



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)

**"Together
We Make A
Difference"**

www.FilAmSC.org

★ Volume 18, Number 2

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Spring 2009 ★

Fil-Am Spring Picnic, Easter Egg-hunt on April 12 at Sesqui Park

The Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic and Easter egg-hunt will be held at the Sesquicentennial State Park on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009, starting at 1:00 p.m. In addition, the election of FAAGC officers for the next term will be conducted.

The annual spring get-together is a great time to meet new and old Fil-Am members and acquaintances in one of Columbia's most beautiful state parks [9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223; (803) 788-2706]. For map and specific directions, visit FAAGC's website: www.FilAmSC.org. [Note: The park charges an entrance fee of \$2 per adult and \$1.25 per SC senior; children aged 15 and under are free].

This is a POTLUCK picnic so please bring a 2-liter soda and a covered dish enough for your family and friends. There will be a barbecue grill set up to cook hot-dog and hamburger. For variety, suggested covered dishes are as follows, based on

continued on Page 2

Columbia Fil-Am To Elect New Officers for 2009-11

Elections are just around the corner. No, not the U.S. presidential election — that's over. No, not the Philippine national and local elections — that's next year.

Yes, the election of FAAGC officers for the term 2009-11 will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2009, during the annual Columbia Fil-Am Spring Picnic/Easter Egg-hunt at Sesquicentennial State Park. The

new set of officers will serve from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

As stated in the Association By-laws, currently-paid members in good standing are eligible to vote and run for office. To maximize voting eligibility, the Executive Board during its last meeting agreed to give amnesty to all unpaid members. As long as they pay their dues by April 12 during the picnic but prior to the actual voting, members can still vote (and be

continued on Page 3

FAAGC Donates \$1000 to Philippine Red Cross

As part of its continuing efforts to help provide funds to deserving Philippine charitable endeavors, the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) recently donated \$1,000 to the Philippine National Red Cross. The donation was the result of a fund-raising conducted during the 2008 gala, with additional matching funds from FAAGC.

FAAGC Assistant Treasurer Odess Brinkman, with her son Jeremy, hand-delivered the donation to the PNR national headquarters in Manila on February 11, 2009. ❖

"Travel to The Philippines" During the 2009 Columbia International Festival

FAAGC will be involved again in this year's Columbia International Festival to be held at the Cantey Building of the SC State Fairgrounds on April 3-5. Now in its 14th year, the festival enables area residents and visitors to "Travel The World Under One Roof," this year's event theme.

The Philippine country exhibit will have the motif of "Travel to the Philip-

continued on Page 3



▲ Representing the Columbia Fil-Am Association, Jeremy Brinkman, the son of FAAGC Assistant Treasurer Odess Brinkman, hands over FAAGC's \$1,000-donation check to Ms. Marilyn A. Alawan, Project Assistant for Corporate Partnership of the Philippine National Red Cross at the PNR national headquarters in Manila. (Photo: Odess Brinkman)



▲ Members of the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe (from left: FAAGC officers Leah Cuaresma, Tessie Kenerson, Myrna Whitmire, and Lisa Edwards) perform Habanera de Joven Cita during the 4th annual Korean Fall Festival held on November 2, 2008 at the Korean Community Presbyterian Church in downtown Columbia. Primarily a showcase of Korean food, dance and culture, the festival also included performances from invited groups representing the Philippines, China and Japan. (Photo: Carlton Edwards)



The President's Corner by Alan Geoghegan

CONSIDER GETTING MORE INVOLVED

Dear friends and Fil-Am members,

I trust you all had a good Christmas holiday and I was happy to see many of you at our annual Christmas party. Thanks for joining us, especially the out-of-towners.

In the FAAGC tradition of "giving back" and keeping our hearts and minds directed towards the Philippines, FAAGC board member Odess Brinkman recently traveled back home and hand-delivered a \$1,000 check to the Philippine National Red Cross. Most of the funds were raised at our last gala, with a small match made by FAAGC to round out the amount. We know the assistance will be well used to help the needy and displaced. Thank you to all our different levels of sponsors who donated to this worthwhile cause.

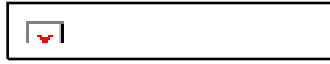
Again, spring activities are around the corner, including our participation in Columbia's annual *International Festival*, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5. Expect a Philippine exhibit as well as food.

Please come by for a visit!

Also, we will be having our annual Easter picnic on Sunday April 12th at Sesquicentennial Park. This year will be particularly important because FAAGC will hold elections for a new group of 12 officers and board members.

