



BALITAAN

A Publication of the Pilipino-American Association of Delaware – December 2001

Editor's Brief — Linda Graham



Recently, I found out that a former and favorite boss of mine at the University of Delaware had retired. He had done so at the relatively young age of 60. He tells me that I was instrumental in his decision to retire early. He reminded me that sometime soon after he left

the university for another job, I sent him a cartoon from the local paper that said one should always take time to "smell the roses"- certainly not original but, nevertheless, profound. I just wanted to remind him that he should not work very hard in his new job. He then continues to tell me that retiring early was the best decision that he has made in his life.

I believe it is the recent change in the state of national affairs that made me think more about that cartoon. The thousands of people who perished in the terrorist attacks most likely never had the chance to "smell the roses." They are people who are just like us, young and old, who go to work everyday because they need to. Most are probably in the height of their careers and are still looking forward to the more exciting years ahead. A similar incident or something close to it might never happen again and as time goes by the impact of that incident on us starts to wane. Life goes on as it has been.

My American friends who know me well know that I am very proud to be a Filipino. They know that Filipino immigrants are a group of hard-working and goal-oriented folks who almost always fit into the category of "success" as defined by our society. But success comes in many forms. While it is not easy to disregard the norms set by society, success should be what we define it to be. Our everyday activities are driven by our responsibilities to our families and by the standard of success that we set for ourselves. There is the school tuition to finance, a house to pay for, a retirement fund to build. And in the midst of our daily routine to do all those it becomes so easy to forget to stop and "smell the roses."

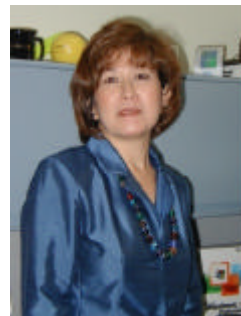
There was a TV program that I happened to come upon recently, one of those "after September 11" programs. It was about what some people are now doing to simplify their lives so they can live it to the fullest. Many of those individuals featured in the program have already re-sorted their priorities in life.

They say that they want to work less so that they can spend more time with their children. Well, most of us are ahead of the game. Typical of Filipino families, we have been already spending quality time with our children. Most likely, however, we continue to work as hard as before. Maybe it is high time that we pause to smell the roses. Maybe we should take that trip that we have been planning for quite a while. More importantly, maybe we should start doing those simple things that make us happy, things we plan to do someday when we "grow up" or when we retire. While many of us are not in a position to retire in the very near future you should find time to do those fun things that you have at some time or another put off doing.

As many of you know, a few of our members have recently made the transition into the exciting years of retirement. Aida Nye, Lita Salameda, Esther Ringoen-Kelly, Alice King, and Ruben Rubio have retired within the last year or so. I talked to them about their plans for the years ahead and you may read about them in the inside pages. Floro and Nilda Resurreccion came back from an extended stay at their retirement home in Bacolod City and are sharing with you what retired life is like in the Philippines.

Maligayang Pasko at manigong bagong taon to all!

Message from Prez



Seasons Greetings to all! May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

The September 2001 tragedy will always be remembered by all. Even if we have not personally lost a loved one in these horrific incidents, they have affected our lives in many ways. A fundamental need that our government has provided us, one that we usually take for granted, is the feeling of national safety. We know the government is working very hard to give this back to all Americans. So let us welcome the new year by keeping a positive attitude and by keeping our faith in our government.

This year, we also witnessed a tragedy that is close to our hearts. We came to know the Ocampo family

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and shared their grief on the misfortunes that came upon them and their son Eriq. I would like to thank all of you who have shown concern about the judicial process that ensued by joining the rally in June and participating in the letter campaign. I hope that we, as a community, will keep a strong voice in the next election to elect an Attorney General who will, first and foremost, apply the laws fairly to all. Dennis Ocampo sent us an article that we published in this issue. Please join me in wishing them well during the hard years ahead.

PAAD is losing two of its most dedicated members, Lourdes and Alice King. Alice has taken on a new job in Chicago after her recent retirement. As you all know Lourdes has been the PAAD choir director and Alice has been our folk art director for many years. While it is hard to fill in their shoes, we have to ask someone to try! Grace Manalo had agreed to take on the choir group, for which we are very grateful. However, no one as offered to be the next Alice King. Someone please come forward. PAAD needs you!!

Patty Delos Santos

Life is Full of New Beginnings...

When you talk your friends who happen to be your contemporaries and the topic is about retirement, it can make you feel older as well. But somehow, I see that more folks are retiring at an early age these days rather than the other way round. Indeed, I feel jealous that I have not yet joined the club but this way I have those years to look forward to with delight. The following, except for Ruben Rubio, have been long-term members of PAAD and have contributed in many ways to the association. While Ruben does not have the years to qualify as an "old timer", we can not thank him enough for the work he did for PAAD when Marita was president of the association.



