



Fil-Am Balita

Reaching out and touching the Filipino-American community in the spirit of "Pagkakaisa"

EDITOR: ARMIN M. SAYSON

APRIL – JUNE 2008

PHILIPPINE BOOTH SWEEPS AWARDS

Armin M. Sayson



The Phil-Am Society did it again! We swept the booth awards at the Dayton International Festival, Inc. (DIFI) 2008 A World A'Fair, taking First Place in the Cultural Exhibit Award, First Place in the Cultural Booth Display Award, and bringing home the coveted Roving Annual Cultural Award trophy.

Coming up with a winning booth that was in line with this year's theme required the meticulous collaboration of a number of individuals within the Phil-Am Society...

It all began with the DIFI selecting "Dining Around the World" as the 2008 A World A'Fair theme and Cheryl Castro coming up with two ideas for the design of the Philippine Booth. The first idea was to portray three different dining scenarios, each with various Filipino foods being served and place settings for individuals to sit. The second idea was to showcase people selling ethnic food in a public setting. Cheryl and I met and we discussed the merits of each idea. To me, it was an easy decision and we decided to build upon the public scene. Taking her idea a step further, I proposed we depict three different scenes merged into a single cultural display: a *sari-sari* store selling convenience food items; street vendors hawking their uniquely Filipino food creations; and a *palengke* marketing fresh fruits, meats, and fish and other food items and supplies. And so, the theme for the Philippine booth was born.



To achieve a winning booth not only required a great idea but also a design that would capture the attention of the judges and convey the message we wished to impart to everyone that viewed it. In addition, the design needed to be readily constructed and at a cost that did not break the bank.

This is where the talents of members of the Phil-Am Society were needed. To create the props and materials that would enable us to effectively showcase our cultural display, we enlisted the help of several members that were willing and able to lend a hand.



As in previous years, the bulk of the work to create a winning booth was done on the first floor of the Dayton Mailing Service warehouse area. Once a week for approximately six weeks, Gary Foust and I worked behind-the-scenes to build new props and repair old ones. Gary willingly gave up retirement and fishing and I judiciously devoted time to spend about eight hours a day to construct stools, tables, counter tops, roofs for the beer and officers areas, a signpost, fruit cart, *sorbetes* cart, taho carrier, balot carrier, wall for the *nipa* hut, and other props. We carefully painted everything that needed paint to add realism to the props. In addition to



building new props, we inspected and repaired the *nipa* hut, the lattice fence, and the roof for the food area.

We assembled the divider wall so Vilma Helms could do her magic to them. Using a computer, I created a scene from images of *nipa* huts and asked Vilma to paint the scene to provide a backdrop for the cultural display. Who knew that Vilma was very talented and could paint? Over the course of several weeks, she painstakingly recreated the computer-generated scene to produce a 20-foot by 7-foot masterpiece worthy of the Dayton Art Institute!



We enlisted the help of Marcus Miranda and Cheryl to make signs to mark the different parts of the cultural display as well as the rest of the booth. These included signs for Aling Pacing's *Sari-Sari* Store, Manila Market *palengke*, San Miguel Beer, Beerhouse *ni* Carlos, Nita's *Tindahan ng Regalo*, Linda's *Karinderia*, Vilma's *Kakanin Pilipinas*, and *Kagawaran ng Education*. In addition to these signs, Cindy Phungrasamee took the cultural display description and created a 3-foot by 4-foot sign that explained the different parts of the cultural display.



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PAMANA CARRIES ON TRADITION OF IMPRESSING A WORLD A'FAIR AUDIENCE DESPITE ROCKY START

Armin M. Sayson



With my head bowed as I slowly clapped the bamboo poles at the start of the *Singkil* performance, I realized just how much we had improved in the weeks preceding our first Formal Stage performance at the Dayton International Festival (DIFI) A World Affair. I thought to myself, "Wow... we did it... *Ang galing talaga namin!*" I felt so honored and blessed to be part of the newly-formed Pamana Dance Group, which inherited the responsibility of showcasing Filipino dance from the Philippine Folk Arts Society of Dayton. To validate my assessment of just how good we had become, I was told by various people after our performance that they became teary-eyed and had goose bumps as they watched us perform the *Singkil*. Wow!

The road to the A World A'Fair actually began months before we even began practicing. At the start of the year, I was faced with appointing a Chair for the Cultural Committee, which is chartered, among other things, to promote Philippine culture through music, dance, costume, artifacts, and tradition. Since one of the most visible means to accomplish that is through the annual A World A'Fair, I sought an individual that had a long-standing relationship with the Philippine Folk Arts Society of Dayton. After speaking with several candidates and discussing with them their willingness and availability to serve, I eventually asked and appointed Kim Revels, who has been involved with the Philippine Folk Arts Society of Dayton as a performer since she was still very young.



Even before the Induction of Officers in February, I began receiving calls from people within the Filipino-American community inquiring



about the possibility of their joining the group that performs at the A World A'Fair. Initially, there was thought from the individuals willing to teach the dances that since the Cultural Committee's dance group was still trying to

organize itself and identify how it would acquire funds for its costumes, the performances at the A World A'Fair should be limited to only adults. Meanwhile, the parents of some of the children that wanted to perform made a convincing case of why that wouldn't be wise.

After some discussion with the Executive Committee and with the Cultural Committee chair, everyone eventually decided children should continue to dance because they were the future of the Phil-Am Society, their participation encouraged families to get involved with the organization, this year was just as good as next year for the committee to start teaching them, and the A World A'Fair performance simply would not be as exciting and fun without them.

Practices began slowly late in February as we informed interested adults and parents of the start of weekly practices. Tim and Melody Mira began selecting songs and dances and preparing a line-up. They had a difficult time trying to decide on who will dance what since they didn't know who really wished to perform this year. Not too many people showed up in the beginning as folks tried to understand why the Philippine Folk Arts Society of Dayton no longer existed or why the Phil-Am Society had stepped in to carry on its great traditions.



Meanwhile, I was faced with trying to help the Cultural Committee become financially self-sufficient. The Phil-Am Society simply did not have a cultural fund! As the people showing up to practice slowly began to understand that the Phil-Am Society would now be responsible for meeting the Philippine ethnic dance needs of the Dayton community through its Cultural Committee, I turned to them for help. I asked all the dancers to donate towards a cultural fund from which we could draw to acquire costumes and props.

I also turned to Mommy Sayson to help by again sewing the costumes the dancers would wear during their performances. I took her out shopping for the raw materials to use in creating the *Balintawak* dresses worn by the women and girls. Without telling the dancers, Mommy and I visited area thrift shops and discovered a goldmine in cloth material that was pretty enough to use for the dresses and at a significant savings off cloth store prices. Don't tell the women and girls, but their dresses are really made from bed sheets purchased from thrift shops!



Meanwhile, Kim had her discussions with Tim and Melody as they refined the list of songs and dances and decided upon a line-up of those that will perform. Among their discussions was a decision to select a name for the dance group. They ultimately decided upon the name *Pamana*. The name, suggested by Tim, seemed fitting for the group since its translation is "inheritance." The group had inherited the responsibilities that formerly fell upon the Philippine Folk Arts Society. In addition, one of the missions of the group is to share and pass on the Philippine traditions and culture to the next generation... to create a legacy for the youth to inherit.

Tim and Melody, with input from Kim, selected Fiesta and Muslim dances to showcase at the A World A'Fair. They decided upon eight Fiesta dances: *Pandanggo Sa Ilaw*, *Itik-Itik*, *Sakuting*, *Bakya*, *Paurong-Sulong*, *Kuratsa*, *Subli*, and the ever-popular *Tinikling*. For the Muslim suite, they chose *Kzadoratan*, *Yakan*, *Kapamalong-Malong*, and *Singkil*.

As administrative decisions were being made, dance selections were being finalized, and individuals were being invited to participate, the practices were becoming better-attended. Performers were beginning to learn their steps and the Pamana dancers were beginning to work together and have fun together.



Tim and Melody took a conquer-and-divide approach to teaching the dances. Tim focused on teaching the dances where only the boys in the group would perform. Melody focused on teaching the Fiesta dances where the women, some of the men, and the children would perform. In some of the dances, the two worked together to teach the performers. Many of the dances were not difficult to learn because they were the same dances that had been performed in years past. But, since there were a few new faces in this year's line-up of performers, the practice sessions were still invaluable to ensuring everyone was in sync. For the dances that were new to the group, much more time was devoted to mastering them. Of the dances the group was going to perform, the *Singkil* required a lot of practice time.



The individuals that gave up their Sundays to attend the dance practices and that represented the Philippines at the A World A'Fair performances were many. The young adults and young-at-heart adults that formed the initial cadre of Pamana dancers are as follows: Vilma Helms; Maritza Freshour, Jessica Kellie; Tonette O'Connor; Kim Revels; Ling-Ling Marshall; Melody, Tim, and Mark Mira; Armin Sayson; Marcus Miranda; Myro Lu; Edward Sevillano; Eric Prosser; Jon Abello; Shari Prado; Charlea Revels; Danielle McCreary; Zara Velasquez; and Jessa Kellie. The children that were part of the initial group of Pamana dancers include the following: Michelle Holder; Michelle Hibbard; Angel Ledesma; Julian Marshall, and Ivan, and Sophia Miranda.



At the A World A'Fair, all the hours of practice and challenges the group faced became a thing of the past. The Pamana dance group had gained an identity based not on any previous dance group's performance but based on its own showing this year. As in previous years, the performance schedule required a 30-minute

performance on the informal stage and a 30-minute performance on the formal stage. Their schedule included formal and informal performances on both Saturday and Sunday of the A World A'Fair. Teresa Gonzalvo had the honor of introducing the Pamana dancers to the audience on both stages.



The Pamana dance group met the audience's expectations of a very memorable performance on the informal stage with its line-up of eight Fiesta dances. Being less

structured than the formal stage, the informal stage allowed the dancers to become comfortable and relaxed and to further master their steps before they got up on the formal stage. And, as in years past, the dancers helped encourage and teach the audience the *Tinikling* dance during the audience-participation portion of the program.

On the formal stage, a lot of activity occurred behind the curtains as the Pamana group got ready to walk out into the spotlight and in front of the audience. In the dark, the dancers were checking and rechecking their costumes, the girls were fixing their hair and putting make-up on themselves and on the boys that were willing to



be made-up, the props were being put in place, and the adults were trying to ensure the young children were ready.

When the time came for each dancer to make an appearance on-stage, he or she was ready. In spite of the dim lighting behind the curtains, the glaring spotlights on-stage, and the hushed murmurs from the audience during the actual dances, the dancers performed with the grace, timing, and professionalism that would make any parent proud. And, boy, can I say I was very proud of all of the Pamana dancers.

Needless to say, we had a great year at the A World A'Fair. I can't wait until next year!



LETTERS TO THE PHIL-AM SOCIETY

April 2, 2008

Dear President Armin,

Thank you for this wonderful Evite and "Fil-Am Balita." Now I feel you and the Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton are my friends too! You are contributing much to the progress of the Fil-Am community in the country, as you serve to inspire all of us. Mabuhay!

Lourdes M. Ceballos
easymedia@yahoo.com

May 16, 2008

You can't bribe me <to get a good score> with your San Miguel Beer...

But as far as your booth is concerned, all I can say is, "WOW!"

A World A'Fair Judge
Dayton International Festival, Inc.

April 29, 2008

Hi Armin,

Thank you for the invitation <to the Caravan of Hope reception>. We are out of state for another week and we will miss the presentation. We are however pleased with the activities that you are spearheading for the Fil-Am community.

Ed and Becky Casalmir

May 16, 2008

...I was so impressed <with your Philippine Booth> largely because you not only wrote about street vendors but also because you had street vendors going around the booth as if they were actually selling food.

You were so good!

Charlotte Mote
A World A'Fair Judge
Dayton International Festival, Inc.

May 1, 2008

Uncle Armin,

Thank you so much!!!! I really appreciate your help. I figured you were the right person to help me answer these questions <regarding the Asian Heritage Month questions I sent you>.