If any of you are considering becoming more active with our Fil-Am, being elected to a board position is a way to help spread more Filipiniana customs, traditions, food, dance, etc., in our Midlands community. It's a group effort and you will be part of unique board deciding and implementing projects and programs which become part of our community effort to bring us closer to the Philippines while sharing our unique heritage. I hope many more of you will consider getting involved. Please let any of our current officers know if you have something to offer FAAGC; the picnic will be a good opportunity to get more involved.

Have a wonderful Spring and looking forward to seeing you soon.



Spring Picnic (continued from Page 1)

the first letter of the family names (of course, they can also bring their own specialty dishes):

- A - Be : Pork or beef dish
- Bi - D : Noodles (*pancit, palabok*, etc.)
- E - I : Fish or chicken dish
- J - O : Vegetable dish or salad
- P - S : Dessert (cakes, cookies, fruits, etc)
- T - Z : Cooked rice, bread
- FAAGC: Ice, plates, utensils, hotdog, hamburger, condiments

Planned activities include an Easter egg-hunt and games for children and adults. Parents with young children are requested to bring at least a dozen goodies-filled plastic Easter eggs for the egg-hunt.

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.

Those who wish to spend more time at the park can come earlier; the reserved park shed (*Shed 2 next to the baseball field*) is available from 10:00 a.m. on.

FAAGC Annual Financial Report

(Fiscal Year 2007-08: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008; *unaudited*)
(As reported by Myrna C. Whitmire, 2007-2009 FAAGC Treasurer)

OPENING FUND BALANCES

as of July 1, 2007:

General Fund	\$ 13,040.51
Building Fund	12,910.00
Scholarship Fund	1,995.00
Dance Troupe Fund	800.00
Petty Cash	100.00
Total	\$ 28,845.51

CLOSING FUND BALANCES

as of June 30, 2008:

General Fund	\$ 12,655.02
Building Fund	12,910.00
Scholarship Fund	1,960.00
Dance Troupe Fund	800.00
Petty Cash	124.00
Total	\$ 28,449.02

2007-08

Net Income:

Membership Dues	\$ 1,167.00
17th Annual Gala	1,299.43
T-shirt Sales	21.00
Interest Earned	28.10
Total Income	\$ 2,515.53

FY 2007-08 Net Annual Proceeds (Loss):
(\$ 396.49)

(The amounts for the Dance Troupe, Building, and Scholarship funds in the closing balances have been increased by less than \$1 each from the General Fund, to avoid keeping track of pennies.)

2007-08

Net Operating Expenses:

Newsletter/Website/Directory/Postage	\$ 751.40
Ads at other	
Fil-Am Events	330.00
Donation to Orphanages	344.00
Scholarship Fund	25.00
Christmas Party	559.31
Easter Picnic	332.72
Summer Picnic	298.87
Membership Meeting	29.72
P.O. Box	40.00
Insurance	201.00
Total Expenses	\$ (2,912.02)

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

www.FilAmSC.org

e-mail:

faagc@hotmail.com
FilAmSC@yahoo.com



2007-2009 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
ALAN GEOGHEGAN
(803) 787-5255

First Vice-President
SALLY ELLIS
(803) 788-0144

Second Vice-President
GEORGE McNULTY
(803) 781-9509

Secretary
SHIRLEY CADUHADA
(803) 794-3138

Assistant Secretary
LISA EDWARDS
(803) 353-8758

Treasurer
MYRNA WHITMIRE
(803) 699-7955

Assistant Treasurer
ODESSA BRINKMAN
(803) 210-7577

Executive Board Members:

LEAH CUARESMA
(803) 736-2762

TESSIE KENERSON
(803) 699-1178

CECILIA JACOBSEN
(843) 773-6555

MARIO VIRAY
(803) 699-5265

BERNADETTE YAVIS
(803) 691-1630

FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
FILIPINO-AMERICAN

Association of Greater Columbia, SC
P.O. Box 24 112
Columbia, SC 29224

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.

NOEL ALON
Editor

Tel. (803) 738-0372
e-mail: FilAmSC@yahoo.com

Helen Alon
Production/Circulation Coordinator
e-mail: HELENQDA@yahoo.com
Carlton Edwards, Mike Padua,
Photographers

Columbia International Festival

(continued from Page 1)

piners." Volunteers are needed to assist in setting-up, watching the exhibit, and/or providing display items. Volunteers are requested to contact exhibit coordinator **Lisa Edwards** [353-8758; 360-2636; batcat35@peoplepc.com].

