

Saint Joseph's Academy Las Pinas, Philippines 2009 Grand Reunion In Oxnard, California

VINCENT Baltazar, the current president of St. Joseph's Academy Alumni Association of Southern California (SJAAASC), and Lucie Mayuga Ongaco, the event chairperson, cordially invite all former students of St. Joseph's Academy (Las Pinas, Philippines), to the upcoming Third SJAAASC Grand Alumni Reunion that will coincide with the Labor Day weekend of 2009.

The Grand Reunion will be held on the entire day of September 5, 2009 at College Park - 3250 South Rose Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93033. This will be a morning-to-dusk affair; and the costume theme will be Hawaiian. The association has contracted vendors to provide food and drinks for individual purchase. There will be games and fun activities - so needless to say, family members are welcome.

Two nearby hotels are recommended: Comfort Inn at 1001 E. Channel Islands Blvd. Oxnard, CA 93036 (about 1/2 mile from venue), Phone: (805) 487-7755, and Best Western at 1156 S. Oxnard Blvd. 93030 (about 2 miles from venue), Phone: (805) 483-9581.

Bring your proof of stay at any hotel in Oxnard, to the reunion. We will have a drawing, and two lucky alumni will be reimbursed - thanks to the generosity of our First Lady - Mrs. Vollette Baltazar!

The following evening, Sunday Sept. 6, 2009, the reunion celebrations will continue with a Reunion Dance at SMR Dance Studio - 10591 Mills Avenue, Montclair, CA 91763. This will be from 7pm till midnight. The theme will continue to be Hawaiian. A dinner buffet is included with the \$25 entrance ticket. Since the venue has a maximum occupancy of 150, this will be a first come-first seated basis. Tickets will be pre-sold.

The recommended hotel is: Hotel Clairemont at 840 South Indian Hill Blvd. Claremont, CA (about 1.5 miles from venue), Phone: (909) 621-4831.

It is extremely exciting to be able to re-connect and catch-up with your beloved classmates and

everybody else, so start contacting your buddies, and make your vacation plans.

For more information, you may email: Vincent Baltazar - res04fgu@verizon.net or Lucie Mayuga Ongaco - Longaco@osterkampgrp.com.

Class Participation
Get together with your classmates to prepare for the Class Cheering Contest!

Yes, we will have a Cheering Contest. So, come up with your best cheers and choreography - SIS-BOOM-BAH! Praise your Class, Praise SJA. Design your best cheering squad outfit: pom-poms, bull horns...the works! Practice your high kicks, and SCREAM! This will be FUN!

During the Reunion, we will introduce and photograph each Class. You may want to have your Class T-shirts made, and wear them for this souvenir photograph. (Please include: "SJAAASC 2009 Reunion".)

While the different batches are being introduced and photographed, we will set up a projector for a picture slide show (no live-video/audio). Each Class will be allotted 3 minutes, so we will include 36 of your class pictures (5-second slide). You may include old, recent, group, or individual pix. Let's get busy! Please send a zip file of your JPEG formatted pictures to Mel Rivera at mky1mse@gmail.com. Mel will compile the pictures for the slide show, so he has to receive them by August 10, 2009. Thanks.

Class '73 will be in charge of coordinating the entertainment activities before and during the Reunion. So, if you have any suggestions, or if your class will provide a special number that you want included in the program, please contact: Lyn (De Leon) San Miguel at linsanmiguel@yahoo.com.

Needless to say, after the programs, you'll put on your dance shoes, and do some serious swing, cha-cha-cha, boogey, salsa, and of course...line-dancing!

You may forget to bring extra socks and underwear, but do not forget to bring your cameras! ■

Lasallians converge at World Congress in LA

IT'S just 'round the corner! On May 22-24, 2009, the De La Salle Alumni Association of Southern California hosts the 7th De La Salle Alumni World Congress at the Hilton Universal City, atop the scenic hills of Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

In line with the event's theme of "Green and White Convergence," the biennial World Congress serves as a grand reunion of the different La Salle alumni chapter officers and members from around the world, representing the 17 La Salle schools throughout the Philippines -- from the oldest, De La Salle Taft (established 1911) to even the newest, the Jaime Hilario - La Salle school in Bataan (2006).

From the first one held in Manila in 1997, with the theme of "Animo La Salle, Wherever You Are," the DLSAA World Congress has gone on to keep the ANIMO spirit alive globally, with succeeding reunions held in Oakland, CA, Cebu City, Washington, DC, Baguio City, and, in 2007, in Toronto.