Joy Forsberg

May 19, 2008

Hi! Armin,

On behalf of my family, I would like to congratulate YOU and the OFFICERS... What a great accomplishment... The booth was AWESOME. I was not surprised, with dedicated, unified and hardworking crew.... what do you expect? Of course a VICTORY. Again Congratulations for a job well done. I wish you all the best and lots of success.

BRAVO!!! CHEERS!!!!

Rose Prado

May 7, 2008

Dear Mr. Sayson,

In connection with the campaign for the passage of the Filipino Veteran's Equity Bill, H.R. 760, the Consulate General is reuesting your help in disseminating the enclosed postcards / mailers which the Filipino-American community in Ohio can send to their lawmakers.

The Consulate General deeply appreciates your uniting efforts for our Filipino World War II veterans.

Sincerely Yours,

For the Consul General,

Roberto T. Bernardo
Vice Consul
Chicago Philippine Consulate General

May 21, 2008

Dear Armin:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for S.1315, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act. It was good to hear from you.

As you may know, S.1315 was introduced by Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI) on May 7, 2007. This bill would enhance veterans' insurance and housing benefits by directing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to grant level-premium, term life insurance to each veteran less than 65 years old who has a service-connected disability. Furthermore, this bill would authorize funds to furnish home improvements and structural alterations for permanently disabled veterans. S.1315 would also recognize and legitimize service performed before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts as active military service for purposes of eligibility for veteran's benefits.

This bill was passed by the Senate on April 24, 2008. Please be assured that I will remember your support for S.1315 when it is considered by the House of Representatives. Again, thank you for contacting me, and please let me know when I can help.

Sincerely,

David L. Hobson
Member of Congress
House of Representatives

May 9, 2008

I was home recently and enjoyed the Fil-Am Balita. Thank you so much for remembering me; please send news to my new address. I miss all of you so much. Hope to see you soon.

Love,

Bernie Kramer
2466 Dianne Dr.
Cocoa, FL 32926

P.S. Thank you all for thinking of me.

June 6, 2008

...we'll be moving back to the New England area... end of this month na. Anyhow, <we> wish <you> all the best of luck and MABUHAY! God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Christine DiPietrantonio

June 9, 2008

Kudos to all the officers and volunteers for a job well done!

Tanya Ledesma

June 9, 2008

We won all the top prizes for our booth during the annual A World A'Fair, our Pamana dancers did an outstanding performance based on the reaction of the audience, we hosted several important guests which turned out to be successful considering the short notice given to us, and our Zumba class is still there with the participants kicking, wiggling, and bending better.

We did well.

Mommy Sayson

June 6, 2008

Armin:

No problem <regarding your request for recognition certificates from Senator Steve Austria for the Phil-Am Society Graduates>!! It's always a pleasure helping you!

Elizabeth Lust

Legislative Aide to Ohio Senator Steve Austria

June 9, 2008

Armin,

I want to congratulate all of you for your accomplishments...

Your leadership and hard work paid off!

Marian Garcia
Manila

June 11, 2008

Hi Armin,

Sorry for taking so long to express our gratitude and appreciation for your hard work and concentration during the World Affair. You are definitely a well organized individual!

This year's World Affair seemed to flow very smoothly. Jim and I did not feel the hustle and bustle during the preparation on Friday morning, the first day of the World Affair. When we arrived at the booth that morning, we saw everyone working diligently doing the final touch in preparing and beautifying the Philippine booth. Everyone seemed to have that proud, happy, "look" on their face as they placed the decorations. I don't really know how to express the "good feeling" at that moment, Armin. It's like brotherly love, sisterly love, respect, and feeling proud, is what we saw in each of us. Make sense to you? AND, all of these were definitely present during the World Affair in the Philippine booth.

What makes all of the above? Good leadership, unselfish manager, good communicator, a person with vision, good organizer, great ideas, a proud person, and a down to earth individual. Jim and I see all these in you Armin. You make things possible.

Thank you, Armin for making us proud. We are proud of the Philippine booth. That's why we make the Filipino food tasty and delicious! :)

Jim and Linda Revels

June 9, 2008

Dear Armin:

...Thank you for helping Loida last February to network for the former Democratic Presidential candidate. Racism and sexism will bring us nowhere in any endeavor we undertake here. What we need to vote are qualified candidates with good deeds, exposure and experience, who can solve problems creatively, diplomatically, and swiftly with open-mindedness now, not just by rhetoric. I am proud to say our Kababayans have transcended many man-made barriers and we have elected two lady Presidents by popular vote in a great Republic, ang "duyan nang mga magiging", the Pearl of the Orient.

Take care and hello to common friends. Please continue to let me know of the Phil-Am Society's activities. Congratulations to you! Keep the flame glowing Armin.

Your Kababayan,

Linda G. Barranda

June 29, 2008

Hi Armin,

Thank You for hanging out with the drunken nursing students. You did a great job. I am very proud of what you do. I can see how you are just too busy. Sorry to hear how stressful your job has become. I am sure you cannot wait till your year is up so you can actually say you have a life...

Anyways, thanks so much and I will donate for your <Helping Hands for the Homeless project>...

Jane Swope

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." ~ (2 Chronicles 7:14).

(Continued from Page 1)

Borrowing from the 2006 A World A'Fair winning design, we decided to adorn the Philippine Booth with paper flowers made from colorful tissue paper. However, instead of making the large flowers similar to the ones used in 2006, we made smaller, more tightly-packed flowers that actually looked better. Fong Carrillo, Lina Belen, Jessica Kelley, Tonette O'Connor, Maritza Freshour, Leticia McCreary, Virgie Regal, and a few other ladies labored to create the hundreds of flowers that were used to add color and create a festive atmosphere for our booth.

Throughout our booth, we depicted variations of the dining experience for the Filipino people. On the exhibit side of the booth and to the left of our cultural display, we had the Beerhouse *ni* Carlos (Carlos' Beerhouse) where we sold our world-renowned San Miguel beer and offered drinking snacks to those purchasing beer. Philippine beerhouses are equivalent to western nightclubs and offer after-work dining for those seeking to unwind from a busy day. Among those lending a hand to man the Beerhouse *ni* Carlos included Bob Hale, Ernie Carrillo, Jim Gonzalvo, Borgie Cantillas, Eric Trias, Noe Prado, Alex Cortez, Norma Knott, and Lina.



To the right of the cultural display and extending the palengke was a shop selling Philippine *kakanin* (delicacies) through Vilma's *Kakanin Pilipinas* (Vilmas' Philippine Desserts), and a Philippine *Kagawaran ng*

Edukasyon (Department of Education) office, where we dispensed educational and informational material about the Philippines and our organization, the Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton. Those that assisted in inviting fair-goers to sample our *kakanin* and to dispense information and stamp A World A'Fair passports included Teresa Gonzalvo, Cleo Sayson, Fong, Lina, Jessica, and Tonette.

Serving as a backdrop to the cultural display was Vilma's painting of a typical Philippine town located near a body of water. The town is where one undoubtedly can find a *sari-sari* store, street vendors, and a *palengke*, which all offer dining experiences that are uniquely Filipino and leave a lasting impression on all Filipinos that have lived in a small Philippine town.



On the artifact and food sales side of the booth, we integrated this year's theme by portraying a family-owned Philippine restaurant that sold the food that we normally sell at cultural events. We chose to enhance our booth display by turning our



food sales into a display of what a typical eatery selling pre-cooked food would look like. Working hard in Linda's *Karinderya* (Linda's Cafeteria) to provide traditional Filipino food to visitors to our booth included Linda and Jim Revels; Hermie Marshall; and Chat, Sevilla, Manolo, and Daniel Gamboa.

To round out our booth display, we had Nita's *Tindahan ng Regalo* (Nita's Gift Shop), which sold handicrafts, artifacts, and clothing all made in the Philippines. Volunteers to sell Philippine gifts were Nita and Romy Fernandez, Babes Bandalan, Vilma Helms, and Virgie

We carefully planned the Philippine booth design and put special attention into the construction of a visually-pleasing booth that displayed the people, food, handicrafts, artifacts, clothing, and traditions of the Philippines, and incorporated the "Dining Around the World" theme. Our props were scaled-down versions of those found in actual *sari-sari* stores and *palengkes*, and carted around or carried by street vendors.



To ensure we created a realistic depiction of how street vendors operate in neighborhood towns and streets, we put several volunteers to work carrying the *balot* baskets or *taho* pails circling the booth and hollering, "Balot!" or "Taho!" in that long,

drawn-out manner. Volunteers included Jay Lustre, Jessica, Cindy, and me. We also had *sari-sari* store and *palengke* sellers in the likes of Fong, Lina, Jessica, Tonette, and Cindy. These human props enhanced our cultural display like no fake prop can.

What would the Philippine Booth be without the folks that sweated setting up and tearing down the booth? Non-existent. Fortunately, folks like Gary, Bob, Ernie, Jay, Jim, Steve Freshour, Kent Velasquez, Wendel and Vilma Helms, Steve and Michelle Holder, Virgie Regal, Cindy, Cheryl, and Teresa,



With such a great team of people lending a hand and their talents, were there any doubts about the Philippines walking away with the top awards this year at the A World A'Fair?

For me, there was not one iota of doubt...

(If I failed to acknowledge someone in this article, I sincerely apologize. I wrote this article two months after the A World A'Fair and have moved on to working other projects. Rest assured we appreciate all you did to help us win big!)

2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular Phil-Am Society 2008 membership dues are \$10 for individuals and \$18 for families. To join or renew your membership, fill out the Membership Application form inserted into this issue of the *Fil-Am Balita* and mail it along with your check made payable to **Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton** to:

Membership Director
 Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton
 P.O. Box 2153
 DAYTON, OH 45401

Reminder: August 22 is the deadline to pay membership dues and guarantee your right to vote during the election. Membership dues received on or after August 23 will be applied towards your 2008 membership if you are not yet a member, but you will not be able to vote during the election scheduled for September 21.

UNSUNG HEROES OF THE PHIL-AM SOCIETY DURING THE SECOND QUARTER 2008

Armin M. Sayson

Cheryl Castro took it upon herself to come up with alternative ideas for the Philippine Booth at the Dayton International Festival, Inc. (DIFI) A World A'Fair. She spent several lunch breaks meeting with me to discuss her ideas and to help with the applying the finishing touches on the booth props.

Gary Foust gave up many days of fishing in order to help construct the props used for the Philippine Booth at the DIFI A World A'Fair. Armed with a hammer, an electric saw, and paint brushes, he skillfully built tables, stools, carts, a sign post, *nipa* hut wall, and repaired existing props, all which were used to help the Phil-Am Society walk away with all the top awards during the three-day affair.

Bob Hale once again donated his time and the services of his company, Dayton Mailing Services to print the January – March 2008 issue of the *Fil-Am Balita* and the 2008 Phil-Am Society Directory. As always, he was willing to lend a hand and his generosity saved the Phil-Am Society from having to seek a more costly solution to its printing needs.

Vilma Helms spent a number of days taking an 11-inch by 8.5-inch drawing of a town scene and creating a 20-foot by 8-foot backdrop masterpiece for the Philippine Booth. Her painting set the stage for the Phil-Am Society to win big. Also, she readily agreed to my request for her to represent the organization at Sinclair Community College, who requested a panelist to serve during their "African Americans and Filipinos in World War II presentation.

Tim and Melody Mira choreographed the dances and patiently and taught and coordinated the performers during the Wright State University (WSU) Asian Culture Night and DIFI A World A'Fair. They also ensured the costumes and dance props were brought to and taken from WSU and the Dayton Convention Center during performances.

Mommy Sayson worked hard and non-stop to complete the costumes worn by the members of the Cultural Committee's Pamana dance group for its performances at the Wright State University Asian Culture Night, the Dayton International Festival, Inc. A World A'Fair. She donated much of her time and offered her services at a significantly discounted rate to ensure the group was properly attired for its performances.

