



Pinoy Bulletin

FAAV Bi-annual Publication

From the Upuan

By Cori Harms

Editor: Bernice Bevard

2019 Issue 1, June 2019

Dear friends of Fil-Am Vancouver,

Mabuhay! Welcome to the summer release of Fil-Am Vancouver's newsletter. Wow! We are almost halfway through 2019. Time flew by and this energetic board has been busy! Our board members have been busy going on vacations, business trips, family events, but are still on task with all the commitments that Fil-Am Vancouver has planned for this year.

This is my second year as your board chair and I would say that it is a lot of fun working with this fine group of directors. Here are the highlights of this year's events:

- * Quarter 1: March 2-3 - FAAV co-hosted the Philippine Consular Outreach in Portland with PACCO.
- * Quarter 2: April 15 - FAAV sponsored a dental school outreach at Remedios Elementary School in Lubao, Pampanga, Philippines, providing a total of 550 toothbrushes and some toothpaste.
- * Quarter 2: May 22 - Beaches Restaurant is sponsoring Cash Back Days where 50% of the guests' bill is donated to Fil-Am Vancouver toward its Scholarship fund.
- * Quarter 2: June 15 - FAAV is hosting the annual Philippine Independence Day picnic, which will be held at the Frenchman's Bar Regional Park. There will be games, food, music, Zumba and more for the whole family.
- * Quarter 3: July 27 - FAAV will be producing a live comedy show. More details to come.
- * Quarter 3: September - FAAV is planning to do an outreach at some of the local homeless shelters. More details to follow.
- * Quarter 4: December 7 - FAAV is hosting its annual Pasko Na Naman event, a semi-formal Christmas gala. We are expecting around 500 guests at the Holiday Inn, Portland.
- * Quarter 4: December 14-15 - FAAV and some barkadas will be visiting local Adult Care homes and bring Christmas cheer through Christmas songs. We also plan on doing fundraising by visiting some Fil-Am supporters.



Marami pong salamat. Thank you for your support. We are here to serve the community. I am proud of this board, who is working together for a common mission, not to forget the fun we all have during our monthly meetings. Come and be curious! Be our barkada. Check out our website: <https://www.filamvancouver.org>.

Have a safe summer!

Cori Susi-Harms

FAAV Board Chair

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- Chuck Reidy, Treasurer
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Fil-Am Vancouver Supports Damayan

By Gretel Ness



This past February 22nd, Assistant Treasurer and Board Member, Gretel Ness and husband, Brian Ness, attended “Ang Damayan Ngayon”, the longest running public service TV show in the Philippines, on behalf of Fil-Am Vancouver. Hosted by Emelie Katigbak and co-hosted

Representing Fil-Am Vancouver, Brian and Gretel donated collected funds, and along with the grocery items provided by the show’s producers, presented Joilie and Liberty with these gifts. When asked by the show’s hosts on Brian’s experience in the Philippines to date, Brian thanked Damayan for the opportunity to appear on the show. He noted that he typically does not get that many chances to do something worthwhile like what he was able to do in the show whenever he has visited the Philippines in the past, and being able to meet Joilie and Liberty and help them out in the very small way he was able to on behalf of Fil-Am Vancouver was truly meaningful.



Gretel & Brian Ness (center) surrounded by Damayan hosts and recipients of the donation from FAAV.

by William Thio, Damayan airs every Friday afternoon in the Philippines, tackling topics of interest to the community and providing much needed outreach and support, including free medical services, livelihood opportunities, and scholarship to the needy. The episode that day included a special segment on two inspiring individuals fighting life-threatening illnesses everyday with the help and support of family and friends. Joilie Buenabra, fighting kidney failure, and Liberty Mortel, fighting cervical cancer, each recounted their daily struggles and chronicled how, with the help of family, they are able to bravely survive one day at a time.

The 2019 Philippine General Elections compiled from various sources by Rita Schaljo

The 2019 Philippine general election was conducted on May 13, 2019. A midterm election, those elected therein will take office on June 30, 2019, midway through the term of President Rodrigo Duterte.

The following positions were contested:

- 12 seats in the Senate of the Philippines (out of 24 seats)
- All 297 seats in the House of Representatives of the Philippines
- All provincial-level elected positions in the provinces of the Philippines
- All city-level elected positions in the cities of the Philippines
- All municipal –level elected positions in the municipalities of the Philippines
- Under the Local Government Code and the 1987 constitution, all terms start on June 30, 2019, and end on June 30, 2022, except for elected senators, whose terms shall end on June 30, 2025. The Commission on Elections administered the election.

