



# 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](http://www.FilAmSC.org)

★ Volume 24, Number 2 ★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224 ★ Spring 2015 ★

## Fil-Am Spring Picnic, Easter Egghunt on April 5 at Sesqui Park

The Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic will be held at the Sesqui-centennial State Park (Shed #2) on **East Sunday, April 5, 2015**, starting at **1:00 p.m.** In addition, the **election of FAAGC officers for the 2015-2017 term** will be conducted.

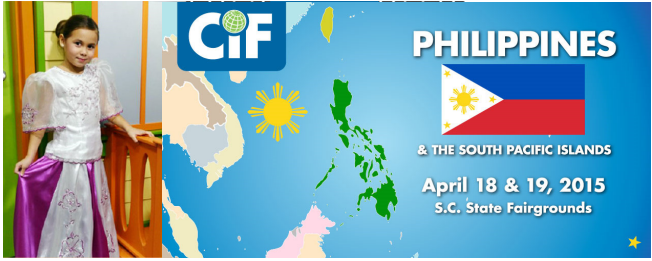
The annual springtime get-together has become a Fil-Am tradition to renew friendships and have the children enjoy Easter egg-hunting. This is a potluck picnic; the food assignment will be included in the invitation/reminder card coming in the mail. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided by FAAGC.

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## International Festival to Feature The Philippines

The Philippines and the Southern Pacific Islands will be the focus of the 20th annual **Columbia International Festival** to be held at the SC State Fairgrounds on **April 18-19, 2015**.

The largest yearly international event in the state, CIF "showcases the music, culture, food and performing arts of the various cultures, nationalities, races and language groups represented in South Carolina." The indoor event will have "over 60 national exhibitor booths, breathtaking fashion shows, entertaining cultural performers and numerous food vendors that will be cooking authentic, ethnic food."



The Columbia Fil-Am Association has been closely linked with the festival since the beginning. FAAGC has consistently participated in the festival's national exhibits, *Parade of Nations*, international bazaar, cultural entertainment, fashion shows, and food booths. FAAGC won the "best country exhibit" award in 1996 and again in 2005.

This year, FAAGC will decorate the festival's main entrance with a *bahay kubo* (bamboo hut) motif. If any FAAGC

*(continued on Page 2)*

## FAAGC To Elect 2015-2017 Officers

The election of FAAGC officers for the term 2015-2017 will be held on **Sunday, April 5, 2015** during the annual **Columbia Fil-Am Spring Picnic/Easter Egghunt** at Sesqui-centennial State Park. The new set of officers will serve from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

As stated in the Association By-laws, currently-paid members in good standing are eligible to vote and run for office. As long as unpaid members pay their dues by April 5 during

the picnic but prior to the actual voting, members can still vote (and be elected).

For current membership status, check with FAAGC Secretary **Jocelyn Locke** [(803) 351-9874; celynbc@gmail.com].

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. For more information, see the **Fil-Am Election Primer** on Page 7. ♦

## Remembrances & Reminiscences 2 & 3

### Recognizing The Fil-Am Pioneers in Columbia

by I.C. Go

#### The PADUA Family

Sometime during our local community history the first Filipinos and/or Filipino-Americans arrived in the Greater Columbia, SC, area, probably due to military connections with Fort Jackson. Among the first such families is the family of **HONESTO & LEONOR PADUA** that has maintained its presence in Columbia longer than many others. The Padua family remembers meeting other Filipino-Americans already in the area, such as Tony **Pantoni**'s family (some of whose members are still in the Columbia area) and Manuel **Echon**'s family (who later moved to Vancouver, WA).

In September 2014, I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. **Leonor Padua** at the venerable age of 96. She holds

*(continued on Page 3) k*

#### The MANDANAS Family

In 1964, another Filipino-American family relocated into the Columbia area through military connections with Fort Jackson. **SAMUEL & DELIA MANDANAS** relocated from San Francisco with their daughter Denise. Later, their son Kenneth was born in Columbia.

