

# NEWSLetter



## Northern California Revisited

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*By Butch Paredes*

BRENTWOOD, California — It was after the 2013 fiesta in New Jersey that Melinda and I thought of bringing back this annual event to Northern California. We discussed the idea with Dick, Epay, Tez and Mama and they all got on board with it. I contacted Bobbie and Mana Nelly immediately to check if we already have fiesta sponsors for 2016. Bobbie told me she remembered that Marlo and Elena

(Evangelista) together with Jeanne (Jao-Marquez), at one point, expressed interest in hosting the 2016 fiesta. When we talked to Marlo, however, we learned that they are not yet ready to sponsor the fiesta at this time but maybe at a later time.

So, that was the start of our fiesta 2016 adventure.

*(Continued on page 2), Fiesta 2016*

**Merry Christmas!**  
and a  
*Blessed New Year*

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## The Alvarez Family will host Fiesta '17 in Florida



### From Northern California to Florida!

Our annual fiesta is moving to the east-coast again as the Alvarez family hosts it in Jacksonville, Florida. This was announced by Donald and Bonita Alvarez-McFarland right after the turn-over of the image of Sr. Santo Niño during the Fiesta 2016 celebration in Concord.

Details of the Florida celebration will be posted in the next issue of the NewsLetter. In the meantime, start planning for a family vacation to the sunshine state in 2017.

## Fiesta 2016

## Fiesta 2016 Picture Gallery



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One of the first things that we had to decide on was the theme for the event. We thought that for a change, going a little bit informal may be the way to go. Our discussions went even as far as holding the event at a park just like our very first fiesta celebration 26 years ago. But after several meetings and discussions, we all agreed to go Hawaiian.

Next on our to-do list is the venue. At first we thought of having the mass and the reception in Brentwood. However, after considering the proximity of Concord to most of the tourist attractions in San Francisco and its surrounding areas and the convenience of the various restaurants, we decided on The Hilton hotel in Concord. The *vespera*, of course, was held in our home in Brentwood. Finding a priest to say the mass for the *vespera* and at the reception was quite a challenge. With a lot of prayers, however, we met Fr. Honesto Gile, who is originally from Matnog, Sorsogon. He speaks *Waray*, too, and was more than willing to do it for us.

To drum up the fiesta, we had the event broadcast at ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC) and GMA Pinoy TV. It was probably one of the reasons why we had about 150 people in attendance. There were many first-timers among the attendees – too many to mention – who were so happy to reconnect with their fellow *Bobonanons* here in the US after so many years. We also had some guests vacationing from Germany and of course, we had the regulars coming from all over the country.

The fiesta celebration really started with the 9-day novena with its first day on August 11, 2016 and we would like to thank all those who took the time to lead the novena prayers in their homes. We were happy to know that so many people, even those who did not plan on coming to the fiesta, were able to participate in the novena because of the daily email reminders that we sent. Most *Bobonanons* who were in our email list were able to pray the



novena using their internet-enabled smartphones, iPads, tablets and laptops. The 9<sup>th</sup> day of the novena was held in our home followed by a mass officiated

by Fr. Gile. It was a nice time to meet and greet everyone while



(Continued on page 4), **Fiesta 2016**

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

## Thank you Bobon-USA Association!

By Lydee Hershey

Last year during the Fiesta in New York City on August of 2015, I had the opportunity to raise funds for Bulig Foundation through the dance *kuratsa*. Thanks to the *Hermano* and *Hermana* Grace and John Adams and to Mydee for making that happen. The *kuratsa* brought in \$452.00 to Bulig Foundation and so I would like to thank you all for the "gala" and your generosity and for the chance to raise funds for Bulig Foundation.

As most of you know, last January 6 & 7, 2016, we conducted Medical and Wellness Mission in Bobon. We had the mission for two days and despite having it at a badly damaged covered court with half of the roof gone from typhoon Nona, we were still able to serve about 1,000+ *Bobonanons*! People



from all over the neighboring Barrios and Barangays came to take advantage of the free screening, free consultation services, free medicine, free vitamins and free reading glasses. The money we raised from the



*kuratsa* was used to buy mission related items like medicines, blood pressure kits, reading glasses, t-shirts for the volunteers and banners. So again thank you so much Bobon-USA for the help!

I also would like to thank all the volunteers who came to help specially Dr. Myrna Escareal, Dr. Sally Medalla and husband, Dr. Medalla, Dr. Boy Tagle, Dr. Uy, Dr. Novales, Manay Nelly and Man Tony, the Omega Family, Manay Tita and Manoy Totoy, Manay Tima, Manay Inat



and Manoy Steve, Manay Neneng and Kuya Rene, Manoy Dick and Epay, Bobbie and Noel, Lynn Tabigue, Medy, Melba Ganaban, BOMMRA volunteers and most especially Mydee! Thank you, Mydee, for all the hard work and for being instrumental in the solicitation of free medicines. Thank you everyone for all for your help! Couldn't have done it without you!