Esther Ringoen-Kelly with her husband Kjell arrived in Delaware from Norway in 1966. Soon after they came she started to work as a nurse in Christiana Care. Except for the 3 years in the late 60's that she took time off to start her family, she worked in the hospital until June 2000. Over the years, she has made

regular trips home to be with her mother who is now

103 years old. Since her retirement last year, however, she has made the trip home 4 times. As many of you would agree, Esther is somewhat the exception rather than the norm. She is one who is making sure that she enjoys life to the fullest. She worked the night shift 2 or 3 times a week during all those working years. This way, she said, she could enjoy both her job and her family. With the children grown and her goals for them fulfilled, she continues to live a 'simple' life with Robert, her second husband. She has done a lot of traveling here and abroad, and plans to do more. She says that she belongs here and does not plan to retire in the Philippines. But going home to the same place, seeing the family and old friends truly makes her the happiest.



After 23 years working in the travel department of the United Nations in New York City, **Ruben Rubio** has become one of the newest and youngest retiree in PAAD to date. His work experience on the job has given him plenty of opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Because of this he realized that there are many more things to learn about people, their culture and the world in general. So how does he plan to learn all these things? He tells me that he is looking forward to finding a job with an airline. There can't be a better way to see the world than this. As for his immediate plans, Ruben will be working with Marita helping run her medical practice and he'll still be line dancing at our parties. I can't remember it ever as much fun as it is when Ruben is leading.



One of the most recent retiree in PAAD is **Aida Nye** who retired in October of this year. Aida did her fellowship program in New York and eventually moved to the Delaware State Hospital for her internship and residency programs. Upon completion of the programs, she was hired as a full time dentist in the Delaware State Hospital. In 1987 she became the Dental Administrator in charge of the residency program which is affiliated with the Medical Center of Delaware. Aida and Bob have been members of PAAD since the early 70's in spite of the fact that they resided in New Jersey. They moved to Delaware 12 years ago and they do not have plans to move away someday. Aida is waiting for Bob to retire from his second job (he retired many years ago as a New Jersey detective) so they can do

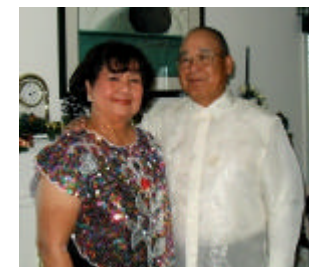
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some traveling again abroad including the Philippines. For the time being she wants to be a full time grandma to Kevin and do more of the gardening which she really loves.

Lita Salameda joined the staff of Saint Francis in 1967. After finishing her residency at Mercy Douglas Hospital in Philadelphia sometime in the 1950's, she went home to the Philippines to practice, only to leave again for Delaware. Noli joined her a few months later and they have been living here since. Lita set up a private practice in the early 70's with Nene Abad, a good friend and a classmate at the University of Santo Thomas medical school. Lita continued her affiliation with Saint Francis by working in the emergency room of the hospital until 7 years ago. Since Noli had retired a while back, first from Dupont in 1985 and from Corpus Christie School 3 years ago, they now continue to live a rather quiet life at home. Other than the weekly mahjong sessions and a trip to the movies and occasional visits to their second home in Atlantic City, they plan to enjoy each other's company and those of their children's and 4 grandchildren's who they get to see very often.



After 31 years, **Floro and Nilda Resurreccion** closed down their private practice and quickly moved on to the wonderful life of retirement. Floro and Nilda are among the first Filipino immigrants in the



state who got together with other Filipinos and founded the then Filipino Association of Delaware. In the late 1950's Floro came to Delaware to do his residency in internal medicine at the Wilmington Medical Center. Upon finishing his residency he moved the family to the Bronx in New York while he worked at the Montefiore Medical Center. In 1963 he was asked by the Wilmington Medical Center to come back to establish its GI lab. By 1970 he established a private practice as a gastroenterologist. Nilda, who is a nurse, had helped him run the practice until early this year. They plan to spend half of their time here in Delaware and the other half in the home they built in Bacolod City. While in Bacolod he continues to stay with the profession by teaching part time in a hospital. Floro plans to play as much golf in both

places and maybe in between games he'll work around the house.

While we can look forward to enjoying the company of those who are now retired, more so now than ever, we will be missing **the King sisters** who will be leaving this month for Chicago. **Alice** retired from the Dupont Company in June of this year but



very soon found herself with a job offer from Abbott Laboratories. Alice started to work for Dupont in 1965 after graduate school in Northeastern University in Boston. She was a research chemist and soon became a senior information scientist. In her job of many years, she acted as the liaison between the senior chemists for the company and patent lawyers. **Lourdes** joined Alice in 1969 and soon landed a job in the Customer Service also of the Dupont Company dealing with customers mostly in Asia and Latin American countries. Lourdes chose to take an early retirement in the mid 90's rather than move to the same job in New Jersey.