PHIL-AM SOCIETY MEMBERS TO DATE

Armin M. Sayson

The Phil-Am Society relies on membership dues to help defray the costs of operating the organization, such as printing and mailing of the quarterly *Fil-Am Balita* and other mailers, rent of and supplies for the Filipiniana Hall, food and drinks for the Family Fiesta and Election picnics, insurance, and other expenses.

To date, the members that have paid their 2008 the Phil-Am Society membership dues are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Homer & Diane Agpao | Chris & Meg Konicki |
| Antonio Sr. & Adelaida Anda | Bernadene Kramer |
| Noli & Aida Antija | Virgie & Robert Lairmore |
| Esterlita Bandalan | Tanya Ledesma |
| Lina Belen | Ralph Liebhaber |
| Domingo & Perla Bernal | Gary Lunsford |
| Penny Boettcher | Enriqueta Marshall |
| Susan Britton | Cindy McCreary |
| Borgie & Priscilla Cantillas | Leticia & Ronald McCreary |
| Edna Cardano | Paul & Allen Ayalin Meehan |
| Ernie & Fong Carrillo | David & Salva Ahmed Miranda |
| Ed & Becky Casalmir | Melissa Mitchell |
| Reynaldo & Melissa Casapao | Lito & Beth Mojica |
| Caroll Venus Casareno | Mary Moore |
| Tony & Coleen Casillano | Gloria Morris |
| Charles & Lourdes Castro | Rosalina Morton |
| Cheryl Castro | Roger Naguit |
| Arlene Chongson | Atoy & Bona Nepomuceno |
| Santos & Marilyn Cruz | Tonette O'Connor |
| Virgilio Cruz | Anna Pajimna |
| Jim & Lorena Czarnecki | Mike Paluch |
| Charles & Marina Day | Meafelia Pascual |
| James & Stefanie Day | Cecile Pence |
| Mark & Lillian DeBoard | Dan & Lina Pottinger |
| Joe & Christine Di Pietrantonio | Anicia Powers |
| Terry & Minda Dierkes | Noe & Rose Prado |
| Norbert & Tessie Drees | Linda Ragland |
| Charles & Lita Duncan | Jeffrey & Margaret Platon Reed |
| Ed & Gina Durkin | Richard & Mildred Roach |
| Gabriel & Myrna Factora | Manuel & Josie Rosales |
| Romy & Nita Fernandez | Armin Sayson |
| Ronnie & Marcie Fernandez | Cleotilde Sayson |
| Gary & Cora Foust | Roger Schneidewind |
| Zeny Franzen | Luz Sinha |
| Steve & Maritza Freshour | Cora Sloan |
| Jaime & Teresa Gonzalvo | Susan Soriano |
| Bob Hale | Melojean Stollings |
| Michael & Milah Jean Hasbargen | Larry Storer |
| Leeing Haworth | Richard & Genet Abelada Straley |
| Wendel & Vilma Helms | Sivaji & Elvessa Subramaniam |
| Polly & Anita Hernandez | Jane Swope |
| Jeff & Betty Heyob | Emma Taylor |
| Steve Holder | Nora Terry |
| Jefferleif Jabola | Eric & Joanne Trias |
| Nilo & Lydia Joson | Rachel Trocino |
| Danny & Sally Juan | Gary & Racquel Reyes Tucker |
| Bill Keechle | Al Umali |
| Mark & Jessica Kellie | Leah Underwood |
| Denise Kerr | Rina Felice Villar |
| Mely Kibler | Estela Wagner |
| Norma Knott | Divina Welch |
| Carlito & Maria Lim Kong | Marina Wilbur |

May I offer my sincerest "Thanks" to all the members listed above for their continued support of the Phil-Am Society through their payment of their membership dues. Without you, the organization would have no reason to exist and our efforts would be for naught.

DYLAN WILK: AN ENGLISHMAN'S FAITH IN THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

(This interview was conducted by Bo Sanchez and originally published in Kerygma Magazine on October 4, 2005. Dylan Wilk is the Gawad Kalinga International Partnership Head.)

These days, it's so fashionable to give in to the belief that this country is hopeless, that it's catch as catch can and the devil take the hindmost. But every once in a while, a story comes along that stands out because it highlights the best in every Filipino — the traits that we sometimes forget we have and that others have to see in us before we even remember that they exist.

Then you realize we are only hopeless if we think we are. And we can actually do something to improve the lives of people around us if we set our minds to it.

Many have heard the story of Dylan Wilk, the rich young Englishman who started a life of improving the plight of poor homeless Filipinos by selling his BMW to build cheap houses for 80 families. But few people know what really led Wilk to doing what he did two years ago.

Now Dylan has settled in Manila where he has become one of the most prominent endorsers of everything good in the Pinoy. He was recently interviewed by Bo Sanchez of Kerygma magazine, the alternative Christian glossy which is published by Shepherd's Voice. Nowadays, when every politician seems to be talking about how to save the poor and the country without really doing anything, it is nice to hear from somebody who is actually doing anything, it's nice to hear from someone who has dedicated his life to doing just that — one household at a time.

Dylan Wilk was born to a poor family, but at the age of 20, he started a computer games company that made him a millionaire. Soon Dylan operated in nine countries and ran his own TV channel.

Then, at the age of 25, he sold his company for a multi million British pounds and became the ninth richest person in Great Britain under the age of 30.

But one night, while lying in bed he became distressed by a nagging question that wouldn't let him sleep. "God, why am I rich?"

He asked if there was a reason for his immense wealth. Ironically, he felt terribly empty inside. This despite his ability to have any kind of pleasure he wanted. He had just bought himself a brand-new Ferrari and took one holiday after another. But he was discovering that pleasure is like fire... it constantly needed more fuel to keep it going. And he realized he would never be happy in the path he was taking.

One day, a Filipina friend visited him. She said she felt guilty going there because her plane fare could have built two homes for the poor.

That made Dylan pause. How could you build two houses for that measly amount? He decided to investigate.

In January 2003 he visited the Philippines. And for three hours Gawad Kalinga Director, Tony Meloto brought Dylan Wilk to GK different villages for the poor. With his own eyes he saw something that would change his life forever.

Bo: What did you see that day?

Dylan: More than newly built houses I saw transformed lives. We were entering rather dangerous slums, breeding ground for

thieves and kidnappers... yet in the middle of that was an oasis... the Gawad Kalinga village. I saw people smiling, men working... children laughing... I've seen many other projects in South East Asia and across the world. And I've never seen anything like GK. This was different. This really worked.

Bo: So what did you do after your trip?

Dylan: I went back to England and saw my BMW parked in the garage and realized I could build 80 homes with it and affect the lives of 600 people I saw the faces of the children I could help. I called up Tony Meloto and told him I was donating \$100,000 to Gawad Kalinga and asked him if that was okay.

Bo: What did Tony say?

Dylan: He said, "No, I don't want your money."

Bo: Only Tony can say something like that. (Laughs.)

Dylan: He said if I was seriously thinking of helping the poor, I should go back to the Philippines. So two months later, I had sold my BMW, and flew to Manila. In June of that year, I made a decision to stay in the Philippines and work for Gawad Kalinga for seven more years.

Bo: Wow!

Dylan: I've decided to invest in the poor of the Philippines. Not in stock or bonds. If I can help in uplifting the poor of this country I can say that I spent my life well.

Bo: I presume your family wasn't too crazy about that decision.

Dylan: No! They thought I was brainwashed by a religious cult! (Laughs.) So my mother came and spied on me. But she was soon convinced of the beautiful work we were doing and went back home and told my sister about it. And my sister said, "Oh no! They brainwashed you, too!" (Laughs.) But today, all of them support what I do.

Bo: You've made a decision to give up your wealth for the Filipino poor.

Dylan: I don't see it as a sacrifice. When you give charity out of pity, you feel pain parting with your money. But when you give charity because you love, you don't feel that pain. You only feel the joy of giving to someone you love. That's what I feel.

Bo: I hear you built an entire village for GK in Bulacan.

Dylan: I don't see it as my village. I just provided the materials. Architects, engineers, volunteers gave their labor. Together, we built 63 houses for the poor.

Bo: Amazing. What else do you do?

Dylan: I go around the world telling everyone that Filipinos are heroic. Because I work with them every day... the volunteers of GK.

Bo: What do you see in the Filipino that we take for granted?

Dylan: You're hardworking. You're always laughing, always eating, always singing. Even in your problems. You're loyal and honest. Sure, there are exceptions, but generally, that's been my experience. And you have the bayanihan spirit. The pyramids of Egypt are beautiful but they were built by slavery. GK villages are more beautiful because they're made through the bayanihan spirit of the Filipino people. It's especially this bayanihan and love of family and community that makes the Filipino more valuable than gold.

If you take a golden nugget and kick it on the floor for 400 years, afterwards you won't see much gold, just mud. This was what happened to the Filipino. For 400 years you were slaves and then you suffered under dictatorship and corruption. This

is where the crab mentality came from. I don't think it's a natural Filipino quality because every day I see gold under the surface of ordinary Filipinos. If we wipe away the mud by bringing hope and being brothers to one another in bayanihan... the gold will shine through and the world will see it.

Bo: Let me get personal here. I hear that you don't only love the Filipinos, but you've fallen for a particular Filipina.

Dylan: (Smiles.) Two months ago, I married Anna Meloto, the eldest daughter of Tony Meloto. She grew up with the GK work so we're totally one in our mission. And yes, I'll be having Filipino children. The best way I can secure a future for my kids is to continue to help raise this country from poverty. Instead of building high walls in an exclusive subdivision to protect us from thieves and kidnappers, I will go to the breeding ground of thieves and kidnappers and help transform their lives.

Bo: Thank you for this interview; you don't know how much you inspired me.

Dylan: Thank you for being our partner in GK. I read Kerygma every month and I'm happy to see GK stories in every issue.

Bo: It's our privilege to tell the world about it and ask others to join the miracle.

Dylan: To me, GK isn't just Gawad Kalinga. It is a part of "God's Kingdom" in this world. Thank you.

DYLAN AND NATHAN LEAD CARAVAN OF HOPE TO DAYTON

Armin M. Sayson

The Dayton-area Filipino-American community was treated to a visit by Gawad Kalinga International Partnership Head Dylan Wilk, who led a Caravan of Hope through 69 cities in the United States. Dylan headed the Gawad Kalinga One Million Builders (GK1MB) "Highway of Hope" caravan, along with his traveling partner, Nathan Mari, GK1MB National Coordinator, on a mission aimed at gathering a million builders and partners to help build homes and communities for the poorest citizens of the Philippines and other poor countries in Asia, like Indonesia, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea.



The Phil-Am Society was truly blessed to be able to host Dylan and Nathan during their trek through Southern Ohio. Jojo Priso, First Vice-President of the Tri-State Filipino-American Association (TFAM), called me short notice to see whether or not the Phil-Am Society would be interested in hosting Dylan and Nathan since he knew our goal for the year was to provide financial support to Gawad Kalinga and Habitat for Humanity through our "Helping Hands for the Homeless" project. I realized that God was offering the organization an opportunity to bring attention to its project to help those that were less fortunate. So, I quickly agreed and promised Jojo I would assemble caring members of the Phil-Am Society to host the traveling duo.



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Although I was given less than four days notice of the Caravan of Hope, I reached out to the more-active members of the organization. I

asked that they begin calling their friends and inviting them to learn more about Gawad Kalinga so they'll understand why the Phil-Am Society made it one of the recipients of this year's fund-raising efforts.

Before Dylan and Nathan spoke, they asked that I open their presentation by explaining why I was passionate about helping with Gawad Kalinga...

For me, it began in 2005 at the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations Region 3 (NaFFAA-R3) conference that I attended in Troy, Michigan. One of the conference presenters was the President of Ateneo de Manila University, my alma mater, Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, who spoke about the school's involvement in assisting Gawad Kalinga rebuild the country. Also, the keynote speaker at the conference was Dylan Wilk, someone I'd never heard of at the time. But, after he talked from the heart



about how he came to question why he was blessed with wealth yet felt so empty

inside, I took a liking to him. When he explained why he, a foreigner to the Philippines, had fallen for the Filipino people and devoted his life to helping the homeless and the poor, I was hooked. I decided then and there to donate enough money to construct a single home under Gawad Kalinga. Alas, I fell under difficult times and ended up unemployed and unable to fulfill my goal to build a home under the program.



