

People and Events

Kabalikat Society's 1st Annual Philippine Independence Day Festival

by Franz Español

CHINO HILLS - In today's modern Filipino-American household, there are very few common interests that both young Filipino-Americans and elder-generation Filipino Americans can relate to. Aside from culture and last name, there are very few similarities between these generations. In Chino Hills, California, a suburb about 30 miles away from Los Angeles, a young Filipino-American grass-roots organization is aspiring to change this phenomenon and bring young and elder generations together in order to "bridge the generational gap" between Fil-Ams in their local and surrounding neighborhoods.

Kabalikat Society was founded on October 2008, and is composed of about 20 members ranging in age from 20-27 years old. Their goal is a simple; educate the local community of the Filipino heritage, and "bridge the gap" between older and younger Filipinos. Kabalikat intends to realize their goals by putting together several community-based events that will cater to and bring together both the elder and younger Filipino Americans within their surrounding communities.

Already the Society has hosted several fundraising and community service events aimed to contribute to their Filipino American community. The most prominent activities held by Kabalikat Society has been The Lolo & Lola Palooza California/Nevada Stateline Tour, catering to a social interaction between younger and older Fil-Ams, and the 2009 Clean-up of Historic Filipinotown with Manny Pacquiao and the Filipino American organization SIPA (Search to Involve Filipino Americans).

Their fundraising and community service efforts will eventually culminate in the 1st Annual Philippine Independence Day Festival on July 12th, 2009, from 12:00pm-8:00pm. Admission is free for the event, and it will be held in the Chino Hills Community Park, 3280 Eucahyptus Avenue, in Chino Hills, California. This event is the first

Festival of its kind held in the city of Chino Hills, and has been in the works since the inception of the organization.

The 1st Annual Philippine Independence Day Festival is an all-day event celebrating culture and community through music, art, food, and entertainment. The festival will consist of fun games and activities for the kids and entire family. In addition, there will also be a Filipino cuisine cook-off consisting of traditional Filipino dishes and desserts, and an extensive Filipino American Art Exhibit displaying works by local Fil-Am artists.

Our Filipino American Art Exhibit will consist of traditional and contemporary works from several forms of media. Contributors for the Art Exhibit are all local Fil-Am artists, and art pieces will be auctioned during the Festival. Proceeds from the auction will support Kabalikat Society and three other non-profit organizations, The 25/35 Foundation, The Francis Padua Papica Foundation, and The Joseph Santos Iletto Hate Crime Prevention Fellowship.

On the main stage, live performances will be held all day. Performances will include traditional Filipino cultural dances, contemporary dance, live music, Pilipino cultural martial arts, and other live performances. Their complete line-up of live performances include:

California State University-Fullerton, Kaibigan Pilipino-American Student Association (Cultural Performance)

California Polytechnic University Pomona, Barkada Filipino-American Student Association (Cultural Performance)

Pacific Island Dancers (Cultural Performance)

Team Millennia Dance Team (Modern Dance Performance)

Troy High School Filipino Student Organization (Cultural & Modern Dance Performance)

Legacy Martial Arts Studios (Cultural Martial Arts Performance)

Love, Resonate (Alternative Praise Musical Performance)

Free the Robots (Hip-Hop Electronica Musical Performance)

ance)

My Hollow Drum (Hip-Hop Electronica Musical Performance)

Traditional Filipino cuisine as well as a variety of ethnic and local favorites will be featured in the Festival's Food Exhibit. Spectators are welcome to purchase foods that have been a long-standing favorites of the Filipino-American community. Food vendors include:

Magnolia Ice Cream
Goldilock's Bakeshop
Greenhills Seafood Market
Borakai Bakeshop & Café
Seafood Ranch Market
Robek's Juice

From an educational standpoint, Kabalikat Society has also invited and confirmed several contributors from various walks of Fil-Am life. One of the missions of the organization is to educate both Fil-Ams and other cultures of the rich heritage of the Philippines. With that said, the Society has collaborated with several Filipino-American organizations to help accomplish their mission. Contributors for the festival include:

Filipino American Chamber of Commerce

Filipino American Library
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Fil-Am Arts

Fil-Am Fest San Diego

Although it may seem that young and old Filipinos have no similarities and common interests, Kabalikat Society is focused on the main similarity that bind both young and old Fil-Ams together-culture. By hosting the 1st Annual Chino Hills Philippine Independence Day Festival these events the organization is making strides for all Filipino-American generations to come together and learn more from each other. They believe that through education and community events we can better understand the nuances of our Filipino heritage. To learn more about Kabalikat Society or for more information about their events please e-mail kabalikatsociety@gmail.com and/or visit www.kabalikatsociety.com ■

'Music close to your heart'

THE LA Filipino-American United Church of Christ presents an evening of Music Close to Your Heart featuring internationally renowned Filipino artists: Guitarist Michael Dadap (Guitar) and Tenor Sal Malaki, The IBIG Ensemble and violinist Jericho Flores. The event will be held on August 29, 7pm, LAFAUCC at 5080 N. Maywood Ave (corner Colorado Blvd) Los Angeles, CA 90041.

For tickets, please call: The Rev. Dr. Ernie Reyes at (818)679-6263; Faith Manigsaca Duran at (323)299-8221; Gilbert Batanga at (818)331-0416; or the Church office at (323)254-6669

Donation is \$20. Your donation will help support the Music Ministry of the Youth & Young Adults, and the Philippine Mission 2010.

