), marked the end of World War II.

The World War II Memorial is a solemn reminder of the multitude of lives lost and how any war changes our lives forever. Of the ten million Americans who served in the war, there were over 400,000 casualties. The Memorial has 4,000 gold stars on its Freedom Wall.

We, as Filipino-Americans, should also remember the many Filipinos who served

### Here We Mark the Price of Freedom

**"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."**

— President Harry S. Truman

under the **Philippine Armed Forces** that supported the U.S. forces. Many of their efforts have gone unrecognized.

The *World War II Registry of Remembrances* can be accessed through [www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com). It is a searchable database of names of those who served in the war. Registry entries can be submitted online.

#### References

The following references were retrieved from the **World War II History Info** Web Site.

- *The Fall of the Philippines: Bataan and Corregidor*. <http://www.worldwar2history.info/Bataan/>
- *Leyte Island*. <http://www.worldwar2history.info/Leyte/>
- *Luzon*. <http://www.worldwar2history.info/Luzon/>
- *The Pacific Theatre*. <http://www.worldwar2history.info/Pacific/>
- *World War II in the Soviet Union*. <http://www.worldwar2history.info/>

## GAWAD KALINGA *(continued from Page 5)*

### Livelihood Programs

GK programs include shelter & site development, education incentives, health and livelihood integration. Through *GAWAD KABUHAYAN* ("to give livelihood"), GK conducts livelihood and skills training, provides start up capital and materials for microfinance and micro-enterprise, and assists in the marketing of the GK communities' products.

Food self-sufficiency is highly encouraged by teaching technology for backyard farming, urban agriculture and poultry raising.

Even the very act of building homes and common facilities teaches new masonry and carpentry skills since the poor "pay" for their homes through "sweat equity" or by building their neighbor's house side by side with the GK volunteers. This not only builds community spirit but also contributes

to greater peace. After all, how can a GK homeowner fight the neighbor who helped him build his house?

### Community Empowerment

A *Gawad Kalinga* community is composed of about 60 - 100 families residing in a contiguous area. Every GK community is organized into a *KAPITBAHAYAN* Neighborhood Association, which is established to inculcate stewardship and ensure accountability, cooperation and unity.

Guidelines for community living are decided upon by the members, and new leaders who espouse the values of the association start to emerge. Peace is achieved not by force, but by mutual adherence to an agreed set of values.

This new culture is the key to the community's sustainability, and sets the community on the road to self-reliance. ❖

## President's Message *(continued from Page 2)*

### A Fil-Am Christmas Cause

On a more personal note, my wife Cecille and I intend to prepare and distribute food to a house of homeless friends on Christmas day. If anyone wishes to get involved as a volunteer or to donate some Filipino dishes such as *adobo* or *lumpia* or desserts, please let us know.

Through an association with The Central Assembly of God, we would like to share some Christmas spirit and "good Fil-Am tidings" with the less fortunate. *For more details*, contact me at 787-5255 or by email: [alan@medianetsc.us](mailto:alan@medianetsc.us).

Lastly, please visit our web-site for upcoming activities and announcements and thanks to Noel Alon for updating it on a regular basis.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas. *Maligayang Pasko & Salamat Po!* ❖

## FASA Showcase *(continued from Page 1)*

neighboring cities to participate in the showcase. Those interested in presenting traditional or contemporary acts should contact FASA as soon as possible.

Tickets may be reserved or purchased in advance starting in January by contacting any FASA member.

For more details about the FASA showcase, contact **A.J. Alon** ([aonin@yahoo.com](mailto:aonin@yahoo.com) or 544-4037) or one of the other officers listed on the FASA website at

<http://web.sa.sc.edu/fasa/> ❖

## Membership Meeting *(continued from Page 1)*

together so please bring a 2-liter soda and a covered dish enough for your family and others.