**Samuel Mandanas** was born in Candelaria, Quezon and grew up in Lucena, Quezon. He retired as a First Sergeant (E8) from the U.S. Army after 25 years of service. Subsequently working for the state, he later retired as the supply manager of the Crafts-Farrow State Hospital.

**Delia Mendoza Mandanas** was born and grew up in Catabangan, Ragay, Camarines Sur, and later moved to Quezon province. She re-

*(continued on Page 5) k*



The next generation of Columbia Fil-Am dancers perform the tinikling bamboo dance during dress rehearsal for the 2014 FAAGC Gala Photo: CARLTON EDWARDS



*From the President* ..... by Cecille Jacobsen

## Members Are The Core of FAAGC

One thing I know for sure, winter is over and it feels nice.

Spring is here and so is the Easter bunny hopping around the corner.

There's so much to do and there's no need to contain the excitement. Busy — that's the situation I'd rather be in.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, the **Columbia Fil-Am 8th Basketball Tournament** is over and we are set for the next event.

**K** *Yesirree*. the **FAAGC election** is on **April 5** — that's our **annual spring picnic**. There will be officers' positions to be filled and I hope all members are able to attend the picnic and help us celebrate Easter.

It is also the **Easter egg-hunt** for the children. I look forward to this because our 2nd Vice-President, **Eric Sosa**, comes up with fun games for kids and adults. Although I never got to join in, I never failed to exit from my duty so I could watch.

**K** Here's another excitement, however you want to take it — FAAGC is in charge of decorating the **Columbia International Festival** main entrance. *That's right*, the Philippines is the host country this year, and we

do need your help to make it a success. The International Festival is on **April 18 and 19**, with the *Global Education Day* specifically for school children on April 17. **Mark your calendars.**

### Your Input Is Very Important

My fellow Fil-Ams, thank you for all the support and extra help you've put in. It's a great pleasure when we hear from you that we did something nice; please let us know what else we can do to make things better for our organization. Your input is very important. I encourage any member to speak up and make any announcement or comment; we need to hear your opinion and suggestions.

I hope we can build a good rapport to support our organization. You the membership is the core of FAAGC, and without you there is no Executive Board. Things may not be all pleasant or perfect, but we are one, and **together, we make a difference.**

### Thanks, Executive Board

Let's focus on why we do what we do for the Fil-Am community. This job is full time volunteering and having fun. We have meetings and some Executive Board meetings are less hilarious. At times when we get the chance between the agenda items, we manage to share simple personal issues we encounter on

a daily basis and laugh at our own weird analysis about it. And some are very hilariously chaotic we can't leave our seat to take a break. Every meeting is unique and memorable in its own right and I never leave hungry because there is always good food to share.

Trust is one of the most important factor within this FAAGC administration. It is realized when one can allow a mistake and learn how to make a joke about it rather than criticize. We may not agree on every thing all the time, but we maintain respect of each other. My fellow officers, I salute you for your precious time and great effort on the job. I have seen your good nature and kindness through your long hours when called for it. With that, I am proud to be working with you anytime anywhere.

### Become A FAAGC Officer

So I would like to encourage FAAGC members to take the time to examine your thoughts about becoming an officer. This maybe the time to fulfill and explore your endeavor in community service. It is, however a great feeling to be a part of a society, so far from home country relying and hoping there are *kababayans* or other Filipinos around to eat *pinakbet* with. ♦

## International Festival .... (continued from Page 1)

member or supporter has unique Philippine products/items that could be displayed at the festival, please let us know. Contact FAAGC President **Cecille Jacobsen [(803) 565-0272; eshj256@msn.com]** or the other officers listed on *Page 2* for suggestions or inquiries about cultural display items and/or volunteer sign-up.

