

FANHS Sonoma County Filipino American National Historical Society

President's Message

It has been more than half a year since chapter members made final preparations to execute three presentations of *Remembering Our Manongs, Sonoma County's Filipino History* to the public. The results were wonderful. Our audience enjoyed the film, listened avidly to the panelists, and ate their fill of good food. The film project team breathed a sigh of relief and basked in the aura of a sense of accomplishment. We could feel and see the acknowledgement of *a job well done* from everyone, especially the members of the manongs' families.

What the audience did not know is that it took a small dedicated force of FANHS members and friends to take care of logistical needs and to set the ambiance for each occasion. These members and friends tested our audio visual equipment, prepared the food, set up furniture, decorated the tables, assisted with registration, ran errands, took photographs and greeted guests. Their assistance set the tone for a truly successful series of events. I thank each and every one of them for creating the perfect environment to make another *dream come true* for Filipinos in Sonoma County.

Looking to the future, I feel assured that the history of Filipino Americans in Sonoma County will continue to be preserved because of the hard work and dedicated commitment of our FANHS members and friends, old and new, who share our passion.

New Website Officially Launched



On May 19, our FANHS chapter officially launched its new website. Working with a talented team of web development students, our goal was to produce an attractive site with simple, clear navigation that would be informative, educational, and inviting. Did we accomplish this goal? Check it out at www.fanhssonoma.org, and let us know what you think.

New Website continued on Page 3

(Shown is an early draft of our new website homepage. Go to www.fanhssonoma.org to see the final product!)

New Scholarship Fund

A new FANHS SC scholarship program is being developed to promote continuing education and personal growth among youth. Scholarships will be awarded annually to eligible high school students bound for qualified institutions of higher

learning. FANHS will grant awards for both academic and vocational endeavors. Chapter members will nominate award

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Filipino American National Historical Society
P. O. Box 6915
Santa Rosa, CA 95406
Phone: 707.294.0519
Email: info@fanhssonoma.org
Website: www.fanhssonoma.org

FANHS is a non-profit organization.

Projects Placed On Hold Pending Volunteer Help

The projects described below have been temporarily put on hold pending additional volunteer assistance. Please consider helping to document and share the rich history of our local Filipino community by volunteering your time and talent on one or both of these important projects. To volunteer, or for more information, please contact Delia Rapolla (capizverde@yahoo.com) or Alicia Watson (avil@comcast.net).

Historical Archive: In producing the film, *Remembering Our Manongs, Sonoma County's Filipino History*, the project team collected more than 700 digital images of historic photographs; nearly 100 oral history interview tapes; and several reels of local area footage. Our chapter's goal is to organize, prepare, and make the collection available to educators, researchers, and the public at large. The collection would be archived and accessible at the FANHS National Pinoy Archive in Seattle, Washington; the North Bay Ethnic Archive housed at Sonoma State University; and the Sonoma County Library Historical Annex archive.

Volunteers are needed to transcribe taped interviews, prepare photographs and other materials for archive, and liaison with each of the targeted archive repositories.

Remembering Our Manongs, The Book: Another chapter goal is to publish the historical photos, documents and history described above in a book that would complement our *Remembering Our Manongs* film. Preliminary talks have taken place with Arcadia Books, our prospective publisher. In order to execute this project, additional manpower is needed to help with the many tasks required. To sustain volunteer activities, we will seek funding for this project prior to making a commitment to the publisher.

Individuals are needed to work on graphics, writing, photo preparation, data entry, and coordination. Please help make this lasting contribution to our community by lending a hand.

John Mejia Jr. with his Uncle Bob, circa 1960

Photo provided courtesy of Karen Mejia Pennrich.



"Heated" Discussion Over BBQ. Conversants unknown. Circa 1959

Photo provided courtesy of Polly Yoro.



Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: Delia Lanosa Rapolla

Secretary: Priscilla Sharp

Vice President: Alicia Viloría Watson

Assistant Secretary: Patricia Viloría Romero

New Website Officially Launched *continued*

Special thanks go out to the gifted and committed students who guided us through the process and transformed our vision into reality--Project Manager Larry Roberts, Designer and Content Developer Randy Jaillet, and Content Developer Antonio Ventura—you rock!!

