



The Fil-Am Newsletter

A Publication of the Fil-Am Association of NE Georgia (FAANEGA)
PO Box 7123, Athens GA 30604***Spring 2000

Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic at Watkinsville on April 23

Happy Easter everyone! This year, FAANEGA is holding its Easter egg hunt and family picnic at the Watkinsville Community Center at VFW Dr. in Watkinsville GA from 1:00 - 6:00 p.m., Sunday April 23. Come to the potluck and share your favorite dishes. The organization will provide the *lechon*, fanfare, games and gifts to make it all the more a festive occasion just like back home. Door prizes will be awarded to the punctual.

Nati Demesa organized the entertainment numbers -- kids will show *Mambo No. 5* and the adults the *Todo-todo*. Please register your kids with the Easter committee to receive the Easter basket and favors. As always, membership fees are due and the treasurer will be on hand to receive payment. The Easter Committee is headed by co-chairpersons **Neng Hilario 613-8338** and **Gina Altares 354-1005**. The organization would like to thank all who helped prepare the goody bags and Easter baskets, set up the hall and organized the program.

Parish Dinner Generates Funds For the Organization

The Fil-Am hosted a fund-raising parish dinner in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus at the St. Joseph Church parish hall on April 14. As part of the Lenten celebrations, meatless lumpiang shanghai, pancit and chop suey were served to about a hundred people. The activity was spearheaded by the **Ways and Means Committee** and the **Socials Committee** and supported by the members. Special thanks goes to all who helped prepare and serve the food, greeted the guests, washed dishes, pots and pans, and cleaned up afterwards.

T-shirts Now Available

Be proud of your association and get a FAANEGA T-shirt to wear to all our activities. The shirts are white and sport our logo in 3 colors in front with a Philippine map and the words "FAANEGA 2000" on the back. Shirts are 100 % cotton and are available in sizes S to XXL for \$10.00 each from **Gay Chong 310-1241** or **Gigi Magsalin 613-1775**.

Paid Membership Highest Ever

Perhaps as a reflection of members' enthusiasm or a sign of confidence in the organization and its leadership, FAANEGA has seen an unprecedented increase in number of members signing up and paying their annual dues. The increased collection of fees have helped cover costs our publications and mailings, picnic and party expenses, charitable projects, and goodwill and care expenses for the members who are in need, sick or bereaved. As of last count, 75 families have paid their membership dues out of about 120 families in our roster. If you know any FilAms who are not on our active list, please invite them to sign up and join our activities. For membership information and dues please contact Membership Comm. Chair **Ramon DeGuzman 613-7427** or Treasurer **Lilia Melendez 549-2219**. For general membership inquiries, call your FAANEGA officers.

Sports Committee Launches Bowling Tournament

The InterCity Bowling Tournament is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. May 13, Saturday at the ShowTime Bowling Center, 555 Macon Hwy, Athens. The event aims to bring together the FilAms and their families, and the members of the Federation of Philippine American Organizations in Georgia (FPOAG) in an atmosphere of fun and friendly competition. Part of the proceeds will benefit the Philippine American Center in Georgia Fund.

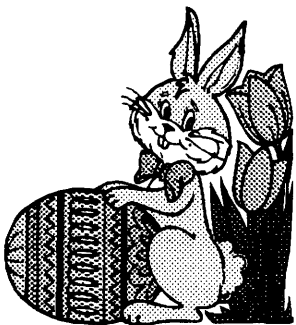
The tournament is non-sanctioned and Handicap = 80% x (200-ave). Participants may form a team of 4 in any male-female mix. Registration is \$20.00 per bowler and cost includes bowling, lunch and trophies. Bowlers must be pre-pay and register by May 1, 2000. Only 32 teams will be accepted. Door prizes will be raffled off and team and individual winners will be awarded trophies. For details and reservations call **Gigi Magsalin 706-613-1775**, **Steve Weber 706-546-7760**, **Rene del Rosario 404-352-8750**, **Cesar Roaquin 770-424-8694** or **Arnold Taganas 706-561-1096**.

The *Fil-Am Newsletter* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October by the Public Relations and Communications Committee. We welcome news, announcements and short articles. Spring Issue **Editor** - Sherwin Lopez, **Contributors** - Lilia Melendez, AnnieRey Magsalin, Nikki Yarbrough, Raquel Hilario, Virgie Ancheta, Gigi Magsalin.

