



# Pinoy Bulletin

## FAAV Biannual Publication

**From the Upuan**

**Luis Ordon**

Editor: Gretel Ness  
 Editor : June Sustento-Reyla  
 December 2023 Edition

Greetings everyone. By the time you are reading this article, my time as the Chair of this awesome organization is coming to a close. As I look back to what this organization was able to accomplish this year, I can't help but feel proud of everything we were able to achieve.

Of course we had our previously established outreach programs that we either lead, or assist with every year, such as the Philippines Consulate on Wheels, our annual Philippines Independence Day Picnic, our US Scholarship program, and our much celebrated annual Pasko Na Naman event to name a few. However, taking nothing away from these established outreach, what I am really proud of is the establishment of our Philippine Scholarship. Through your generous support, the hard work and coordination of our Philippine Scholarship Committee, our non-profit partner organizations in the Philippines, and with the full support of our Board of Directors, we were able to offer educational support to four very deserving scholars in the Philippines.



I would also like to take this time to welcome our four new directors, including one that became a full director in the middle of this year. Tess Mallari, Dolly Hurlton, Amy Aguinaldo, and Felda Saunders, thank you so much for believing in what our organization does and what we represent that you are willing to volunteer your time and services. Of course with every arrival, there are departures. I would like to say thank you so much to our outgoing director, Edeliza Verzosa, who served as the FAAV Secretary this year. I honestly think that I would have been lost if you were not there to help keep me straight this year. I would also like to take this time to once again mention the passing of our beloved former Director, Amy Freedland.

To end this lengthy article, as I step down from the Upuan position, I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for continuing to support the FAAV organization, we would not exist without your support. I would also like to thank all of the FAAV board members for entrusting me with the gavel these last two years. My goal was to be a good steward of our mission, increase our personnel and monetary resources, and find ways to widen our outreach. I hope that in this regard that I was successful and was able to represent you well as your FAAV Chair.

Marami pong salamat sa inyong lahat!

Ang inyong lingkod, Luis M. Ordon

### 2023 FAAV Officers/Directors

- Luis Ordon, Chair
- Rita Schaljo, Vice-Chair/Webmaster
- Chuck Reidy, Treasurer
- Francis Guevara, Asst Treasurer
- Edeliza Tiolengco, Secretary
- Bernice Bevard, Auditor
- Cori Harms, Community Relations
- Evelyn Manalo, Community Relations
- Vivian Tadeo, Welcome Wagon & Archivist
- Hilda Connery, Welcome Wagon
- Gretel Ness, Newsletter Editor
- June Sustento-Reyla, Newsletter Editor
- Jon Oribello, AV & Media Specialist
- Bernie Gerhardt, Community Resource Developer
- Zenny Way, Community Resource Developer
- Bob Osilla, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Tess Mallari, Director
- Joan Roberts, Director

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## Samot-Sari ni Ka June

## June Sustento-Reyla

*Sariwain natin ang mga kaugalian ng mga Pinoy pag sapit ng kapaskuhan. (Let us recall the traditions that we practice during the Christmas season.)*

### Simbang Gabi or Misa de Aguinaldo (Mass at Dawn )

*Ang Simbang Gabi ay isang kaugalian ng Fiipino na tinatawag ding Misa Aginaldo, kung saan may misa tuwing madaling araw sa loob ng siyam na araw at nag uumpisa sa ika-16 ng Disyembre at nag wawakas sa disperas ng Pasko, may misa sa hatinggabi, Misa de Gallo. ( It is our version of Misa de Aguinaldo, where a 9-day dawn mass is held as we approach Christmas day – from December 16 to December 24. On the last day, apart from the Simbang Gabi in the morning, an evening mass is also held which we call Misa de Gallo (the Spanish term for Rooster’s Mass).*



### Mga pagkaing pampasko (Filipino Christmas Foods )

*Ang bibingka ay gawa sa giniling na bigas na niluto sa palayok at naka salalay sa dahon ng saging at may mainit na uling sa ibabaw at sa ilalim. Ito’y hinahaluan ng tilog na maalat at ginadgad na niyog. Kaya’t ito’y may kakaibang lasa. (Bibingka is a type of rice cake cooked using clay pots with banana leaf lining which is then heated by charcoal fire at the top and bottom. It’s rich flavorful taste is quite similar to a rice pudding but a bit saltier because of the salted egg and grated cheese that add up to its distinct taste.)*



*Ang Puto Bumbong ay malagkit na kanin na pinasingawan sa kawayan . Ito ay kulay ube, at binalot sa dahon ng saging at hinaluan ng mantekilya, asukal na muscovado, at ginadgad na niyog. (Puto Bombong is a steamed rice cake cooked using a bamboo tube. Its color is purple, wrapped in banana leaf and is topped with a combination of equally flavorful Filipino ingredients such as margarine, muscovado sugar and freshly grated coconut.)*



