

NEWSLetter



Post-Pandemic Fiesta 2022 In Arizona Celebrating 32 years of Bobon-USA Traditions

Inside this issue:

Post-Pandemic Fiesta 2022 In Arizona	1
Fiesta '23 Will Be In Southern California	1
Fiesta '22 Picture Gallery	2
Fiesta '22 Picture Gallery	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Fiesta 2022 & Beyond	4
In Memoriam	4



Merry Christmas!
and a
Blessed New Year

By Grace Chan-Adams

A Celebration of Life in Arizona

"In loving memory of those in our lives who could not celebrate with us today, we honor you with our hearts."

What a wonderful tradition we have each year to pay homage to our beloved Santo Niño de Bobon in the U.S.! It is an event we look forward to and it all starts with a pledge. In the case of our 2022 *hermanas*, Pacita and Estela Cornillez, they made their promise more than three years ago when they started planning every detail. Sadly, Pacita passed away in April just a few months prior to the fiesta. Estela fulfilled their promise while mourning our devastat-

ing loss. Auntie Pat, as we lovingly called her, will be deeply missed.

The Statue of Santo Niño de Bobon

Pacita and Estela wished that the Infant have a new crown and cape. Estela and Mydee Vergel de Dios met with a parishioner, Hasmig, who makes vestments for religious statues. They patiently looked for the right fabric and must have gone back several times to ensure the right fit. While waiting for the new cape, Mydee and Jorge Vergel de Dios looked for a new crown and a suitcase so the Statue will always be safe as He travels from one venue to

(Continued on page 4)

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Fiesta '23 will be in Southern California



Fiesta 2023 goes back to Southern California

In 2023, our fiesta celebration will be held in Southern California and it will be hosted by Artemia Tobes-Eneria and Family.

Details of the fiesta will be posted in the next issue of our NewsLetter.

More Pictures At
www.bobon.us

Fiesta '22 Picture Gallery



More Pictures At
www.bobon.us

Fiesta '22 Picture Gallery



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

Fiesta '22

(Continued from page 1)



another. Grace Adams reverently restored the Statue's face and hair with polish for antiques and carefully applied 18-carat gold leaf on His shoes and scepter.

When the new crown was placed upon the Santo's newly-polished sacred head and the new majestic cape draped on

His shoulders, the Statue looked magnificent! Pacita's wish came true!

The new look debuted during the *Vesperas* as the Statue was placed amid the most gorgeous flowers arranged by Lynn Tabique and Nonong Abellar. All expenses for the Statue's restoration and the abundant flowers were paid by Estela.

The 9-Day Novena

Another tradition most cherished is the 9-day novena. Thanks to Butch Paredes, the novena schedule was published on the Bobon-USA website. Butch also emailed each day's novena to members. For 9 days, *Bobonanons* prayed for the success of the fiesta.

On August 14, the 4th day of the Novena, *Bobonanons* in Arizona gathered at the *hermana's* residence for prayers followed by a delicious potluck lunch. Bonlert Paredes was making everyone laugh with his comedic lines and funny anecdotes that no one remembered to take a group photo until later. Then the group decided to provide an intermission number during the reception. Lots of laughter followed and then it was decided that a lively line dance would be the most entertaining.

Vesperas

The 9th Day of the Novena is traditionally held during a party hosted by the fiesta sponsors to welcome all the *Mamamatrons*. August 19 was no exception! The *Vesperas* party was held at The Islands Community Center (also known as The Clubhouse) from 6pm – 11pm. There were more than 100 attendees.

Preparations started in the morning to set up the banquet tables and chairs. The kitchen was loaded with

(Continued on page 5)

In Memoriam:



Bonita Alvarez-McFarland
Died July 9, 2022

+++++

May the souls of our faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen.