### CIF Anniversary Gala

FAAGC President Cecille Jacobsen has also been re-

quested by CIF founding director Dr. Raj Aluri to organize the **International Festival Gala** to re-unite and show appreciation to the participants and supporters of CIF over the years. The gala will be held on **Saturday, April 11, 2015**, starting at 6:00 p.m., at the downtown **First Baptist Church (1306 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201; between Washington and Marion streets).**

The **Columbia Fil-Am**

**Dance Troupe** will perform *tinikling* at the gala which will offer a buffet dinner of Filipino, Indian, Brazilian and Mexican dishes. Tickets are \$25 each. For details and tickets, please directly contact **Cecille Jacobsen (803-565-0272)** or **Grace Collins (803-317-3334).**

Earlier, the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe also performed *tinikling* at the *Children's International Costume Day* sponsored by CIF at the EdVenture Children's Museum on March 14.

(continued on Page 8)

## How To Contact Us

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The Official Newsletter of the  
**FILIPINO-AMERICAN**  
Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112  
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.

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**Carlton Edwards / Marj Peña**

Photographers

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- ★ Glenn and Kathrina AGNGARAYNGAY of Columbia, SC
- ★ Chris & Elvy DABROWSKI of Columbia, SC
- ★ Harry & Lorna DODSON
- ★ DAN & NENITA TALIYESKY of Lexington, SC.
- ★ Thomas & Nancydita WILLIAMS of Columbia, SC. ❖

**Columbia Fil-Am Pioneers . . . . PADUA Family . . . . (continued from Page 1)**



LEONOR & HONESTO PADUA in 1938



The PADUA Family in 1990  
Peter, Remy, Leonor, Mike, Josie, Fran

**Association Notices**



**FAAGC Biggest Loser**

*Let's Be Healthy*

- ▶ Registration & initial weigh-in on April 5, 2015 at the Easter picnic
- ▶ Final weigh-in on September 11, 2015
- ▶ Registration \$15. Award (70% of registration fees) to be given at the Sept. 19 gala.
- ▶ More details will be provided at the picnic.



**COLUMBIA FIL-AM DANCE TROUPE**

If you and/or your child or children would like to join the dance troupe, *contact the dance coordinators:*

- ▶ Youth: **Faye Colley** (803-238-3296)
- ▶ Teens: **Helen Alon** (803-738-0372)
- ▶ Adults: **Yani Irag-Gould** (803-920-0007)

The volunteer dancers perform during the Annual Gala, Christmas Party, *Columbia International Festival*, and other community events. Dance troupe participation can count for **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS** for those who need them.

Dance Troupe Coordinators for the youth, teen, and adult performers are needed for 2015-2017 (and onward) terms. If interested, contact Faye Colley [(803)-238-3296; (fcb8221@yahoo.com)] or Cecille Jacobsen [(803) 565-0272; eshj256@msn.com].

**Graduating Fil-Am high school students are reminded to apply now for the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship. Started in 2002, the Fil-Am scholarship awards are given to college-bound students who have participated actively in FAAGC activities and whose families are paid FAAGC members for at least one year.**



As specified by the Executive Board recently, criteria are involvement in FAAGC (50%), academics (30%), and interview and essay (20%). In the essay, the applicant should write something about his/herself, his/her family, what he/she does for the community, and about his/her plans for the future. The Top 5 chosen will receive \$300 each, to be awarded at the annual gala

Deadline for submission of application is **June 30, 2015**. Interviews will be conducted during the Executive Board meeting in July. Selected awardees will need to submit proof of college enrolment by the end of August; failure to provide such proof can result in award forfeiture.

For details, contact **Cecille Jacobsen (803-565-0272; eshj256@msn.com)**. Application forms can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

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

currently the record of being the **oldest living Filipino-American in the area.**

Having not met her before, I was looking for a woman who looked to be a hundred years. In a room full of seated people, I missed her but not because I didn't see her. Indeed I saw her, but somehow she didn't look 96 years old to me and I said to myself I would find her later. It was only when I saw her being assisted by her two sons, Michael (*a.k.a.* Mike) and Peter, that it finally dawned on me that she was Mrs. Padua. I have only met a handful of people close to 100 years old and knew only one centenarian. I thought she was moving about and communicating very well for a woman her age.

