

RE-UNION

Filipino-American Associations in America

Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you Re:Union, Filipino American Associations in America -- your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.

Lucban Association of Northern California

Contact : www.lucban.org

IT started as a vision. In 1976, out of sheer nostalgia and homesickness, the late Larry T. Beltran, a community leader, was supervising the youth club, composed mostly of Filipino youngsters in the upper Mission area of San Francisco. Larry assisted the boys to be in the summer job program; helped them to be involved in sports, especially basketball and swimming; encouraged them to read books in the public libraries rather than roaming around the streets. The team members playing basketball were Larry's son Sammy Beltran, Jojo Orcena, Sandy and William Watson and other boys. Another guy, Mr. Ansay, assisting Larry asked Sandy if his father's name is Willie Watson who was then residing in Guam. Mr. Ansay happened to be a first cousin of Sandy and William's father, from Cavinte, Laguna. Larry upon hearing the conversation asked them if they are from Lucban, Quezon. Larry Beltran asked the three boys who their parents were and where they lived. Larry accompanied by his wife, the late Connie Beltran, immediately paid a visit to

Sandy's home, a few blocks away from their house. He met their grandmother, the late Maria Racelis-Obana and his mother, Vener who gave him several other Lucbanin names in the Bay Area. Beltran's vision became a mission: to organize a Lucbanin club. Larry was able to gather a handful of Lucbanin families residing in the San Francisco Bay Area. During the first organized picnic meeting at Rinconada Park in Palo Alto, the following families: Bajar, Beltran, Casino, Ella, Maderal, Obana-Watson, Orcena, Palenzuela, Quevada, Racelis, Suarez, Terciano, Veluz and Vil-lasenor founded the organization. The new organization was called "Lucbanin of the Bay Area," since no one among the members lived farther than Oakland. From these fourteen original member families, seven individuals have become presidents of the organization: Art Ella, Rosalind Quevada-Coquia, Clara Ella, Ben Bajar, Araceli Obana-Orcena, Wilson Terciano, and Vener Obana-Mirabel.

Today, over 25 years and growing stronger, we are the Lucban Association of Northern California. ■

Bacooreans of Northern California Fiesta on May 10

THE Bacooreans of Northern California will honor the patron saint, St. Michael de Arkanghel with a town fiesta on Sunday, May 10, at the Newark Swiss Park, 5911 Mowry Avenue, Newark. Simultaneous celebrations will also be held by the Bacooreans of Southern California in Los Angeles, with main activities at Bacoor, Cavite in the Philippines.

The occasion will start off with a Holy Mass at 10am, with Fr. Aurelio Picart officiating. All past Hermana Mayors from 2000 until 2017 are invited to join the Mass, with a procession/karakol to follow thereafter.

This year's Hermana Mayor is Diana Paraiso, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ramos, also the overall chairman, assisted by Chochoy Ramos, the co-chair. Oscar Malinis, Jr. president, chairmen and members of the association will help manage the whole-day affair. Other working committees are: Oscar Malinis, Dado Ramos Eddie Mariano, Charlie Pascual and Pete Antonio - park set up, Nory Madlangasacay, Baby Antonio, Baby de Leon - mass/altar, Josie Velasquez, Mercy Mariano, Teli Capino and Lou Javier - registration, Norman Antonio, Dher Ramos and Jojo Obiniana - games / entertainment, Rebecca Ramos, Priscilla Ramos, Priscilla Rivera, Imelda Pascual, Precy Pagtakhan - raffle, and Ester Sanchez, Tessie Mariano, Chet Ortalea and Nelia Miranda - food / beverages.

To add color to the occasion, there will be a raffle with valuable prizes at stake. Lunch prepared by the association and Hermana Mayor, with favorite potluck dishes from members and of course, lechon (roasted pig).

All resident from Bacoor living in the Bay Area and adjacent states are encouraged to attend this yearly celebration to rekindle camaraderie and cultural renewal away from home. ■

People and Events

LOWELL ORIEL PALACPAC

In Quest for the Eagle

By LORELEI ORIEL PALACPAC

IN 1908, Lord Robert Baden-Powell founded Boys Scouts of America, an organization committed to developing character, citizenship, personal fitness qualities and an appreciation for the outdoors in young boys around the nation. Those who have participated in this organization have come out of the experience learning the importance of teamwork, social consciousness, and volunteerism, making them better prepared to become future leaders and responsible citizens actively participating in their communities.