*Dako nga salamat* to Bobon-USA Association!

From Bulig Foundation!



## Bobon USA and Bulig Foundation gave Aid to Typhoon Nona Victims

By Lydee Hershey

It is still very fresh in my mind the devastation that Typhoon Nona brought to our beloved town of Bobon! The worst devastation ever according to the locals, even worse than that of typhoon Yolanda! According to the government's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) more than 279,000 homes were damaged by the typhoon. Of that total, 98,371 houses were classified as "totally destroyed," most of them in three provinces that took direct hits from the eye of the typhoon: Northern Samar (39,470 homes), Oriental Mindoro (30,957 homes) and Sorsogon (23,258 homes). It was very evident that Bobon suffered tremendously from Typhoon Nona. The homes especially sa "*Baybayan*" were 90% totaled with people living in makeshift houses! The schools, office buildings



and residential homes were also either totaled or partially damaged.

In response to this disaster, many organizations sent aid to the victims of typhoon Nona. Among them were The Bobon-USA Association and Bulig Foundation. Bobon-USA Association helped so many families! A

total of about approximately 700 plus families and individuals received monetary aid from the organization. The help to these families extended all over Bobon and its many Barangays like General Lucban, Santa Clara, Salvacion and San Juan. They were very much appreciative of all the help they have received! Bobon-USA Association also donated to the church a sizeable amount of money for the repair of the damaged roofing and windows, etc. Father Potenciano Dulay, the Bobon Parish priest, was very grateful for the assistance as well.

The same people who came to volunteer at the medical mission also came to help in the distribution of the monetary aid to these families. Thanks to Dr. Myrna Escareal, Manay Nelly and Man Tony, the Omega Family, Manay Tita and Manoy Totoy, Manay Tima, Manay Inat and Manoy Steve, Manay Neneng and Kuya Rene, Manoy Dick and Epay, Bobbie and Noel, Lynn Tabigue and Mydee! Thank you all again for all your help! I also would like to mention that last January many of you do-

(Continued on page 4), **Bulig Foundation**



## Fiesta 2016

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enjoying their dinner.

On the day of the fiesta, as *mamaratrons* started coming in to the ballroom, it was a joy to see everyone, young and old alike, in their colorful Hawaiian attires complete with leis and flower headbands. The affair begun with an anticipated mass officiated by Fr. Gile, followed by the



*sinulog* and the traditional group picture taking. A Hawaiian-inspired dinner was served afterwards.



Michael and Sean electrified the audience with their modern dance. Mama's great grandchildren, Allyson, Gabby, Lydia, Mickey, Lil and Ella entertained everyone with their Hawaiian dance. Mickey and Gabby did a duet with Gabby playing the ukelele while Ervin and Jonathan were cool with their rendition of "Be My Lady".

The surprise of the evening was the appearance of the "King" himself, Elvis who thrilled his fans in the audience particularly the JENT Presleyan gang! The *kuradang* and line-dances kept everyone

dancing the night away. And, of course, the fiesta will not be complete without the *kuracha* dances which netted a little over \$3,000.00.

I would like to thank all the *Bobonanons* who continue to support the association's initiative to keep this annual tradition going. Sponsoring a fiesta can be a lot of work but certainly a lot of fun. It gives one a feeling of fulfillment and spiritual upliftment knowing it's primary purpose is to honor Señor Santo Niño and keep Him alive in the hearts of all *Bobonanons* around the world.

For me and Melinda, Dick and Epay, Tez and Mama, planning and implementation of this fiesta was made possible through the

## Bulig Foundation

(Continued from page 3)

nated money to Bulig Foundation through GoFundMe for the TYPHOON NONA victims.

From that we raised \$1,200.00! We were able to help 65 plus families who lost part or most of their homes. Some families in "Moron Poron", Canibongan and Mag-saysay, J. P Laurel and San Isidro have received *Sawali's* for the walls and some received roofing materials for the roof. Others received cash for food. So again, thank you all so much for your help and generosity!

Thank you, thank you, thank you and God bless you all!  
*Dako nga salamat!*

Bulig Foundation



## Fiesta 2016



help of our loving family members. Lydee designed the fiesta invitations. She and Manay Neneng painstakingly did the table arrangements for the guests from the day we had our initial list of attendees until the very day of the fiesta. Tez took care of ordering and making sure we had enough Santo Niño statuettes for our fiesta souvenirs. Manay

Neneng and Kuya Rene made sure that the *andas* is beautifully decorated for Santo Niño. Kuya Rene, with his good sense of humor and ability to improvise, did a wonderful job of emceeing the event. Liza and Manay Neneng beautifully led in the singing of

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## In Memoriam



**Fe Perpetua Quinones-Tagros**

Birth: November 26, 1952

Death: September 2, 2016

More Fiesta 2015 Picture Gallery



## Fr. Dulay's acknowledgment letter

MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Bobon, Northern Samar  
Philippines

Feb. 18, 2016

To:

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOBON-USA ASSOCIATION  
USA

The Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish, through my humble stewardship, is deeply grateful to the people there from afar but the hearts are so near to hear and listen to the anguish and suffering of their fellow Bobonanons here in Bobon brought about by the ravages of the strong typhoon Nona.

