



Danbury, Connecticut

Summer 2006 Edition

The Official Publication of the FAAWC
Filipino-American Association of Western Connecticut

HERBERT MORTERA... 7TH FAAWC PRESIDENT

Now it can be told. Herbert Mortera did not want to run for president of the FAAWC. His wife, Lalaine was also against the idea. But their two children Brittany and Christian, insisted. In the end it worked out fine.

"Don't worry, Daddy. I'll write your acceptance speech," said Brittany.

She was as good as her word. On Gala Night in November last year at the Southbury Hilton, Herbert was sworn in as the 7th president of the Filipino-American Association of Western Connecticut. And he delivered the speech written by his daughter. Later he admitted he almost choked when he read her short speech.

The Gala Night was an auspicious start for President Herbert and First Lady Lalaine. About 300 guests from the greater Danbury area, neighboring towns and states -- New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts attended the inaugural affair.

Lalaine introduced the guest speaker -- the First Selectman of Southbury Mark Cooper and his wife, Terry. She also took charge of the Himig Ng Silangan Choir, introducing new songs and recruiting new members -- Dr. Jerome Cariaso and nurse Didith Tecson. The reluctant first couple became the willing First Couple. The moral of the story -- children can make a difference.

Herbert Mortera was born in Los Banos, Laguna to Trinidad Pacis from Ilocos Sur and Dr. Bromeo Mortera from Villasis, Pangasinan. Herbert has four brothers and three sisters.

The new FAAWC President is married to Dr. Lalaine Chua from Pasig, Rizal. Lalaine graduated from the University of the Philippines, served her residencies at various hospitals in the area -- Montefiore Hospital as a fellow in genetics; and pediatric residencies at the Westchester County Medical Center, Bridgeport Hospital, Yale-NH Hospital, and North Shore Hospital in Long Island.

Herb worked as an x-ray technologist in several hospitals such as New York Putnam Hospital,



2006-2007 FAAWC President & First Lady

Norwalk Hospital, Griffin Hospital in Derby, Housatonic Valley Radiology Group, and in the Danbury Federal Correctional Institution.

Youth participation is the thrust of Herbert's program in the FAAWC. A children choir has been formed and participated in the Simbang Gabi and Christmas party. A mini-school teaching Tagalog to Filipino-American children meets once a month at the Brookfield Community Center. A FAAWC basketball team, led by Richmond Trinidad, is doing well in the local league. The team has reached the play-off.

A skiing trip to the Mohawk for the intrepid Filipino-American skiers provided a much-needed break from the winter claustrophobia. "I want to erase the misconception that the FAAWC is boring and only interested in raising funds. We will engage in programs that are fun but not expensive," Herbert said. The FAAWC has scheduled enough activities to keep its members busy throughout 2006.

SAVE THIS DATE....

FAAWC GALA NIGHT

NOV 18, 2006



Ellen Parpana... FAAWC Vice-President

There's no truth to the rumor that after Ellen won over her husband Demy in the election for vice-president, she tried to console him: "Don't worry, Demy. Here at home you will always be the vice-president." It was the first time that husband and wife ran against each other for a position in the FAAWC. Many hoped that this would not be the last time. It made the election more exciting.

Ellen arrived in Danbury from the Philippines in 1988. She was 29 at the time. She was with a group of 16 nurses who were recruited for healthcare positions in the Danbury area. She landed her job in the Orthopedic Trauma and Neuroscience Unit of the Danbury Hospital.

Ellen began her nursing studies at the Far Eastern University and then went for her final years and internship at the the St. Jude College in Manila. In the Philippines she did not have the opportunity to work as a nurse because a year after her graduation in 1980, Ellen got married to Demy Parpana. Demy was then a civil engineer with the Department of Public Works and Highways in Manila. Soon after came the children -- DJ Dmitri and Rochelle.