Lowell Oriel Palacpac first joined the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 1005 when he was 11 years old. Now at the age of 17, he achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 12, 2008. The Eagle Scout is one of the highest ranks attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America. The prerequisite to be eligible for the Eagle Scout rank is to earn at least 21 merit badges demonstrating Scout Spirit, service, and leadership. Frequently, Lowell earned his badges in Swimming, Citizenship in the Nation and Community, Environmental Science, Emergency Preparedness, Personal Management, Personal Fitness, etc., at Summer Camps. He was also required to plan, develop, and organize a service project that would benefit another organization.



Photo shows Council Members John C. Martins, Tony Lima and Larry R. Nelson; (front) Council Member Victor Manalo, Louis (father), Lowell Oriel Palacpac, Imelda (mother), City of Artesia Mayor Sally Zuniga Flowers, Lowell's former Scoutmaster Michael Choi, Lowell's Gahr High School teacher, Miguel Canales after receiving a Certificate of Recognition at the Artesia City Hall.

neighborhood. In addition, my experiences helped me to grow as a leader and gain self-confidence. I am humbled and proud that my community is able to appreciate the completed project," he adds.

But the project was not without its setbacks and there were times when he got frustrated.

"I reminded myself of how the community would benefit. My hope was that the beauty of the garden would encourage them to utilize the library, a beautiful and safe environment for learning. This accomplishment has encouraged me to keep pushing myself in my new endeavors and to never lose sight of the bigger picture and rewards that would come at the end. As I end high school and my dreams of college take flight, I look forward to the bigger challenges that await me, which can only allow me to grow into a more confident, stronger person and to realize my full potential," he says.

All his hard work and dedication paid off as Lowell was given a special certificate of recognition twice for beautifying the Artesia Library and also for achieving the Eagle Scout rank. Lowell, on the other hand, insists he could not have succeeded without the help of some people.

Lowell was twice given the Certificate of Recognition for beautifying the Artesia Library and also for achieving the Eagle Scout Rank. All his hard work and dedication paid off, however Lowell insists that he could not have succeeded without the help of many people.

"I would like to thank the City Council of Artesia and all the staff for allowing me to complete a community project: Mayor Sally Zuniga Flowers, Mayor Pro Tem Tony Lima, Council Members Victor Manalo, John Martins, and Larry Nelson, City Manager Maria Dadian, Public Works and Consultant Chuck Burkhardt, Communications Specialist Andrew Perry, and Ms. Amelia Nacu; Boy Scouts of America Frontier District, LAAC, Advancement Chair Y.T. Chung, Council Advancement Committee Members, Dianne Culton and Diana Fournier; Eagle Character Board: Richard Brown, Gary Singh Rulan Miao, Glen Askland, and Mark Pulido; Troop 1005 Scoutmasters Eric Wu, Michael Choi, and Glen Askland; Nar Boribon, Nish Choksi, Troop 1005 Scouts and Parents. I especially appreciate my mentors for their letters of recommendations and continuous support: "Guro" Annalyn Catalasan of Team Intense, Scoutmaster Michael Choi, Tony Manrique of the All American Boys Chorus, and Father Johnny Zulueta of Holy Family Church. Finally, Victor Manalo, the first person with whom I got in touch with as I was beginning to conceptualize the project." These days, although he is already an Eagle Scout, he still actively participates in Troop 1005. He enjoys teaching the younger kids and is willing to help fellow scouts achieve the Eagle Scout rank. He further challenged himself by achieving the next higher rank, earning the Bronze Palm rank in February 2009.

It is true that Eagle Scouts go on to accomplish even greater feats in their future, which is also the case for Lowell. In the Fall of 2009, he plans to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, receiving scholarships and majoring in Electrical Engineering. ■



Lowell with Tony Mendoza, Artesia Teacher and a member of the California State Assembly - 56th District at the Artesia City Council Meeting

"I was born in Artesia, and I always wanted to give back to the community," he said so he eventually decided to execute a project for the benefit of his community, more specifically the Artesia Public Library, where he frequented as a child growing up.

"I researched and visited churches and schools and met with parish priest, city council members and other elected officials before deciding to landscape the garden near the entrance of the library. Later knowing that I had the support of my neighbors and the city residents, I was motivated to fulfill the tasks I set out for myself and to exceed their expectations," he shares.