Alice's job offer came after a friend that she and Lourdes were visiting in Chicago suggested that she apply for the open position. While this was not in her initial plan she said that the job offer was pretty



hard to forgo. She plans to work for only 2 more years after which they will continue with their long-term plans. Alice and Lourdes have built their retirement home in Quezon City, their home town. Five other sisters and their families are close by so they will get to see their nieces and nephews, all 27 of them. They plan to do some traveling here in the US before the big move and more in Asia when they have settled down in their new home. As Lourdes said, Alice is not yet ready to lounge around during her 'retirement'. Both of them are thinking of doing some volunteer work for the needy, perhaps working with a church to give services that an organization like the Emmanuel Dining Hall offers. Alice is also gearing up for her next career. She will be bringing home with her knowledge of the technology involved in farm-raising shrimps. Sometimes it is best to cross over to an entirely different profession. This way the excitement starts all over again.

For many years, both Lourdes and Alice have given their talents to PAAD. Lourdes, with her wonderful

soprano voice has led the PAAD choral group. And Alice, thanks for her patience, has taught and rehearsed Filipino folk dances to the young and old alike. PAAD owes them so much and they will be greatly missed.

Our first R&R in Bacolod City

by Floro Resurreccion

After 31 years, Nilda and I decided to close my practice. Our plan was to start our retirement by flying to the Philippines for a much needed R&R. These plans were rudely delayed by a retinal detachment on Nilda's left eye which needed immediate attention. Soon after the retinal surgeon decided that it was safe to fly we were on our way to our mini-reunion with my 75 year-old sister from Florida, a 70 year-old brother from Quezon City, and another brother from San Diego who is 68. As you see, we are all getting up there in years so a family reunion was in order. They were all waiting for us in Manila by the time we got there and soon after that we all flew to Bacolod City, our hometown and where we have built a new home.

Our stay there was very eventful. The deposed President Estrada remains in jail without bail, some tourists in Palawan were kidnapped and Mayon volcano erupted several times. Of course, there were the usual typhoons that devastated Luzon at the time but they did little damage to the Visayas and Mindanao. Where we were was peaceful and life goes on as usual. We had a chance to visit a few places during our stay. We find Bukidnon in Mindanao very tranquil and beautiful. The land is green everywhere, cultivated, and productive. Cagayan de Oro is a bustling metropolis, a good place to visit. We can't help but notice how courteous drivers are unlike those we find in Metro Manila. Our kababayans have not changed a bit- they are courteous, respectful, and helpful as I remembered them to be. This is quite refreshing I thought.

Dining out and entertainment are very affordable and we did quite a bit of it. I'll strongly recommend this to anyone! With the exchange rate at \$1 to P52, one can keep a high standard of living that one can easily get accustomed to. Vegetables, fruits, and seafood, including farm-raised prawns are abundant everywhere at unbelievably low prices especially in Bacolod City. We can't help but notice, however, that there is no policy regarding the harvest from the

sea. Fishermen harvest even the smallest of fish, something that will devastate our sea resources someday soon.

Tourism thrives in the Philippines. We saw many oriental and western tourists during our trip to Boracay in spite of the much-published Palawan kidnappings. Golf, deep sea fishing, scuba diving, and snorkeling are favorite attractions in resorts close enough for us to visit. I, myself, enjoyed playing golf everywhere and anytime I got the chance. I can't ask for anything better than that. February through May or even June are the best months to visit. While the summer heat is something that we have to get accustomed to, this did not stop us from outdoor activities. However, heavy downpour did. Note that rain normally comes between July and December.

Nilda and I usually walk for exercise and we did a lot of it during the early morning hours. We were joined by many of all ages, teenagers and young adults including pregnant women tagging along their toddlers. Walking has become an organized program, at least in Bacolod City, where some areas are designated for it. This is quite a contrast from the old days. We also managed to gain new friends from town during many of these walks.

While our return trip was affected by the September 11th event, we nevertheless made it back safely. We will enjoy our retired life here in the US with our four children and two grandchildren close by but we will also look forward to returning to the Philippines whenever we feel the urge for a change in life style.

