

NewsLetter



Myrna Escareal sponsors Fiesta '06



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The 16th Annual Celebration of Sto. Niño de Bobon

By Dr. Myrna Escareal

Our preparations for the Bobon-USA Association's 2006 annual fiesta celebration started several years ago when

I volunteered to sponsor it.

This sprang out as the continuation of our desire to bring the celebration to the east coast every other year, if possible. I know the whole plan will only be successful with the participation of the members

and the support of the officers of the association.

A year before the celebration, we, first, canvassed possible places such as halls and hotels ideal for the event. We

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Steve and Inat Tobes will host Fiesta '07 in California

Fiesta '07 will be in California and it will be hosted by Steve and Inat Tobes. It will be held on August 25, 2007 with a mass starting at 10:30am followed by lunch and dancing from 11:00am to 4:00pm at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.

For those *mamaratrons* arriving Friday, August 24, there will be a welcome party with dinner and slide show hosted by Gerry Yturriaga and Terry Knoth from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at the Knoth's residence.

Details of the celebration including directions, airport information, places of interest, fiesta ticket information and many more are in the Program of Activities prepared by Steve and Inat.



Fiesta 2006 Picture Gallery



"It was such a miracle how what started as a group dancing evolved into a Sinulog."

Letter to the Editor

August 16, 2006

This is a constructive criticism - Who ever the organizing of Bobon U.S.A.

1. I noticed that the Newsletter content / photos are very hard to identify. Color copy prints are very cheap. You can buy. It cost 149 cents at Kinkos or Staple Store. You can buy invitation cards. We computed blank cards at 99 Dollar store.

2. Observes / Family Photos like Paredes clan and Cornillez clan are present in the Newsletter.

Suggestion Can you modify some captions, New Faces, New Generation From Bobon USA Family. Kasi nakakasawa na ang mga mukha ninyo sa Newsletter: "Joke only"

The reason why I make comments: because I always send this to Bobon. We want new faces from new generation of Bobon USA Family.

I am sending you the Katbaloganon invitation. How they make and organize.

Don't just be offended with the comment. Its for your guidance only. Thanks. (Name Withheld by the Editor)

NOTE: The above letter was sent to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Association by a fellow Bobonanon whose name I am withholding as he has not responded to my letter. The letter was handwritten and was not very legible. I tried to decipher it as it appears above. Below is the response I, as the editor of the Newsletter, sent him:

(Continued from page 1)

settled with Wyndham since they were the only one that could give us a Saturday night booking, with dinner buffet and affordable hotel rate. The band was also recruited about the same time.

Secondly, we planned the activities that will make the Bobonanons enjoy their stay in the New Jersey area and the celebration.

A welcome party on Friday, August 25, was given by Cleofe Escareal Espenilla, my youngest sister. The affair coincided with Ramil's birthday.

We wanted the mass to be memorable so Edna and I talked about it lengthily and I requested that the Bobon version of the song: *Santo Niño de Bobon*, be sung as entrance and recessional hymn. Bobonanons practiced and perfected the song before we started the ninth day novena. During the mass which was officiated by Fr. Dan Quiray, prayers and petitions specifically for Bobonanons, the Philippines and the USA, the forgotten and needy, and our parents were said.

Third, we realized that there was plenty of spare time between the mass and the party. So, I toyed with the idea of having *Sinulog* at my backyard, but because of the unpredictable weather and the unavailability of drums, I did not push through with it. I decided, instead, to host a merienda at my place for those who were not planning to do anything after the mass.

Fourth, the Dinner Dance. The Back to Back Ensemble provided the music. Unfortunately, they did not have the *curacha* music, but Butch came to the rescue. Food was a combination of beef, chicken and salmon. The dessert was also good and was available 'til the end of the party. We were able to raise some funds with the raffle and *curacha* dances performed by Edna Escareal and Ben Agus, Acit Cornillez and Raynor Lao, Daday Tagle and Bernard Purisima, Basilia de Jesus and Ber Carpina, and Steve Tobes and myself. From the proceeds of the dinner tickets, \$10.00 per ticket was donated to the association for its designated charity beneficiary.