**Leonor Dacuycuy Padua** was born on January 26, 1918 in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte, in Northern Philippines. The mother of five (Michael, Frances, Leonor, Josie, Peter, Remy), she has spent much of her time attending to her family since they first arrived in Columbia 56 years ago and helping new Fil-Am families adjust to the area. In her later years, Mrs. Padua was a member of a league at the Fort Jackson bowling center and loved to play bingo at the Fort Jackson NCO Club.

She was married to **Honesto M. Padua (June 20, 1916 — April 22, 1990)** from Limay, Bataan. Mr. Padua was a member of the Philippine Army prior to joining the U.S. Army. He was a WWII prisoner of war and survivor of the Bataan Death March. He later served in the Intelligence Unit during the Korean War. After retiring from the army, he became a South Carolina state government employee and subsequently retired from the SC Budget and Control Board.

**Fil-Am Experiences**

Most early Filipino-Americans who relocated to the area were related to the military through Fort Jackson. Because there were so few of them then, they developed a special closeness that led to the families, in rotation, hosting informal get-togethers and sometimes *mahjong* sessions in their homes, pot-luck picnics at Ft. Jackson's Twin Lakes, and holiday celebrations together. Families who participated included the **Padua,**

**James, Sumaydeng, Faller, Mandanas, Cabot, Pantonial,** and other families. These families had a chance to develop tightly-knit friendships because they shared the bond of a common heritage as Filipino-Americans. Although there were other Fil-Am families that would enter the area, many of them only stayed a year or two.

These Fil-Am gatherings also served as venue for enjoying favorite Filipino dishes, such as *adobo, pansit, pinakbet, lumpia, leche flan, bibingka,* etc. Back then they did not have the convenience of having well-stocked Oriental grocery stores like we do today. Fort Jackson's Post Exchange (PX) carried a number of Filipino food items. The Padua family would also make trips to Atlanta and Augusta to purchase ingredients in bulk. Locally they purchased the main ingredient for *dinuguan* from the Chinese market.

Decades have transpired since the Paduas arrived and the Columbia area has greatly evolved. FAAGC member **Mike Padua,** a retired law enforcer, recalls, among others, that the local folk were not familiar with Filipinos. As a young student, his classmates could not guess correctly where he was from. They thought he could be Chinese or Korean. Many people were generally not familiar with Asian ethnic groups. When the Paduas first came, Fort Jackson still had the wooden barracks from World War I days. Its hospital was like a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) unit housed in a single story wooden building. In the early 1960s shopping in Columbia was mainly on Main Street where the movie theaters and department stores were located. Land sold for around \$50 an acre.

As one of the first Fil-Am families in the area, Mrs. Leonor Padua and her late husband have not only provided a trail-blazing legacy to their five children, 22 grand-children, and 7 great-great grand-children but to all of us Filipino-Americans who arrived subsequently. Thank you to Mrs. Padua and your family for helping form the foundations of the Filipino-American community in the Greater Columbia, SC area. ❖

Photo: I.C. GO



**Climbing Taal Volcano**  
by I.C. Go

I have been visiting Tagaytay annually in the last few years and my interest in climbing up Taal Volcano was increasing. Determined to satisfy my curiosity once and for all, I climbed Taal Volcano in early March 2015. Some time ago I also wrote a *Fil-Am Bulletin* article describing Taal Volcano. I did not appreciate fully then the volcano's unique features — not until I saw them for myself in person.