Elections, golf & jazz
During the World Congress, a new set of officers for the umbrella alumni association will be elected by the presidents of the La Salle alumni chapters.

In addition, the Congress will feature activities and festivities during the three-day event. These include a big golf tournament at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena, bowling, a picnic, fellowship/welcome cocktails featuring world-class jazz talent Boy Katindig, informative round table discussions on the La Salle Phils. system's current state of affairs, motivational speakers, Hollywood entertainment tours, and a star-studded dinner-dance with plenty

of surprise guests. Perhaps a dance-off?

One La Salle Raffle
The host chapter has launched a souvenir program fund-raising drive to ensure the event's success, with a unique incentive provided to sponsors. In keeping with the green eco-consciousness promoted by the De La Salle Philippines system, a 2009 Honda Civic Hybrid will be raffled off to a lucky advertiser, along with numerous other door prizes, during the dinner-dance on May 23.

More important, net proceeds will go to the One La Salle Scholarship Endowment Fund, which aims by year 2011 to provide scholarship to one out of five students enrolled in all La Salle schools in the Philippines, based on financial need. Likewise, other causes and ministries supported by DLSAA-SC in the past will benefit from the net proceeds.

Recognition
In an effort to highlight the diversity of the alumni group, the host chapter will recognize the attendance of different Lasallian 'batches,' in addition to honoring significant La Salle achievers.

So, from Zama Zipa Zam to Rektikano, come on to LA and Cheer, Cheer for Old De La Salle! The DLSAA and the Southern California Chapter invite all alumni to relive and share the Lasallian spirit and camaraderie. Whether Archers, Cowboys, Blazers, Crusaders, Chevrons, Patriots, Greenies, Rangers or Stingers, we're all Lasallians: One La Salle!

For details, please check out our website, www.dlsaasc.org, and register online.

Hold La Salle's banner high and bright. ANIMO LA SALLE! ■

Fundraising Efforts in NYC for Street Kids in the Philippines

NEW YORK CITY - Omnilogy, Inc. (www.omnologyinc.org) hosted a successful classical music benefit concert entitled "Inspiration Heals: Bridging the Gap Across Cultures and Between Cultures" at Merkin Concert Hall, Manhattan, New York, on Monday, April 6, 2009. The concert featured an evening of inspired song, dance, and chamber music with performing artists from all over the world. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the underprivileged communities in Cebu City, Philippines.

Bridging the Gap is a series of benefit concerts for the underprivileged most especially the poverty stricken children of the world by starting from one city at a time. The concerts aim to bridge the gap across and between cultures, and to provide empowerment opportunities for poverty-stricken communities in Southeast Asia. The series advocates that "Inspiration Heals" and promotes One Humanity.

An international "who's who" of artists donated their time and talent in support of this worthy cause to perform at at Omnilogy's Merkin Hall benefit concert. They are (in alphabetical order): Gulruhk Abdikadirova (violin), Racquel Borromeo (piano), Meagan Brus (soprano), Luis Casal (violin), Elissa Cassini (violin), Vernon Di Carlo (tenor), Paul Gintov (piano), Alexander Gurevich (viola), Cecilia Kwok (cello), Mariane Lemieux (soprano), Enrique Márquez (viola), Adrienne Pardee (soprano), Jeremy Rafal (piano), Christina Renckens (dance), Pablo Sainz-Villegas* (guitar), Liza Stepanova (piano), Suzanne Schwing (mezzo-soprano), and Laura Virella (mezzo-soprano). [*Mr. Sainz-Villegas appears with the support of the Consulate General of Spain in New York.]

Omnilogy, Inc. thanks the following for their support of the "Inspiration Heals" concert: Firestop Phils. Corporation, White Canvas and Papers & Tschai, The Consulate General of Spain in New York, DaSBro Enterprise, Cesar Vichido, Tan Xuanrong, Ted Kwan, Faisal Ariff, the International House, BronxNet, and all the performers in this program.

