

FANHS Sonoma County Filipino American National Historical Society

President’s Message

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy, Abundant 2015!

As we transition to the new Board, I want to personally thank former Vice-President, Eddie Taan, for his time and support during his tenure. Thank you to Michael Viloría and Fay Mendoza for continuing on the Board and a BIG thank you to Alicia Viloría Watson and James Gimenez for agreeing to be on the Board.

I especially want to thank new members who have continually supported FANHS — Norman and Brenda Sheehan; Menchie (Carmen) Barker and family; Bernardo Oandasan; and James Gimenez and family. In addition, I want to welcome back former members — Pat and Danny Romero. Thank you Everyone for your support!

The main purpose of this newsletter issue is to introduce you to the new Board members, advise you of the goals we have set, upcoming events, and our new mailing address.

Karen Mejia Pennrich

Meet the FANHS Board Members 2015 – 2016

Karen Mejia Pennrich, President

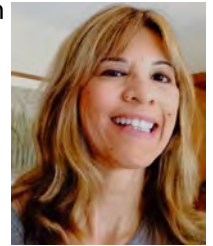
Karen is a charter member of the FANHS Sonoma chapter and has been on the Board consistently since its inception. She is the daughter of Manong Juan Mejia and the late Alberta Magdirila.



As a teenager, she was involved in the Filipino Youth Alliance through the Filipino Community Center, was one of six Pinay producers of the documentary, “Remembering our

Alicia Viloría Watson, Vice-President

Alicia Viloría Watson is a Sonoma County native and a founding member of FANHS Sonoma. In 2007, she, along with five sister Pinays co-produced the documentary film, “Remembering Our Manongs,” the chapter’s first major project. Her father, Max Viloría, was one of the earliest pioneers to emigrate from the Philippines and settle in Sonoma County. Growing up, Alicia came to



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Filipino American National Historical Society
18229 Railroad Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476
Email: comm@fanhssonoma.org
<http://fanhssonoma.org/index.html>

FANHS is a non-profit organization.

Meet the Board Members *continued*

Michael Vioria, Secretary/Treasurer

Michael is the son of the late Maximo and Alicia Vioria. He grew up in Windsor and has resided in Sonoma County over 45-years and currently lives in Sonoma. Through his parents Michael has been involved with Filipino community groups and activities since childhood. In the 1990's he became formally involved in FACSCI who with others established the History of Filipinos in Sonoma County committee. Later Michael served as president for both FANHS and FACSCI. His desire to participate is sparked from the courage, sacrifices and struggles of his parents and the community of their time.



James W. Gimenez, Member at Large

James is the son and descendant of Manong Anastacio Benevidez Gimenez, aka "Jimmy." Born in Sonoma County in 1961, he has resided in the area his entire life. He has 2 siblings and enjoys spending time with his 13 grandchildren when he can. James is an employee of PCAS-Nanosyn of Santa Rosa. He has been involved in the Filipino community for many years, whether it was cooking the BBQ for the Filipino Fiesta, assisting with clean-up and maintenance around the Filipino Center, or attending and assisting with the many community events.



Fay Mendoza, Member at Large

Fay, the daughter of the late Ascencio "Sonny" and Feling Asuelo, was born and raised in Santa Rosa. She along with her siblings, sister Polly, and brother Sonny, attended and grew up in a then sparsely populated west Santa Rosa in an area surrounded by fruit orchards. The family property and the entire area now consist of single-family home neighborhoods and a street named in honor of the family. After concluding her education, Fay married Joel Mendoza and moved to the South Bay Area where Joel worked for NASA where they raised their 3 boys. Upon her husband's retirement in the late 1980's they returned to Santa Rosa where Fay quickly became involved in the Filipino "clubs" both as elected officer and dedicated volunteer. Fay attributes her passion for the community to her parents. Sonny and Feling participated and supported all Filipino groups, activities and events. Throughout her childhood, the family home was always "open" to the Filipino community. In her spare time, aside from her work with the Barangay, FACSCI and FANHS, Fay spends time with her 3 young granddaughters.