Bobon-USA Association—Treasurer's Report

Bobon-USA Association

Fiesta 2021, Portland, Oregon

Hosts: Eli and Melba Ganaban

Treasurer's Report

as of December 31, 2021

Beginning Balance (June 1, 2021)		\$21,568.69
Petty Cash Balance: \$23.00		
Less: \$6.00 card and postage		
Balance: \$17.00		
Income Fiesta Income		
Membership	\$350.00	
Cruise	\$3,300.00	
Kuratsa	\$822.00	
Donation from Melba Ganaban	\$1,000.00	
Donation from Ganie Garcia	\$200.00	
Total Fiesta Income	\$5,672.00	
Interest Income June 2021-December 2021	\$1.39	
Total Income	\$5,673.39	
Expenses		
Cruise	-\$3,300.00	
Memorial Gift for Neria	-\$200.00	
Federal Tax Withheld June 2021-December 2021	-\$0.26	
Total Expenses	-\$3,500.26	
Net Income		\$2,173.13
Ending Balance (December 31, 2021)		\$23,741.82

As of October 31, 2022, our bank account balance is \$28,042.49

Fiesta 2022 and Beyond

Our current line-up of *Hermanas/Hermanos* for our annual fiesta is as follows:

- 2022 - Pacita + and Estela Cornillez-Arizona
- 2023 - Artemia Tobes-Eneria and Family-Torrance, California
- 2024 - Ronnie & Sheena-Hill Dilla
- 2025 - Juvy Tiberio-Lindsey
- 2026 - Puey Quiñones, Nuncia Tiberio, and Florissa (Tot-tot) Balite
- 2027 - Ronaleen and Roneel Omega
- 2028 - Yturriaga Family
- 2029 - Grandchildren of Pedro and Eugenia Paredes Cardeno
- 2030 - David And Khim Jaldo-Malley

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.

Viva Sr. Sto. Niño!

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

Fiesta '22

(Continued from page 4)
sodas, water and supplies.

After the rosary and novena prayers were said, Father Plut (Fr. Plutarico Rodriguez) blessed the food then the buffet was opened to all.

The *hermana* spared no expense to ensure the food was exceptional. There were trays of sumptuous dishes such as beef *caldereta*, *menudo*, *lumpia shanghai*, *Sina-gul*, fried chicken, *camarron rebosado*, baked salmon, *pancit mix*, *pinakbet* and many other dishes. And direct from Bobon: the beloved *pinangat!* Fresh fruits lent their vibrant colors and complimented the dishes. Desserts and *kakanins* were plentiful! The *hermana* made the decadent *Leche Flan* herself. The "star" of the event was the 60-lb *lechon* which was absolutely delicious! Thanks to Lito Labro and Larry Telegrafo for expertly carving the *lechon* into serving pieces so all may partake; and for helping us set up all the tables and chairs.

The atmosphere at the *Vesperas* was just bursting with glee as this was the first huge gathering since Covid. The huge turnout made the event more fun! After the dinner, the tables were cleared and set aside to make room for some *Sinulog* rehearsal.

Sinulog drummers were hired; but unfortunately, they called in sick 1-2 days prior so Plan B had to be set in motion. Thanks to Shirleen "Len Len" Hill Omega for lending Lynn Tabique the drums. The challenge was down to "who can play the *Sinulog* beat?". Bonlert Paredes, Tawie Carpina, Francis Tiberio and Larry Telegrafo saved the day! The *Hermana* led the *Sinulog* that evening.

And after the *Sinulog* rehearsal, it was time for some dancing! Francis Tiberio provided the music so everyone can enjoy some line dances. Unbeknown to all but a few, it was also a rehearsal for the fiesta reception intermission number.

Day of the Fiesta

The day would not be complete without honoring our late *Hermana*, Pacita Cornillez.



So on the morning of the fiesta, we went to the cemetery. Father Plut blessed the gravesite and said prayers. Then we proceeded to the *Hermanas'* home where Father Plut led the prayers and blessing.

Auntie Pat wished for a concelebrated mass and her wish came true! The entrance procession was a sight to behold as kids walked down the aisle with the *estandarte* and small banners. Nathan Labro held the photo of our dear Auntie Pat followed by Auntie Tela carrying the Statue of the Santo Niño de Bobon. The altar was beautifully decorated. On the right was the Statue of Our Lady of Penafrancia as it was a novena

day and on the left, our beloved Santo Niño de Bobon.

After the mass, Fr Jerome (main celebrant) blessed the statue of Our Lady of Penafrancia then the statue of Santo Niño de Bobon. Then Fr. Jerome lifted the Statue which ushered the *Sinulog*. The priests took turns holding the statue as everyone gathered and danced to the beat of the drums. Parishioners and *mamamatronas* were advised that they may bring their Infant statues for them to hold during the *Sinulog*.