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER EXPLOSION - A DAY OF INFAMY

By Ruben P. Rubio

The morning of the 11th of September began just like any other day in New York City - a bright sunshine with a promise of a beautiful tomorrow. Like any other day, husbands and wives kissed each other before heading for work. Moments later by 8:45 am, we knew it was no ordinary day. They all became victims of an evil war. I dropped off my cousin at the Millennium Hotel, which was fronting majestically the Twin Towers II fifteen minutes (8:42 am) earlier than our usual commute. As I was crossing two blocks away, I heard a big explosion and soon a dark cloud engulfed the entire Wall St. area where I was. I got off my car as couldn't see anything and in a few seconds, the sound of police

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siren and the firefighter's trucks blowing its loudest horns made it even more impossible to vacate the area. The darkening cloud was coming nearer me and I saw everybody running for their lives, some confused and disoriented while others fearlessly crying and shouting " WAR...WAR...WAR..." as it seemed to be the end of the world. New York City just suffered the darkest day in our history. I stood momentarily, unbelieving the believable was



happening before my very eyes and I feared for my own life. I saw men and women whose faces have been darkened by the black air explosion, each one extending

his arms to help anyone and wiping anybody's darkened face. While in the car, I tried to turn on any radio but the radio lines were all dead. I decided to use my cell phone and to my dismay, there was no airwave. The Twin Towers you see houses all TV and radio satellites in the city and neighboring states. As I gradually inched away from the terrifying site, which would eventually be known as "Ground Zero", I saw how every New Yorker was engaged in his own act of heroism rescuing any possible victim on the streets.

The entrance to the United Nations from the Ground Zero area usually takes me only 12 minutes and by the time I was passing the guarded area, we were delayed by tedious inspection by the guards. As later we would know, the UN was another target and for this reason we were all evacuated from the premises. The second explosion just hit the Lower Manhattan area when the second tower received a blow from yet another hijacked plane. I saw from the skies the great ball of fire engulfing practically the entire Lower Manhattan. Horrifying as it seemed as the two towers were in flames, you knew that a shimmering part of the Manhattan skyline as well believed to be permanent was now gone. The Midtown streets were flooded with panic-stricken commuters who did not know where to go. I thought that a terror of such magnitude could only be seen in a wide movie screen but this was totally happening at that very moment. Having been advised to leave the UN grounds, I decided to stick it out with the rest of my division to stay inside rather than be outside as we were safely evacuated to another building in another street far out. Later on, some who left for home recalled how a usual 45-minute drive took them 11 hours this time. News of the bomb scares spread all over the city and everybody rushed to the ferry area, as this was the only means of mass transportation in and out of the city. The next day, New York was a complete ghost town. We all knew

America died that day. I drove home by sunrise and I realized that in difficult times such as this, we did not care what religion, race or nationality you are. We all gave the best example of love in our dynamic society - heroism. As to date, 145 Filipinos have been claimed dead. Emotions became very normal to all faces you would see on the streets of New York and subsequent days would follow with the same loneliness in the air. We cried for those who perished in the terrorist attack, people we did not even know and the site of once a monumental edifice lacking from the beautiful skyline of New York. Stories such as that of a day care worker who was rushing out while holding on to 6 kids before the building collapsed was indeed a heroic act. Now she is in custody of the 6 kids as no single parent ever claimed them Unclaimed cars along the New Jersey and Connecticut train stations rose into thousands until the authorities finally decided to tow them away a week after the tragedy. Body parts were found among the debris and most notably known was the discovery of two hands clasped together while preparing to die together. The tragedy directly affected every one of us working in New York City and typical reactions such as anger, fear, sadness and feeling detached from reality is clearly in the air. Even if we did not suffer the loss of a loved one or were spared from the terror of fleeing a collapsing blazing building, we all grieve and are angry at the cowardice of the people responsible for the act. The Twin Towers no longer stand but we know someday they will rise again and the whole of America will be proud to say that we are the greatest nation on earth. **GOD BLESS AMERICA !**



United we stand.

Grand Dancing at the Grand Opera House - Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company

By Merle B. Smith

The 45-member ensemble of the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company received a standing ovation after gracing the stage with a repertoire of dances in their colorful costumes and exotic music. It was an enchanting evening- a nostalgic event for the majority of our Filipino audience, many attendees from our PAAD- evoking

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delightful memories of traditions, rituals and feasts that we had experienced in our native land.

The program started with the "Birds of Bright Plumage"- dances celebrating tribal customs of pagan folks in the Cordillera Mountains of Northern Luzon. The hunting dance "Kayasig" displayed the agility of the warriors in using the shield while the "Pyayos" (headhunting) dance confirmed the bravery of a warrior by possession of a head. How about the stamina and skill of a woman carrying several "bangas" on her head on a ritual of fetching water! And the "Banawol" dance reminded me of our version of the "chicken" dance.