Entertainment Program

The *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* will perform some Philippine folk dances during the festival's cultural entertainment programs. Those interested in participating in the performances are enjoined to contact dance troupe coordinator **Tessie Kenerson** (803-699-1178; k8585tk@bellsouth.net).

Some Fil-Ams will also take part in the *Parade of Nations* and the *International Fashion Shows*.

Food Booth & Bazaar

The Fil-Am food booth, with **Cecilia Jacobsen** in charge, will sell *lumpia*, *adobo*, *pansit*, cassava cake, among other Filipino delicacies. Volunteers are also needed for the food booth; contact **Cecilia Jacobsen** of the *Fil-Am Store* (803-494-5613) to sign up.

As in the past, the Philippines will be represented in the *International Bazaar* by a booth also run by **Cecilia Jacobsen** (owner of the *Fil-Am Store* in Sumter), selling Philippine delicacies, gift items, and other products.

International Festival

One of the largest indoor cultural and international events in southeastern U.S., the festival, now in its 14th year, is a family-oriented showcase of the music, food, culture and performing arts of the varied countries represented in South Carolina. *Global Education Day*, the festival's opening event on Friday, April 3, brings students from all over the state to educate them about the variety of cultures that are represented in South Carolina.

The festival is open to the

general public on Saturday (10 am — 7 pm) and Sunday (noon — 6 pm). Admission tickets are \$5 for adults and \$1 for ages 6-12; children under 5 are free. Parking is \$2 per vehicle.

Past FAAGC president **Grace Collins** and FAAGC member **Imelda Go** are members of the 2009 Columbia International Festival coordinating committee and the *Global Education Day* committee, respectively.

For updated schedules and more information about the weekend when "*the world comes to Columbia*," call (803) **799-3452** or check the festival's websites:

www.cifonline.org or
www.ifmusa.org/festival ❖

Election of Officers

(continued from Page 1)

elector). For current membership status, check with the Membership Committee chair **Helen Alon** at **738-0372** or **helenqda@yahoo.com**. An updated membership list will be available at the picnic.

All are encouraged to take a more active and participatory role in the Fil-Am Association by voting or running for positions in the Fil-Am Executive Board.

Nominations can be made by contacting this year's Election Committee chair **Mario Viray** (699-5265; Vrmr8@aol.com).

(For more information, see the *Fil-Am election primer on this page*). ❖

Graduating Fil-Am high school students are reminded to apply now for the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship by June 30.

Graduating seniors who have participated in Fil-Am activities and whose parents are members of FAAGC are eligible to apply for the *FIL-AM Scholarship*.

Application forms can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

www.FilAmSC.org.

Fil-Am ELECTION Primer

VOTERS

▶ A paid member can cast one vote during the election. Under the By-laws, those with family memberships are allowed two votes per family.

▶ A qualified voter who cannot be physically present during the election may cast a vote via a **proxy**. He/she should notify the Election Committee (ELECOM) **before noon of April 12** regarding the proxy who will vote in and for his/her behalf.

ELECOM

▶ The Election Committee (ELECOM) supervises the conduct of the election. The ELECOM is empowered to promulgate regulations governing elections.

▶ ELECOM members and their immediate families are **not** eligible to run for any elective office.

CANDIDATES

▶ A candidate for any elective position must be a paid member prior to election, and must be present during the election **OR** if he/she cannot be present, must inform the ELECOM of his/her intention to serve if elected. This ensures that only those willing to accept nomination and election can be voted for.

▶ Although different members of the same family can be nominated for one or more positions, only **one** member from the same family can hold an elective office during the 2009-11 term.

▶ Under the three-term limit set in the By-laws, all the incumbent officers are still eligible for re-election to their respective present positions, if they so wish.

▶ Nominations will be finalized just before the actual voting on April 12.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

▶ The **PRESIDENT** is the executive officer of the Association. The President presides at all general meetings and Executive Board meetings, call special sessions of the Executive Board, appoint committees, act on behalf of the Association at community functions, report to the general membership all actions taken by the President, other officers, or the Executive Board, and have general supervisory responsibilities over all matters pertaining to the organization.

▶ The **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** assists the President especially in external affairs and act as President in the absence or incapacity of the President.

▶ The **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT** is in charge of disseminating information regarding membership, seeking new members, and assuring that adequate provisions are made to assure that social functions and meetings have whatever facilities and supplies are necessary. The Second Vice-President also coordinates the standing and special projects committees.