Alicia Vioria Watson, continued

appreciate the traditions, values, and sense of community that the pioneer Manongs brought to their new home. As FANHS Sonoma's Vice President, she looks forward to helping preserve Filipino American history and the rich legacy of those who came before. Alicia and her husband Warren live in Pleasant Hill, CA.

Karen Mejia Pennrich, continued

"Manongs," and has been involved in the Filipino community for many years. She is currently employed at Sonoma State University. She lives in Windsor with her husband Randall, studies Qi-gong, and enjoys working with the Filipino community.

FANHS Sonoma New Address

Please note, the new FANHS Sonoma mailing address is:

18229 Railroad Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476



Upcoming Events

- March 8** - Seeds of Sovereignty, Sunday, 4 –7pm, Santa Rosa. For more information or to RSVP, please contact: Leny, 707-494-4967
- March 15** - **FANHS General Membership meeting**, Sunday, 1—3 pm, Filipino Community Center, 3361 Fulton Road, Fulton, Ca
- March 21** - Asian Potluck Luncheon, Saturday 12:00 noon, Enmanji Temple, 1200 Gravenstein Hwy, Sebastopol, Ca
- May 7** - “Asian & Pacific Islander Health Forum 2015—*Fostering Community Through Healthy Living*,” Thursday, 1—4 pm, Finley Center, Santa Rosa, Ca
- May 8** - FANHS 2015 Katherine “Kay” Baguio Scholarship application due. For more information, see article on page 4 or to request an application package, contact Karen, Michael or Alicia.
- May 9** - Human Race, 8am, Santa Rosa, Ca. FANHS members will be participating in the race. If you’d like to join us, please let one of the Board members know.

FANHS National Conference in San Diego



Mel Orpilla, National President



Delegates from throughout the U.S.



(Left) Leny Strobel, Keynote Speaker



Gala performers



FANHS Board Members and Trustees



Dorothy Cordova, Co-Founder, FANHS

FANHS GOALS 2015—2016

- ◆ Katherine “Kay” Baguio Scholarship Fundraisers
 - Rummage Sale
 - Human Race
 - Establish Scholarship endowment fund
 - Write grants
- ◆ Increase membership
- ◆ Partner with other organizations to host events
- ◆ Stay connected with community members and help reach group agreements
- ◆ Help with and participate in community activities
- ◆ Open a FANHS office space
- ◆ Host a showing of Harana, the movie and possibly Delano Manongs

We look forward to working with you all with renewed energy!

Katherine “Kay” Baguio Scholarship

The FANHS Sonoma *Katherine “Kay” Baguio Scholarship* was established to assist graduating high school students of Filipino descent to further their education, whether entering a community college, trade/vocational school or four-year university/college. The scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior of Filipino descent who expresses an interest in the Filipino community.

For eligibility requirements or to apply for the FANHS Scholarship, applicants must request the Scholarship Package from one of the Board members listed below. At that time a package will be emailed to the applicant.

1. Karen Mejia Pennrich, email: pinaycali1@yahoo.com or call 707-583-4803
2. Michael Viloría, email: vilor00@yahoo.com or call 415-226-8928
3. Alicia Viloría Watson, email: avil@comcast.net or call 925-687-3423

If there are additional questions, contact one of the above-listed Board members.

The Application as well as the supporting documents, must be postmarked on or before **Friday, May 8, 2015**. FANHS will only consider applications that are complete, no exceptions. Applications submitted after the due date will not be considered.

Filipino American National Historical Society of Sonoma County

FANHS SONOMA COUNTY 2015

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES/RATES 2015

(Please Check one)

Annual Membership

- Individual \$30.00
- Family* \$40.00
- Senior (62+) \$10.00
- Student \$10.00

Decade

- Individual \$150.00
- Family* \$250.00

Life Time

- Individual \$300.00
- Family* \$350.00
- 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/s 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. \$_____.

Please make checks payable to: FANHS Sonoma County

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

Detach this page and mail your membership application/donation to:
FANHS Sonoma County, 18229 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476
Questions? Email: info@fanhssonoma.org