Next we were dazzled with a suite of songs and dances reflecting the four centuries of Spanish influence. The clicking bamboo castanets accompanied the dancing ladies and caballeros in the "Malaguena de Pila"; a courtship dance was started in a flower-bedecked hammock in "Flor de Manila" while the señoritas wielded their "panderetas" in the "Pasodoble"- double step dance based on the movements of a bullfighter. Young "Señoritas" waltzed the "Habanera" and clicking castanets accompanied the favorite dance in the old walled city of Manila in the "Jota Intramurena".

Music, dance and costumes in Mindanao and Sulu featured Arabian and Indo-Malayan influences and Muslim Filipino culture. "Singkil" is the Bayanihan's signature number featuring the Maranao Princess pursued by a Prince amidst the clapping of criss-crossed bamboos in syncopated rhythm. "Dugso", "Bagobo", "Binaylan", "Tibuli". "Paunjalay" and "Vinta" were dances that highlighted the traditions and rituals of Filipinos who embraced Islam as early as the 14th century in the Southern Philippines.

My favorites were the exuberant and romantic dances like the "Harana" on a moonlit night, the "Pandango sa Ilaw", "Toil and Harvest " as the village folks celebrate the planting and harvesting of rice. "Sa Kabukiran" reminded me of my parents' fields in Pampanga- the simple and serene lifestyle in the countryside.

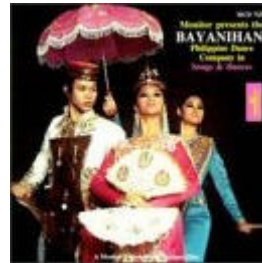
"Isa, Dalawa, Tatlo", "Itik-itik", "Maglalatik", "Pinandangguhan sa Bangkon", "Bangko" hallmarked the grace and agility of the dancers as they skillfully pranced on top of a pyramid of benches.

And of course, Bayanihan crowned the evening with the electrifying "Tinikling"- my husband refers to it as the "Stick dance"- as dancers impersonate the tikling birds with their magic feet skipping between the striking bamboos in a relentless and accelerating rhythm.

At the end of the program with empathy and patriotism, the Bayanihan Dance Troop with the audience sang "America the Beautiful"- a fitting farewell. It was indeed a Grand Night at the Grand Opera House

ABOUT THE BAYANIHAN

The Bayanihan Dance Company takes its name from the ancient Filipino tradition of Bayanihan, "working together for the common good". The Bayanihan story spans 43



years of performances all over the world. It had its early roots in the Filipiniana Folk Music and Dance Committee of the Philippine Women's University. In 1957, Dr. Helena Z. Benitez founded the Bayanihan

Philippine Dance Company to conduct researches in ethnic rites, tribal folklore and regional folk ways expressed in music, dance, literature, arts and crafts; to transform these cultural traditions into theatrical presentations; and to promote international understanding through cultural exchange and performances abroad.

In the 1958 Brussels World Fair, Bayanihan mounted a production called "Glimpses of Philippine Culture through Music and Dance". It proved to be a sensation at the Fair and was featured in the Ed Sullivan TV program as the highlights of the Fair.

In the 1959 Annual International Dance Festival at the Winter Garden Theater in New York, Bayanihan's Broadway debut was affectionately titled "Cinderella" of the Dance Theater. Bayanihan was the first Filipino group to perform in Broadway. To date Bayanihan has performed 15 international tours and over a hundred brief tours to international events and festivals covering 55 countries on 5 continents.

Their most recent international conquest was the 54th Almond in Blossom Festival and 44th International Folk Festival in Sicily, Italy last Feb. 1-7, 1999, where they won 1st prize in the traditional costumes category and were the only Asian country that made it to the top four winners among 40 participating countries.

Last year by an act of Congress, Bayanihan was officially designated the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines. Now on its 43rd year, Bayanihan continues to strive for artistic excellence and creative innovation.

Mike Myers to be recognized at the PAAD Christmas Dinner-Dance

It is very seldom that the Philippine-American Association of Delaware honors a member for one's contribution to the association. Susan Ament was the first to receive this honor a few years back for the professional and personal help she has given to members of PAAD. PAAD is happy to continue the tradition by giving special recognition to Mike Myers. As he cannot attend this year's Christmas dinner-dance we are taking this opportunity to tell you in this newsletter why Mike Myers is very deserving of this special recognition.

Mike Myers is the President of Dynamic Physical Therapy and Aquatic Rehabilitation Center. Those of you who frequent PAAD's gatherings, both social and otherwise, know Mike, his wife, Beverly, and of course Jeff, their son. Mike has been a very active member and supporter of PAAD for these past several years. While Mike has not agreed to become an officer (maybe someday he will), he has made a significant contribution to the attainment of the goals of the association. A few years ago, PAAD became actively committed to start a fund drive for a Philippine Center. There were fund raising activities planned for that purpose, one of which is the Barrio Fiesta. Mike has contributed generously to the cause and has done so repeatedly over the years. In addition, Mike and Beverly have personally participated in these events. While he never agreed to take part in any of the folk dances performed during the Barrio Fiestas, we have him to thank for encouraging Jeff to be his proxy! Actually, it is hard to be honoring Mike without extending the honor to Jeff as well.

