

NEWSLetter



A Fiesta in New York

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By John and Grace Adams 2015 Fiesta Sponsors

WHITE PLAINS, New York — Our congratulations to all members for keeping this tradition alive for 25 years! And what an honor it was for us to welcome fellow Bobonans, relatives, friends and guests to New York! You have traveled from Australia, Phil-

ippines, Canada and many cities in the U.S. to celebrate with us. It was the first time for some to attend a Bobon-USA fiesta; while for others, it has become an annual event. For both of us, this fiesta will forever be in our hearts for you have all made it special.

When we made this promise in 2007, we had no idea that we would be hosting the 25th
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Bobon-USA Association

California Address:
5343 Essex Drive
Palmdale, CA 93552
Tel: (661) 285-1102

Alternate Address:
2259 Spartan Terrace
Brentwood, CA 94513
Tel/Fax: (925) 478-6226

Email: bobonusa@bobon.us
Web: http://www.bobon.us

The Paredeses Host Fiesta '16 in Northern California



From New York to San Francisco!

After the turnover of the image of the Santo Niño at the 2015 fiesta in New York, Butch Paredes announced that the next fiesta will be in Northern California.

Here are some details of the celebration:
Our 2016 Annual Fiesta in honor of Sto. Niño will be on Saturday, August 20, 2016

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Fiesta 2015

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annual fiesta. We were simply inspired by the many sponsors before us and thought that 2015 would be an auspicious year. It seems it was so many years ahead then, but as the saying goes, time flies!

A few months before the 2014 fiesta in California, we started looking for venues. We considered Manhattan but the hotel and banquet prices were extremely high. Queens was a possibility but like Manhattan, it is congested. In the end, we decided to have the mass in our parish and the dinner/dance in White Plains.

Vespera/Welcome party

As tradition would have it, the 9-day novena was held in various cities. But on the 9th day, it is usually at the hermano/hermana's residence or their designated venue. There were many concerns about location; but thanks to modern technology with names like GPS, Ipad, Iphone and Magellan, you found our house!



Our home suddenly looked so bright with your smiling faces and fervent prayers for the success of our fiesta. The weather forecast was ominous but we knew the huge tent would hold up well. It turned out to be a beautiful evening! With the help of our relatives and friends, we had banquet tables set up with lechon, lumpia, fried rice, menudo, buffalo chicken wings, fettuccine alfredo, meat lasagna and a variety of desserts. It was so heartwarming to see more than 90 folks in our backyard in the fiesta spirit. We did not want the night to end, but everyone had to prepare for the next day. And this was just the beginning.

The Mass in Honor of Señor Santo Niño de Bobon

The Holy Mass was officiated by Father Arthur Rivera Navales, a parochial vicar at St. Augustine Church in Ossining. Father Arthur hails from Cebu and is also a devotee of the Child Jesus.



We followed the tradition of singing Visayan songs during the Mass and added a few of our own. We asked as many of our relatives and friends as possible to participate as Eucharistic ministers, readers, altar servers, choir, and offertory bearers. After commun-

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Fiesta 2015 Picture Gallery



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

San Francisco

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and this year's sponsors are Rosario E. Paredes and her children: Butch and Melinda, Dick and Epay, and Tez.

The schedule of the 9-Day Novena (<http://bobon.us/novena.pdf>) by date and location are as follows:

- Day 1: August 11 — Pacita & Estela Cornillez/Nenette Rodriguez/Totoy & Tita Cornillez — *Chicago/Arizona*
 Day 2: August 12 — John & Grace Adams/Alice & Marites Chan/Gani & Neria Garcia — *New York/Los Angeles*
 Day 3: August 13 — Lily Cornillez & Family/Nonong Abellar/Tony & Nelly Hill & Family / Fatima Carpina & Family — *Arizona*
 Day 4: August 14 — Filipinas Tobes/Terry Knoth/Betty Gorgonia & Family/Estring Tiberio/Maricel Apelo — *Los Angeles/Ontario, Canada*
 Day 5: August 15 — Edna Unay/Myrna Escareal/Noel & Bobbie Cornillez—*New Jersey/Los Angeles*
 Day 6: August 16 — Allan Lee/Juvy Jao /Bernard & Neneng Purisima /Neneng Solano/Zenaida Jao— *Maryland/New Jersey*
 Day 7: August 17 — Jeanne Jao-Marquez/Marlou and Elena Evangelista/Wewen de Asas — *Las Vegas/Alaska*
 Day 8: August 18 — Alvarez Family — *Florida*