**FAAGC members, supporters and other interested parties in the area Fil-Am community are all invited to come and share the fun and food with family and friends.**

For more information and directions to the venue, contact any officer listed on Page 2. ❖

## Fil-Am Centennial *(continued from Page 1)*



(APA) group overall, second to Chinese Americans.

As part of the Fil-Am centennial celebration, the Filipino Young Professionals of Washington D.C. (FYPDC), in partnership with the Smithsonian, is creating a commemorative souvenir program. This 100-page magazine format booklet will include the best in Filipino American photographs, essays, art, poetry, design and other scholarly/literary resources for individuals interested in Filipino American history.

Contributions of written work (limited to 2,000 words) or artwork capturing an important point in Filipino American history are now being solicited. *For more information regarding artwork and design*, contact Rodel Berber at [rberber@filamcentennial.com](mailto:rberber@filamcentennial.com); *for written works*, contact Nick Tongson at [ntongson@filamcentennial.com](mailto:ntongson@filamcentennial.com)

More information about the Fil-Am centennial is available online:

[www.apa.si.edu/filamcentennial/](http://www.apa.si.edu/filamcentennial/)



Columbia Fil-Ams welcome back longtime FAAGC supporter Dr. Francisco Sy (2nd from left) who was briefly in town to speak at a seminar at the USC Arnold School of Public Health during its 30th anniversary celebration on October 14, 2005.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* **December 10, 2005** (Saturday, 5:30 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Annual Christmas Party**
  - ◆ St. John Neumann School gymnasium  
721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **December 23, 2005** (Friday, 5:00—7:00 a.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am on WIS-TV**
  - ◆ *Live with Lucas* - WIS Sunrise  
TV Channel 10 — (Cable Channel 3)
- \* **January 14, 2006** (Saturday, 4:30 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Santo Niño Fiesta**
  - ◆ St. John Neumann School gymnasium  
721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **January 21, 2006** (Saturday, 3:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Fil-Am General Membership Meeting**
  - ◆ Ridge View High School  
4801 Hardscrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29229
- \* **February 11, 2006** (Saturday, 7:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Filipino American Student Association (FASA) Philippine Cultural Showcase**
  - ◆ Russell House, USC  
corner of Greene and Bull St., Columbia, SC
- \* **April 1-2, 2006** (Saturday-Sunday)
  - ▶ **Columbia International Festival**
  - ◆ SC State Fairgrounds  
1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201
- \* **April 16, 2006** (Sunday, 2:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Annual Easter Picnic**
  - ◆ Sesquicentennial Park  
9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223



**Mark Your Calendars Now!**

## Fil-Am on WIS-TV (continued from Page 1)

for [him], the staff ... and our viewers to see how other folks celebrate the holidays.”

The Columbia Fil-Am will participate in several “*Live with Lucas*” segments during the WIS morning show telecast from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. Among the planned contents for the segments are *parols* (Christmas lanterns), *noche buena* (Christmas meal) delicacies, *pandango sa ilaw* and *tinikling* folk dances, and customary holiday practices.

Any area Fil-Am interested in getting involved to bring out the best of the Philippine holiday customs, traditions and decorations for

the TV broadcast is enjoined to contact Alan Geoghegan (787-5255; [alan@medianetsc.us](mailto:alan@medianetsc.us)).

Incidentally, this will be the second time Columbia Fil-Am will be on “*Live with Lucas*” this year. Grace Collins, Cecille Geoghegan and Alan Matienzo were on “*Live with Lucas*” in April during the *Columbia International Festival* coverage.

So get ready to wake up early to watch the WIS morning show, or at least, get those VCRs (or DVRs or DVD recorders) set to record the show on **December 23** from **5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.** on Channel 10 (Channel 3 on TW cable). ❖



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# FIL-AM BULLETIN

of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Fall 2005

★ Volume 15, Number 2

★



### Reminder:

- \* The annual Columbia Fil-Am Christmas Party will be on **Saturday, December 10, 2005** at the St. John Neumann School gymnasium.

**Have a Happy & Safe HOLIDAY SEASON!**