

NewsLetter



Steve & Fil Tobes sponsor Fiesta '07

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Message from the Hermano-Hermana Mayor 2007

By Steve and Fil Tobes

August always marks a memorable month of the year for us Bobonanons. As we all

know, this is the time when we celebrate the feast of Sto. Nino de Bobon, the patron saint of our hometown Bobon, Northern Samar, Philippines.

As young children, we

remember our town fiesta or *patron* as a day of prayer, fun, and food. To follow the tradition and down through the years, we have successfully celebrated the American ver-

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Totoy and Tita Cornillez will host Fiesta '08 in Baltimore

Fiesta '08 will be in Maryland and it will be hosted by Totoy and Tita-Carpina Cornillez. It will be held on August 23, 2008 with a mass starting at 4:00pm followed by dinner and dancing from 6:30pm to 1:00am at the Baltimore's Tremont Grand.

For those *mamaratrons* arriving Friday, August 22, there will be a welcome crab feast dinner jointly hosted by Tita and Totoy and Butch and Melinda Paredes from 6:00pm to 11:59pm at the Jeffers Hill Neighborhood Center in Columbia. Of course, for those who are allergic to crabs and sea foods, there will be plenty of other foods for you. We just thought it is appropriate to have a crab feast dinner since Maryland is famous for its crabs.

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



Fiesta 2007 Picture Gallery

At the Vespera...



At the Fiesta...





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

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sion of our Bobon fiesta, a collaborative effort of every Bobonanon living here in the U.S.A. We all feel that every celebration we do is worth remembering and this keeps us bonded as one community in a far away land.

We still remember the day in 2005 when Bobbie phoned asking if we could sponsor the 2007 fiesta celebration. We were reluctant at first knowing that it comes with a great deal of responsibility and honestly we were not ready for the job. But we remembered the old town belief that when you are asked to be the Hermano and Hermana, it is considered a bad thing to decline. On second thought, we felt deeply honored to serve as Hermano-Hermana on this memorable occasion. So we gladly accepted the request and the challenge. As in the past, we wanted everyone to enjoy and have a lasting memory of the celebration. To do this, we chose a restaurant that would not only have the ambience of California but offered a feel of the beach, ocean, and sunny skies that our state is known for. All of these were just a view away.

We also wanted the mass to be held in our parish church, St. Dominic Savio where Steve is a choir member, but considering the distance and the traffic in L.A., we just decided to have it in one place for the convenience of Bobonanons and our visitors.

The fiesta celebration started with the nine-day novena hosted by friends, family, and relatives. And on the day before the fiesta, we had the vesper day celebration or what we, Bobonanons, call *Vesperas*. It was hosted by my sister Terry, husband Fred and family and my brother Gerry, wife Chit and their family. Fred wanted the occasion to be unforgettable so, while all were enjoying their food and drinks, he set up a slide show, a collection of pictures taken during his Bobon Peace Corps assignment in the sixties. He added pictures taken later during his travels to our hometown with Terry and kids. It was a nostalgic night reminiscing about the past. Everybody burst into laughter as soon as they saw pictures of themselves when they were young or people they recognized way back then. A memorable evening!

Then came the big celebration. It started with a mass celebrated by Father Lester Avestruz from Cebu but now a permanent resident of California whom I befriended four years ago when I went on a pilgrimage. Once again, Bobonanons showed their unity by forming an impromptu choir, singing songs that were provided in the program during the mass. Thanks to following people, Butch Paredes, who accompanied the choir with his guitar. Mana Sayong Paredes, Mana Lusing del Monte, Mrs. Alice C. Chan, Mrs. Lelita Cornillez, Ms. Pacita Cornillez, Totoy and Tita Cornillez, Ber and Tima Carpina, Mrs. Farida Aquino, Noel Cornillez and Tony Hill. Right after the mass, lunch was served. We hope everyone enjoyed the food.

The fun part of the program was started by DJ Ponce, who got everybody to the dance floor to enjoy different kinds of line dancing. A fiesta celebration is never complete without a *curacha*. Many thanks to the people who willingly donated a share of their wealth. Fortunately we were able to raise a substantial amount from the *curachas* and raffles that went to the Association's fund. (see Treasurer's Report). The affair ended with the *Sinulog*; we knew that nobody wanted it to end but, of course, time was limited and you know the rest.

Thanks to all who came from far and near just to attend our fiesta!

We hope all of you enjoyed your stay in California and our sincere thanks to the hosts of the nine-day novena: Mrs. Luz Bajenting and family, Mr. and Mrs. Floro Awit, Mr. and Mrs. Rodolfo Clemente, Mana Iday Gorgonia, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Paredes, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knoth, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Sarmiento and Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Yturriaga.

Salamat ngan maupay ug marayhak nga patron sa iyo ngatanan sin nga tida-raon Bobon-USA fiesta celebration 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Editor's note: This lead article of the *NewsLetter* was written by Steve and Fil Tobes, 2007 Bobon-USA Fiesta sponsors.

Fiesta 2009 and Beyond

In 2009, Giorgio Cerenado and Ganie and Neria Garcia will join forces to host the event. Then in 2010, Rene and Neneng Bautista will host the affair; and in 2011, Amparo Madeja-Bongalos will sponsor the celebration. And how about celebrating the fiesta in Las Vegas? John and Grace-Chan Adams plan to invite Bobonanons to a fiesta in Las Vegas in 2015!

Please mark your calendars.

"...we knew that nobody wanted it to end but, of course, time was limited and you know the rest."



The Association expresses its profound condolences to the family of the late **Gen. Oscar Aquino**

Treasurer's Report by Bobbie Cornillez

Balance as of May 2007		\$8,905.39
Petty Cash		118.62
Add:		
Fiesta 2007 Income:		
Membership Fees	400.00	
Food Donation	4,405.00	
Kuracha	2,041.00	
Raffle	250.00	
Donation from:		
Mr. & Mrs. Fernando Ty, Sr.	100.00	
Other Fiesta Income	201.00	
Interest Income		
(June 2007-Sept 2007)	9.19	7,406.19
Less:		
Fiesta 2007 Food expenses	4,420.00	
Postage and Envelopes	81.50	
Bank Fees (Per Item Deposited		
Fee, Cash Deposited Fee)	6.10	4,507.60
Ending Balance as of Sept. 2007		\$11,922.60