The 9th day Novena will be on Friday, August 19, 2016 at 4pm followed by the vespera celebration from 4:30 – 8 pm in *Brentwood* which is 32 miles (26 minutes drive) away from Hilton Concord Hotel. If you need a copy of the novena, please download it here: <http://bobon.us/novena.pdf>

The Fiesta celebration on Saturday, August 20, will start at 5pm with the Holy Mass and Sinulog in honor of Sr. Sto. Niño de Bobon and followed immediately by dinner, our annual group picture taking, special program numbers and dance, dance, and more dance 'til 12MN.

Fiesta Theme and Attire: *Hawaiian*

Meal Ticket: \$50/person (adult) and \$25/child (12 yrs old and below). Children 5 years old and below are free.



Accommodations:

Hilton Concord Hotel, 1970 Diamond Blvd, Concord, CA 94520.

A preferred rate of \$109+ tax has been arranged by this year's sponsors. Number of rooms at this rate is limited so please reserve before August 5, 2016. You can make your room reservations by booking at <http://www.concordhilton.com> or calling 1-800-826-2644 or the Hotel directly at 925-827-2000. Please mention **Bobon-USA Fiesta** to get the rate and make sure you book on or before August 5, 2016.

The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to select destinations within a 3-mile radius, including the Concord BART station, the Sunvalley Shopping Center, and Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord.

For more information on Hilton Concord Hotel, view their fact-sheet by logging on to: <http://concordhilton.com/fact-sheet/>.

Nearest airports:

Oakland International airport (OAK) – approx. 29 miles to Hilton Concord

Other area airports:

San Francisco International (SFO) - approx. 40 miles to Hilton Concord

San Jose International Airport (SJC) approx. 50 miles to Hilton Concord

Travel options with estimated travel times and costs for:

Oakland Airport (OAK) to Hilton Concord

BART: 1hrs 53min - \$9 - \$11

Taxi: 33min - \$90 - \$100

Drive: 33min - \$3 - \$4

Uber: 33min - \$40 - \$55

San Francisco Airport (SFO) to Hilton Concord

BART: 1hrs 58min - \$8 - \$10

Taxi: 45min - \$130 - \$150

Drive: 45min - \$4 - \$6

Uber: 45min - \$55 - \$75

San Jose Airport (SJC) to Hilton Concord

Bus, BART: 2hrs 53min - \$53 - \$55

Bus: 4hrs 22min - \$21 - \$24

Drive: 56min - \$5 - \$8

Uber: 56min - \$70 - \$95



Some places of interest and distances from the Hotel:

San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge — 32 miles

San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf — 29 miles

Napa Valley (Sutter Home Winery) — 48 miles and more here: <http://bobon.us/16SFAttractions.pdf>

Shopping within 3-mile radius from the hotel:

Sunvalley Shopping Center

Todos Santos Plaza

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Fiesta 2015

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ion, we added an In Memoriam reflection to honor our dearly departed Bobonanons especially Manoy Ber Carpina and our nephew Jeffrey Brian Chan Tobias, as well as all our deceased relatives and friends. We were certainly touched by the beautiful rendition of The Prayer by our friends Jim and David.

After the mass, Father Arthur blessed the children who would later carry the andas and lead the procession around the Church. We originally planned the procession to be done outside the Church but thought that it may be too much for the kids on a summer day. The Church stands on a hill overlooking the picturesque Hudson River so some Bobonanons enjoyed the view and some photo-



graphs.

The Reception – Dinner/Dance

The Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza in White Plains, New York was the venue for the traditional fiesta recep-



tion after the Mass. No fiesta is complete unless there is dancing. And there were lots of it that evening! Bobonanons know how to party! From line dancing to ballroom dancing to disco dancing, we did it all

Lane, Lydia, Mickey and Gabby had a special Philippine folk dance for us. Then later on, we had the traditional curacha dances. Amounts generated during these money dances fund many projects or dona-



tions to good causes supported by Bobon-USA Association.