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Fil-Am in the Greater Danbury Celebrates a Christmas Tradition

Once again the Filipino community in the greater Danbury area got together at St. Joseph Church in Brookfield, CT and celebrated Misa Aguinaldo on Saturday, December 17, 2005.

It is a traditional Advent Mass that goes back more than 400 years ago in the Philippines. Also known as Misa de Gallo because it is usually celebrated in the early morning hours when roosters crow to herald the dawn of a new day.

The Filipinos so love Christmas that if there were no Christmas to celebrate they would invent it.

Two hundred people attended the 6:30 evening mass officiated by Fr. Bernabe DeLa Cruz, a Filipino priest from St. Joseph Church in Willimantic. The prayers of the faithful were said in English and in the six major regional dialects –



Tagalog, Ilokano, Bicolano, Pampango, Cebuano and Ilonggo. The mass featured two distinctly Filipino rites – the children's flower offering to Virgin Mary and the children's kissing the hand of the priest in thanksgiving for their Christmas gifts.

After the mass the people trooped to the gymnasium for the dinner/reception and children's Christmas pageant – the Nativity scene. This was the highlight of the FAAWC Christmas celebration that brought joy to both young and old alike.

Skiing Accident.....

A distressed call from Nona one February evening said it all. "Please pray for James," she said in a grief-stricken voice. "He needs a miracle."

Thus began a sequence of events that started in Hartford and culminated in Brewster, New York.

James Malaguit, 15, son of Gerry and Nona Malaguit, went skiing in Hartford and what should have been a happy outing turned into a near tragedy. James broke his neck and injured his spinal cord in a skiing accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Brewster High School, where James is a student, rallied to his support. The student organization, the Democratic Congress advised by AnnMarie McLeod, sponsored a benefit carnival on May 21.

The FAAWC and more than 30 school clubs and more than 30 Brewster stores took part in the carnival. Even the Brewster Fire Department lent its support to the fundraising event.

The FAAWC sold pancit, egg rolls, pastries, sodas and bottled water. They raised \$500 from the food sales. The FAAWC had previously donated \$1000 from the Spring dance proceed.



The benefit carnival was a huge success. It raised a substantial amount to help the Malaguit's build needed handicap facilities for James, who is now confined to a wheelchair.

James' skiing accident, unfortunate though it was, demonstrated the goodwill and caring of the town of Brewster and the Filipino community for one of its own.

FAAWC gains new members....



The Association has gained two new members with the arrivals of Julianna Fontanilla and Christtal Cledera.

The bundle of joy for Vivian and John Fontanilla arrived on October 7, 2005. Julianna is now almost nine months.

"She is learning to walk and talk," said proud papa John. "She can now say mama and papa. And she also likes to play with a ball."

Their first baby, Julianna was baptized on May 21 at the St. Joseph Church in Brookfield. Ronnie and Libay Reyes, Kiko and Angel dela Cruz stood as godparents.

For Herbert and Karen Cledera, their bundle of joy came on December 30, 2005. Christtal Angel Cledera was baptized on June 3 at the St. Peter Church in Danbury. Her godparents are Dr. Lalaine Mortera, Juanita Cornal, Isabel Yuviengco, Manuel Ampelocio, Allan Durante and Molovon Azores.



Christtal is their fourth child. The others are Christian Herbert, 9, Christopher James, 6, and Christine, 4.

A reception was held at the Miry Brook Firehouse for the combined celebration of Christtal's baptism and Christian's ninth birthday. The second floor of the firehouse was filled to capacity with guests from Danbury, New Jersey and New York.



SPRING DANCE 2006

Like the tulips that remain hidden during winter and shoot up at the first signs of spring, the Filipinos in the greater Danbury area remain dormant, but as the snow melts, they stir to life and begin preparing for their annual rite of spring.

Last Saturday, April 22, the Filipino-American Association of Western Connecticut (FAAWC) held its traditional spring dance, a "Luau" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Southbury, Connecticut.

Under the direction of Chona Trinidad, the Tiare Polynesian Dance Troupe shook off its winter doldrums and shook up the dance hall with lively Polynesian and Hawaiian numbers.