Taal Volcano is said to be the world's smallest active volcano. It is a complex volcano with more than one cone and vent. We saw **an island (A) within a lake (B) within a volcano (C) within an island (D) within a lake (E).**

- A = Vulcan Point island**
- B = Crater Lake (i.e., lake in the crater of the volcano)**
- C = Taal Volcano with active crater (i.e., the volcano we climbed up to see the crater)**
- D = Volcano Island**
- E = Taal Lake (Note that Taal Lake itself is also within the island of Luzon in the Philippine archipelago.)**

We left Metro Manila for Tagaytay on a Tuesday and arrived at around 8 a.m. From there it took another 15 minutes to traverse by car a zig-zagging road down the slope to the town of Talisay -- an area where tourists can board a boat (*bangka*) to cross Taal Lake to reach the volcano. A local boat operator reassured us that the 1,500 PHP (Philippine peso) fee was standard and that there were public notices from the Department of Tourism about this. Hagglng is a way of life in the Philippines, but we hired the operator at the standard rate in the interest of time. It

took us under 30 minutes to cross the lake and reach Volcano Island.

From where we boarded the *bangka*, we saw a crater to the right of Vulcan Island and our boat operator explained that it was a crater that was no longer active. If folk stories are true, it could be that Taal Lake itself used to be the crater lake of a super volcano.

**Scenic Ascent**

Once we reached Volcano Island, our boat operator led us to the ticket office of the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape where we paid an entrance fee of 50 PHP per person. Although we could have climbed the volcano on our own, we hired a guide for 500 PHP to minimize guess work. We declined on the option to ride horses. It took us approximately 45 minutes to reach the top on foot. During the scenic ascent, we stopped several times to take pictures of Taal Lake and Tagaytay behind us. I think having a guide to carry our backpack, take our pictures, provide the narrative, and protect us from oncoming horse traffic was well worth the cost. It is possible to climb without a guide since the path is well traveled and you can see the huts at the top of the crater. As we neared the top, we looked behind us and saw a few travelers starting to make their way up the volcano on horses and on foot.

Because we started early, we did not see anyone ahead of us on the way up the volcano. Even though it was just mid-morning, it felt very hot quickly going up the volcano. Hydration before, during, and

after the climb is very important. Portions of the climb were steep. We were walking on what was probably volcanic ash in origin and not regular soil and grass. The ground was dry and dusty so tourists do wear face or dust masks. The type of shoe I wore caused me to slip a bit at times.

Nearing the top, our guide showed us a vent where steam was emanating. This vent is a reminder that the volcano is still active.

**At The Top of the Volcano**

Near the top there was a hut which served ice-cold beverages (soda and water). Just a little more climbing after that, we finally got to the top, which consisted of an organized set of huts designed just for tourists (more refreshments, souvenirs). There was a photographer selling "optional" photos for tourists. I purchased fresh coconut juice served in a coconut husk with straw. A young coconut is great for coconut juice hydration and as a little snack of tender white coconut meat.

The crater lake is highly sulfuric and we could smell the sulfur from our vantage point. The vendors also offered us golf clubs to hit a golf ball into the crater lake. I inquired about the environmental soundness of golf balls in the lake and they said the golf balls were retrieved, but I had my doubts about that.

We took many pictures and I felt really lucky that there were no other competing tourists taking pictures at the time. We got pictures of the volcano from two sides of the crater — the standard side and the Red

*(continued on Page 5)*

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► I can assist you also with 529 College Savings Plans for your children or grandchildren, Term & Cash Value Life Insurance, Disability Insurance, Long-Term Care Insurance, and Payroll Deductions.

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**Climbing Taal Volcano . . . . (continued from Page 4)**

Lava side (an extra 50 PHP to enter). The ground was red in the Red Lava zone, which offered another vantage point to take pictures.

After an hour of rest and picture taking, descending the volcano was definitely easier. However, we now encountered dozens of ascending tourists on horses and on foot. One horse almost stepped on me. I fortunately dodged its leg and was unscathed.

Another advantage of a guide is that he can walk before you and warn you of oncoming horses coming around the corner and up the narrow path. There were sharp turns where you could not possibly know what oncoming traffic was ahead. Our boat operator was waiting for us and it took us under 30 minutes to cross to the other side. It was a memorable trip indeed with pictures and video to remind us of our adventure.

**Climbing Tips**

We have the following tips for would-be Taal Volcano climbers.