However, when I was elected 2008 President of the Phil-Am Society in September 2007, I realized God was at work again and calling me to lead the organization to help the poor.

During the Executive Committee's first meeting, the idea for the project that eventually became Helping Hands for the Homeless was born.

During Dylan's and Nathan's presentations, they recounted their individual journeys that brought them to where they currently were. Dylan's story is summarized in Bo Sanchez's interview above. Nathan's story, although different, had a similar theme... he was blessed with a privileged life but yet he felt that there was more to that life than the wealth he enjoyed. And they shared countless pictures of the lives that were transformed through Gawad Kalinga.





Folks walked away from the gathering with a renewed appreciation for God's blessings, a better understanding of the plight of the homeless and poor, and a desire to help their less-fortunate Filipino brothers and sisters. And all I can say is the Phil-Am Society offers a means to share their blessings... through the **Helping Hands for the Homeless** project.

REFLECTION ON THE HIGHWAY OF HOPE

Nathan Mari

I will start with some very basic truths:

1. I am a Filipino.
2. In my parents' whole life, all they have ever known is a Philippines that is poor.
3. In my whole life I have never known a Philippines that isn't poor.
4. I am going to be a father, and if I continue to do nothing, the only country that my children will ever know is a poor Philippines too.
5. I am living in the richest and most powerful country in the world.
6. There are 4.5-million Filipinos living around me in the US.
7. Not a single one of them is a beggar.

The truth is a good place to start because it's real, it's true! If I start with the truth, I can see clearly the world in which I live. I cannot stand back and watch my people suffer while I enjoy the privileges of a first world way of life, in a country that is not even mine. Nor can I even claim Australia as my own simply because I was born there and I carry an Australian passport. I'm conflicted! I say that I'm an Australian, but when I look in the mirror, I see a Filipino face?! I have already started with being honest, so I will reveal to you my deepest truth: I used to be so ashamed to be Filipino because my country is so poor!

It would have been much easier to turn my back, forget about who I am and where I come from so I don't have to face this embarrassing reality. Or the truth that being one of the most religious countries isn't even enough to reverse this ugly trend. It would have been easy for me to never look back again. I don't have to have anything to do with the Philippines anymore because I live in a rich country now. But I can't! I cannot run from who I am when it's so obvious. I can break every single mirror in the house, destroy and burn every single item I own, because it reminds me I'm Filipino. But everywhere I look I see Filipino faces, my wife's, and soon I'll be seeing my child's, and they are all painful realities of the truth that is so difficult for me to see. These beautiful faces are constant, daily reminders that I cannot sit back and do nothing anymore.

I was brought up on three basic principles: Love God, Love your family, Strive for the best in everything. I was sent to the best schools because that's how I would become successful. In these institutions I was taught about the "American Dream" - the biggest house, the biggest cars, climbing the highest I can in my career, and earning the most money. I guess this was how they could justify their high tuition fees. But I eventually realized that the "American Dream" is all about me! MY house, MY car, MY family, MY needs, MY wants MY dreams... ME-ME-ME! As I pursue my "American Dream," I leave people behind! I leave MY people behind! I began to reflect on what the "Filipino Dream" means and I soon realized the "Filipino Dream" is in direct contrast to my "American Dream," because the "Filipino Dream" is not about ME! -It's About WE! It's about Love for God, Love for Family, and Love for Country.

The "Filipino Dream" is what built the Banaue Rice Terraces, built by Free Filipinos, and the Spirit behind it is called "Bayanihan", to be a HERO to each other. This is the same spirit that is fuelling the work of Nation Building.

There are many agendas out there that essentially want to achieve the same thing: to honor God by building and celebrating a beautiful Philippines. What would happen if we all work together? What would happen if every Filipino, in the most powerful country on earth, decided to work together? What would we do? Let's ask ourselves a very basic question... "Is my town or province in the Philippines poor?" If the answer is "yes," why don't we rebuild it? Can it be done? We have 1,700 working models to prove that it does, so why don't we make it our life's work to rebuild the towns and provinces which gave birth to us and nurtured us? Wouldn't that be Glory far beyond tinkling and pansit?!

I truly believe that every Filipino exists for a driving purpose. -A purpose not just for their own lives and their own families, but for their own country. Many people have given their lives to give me a free Philippines that I have just simply abandoned! What would our Jose Rizal say today, when he realizes he gave his life for a country that looks like this? The Good news is there's HOPE! And the Hope of the Philippines is with the thousands of people who've heard this message of HOPE because we decided that our "Filipino Dream" means more to us.

It's not about you or me anymore. It's about WE, and deciding not to see the Filipino as an enemy, a threat, or even a rival anymore. This is about the FILIPINO, everything that is good, that is noble, and that is heroic in our people, and knowing that every Filipino is a part of this because it is our birthright. It's not about your agenda, or mine, but the basic reality that you and I are Filipinos, and that we cannot accept it as part of God's design for us to be poor. I refuse to accept things the way they've been handed down to me.

I can't believe that it took a Filipino-American wife, a kicking baby, a Briton and his family, and 22,000 miles of travelling this great nation for me to understand this.

In all of this I recognize that I need to change. That as I simply let go of the excess baggage in my life, I'm left with even more to give. It's not about counting what I have to let go of or what I need to surrender anymore, but about choosing to embrace something else instead... My Filipino Dream isn't about looking at the sacrifices I have made, or counting the costs anymore. Instead I see that this beautiful life is mine to have simply because I am a Filipino, and I am in the midst of the greatest miracle happening in the world today!

Mga kababayan, Mabuhay! God's Kingdom is here!

CULTURAL COMMITTEE'S PAMANA STILL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The generosity and support of several members of the Phil-Am Society helped the Cultural Committee's Pamana dance group lessen its burden of covering its expenses in acquiring costumes and props for its performances.

Since the group is new, it had to rely on donations to build up its inventory of costumes so it could properly represent the Phil-Am Society at the various cultural activities to which it has been invited to perform. However, it stills needs your help...

Currently the Pamana dance group is in the red because it does not have enough funds to cover the expenses it incurred to prepare for the Wright State University Asian Culture Night and the DaytonA World A'Fair. The expenses the group incurred so far are approximately \$950. However, it only raised \$625 through cash donations and from its performance at the Asian Culture Night. To help the Pamana dance group, Mommy Sayson donated her sewing services for 16 Malongs, 28 handkerchiefs, 12 sashes, and a princess costume set. She has also graciously agreed to wait until the Phil-Am Society has raised the \$325 it still owes her for the services she provided to sew 8 Balintawak dresses, 10 Fiesta shirts, 10 Fiesta pants, and 10 Muslim reversible vests, and for the cost of the Malong material and Muslim reversible vest material.

WRIGHT STATE GETS A LITTLE TASTE OF ASIA

Stephanie Gottschlich

Dayton Daily News Staff Writer

Dancers, performers and martial arts students from six countries showed off their native folklore, music and culture Saturday, April 12, as part of Wright State University's Asian Culture Night.



Five dances — Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, Egyptian and Filipino — by local dancers were flashy, graceful and quick-footed. In the Filipino dance, dancers took turns jumping over long bamboo poles as they tapped the floor, a sort of Filipino version

of tandem jump rope. American tots performed Taekwondo, breaking boards as big as their torsos.

A special performance from a girls chorus from China's Sichuan province, known for its long history of folk and classical music, was the biggest hit with the 600-plus crowd.

The Li-Juan Golden Rose Girls' Chorus from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music sang lilting solos, serene and romantic folksongs and accompanied a musician playing the pipa, a 2,000-year-old plucked Chinese string instrument.



The event is held annually by WSU's Asian, Hispanic and Native American center, the headquarters for international

students there. About 500 Asian students from 15 countries attend Wright State.

The event is part of Wright State's Asian Heritage Month celebration, which closed April 25.

"This gives students at Wright State and people in the community a chance to show and experience their heritage, and shows the community how many Asians live here," said Ralph Vincent Casareno, president of the Asian Student Association.

CULTURAL COMMITTEE PAMANA'S MAIDEN PERFORMANCE RECEIVES ACCOLADES

Armin M. Sayson

The Phil-Am Society's Cultural Committee has come to life! Under the able leadership of Kim Revels and patient tutelage of Tim Mira and his sister, Melody, the group performed a series of lively fiesta dances that illustrate the Filipino people's fun-loving nature and zest for life at the Wright State University's Asian Culture Night.

The Cultural Committee dancers, which dubbed itself Pamana, which means inheritance, performed five dances to the entertainment and delight of the audience: *Subli*, where the men are stooped and the women wear hats; *Paurong-Sulong*, a frolic dance where dancers move forward and backward; *Pandanggo Sa Ilaw*, also know as the "Dance of the Fireflies"; Itik-Itik, where



ladies imitate duck movements; and Tinikling, the national dance where dancers imitate the *tikling* or rice birds that elude the bamboo traps set by farmers. After the 15-minute non-

stop performance, members of the Asian Student Association (ASA) came forward to congratulate the Pamana group for a flawless and entertaining show. ASA President Ralph Vincent Casareno and ASA Secretary Krischelle Panganiban, both students and Filipinos themselves, stated they wish they could dance as well as the Pamana dancers.

The Phil-Am Society's Pamana dancers that braved the cold and drizzly evening to represent the group at the Asian Culture Night were Xara Velasquez and her mom Maritza Freshour; Angel Ledesma and her mom Tonette O'Connor; siblings Tim, Melody, and Mark Mira; Marcus Miranda, Michelle Holden; Edward Sevillano, Sharie Prado, and Armin Sayson.



In the days leading up to the evening, Mommy Sayson judiciously worked from dawn to dusk to finish sewing the handkerchiefs, most of the fiesta dresses worn by the women, and most of the pants worn by the men. One of the ladies dresses was sewn by Bernadette Miranda. The men completed their ensemble with shirts donated by Nilo Joson as well as shirts and pants previously sewn by Mommy Sayson.

Phil-Am Society Roundtable



Phil-Am Society Roundtable



Phil-Am Society Roundtable



Phil-Am Society Roundtable



LOCAL PRESS

Imagine a world without Filipinos

ABDULLAH AL-MAGHLOOTH | AL-WATAN

MUHAMMAD Al-Maghrabi became handicapped and shut down his flower and gifts shop business in Jeddah after his Filipino workers insisted on leaving and returning home. He says: "When they left, I felt as if I had lost my arms. I was so sad that I lost my appetite."

Al-Maghrabi then flew to Manila to look for two other Filipino workers to replace the ones who had left. Previously, he had tried workers of different nationalities but they did not impress him. "There is no comparison between Filipinos and others," he says. Whenever I see Filipinos working in the Kingdom, I wonder what our life would be without them.

Saudi Arabia has the largest number of Filipino workers — 1,019,577 — outside the Philippines. In 2006 alone, the Kingdom recruited more than 223,000 workers from the Philippines and their numbers are still increasing. Filipinos not only play an important and effective role in the Kingdom, they also perform different jobs in countries across the world, including working as sailors. They are known for their professionalism and the quality of their work.

Nobody here can think of a life without Filipinos, who make up around 20 percent of the world's seafarers. There are 1.2 million Filipino sailors.

So if Filipinos decided one day to stop working or go on strike for any reason, who

would transport oil, food and heavy equipment across the world? We can only imagine the disaster that would happen.

What makes Filipinos unique is their ability to speak very good English and the technical training they receive in the early stages of their education. There are several specialized training institutes in the Philippines, including those specializing in engineering and road maintenance. This training background makes them highly competent in these vital areas.

We have to remember that we are very much dependent on the Filipinos around us. We could die a slow death if they chose to leave us.