Fiesta Reception at the Hilton

This venue was booked prior to the start of the pandemic. At that time, we were advised that there would be no disruptions during our event. Unfortunately, the pandemic hampered all the hotel plans due to labor and supply issues. It was too late to move venues when we found out about it. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused due to the hotel renovation that was not completed prior to our event.

As in every fiesta, we started the party with prayers. Fr Jerome did the blessing. Dinner was not as extravagant as the *Vesperas*, but rest-assured that the *hermanas* chose the best the hotel could offer for a buffet dinner. They even added an entrée to the buffet plus fruits.

The dance floor was packed as soon as the music started. No fiesta is complete without the *kuratsa*. The children helped gather the money. All receipts went to the Bobon-USA Association. The money counters did a fabulous job! To give them a breather, the intermission number mentioned earlier was a welcome treat by the AZ team. To the tune of *Pikahe-Birahe*, the group performed the line dance and soon many others joined. More *kuratsa* and dances followed.



The closing credits show all the acknowledgments.

The turnover to the next *hermanas/hermanos* was the final part of the program.

Even well laid-out plans can have challenges. We sincerely appreciate your patience and participation. It was a pleasure to see everyone! Auntie Pat would have been so happy with the turnout. Thank you all and may we all be blessed with good health so we may continue this wonderful tradition.

— Grace Chan Adams

Closing Credits

The *Hermana* wishes to gratefully acknowledge all the attendees of the 2022 Bobon-USA fiesta for their participation and especially, the following:

MASS, August 20, 2022

Celebrants:

Fr. Jerome Cayetano, Fr. Rolyn Francisco, Fr. Felix Joal Bernales, Fr. Rey Clutario

Coordinators:

Rose Cavagnaro, Gemma Hutchins, Mydee Vergel de Dios

Choir:

San Juan Diego— Couples for Christ choir, Brother Francis & Babette Cruz, George Rayes, Music Director

Bobon Entrance hymn was led by:

Ninfa Bautista, Butch Paredes, Dick Paredes, Tez Paredes

Processional kids:



(Continued on page 6)

More Pictures At
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Fiesta '22

(Continued from page 5)

Greyson Carpina, Carter Hill, Nathan Labro, (in alphabetical order) Tristan Leslie, Allison Tabadero, Jared Tiberio, Jonas Tiberio, Alex Vergel de Dios

Altar arrangements:

Nonong Abellar, Lynn Tabique

Sinulog Drummers:

Tawie Carpina, Bonlert Paredes, Larry Telegrafo, Francis Tiberio

Altar servers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, all the devotees and parishioners who attended the mass.

RECEPTION, August 20, 2022

Master of Ceremony:

Grace Chan-Adams

National Anthems sang by:

Carter Hill, Nathan Labro (USA), Fr. Plutarío Rodríguez (Philippines)

Intermission dance number:

AZ *Pikahe-Birahe* (led by Bonlert Paredes), Members: Meann Paredes, Fe Tiberio, Maya Encinares, Kathy Carpina, and all who joined them at the dance floor

Thank you to all the *Kuratsa* participants for their generous contribution and to all for the gala.

Kuratsa money counters:

At the party - Jeannie Jao Marquez, Nancy Espiritu, Erlinda Paredes, Len-len Hill Omega, Joy Celespara
Auditors: Nonong Abellar, Lynn Tabique

All receipts were deposited to the Bobon-USA bank account by Grace Adams

Fiesta Souvenirs

The late *hermana*, Pacita Cornillez, had these made in the Philippines.

Thanks to:

Sol Cornillez Migue for ensuring these arrive in time. Lynn Tabique for assembling the souvenirs (with the assistance of Dan Tabique, Tess Chan, Kristine Chan & Grace Adams), Bobbie Cornillez for the special labels

Music & Photography:

DJ Rene and Alvin, Mydee Vergel de Dios (Coordinator)

Invitation & Announcements:

Butch Paredes (web & emails), Bobbie Cornillez (Guest list & labels)

VESPERAS, August 19, 2022

Event set-up:

Cornillez Family (AZ & Texas), Chan Family (New York & Florida)

Photography:

Lydee Paredes Hershey

Set decoration:

Nonong Abellar, Lynn Tabique

Thank you to all who assisted us in cleaning the Clubhouse after the event.

And last, but certainly not the least, to the officers of Bobon-USA Association - *Salamat!*