1. You do not have to join a tour operator to visit the top of the volcano. We hired the boat operator and found the guide on our own.
2. Go on a weekday to avoid weekend tourists.
3. Start early to avoid the heat of the day and to save time by avoiding traffic (boats, people, and horses). Boat travel time is affected by boat traffic. The volcano climbing time is affected by people and horse traffic. The photography time is affected by people and horse traffic along the journey.
4. To fully enjoy the experience, wear the right clothes; don't wear any shoes that you don't want to be ruined due to dust and horse manure. Bring supplies and equipment (water, snacks, cameras, backpacks, sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, hats, masks, shoes, small monetary bills so the vendors atop the crater won't have a problem looking for change).
5. I also had a GoPro chest harness on me, making it easy to capture video and photos from chest level — and it was taking a picture every four seconds during the entire adventure.

**Notes on Volcano Island:**

Volcano Island has a few thousand inhabitants. There is typically no rain on the island unless it is rainy season. It has no hospital and has an elementary school. Those who wish to pursue further studies have to cross the lake to the other side. Our guide's eldest child lives in Talisay with his wife in order to attend high school, while the guide lives with his three youngest children on the island. The guide estimated a few thousand horses were on hand to serve the tourists visiting the volcano crater. The inhabitants of the island are highly dependent on seasonal tourism. The rainy season would deter tourists. Many of the men on the island work as guides. A vendor at the top of the crater was too persistent for comfort.

**Notes on Taal Lake:**

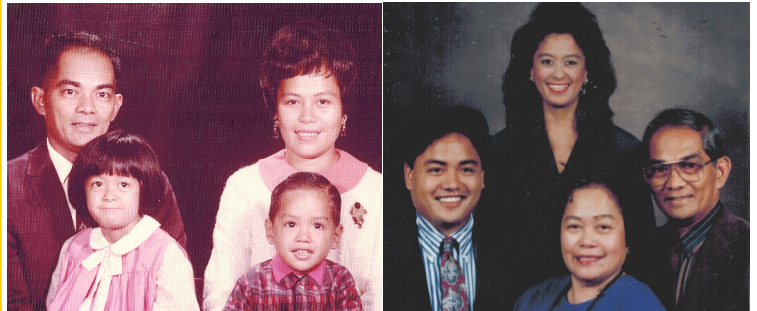
On the way to Volcano Island by boat, I noticed the many fish traps in the lake, which reminded me of how too many fish traps adversely affected Laguna de Bay's water quality. I hope Taal Lake water will not have a similar fate.

**Impressions of Tagaytay:**

Since Tagaytay is only an hour and half from where I stay in Metro Manila, I have habitually visited the Tagaytay area in the past many years. The fresh air and cooler temperatures in Tagaytay are always a welcome break from Metro Manila's smog and pollution. In recent years more and more new structures, such as shopping complexes, high-rise condominiums, restaurants, and businesses began to line the main road or highway that offers a view of Taal Volcano from the Tagaytay side. It is a rather narrow highway and I can see the ills of traffic slowly affecting the area.

*References:*  
Chemma, Grace (2009, May 2). Taal Volcano. Retrieved March 22, 2015 from <http://tourism-philippines.com/taal-volcano> ♦

**The MANDANAS Family . . . . . (continued from Page 1)**



**The MANDANAS Family — Sam, Del, Denise, Ken in the mid-1960s (left) and in the mid-1990s (right)**

retired as the supervisor of Fort Jackson's dry-cleaning concessionaire.

Sam left the Philippines just after World War II by way of Guam and Hawaii. He graduated from Leilehua High School in Wahiawa, Hawaii. He got drafted by the U.S. Army in 1952 and remained in active military service until his retirement in 1977.

He married Delia in 1961 and they moved to San Francisco where their daughter Denise was born at the Letterman Army Hospital in the Presidio of San Francisco. They moved to South Carolina in August of 1964 through reassignment to Ft. Jackson and have remained in Columbia ever since.