Four summers ago, some of our younger members decided to get together and play sports - thus a basketball league was formed. Well, Mike saw to it that the group was dressed properly for the occasion. He sponsored the league by supplying them with the uniforms and other things needed by the teams. The league was short-lived but those shirts got used for a long time.

The Christmas dinner-dance is an occasion that many of us try not to miss. It is fun and is always well attended. Being a fun loving person himself, Mike with Beverly, see to it that they don't miss it if at all possible. In fact, it is not unusual that they bring along with them to the occasion a dozen or so friends and colleagues from work. Mike feels a great affinity to Filipinos, not because he wants to do a citizen's share of doing what is "politically correct", so to speak. He does not do this in the name of

diversity. He just likes and enjoys the company of Filipinos and of course Filipino food!

From 1969 to 1991 Mike's family owned and operated a clothes' manufacturing business. Part of the business operation was in the Philippines and that is how he came to know the Philippines and our culture. He took a sabbatical leave from the business to become a high school principal. That lasted for 5 years. He left the academic profession after he accidentally stumbled on the idea of starting a physical therapy and rehabilitation center - something that he felt is a way for him to serve the community with the hope that it will give him a sense of professional accomplishment. That was 8 years ago in Marcus Hook, PA. Currently, his company employs 90 professionals in their fields working in 8 centers, 6 of which are in Delaware and 2 in Pennsylvania. He also operates 3 testing centers in the area. Of his 6 children, Jeff who is the youngest works with him.

Success in any business, for that matter, does not come easy. Other than the fact that one has to work very hard, more importantly, one has to be a good person. One has to earn the respect of his peers and subordinates to be successful. Mike is a success and the Philippine Association is honored to have him as a member.

Life is Difficult

So starts M.Scott Peck's book entitled 'The Road Less Traveled.' I have given copies of that book in the past to our friends as a solace in their times of difficulties. Little did I know that it would serve me well in my family's present condition. Or that my introduction to the book on behalf of our friends' troubles was indeed a preparation to those of my own family's need.

It is so hard to accept why bad things happen to us. From the initial tragedy of a lost child that should not have been, to, given the total background and perspective of past events -- missteps of justice. Or of fairness denied. Or one of an initial commission of erroneous judgment (the kids being wrong in their decision-making skills) to the omission of equal justice (the failure of Delaware to do what is right). Along this treacherous journey of ours we could have fallen by the wayside where it not for the kindness of others:

- ❖ from law enforcement officials in the performance of their duties,

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- ❖ from the legal counsel we chose, good lawyers both in character and abilities,
- ❖ from our existing friends who eventually became our support group, and most importantly
- ❖ from total strangers in Delaware who welcomed us into their homes and hearts.

God works in uncertain ways and we have yet to decipher the handwriting on our family's wall, certainly the biblical "MENE" (you have been judged) "TEKEL" (you have been found lacking) "PERES" (your kingdom will be divided) does not apply to us in this passage of life of ours, but HE has provided us with comfort. Both the Catholic Bishops of Wilmington, Del., and of Arlington, Va., as well as our Priest-friends have walked the mile with us.

So we await the next phase of our son's life, a harrowing one where a forensic psychiatrist cautioned us by saying our son will walk out of prison, a different person. However we will keep on praying for him ... "there but for the grace of God walk I."

This Advent season will be hard for us. For sure it will be a more spiritual one for what does it materially mean to us if the body is not whole. I enjoin all of you to welcome with us the true meaning of the season, the coming of the birth of our Lord. Savor the celebrations, cherish the moments, hug your kids a little tighter, whisper into their ears as you lull them to sleep ... do not grow too fast!

Wishing our dear Delaware friends a very Holy Season. God Bless!

The Ocampo Family

Dr. Basilio N. Bautista named 2001-02 TOFA Awardee



Basilio N. Bautista, M.D., a plastic surgeon in Dover and former president of the Association of Philippine-American Physicians of Delaware and currently its Executive Director, has been named one of the Twenty Outstanding Filipino-American in the United States and Canada for 2001-02. He was chosen by a panel of judges of the Washington D.C.-based Fil-Am Image Publications.

Basilio is a pioneer plastic surgeon in southern Delaware and has been in private practice for the

past 29 years. He is the founder and director of the Laser and Plastic Surgery Center of Delaware, the state's first non-hospital based day-surgery center. He made available to the rural areas of Delaware the highly specialized field of plastic surgery which at the time was only available to the rich and famous.