Filipinos residing outside of the Philippines who are registered to vote, including dual citizens, are considered Overseas Absentee Voters (OAVs) and could cast or mail their ballots from April 13-May 13, 2019. For this election, OAVs were able to vote for 12 Senators and 1 Party-list. As of May 18, the unofficial tallies of the top 12 senators, all allies of President Duterte, are as follows:

1. Cynthia Villar
2. Grace Poe

3. Bong Go
4. Pia Cayetano
5. Bato dela Rosa
6. Sonny Angara
7. Lito Lapid
8. Imee Marcos
9. Francis Tolentino
10. Koko Pimentel
11. Bong Revilla
12. Nancy Binay

Numerous problems encountered during this election include malfunctioning vote counting machines (VCMs), running out of ballots (voters had to wait 2 hours for extra ballots to be delivered), problems with the transparency server, allegations of fraud and vote buying, not to mention violent election-related incidents prior to election day.

Anyone interested in following the Philippine elections can check out these news organizations: www.rappler.com, www.philstar.com, or Google/Bing 2019 Philippine election results.

If you are a dual citizen not yet registered to vote but interested in voting during the next Philippine elections, you can register at the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco (www.philippinesanfrancisco.org) or during one of the Consulate’s visits to Oregon/SW Washington.

Scholarship Update



Maria Schaljo, one of our FAAV Scholarship recipients (2016-

2018), will be graduating this June 2019 from Clark College with an Associates Transfer Degree and will be going on to Washington State University Vancouver in the Fall to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Digital Technology and Culture.



Be the next FAAV scholar!

Our 2019 Scholarship Application for Calendar Year 2020 is OPEN.

Scholarships are open to students pursuing a vocational, certificate, technical, associate, or bachelor's degree program. Students pursuing advanced degree programs are not qualified.

Submission deadline: Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 11:59pm PST.

Two qualified students will each be awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** for the January 1 - December 31, 2020 Calendar Year .

Qualifications:

1. Must be a permanent resident of Clark County, Washington.
2. Must be a high school senior by the time of selection and award, or must be currently pursuing a vocational, certificate, technical, associate, or bachelor's degree program.
 - A student pursuing an advanced degree program is not qualified.
3. If attending a college or university, must be registered for at least 6 credit hours.
4. Members and family members of the FAAV Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply.
5. Must be of Filipino descent.
6. The Scholarship Award must be used no later than the immediate calendar year following the date of the award, otherwise, it will be forfeited.

Selection Criteria:

1. Community and extra-curricular activities, including employment history.
2. School transcripts showing academic achievement/GPA.
3. Two (2) letters of recommendation.
4. Personal statement (minimum 500-word essay).
5. Personal photo in jpg or png format.

Interested? Good! So are we! Please visit www.FilAmVancouver.org/scholarship to download the Scholarship description and Application Form.

For questions and requests for additional information, contact Bernie Gerhardt at gerhardtbm@gmail.com.

Consulate on Wheels

By Chuck Reidy

Fil-AM Vancouver (FAAV) partnered with Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (PACCO) to organize the annual Consulate on Wheels for 2019 (COW, a.k.a. Philippine Consular Outreach) community event. The two-day event was held at the NW Health Foundation in Portland, Oregon on Mar 2-3, 2019. Volunteers from FAAV, PACCO, other Fil-Am organizations, served as check-in monitors, runners, ushers, registration, pre-processing, and copier service.

Appointments were offered the same way as last year through the Eventbrite website two weeks prior to the scheduled event. This year, demand was very high and all appointments were booked in less than 15 minutes. The consular staff was aware of how fast the appointments filled up and decided to reverse their decision to service online appointments only by allowing walk-ins. This year, walk-ins would be accommodated but only after hourly appointments had been seen. Registration volunteers came up with a callback method for organizing the walk-

ins. We had so many walk-ins on Saturday, the consulate didn't finish services until 8:30pm. Considering the Consulate staff and volunteers started Saturday morning at 8am, it was a 12 ½ hour workday for all. Sunday was a little better as they were able to complete their last consular services around 6pm. At the end of two days, our volunteers had assisted the Philippine Consulate to deliver services to 458 of our Kababayans.

FAAV and PACCO are deeply committed to helping our local community during COW. We recognize there is a growing need for consular services in our Oregon and SW Washington community. Our two groups will continue to work with the Philippine Consular Outreach program and recommend increased outreach. Thank you so very much to all the volunteers from all our local Filipino community for their volunteerism to support COW. Special thanks to our friends at NW Health Foundation for their generosity in providing use of their building. See you all again next year!