**Signs of the Times**

In 1964, they completed their cross-country journey from San Francisco, CA to Columbia, SC in five days. Along the way, Delia remembers seeing many signs "for whites only" and "for blacks only," typical in the early 1960s in many parts of the U.S. Somehow racial segregation was not as apparent to them in their San Francisco life where they were part of a relatively large Asian population with many Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and Filipinos.

Delia remembers that, during this trip, she had wanted to enter a restaurant labeled as "for whites only." She remarked to the hostess that they were neither white nor black and that they were in between. The hostess laughed and said they could enter the restaurant although the Mandanases no-

ted many restaurant patrons were looking at them.

Upon their arrival in South Carolina, the Mandanases adjusted to ways of segregation prevalent at that time. For example, the whites would sit at the front of the bus, the blacks would sit at the back of the bus, and the Mandanases sat in between these two sections. At the time, the Mandanas children were often mistaken to be mixed Caucasian and African-American, Chinese, or Japanese.

Coming from the large metropolitan and cosmopolitan city of San Francisco, they found Columbia to be relatively quiet and cheaper. Even in the 1960s, the housing prices in San Francisco were already comparatively higher. In 1964, the Mandanases purchased their first house in Columbia for \$9,000 when a comparable house in the outskirts of San Francisco might have cost many times that.

**The Spirit of Tulungan**

They later met and became friends with the other Filipino-American families in the area, such as the **Pantonial, Sumay-deng, Padua, and Longno** families who all preceded them in Columbia, as well as the **Faller, Gollaba, and James** families who arrived after them, among others. The Mandanases would take trips to Atlanta to purchase Filipino food supplies. They would also visit Charleston to purchase fresh seafood off the boats.

Delia remembers helping nurses, teachers, students and

(continued on Page 7) k



**CONTINENTAL**  
FREIGHT FORWARDERS

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## Columbia 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 5** 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 rules and 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 2015-2017 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 5.

### 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 supervision 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.

**Be Involved  
In Your  
Association**



## The MANDANAS Family . . . . . (continued from Page 5)

others from the Philippines who were newly-arrived in the area by taking them out to eat in restaurants, showing them around Fort Jackson or the general Columbia area, and inviting them to their home during holidays.

Over the years, the Mandanases have forged very strong connections with other members of the Filipino-American community in the area, hosting newly-arrived Filipinos, becoming godparents to some area Fil-Ams

and always lending helping hands to compatriots.

Delia credits her upbringing for her emphasis on sharing in the spirit of *tulungan* (i.e., the spirit of helping each other). Sharing is very important to her. Sam and Delia Mandanases have consistently supported FAAGC activities since its formation, attending galas and other events when schedules and health concerns allow them, and they like how FAAGC has served the community. ♦

**[Editor's Note: Reminiscences/remembrances/articles like the above are always welcome to add to the historical records, not only of the FAAGC, but also about the Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the Greater Columbia area. The experiences of the old-timers provide vignettes on the prevailing social, economic, and political conditions they faced as they strived to live in a new environment.**

**We will feature other Filipino old-timers in subsequent newsletter issues and/or the FAAGC website. We also invite all Fil-Ams to send us their own reminiscences/articles about the Association or family stories and experiences in SC for publication in the *Fil-Am Bulletin* and/or the FAAGC website.]** ♦

## COLUMBIA FIL-AM BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT A Fund-Raiser for the Scholarship Program

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, South Carolina (FAAGC) hosted its eighth **Columbia FIL-AM Basketball Invitational Tournament** on Saturday, March 7, 2015 to benefit the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship Fund*. Held at the Ridge View HS gym, the round-robin tournament involved Fil-Am teams from Columbia and neighboring cities. The Charleston team defeated the Columbia 2 team to win the open division championship, while the Columbia 1 team topped Augusta to become the All-Filipino division champion.