Michael Dadap, an accomplished and award winning classical guitarist, composer, and conductor, was born to a musical family in Hinunangan, Southern Leyte. Two years after he graduated from UP, BA Philosophy, he came to New York in 1971 to pursue his

musical studies at the Mannes School and Juilliard School of Music. He made his concert debut at the Carnegie Recital Hall in 1974 which started his full musical career. He has given concert tours in the US, Europe, and Asia both as a soloist and as a duo ensemble with his wife, violinist, Yeou-Cheng Ma. Michael Dadap has performed, worked and collaborated with the world's leading and most celebrated concert artists such as cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and world renowned Filipino pianist, Cecile Licad to mention a few. His busy schedule as a concert and recording artist, composer, conductor, and music director of the prestigious Children's Orchestra Society in New York has not prevented Michael Dadap's passion to advocate and promote Philippine folk music and folk ensembles in the United States and the Philippines. To find out more about Michael Dadap, visit www.Childrensorch.org.

Sal Malaki is one of Los Angeles Opera's most seasoned artists. He is the only Filipino

member who has appeared in over 85 opera productions with the company. Also as member of the Los Angeles Master Choral, he has performed multiple times as tenor soloist. He was personally chosen by Maestro Gershon to sing the tenor solo in the LAMC's Messiah-Sing-Along at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Mr. Malaki is involved with the Los Angeles Opera's Education and Community Services Outreach Program reaching and connecting thousands of Southern California students to the world of opera. Mr. Malaki has performed throughout the U.S., the Philippines and other parts of Asia and in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Royce Hall, The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Luce Auditorium of Silliman University in Dumaguete City, Philippines. He is an alumnus and a former voice and flute faculty member of the University of the Philippines College of Music and St. Scholastica's College in Manila. ■

FAL free Community Tours of Historic Filipinotown

HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN - What is Filipino about Historic Filipinotown? The Filipino American Library (FAL), in partnership with the Historic Filipinotown Neighborhood Council, a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Corporation, and the Office of Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti, answers the question in its Community Tours of Historic Filipinotown on Saturday, August 1 during the 2009 Historic Filipinotown Festival and 5k Run/Walk (Temple St., between Alvarado St. and Union Ave., Los Angeles 90026). Four 1.5-hour tours will begin at 11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, and 5:00pm. To reserve a seat, please contact filamlibrary@sbcglobal.net or 213-382-0488. While the tours are free, a donation of \$5 per person is requested to help defray the cost.

The FAL Community Tours of Historic Filipinotown, narrated by a knowledgeable tour guide, will cover significant sites, events, and individuals in and around Historic Filipinotown, providing a rich historical overview of Filipinos in Los Angeles.

FAL will also be selling signed copies of Los Angeles's Historic Filipinotown for \$20 each. This new book by Carina Monica Montoya is a collection of vintage images from Los Angeles historical organizations and Filipino families who settled in and around the area since the 1920s. Many Historic Filipinotown souvenirs, courtesy of FIH Store, will also be available for sale, including t-shirts, souvenir coins, and pins. The books and souvenirs may also be purchased in advance by contacting FAL.

The tour is part of the 7th anniversary of Historic

Filipinotown. For more information on the 2009 Historic Filipinotown Festival itself and 5k Run/Walk, please visit www.historicfilipinotown.org.

These are a few comments from past attendees of the FAL Community Tours of Historic Filipinotown: "Before the tour I didn't even know about Historic Filipinotown. I didn't know there was such a deep history of Filipinos in Los Angeles." "It was very informative and points out all the important landmarks that we wouldn't have known." "The tour was fascinating and informative. I enjoyed the whole experience."

Founded on October 13, 1985 by Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown ("Auntie Helen"), FAL is the earliest and largest Filipino library in the country with a collection of over 6,000 titles. Its mission is to provide access to information and knowledge through the collection, preservation, and dissemination of a unique collection of Filipino American and Filipino reading material to those that seek knowledge. Through this collection and its community involvement, FAL seeks to provide access to cultural information and enrich America's diverse cultural tapestry. It is located at 135 N. Park View St., Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles, CA 900265215. From June 15 to September 15, FAL will be open for Summer Hours: Thursdays-Fridays 1:00-5:00pm. To visit outside these hours, please schedule an appointment at filamlibrary@sbcglobal.net or 213-382-0488. Also, please visit FAL's website at www.filipinoamericanlibrary.org. ■

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20th Anniversary Reunion of SSAM Class of 1989

THE Class of 1989 of the St. Scholastica's Academy, Marikina (SSAM) held their 20th year anniversary reunion on last June 27 at the Marriot Residence Inn in Stevenson Ranch. It was not just a reunion but also a fundraiser to provide scholarship awards for high achieving students who come from low income families. We are most grateful for supporting this worthy cause.

SSAM is non-profit corporation, with its assets and income used directly and exclusively for educational purposes including expansion when needed to carry out the aims and objectives of the school. SSAM envisions a community centered in Christ where every member called for mission seeks God daily in a creative balance of Ora et Labora (Pray and Work). To concretize its mission, SSAM continues to intensify the programs of action involving all sectors of the school community as it pursues Christian spiritual formation the Benedictine way and academic excellence as social responsibility.

The Class of 1989 would like to thank their GOLD HEARTED SPONSORS: Law Office of Ray Bulaon, Premiere Career College, OPI Products Inc. Haliya Wines, Lavish Salon & Spa, Asian Journal, Powerhouse Starts, Jammin Productions, TLA Designs Inc., All About Skin by Joan Arnaiz-Go and all the individuals who volunteered their time and creativity namely, Noli and Kyle Gracilla, Mr. & Mrs. Luis Via, Day and Andre Manalang, Ben and Bea Avellana, Mia and John Burdios. The group would like to express their appreciation to the personal donations made by the Aduan, Ancheta, Cambaliza and Thompson families.

We are still open to donations, please visit our Reunion Website: <http://ssam89usa.webs.com> for more information and also, SSAM Website: <http://www.ssam.edu.ph/>. ■