2018 Winter Christmas Caroling Outreach

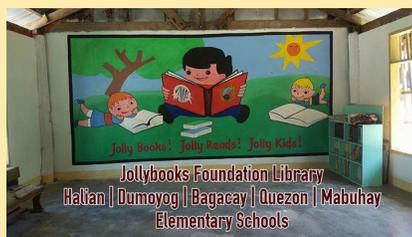
By Cori Susi-Harms

Fil-Am Vancouver board of directors, with the help of our barkadas, helped spread Christmas cheer on a rainy Saturday this past December. And what Christmas spirit we all had! The merry group visited three local adult foster care homes in the Vancouver area and treated the patients to a variety of Christmas medleys in English and Tagalog. Singing our hearts out, it was a delight to see how happy we made the patients. Some even began singing along with us. Others were dancing in their wheelchairs! One of the directors, Edel Tiolengco, rendered a beautiful solo number, "Payapang Daigdig". Another holiday favorite, "Pasko Na Sintá Ko", was sung beautifully by barkada, Rolando Susi, while his 9-year old daughter, Arianne, also sang a solo of "Oh Holy Night". The evening ended at the home—and of course, kitchen—of Welcome Wagon Chair and director, Vivian Tadeo. We serenaded the Tadeos after having a delicious dinner at their home. It was truly a wonderful day of giving and sharing of the true spirit of Christmas.



Jollybooks Foundation

By Jolly Monzon



Jollybooks Foundation is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit organization based in Vancouver, WA. It was founded in June 2014 with the goal to support literacy development and eradicate illiteracy in underprivi-

leged villages in Siargao, Surigao del Norte, Philippines by sending them used books to start their own libraries.

On August 19, 2015, Jollybooks Foundation, along with the generosity of our donors, such as a publishing company in Vancouver, WA, Franklin Elementary School, and the Ordon and Wu families, among others, was able to donate to 5 Elementary schools in Siargao, namely: Halian, Dumoyog, Bagacay, Quezon and Mabuhay Elementary Schools. In addition, Jollybooks Foundation also donated to the only college as well as two high schools on Siargao Island. On December 2016, Jollybooks Foundation hosted a Christmas party in Dumoyog Elementary School which fed about 100 students.

Jollybooks also donates to children outside of Siargao Island. On January 2, 2017, Jollybooks, in partner with Safeway, Inc., Salmon Creek, Vancouver, WA, donated children's toys and books to Alagang Kapatid Organization (Chanel 5) in the Philippines.

On July 4, 2018, a Filipino Church Community in Chigasaki, Kanagawa, Japan wanting to help children in the Philippines, was looking for a non-profit group to partner with and found Jollybooks.

Since it was founded 5 years ago, Jollybooks and partner organizations have helped about 1,000 children in Siargao with books, backpacks, shoes, school supplies and food. Children from these villages love to read and they are very thankful for all donations given to them.

This coming June 22, 2019, Jollybooks is again partnering with the Chigasaki Church Filipino Community and new donor Biboy Maguilan Haro, a founder of Pagcor Outdoor Fun Club (POFC). An additional 200 children will be the beneficiaries of school supplies and raincoats to make sure these students will stay dry as school starts and rainy season arrives in the Philippines.

Jollybooks Foundation is grateful to our volunteers and donors who are dedicated to pursuing our goal of helping children in remote villages receive assistance in literacy development.

If you would like to help, any donation of books or cash will keep our mission possible and help us build libraries for underprivileged children. You can reach us at <https://www.facebook.com/JollybooksFoundation> or email us at jollymonzon@gmail.com.



Exploring the Philippines

By Gretel Ness



Top: Edel, Yuriy, Brian and Gretel at Palawan.
Bottom: Lunch with Amy & Gary Freedland and former members of the Philippines Concert Chorus.



Tagging along with former and current Fil-Am Vancouver directors, Gretel (and Brian) Ness and Edeliza Tiolengco, on their three week trip to the Philippines, Yuriy Bliznyuk visited the Philippines for the first time. Having only been to Russia and the Ukraine in the past, visiting Asia was a totally new and different experience for Yuriy. Needless to say, the group's three week trip to the Philippines was jam-packed with fun and adventure. Landing in Manila first, the group stayed at the Linden Suites in Pasig, a location picked specifically for its convenient location and proximity to various eateries as well as the EDSA SM Mall and the Shangri-La Mall. Still suffering from jetlag, the group met up with former members of the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus, whom the directors hosted in the past US tours, at a local dampa restaurant. Hosted by fellow Fil-Am Vancouver director, Amy and husband, Gary Freedland, Yuriy was introduced to the dampa experience. Dampa in Filipino literally means "kubo", a traditional hut made from dried coconut leaves and bamboo. Cheaper than going to a typical restaurant, the dampa concept is simple: customers buy the raw seafood themselves, and then proceed to a nearby restaurant to have the items cooked however way they want.

