



BASEBALL AND THE BAYANIHAN SPIRIT

Bayanihan is a Filipino tradition in which the community pulls together to help achieve a common goal. Baseball, America's national past time, has been unifying the Filipino-American community in Central Virginia to exemplify the meaning of the word bayanihan. It is ironic since baseball is not that popular in the Philippines. It lags behind basketball, boxing and even soccer. But every summer, for the past seven years, the community becomes baseball fans as it rallies behind a team, the Pioneers, composed of kids 12-years-old and under, from Tanauan, Batangas in the Philippines. The Pioneers is managed by Totie Leus and competes with teams from the US and all over the world in the East Coast.

When the Pioneers played their tournaments in Central Virginia, an army of volunteers from the Fil-Am community opened up their homes and gave their time and provided lodging, meals, transportation to and from the games, donated baseball equipment and most importantly, offered fan support not only to the players and its coaches, but also to the parents and chaperones of the team.

This past July, the Pioneers competed in the week-long Cal Ripken Blue Crab tournament in Aberdeen, MD. Even though the team did not have their games here, the bayanihan spirit crossed state lines. Gerry Balallo spear headed the effort to ensure the team received the same accommodations they had when they played their games in Central Virginia. He contacted the leaders of the Filipino-American organization in Aberdeen to request for their support, which they gladly accepted. Like a true fan, Gerry traveled to Aberdeen to watch the team play, a 14-0 win over the Force Express. This was the first time that Gerry had witnessed the team get a victory. The Pioneers went on to the championship game undefeated but fell short to a team from Ohio, the Chardon Eagles, 11-10 in extra innings.

After the tournament, the team and its entourage traveled to Central Virginia to reconnect with old friends from their previous visits and to establish new ones. A welcome dinner was hosted by Lourdes and Sam Balallo at their home and prior to leaving Richmond, Beth and Gerry Balallo hosted a farewell luncheon. The community came out to show their support.

The Filipino-American community in Central Virginia is very proud of the Pioneers, which it now claims as its own, not only for its accomplishments but also for bringing the community together in the true spirit of bayanihan.



Pioneers shuts out the Express 14-0.



Team photo with the South Shore Seadogs from Boston.



Pioneers visited Central Virginia after their tournament in Aberdeen, MD.



Farewell luncheon for the Pioneers hosted by Gerry and Beth Balallo.

ASSoCV ASIAN-AMERICAN CELEBRATION

The 21st Annual Asian-American Celebration was held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center on May 19, 2018. Several Asian communities throughout Central VA participated in the event like the Bangladeshi, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, South Korean and Filipino communities to name a few. FAACV, along with its community partners, Kultura Pilipino, PinayZ and Sayaw!Diversity, represented the Filipino culture through exhibits, cuisine and dance performances, in-line with this year's theme of *Discover Asia*. The festivities started with a welcome address from AASoCV Chairman, Mahmud Chowdhury. Despite the rainy weather, the event was well attended by the community.



PinayZ performed Habanera de Jovencita.



FAACV members getting the cultural booth ready for Pahiya's.



Kultura Pilipino members took a quick break from the food booth to get a picture with House candidate Abigail Spanberger.



Ati-Atihan dance by Sayaw!Diversity.

FLORES DE MAYO/SANTACRUZAN CELEBRATION

Flores de Mayo is a festival in the Philippines during the entire month of May to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Santacruzán* is the ritual pageant held on the last day of the *Flores de Mayo*. These cultural traditions continue here in Central Virginia. Annually, Monica Pioquinto, Chit Chavez and Ligaya Colorado organize and invite the community to participate in the pageantry of the Flores De Mayo/Santacruzán Celebration held at St Edwards Catholic Church in Chesterfield. This year's event was on May 27, 2018. After the 12:30pm mass, the *Reyna's* with their escorts and the little ones all lined up outside the church to start the parade around the grounds. After the procession, everyone joined together at the gymnasium for traditional Filipino food.



Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Little angels lead the way.



Participants posed for pictures in the commons area of St Edward Church.

FAACV CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

FAACV's had its 6th Charity Golf Tournament at The Club at Viniterra on June 16, 2018 in New Kent, VA. The tournament benefitted [Daily Planet](#), a non-profit organization that provides health services to the community regardless of housing, financial or insurance status, and the FAACV Scholarship Program. There were 14 teams that participated in the event. Each player had a shot to win a brand-new 2018 Toyota Highlander XLE from event sponsor, [McGeorge Toyota](#), on the 6th hole of the course. Unfortunately, no one was able to make the hole-in-one shot from 175 yards. The team of Joey Colina, Ron Decastro, Bob Dupke, and Ed Borovatz won the captain's choice tournament format with a score of 55. After the tournament, lunch was provided to all at the pavilion and tournament and raffle winners were also announced. FAACV thanks all the sponsors, participants, volunteers and The Club at Viniterra for making the charity golf tournament a complete success.



Hole-in-one prize Toyota Highlander XLE waiting to be claimed on the 6th hole.



Gerry Balallo welcome address before the start of the tournament.



Tournament winners (L-R): Ed Borovatz, Joey Colina, Ron Decastro, and Bob Dupke.



Tournament luncheon and awards ceremony.