The Filipino dancers range from age six to 66. Most of them have been dancing for the last 10 years. Some started as children and are now teenagers. Some were mothers and are now grandmothers, but, they do not show their age for they are as supple as the young dancers.

About 150 people attended the celebration of spring, coming from the neighboring towns and from out of state – New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

"We had a really good time. It always amazes me how dedicated the young people are to learn all those complicated dances," said Linda Almira, an American friend who always attends the FAAWC parties.

Every year the motif of the spring dance varies and new dances are introduced.

This year two teenagers, the Valera sisters (Geena and Gillian) performed the Maori Poi Ball dance. They wore colorful Maori costume and whirled Poi balls to the rhythm of a New Zealand tune.

The children staged a rendition of "Happy Talk" from the movie "South Pacific" with Trisha Ampeloquio as Bloody Mary. The children in the audience who were too young to dance were quiet and attentive during the show. They showed interest in the dances for in a few years they would be dancers themselves. That's how the Association maintains its dance troupe.



The annual spring dance serves as an opportunity for old and new friends to get together and pick up where they have left off. They don't have to go to expensive Hawaii to say Aloha to each other and experience the happy songs and dances of the islands. They just have to attend the FAAWC parties.

Phil Frulla showed how to say Aloha the authentic way. "Aloooooha," he bellowed. He should know. He has been to Hawaii with his wife Ester and daughter Casey. So, the Filipinos with colorful leis alooooohad each other.

Herbert Mortera, the FAAWC president, welcomed the guests and Ellen Parpana, vice-president, gave the closing remarks.

Kabayan Staff : Virgilio Gonzales– Chief Writer
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KILITIAN KORNER
Filipino Stress Relievers

Open Letter from Tatay

July 15, 2006

Minamahal kong anak,

Medyo mabagal akong mag type ngayon dahil alam kong mabagal kang magbasa. Nandito na kami sa probinsya para tirahan ang bagong bili na bahay. Pero hindi ko maibigay sa iyo ang address dahil dinala ng dating nakatira ang number para daw hindi na sila magpapalit ng address.

Maganda ang lugar na ito at malayo sa Manila. Dalawang beses lang umulan sa linggong ito, tatlong araw noong una at apat na araw noong pangalawa.

Nakakainis lang ang mga paninda dito katulad nung nabili ko na shampoo, ayaw bumula. Nakasulat FOR DRY HAIR kaya hindi ko binabasa ang buhok ko pag ginagamit ko. Mamaya ay ibabalik ko sa tindahan at magreklamo ako.

Noong isang araw naman ay hindi ako makapasok sa bahay dahil ayaw bumukas ng padlock. Nakasulat kasi ay YALE, eh aba namalat na ako sa kasisigaw ay hindi pa din umubukas. Magreklamo din ako sa nagbenta ng bahay, akala nila hindi ko alam na SIGAW ang tagalog ng YALE, wise yata ito!

Nakapanganak na rin pala ang ate Baby mo, hindi ko pa alam kung bae o lalake kaya hindi ko pa masasabi na kung ikaw ay bagong uncle or auntie

Mayroon nga pala akong nabili na magandang jacket at tiyak na magugustuhan mo. Ipinadala ko na sa iyo sa dahil medyo mahal daw dahil abigat ang mga botones kaya ang ginawa ko ay tinanggal ko na lang ang mga botones at inilagay ko na lang sa bulsa ng jacket. Ikabit mo na lang pag dating diyan.

Nagpadala rin ako ng tseke para sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo, hindi ko na pinirmahan dahil gusto ko na maging anonymous donor.

Ang kapatid mo palang si Jhun ay may trabaho na dito, mayroon siyang 500 na tao na under sa kanya.

Nag-gugupit siya ngayon ng damo sa memorial park, okey naman ang kita above minimum ang sahod.

Wala na akong masyadong balita. Sumulat ka na lang ng madalas ha.