The best thing that happened that evening was the *Sinulog* to Sto Niño at the Wyndham dance floor. It was such a miracle how what started as a group dancing evolved into a *Sinulog*. And the band was able to provide the music to fit the dance!

The last event was the Sunday dinner party at Edna & Eddie Unay's residence. The food was great, but one of the guests (a comedian) became the life of the party. He made everyone laugh and giggle all through out the party with his jokes and antics.

Thanks to all those who attended. We hope you enjoyed the event. I am thankful to God that I had the chance to host the event.

Lastly, I have this advice to those who are planning to host the fiesta:

1. You can cater the programs, events and party to your desired end. You can have embossed invitations, high powered expensive party comparable to other association's celebrations but first you have to volunteer to host/coordinate the event.
2. Reserve only for the confirmed attendees. This will save you money. It's good to give allowance, but you will end up wasting money. And I learned it the hard way after I had wasted 21 seats!
3. Remember that the celebration aims to raise funds for the association without burdening the members too much.
4. The organization depends on the \$10.00 membership fee per family per year, if we ever pay our annual dues. Thus, it just pays for the mailings. The rest are labor of love by the people involved. The key is to participate, volunteer, and appreciate the little things derived from the dedicated officers and members.

Editor's note: *The lead article in this issue of the NewsLetter is written by Dr. Myrna Escareal, our 2006 fiesta sponsor, who gladly responded to my request that she write her thoughts about the successful holding of the event in August 2006 in New Jersey.*

September 9, 2006

Dear Fellow Bobonanon,

We thank you and we appreciate your letter/comments of August 16, 2006. It is this kind of constructive criticism that keeps us going strong and improve the way we do things, so we encourage you to keep on sending us your comments and suggestions and we will let everyone know about them through the NewsLetter.

I will be publishing your comments in the next issue of the NewsLetter as a Letter to the Editor. I thought at first to just take a picture of your letter and insert it in the NewsLetter but I found it to be hard to read or decipher so I decided to transcribe it as I understand it.

I am sending you a photocopy of your original letter for your reference. Kindly check my transcription above for accuracy and send it back to me with your corrections in the enclosed self-addressed stamped en-

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*We're on the web! At
www.bobon.us*

Bobon Elementary School Acknowledges Association's Donation

In a letter sent by Mrs. Maria Lustico, the Bobon Elementary School acknowledged with great appreciation the \$820.00 donation the Association made to the School.

Fiesta 2008 and Beyond

In 2008, Totoy and Tita Cornillez will host the fiesta in Maryland. Then in 2009, Giorgio Cerenado and Ganie and Neria Garcia will join forces to host the event. In 2010, Rene and Neneng Bautista will host the affair; and in 2011, Amparo Madeja-Bongalos will sponsor the celebration.

Fr. Tan Thanks the Association

Fr. Pompeyo Tan has sent a thank you letter in appreciation of the \$3,150.00 donation that the Association has given to him last year.

Letter to the Editor (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

velop or better still if you can send me a typewritten correction. Or you can also email your corrections to bobonusa@bobon.us for faster response.

If I understand your letter correctly, you brought up the following points:

1. Photos in the Newsletter are very hard to identify.

My comments: The newsletters we mailed out last August were photocopied from an emailed (pdf) copy (which was not obviously as clear as the original) as we were in a rush to mail them out in time for the fiesta. What happened was: the ones that we printed out in color which were intended for mailing to members were lost in the mail.