When speaking about the Philippines, we should not forget Filipino nurses. They are some 23 percent of the world's total number of nurses. The Philippines is home to over 190 accredited nursing colleges and institutes, from which some 9,000 nurses graduate each year. Many of them work abroad in countries such as the US, the UK, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Singapore.

Cathy Ann, a 35-year-old Filipino nurse who has been working in the Kingdom for the last five years and before that in Singapore, said she does not feel homesick abroad

because "I am surrounded by my compatriots everywhere." Ann thinks that early training allows Filipinos to excel in nursing and other vocations. She started learning this profession at the age of four as her aunt, a nurse, used to take her to hospital and ask her to watch the work. "She used to kiss me whenever I learned a new thing. At the age of 11, I could do a lot. I began doing things like measuring my grandfather's blood pressure and giving my mother her insulin injections," she said.

This type of early education system is lacking in the Kingdom. Many of our children reach the university stage without learning anything except boredom.

The Philippines, which you can barely see on the map, is a very effective country thanks to its people. It has the ability to influence the entire world economy.

We should pay respect to Filipino workers, not only by employing them but also by learning from their valuable experiences.

We should learn and educate our children on how to operate and maintain ships and oil tankers, as well as planning and nursing and how to achieve perfection in our work. This is a must so that we do not become like Muhammad Al-Maghrabi who lost his interest and appetite when Filipino workers left his flower shop.

We have to remember that we are very much dependent on the Filipinos around us. We could die a slow death if they chose to leave us.

(almaghlooth@alwatan.com.sa)

SMART PINOY IN NEW YORK

(Only a Filipino Can Think of Ways to Save a Buck)

A Filipino walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. He tells the loan officer that he is going to the Philippines on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer tells him that the bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the Filipino hands over the keys and documents of new Ferrari parked on the street in front of the bank. He produces the title and everything checks out. The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the Filipino for using a \$250,000 Ferrari as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then drives the Ferrari

into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the Filipino returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multi millionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow "\$5,000"?

The Filipino replies: "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

SEND US YOUR NEWSLETTER INPUT

We will try to include your submissions in the next issue of the *Fil-Am Balita*. To submit your material for consideration, email them to balita@phil-am-dayton.org or mail them to:

Fil-Am Balita Editor
 Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton
 P.O. Box 2153
 Dayton OH, 45401

September 15 is the deadline to send your material for the July - September 2008 issue of the *Fil-Am Balita*.

THE BETTER SIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Submitted by Divina Welch

(The following was written by INTEL General Manager Robin Martin about the Philippines.)

Filipinos (including the press, business people and myself) tend to dwell too much on the negative side, and this affects the perception of foreigners, even the ones who have lived here for a while. The negative perception of the Philippines is way disproportionate to reality when compared to countries like Columbia, Egypt, Middle East, Africa, etc.

Let us all help our country by balancing the negative with the positive especially when we talk to foreigners, whether based here or abroad. Looking back and comparing the Philippines today and 1995 (the year I came back), I was struck by how much our country has progressed physically.

Consider the following:

1. The great telecom infrastructure that we have now did not exist in 1995. 1995 was the year the telecom industry was deregulated. Since then billions of dollars have been invested in both fixed line and cellular networks producing a system with over 5,000 kms of fiber optic backbone at a world competitive cost. From a fixed line capacity of about 900,000 in 1995 we now have over 7 million. Cellular phones practically did not exist in 1995; now we have over 11 million line capacity.
2. The MRT, many of the EDSA flyovers (including the Ayala Avenue flyover), the SKYWAY, Rockwell and Glorietta 4, the Fort, NAIA terminal 2 and most of the new skyscrapers were not yet built in 1995.
3. If you drive to the provinces, you will notice that national roads are now of good quality (international quality asphalt roads). I just went to Iba, Zambales last week and I was impressed that even a not so frequently traveled road was of very good quality.
4. Philippine exports have increased by 600% over the past eight years. There are many, many more examples of progress over the last eight years. Philippine mangoes are now exported to the US and Europe.

Additional tidbits to make our people prouder:

1. INTEL has been in the Philippines for 28 years. The Philippines plant is where Intel 's most advanced products are launched, including the Pentium IV. By the end of 2002, Philippine operations became Intel's biggest assembly and testing operations worldwide.
2. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS has been operating in Baguio for over 20 years. The Baguio plant is the largest producer of

DSP chips in the world. DSP chips are the brains behind cellphones. TI's Baguio plant produces the chip that powers 100% of all NOKIA cellphones and 80% of Erickson cellphones in the world.

3. TOSHIBA laptops are produced in Santa Rosa, Laguna.
4. If you drive a BENZ, BMW, or a VOLVO, there is a good chance that the ABS system in your car was made in the Philippines.
5. TREND-MICRO, makers of one of the top anti virus software PC-Cillin (I may have misspelled this) develops its "cures" for virus ' s right here in Eastwood Libis, Quezon City. When a virus breaks in any computer system in the world, they try to find a solution within 45 minutes of finding the virus.
6. Today a majority of the top ten U.S. Call Center firms in the U.S. have set up operations in the Philippines. This is one area in which I believe we are the best in the world in terms of value for money.
7. America Online (AOL) has 1,000 people in Clark answering 90% of AOL's global e-mail inquiries.
8. PROCTOR & GAMBLE has over 400 people right here in Makati (average age 23 years) doing back-up office work to their Asian operations including finance, accounting, Human Resources and payments processing.
9. Among many other things it does for its regional operations network in the Asia-Pacific region here in Manila, CITIBANK also does its global ATM programming locally.
10. This is the first year ever that the Philippines will be exporting cars in quantity courtesy of FORD Philippines. (I have an idea this article was written between 2001 - 2002, so this operation should have been on-going for the last 3 years or so. CYN)
11. The government is shedding off graft and corruption slowly but surely. This is the first time in our history that a former president is in jail and facing charges of plunder. Despite all odds, we are still pursuing the ill-gotten wealth of Marcos now enjoyed by his unrepentant heirs.

Next time you travel abroad and meet business associates tell them the good news. A big part of our problem is perception and one of the biggest battles can be won simply by believing and by making others believe. This message is shared by good citizens of the Philippines who persevere to hope and work for our country.

DON'T GET DROPPED FROM THE PHIL-AM SOCIETY MAILING LIST!

We try hard to keep our mailing list current. However, we sometimes lose touch with Filipino-Americans in the Greater Dayton area that make changes. If you move, if your telephone number or email address changes, or if you get married and you change your last name, we'd like to know so we can keep you informed on upcoming activities of the Phil-Am Society.

Please send your contact information updates by email to mailinglistupdate@phil-am-dayton.org or call your updates in to (937) 361-1058.

2008 PHIL-AM SOCIETY DIRECTORY

The new directories are now available for \$7.00 each. You may purchase directories by sending an email to:

directory@phil-am-dayton.org

We've taken steps to ensure the information contained in the directory is as accurate as possible. However, we rely on members to inform us when they move or make changes that affect their contact information.

The contact information in the 2008 issue of the directory matches the information on the mailing label in this issue of the Fil-Am Balita. If you discover an error in your mailing address, send an email to mailinglistupdate@phil-am-dayton.org and request your information be updated.

BEYOND SUCCESS: THE PATH TO SELF-FULFILLMENT

Dr. Vilma Helms

Thank you, Maritza and Ed, for the fantastic introduction. It is indeed an honor to be here again as your keynote speaker in this very special occasion.

I am so impressed with our new 2008 graduates. They have achieved and accomplished their goals. Before I begin my message this evening, I would like for all the graduates to come over here in front with your chairs. Congratulations to all of you. We are so proud of you. At this time I would like for all the parents or guardians of our graduates to be recognized. Please come to the front. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in congratulating and thanking the parents and guardians for their dedication, support (financially and emotionally) to their beloved kids. I know by the looks of the parents, smiling and showing little tears of joy that they are so happy to see their children succeed.

This afternoon, my message to you graduates is about "Beyond Success, Walking the Path to Self-fulfillment." The path to success and self-fulfillment can be easy or hard, can be long or short, but at the end can be exhilarating and wonderful. It's up to you; you have a choice. You can not say that your destiny is to be poor or uneducated; your destiny depends on you.

You have to work for your success. First, you have to have a "DREAM", a vision of what you wish to be. Do you see yourself as a successful doctor, teacher, or a singer? The second step is "DEVISE A PLAN to Achieve that Dream." Write your goals and objectives. And now, "GO FOR IT." Pursue your dream with passion. In your path, there will be thorns, temptations, and failures. Do not fall for them. Failing, is not all that bad; failing leads to success. The Wright Brothers failed so many times before they finally succeeded in flying their first plane. Thomas Edison failed so many times before he finally invented electricity. You have to be persistent and determined. Focus on your goals. Pray and work. Praying and asking God to help you is very important. Finally, you reached your goal. You just graduated. YEAH!!

Now is the time to "CELEBRATE and THANK GOD, your PARENTS, your TEACHERS, even your pet dog for the help they rendered in your path to success. Be grateful and show to them the appreciation you have for the help they provided. Now, what now, is there beyond that success? You bet there is.

Let me tell you about a special person by the name of Dylan Wilk. He was a poor man by English standards. He was young and had no money. Prince Charles gave him 5000 dollars and he used that money to invest in business. He invented some video and computer games that clicked and now he has businesses all over the world but his life had an emptiness that he could not understand. He had money, cars, big houses, and he traveled around the world, but there was something still lacking in his life. Then, to make this story short he found something that he can do to help other people and give back what he can. In fact he went to some countries to find some worthy charities that he can be a part of. He found the charity that solved the emptiness in his heart, it is the "GAWAD KALINGA" in the Philippines. He has now more than 80 houses donated to the homeless people in the Philippines.

This is what I want to impart to you... BEYOND SUCCESS. Share your success, help other people, share your talents, time, and money to the less fortunate ones.

This is now the "FILIPINO DREAM", to go back and help our *kababayans*. You can start here among us, share and help others. That's the path to self-fulfillment. I know you can do it. Thank you very much.

Again, Congratulations! You are such a very good audience.

GRADUATE'S RESPONSE

Corazon Maria Britton

Graduation marked a milestone in each of our lives. We achieved a dream that at many times seemed unattainable. Graduation will no doubt be a memory that we will cherish for the rest of our lives, however we also need to remember that today is a day to make new dreams for the future. To realize that today is only the beginning to lives full of success and achievements.

I am a firm believer that you can accomplish any goal you set for yourself. All you need to succeed is determination, will, and a dream.

Every dream consists of four components: inspiration, faith, perseverance, and excellence. Each component is equal and acts as a significant aspect in the realization of a dream.

When we finally reach our dreams, we know that everything we have done has been worth it. To achieve excellence means that we achieved something that at many times seemed unattainable. To achieve greatness, means that we accomplished our dreams.

For many of us, participating in commencement exercises seemed impossible. Throughout our journeys, we have gained experience and knowledge about ourselves and our capabilities. We reached this point in our lives because of dreams. I would like to encourage everyone to keep dreaming, no matter how unrealistic your dreams may seem. You can achieve anything you set your mind to. Remember these words from Lou Holtz: "Dreams make the best chauffeurs because they will drive you anywhere you want to go."

I want to encourage you all to continue to dream for the rest of your lives. Continue to strive for greatness and never be afraid of what may seem impossible. Let today be the day you reach for new dreams.