Calendar of Y2K Activities

- Apr 23 - Easter Picnic
- May - Asia-Pacific Expo
at Navy School
- Jul 4- Independence Day-
4th of July Picnic
- Sep - Preparation for
Cultural Show
- Oct - Cultural Month;
Election of Officers
- Oct 28 - Halloween Party
- Nov - Carolling
- Dec - Christmas Parade
- Dec 16 - Christmas Party

These activities are tentative and may be changed depending on the decision of the general membership. For suggestions or questions, please get in touch with the respective committee chairpersons or officers of the association. Thank you.



Call for Cultural Show at Navy School

We have been invited by US Navy Supply Corps School, Athens to present a couple of cultural numbers during their Asia-Pacific Awareness month in May. If you can participate in a dance number or other exhibition of our cultural heritage, please get in touch with **Ronald Soriano 543-1582** who is connected with the navy school and is coordinating this activity for FAANEGA. There may also be an opportunity for the association to raise funds during the event by selling Filipino food.

4th of July Outing at Sandy Creek Park

Mark your calendar for another exciting FilAm family outing on the 4th of July. The organization is planning an picnic-barbecue with games at Sandy Creek Park in Athens to celebrate American Independence Day and also Philippine Independence Day. Afterwards, we can all proceed to Bishop Park for the fireworks. Watch for future announcements.

FAANEGA Welcomes New Faces

The organization would like to welcome the following visitors and new 'transplants' to the community:

Ben Bituin, podiatrist with *All Star Foot Care* on South Milledge.

Gloria Burrow, Post-Doc, *Dept. of Agronomy, UGA*. Gloria works on molecular biology, bioinformatics and genomics.

Carmela B. Caday, nurse with *Athens Regional Heritage Home., Inc.*, just arrived from Pangasinan, Philippines.

Tony & Angelique Cruz, and kids Sylara (5 yrs), Amalia (2 yrs) and Anthony (2 wks). Tony is Vice President for Strategic Marketing of *Avigenics*, a poultry genetics and biotechnology company.

Robert, Pam and baby Perrine (10 mos) Kemerait. Bob is Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist for Peanut and Cotton at the *UGA's Tifton Experiment Station*, Tifton, GA.

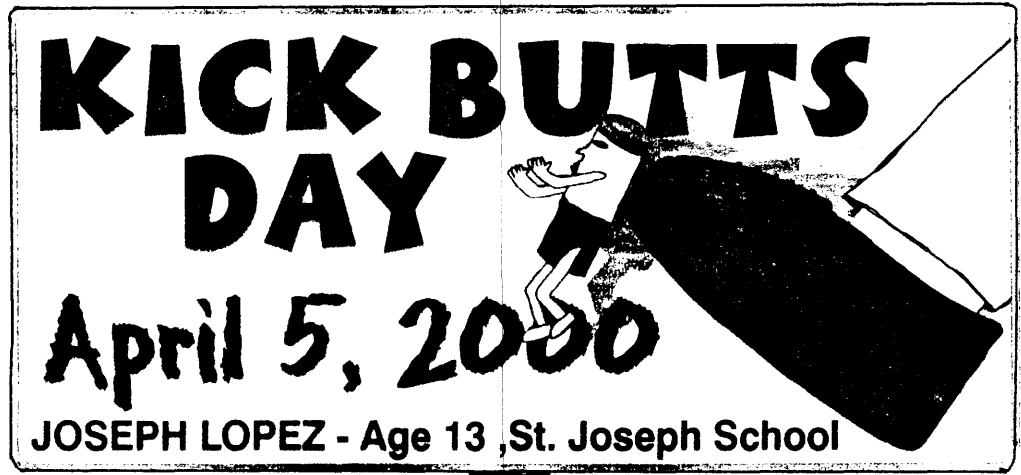
Dosette Pante, Visiting Scientist, *Dept. of Animal and Dairy Science, UGA*. She is from the Institute of Aquaculture Research, Sunndalsora, Norway.

Morgan, Mary Jo and 2-yr -old Christopher Wallace. Morgan is a Post-doc at the *USDA* and Mary Jo is lab assistant *Dept. of Botany, UGA*. They will move in June to West Jersey where Mary Jo will go into residency in Family Medicine.