▶ The **SECRETARY** keeps minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board, notify and/or send out meeting notices to members of the Executive Board meetings, and reads the minutes of previous meetings. The Executive Secretary attends to all Association correspondence and maintain custody of correspondence files and the originals of all other documents/papers of the Association.

▶ The **ASSISTANT SECRETARY** keeps minutes of all general membership meetings and notifies and/or sends out meeting notices to members of the Association. The Assistant Secretary keeps an accurate roster of all members and a list of all standing and special projects committees.

▶ The **TREASURER** keeps the financial records of the Association's accounts, receives and issues receipts for Association monies, dues, and contributions, pays all bills of the Association as properly authorized and retains proper vouchers for all disbursements. In coordination with the President, the Treasurer insures that annual income tax returns and license requirements are properly prepared and submitted on time to the appropriate governmental agencies.

▶ The **ASSISTANT TREASURER** assists the Treasurer and act as Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer serves as the Association Property Custodian and has control of all properties and equipment of the Association.

▶ Each of the five **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS** can be appointed by the President to assist another officer and/or to serve as chairperson of a standing or special projects committee. When deemed necessary by the Executive Board, a Board member elected at-large may also serve as a temporary replacement officer.



Exercise Your Right To Vote

YIP PREMIER REAL ESTATE MARKETING TEAM

Lake Murray



Downtown Condo



Grace Balanquit, Realtor

803.467.9426

gracebalanquit@gmail.com

Canterbury-
Lake Carolina



Wildewood



Brandon Hall



Turtle Creek



**Ask me about the \$7,500
First Time Home Buyer Tax Credit !**



Linda Brener,
Realtor



Karen Yip,
Broker



www.yip4homes.com





PEDRO FLORES' PHILIPPINE YO-YO

by Imelda Go



This toy has been enjoyed by several generations all over the world. Did you know that we have a Filipino American to thank for the modern yo-yo? Have you heard of and seen the walk-the-dog, shoot-the-moon, rock-the-cradle, and go-around-the-world yo-yo tricks? It is because of Pedro Flores' innovation that the yo-yo's design was modified to be able to produce such wonderful tricks.

ORIGINS

The yo-yo is likely to have originated in China and spread to other countries, such as the Philippines. The first historical record of the yo-yo appeared in Greece around 500 B.C.

In the 16th century, Philippine hunters were known to tie a rock to a long cord (up to 20 feet in length) to throw at wild animals underneath them while they stood in trees. The weapon could be pulled up and thrown back down at the prey. This gave rise to the idea that this practice was the forerunner of the yo-yo. However, experts consider this a stretch of the imagination.

PEDRO FLORES

Nevertheless, the yo-yo has been enjoyed by many generations of Filipino children and it was a Filipino American, Pedro Flores, who brought the first Filipino yo-yo to the United States. The yo-yos were hand-carved from a single piece of wood. What made it different from the yo-yos (called *bandalores* then) that Americans were used to is the stringing of the yo-yo. The string is looped around the axle and not just tied to the axle. A string double the desired length is twisted around itself. This allowed for the yo-yo to spin at the end of the string while staying in place thereby making those beloved

yo-yo tricks possible. The term *yo-yo* is believed to be derived from Tagalog (a Philippine dialect) and means "to return." Hence, yo-yo literally means "come-come."

Mr. Flores was a native of Vintar, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He immigrated to the United States in 1915. In 1928, the entrepreneurial Flores opened the Yo-Yo Manufacturing Company in Santa Barbara. His factories were producing several hundreds of thousands of yo-yos in a month. In a few years, Flores sold his company for at least \$250,000 to Donald F. Duncan, Sr. This amount was a fortune during the depression era. Mr. Duncan is the same

entrepreneur who successfully marketed the parking meter, the movie screen, and the Eskimo pie.

DUNCAN YO-YO

The Duncan Company filed for a trademark for the word *yo-yo* in 1932. This caused competitors to use terms like *come-back*, *return*, *returning top*, *whirl-a-gig*, and *twirler*. In 1946, the Duncan Company moved to Luck, Wisconsin, which became the yo-yo capital of the world. In 1965, the Federal Court of Appeals ruled that the term *yo-yo* was a permanent part of the language and it no longer just described the toy. The yo-yo was the toy.