CELEBRATING PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

FAACV invited the Filipino-American community to celebrate the 120th Philippine Independence Day to a picnic at Deep Run Park on July 8, 2018. It was a time for the community to come together and celebrate with pride the importance of this event. There were lots of familiar faces and some new ones that enjoyed the summer afternoon. Attendees brought dishes to share while FAACV provided grilled burgers and hotdogs. It was a fun-filled event with games, music and dancing for all to enjoy.



Grill Master Sam Balallo in action.



Dancing at the park.



Team FAACV photo before the picnic starts.



It's not as easy as we thought.



Let's go! Almost to the finish line.

FAACV GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

After its successful golf tournament in June, FAACV presented a check of \$1500 to Daily Planet Director Christopher Lindsay on August 4, 2018 at a gathering in the home of FAACV Officer, Imelda Raguindin, in Goochland, VA. Christopher expressed his sincere thanks for FAACV's contribution and emphasized that the money will help Daily Planet continue its mission in providing health services to the community of Central Va. Unable to attend the check presentation, Maureen Neal, Chief Operating Officer of Daily Planet, sent a letter of appreciation to FAACV for its donation and choosing their organization as one of the beneficiaries of the golf tournament.

Other beneficiaries of the golf tournament included: \$1000 to the FAACV Scholarship Fund, in which four students will receive \$250 each, \$300 to the Colorado Muscular Dystrophy Fund, \$100 for Solar Lantern Project in the Philippines and \$200 to Pioneer Baseball.



Check presented to Christopher Lindsay of Daily Planet on August 4, 2108

ALL THINGS PINOY

In this new section of the newsletter, you will read about a wide array of topics that have a Filipino connection. Hope you all will enjoy.

- Gina Ortiz Jones is running for Congress in the 23rd Congressional District in Texas. If she wins, she will be the first Filipina-American to do so. See her story on CNN link below:
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/12/politics/gina-ortiz-jones-american-woman-cnntv/index.html>
- Nothing good to watch on TV? Check out the movie **1898: Our Last Men in the Philippines** on Netflix. The movie depicts the Siege of Baler during the last years of Spanish Colonization of the Philippines. Watch the movie in Spanish with English subtitle to get the full effect.
- There are two new restaurants around town that you might want to explore:

Chef Mike Ledesma's much anticipated grand opening of his restaurant [Perch](#) on September 22, 2018. Click on the link for more information

[Tiny Victory](#) located in Jackson Ward on 506 West Board Street serves Filipino-influenced dishes. On the menu, you will find favorites like Sisig, Chicken Inasal, Pancit Palabok, and Lechon Kawali. Click on the link for more information.



Chef/Owner Ian Merriman busy in the kitchen at Tiny Victory



FAACV member, Chef Mike Ledesma is opening his new restaurant, Perch, on September 22.



Filipina-American running for Congress.



Movie recommendation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 6, 2018

VAACV **Fall Fling**

Our Lady of Lourdes Social Hall 6pm.

Tickets \$10 members / \$15 non-members.

For more information, contact Mila Fat at Tindahan 804-747-3958.

October 20, 2018

FAACV Fundraising event to celebrate Filipino-American Heritage Month **Hot Hula Zumba At Iba Pa.**

Our Lady of Lourdes from 9am to 2pm.

Tickets are \$10.

November 10, 2018

Sayaw! Diversity Fundraising event **An Evening with Sayaw**

Dogtown Dance Theatre, 109 W 15th St, Richmond, VA 23224 6:30pm

Tickets are \$30

December 31, 2018

FAACV **New Year's Eve Party** at the Double Tree Hotel in Midlothian. We are celebrating FAACV's 45th year anniversary in grand style, so don't miss this event. Details to follow.

April 2019

FAACV **Fiesta in RVA**

Details to follow.

FAACV Board Meetings are usually held every 1st Saturday of the month in the Executive Conference Room at Johnston-Willis Hospital.

GREETINGS

Congratulations to Danielle Dacanay, daughter of Leni and Danny Dacanay. Danielle graduated on May 19, 2018 from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Science and Economics. Besides graduating with a double major, Danielle was active in the university community having been the Operations Manager and Production Editor of The Cavalier Daily, Communications Assistant for UVA Student Activities, Public Relations Chair of OYFA (Organization of Youth Filipino Americans) and a member of the Akademix Dance Crew. Danielle will start work this August as a Business Consultant for Data Tech Solutions in Northern VA.

Congratulations to Gabriel Littaua, son of Dr. Christy and Raymond Littaua. Gabriel graduated high school on June 1, 2018 from Benedictine College Preparatory school in Goochland with summa cum laude honors. While at Benedictine, Gabriel received numerous awards and scholarships like the National Leadership Award from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Merit and Fleck Memorial Scholarships, and the Harvard Book Award. He was a Corps Officer having the rank of Captain and was the S1 adjutant of the BCP battalion. Gabriel is now attending the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Bio-Engineering.

Congratulations to Dr. Maria Cielo Sinsioco and the Richmond Pilipino Class for having received the award for the Most Outstanding Organization for Cultural Promotion on June 23, 2018 at the Migrant Heritage Commission People's Ball in Washington DC.

Congratulations to FAACV member, Chef Mike Ledesma on his new restaurant, Perch, opening on September 22, 2018. Perch is located on 2918 West Broad St in Scott's Addition. For reservations, call 804-669-3344 or visit the website at perchrva.com.

Want to add your greetings or community events to the newsletter, send an email with brief details to faacv.secretary@gmail.com

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Next Issue of the Newsletter will be in Nov 2018