A big thanks is also extended to FANHS supporter Claire Romero, who first connected us to Santa Rosa Jr. College's web development class and students; as well as FANHS members Noemi Issel, Flori Nowelsky, and Michael Viloría who helped test and fine-tune the new website, and Priscilla Sharp and Karen Pennrich who generously agreed to serve as the site's new Webmasters. Once again, the Bayanihan spirit of community prevails!

Creation of web content and development oversight was provided by FANHS board members Alicia Watson, Delia Rapolla, and Patricia Romero.



On May 11, several FANHS members received webmaster training for the chapter's new website.

Shown above clockwise from upper left: Karen Pennrich, Priscilla Sharp, Pat Romero (FANHS members), and Larry Roberts (Web Development Project Manager).

New Scholarship Fund *continued*

candidates. Applications and guidelines are under development, and will be published later this summer. Initial awards will be made next Spring.

Scholarship Funding & Call for Donations

To establish the scholarship fund, \$600 has been allocated from the chapter's general account. We hope to increase this amount through fundraisers and the generous support of donors, like Priscilla Sharp, who was the first to make a personal contribution, raising the total to \$650! Please consider making your own donation—there is no minimum or maximum; all amounts are welcome. Make checks payable to FANHS Scholarship

Fund, and mail to FANHS, P.O. Box 6915, Santa Rosa, CA 95406.

Help Needed for August Fundraiser. A scholarship fundraising event is tentatively scheduled for August of this year. Noemi and Bob Issel have graciously offered their home as the event location, but volunteers are needed to help with planning, coordinating, decorating, and fundraising.

Please contact Noemi (noemi_issel@sbcglobal.net), or any FANHS Board member to volunteer!

Only with Bayanihan spirit and hands-on involvement will this effort succeed.

2009 Membership Meeting Schedule

Our 2009 membership meetings will be held on the last Sunday of every other month, 1:00 p.m. at the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, 153 Stony Point Circle, Suite 100, Santa Rosa CA.

June 28

August 23

October 25— 2010 Elections

Young Puentes Shares Our History In Lodi

Alex Puentes is the great grandson of Maximo Vilorio, a Sonoma County manong. In November 2008, he participated in the Manong's Montage at a premiere showing of *Remembering Our Manongs (Elders), Sonoma County's Filipino History*. Pictures of Sonoma County's Filipino pioneers were projected on a large screen while family members and friends read their names out loud. It was a very emotional moment that left an indelible impression on young Puentes. Inspired by the film and the history of his grandfather, he took the initiative to ask his history teacher to show the film in his classroom.

On May 7, 2009, a partial viewing of the film was shown at Lodi Middle School. They were studying immigration. Alex observed that his classmates were quiet and engaged while watching the film, an indication to him that they were interested in what they

were viewing. Some of his classmates asked Alex if he knew how to cook Filipino food, and some were impressed that his grandmother, Patricia Vilorio Romero, was the narrator. His teacher, Ms. Bess, laughed during the film when it described how the men dressed up and shared suits. She also commented that her first home had a rice bin referring to the fact that many Sonoma County Filipino homes had built in rice bins.

FANHS Sonoma County Chapter thanks Ms. Bess for sharing our film in the classroom. We also thank Alex for helping us to preserve and share our history. One of our goals is to distribute our film to educational institutions throughout the nation.

If you would like to share our film with your organization or institution, please visit our website, www.fanhssonoma.org, and send us an email.



Students from 8th grade Social Studies class, Lodi Middle School, Lodi, CA, May 2009




8th grade Social Studies class, Lodi Middle School, Lodi, CA, May 2009 Seated at far left rear: Alex Puentes, great grandson of Manong Maximo Vilorio.

Photos provided courtesy of Patricia Romero.