Next came a karada treatment for Yuriy. Since chiropractors are still virtually unheard of in the Philippines, Karada was the next best thing for Yuriy's aching

back after the grueling 20 hour flight to Manila from Portland. Karada is the age old tradition of restoring the body's inner balance through muscle and bone alignment anchored on ancient Japanese techniques. Of course a trip to Manila would not be complete without taking Yuriy to a sampling of Manila's malls including a quick trip to the Mall of Asia.

Soon enough, it was time for Yuriy and the group to depart for El Nido, Palawan, the next stop in their itinerary. El Nido was everything everyone touted it to be, from its crystal clear waters and white sand beaches, to its diverse ecosystem. After the tranquility of El Nido, the next stop was the bustling city of Cebu. In Cebu, the group stayed at Plantation Bay, which was located away from the city. But thanks to Grab and parents of members of the Mandaue Children's Choir, whom Edel previously hosted during their US visit, the key historical sites of Cebu were visited, including the famed Church and Convent of Sto. Nino. After three days in Cebu, they headed off to Dumaguete City. The group could not resist the beautiful and very affordable rates of Dumaguete. Casaroro Falls and its 354 steps and 1.2 mile trek was conquered, the 7-hectare white sand bar of Manjuyod was enjoyed, and the group confirmed that Pulangbato Falls really does deserve its name.

A quick ferry ride to neighboring island, Siquijor, was next. Famed for its mystical



FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER, WA (FAAV)
PRESENTS



KANTAWANAN SA PORTLAND

JULY 27, 2019
SATURDAY 7:30PM
FIL-AM CENTER
8917 SE STARK ST., PORTLAND, OR 97216

\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
\$150 VIP SPONSORS

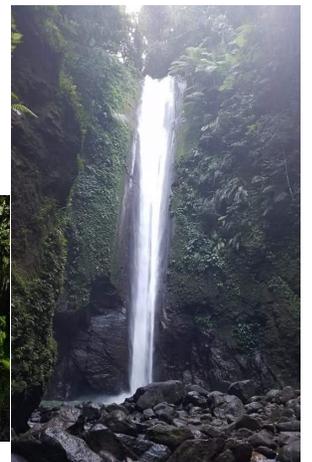
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CORI 360-521-4198

OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.FILAMVANCOUVER.ORG

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Exploring the Philippines (continued)

traditions, magic and sorcery, the group did not meet any aswangs but did manage to see Siquijor’s glorious sunset and infamous Balete tree. A quick flight to Cagayan de Oro where the group was picked up by long time friends of the Ness’, Boy and Elvie Metiam, saw Yuriy and the group driving from Cagayan to the Metiam’s hometown of Bukidnon in Mindanao. “Bukid” in the indigenous language means mountains and Bukidnon did not disappoint. Surrounded by mountains, the landlocked province of Bukidnon introduced the group to all sorts of lush trees, plants, fruits and flowers. Yuriy was introduced to his very first spa experience of manicure, pedicure, and a foot spa, all for less than \$20! When asked what his favorite meal was in the Philippines, Yuriy pointed to the simple menu at El Toro Foodhaus in Valencia, Bukidnon of Lauya, Paklay, Siki and Halang-halang with Dilis, eaten with red rice and all made with 100% beef. Sadly, soon enough it was time to depart for Davao where the group was to catch its flight back to Manila. Davao, the birthplace of the current president of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, is an experience on its own not to be missed. There was a palpable sense of pride in the people of Davao. Everyone was happy and very friendly and good bargains were had directly from the Muslim vendors of South Sea pearls and freshwater pearls. The group also enjoyed the best Chinese food in Davao courtesy of Edel’s high school friend, Rossa Charissa Gavino, who owns Davao’s Center for Brighter Beginnings. An overnight in Davao City was certainly not enough and the group vowed to visit Davao again for a longer period of time. The three weeks in the Philippines went by too fast and soon enough, it was time to wake up early again to catch the flight back to the US. Unsurprisingly, even in the wee hours of the morning as everyone was getting ready to fly out of Manila, Yuriy was already planning his next trip to the Philippines.