We are Updating Our Records

If you have moved recently or changed your name or know any of our members who did, please let us know. If you know any Fil-Ams in the neighborhood who are not in our directory, please give us their name, address and phone number and we will invite them to join. Better yet, bring them to our activities and introduce them to t' organization. For questions about membership and about benefits you may be missing by not joining, please call Membership Committee co-chairs **Ramon DeGuzman 613-7427**, **Mely Palad 548-7433**, or any Fil-Am officer.

Fil-Am Youth News



Joseph Lopez won the Anti-Tobacco Design Competition sponsored by Student Heroes Opposing the Use of Tobacco. His work was selected from over a hundred entries from Athens/Clarke County middle schools. Joseph's design was later made into a billboard promoting Kick Butts Day, a nationwide initiative that encourages youth advocacy and leadership in tobacco control. The billboard can be viewed when traveling west on Broad St. (near The Varsity) and at the intersection with Rocksprings St.

Fil-Am Honor Roll

By Annie-Rey Magsalin and Nikki Yarbrough

For the school year of 1999-2000, lots of the Filipino-American kids have been doing very well on their school grades. We'd like to congratulate the following kids for their outstanding job at making the Honor Roll:

Carlo Chong, 2nd Grade
Colham Ferry Road Elementary School

Victoria Lafleur, 3rd Grade
Oglethorpe County Elementary School

Aisabelle Chong, 4th Grade
Colham Ferry Road Elementary School

Marcel Bouchard, 6th Grade
Westminster Christian Academy

Jessica Fernandez, 6th Grade
Oconee County Middle School

Annie-Rey Magsalin, 6th Grade
St. Joseph School.

RJ Cagampan, 7th Grade
Oconee County Middle School

Joseph Lopez, 7th Grade
St. Joseph School.

Nikki Yarbrough, 7th Grade
Snellville Middle School

Niway Hilario, 8th Grade
Burney Harris Lyons Middle School

Achievements and Accomplishments

Athena Lao won 1st place in the county wide Short Story Contest and will represent the district in the state semifinals.

Haley Griffin was promoted from 3rd grade to 5th grade at Jefferson County Elementary School.

Mark Patena was Futral Road Elementary School, Griffin, GA 5th Grade representative in the Challenge 24 Math Competition.

Patrick Patena was first runner up in Poetry Contest at Futral Road Elementary School, Griffin, GA and also received the Excellence for Achievement Award in General Science, Spalding County 4H Club.

Julienne Pottier 7th Grade A-student at Clarke Middle School was selected by Duke University in its Talent Identification Program.

Maurice and Marcel Bouchard were rated 'Superior' in the Contemporary Music Festival and will perform in a piano recital at UGA on May 6.

Julienne Pottier will perform in Oconee Youth Playhouse Theater's *Fiddler on the Roof* in May.

Athena Lao and Haley Griffin will perform in a ballet recital entitled *The Firebird* at Morton Theater in May.

Graduations and Appointments

Edward Demesa graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Art Institute of Atlanta in April 2000. He works as a graphic designer/illustrator for Hispanic Newspaper in Atlanta.

Cris DeGuzman has accepted a position in information technology with Procter and Gamble in Singapore starting in June 2000.

Mark DeGuzman will graduate from Temple Univ. with a Doctor of Dental Medicine in May 2000. He will start a practice in Texas shortly.

Fe LaFleur was recently elected president of the 75-member NE Georgia Phlebotomy Technicians Association.

Edwin Palang completed his Master's degree in Food Science in December 1999 and is now working on his Ph.D. in Food Science at the Univ. Georgia.

George F. Patena defended his dissertation and will be awarded the Ph.D. (Agronomy, Crop and Soil Science) from the Univ. Georgia on May 13, 2000.

Stork News

Greetings to **Steve and Tess Pottier** on the arrival of baby *Gregory Steven* born February 9, 2000.

Congratulations to **Tony and Angelique Cruz** on the birth of their son, *Anthony*, born in April 2000.

Joel and Irene de Guzman looking forward to their first baby – a girl in August.

Jerry and Cecille Wetmore expecting a baby girl, *Amber Marie*, in August.

Get Well Wishes

We all wish **Marivic Cagaman** a speedy recovery from her recent operation. Get well soon and take good care of yourself.