We received the amount of \$5,000.00 equivalent to Php.232,800.00 which you have sent as your church donation. This donation will be used to pay for the labor and materials for the needed repairs of the roof and ceiling of the church and that of the Parish Pastoral center, and the repair of the Parish Convent water system which were all damaged by the typhoon.

To all of you, beautiful people, whose generosity can never be underrated, may the good Lord always fill you with the best and most of His bounty.

Thank you very much.

In the ministry,  
(SGD) REV. FR. Potenciano E. Dulay  
Parish Priest



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

## Treasurer's Report by Bobbie Cornillez

BOBON-USA ASSOCIATION  
Treasurer's Report-Fiesta 2015  
August 2015-July 2016

### Fiesta 2017 and Beyond

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

Here they are:

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?

If you feel like Sr. Sto. Niño is asking you to honor Him by sponsoring any of our upcoming fiesta celebrations, just let us know.

### Tips & Other Bright Ideas

#### To-Dos: Your October Home Checklist

The leaves are falling, the farmer's markets are bustling and the cozy comforts of home beckon — it must be October. Make the most of this month's bountiful harvest, get some exercise raking leaves in the brisk air and button down your house in preparation for winter.

Then sit back, relax and warm your hands around a mug of hot apple cider. Fall is here.



1. Rake leaves.
2. Trim dead tree limbs.
3. If you haven't already, clean gutters and downspouts.
4. Neaten up the mudroom.
5. Keep seasonal decorating low-key with natural finds.
6. Maintain your wood stove or fireplace.
7. Check safety devices.
8. Start a gift list
9. Cover or store outdoor furniture and grills.
10. Shut off exterior faucets and store hoses for winter.

- Courtesy of *onthehouse.com*

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

Beg. Balance as of August 2015	\$ 23,088.26	
Petty Cash	\$ 45.35	
<b>Total Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 23,133.61</b>	<b>\$ 23,133.61</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Membership	\$ 390.00	
Dinner Dance	\$ 5,075.00	
Curacha Dance Fundraising	\$ 2,178.00	
Return of Undistributed Typhoon Nona Donation	\$ 850.00	
Donations: Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Osma	\$ 220.00	
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Aris	\$ 20.00	
Interest Income (August 2015-July 2016)	\$ 4.96	
	\$ 8,737.96	\$ 8,737.96
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$ 31,871.57</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Dinner Dance	\$ (5,075.00)	
Cash Donation for Typhoon Nona Victims	\$ (10,000.00)	
Cash Donation for Typhoon Nona Church Repair	\$ (5,000.00)	
Medical Mission for Bobon (1 Curacha)	\$ (452.00)	
Bobon-USA Website Renewal	\$ (44.00)	
Money Transfer Fee to Fr. Dulay	\$ (10.00)	
Bank Fees: Online Deposit Detail Image	\$ (9.00)	
1 Canadian Deposit Item	\$ (5.00)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (20,595.00)</b>	<b>\$ (20,595.00)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$ 11,276.57</b>
<b>Ending Balance as of July 2016</b>		<b>\$ 11,276.57</b>

### Fiesta 2016

(Continued from page 4)

the US and Philippine national anthems. With Dick's love for music, we all enjoyed his compilation of the *sinulog*, *kuracha* and *kuradang* pieces. He was also a big help in picking up all the food for the *vespera* and doing the decorations as well. Epay's culinary expertise came in handy in preparing the food for the *vespera* dinner and not to be outdone was Manay Neneng's delicious *lechon* belly. Tez's and Mama's *latik* was a hit as usual and the *balunos* that we ordered from a friend brought back memories of Bobon.

To Yette and Dan who helped house and entertain their cousins, our heartfelt gratitude. Of course, Michelle and Julia were there, too, to keep them company. To Dustin and Bernadette, Arpee and Liza, Yette and Dan, Liv and Zach for taking the time to come with their children in full force and for making sure Lydia, Mickey, Gabby, Allison, Lil and Ella learn the Hawaiian dance. Thanks to Wilhelm who added more spice to the dance. To Tez, Ervin and Jonathan who helped each other pick the right songs for their program number. And, of course, to Mama who was our mentor and made sure that everything was in order including our guest list, the mass readings, the mass songs, and the *sinulog*.

And to all *Bobonanons* and their friends who came and joined us to make fiesta 2016 a success, and those who could not make it but sent in donations, we thank you all very much!

And by the way, the fun and merriment of the fiesta are better captured in pictures and videos than in words which have been posted in our website. So, go and log on to <http://www.bobon.us> and enjoy!

See you all in Florida in 2016!

*Rosario Paredes, Dick and Epay, Tez, and Butch and Melinda*  
26th Annual Fiesta Hermanos and Hermanas