Top: House on stilts at the white sand bar of Manjuyod in Dumaguete, Top left: Brian & Yuriy showing off their tiny tour bus, Bottom left: Pulangbato Falls, Bottom right: Casaroro Falls

By Cori Susi-Harms



Money - Sense -

Money tips for everyone...

1. Use the 50/30/20 rule: 50% of your paycheck goes to necessities like food, gas, bills and other things necessary for survival; 30% goes towards wants such as Netflix, cable, restaurants; 20% goes to paying down debts and savings.
2. Cook at home. Limit restaurant visits or trip to the drive thru.
3. Check your credit report. You could be a victim of identity theft without even knowing it.
4. Go green. It’s good for your wallet. Start with switching to LED light bulbs.
5. Separate your checking account and savings account. It may be convenient to have them at the same financial institution, but it is also tempting to transfer from savings when checking is short of funds.



Save the date
Fil-Am Vancouver
Annual

Christmas

Dinner and Dance

Music by THE MANILA BAND & DJ JON



Date: **Saturday, December 7, 2019**

Time: **5:30 to 11:30pm**

Holiday Inn Portland Airport
Columbia Conference Center
8439 NE Columbia Blvd
Portland, Oregon 97220

PASKO NA NAMAMAN

For Tickets and information, go to
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THE KEYS BAND
Members: Macoy Susi, Bien Susi Ducut, Louie Roa, Rolando Susi and Joven Susi
For Inquiries, call 503.310.8917 (Joven Susi).

Don't miss their performance at the Bamboo Uno Mas 2019 US Tour in Seattle on 9/14 (Sat.)



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(Nonprofit 501(c)3)

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FAAV

To engage in humanitarian, civic, educational, cultural and charitable activities that would preserve, promote, and share with the community the customs, values, and heritage of the Filipino culture.

Check us out on the Web:
www.filamvancouver.org

NW Filipino-American Community Events Calendar

JULY 4, 2018 Thu – ANNUAL U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAYPOTLUCK PICNIC, Fairview, Oregon
TIME: 10 AM – 4 PM
SPONSORED BY: Fil-Am Portland & Vicinity
LOCATION: Blue Lake Regional Park, 20500 NE Marine Dr, Fairview, OR 97024
COST: \$5/car (no pets allowed)
<http://www.filam-portland.com>
Bring a dish to share with others.
Entertainment and games for adults and kids.

JULY 20, 2019 Sat – FAFC BOOTH & PERFORMANCE AT CELEBRATE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY CULTURAL FESTIVAL, Hillsboro, OR
TIME: Event is 9 AM to 4 PM; Performance Time TBD (likely in the afternoon)
LOCATION: Downtown Hillsboro, Oregon
FACEBOOK EVENT: <https://www.facebook.com/CelebrateHillsboro>
FAFC WEBSITE: <http://fafcoregon.org>

Filipino American Friendship Club of Oregon (FAFC) will have a booth (includes parol tail making craft, free dried Philippine mango (while supplies last), and information about the Philippines and Filipino Americans). FAFC children dance troupe will be performing Filipino folk dances.

JULY 27, 2019 Sat – KANTAWANAN SA PORTLAND, Portland, OR
TIME: 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Fil-Am Center, 8917 SE Stark St. Portland, OR 97215

COST: \$20 General Admission, \$150 VIP Sponsors
SPONSOR: Filipino-American Association of Vancouver, WA (FAAV)
CONTACT: Evelyn 503.481.7368 or Cori 360.521.4198
WEBSITE: <http://www.filamvancouver.org>

OCTOBER 5, 2019 Sat – CFAA 20TH ANNIVERSARY & BIENNIAL CONVENTION, Milwaukie, OR
TIME: 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr, Milwaukie, OR 97222
SPONSOR: Council of Filipino American Associations of Oregon and Southwest Washington (CFAA)

DECEMBER 7, 2019 Sat – PASKO NA NAMAN DINNER & DANCE, Vancouver, WA
TIME: 5:30 PM No Host Bar; 6:30 PM Dinner
LOCATION: Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 NE Columbia Blvd. Portland, OR 97220
COST: TBD
SPONSOR: Filipino-American Association of Vancouver, WA (FAAV)
CONTACT: Zenny 503.706.2643 or Cori 360.521.4198
Annual Christmas dinner and dance to celebrate the Christmas season!
WEBSITE: <http://www.filamvancouver.org>

Barkada Tayo!

Be a Friend of FAAV (Nonprofit 501(c)3) and apply for your Barkada card at: www.filamvancouver.org