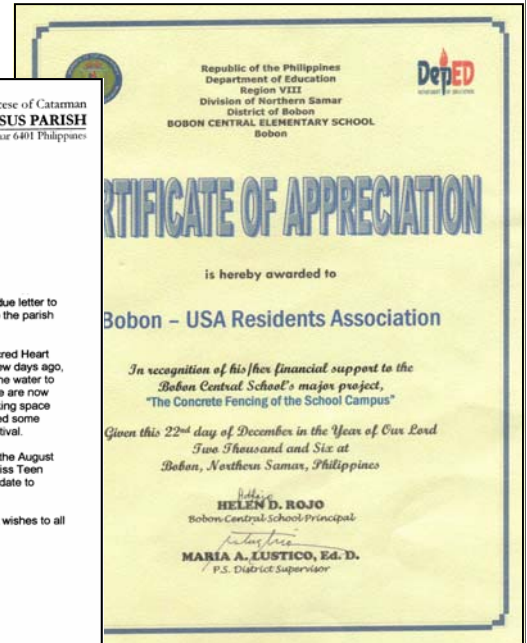
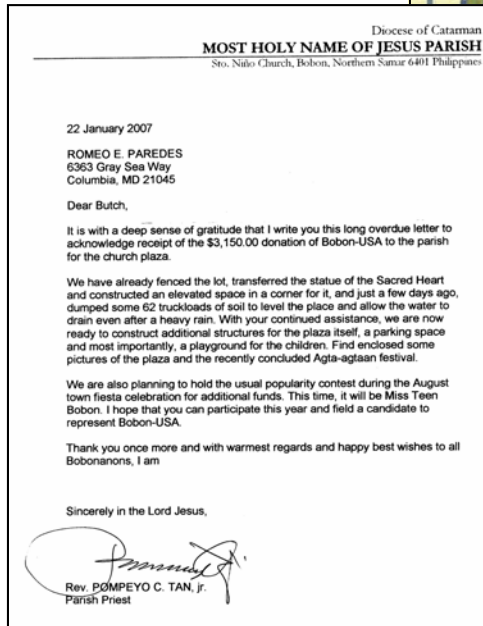
2. Family photos like Paredes clan and Cornillez clan are present in the Newsletter... *nakakasawa na ang mga mukha ninyo* sa Newsletter...

My comments: People who attend the fiesta tend to group together by family or clan and group pictures were taken this way. I don't exactly know what you meant with your statement so if you can explain yourself further, I may be able to answer you more clearly on this issue.

Year after year, it is always the same people who come and attend the fiesta and this is why their pictures are always in the Newsletter. In fairness to those who come and attend the fiesta religiously, I believe that their pictures should be included in the Newsletter - *maski nakakasawa na ang mga mukha nila*. Although, you said it's only a joke, it is indeed the reality and this is one reason why we encourage other Bobonanons (like you) to come so that new faces can be published in the Newsletter.

Thank you for sending us a copy of the Katbalaganon fiesta invitation. Very impressive, indeed! If you are suggesting that we do what the Katbalaganons do to celebrate their fiesta, thank you for the suggestion. Unfortunately, we do it the Bobonanon way and we let the fiesta sponsors decide what they want to do. If they decide to have the fiesta in the park, then it will be in the park. After all, this is how we celebrated our earlier fiestas here in the US and this is also how the Bobon-USA Association started: in a California park!

... I think, the Katbalaganon Association, USA celebrates their fiesta different from the way we, Bobonanons, do it - at least for now.



Maybe, if there will be a new generation of Bobonanons (like you, perhaps) who will introduce new ways of celebrating the Bobon fiesta, things might eventually change. And this is another good reason why I invite you, as a Bobonanon, to come and attend our fiesta regularly and be actively involved in the planning, organization and running the Association. We need people like you who have progressive ideas. Thanks. The Editor.

Treasurer's Report by Bobbie Cornillez

Balance as of June 2006	\$6,647.57
Petty Cash	148.57
Add:	
Fiesta 2006 Income:	
Membership Fees	390.00
Food Donation	2,440.00
Kuracha	789.00
Raffle	185.00
Donation: Myrna Escareal	690.00
Joe & Alice Cornillez	140.00
	4,634.00
Less:	
Fiesta 2006 Food expenses	2,440.00
5-yr Web domain registration	150.97
Website designing software	29.95
Petty Cash Replenishment	200.00
	2,820.92
Ending Balance as of May 2007	\$8,609.22
Bank Balance as of May 2007*	\$8,905.39
Petty Cash Balance	148.57
Total Cash as of May 2007	\$9,053.96
* Including interest	