As a leader, he has served as president of various organizations here in the USA and Canada some of which are: The Philippine Association of Plastic Surgeons of America; the UST Medical Alumni Association of America; Tri-State Chapter DE, NJ, PA; the Association of Philippine-American Physicians of Delaware; the American Cancer Society, Kent Chapter; the Kayumanggi (the Association of Fil-Canadian in Manitoba, Canada). He also served as Regent of the International College of Surgeons.

In the field of journalism, he has served as director of Canada (Ethnic) Press Club, associate editor of International Journal of Laser Surgery and Medicine, associate editor of The Philippine Surgeon, member of the Editorial Board of Delaware Medical Journal, editor of Plastikos/ Papyrus, the UST Times and the Delaware Gazette. He has also published articles on plastic and reconstructive surgery in leading American journals.



In the field of arts, he is an accomplished photographer, a songwriter, a poet, an artist, and a composer. Most probably, he is the only plastic surgeon who has commercially produced a CD of his original compositions one of which is "All My Love". A concerto that he composed was performed by the Dover Symphony Orchestra and one of his compositions in "Bernadette's Lullaby" was adapted for ballet by the Ballet Theatre of Dover.

He is the recipient of the *Robert J. Sims Award* for Excellence in Black and White photography having won the highest prizes. His winning black and white photograph "Winter in Delaware" was published in Popular Photography magazine. In 1978, one of his color photographs won a prize in a national photography competition.

In spite of his busy professional life here in the US, he still finds time to join the "Operation Smile" surgical mission in the Philippines. With the hundreds of cleft lips that he has repaired among the

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less fortunate children in the Philippines, he finds that there is nothing more rewarding than to see smiling faces among these otherwise deformed children. When this happens "I thank God for making me an instrument to help make these unfortunate children whole again", he confessed.

Basilio was the recipient of the several awards over the years. Among the most noted are: Philippine Centennial Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement in Plastic Surgery, awarded by the Filipino Executive Council of Greater Philadelphia, Inc. in 1998; Outstanding UST Medicine Silver Jubilarian of the Year, 1985, Manila; Outstanding Filipino Award, Delaware Valley Association of Filipinos, 1978, Philadelphia; Manitoba Centennial Recognition Award for Community Service, Citizenship Council, 1970, Winnipeg, Canada.

Dr. Bautista is a multi-faceted man who excels not only in his chosen profession but also in other fields of endeavor for which he was dubbed by his colleagues as the '20th Century Renaissance man'.

Business Update

To keep the phone directory current, we would like to be informed of any address, email or phone changes. Contact any of the officers or email at paad00@hotmail.com.

A reminder to all that the new **PAAD website** is now available online! You can access it at www.paadweb.com. This site will be maintained and updated as new information becomes available. Please note that this site is best viewed using Internet Explorer.

The membership directory page requires a valid login id and password that are case sensitive:

Login id:
Password:



Ruben & Marita Fallorina-Rubio, M.D. donated a new karaoke machine for use by the PAAD choral group. The old karaoke machine's sound system has slowly fading away. Now, the choral group

has no excuse NOT to sing even after Lourdes has left Delaware. Grace Manalo and Mike Labrague promise to keep the choir intact for at least another year!

**A BIG
Thank You**

Treasurer's Report

(July 1 – November 30, 2001)

Checking Account Balance: (6/30/01) \$ 3,520.74

Income/Deposits:

Membership Dues	300.00
Donation	100.00
Mahjong Fundraising	255.00
Total Income/Deposits:	\$655.00

Expenses:

Sunshine Committee (Flowers)	119.56
Donation	50.00
Newsletter expenses	152.40
Website Registration	35.00
Christmas Dinner Dance (invitations and mailing expenses)	297.00
Rally expenses	213.00

Total Expenses: 866.96

Checking Account Balance: \$3308.78

Other Accounts: balances as of 12/13/01

CD #3 – opened 01/26/01	\$ 5,570.96
CD #1 – opened 08/16/98	\$ 3,943.53
CD #2 – opened 10/11/98	\$ 1,413.11
Money Market	\$ 5,946.81
CD – building fund	\$ 9,509.79
Total CDs:	\$ 26,384.20

Note: Treasurer's books are audited quarterly by Robert Kelly, our current Auditor.

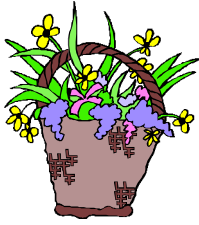
2002 membership renewal form is attached to this newsletter. Please respond promptly. We rely on your dues to cover operating expenses.

Drs. Felix & Virgie Vergara donated a digital camera for PAAD use. This camera is a valuable equipment for our website. Photos can easily be uploaded online. The Webmaster will make every effort to keep the website up-to-date with the latest pictures of activities and events.



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Sunshine Committee



Friends are wishing Bob and Aida Nye a speedy recovery. Both will be as good as new after an extended rest.

Membership Update

Currently we have **123** active(paid) family and single members. We would like to welcome the new **Lifetime** members:

Ed & Wilma Bernardo
Dennis & Lori Ocampo (Virginia)

Personal Announcements

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Danny and Malou Singson** for a job well done. The Singsons distributed almost 400 Thanksgiving baskets to the needy in Wilmington. The project which was spearheaded by Danny was sponsored by

the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians as well as numerous drug companies, other area doctors, Mike Myers of Dynamic Physical Therapy and Aquatic Rehabilitation Center and Susan Ament of MorrisJames Delaware, Attorney at Law. Keep up the good work Danny and Malou!

Tara Aniceto is engaged to Robert Douglas Rogers of Atlanta, Georgia. Tara, daughter of **Cesar and Jane Aniceto**, is a 1998 nursing graduate of the University of Delaware. She is currently working as a traveling nurse for the Cross Country Care Network. Robert lives in Delaware and is in charge of their family company's regional office. They plan to wed in 2003.

Matthias Vergara Barbe was born on December 3 to Maria Esperanza and Marc Dominic Barbe of Allentown, Pa. Maria Esperanza, daughter of **Felix and Virgie Vergara Jr.**, is a doctor in Allentown. Matt is the second grandchild for Virgie and Felix. The proud grandparents have an 8-month old grand daughter Alexa born to Dr. Felix Vergara III and Ginny Zulueta.

Sports Committee

By Grace Manalo

Tournaments were held this year on bowling, mahjong and "May I?" (card game – points system). Many joined and competed for fun. Many thanks to the following companies who generously sponsored these events:

Dynamic Therapy Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals
Merck Pharmaceuticals Tap Pharmaceuticals
E-Medical Industries, Inc.

The winners are as follows:

Bowling: Men's Division – Bob Nye
 Ladies Division – Esther Kelly
Mahjong: Group A Major – Nar Mocerro
 Group B Minor – Tom Kendle
 Group C – Lourdes King
May I: 1st Place – Dr. Ben Torres
 2nd Place – Grace Manalo

Thanks to those who helped organize these events, to Virgie and Felix Vergara for hosting the mahjong tournament and to Joe and Grace Manalo for hosting the "May I?" tournament, the first for PAAD. Apparently, quite a few members play this game regularly. It's a great game to play during the winter season. If you want to know more about "May I?", please call Grace Manalo. New players are welcome!

Let's Laugh



President Arroyo is here in the US to meet with President George W. to discuss the Abu Sayyaf problem in the Southern Philippines. With her are the heads of the following government agencies:

Abu Gado, Dept. of Justice
Abu Rido, Dept. of National Defense
Abu Nado, Dept. of Finance
Abu Loy, Dept. of Social Welfare
Abu Tan, Bureau of Customs
Abu Sado, Philippine National Police
Abu So, Dept. of Tourism
Abu Lario, Dept. of Health

Let us all hope their visit is productive! ☺

*Masarap na,
Mura pa!*

Manila Garden Restaurant

If you do not normally drive down to Dover to do the casinos or watch the Nascar races maybe you should now plan to go. In an hour, just a little ways off Rt 1, you can be in 'Manila Garden', the newest Filipino restaurant in the area. The restaurant is owned by Adolfo Bengzon, a long lost friend of some PAAD members. (Adolf had an oriental grocery store at Prices Corner sometime in the mid-70s and the restaurant is an addition to his current business endeavors.)

The food is wonderful and the menu offers a great variety of selections. One can start the meal with lumpia or chicharon bulaklak for appetizer or one can get right into

the main meal. If you like veggies, there is the pinakbet or bicol express. One has a choice of many meat dishes that are cooked like the way our mother's made them - apritada, kare-kare, krispy pata to name a few. Fried binabang na bangus, tilapia escabeche and squid with coconut gata are the seafood specialties. Of course, the menu will not be complete without pancit- bihon, palabok and the other kinds as well. If you go there for a merienda, you will have a choice of siopao, arroz caldo, mami and of course desserts like halo-halo, sago or gulaman among others.

Manila Garden is open for lunch and dinner except on Mondays. It is open till 1:00 a.m. from Thursdays through Saturdays which are the Karaoke nights. Lunch buffet is offered every Sunday, from 11:30 am. – 3:00 p.m.

Directions: From Rt. 1 take the exit to 113N and 10 west. Follow 10 west for a mile. When you see the restaurant on the left, proceed to the next light and make a U-turn. The telephone number is (302) 672-6450.