



**PHILIPPINE
CENTER**
of Ventura County
(A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION)

newsletter

May – June 2012

PHILIPPINE CENTER: NOT JUST A DREAM! By Nolie Martinez

Why isn't there a Filipino Center in Ventura County? Statistics show there are over 19,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans living in the county. At the same time, 26 various associations exist which hold numerous cultural festivities, dances and community activities throughout the year. Most of these events are held in the Oxnard Performing Arts Center, Elks Lodge, Ventura County Fairgrounds or other similar facilities available. Rent for these facilities range from \$400 - \$1000 per event depending on the square footage of the building. Catering and food preparation is mostly performed by a dedicated group of retired seniors who show off their Navy-learned culinary skills and experience. Decorations and other gala preparations are usually put together by dedicated volunteers who to the keen observer's eyes are pretty much the same faces most of the time.

One of these associations, Philippine Center of Ventura County, Inc. (PCVC) commonly known as PhilCenter®, is a group of volunteers dedicated to raising funds in an effort to build the dream community center for Filipino-Americans in the county, similar to the ones in Sta. Maria, Daly City,

Stockton and San Francisco in California, Waipahu and Maui in Hawaii, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Seattle, Washington.



Filipino Center in Waipahu, Hawaii

The PhilCenter® concocted several fund raising activities in hoping to meet its goal of breaking ground in five years, in 2017.

- First of these activities is membership drive, to garner the support of the community as a whole. If at least 50 percent of the total Filipino population in the county would join as members, an annual amount of \$200,000.00 could be generated. Since February this year, 240 out of the over 19,000 have already joined.

- Event sponsorship was established at the beginning of the year and to date there are already 11 different businesses which cast their support for the project. Check the PhilCenter® website www.philcenter.org for the current sponsors.
- Annual golf tournaments could generate some fair amount of revenue, not only from participating players but also from sponsorships for the event. Your \$70 fee includes a snack bag, green fee, cart, luncheon and a chance to win many prizes including a \$10,000 hole-in-one. Fil-Am Golf Association (FAGA) of Ventura County actively supports this annual event.
- Regular casino trips have been scheduled throughout the year. The next trips are scheduled for Morongo Casino on June 30 and August 04 this year. Your \$50 bus fee will get you back \$35 free play credit and for the new players, additional \$10 food coupon for buffet luncheon. At Morongo, you may also do some shopping from the 130 outlet stores nearby.
- Annually, Santacruzán is held in May, keeping the century-old tradition alive as we continue to introduce our culture not only to the younger generation but also to our adopted homeland. All proceeds from the activity is dedicated to the building fund. This year's event seemed to have brought out the better part of the community from their busy schedules to participate, enjoy and contribute to the cause, which immensely helped 2012 to be a banner year, with net proceeds of \$17,000.
- A coat and tie/formal dinner-opera concert is scheduled for June 30 in Glendale, CA featuring Philippines' internationally acclaimed tenor, Noel Velasco. Cost is \$100 per person in which part of the proceeds will go to the PhilCenter®.
- Arbonne beauty products party is also scheduled on June 3 from 10am to 3pm at the Hilton Hotel. Kay Chapman will be demonstrating their beauty products to interested participants. 20 percent of sales will be donated to the PhilCenter®.
- A generous and hardworking American is donating his time and efforts to collect, sort through and sell donated used items from the community. The PhilCenter® staff is ready to pick your donated stuff from your residence. Call (805)486-7788 for pick-up. All donations are tax deductible and sales will go to the building funds.
- Domino Pizza value cards are being sold at low cost of \$10 donations per card. Total savings from the use of this card is valued at more than \$51.00.
- Got a clunker? Donate cars, boats, Recreational Vehicles, motorcycles and other motorized vehicles to PhilCenter® through the www.philcenter.org website.
- Bricks are being sold at \$100. These bricks will be inlaid with the sponsor's name and will be used in

the proposed building. You may convert your bricks donations to a CATEGORY LEVEL Donation. Learn more about these bricks in the PhilCenter® website www.philcenter.org.

- CATEGORY LEVEL Donations make the bulk of funds for the PhilCenter®. Category level donations ranges: BRONZE(\$1,000), SILVER(\$2,000), GOLD(\$3,000), PLATINUM(\$4,000), DIAMOND(\$5,000), DIAMOND+(over \$5,000). Category Donors are entitled to the discount fees for the use of the PhilCenter® once operational. See the PhilCenter® website www.philcenter.org for the current list of donors.