We planned surprise awards for Manoy Butch Paredes and Manoy Bobby Cornillez for their 25 years of dedicated service to the Association. Indeed, without their leadership, this



25th year would not be a reality. We had crystal awards custom-made and engraved for each of them.

As for the food, we worked with the Crowne Plaza banquet team to ensure that there is something for everyone.

And then, there were more dancing! And yes, the celebration was capped by the traditional group photo!

Could we have done it better? Of course! No one is perfect.

Would we consider hosting a fiesta again? Yes!

We hope you had a wonderful time!

It was truly an honor and a pleasure to host the 25th annual fiesta!

John and Grace Adams

Our Sincere thanks to: (not in any order)

Father Arthur for celebrating the mass and for his prayers for the success of this event.

All those who sponsored and prayed the novena for 9 days.

Auntie Acit and Auntie Tela for their valuable contribution to the success of the welcome dinner. Without their expert management of the banquet, we would not have been able to mingle with everyone in our own home. Auntie Tela's Fettuccine Alfredo and Special Fried Rice were delicious! They both made my favorite leche flan. Thank you for co-sponsoring the vespers dinner. In case you're wondering what I made, it was the 4 pans of meat lasagna and the low-fat cassava cakes.

To my mother, Alice Chan, and my aunts for all their prayers for the success of the fiesta.

My sister Tess for sponsoring the DJ and dance instructors. Everyone had a great time. It was such a thrill to see dance floor that was filled with happy dancers, both young and old!

Rene and Neneng Bautista for making the beautiful *andas* for the Santo Niño. Yes, it was made in California and shipped to New York for the mass. It had to be light so children can carry the Statue during the procession. We decorated it with fresh and silk flowers here in New York.

To Manoy Nellie and Lita Fox for their work at the Registration desk and for the hours they spent on the money desk during the curacha dances. Manoy Nellie who has never traveled alone made an exception for this fiesta and flew to the White Plains airport. This

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"It was truly an honor and a pleasure to host the 25th annual fiesta!"

San Francisco

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Eating & Dining near Hotel:

1. Plate & Vine at the Hilton, 1970 Diamond Blvd., 0.0 miles from Hilton
2. Claim Jumper, 1981 Diamond Blvd, 0.1 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: American
3. Panera Bread, 1975 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton.
4. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, 1991 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton
5. Seafood City Grill City/Jollibee Concord/Chow King/Manila Sunset Restaurant, 2030 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton
6. Eureka! Concord, 1975 Diamond Blvd Suite C-160, Willows Shopping Center, 0.2 miles from Hilton
7. Pho Lee Hoa Phat, 2030 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: Vietnamese
8. Denny's, 1313 Willow Pass Rd, 0.2 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: American
9. Sizzler, 1353 Willow Pass Rd, 0.2 miles from Hilton
10. Benihana, 1989 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: Japanese, Asian
11. Elephant Bar Restaurant, 225 Willow Pass Rd, 0.2 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: Japanese
12. HomeTown Buffet, 2050 Diamond Blvd, 0.2 miles from Hilton
13. Lazy Dog, 1961 Diamond Blvd, Willow Pass Shopping Center, 0.3 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: American
14. Round Table Pizza, 1320 Willow Pass Rd Ste 600,

0.3 miles from Hilton. Cuisines: Pizza

Fiesta invitations containing the above-mentioned information, meal tickets, and more will be mailed to all registered members soon. Those who do not get their tickets by mail can pay at the door but let us know ahead of time by email, phone, or FB if you plan to come so we can make a reservation for you. Please fill out and keep your ticket stubs for door prizes.

Safe travels and we hope to see you all soon!

The Fiesta 2016
Hermanos & Hermanas
Rosario E. Paredes
& children:
Butch and Melinda
Dick and Epay
Tez

"To each and everyone who participated in the 2015 Fiesta, thank you all so much. See you in August 2016!"

Fiesta 2015

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meant a lot to me! And yes, Manay Nellie, I am hoping that I will be given the opportunity to present you with your 25th

year award in the not-so-distant future.