Love & Grace from all of us at Rainbow Village...

God is our strength, our help, and great provider. We need Him each day to accomplish the work (His Work!) that He has set before us. It is in Him we trust and give glory and praise for the things He has done and will do. We are also thankful and appreciate all of you who share with us in this work through your encouragement, prayers, care packages and donations. May God bless you this new year as you seek that special abiding place found only in Him ...

The Kimball's, The Roenspie's, The Camacho's, The Donoho's & all the Rainbow Kids!



[Note: In 1999, FAANEGA supported the work of the Rainbow Orphanage in Dumaguete City, Philippines as part of FAANEGA's charity projects.]

An Easter Message:

AMAZING LOVE

Spit upon... scorned...naked...

I wish to greet you all well, in this season that brings hope and assurance of God's love toward men. We celebrate Easter to commemorate that day when Jesus rose from the dead. But why celebrate? As I tried to look back at what happened before that victorious day, I couldn't help but ponder over Jesus' cry to the Father, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" I have to ask myself another question, why did He have to go through that agonizing moment and how the Father could allow His Son to be tortured is beyond my imagination. The face of our Lord was marred beyond description, the searing pain of the nails in His hands and feet while hanging on the cross, the spit of the drunken soldiers, the scorn of a laughing, jeering mob, and the humiliation and shame of nakedness...

But when almost everyone had left and Jesus was alone, as tears mingled with blood on His battered face, He cried out to His Father, the One who had not once turned away from Him in all of eternity. The reply was cold, unmoving silence...that was the moment when God poured the judgement for our sins upon Jesus, every sin imaginable; lusting, lying, cheating, coveting, murder, hypocrisy, cruelty and deceit. Of course Jesus is not guilty of any of those sins. But we are. And everyone of your sins and mine were nailed on Him right there on the cross.

So where was God's goodness in treating Christ so? Where was the Father's kindness in turning His back on His Son while Jesus cried out in horror and grief? On that terrible day, God's goodness and kindness were directed to me and you. He forsook His own Son so that He would never have to forsake us. I can hear Him say to us, "I will never leave you. I will never forsake you. As I pondered that thought, I felt ashamed. Truly the goodness of God was indeed leading me to repentance. To think that God's anger for my sins was poured upon His Son, so that He no longer has any left for me. Isn't it amazing that God would die for me?

At the moment of the death of Jesus, all His disciples lost hope in the promise of God that their Messiah will bring peace, joy and deliverance from all of their captivity and that they will reign with Him, all that hope was gone when He gave His last breath there on the tree. But no one had ever thought, not even Satan could anticipate that Jesus would rise and finally defeat death on behalf of all the people who will put their trust in Him. Now, I know that the suffering of the Lord was truly an exchange for peace, rest and the promise of eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." -- John 3:16

Raquel Hilario

Christian Fellowship meets every Friday at Bunny and Raquel Hilario's residence (130 Whitehead Terr, Athens GA; Tel. 706-613-8492). Come for praying, singing and eating.

Bible Study meets every Tuesday at Benny and Nida's residence (260 Caroline Ave., Athens GA; Tel. 706-549-6773).

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Filipino American Association of N.E. Georgia
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SHERWIN & JOSEPHINE LOPEZ
155 TEE LN
ATHENS GA 30607

A Message from the President:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE, for a job well done. You definitely went above and beyond what was required. Thank you SOCIAL COMMITTEE (Valentine's and Easter), your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Thank you WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, for all the hard work you have done and are still doing for our organization. Without you we will not be able to accomplish the things that we do. Thank you PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, for your hard work in promoting our organization to the community.

Thank you BOARD MEMBERS, I really appreciate the time and effort put forth by each and everyone of you. We really made some very tough decisions. Everything was done in a very professional manner which really makes our organization look as good as it is.

And a huge special Thank You goes to ALL FIL-AM MEMBERS. Through your dedication and commitment, we can create an atmosphere where we come together as a community with one mind, one goal, and one mission. Promoting love, friendship and fellowship among us, the Filipino community.

I sincerely hope each of you makes an effort to contribute in some way to this aspect of our organization. You get the best of others when you give the best of yourself. Let's all join together in giving our best! GOD BLESS US!

Gigi