PHIL-AM SOCIETY RECOGNIZES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF IT'S FUTURE LEADERS

Armin M. Sayson

In cooperation with the Association of Philippine Physicians of Greater Dayton (APPGD), the Phil-Am Society honored its graduates at the annual Graduates Recognition Reception held at the Filipinaina Hall on June 8. Eleven young members of the Filipino-American community in the Dayton area were recognized for their academic achievements that culminated in their graduations. The graduates are as follows:

- Jemi Kristen Cosit – School of Advertising Art, AS Graphics Design
- Jessica Strader – Francis Marion University, BA Education
- Matthew Ryan Deluhery – Loyola University College of Medicine, MD Biology
- Monica Therese Gonzalvo-Deluhery – Chicago School of Professional Psychology, PsyD Psychology
- Myro Lu – Ohio University, OD Osteopathic Medicine
- Rachael Jarnagin – Xavier University, BS Public Relations
- Daniel Alexander Juan – University of Cincinnati, BA Communications
- Corazon Maria Britton – Wayne High School
- Joshua Andrew Davis – Wayne High School
- Kara Natasha Hoffman – Beavercreek High School
- Michael Sayson – Green County Career Center
- Xara Velasquez – Tri-County North High-School

Dr. Sonny Amisola, president of the APPGD and chair of the Humanitarian Committee, assisted in presenting gifts to the graduates that were present at the recognition reception. In addition to the gifts, each student received a letter from Ohio Senator Steve Austria, a certificate of special recognition from the Ohio Senate, and a certificate of recognition from the Phil-Am Society.

Dr. Vilma Helms, Executive Director of the Filipino American Ladies Organization of Dayton (FALOD) and chair of the Family and Social Committee, gave an encouraging message to the graduates, challenging them to share the successes in their lives and the talents they've been blessed with. She reminded them to thank God and the people in their lives that helped them achieve those successes. And she acknowledged that the parents of the graduates are probably relieved that their children had reached another milestone in their walk through life.

Corazon Maria Britton, a Valedictorian from Wayne High School, gave the Graduates Response, encouraging her fellow graduates to pursue their dreams. She stated the four components that make up a dream are inspiration, faith, perseverance, and excellence, and that their graduations marked not the end of their dreams but a time to begin new dreams about their futures.

Nita Fernandez, chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the \$500 Phil-Am Society Scholarships to the two recipients selected to receive the awards this year: Corazon Britton and Sharie Prado.

Congratulations again, graduates and scholarship recipients!

THE ONLY HOPE FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Father James Reuter, S.J.

By her own admission, GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo) rightfully assessed that "over the last decades, our republic has become one

of the weakest, steadily left behind by its more progressive neighbors." Forty years ago, we were only second to Japan in economic stature, and way ahead of Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand. Today, at our present growth rate, it will take us 30 years to get to where Thailand is.

1. A population of 160 Million;
2. Of those, 70 to 90 million (equivalent to our current population) will live below the poverty line;
3. Our national debt is estimated to be at US\$200B (compared to US\$28B when Marcos fled, and US\$53B today);
4. We will be competing, not against Thailand or even Vietnam, but against Bangladesh;
5. We will be the most corrupt nation in Asia, if not in the world (we're already ranked 11th most corrupt nation by Transparency International).

The signs are clear. Our nation is headed towards an irreversible path of economic decline and moral decadence. It is not for lack of effort. We've seen many men and women of integrity in and out of government, NGOs, church groups & people's organization devote themselves to the task of nation-building, often times against insurmountable odds.. But not even two people's revolutions, bloodless as they may be, have made a dent in reversing this trend. At best, we have moved one step forward, but three steps backward.

We need a force far greater than our collective efforts, as a people, can ever hope to muster. It is time to move the battle to the spiritual realm. It's time to claim GOD's promise of healing of the land for His people. It's time to gather GOD's people on its knees to pray for the economic recovery and moral reformation of our nation.

Is prayer really the answer? Before you dismiss this as just another rambling of a religious fanatic, I'd like you to consider some lessons we can glean from history.

England's ascendancy to world power was preceded by the Reformation, a spiritual revival fueled by intense prayers.

The early American settlers built the foundation that would make it the most powerful nation today - a strong faith in GOD and a disciplined prayer life. Throughout its history, and especially at its major turning points, waves of revival and prayer movement swept across the land.

In recent times, we see Korea as a nation experiencing revival and in the process producing the largest Christian church in the world today, led by Rev. Paul Yongi Cho. No wonder it has emerged as a strong nation when other economies around it are faltering.

Even from a purely secular viewpoint, it makes a lot of sense. For her there is genuine humbling & seeking of GOD through prayer, moral reformation necessarily follows. And this, in turn, will lead to general prosperity. YES, we believe prayer can make a difference. It's our only hope.

Today, we launch this email brigade, to inform Filipinos from all over the world to pray, as a people, for the economic recovery and moral reformation of our nation. We do not ask for much. We only ask for 5 minutes of your time in a day, to forward this to your close friends and relatives.

This is the kind of unity which can make a big difference. Of course, if you feel strongly, as I do, about the power of prayer, you can be more involved by starting your own prayer group or prayer center.

We have tried people power twice; in both cases, it fell short. Maybe it's time to try prayer power. GOD never fails. Is there hope? YES! We can rely on GOD's promise, but we have to do our part. If we humble ourselves and pray as a people, GOD will heal our land. By GOD's grace, we may yet see a better future for our children.

NOTICE ON PASSPORT APPLICATIONS: PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN CHICAGO BEGINS ISSUING MACHINE READABLE PASSPORTS

The Philippine Consulate General Chicago would like to inform Filipinos in its consular jurisdiction that effective Monday, 2 June 2008, applications for the new Machine Readable Passports (MRP) will be processed by the Consulate. The new MRPs will provide improved security features at no additional cost. The new MRP will still cost US\$50.00.

The MRP is a passport where the personal details of the applicant is printed in such a way that it can be read by the naked eye and at the same time, it contains a "machine readable zone" containing the personal data of the passport holder that can be read by a machine or computer.

The MRP allows faster entry and exit of the traveler at airports, as the data and biometrics in the MRP can be read by a machine and stored automatically in the database of immigration officers. This means greater convenience and security for the traveler.

The new MRP, which is maroon in color, consists of 44 pages. The data in the MRP is now fully printed. The MRP has superior security features compared to the old green passports, which virtually eliminates the possibility of identity theft and acts of fraud.

Only the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in Manila prints the MRP. Applications received by the Consulate General will be sent to DFA via diplomatic pouch. In view of the transit time, it will now take SIX (6) WEEKS for a passport to be released to the applicant from the time the application is processed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE IS REQUIRED. All applicants, whether for the renewal of a passport, or those applying for the first time must appear personally at the Consulate General for data verification, thumb mark/finger-printing and signing of the application form. Application by mail will not be accepted.

Current holders of valid Philippine passports (green passport that has not expired), need not worry as the green passports will still be honored as a bonafide travel document issued by the Government of the Philippines until its date of expiry, even after the roll out of the new machine readable passports.

NEW PHOTO REQUIREMENTS for the MRP are the following:

- Background – Royal Blue.
- Recent Photo (photo should have been taken within the last 6 months)
- Photograph should be printed on good quality photo paper with matte finish
- Size – 4.5 cm. (height) X 3.5 cm (width)
- Pose – image of the applicant is 70-80% of the photograph
 - straight frontal shot (no titling of head)
 - "medium" smile is allowed
 - collared shirt / decent attire
 - both ears visible
 - prescription eye-glasses allowed, provided there is no glare
 - head scarf / veil for religious or health reasons allowed

- Cropping- there should be at least 8mm to 10mm space at the top of the photo between the edge of the photo and the crown/head of the person, to allow for cropping of the photo.
- Photos can be rejected for the following reasons :
 - Distorted image – head is tilted or smile is too wide
 - Women – excessive make-up, earrings
 - Men – wearing make-up and earrings
 - Colored contact lenses
 - Use of headgear other than scarf/veil for religious or health reasons
 - Use of dark eyeglasses / shades
 - Photos with "red-eye" effect
 - Dirty photos / poor quality photo (washed out image / unnatural skin tone)
 - Digitally altered / graphically taken photos (squares or pixels appear on photo)
 - Blurred photo
 - Wrong color background
 - Applicant does not look directly to the camera (exception: applicant has a medical/physical condition)

For other inquiries on the Machine Readable Passport, please contact Vice-Consul Roberto T. Bernardo; Mr. Antonio M. Allam, Jr.; or Ms. Rosenia L. Centeno at (312) 332-6458, or visit the Consulate's website at <http://www.chicagopcgc.com>.

Please check the website of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs at <http://www.dfa.gov.ph> for the latest information regarding the Philippine Machine Readable Passport.

VISA UPON ARRIVAL TO NO VISA REQUIRED FOR TEMPORARY VISITORS

The public is informed that foreign nationals (under the "visa free" category) admitted to enter the Philippines without visas for 21-days stay under Executive Order No. 408 dated 09 November 1960, may apply for a visa-upon-arrival (VUA) at the airport for an initial allowable stay of 59 days instead of 21 days.

According to Memorandum Circular No. MCL-08-003 dated 22 January 2008 signed by Philippine Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Marcelino C. Libanan, a visa-free temporary visitor may apply for the above VUA privilege at the airport in the Philippines.

A required visa fee of US\$50.00, Php500.00 express fee, and Php10.00 legal research fee may be settled upon application for the VUA at the airport in addition to presentation of a passport valid at least six months beyond the contemplated stay in the Philippines and a return ticket to the country of origin or a ticket and/or visa to the next country of destination.

For other queries on the above Circular, please contact the Philippine Bureau of Immigration at the following website, address, and telephone numbers: <http://www.immigration.gov.ph>; Bureau of Immigration Building, Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila, Philippines; tel. nos. (632) 527-3260 / 527-3248; or the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago at (312) 332-6458.

MEMBERS OF PHIL-AM SOCIETY SUPPORT TRI-STATE FIL-AM ASSOCIATION

Armin M. Sayson

Several members of the Phil-Am Society attended the Cincinnati-based Tri-State Filipino-American Association (TFAM) Inaugural Ball on April 1 to show reciprocal support for their attendance at our Induction of Officers Ball. The evening featured Manny Pacis as the keynote speaker, the induction of officers, an inaugural address by 2008 President Jason Dimaculangan, and dancing.



The Dayton-based Filipino-Americans that made the trek to Cincinnati were Lina Belen, Priscilla Caligaga, Ernie and Fong Carrillo, Jaime and Eleanor Cayabyab, Boy and Lilia Fernandez, Maritza and Steve Freshour, Zos and Josie Garcia, Bob Hale, Jessica Kellie, Norma Knott, Cleo Sayson, Leo Sorio, Divina Welch, and Armin Sayson.

During his inaugural address, Jason stated the goal of the newly reorganized and renamed organization, which was formerly known as the Filipino-American Association of Southern Ohio (FASO), was to create an umbrella group for all the Cincinnati-area Filipinos and Filipino-American organizations. He gave praise to a management concept employed by the Phil-Am Society, the Area Support Leaders (which was previously called the Baranggay Leaders), and said he'd like to establish the same capability for TFAM to facilitate communication among the Cincinnati-area Filipinos.

Jason also described the benefits of membership with TFAM to be as follows:

- Membership rates for tickets to TFAM-sponsored events
- Email notification of TFAM activities
- Invitation to the General Meeting and Annual Review
- TFAM Directory
- TFAM Newsletter
- TFAM Calendar of Events
- Free enrollment in Benefits IQ program

Besides the great food, the motivational and educational talks, and the induction of officers, the evening included non-stop dancing to the tunes of a local Filipino DJ. While members of the Phil-Am Society seem to have a love for line dancing, the members of TFAM have shown a penchant for both ballroom dancing and line dancing. Jessica, demonstrating she was ready and able to keep up with the Cincinnati group, was popular with a self-professed ballroom dancer, who kept asking her to be his dance partner. The Phil-Am Society dancers paid careful attention to TFAM's line dances, hoping to learn new steps they could take back to Dayton and share with those unable to make the trip to Cincinnati.

The Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton... We're not just an organization that seeks to support its own activities. We also go out of our way to work with other Fil-Am organizations to support them in theirs.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS IN WORLD WAR II

Dr. Vilma Helms

(The following are notes Vilma used when she served as a panelist at Sinclair Community College. Margaret Peters, an instructor teaching History 103, US History 1919 to the Present, had requested members of the Asian American community assist in a class featuring WWII veterans and those involved in WWII events as her guests. While Vilma certainly is not old enough to have been involved with WWII events, she readily agreed to serve as a panelist on behalf of the Phil-Am Society. ~Armin)

"I Shall Return" were the three famous words that the great hero, General Douglas MacArthur promised the Filipinos during the Japanese Occupation of the Philippines. On October 20, 1944, Americans, Filipinos, and other soldiers from allied countries, under the leadership of General MacArthur landed at the Leyte Gulf to liberate the Philippines. He fulfilled his promise. It took until March 3, 1945 to subdue the last Japanese resistance in the walled Intramuros, Manila. The war ended on May 1946. The United States government proclaimed and gave the Philippines their Independence in July 4, 1946.