To my sisters-in-law who transformed our garage into a

banquet food area and decorated the tent and to my brothers-in-law who set up the bar and were excellent event bartenders

(Continued on page 6), **Fiesta 2015**

More Fiesta 2015 Picture Gallery



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

Fiesta 2016 and Beyond

We now have a line-up of hermanos/hermanas for our annual fiesta until 2020.

Here they are:

2016 - Rosario Paredes and children Butch/Melinda, Dick/Epay, and Tez, *Northern California*

2017 - Alvarez family, *Florida*

2018 - Jojo and Mydee Vergel De Dios and sons DJ and Sam, *Arizona*

2019 - Zenaida Jao, *TBA*

2020 - Paredes Cousins, *TBD*

Viva Sr. Sto. Niño!

Fiesta 2021 and beyond are still open. Any takers? Just let us know.

Tips & Other Bright Ideas

Those disappearing cracks.

Did your wall have cracks that you planned to fix, but now they're gone? You suspected an April Fools' Day trick, but it was probably not one. Here's why: During winter, heating dries the air which causes dry, itchy skin. Reduced humidity dries your home, too, causing some parts to shrink. And during winter, cracks in walls and separations in trim and woodwork begin to show up and, as things get drier, hairline cracks grow and become more noticeable. Thus, winter and early spring are the best times to find and patch such cracks.

When warmer weather arrives, homes are opened up, humidity levels rise and they start reabsorbing moisture, causing your house to expand again, too. And cracks that were visible start closing up again, disappearing as if by magic.

- *Courtesy of onthehouse.com*

**Don't forget to pay for
your \$10/family
annual dues....**

**More fiesta pictures are available for viewing and download at our website:
<http://www.bobon.us>**

Treasurer's Report by Bobbie Cornillez

Our Treasurer, Bobbie Cornillez, has reported that as of December 17, 2015, our Association has a balance of \$25,623.80.

Fiesta 2015

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during the event.

To our friends Milali, Vidor, Larry, Jim and David for their support and assistance. Vidor picked up the lechon and a couple of other dishes from New Jersey. I bet his car smelled of Lechon de Cebu for days. To Jim and David for singing "The Prayer". We were speechless when we first heard you in our basement and then again in the Church.

To Auntie Acit for my gorgeous vintage terno.

To Milali for my beautiful evening Filipiniana gown and for the grandnieces' Philippine attire.

To my Chan cousins from Canada who attended the Bobon-USA fiesta for the 1st time. Your participation meant a lot to us. Maricel, I must say that we had a good Toronto participation this year because of your help.

My Arizona Cornillez cousins, Mydee and Lynn, who assisted me during the vespers and the reception. It was fun putting together the party favors with you! I had several key chains and tags that had to be assembled. Our grandnieces, Mia and Siena, who we lovingly call "the twins" (because they are identical twins) stamped "thank you" in some of those favor tags.

Brian Hershey, Daniel Vergel de Dios and Sam Vergel de Dios for taking red eye flights on Friday and making it to the mass and dinner/dance on Saturday.

To Neneng Ocastro for introducing me to Gloria Lim who handcrafted all the chaplets that we gave out as religious tokens. I purchased the accompanying prayers and medals from the Infant Jesus Shrine in Oklahoma. John and I finished some of the chaplets.

To all the kids for their participation during the procession.

To Manoy Totoy, the Sinulog grand master, assisted by Manay Tita for making sure both the procession and the Sinulog went well.

To Lane, Lydia, Mickey and Gabby for their beautiful dance number and to Manay Neneng for guiding them.

To our Eucharistic Ministers, Mydee Vergel de Dios and Ely Percy, Daniel and Sam Vergel de Dios who assisted Father Arthur during the mass, offertory bearers Mason and Declan and Donna Tabique for the reading.

To the Bobon-USA fiesta choir for their beautiful voices.

To the officers of the Bobon-USA Association for your dedication.

If I forgot anyone, my sincerest pardon for my senior moment. So this goes to everybody:

To each and everyone who participated in the 2015 Fiesta, thank you all so much.

See you in August 2016!

- Grace