Love,
Tatay

P.S. Maglalagay sana ako ng pera kaya lang ay naisara ko na ang envelope.

Next time na lang ha.

Thank you.

Prospective Employer to Applicant: " So why did you leave your previous job?"

Applicant: " The company relocated and they did not tell me where!"

Misis: " Sir, mananawagan po sana ako sa mister ko kasi dinala niya ang limang anak namin."

Radio Host: " Ok, go ahead!"

Misis: " Honey, ibalik mo na ang mga bata, isa lang naman ang sa iyo diyan!"

Juan: Pare, Birthday ng asawa ko.

Pedro: Ano ang binigay mong regalo?

Juan: Tinanong ko kung ano ang gusto niya.

Pedro: Ano naman ang sinabi ni Mare?

Juan: Kahit ano raw basta may 'Diamond'

Pedro: Ano ang binigay mo?

Juan: Baraha!

A little boy asked his Dad, "Dad, how much does it cost to get married?"

Dad replied: "I don't know son, I'm still paying."

A young son asked: "Is it true, Dad, that in some parts of Africa, a man does'nt know his wife until he marries her?"

Dad replied: "That happens in every country, Son."



FAAWC CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 16, 2006



KILITIAN KORNER 2
Filipino Stress Relievers

ERAP JOKES.....

Erap: Pre, ang bilis ko natapos buuin yung puzzle!

Juan: Talaga pare? Gaano kabilis?

Erap: 5 months!

Juan: Ang tagal naman!

Erap Tanga! Anong matagal?!

Nakalagay nga dito "For 3 years and up!"

Erap: Lintik na ibon yon... Iniputan ako!

Guard: Sir, sandali lang po kukuha ako ng toilet paper...

Erap: Wag na! Paano mo pa mapupunasan yung pwet non eh nakalipad na! Tanga ka talaga!

FVR: Erap, may gift ako sayo from India... 10 feet na snake...

Erap: Ows! Niloloko mo ba ako!? Di ako ganon ka-tanga...wala namang feet ang snake noh.

Erap: Tamad! Di ba sabi ko sayo diligan mo ang mga halaman!

Hardinero: Sir, umuulan naman po kasi eh!

Erap: Magpapalusot ka pa! Tanga!.....

Eh di magkapote ka!

Loi: "Love, may mga friends ako na nagpa-enhance ng boobs.

Okey lang ba sayo kung magpadagdag din ako?

Erap: "Ewan ko, parang hindi yata bagay sa'yo ang tatlong suso!!!"

Send your comments and suggestions to faawc@yahoo.com.

Visit Kabayan on line at www.faawc.org

Mary Ann Weiss-- Web Master

More Jokes....

When I was lost you were there,
When I was down you were there.
When I was heartbroken you were there.
When I got really sick you were there.
Aba! hindi kaya ikaw ang malas sa buhay ko?

Q: Ano ang sabi ng bangus nang mamamatay na siya?

A: I'm daing!

Q: Ano ang sabi ng isda nang hiwain siya sa gitna?

A: I'm tuna

Q: Ano ang tawag kapag sinuot mo ang kanang sapatos sa kaliwang paa at ang kaliwang sapatos sa kanang paa?

A: Malicious.

Q: What will happen to a wooden car with a wooden wheel and a Wooden engine?

A: It wooden start.

SABI nila nauubos na raw ang mga puno, isda at ibon sa mundo. Ang masakit pa rito ay dahan-dahan daw namamatay ang mga unggoy. Kaya naalala agad kita...ingat ka ha?

Ano kadalasan ang sinasabi kapag nautot?

American: Excuse me.

British: Pardon me.

Pinoy: NOT ME!

TEACHER: Anong mangyayari pag puputulin ang 1 mong tenga?

BOY: hihina po pandinig ko.

TEACHER: e kung dalawang tenga?

BOY: lalabo po paningin ko!

TEACHER: baket naman?

BOY: malalaglag po salamin ko.