Support these Filipino Owned Businesses

JOHN IMPELIDO FLOORS


Carpet Vinyl Wood
Residential – Commercial
Sales Service Repairs



*"Everything for your Floors but
The Footsteps"*

3840 Finley Ave. Bldg. #37B
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
CA License #794863

Office: 707-573-9935
Home: 707-545-6274
Fax: 707-545-3754



Robert Issel Realty

5824 Owl Hill Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA, 95409

Noemi Issel
707-235-8704

Please support these Filipino owned businesses! If you'd like to advertise your Business in the FANHS newsletter, please call Noemi Issel at 707.538.9229 for ad sizes & prices.

Schedule of Activities

May 19, 2009

FANHS New Website Launched

Visit www.fanhssonoma.org

June 14, 2009

Filipino American Community Fiesta Filipina

Filipino Community Center, Fulton, CA

10 am – 4 pm

August 2009

FANHS Scholarship Fundraiser

Issel's Residence @ 5824 Owl Hill Ave., Santa Rosa, CA

TBA

September 20, 2009

Race Equality Week and Festival

Elsie Allen High School, Santa Rosa, CA

1 pm - 4 pm

October 10, 2009

FACSCI Dinner/Dance Annual Event

Veterans Memorial Building, Santa Rosa, CA

6 pm - 11 pm

October 24, 2009

PAARP Halloween Party

Burton Hall, Rohnert Park, CA

TBA

November 15, 2009

FACSCI Thanksgiving Luncheon

Filipino Community Center, Fulton, CA

12 noon - 3pm

November 21, 2009

PAARP Thanksgiving Party

TBA

December 13, 2009

FACSCI Christmas Party

Filipino Community Center, Fulton, CA

12 noon - 3 pm

December 19, 2009

PAARP Christmas Party

RP Community Center, Rohnert Park, CA

TBA

FANHS Wish List

Equipment and supplies are needed to support ongoing historical preservation work, as well as educational and cultural endeavors. We are currently in need of the following:

Equipment (new or used in good working condition):

Laptop computer with Windows 2000 or later
Panasonic Professional camcorder (and any or all accessories:
shotgun microphone, tripod, XLR cables)
Portable flash drives
Portable podium or lectern
Portable Projection Screen (5' X 5' or larger)
Microphone with portable PA system
Microphone stand
Lavalier microphone with windscreen
Lighting umbrella
Apple MAC Computer with Final Cut Express Program
External hard drive, 80 GB or more

Supplies:

DVD bubble or cardboard mailer envelopes
Printer paper
Mini DV tapes (Sony brand)
Postage stamps
Envelopes (business size or manila)

Donations of this type are tax deductible subject to IRS rules, and are another way for FANHS supporters to contribute to the preservation of local history.

**Filipino American National Historical Society of Sonoma County
FANHS SONOMA COUNTY 2009**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES/RATES 2009

(Please Check one)

Annual Membership

- Individual \$30.00
- Full/part time student \$15.00
- Senior (62+) \$15.00
- Family* \$45.00

Decade

- Individual \$200.00
- Family* \$250.00

Life Time

- Individual \$500.00
- Family* \$600.00
- Honorary
(wife of manong)

*Family category includes "dependent children" living at home.

Membership Application

Name: _____ Date _____

(Family membership, include names of children) _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

Membership Category: _____

____ Check here for permission to print contact information in Chapter Membership Directory

Area of Interest/Expertise

____ Archival/Record Collection ____ Photo Collection ____ Writing/Newsletter
____ Oral/Written History ____ Videography ____ Research
____ Public Relations/Sponsorships ____ Lectures ____ Public Speaking
____ Other interests

For our newsletter, tell us why you decided to join FANHS _____

I am unable to participate as a member. Enclosed is a donation to support your efforts. \$ _____.

Mail your membership application/donation to: FANHS Sonoma County, P.O. Box 6915, Santa Rosa CA 95406. Questions? Please email [fanhssonoma@gmail.com] or call (707) 294-3784.

Please make checks payable to: FANHS Sonoma County

Office Use Only:

Amount Paid \$ _____ Type of Payment: Check Number _____ or Cash _____

Receipt Number _____ Initials _____

FANHS SONOMA COUNTY

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Preserving the History