Omnilogy has a number of events planned for 2009 and beyond. Among these is "Footprints in the Ocean" - a Painting and Photo Exhibit - fundraiser/silent auction to be held in New York City on Thursday, April 23, 2009, 7 pm, at Covo Lounge 1701 West 135th Street (corner of 12th Avenue), Manhattan, NY; telephone: (212) 234-9573; website: www.covony.com

Furthermore, Omnilogy, in cooperation with the Arts Council of Cebu, is planning a number of fundraising activities in Cebu, including a 10-day event consisting of a Music and Art Festival from July 27-August 8, 2009. This event will also include Bridging the Gap series workshops, and various outreach activities for the underprivileged communities such as livelihood training programs, alternative education workshops, and much more. ■



THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

From PAGE 13

Hill, NY
April 19| Sunday
Core's Community Service Day
You are cordially invited to CORE's Community Service Day to assist Bagong Kulturang Pinoy-New York (BKP-NY)'s "A Family Affair"; A Book Drive & An Afternoon of Fun for Kids & Their Grown-Ups on April 19, 1-6pm at the Queens Museum of Art, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Queens, New York. For more info. go to website www.core-nyc.org

April 24| Friday
Salu-Salo Para Kay San Lorenzo
The New York Archdiocese' Filipino Apostolate and the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz' Team Ministry Cordially invite you to a Salu-Salo Para kay San Lorenzo at the Philippine Center, 556 Fifth Avenue, New York (Kalayaan Hall) on April 24, 6:30PM. Please confirm your attendance with Mr. Reynor Santiago (212) 966-1019 and Ms. Marivic Dimaculangan (212) 764-1330 ext. 310.

April 25| Saturday
Diwang Pinay, Light of the Nation, Ilaw ng Bayan
Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment presents...DIWANG PINAY
Light of the Nation, Ilaw ng Bayan. Celebrating 25 Years of Filipino Women's Resistance.

FILIPINA and FILIPINA-AMERICAN PERFORMERS * WRITERS * and VISUAL ARTISTS * SILENT AUCTION * FILIPINO FOOD! To be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Judson Memorial Church (55 Washington Square South New York, NY)
Doors open at 6:30pm and Silent Auction Begins!
Delicious Filipino Foods and desserts catered by Kabalikat
Get your advanced Tickets NOW at brown paper tickets:
www.brownpapertickets.com Tickets also sold at the door.

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IN REUNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

In our continuing efforts to serve the Fil-Am Community, Asian Journal will be featuring profiles of Filipino-American associations here in the United States.



Please submit a brief background of your association, a list of current officers and your contact information for the benefit of our readers who may want to get in touch with you.

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NYC Young Filipino Professionals cultured in the fine art of wine tasting

NEW YORK CITY - Over 30 aspiring wine connoisseurs sipped, slurped and swirled their way through some of the world's leading boutique wines at CORE's Kababayan Wine Tasting Event on Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

Mark Habana, Chair of Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment, Inc. (CORE), began the night with a brief introduction about CORE and the organization's 2009 focus on building educational components into its membership events to engage all participants, from members and guests to community partners, vendors and sponsors. Trevor Yee and Ricky Tran, the founders of event sponsor Side by Side Financials, LLC welcomed the guests and introduced Melissa Hall, from BottleRocket Wine and Spirit, to begin the wine tasting session.



CORE members during the Kababayan wine tasting event

Ms. Hall, with other store representatives Marisela Gonzalez and Vanderlei Goncalves, revealed the intricacies of the wine world, while guests sampled wines from each of the four major grape types: Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Pinot Noir; and accompanied their drinks with delicious cheeses and breads.

"There were definitely plenty of laughs and engaging conversation throughout the evening! Importantly, I think everyone walked away with a little more confidence when it comes to choosing a wine at their local bottle shop or during a business lunch," said Venessa Manzano, Vice Chair of Membership Services for CORE.

Melissa Hall added, "In particular, I was impressed with the guests' intelligent questions about the wine served and their ability to integrate learning about wine with networking with their colleagues."

The sold-out event was a new offering by CORE, intended to facilitate networking beyond the usual happy hour mixer event. The integration of the educational element served to encourage communication between participants, who represented a diverse range of professions, from financial services, journalism, information technology and the medical field.

"The wine tasting event caught my eye because it was 'atypical' from programs usually offered by Filipino-American organizations," said CORE member Tracy Tabije. "The event was enjoyable and well run. I was looking forward to learning something about wine, but also hoped to gain networking contacts for future business opportunities. I was successful in both these respects."

All guests received complimentary stemless wine glasses and a wine pourer/bottle stopper, courtesy of Side By Side Financials, LLC. One guest, Aureo Sales, also walked away with a free bottle of wine.

For more information about CORE and to learn about their upcoming events, visit: www.core-nyc.org. Membership is free. ■

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