FAAGC would like to thank all the food donors, food sales volunteers, supporters, and the tournament coordinators, scorers and timers. Special acknowledgements go to the trophy sponsors: **Carlos Arevalo, Ellizer Billones, Jr., Norman Capili, Faye Colley, Ellier Gervero, and Peter Liunoras.**



## Columbia FIL-AM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \* **April 5, 2015** (Sunday, 1 pm)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Spring Picnic & Easter Egghunt / Election of Officers**
  - ◆ **Sesquicentennial Park (shed # 2)**  
9564 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC 29223
- \* **April 11, 2015** (Saturday, 6 pm)
  - ▶ **Columbia International Festival Gala**
  - ◆ **First Baptist Church**  
1306 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201
- \* **April 18-19, 2015** (Saturday-Sunday)
  - ▶ **Columbia International Festival**
  - ◆ **SC State Fairgrounds**  
1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia, SC 29201
- \* **June 13, 2015** (Saturday, 1 pm)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am Summer Picnic & Membership Appreciation Day**
  - ◆ **Weston Lake Recreation Center**  
4420 Leesburg Road, Columbia, SC 29061
- \* **September 19, 2015** (Sat., 6:00 p.m.)
  - ▶ **Columbia Fil-Am 25th Annual Gala**
  - ◆ **Columbia Marriott Hotel**  
1200 Hampton St., Columbia, SC 29201

**Mark Your Calendars Now !**

## Spring Picnic

(continued from Page 1)

In addition to the Easter egg-hunt, there will be 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 and all are encouraged to bring portable or folding chairs.

[*Note:* The park charges an entrance fee of \$2 per adult and \$1.25 per SC senior; children aged 15 and under are free].

For map, directions and updated information, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website: [www.FilAmSC.org](http://www.FilAmSC.org) ♦

## International Festival....(continued from Page 2)

### Fil-Am Participation

The **FAAGC dance troupe** will perform several Philippine folk dances during the festival's cultural entertainment show on Sunday, **April 19, at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

Conducted by **Zaldy Ballesil** and **James Orlick**, a **Fil-Am Children Chorus** composed of the FAFMC "Seeds of Praise" Choir and some FAAGC children will also sing at **4:00 p.m. on April 19.**

Charleston's **Hiyas-Min** dance troupe will perform on **Saturday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.** (*Performance times are tentative at presstime; check the festival website for the final schedule.*)

Some Fil-Am children and adults in Filipino traditional attire will also take part in the *Parade of Nations* pageantry on Saturday and the *International Fashion Shows* on Saturday and Sunday.

The Philippine food booth will sell the usual Filipino delicacies (*adobo, pansit, lumpia*, among others) that festival goers have come to expect. FAAGC will also sell Philippine-native *barako* coffee and an array of Filipino desserts such as cas-

sava cake, *palitaw*, *biko*, and pastries.

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

### CIF Committees

FAAGC charter lifetime member **Grace Collins** is a continuing member of the CIF coordinating committee. FAAGC First Vice-President **Faye Colley** and Executive Board member **Tess Hill** are members of the *Global Education Day* (GED) committee.

To be held on **April 17**, GED is the one-day CIF kickoff event set aside for school children to educate them about the variety of cultures represented in the state. Fil-Am volunteers are needed to assist the schoolchildren in making hands-on "Philippine souvenirs" (Philippine flag, paper boat, and Pinoy-style Christmas tambourines made of metal bottle caps) in the GED activity booth.

For more information, visit the festival website:

<http://cifonline.org> ♦

### \*\*\* Just A Reminder \*\*\*

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association 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. Dues can also be paid at the Easter picnic. If there are membership renewal questions, contact the FAAGC secretary, **Jocelyn Locke [(803) 351-9874; celynbc@gmail.com]**.



# FIL-AM BULLETIN

**"TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

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

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Spring 2015



Volume 24, Number 2



**Don't Forget:**

*See Y'All There !*

- \* **Columbia FIL-AM Election of Officers and Annual Easter Picnic / Egghunt** will be held on **Sunday, April 5, 2015** at the **Sesquicentennial Park, Columbia.**