He underwent hours upon hours of planning and conference calls with the City Manager and his Scoutmaster in addition to raising funds for the tools and supplies that were key to the execution of his plan. In fact, the plants he used to landscape the library's garden came from the Palacpac residence and were planted and cared for by Lowell since he was 8 years old.

"I quickly learned that to be the most effective leader, I had to rely on the discipline and patience instilled in me by my parents (Louis Nafarrete Palacpac from Bani, Pangasinan and Imelda Oriel Palacpac from Binalonan, Pangasinan). I saw myself taking more initiative in recruiting volunteers, collecting donations and tools, and educating the

Independence Day ShootFest at Norco

by MANNY V. ILAGAN

NORCO, CA —The Philippine Tourism Office in cooperation with The Philippine Independence Committee invites everyone to a two-day invitational shoot fest and a banquet dinner on June 13 to 14 2009.

The shoot fest event in cooperation with Norco running Gun Club at Mike Raahauge's shooting range in Norco, presents eight challenging courses for pistol shooting enthusiasts that will both entertain and defy the skills of those who want to experience the sports.

The event will be held on June 13 to 14 2009 with banquet dinner on June 14 at 3:30 PM. The exciting pistol competition is best for beginners and the experienced as well, with great raffle prizes for all participants such as round trip tickets to the Philippines and other fun gifts awaits everyone.

There is a \$65.00 entrance fee (side match) for beginners in a one day, four stages--shoot only mode either on Saturday or Sunday and a \$95.00 entrance fee (main match) for those who will join the eight stages--two day tournament. The fee does not include food and drinks during competition, but you can buy it at the site. There is a wonderful banquet dinner, entertainment, trophies and raffle tickets following the competition for the participants, guests are not included in the raffle.

Non-shooters or visitors tagged along by the participants who want to join the banquet dinner will have to pay an additional charge of \$15 for

every banquet ticket. . A round trip ticket to the Philippines is at stake. The shoot fest is limited to only 150 participants and walk-ins are not encouraged.

The event is made possible through the cooperation of Mr. Jojo Vidanes, president of Norco Running Gun Club, which boasts of its 800 active participants. The club meets every Saturday at Raahauge's shooting enterprise outside Norco. Vidanes, 40 is the 2008 IPSC Modified World champion who has competed internationally from Brazil to Indonesia and to South Africa. He also repairs and customizes guns in his home in Norco.

Those who want to avail of the equipment should notify in advance, no extra charges for the loaner pistols only the ammunition should be paid for. Check-in at 8:00 AM following the safety briefing at 8:30 AM while the competition starts at 9:00 AM.

For further information please contact: Philippine Tourism Office - 3660 Wilshire Blvd. #216 Los Angeles CA 90010 Jojo Vidanes - (951) 7380207 Buddy Bautista - Match coordinator (909) 5987333

Philippine Tourism Office - (213) 4874525 Abraham Lim - (626) 2746423 Manny Ilagan - (213) 4477087 Dennis Cruz - (310) 5294599

Email at norcoshooting@aol.com Visit our website at www.jvdynamics.com and click Gun Club. ■

Being of service to others is top...

PAGE B5 ◀

ing information on Dengue prevention awarded by Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr. of Mandaluyong City. Ms. Sun also received a Certificate of Recognition for sharing her expertise and insights in the symposium with the theme "Crossing the Thresholds: Meeting the Challenges Toward Safe and Quality Nursing Practice" at the University of Perpetual Help

System College of Nursing in Laguna back in Jan. 2008.

Despite her busy schedule, Ms. Sun continues to be actively involved in her community, serving as a lector/commentator at the Holy Infant Jesus Parish, South Admiral Village in Parañaque City and actively participates in various medical missions in Metro Manila.

For guaranteed quality educa-

tion, enroll at Kennedy Global School now. Visit their main office at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors of Parc House II Tower, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City or call tel nos.: (632) 882-1600 / 882-1700 / 882-5002 / 882-5003 or send a fax to (632) 882-5003. You may also e-mail contact@kennedy-global.net or registrar@kennedy-global.net.

(Advertising Supplement)

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!

GET THE CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR PHOTOS PUBLISHED BY SENDING THEM TO US WITH COMPLETE CAPTIONS.



ASIAN JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Tel. No: 213.250.9797 Fax No: 213.481.0854

email: info@asianjournalinc.com