More than five years before May, 1946, the Filipino soldiers called "Guerillas" fought with all their might, side-by-side with the Americans. They were tortured and killed together. Remnants of the horrifying nightmare can still be seen in the Philippines such as Fort Bonifacio where 33,520 Filipino soldiers were buried. Those soldiers were killed in the Bataan Death March and Corregidor and other places in the country. The place called Fort Santiago was where Americans and Filipinos were imprisoned, tortured, and then killed. St. John the Baptist Church was the place where 400 American and Filipino soldiers were brutally tortured. During the Japanese Occupation, the Filipinos helped the Americans escape through the jungles and mountains of the Philippines. They were together protecting each other. The Americans called the Filipinos "little brown brothers."

After the war, nationals from more than 60 other countries that also served under the U.S. command received U.S. Veterans status while the Filipinos were singled out for discriminatory treatment. The 1946 Rescission Act took away the U.S. Veterans status of the Filipino soldiers. The FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS EQUITY ACT (S.1315) will not only restore the status but will also give those Filipino veterans the honor and recognition of their service that they deserve. All the veterans deserve to be treated the same way, with the full and equal benefits with what U.S. veterans currently receive. NO VETERANS LEFT BEHIND. So, we have to help call our senators to have this Filipino World War II Veterans Equity Bill pass. Out of the original 250,000 Filipino soldiers called to serve, there are only 18,000 veterans left, and the time is now to rectify the 62-year injustice suffered by the few brave soldiers who remain. With the passing of this Senate Bill, the living veterans can live out their remaining years with the full measure of honor befitting their service, heroism, and sacrifices to obtain peace throughout the world.

For more information, please call Dr. Vilma Helms, Executive Director of the Filipino American Ladies Organization of Dayton, or Armin Sayson, President, Philippine American Society of Greater Dayton.

KROGER REWARD CARD PROGRAM

Armin M. Sayson

For the life of me, I don't understand why, with over 525 names in the Phil-Am Society's mailing list, there are only seven ACTIVE participants in the Building Project Committee's Kroger Reward Card Program! I'm especially puzzled since participation doesn't cost a penny to individuals AND participation GUARANTEES income for the Phil-Am Society's Building Fund.

In the last quarter, the following reloaded their Kroger Reward Cards and helped the Phil-Am Society with its goal of earning a rebate for card reloads over \$5000.

Chris & Natalie Bisnow

Bob Hale

Roger & Eppie Dacanay

Armin Sayson

Cleotilde Sayson

Malou Sayson

Luz Sinha

Unless other card-holders have unspent money in their cards, the above-named individuals are the only ones holding active cards. Anyone desiring to get back into the program will have to purchase another Kroger Reward Card from the organization for \$25.

As promised in the last issue of the Fil-Am Balita, we're recognizing the individual with the greatest amount of reloads to their Kroger Reward Card during the April - June quarter. The most active supporter of the program is... **Natalie Bisnow!**

For being the top reloader during the quarter, the Building Project Committee awarded Natalie \$25 as a small token of appreciation for her active participation.

Reward Cards have an initial value of \$25 and can be used for Kroger purchases such as groceries, fuel, and prescriptions. They can't be used to purchase services such as money orders, lottery tickets, hunting or fishing licenses, and for Western Union or Ticket Master transactions.

After the initial value of \$25 is used up and before making another purchase at Kroger, card-holders should reload their Reward Cards and use them to pay for their purchases. The Phil-Am Society earns a 4% rebate from Kroger for ALL recharges over \$5000.

It's important that Reward Card holders reload their cards before making a purchase from Kroger and use their Reward Cards (instead of cash, check, or credit card) to pay for their purchase. It's also important they don't allow their Reward Cards to fall to and remain at a zero balance for 90 days or their cards will be voided out of the Phil-Am Society's Kroger Reward Card Program.

Reloading the Reward Card is simple and may be done at the Customer Service desk before shopping or at any register before paying for your groceries. Reloading at the Customer Service desk may be in any amount up to \$500 while recharges at a register are limited to \$100.

To help with the Phil-Am Society's Kroger Reward Card Program, participants MUST purchase a Reward Card from the Phil-Am Society.

To purchase a Reward Card, contact Bob Hale at (937) 222-5056 or building-chair@phil-am-dayton.org. See the Kroger Reward Card Program insert in this issue of the *Fil-Am Balita* for information on participation incentives the Phil-Am Society is offering.

HELPING HANDS FOR THE HOMELESS

Armin M. Sayson

The Phil-Am Society's goal this year is to raise funds to provide financial support to build homes for the Habitat for Humanity in Dayton and Gawad Kalinga in the Philippines.

The Dayton Habitat for Humanity partners with God and people of faith and good will to eliminate substandard housing in Montgomery County. The organization renovates or builds new, decent, and affordable housing that aims to strengthen individuals, their families, and their neighborhoods through home ownership. Habitat for Humanity serves as a hand up, not a handout for families in need. Families apply to earn a house of their own. Once accepted, "Partner Families" work alongside volunteers to build their house.

Gawad Kalinga, which means "to give care," is an alternative solution to poverty not just in the Philippines but throughout the world. Its vision for the Philippines is a slum-free, squatter-free nation through a strategy of providing land for the landless, homes for the homeless, food for the hungry, and dignity and peace for every Filipino. It started in 1995 as a daring initiative by Couples for Christ to rehabilitate juvenile gang members and help out-of-school youth in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, and evolved into a movement for nation-building. Gawad Kalinga is now in the process of transforming poverty stricken areas by building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in 7 years (2003-2010). Providing a decent home is just the start of the transformation of people and communities.

To give focus to this goal of providing homes for the homeless, the Phil-Am Society adopted the "Helping Hands for the Homeless" theme for 2008. We planned three fund-raising activities for the "Helping Hands for the Homeless" program: (1) the Induction of Officers Ball, which was held last February; (2) the 2008 Phil-Am Society Directory, which we made available at the Dayton International Festival, Inc. (DIFI) A World A'Fair in May; and (3) the Bongga Ka 'Day Summer Dance, which is scheduled on August 30.

We planned the Bongga Ka 'Day Summer Dance to be an affair-to-remember with glitz and glamour: a fashion show, the crowning of Miss Phil-Am Society Gawad Kalinga and Miss Phil-Am Society Habitat for Humanity, raffle prizes, glamour-shots by a professional photographer, and dancing. The primary objective of the summer dance is to culminate the "Helping Hands for the Homeless" program by providing a final opportunity to support the program. A secondary objective is to help the Pamana dance group, the newly-formed cultural dance arm of the Phil-Am Society's Cultural Committee, acquire costumes and props so it may fulfill the organization's goal of enhancing the history and cultural heritage of the Filipino-American community in the Dayton-area.

The following are the levels of participation and the amounts of contributions we seek:

<u>Participation Level</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Directory Greeting</u>
Platinum	\$100.00 and up	Full Page
Gold	\$50.00 - \$99.99	One-Half Page
Silver	\$25.00 - \$49.99	One-Fourth Page
Bronze	\$24.99 and below	Five-line Listing

We'll acknowledge your generosity and support in the Summer Dance Souvenir Program, which we will make available during the Bongga Ka 'Day dance on August 30.

Please consider sharing the blessings God has bestowed upon you through the Phil-Am Society's "Helping Hands for the Homeless" program. Help us provide homes for the homeless and dignity to the less fortunate. To contribute, see the "Helping Hand for the Homeless" insert in this issue of the *Fil-Am Balita*.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Current as of June 15, 2008)

January 5	Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 1) <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
February 16	Induction of Officers Ball <i>Holiday Inn, Fairborn</i>
March 1	DIFI Miss A World A'Fair Pageant and Ball <i>Eintracht Signing Society, Huber Heights</i>
April 5	Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 2) <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
April 12	Wright State University Asian Culture Night <i>Apollo Hall, WSU, Fairborn</i>
May 16, 17, 18	DIFI A World A'Fair <i>Dayton Convention Center, Dayton</i>
June 8	Graduates Recognition Reception <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
July 26	Annual Phil-Am Fiesta Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 3) <i>East Community Park, Fairborn</i>
August 23	AAC Asian Cultural Festival <i>Library Park, Miamisburg</i>
August 30	Bongga Ka 'Day! Summer Dance <i>Mahara Banquet Center, Dayton</i>
September 13	APPGD Fund-Raising Ball <i>Crown Plaza, Dayton</i>
September 20	Our Lady of Penafrancia Family Fiesta <i>Delco Park, Kettering</i>
September 21	Election Picnic <i>Delco Park, Kettering</i>
October 3, 4, 5	Midifest International <i>One Donham Plaza, Middletown</i>
October 11	Building Project Fundraising Raffle <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
October 25	FALOD Annual Affair <i>Holiday Inn, Fairborn</i>
November 1	Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 4) <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
December 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 19, 20, 21	Christmas Caroling & Scholarship Fundraising <i>Homes of Filipino-American Hosts</i>
December 13	Family Christmas Party <i>Filipiniana Hall, Dayton</i>
December 31	New Year's Eve Party <i>Holiday Inn, Dayton</i>

2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Jim Gonzalvo	Ron Connally
Lou Castro	Chuck Castro
Romy Fernandez	Kay De Leon
Marie Lim Kong	Babes Bandalan

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Humanitarian Sonny Amisola (APPGD)
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Scholarship Nita Fernandez
(*scholarship-chair@phil-am-dayton.org*)

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(*leaders@phil-am-dayton.org*)

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Brookville Marianne Powell

Centerville Rachel Trocino

Fairborn Lilia Jarnigan

Huber Heights Lilia Fernandez

Cecile Pence

Trotwood Mary-Ann Johnson

Troy Marylou Echevarria

West Carrollton Cora Foust

Wright-Patterson AFB Borge Cantillas

Thank You!

We sincerely appreciate all that have contributed so far to the “*Helping Hands for the Homeless*” project.

The project aims to raise funds to give dignity and peace to the less-fortunate by helping to provide homes through the Habitat for Humanity in Dayton and Gawad Kalinga in the Philippines. The project consists of three fund-raising activities: (1) the Induction of Officers Ball Souvenir Program, (2) the 2008 Phil-Am Society Directory, and (3) the Summer Dance Souvenir Program. To date, we completed the first two projects, which were successful due to the following:

Induction of Officers Ball Souvenir Program

2008 Phil-Am Society Directory

Platinum

Ernie & Fong Carrillo
Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (Joe Damo)
Kalesa (Vicki Villeral)
David & Gloria Morris
Peace Museum (Jim Hagan)
Rachel Trocino
Gary & Racquel Tucker
University of Dayton (Amy Anderson)

Reliv (Roger Naguit)
Dayton Mailing Service (Bob Hale)
Roberto & Honeylynn Kong
NaFFAA Florida (Romy Dela Paz)
Jane Swope
Ed & Yolanda Truckenbrodt
TRM (Trace Trajano)

Domingo & Perla Bernal
Dayton Mailing Service (Bob Hale)
Gary & Cora Foust
HBE Securities, LLC (Carmen Directo)
Mortgagae House of America, LLC
Relish Modern Tapas (Jojo Prisno)

Ernie & Fong Carrillo
Diane Felkenes
Joe & Angie Gabatin
Merrill Lynch (Jojo Prisno)
Vic & Matet Nanagas
Cleotilde M. Sayson

Gold

Chuck & Lou Castro
Wendell & Vilma Helms
Cecile Pence
TFAm (Jason Dimaculangan)

FALOD (Vilma Helms)
Vic & Matet Nanagas
Carlito & Marie Lim Kong

FALOD (Vilma Helms)
Divina Welch

Wendell & Vilma Helms

Silver

Danny & Sally Juan

Noe & Rose Prado

Larry & Agripina Anders
Leo Sorio

Noli & Aida Antija

The final opportunity to contribute towards the “*Helping Hands for the Homeless*” project is through the 2008 Summer Dance Souvenir Program, which we will publish and make available at the *Bongga Ka ‘Day Summer Dance* on August 30. See the article on page 22 and the “*Helping Hands for the Homeless*” ***Bongga Ka ‘Day Summer Dance Souvenir Program Greeting Form*** insert in this issue of the *Fil-Am Balita* to contribute to this worthwhile activity to help the homeless.

PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREATER DAYTON
P.O. BOX 2153
DAYTON, OH 45401

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OHIO
PERMIT # 1315

Change Service Requested

Dust off your dancing shoes...
Put on your hottest and most glamorous outfit...
And join us for an evening of Fashion, Food, and Fun while
supporting the “Helping Hands for the Homeless” project
during the Bongga Ka ‘Day Summer Dance.



EMAIL TELEPHONE AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MAILINGLISTUPDATE@PHIL-AM-DAYTON.ORG

Visit the Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton on-line at: <http://www.phil-am-dayton.org>



**THE PHILIPPINE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF
GREATER DAYTON**

2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Is your number Listed or Unlisted? Listed Unlisted¹
Email Address: _____

NOTE:

¹ The Phil-Am Society will not disclose unlisted telephone numbers or publish them in the Phil-Am Society Directory.

Type of Membership	Membership Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> Family.....	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals	\$10

Please make your check payable to the **Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton**, write **Membership Dues** on the memo, and mail it to:

Membership Director
Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton
P.O. Box 2153
DAYTON, OH 45401

Cut along line before mailing the Membership Application above

Kroger Reward Card Program

The Phil-Am Society Executive Committee and the Phil-Am Society Building Project Committee work hard each month to raise funds to pay for the cost of renting the Filipiniana Hall. The monthly rent of the Filipiniana Hall is \$400, which could readily be covered by the proceeds of any rebates from the Kroger Reward Card Program if the Phil-Am Society's members and supporters helped and participated in the program.

Helping Is As Easy As 1 2 3

To participate in the Phil-Am Society's Kroger Reward Card Program and help the organization raise funds to pay for the rent of the Filipiniana Hall, members and supporters of the organization simply need to do three things:

1. Purchase a \$25 Kroger Reward Card from the Phil-Am Society. (You only need to purchase a card once and the card may be used immediately for \$25 worth of purchases at Kroger.)
2. Reload your Kroger Reward Card at the Customer Service Desk before you shop or at any register before you check out.
3. Pay for your purchase of groceries, fuel, or prescriptions with your Reward Card.

What's In It for You?

Of course, the incentive to you for your participation and support of the Phil-Am Society is the GOOD FEELING you get knowing you helped your fellow Filipino-Americans raise money that goes towards the rent of the Filipiniana Hall. But, as if that were not enough, the Phil-Am Society decided to offer you an additional incentive that potentially puts money back into your pockets!

Every quarter, the Phil-Am Society will tally the Kroger Reward Card reloads of all participants of the program. The individual that has the greatest amount of reloads to their Kroger Reward Card during the quarter will receive a check from the Phil-Am Society in the amount of \$25 and the individual will be recognized in that quarter's issue of the Fil-Am Balita.

Please Help

You already shop for groceries. So, instead of shopping with cash, check, or credit card, purchase a Kroger Reward Card with cash or a check, and pay for your shopping purchases with a Kroger Reward Card. To obtain your Kroger Reward Card, please contact:

Bob Hale – Building Project Committee Chair
(937) 222-5056
reward-card@phil-am-dayton.org



Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton

Bongga Ka 'Day Summer Dance



When August 30, 2007 / 5:00 pm

Place Mahara Banquet Center
1780 S. Alex Road
Dayton, Ohio

Cost per Person..... \$35 – If you RSVP **BY** August 20
\$40 – If you RSVP **AFTER** August 20

Attire Semi-Formal



What you can expect...

Fashion Show featuring the glamour and glitz of the gorgeous women of the Phil-Am Society

Crowning of the Phil-Am Society *Miss Gawad Kalinga* and *Miss Habitat for Humanity*

Chance to win valuable Door Prizes and Gifts

Several opportunities to win cold hard cash during Fifty-Fifty Raffles

Glamor Shots taken by a professional photographer

Dinner Buffet and Filipino desserts and snacks

Dancing until you just can't dance anymore

Souvenir Program commemorating the event

Your candid Summer Dance Photos captured for inclusion in the Jul - Sep 2008 issue of the Fil-Am Balita

Why we're doing this...

To raise funds for the "Helping Hands for the Homeless" project, which aims to give dignity and peace to the less-fortunate by providing them with homes through Gawad Kalinga and the Dayton Habitat for Humanity

To raise funds to acquire costumes and props for the Cultural Committee's Pamana dance group

To give the Filipino-American community in the Dayton area an opportunity to get involved with a very active Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton organization

To give all of us an excuse to gather with Filipino-American friends and family and have some FUN

For Information:

Armin Sayson.....(937) 361-1058
Vilma Helms.....(937) 313-9712
Tonette O'Connor(937) 284-2505
Lina Belen(937) 879-3818

Maritza Freshour(937) 962-2537
Fong Carrillo.....(937) 667-0071
Jessica Kelly.....(937) 554-2768
Leticia McCreary(937) 838-2355



**PHILIPPINE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF
GREATER DAYTON**

Solicitor Candidate: _____

“HELPING HANDS FOR THE HOMELESS”
Bongga Ka 'Day
Summer Dance Souvenir Program Greeting Form

Your Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

The Phil-Am Society will provide a receipt for and acknowledge your contribution in the Summer Dance Souvenir Program

Donor Level	Contribution	Summer Dance Greeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum\$100.00 and above Full Page ¹
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold\$50.00 to \$99.99 One-Half Page
<input type="checkbox"/> Silver\$25.00 to \$49.99 One-Fourth Page
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze\$24.99 and below Five-Line Listing

Note: 1. The greeting of the Full-Page contributor with the largest contribution will be placed on either the inside or outside cover. The Phil-Am Society reserves the right to determine where to place all Full-Page greetings.

Please make your check payable to **Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton**, write **Summer Dance** on the memo line, and mail it to:

2008 Summer Dance Souvenir Program
Phil-Am Society of Greater Dayton
P.O. Box 2153
DAYTON, OH 45401

Also, include below the text of the greeting you wish to place in the Directory, or email a copy of the greeting to:
summerdance@phil-am-dayton.org



Philippine-American Society of Greater Dayton

SAVE THESE 2008 DATES!

(Current as of August 2)

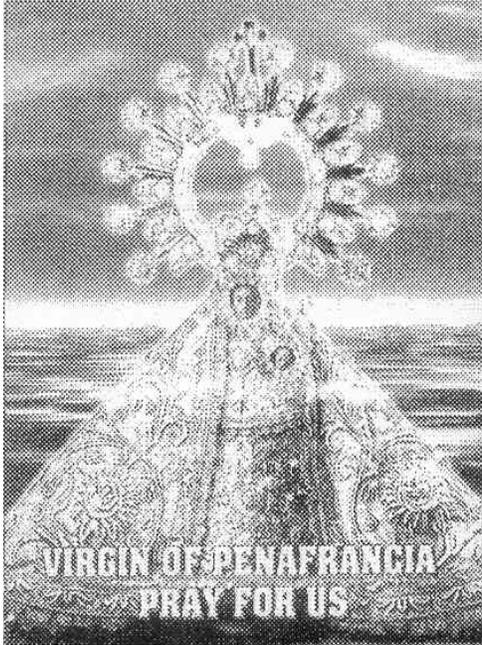
Please mark your calendars now with these important 2008 activities and events tentatively planned for the Dayton-area Filipino-American community.

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| • January 5 | Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 1) | Filipiniana Hall |
| • February 16 | Induction of Officers Ball | Holiday Inn Fairborn |
| • March 1 | <u>DIFI</u> Miss A World A'Fair Pageant/Ball | Eintracht Singing Society |
| • April 5 | Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 2) | Filipiniana Hall |
| • April 12 | <u>WSU</u> Asian Culture Night | Wright State University |
| • May 16, 17, 18 | <u>DIFI</u> A World A'Fair | Dayton Convention Center |
| • June 8 | Graduates Recognition Reception | Filipiniana Hall |
| • July 26 | Annual Phil-Am Fiesta
Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 3) | East Community Park |
| • August 23 | <u>AAC</u> Asian Cultural Festival | Miamisburg Library Park |
| • August 30 | Bongga Ka 'Day! Summer Dance | Mahara Banquet Center |
| • September 13 | <u>APPGD</u> Fundraising Dinner/Dance | Crown Plaza Hotel |
| • September 20 | <u>Penafrancia</u> Family Fiesta | Delco Park |
| • September 21 | Election of Officers Picnic | Delco Park |
| • October 3, 4, 5 | Middfest International | Middletown |
| • October 4 | Zumba Kick-off Party (Session 4) | Filipiniana Hall |
| • October 11 | <u>Bldg Proj Committee</u> Reverse Raffle | Filipiniana Hall |
| • October 25 | <u>FALOD</u> 10 th Anniversary Affair | Holiday Inn Fairborn |
| • December 5, 6, 7
12, 14
19, 20, 21 | Christmas Caroling | Filipino-American Homes |
| • December 13 | Family Christmas Party | Filipiniana Hall |

For questions, please call

Armin Sayson (937) 361-1058
 Tonette O'Connor (937) 284-2505
 Vilma Helms (937) 866-5106
 Lina Belen (937) 879-3818
 Norma Knott (Board of Advisors) (937) 294-4356
 Vilma Helms (FALOD) (937) 866-5106
 Kim Revels (Cultural Committee)..... (937) 236-8744

Maritza Freshour (937) 962-2537
 Fong Carrillo..... (937) 667-0071
 Jessica Kellie..... (937) 554-2768
 Leticia McCreary (937) 256-0907
 Bob Hale (Bldg Proj Committee) (937) 222-5056
 Sonny Amisola (APPGD) (937) 427-1811
 Rose Prado (Penafrancia) (937) 293-3775



YOUR FAMILY IS INVITED TO THE 11TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA

DATE: Saturday, September 20, 2008
Mass begins at 11am

PLACE: Delco Park
Kettering (watch for the signs)

FOOD: Roasted pig, rice & sodas will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Virgin of Penafrancia (Miraculous Patroness)

As a Christian family, we are a family united by our belief in the blessed trinity.

Inspired by Mary, the Virgin of Penafrancia, and a Miraculous Patroness. Our Lady indicates the great need we have on prayer to obtain the grace of peace among nations and people in families and homes and above all, peace of conscience and reconciliation with God.

It is not enough to pray once in a while, we must pray always, that everyday with faith and confidence. Because everyday we are guilty of certain faults, and therefore we must have recourse to God DAILY, to beg his pardon and obtain his help. But to achieve this end, WE MUST PRAY.

We warmly and openly welcome all who seek to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ.

Directions

From Fairborn / Beavercreek areas: Take I-675 South and exit on E. Dorothy Lane. Turn right, stay on E. Dorothy Lane, go pass Woodman Drive, about ½ mile, after passing Woodman Drive, approximately 2 blocks, turn right into Delco Park (entrance is across the street from Wendy's and Bob Evans restaurant).

From Centerville areas: Take I-675 North and exit on E. Dorothy Lane. Turn left, stay on E. Dorothy Lane, go pass Woodman Drive, about ½ mile, after passing Woodman Drive, approximately 2 blocks, turn right into Delco Park (entrance is across the street from Wendy's and Bob Evans restaurant).

For more information call:

Rose Prado.....(937) 431-8334
Aida Antija(937) 427-2110
Connie Rico(937) 253-2831

Vilma Helms(937) 866-5106
Cora Foust.....(937) 859-5403

There will be games and entertainment for everyone to enjoy!!