COMPETITIONS

Over time several more enhancements were developed to improve the yo-yo's performance during tricks. Today there are world-, US national- and US regional-level yo-yo competitions. There are currently five freestyle yo-yo competitions where the players show off their routines to a panel of judges and perform to their choice of music. ♦

References:

- *History of the yo-yo* by Valerie Oliver. Retrieved February 22, 2009, from the Spintastics Skill Toys, Inc. Web site: <http://www.spintastics.com/historyofyo-yo.asp> [<http://tinyurl.com/yoyo1>]
- *Pedro Flores* by Lucky Meisenheimer, MD. An article from the American Yo-Yo Association Newsletter, September 1997. Retrieved February 22, 2009, from the American Yo-Yo Association Web site: <http://www.nationalyoyo.org/museum/pedroflores.htm> [<http://tinyurl.com/yoyo3>]
- *The yo-yo*. Retrieved February 22, 2009, from the History Channel Web site: <http://www.history.com/content/toys/toys-games/yo-yo-s> [<http://tinyurl.com/yoyo5>]
- *Yo-yo: Definition and much more*. Retrieved February 22, 2009, from Answers.com Web site: <http://www.answers.com/topic/yo-yo> [<http://tinyurl.com/yoyo7>]

HELP MAKE THE PHILIPPINES BECOME PART OF THE
NEW WONDERS OF NATURE

A Philippine natural tourist attraction is one of 261 qualified national and multinational nominees now competing to be one of the *Top 77* candidates for the *New 7 Wonders of Nature*.

Located 30 miles north of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, the **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park** features a unique limestone karst mountain landscape with five miles of navigable under-ground river (*reputed to be the world's*

longest) winding through a cave before it flows directly into the South China Sea.

As of March 1, the Philippine site is currently second in the Group E (*forests, national parks, nature reserves*) category led by the Amazon River/Forest.

Voting for the nominees will continue through July 7, 2009. A panel of experts will then select



from the *Top 77* nominees the 21 finalists, from which voters worldwide will select the final new seven natural wonders of the world.

Anyone with an email address can register and vote once in each phase (*Top 77* stage and *Finalist* stage) of the competition at the website:

www.new7wonders.com.

The *New 7 Wonders of Nature* campaign seeks to "raise awareness of the incredible variety and beauty of nature around us." With the slogan "*If we want to save anything, we first need to truly appreciate it!*," organizers hope "these natural treasures can be better preserved for future generations." ♦

ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE

Now that the school year will soon be over, it's time to start preparing for the **FIL-AM BULLETIN's** annual "**ACHIEVEMENTS GALORE**" issue. In the next issue of the Association newsletter, we would like to make a special recognition of the graduation and recent scholastic, athletic, academic, and other achievements of Fil-Am adults and children in the area. This issue also serves as a historical record of what the area Fil-Am's have done.

Provide us with the details (*full name, school, grade, awards, college plans, etc.*) and a photograph so we can give due recognition of your and/or your children's achievements. **Contact the Editor at 738-0372** or by e-mail (**FILAmSC@yahoo.com**) with the details not later than **July 4, 2009**. ♦

***** Just A Reminder *****

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2009-10 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — *if there are three asterisks (***) on the line above your name*, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks.

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible (*see enclosed form in this issue*). Dues can also be paid at the upcoming spring picnic. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com).

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The FAAGC 2009-2010 Directory of Members booklet will be distributed soon. Anyone who would like to place a business listing or a business-card-size ad in the directory (*for a small fee to help cover printing expenses*) is urged to contact the **Fil-Am Bulletin** Editor (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com).



FIL - AM STORE
Your Source for Philippine & Oriental Specialty Prod-

◆ Grocery ◆ Gifts ◆ *Balibayan* Box Delivery ◆ Money Remittance ◆ Phone Cards

Mallard Plaza - Ste. A
1217 Highway 441
Sumter, SC 29154



Store Hours:
Mon—Sat: 10:00 am—7:00 pm
Sunday: Noon—6:00 pm
Tel. (803) 494-5613 Fax (803) 494-3160

CECILIA JACOBSEN
Owner

www.FilAmStoreSC.com
CJacobsen@filamstoresc.com



Visit & Bookmark the FAAGC Website
www.FilAmSC.org

for the clickable direct links to the websites mentioned in this issue of the **Fil-Am Bulletin**.
Current and some past issues (*in color*) of the **Fil-Am Bulletin** are also available online.





FIL-AM BULLETIN

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

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Spring 2009



Volume 18, Number 2



Reminder:

* **Columbia FIL-AM Annual Spring Picnic / Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **Saturday, April 12, 2009** at the **Sesquicentennial Park**

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY**