

THE RAPIDS NEWSLETTER

An official publication of the Pagsanjan Club International, Inc.

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Series No. 8

From the Editor's Desk...

After a reunion year, one would expect the newsletter to be dominated by features about the happenings in Las Vegas. You need only to talk to anyone who attended the past reunion to discover what you missed.

Letty Pabilonia Ancho, who was injured in an auto accident just prior to the reunion wish to thank everybody for their prayers and phone calls while she was under examination and treatment. She has since fully recovered. She took charge in seeing to it that all the needed preparations in Las Vegas were done well.

Among those who enjoyed themselves during the three days of celebrations is our featured "kalagaslas" (see a related article about what a "kalagaslas" is).

Share me your views, I'll spread the news.

You may send your news articles to:
Pagsanjan Club Newsletter
C/O Rodel B. Ual
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Lakewood, CA 90713
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A FRIENDLY REMINDER

It is now that time of year when we have to plan the activities that we want to pursue. The projects that we will undertake will depend to a large extent on the support that we will be able to elicit from the membership. If you have not already done so, please remit your \$20.00 membership fee per household to the address below. You will be amazed at how this meager amount, when pooled together, can make a lot of difference. Your extra tax deductible contributions are always appreciated.

Pagsanjan Club International, Inc.
c/o Cynthia C. Rivera
6252 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92845

We are counting on you! Pagsanjan is counting on us!

President's Message ...

I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to all members and friends of Pagsanjan Club International, Inc. I'll take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the 2007 Grand Reunion in Las Vegas last year. While most of you went to the reunion simply to touch base with some kalagaslas and enjoy everything that Las Vegas has to offer, you unknowingly contributed to a fund dedicated to charitable projects in Pagsanjan. I hope you will all continue to support your club by actively participating in all its activities.

God bless us all and may we have a very prosperous new year.

Norma Maceda Gatpayat

President

Pagsanjan Club International, Inc. •

Accounts of the 2007 Grand Reunion...

Three weeks before the reunion, the organizers were all anxious because of the anemic response to various reunion reminders. Even the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino reported a slow turn out in room reservations. We tried to calm down all nerves by thinking that true to being a Filipino, we always wait for the last minute before we act, never mind that we are in a country whose culture specifically frowns on such an attitude.

Three days before the reunion, we were still anxious, this time because the calls requesting additional reunion tickets kept coming and we were concerned that we might have underestimated the number of attendees.

The welcome reception on September 14, 2007 was well attended. We saw so many new faces that we have not seen in previous reunions. The evening's format of requesting the attendees to gather by baranggay and introduce themselves was very helpful in determining where everyone came from, their ancestries, and even the call names (bansag) that their families are best known. After all the introductions, it was time for one on one and group by group exchange of

pleasantries. Questions like – Natatandaan mo ba ako?, kailan ka pa dito?, sino ang naging asawa mo?, saan ka nakatira? Saan ka nagtatrabaho?, and the ever sensitive – paano ka nakapunta dito? floated around.

The merriment went on until we were told that our allowable time to use the ballroom has expired.

Some went to the Strip, others tried their luck at the casino, and still others enjoyed all the amenities of the city that never sleeps.

Then came the Dinner – Dance on September 15. This was where all the planning and the organizing were put to a test. Attendees were quickly helped at the registration table and ushered to their assigned seats. When the last attendee has been ushered in, **Roderick Z. Aquino** sang the Star Spangled Banner and **Maricris A. Dumalay** sang the Philippine National Anthem. The California group sang the Pagsanjan March.

Norma M. Gatpayat, President of the Pagsanjan Club International, Inc. delivered her welcome address emphasizing the goals and aspirations of the club.

Dinner was served after an Invocation by **Rodel B. Ual**. Attendees were ushered into the buffet table in a very orderly manner allowing the dinner line to proceed very smoothly. The dinner entrees were so good and plenty that almost everyone went back for a second or more servings.

To entertain the crowd, **Mrs. Myrna Abrian** showed her gracefulness by dancing two folk dances while **Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Carlos** from Canada wowed everyone with their ballroom dancing. The San Diego Dancers made up of **Pablo and Malu Palenzuela, Melchor and Betty Sampal, and Robert and Elma Ang** displayed their dancing prowess.

Lorie O. Buencamino got the crowd's attention when she talked about Francisco

Balagtas and his contributions to Philippine Prose & Poetry. She went further by saying that in Balagtas' honor, the art of debate in verse was called "Balagtasan". She announced that two poets from Pagsanjan namely: **Tony Aquino** as "Batang Palengke" and **Rodel Ual** as "Batang Arko" will try to give life to this almost dying art from the Philippines. She called on **Ramon Garcia** to serve as the judge or "Lakandiwa". The topic that the Lakandiwa chose was: Sa Isang Sambahayan, Sino Ba Ang Mahalaga – Ang Nanay Ba O Ang Tatay?

After a heated, almost violent exchange of arguments and reasons, the Lakandiwa stopped the contest and offered some advice that he derived from the various points raised by both participants.

The crowd showed their appreciation for this effort to revive a lost art by giving the three poets a tremendous round of applause.

The dance floor got too crowded from every piece of music played by **Roger and Friends**. Several prizes were raffled. The grand prize of \$500.00 for the raffle was won by Fidel Macalalag from New Jersey. The \$300.00 2nd prize went to Nicole A. Umali and the 3rd prize went to Virginia Umali.

Rodel B. Ual capped the evening by delivering his closing remarks where he thanked all the attendees and the organizers for a very well organized, well attended reunion of Pagsanjenos. At this point he suggested that all Pagsanjenos everywhere should refer to each other as "kalagaslas" meaning people who came from the same town made famous by the rapids "lagaslas" going to Pagsanjan Falls. He invited everybody to the Picnic at the West Flamingo Senior Center on September 16 where the 2007 Grand Reunion will formally end.

Despite a very exhausting night, people started arriving at the park for the picnic as early as 10:00 A.M. Again, there were plenty of foods for everyone. Suggestions were solicited as to the venue of the 2009 reunion. Places like Jacksonville, Florida, Texas, Vancouver, Canada and Ontario, Canada were mentioned. The most popular suggestion was Ontario, Canada. We will find out if there will be a core group that can work on the logistics in hosting a reunion. Parlor games and raffles were conducted. The picnic and

the 2007 Grand Reunion was over at 3:00 P.M. ●●

Scholarship Program ...

Richie Davac became the club's new college scholar. Richie submitted her scholarship application three years ago. She met all the criteria for scholarship but because of funding issues, action on the application was delayed.

Our current scholars are:

College:

Rachel Habijan-Electrical Engineering
Juvianne Mogol - Nursing

Rhea Malonzo – Electrical Engineering

High School:

Arlyn Lazaro

Rei Cid Romar Ual

Arlyn is graduating from high school this year and will be attending college by next semester. **Rei Cid** will be a high school junior next semester.

Ramon Garcia, Director of Charitable Programs mentioned that the scholarship program became a little more expensive because of the weakening of the US Dollar against the Philippine Peso or the strengthening of the peso against the dollar, depending on how you look at it. He appeals to all the members to send in their annual membership fees. ●●

Personality Profile ...

Among the 350 or so Pagsanjenos and friends who attended the Grand Reunion in Las Vegas last September, we spotted **Jerry C. Villanueva**. Jerry is one of the eight children of the late Pedro Villanueva and Elena Catignas from Maulawin.

He is married to the former Lourdes de la Cruz with whom he has two children. They make their home in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Jerry attended the Francisco Benitez Memorial School and the Pagsanjan Academy. He got his college education from the Philippine College of Arts and Trade (PCAT). He also took technical courses at the Radio Electronics of Canada.

His special skills / training include Stationary and Marine Engineering, Electronic Technician, and a qualification not too many are familiar with – a Millwright. A Millwright is an industrial

maintenance mechanic whose normal functions include the installation, maintenance, upgrade, and fabrication of equipment according to layout plans, blueprints and other designs.

His work history includes stints with the United Coast Guard, Millwright VR Wesson, Ltd, MacLean Hunters Cablevision, and Multi-Tech Electronics. For the last 15 years he has been working with Brinks, Canada – a mover of precious metals and currency worldwide.

Jerry is a past president of the Alpha Phi Omega. AA of Toronto where he received his Leadership and Service Award. He has been a member of the APO, Toronto Board of Directors from 2003 to present. He is an active participant in the Red Cross Blood Letting Program and spearheaded The Highways and Parks of Mississauga City.

He is an Adviser and Project Coordinator of **Club Pagsanjan of Ontario, Canada**. His plan is to donate proceeds of their fund raising activities in Canada to Pagsanjan Club International, Inc. to aid in the various projects for the benefit of our hometown.

He suggests a regular meeting of all local and international groups of Pagsanjenos to plan future activities and projects. He also urged everyone to actively participate in all activities and programs about Pagsanjan.

Foresights, involvements, and actions – these are what Jerry represents. ●●

Vocabulary Update...

Kalagaslas – noun ; a term used to refer to anyone who came from **Pagsanjan, Laguna, Philippines; derived from the rapids "lagaslas" found on the way to Pagsanjan Falls.**

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