Why all these hard work and effort to build a center? Do we need one? The volunteer group has many good and strong reasons why they possess the drive and motivation, and a belief that with dedication, perseverance and continued support from the community as a whole, this dream will come to fruition.

There are those skeptics, and they are abounding, for several reasons. The first notion of this dream building came about in the early 70's which obviously fizzled. With burning desires to follow up on the idea, another team formed up, but again, due to lack of support and perhaps direction, that too, fell apart. So this attempt is the third that could be put on record. Another reason many skeptics voice out is that Filipinos are as splintered as the 87 recorded dialects in the Philippines. Regional, professional and cultural associations, although monitored under an

umbrella organization to avoid scheduling conflicts of individual events, are still that; splintered, and to each his own. And then there are those who maintain the individual selfish mentality, "What's in it for me?"

Will this building rise? An optimist would say, it will. Going for it are the hardworking and dedicated individuals who are passionate in their commitment to pursue the difficult. They believe in their "CAN DO" spirit, team work and persistence. It has only been a few months since the start up event in February 2012, the team has gained grounds, membership, donations and contributions to consider the effort successful so far.

Man first thought the earth was square and that one would fall if he would go far enough until he ventured to prove the notion wrong. Man would never make it to the moon if not for his pioneering spirit. We need "YOU" to make this dream happen.

2012 SANTACRUZAN SETS NEW RECORD

This year's Santacruznan celebration established a new record of "Best Fundraiser" for the PhilCenter Project. Past Santacruzans netted about \$6,000 through \$8,000 each year but this year's event

garnered net proceeds of over \$17,000 for the project.

This overwhelming success would not have been possible without the dedicated effort of this year's group of "Sagalas" led by Reyna Elena Carmen Cano (sponsored by the Filipino Nurses Association), with the help of Emperatriz Myrna Fisher (sponsored by the La Union Association), Reyna de los Flores Cindy Adamos (sponsored by International Cultural Association), Reyna de las Virgenes Victoria Rouch (sponsored by LUAVC), Reyna del Cielo Chola Digma (sponsored by ICAC), Reyna Paz Alyssa Enriquez (sponsored by the Visayan Association), and Reyna de las Estrellas Adrienne Enriquez (sponsored by the Pangasinan Association).

This year's Little Angels included Denzel Dulos, Trevor Ortiguerra, Zaveah Farala, Alezhandra Martinez, Alliyah Martinez, Maile Joy Fisher, Francine Otec, Claraezyl Anne Macaraeg and Den Earl Dulos.

The evening program was opened with the beautiful rendition of both the Philippine National Anthem and the U.S. National Anthem by Haydee Gallardo followed by the spirited invocation by Rolly Eugenio. The Event Chairperson, Sonia Armedilla welcomed everyone and the PCVC President, Sid Cabran delivered his progress report of the PhilCenter Project. The ICAC Line Dancers performed a new Salsa Line Dance to entertain the crowd.

After an hour of non-stop dancing in tune with the lively music by DJ Yul of the ICAC

Sound Machine, the Santacruzian parade started with the Farewell Walk of the 2011



2012 Reyna Elena Carmen

Sagalas headed by Reyna Elena Milagros Opseth, followed by Reyna de las Virgenes Tessie Quinahon, Reyna del Cielo Mildred Garcia and Reyna Paz Maria Santos.

This was immediately followed by the parade and coronation of the 2012 Sagalas. The colorful parade was led by the cute angels while the Sagalas walk around the dance floor with their escorts and arches. The coronation culminated with the outgoing 2011 Reyna Elena assisting in the crowning of the new Reyna Elena.

The festivities continued with non-stop dancing, picture taking and raffle drawings. It was indeed a very SUCCESSFUL event!

2012 NEW DONORS & SPONSORS

Upgraded Category Donors

ICAC upgraded to DIAMOND + (\$6,790)

LUAVC upgraded to DIAMOND (\$5,000)

VAVC upgraded to GOLD (\$3,550)

Violy Rouch upgraded to BRONZE (\$1,010)

Tessie Godin upgraded to BRONZE (\$1,100)

New Category Donors

Las Posas Home Health Services
PLATINUM (\$4,000)

Bob & Myrna Fisher & Family **SILVER**
(\$2,000)

New Bricks Donors

BUCAO Family **(1)**

OPSETH Family **(1)**

DEL REYES **(1)**

GLORY MOSE **(1)**