*Ang Tsokolate ay mainit na tsokolate at gawa sa tablea na madalas inumin sa umaga kasama ng puto bumbong o bibingka o dili kaya ay pandesal. (This is a hot chocolate traditional drink made from locally-made tablea.*



*This morning drink is sure to keep you feel warm. It is typically served alongside puto bumbong, bibingka or even bread.)*



*Sa karamihan sa mga Filipino ang castañas ay badya ng nalalapit na kapaskuhan. (To many Filipinos, the nutty aroma of castañas or roasted chestnuts signifies that Christmas is fast approaching.) Ito’y makikitang ipinagbibili sa mga lansangan, sa mga pamilihan tuwing buwan ng Disyembre. (These are sold on the streets, in markets, or malls, especially around December. )*

### Parol (Filipino Christmas Lantern)

*Ang Parol ay sagisag ng Pasko . Ito ay isang hugas bituin na madalas isinasabit sa mga tahanan sapagkat ito’y hudyat ng pag-asa na ihinahalintulad sa bituin ng Betlehem na naging gabay ng tatlong haring mago upang makita ang sanggol na Hesus. (Parol is the local term for lantern. It is a star-shaped lantern which is the iconic symbol of Christmas in the Philippines. It is typically being hanged outside*



*Filipino houses which symbolizes light (hope) similar to the star of Bethlehem which guided the three kings to the manger.)*

*(Continued on Page 5)*

# SIMBANG GABI 2023

SIMBANG GABI NOVENA MASSES IN SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON  
SOUTHERN DEANERY, ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

## SATURDAY DEC 9 - SATURDAY DEC 23, 2023

9 Dec **Saturday** at 11am - Commissioning Mass **at St James Cathedral**  
804 9th Ave, **Seattle**, WA 98104, Celebrant: Archbishop Paul D. Etienne  
FILCOPA Filipino Council for Pastoral Affairs, contact: sgcoordinators@gmail.com

15 Dec thru 23 Dec - **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church**  
4701 NW Franklin St, **Vancouver**, WA 98663, Celebrant: Rev. Leonardo Pestaño  
OLL Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Rosario Horacek - horacek9590@comcast.net

15 Dec <b>Friday</b> at 6pm	20 Dec <b>Wednesday</b> at 6pm
16 Dec <b>Saturday</b> at 5pm	21 Dec <b>Thursday</b> at 6pm
17 Dec <b>Sunday</b> at 11am	22 Dec <b>Friday</b> at 6pm
18 Dec <b>Monday</b> at 6pm	23 Dec <b>Saturday</b> 5pm
19 Dec <b>Tuesday</b> at 6pm	

16 Dec **Saturday** at 5pm - **St John the Evangelist Catholic Church**  
8701 NE 119th St, **Vancouver** WA 98662, Celebrant: Rev. Temo Ramirez  
St John Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Bernie Gerhardt - gerhardtbm@gmail.com

16 Dec **Saturday** at 5pm - **St Rose de Viterbo Catholic Church**  
2571 Nichols Blvd, **Longview** 98632, Celebrant: Rev. Bryan Ochs  
St Rose de Viterbo Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Judith Paine - judithpaine@ymail.com



## The Year That Was

**Evelyn Manalo**

This past year, your Filipino American Association of Vancouver, WA has been busy as usual with a number of community outreach and volunteer work.

To start off, at last year's Pasko Na Naman on Dec 4th our most recent initiative expanded to our home country – the Philippine Scholarship Project. For this project, we auctioned a donated autographed basketball from the Portland Trail Blazers and raised \$1200.00 that night. Here at home, we have the existing FAAV scholarship project to help deserving students residing in Clark County who were honored that same night of Pasko Na Naman.

In January, FAAV had our 1st meeting of the year and at the same time had our late Christmas get together with our families. There were food, drinks, dancing, singing and gift exchange. It was a fun night and an activity that FAAV always looks forward to every year!

After 5 years off, in late March, our FAAV annual retreat took place at The Villa at The Beach in Lincoln City. This is the time when our Board of Directors and their families come together on a weekend getaway – for the directors to revisit what FAAV is all about, re-grounding us in our purpose and mission. There was an all-day meeting talking about business and a few team-building games. There were different groups assigned to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner and over the course of the weekend, we strengthened our camaraderie and closeness among friends that turned into family.

In April of this year, the Consular Outreach from the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco came to Tigard, Oregon to bring its various services to Filipinos residing in Oregon, Washington, and in other states under its jurisdiction. Some of these services are dual citizenship application, Philippine passport renewals, civil registry and more. It is always a well-attended event and a great service to the community, wherein our kababayans don't have to travel far to avail of Consular Services. The Philippine Consulate Outreach has been coming to Oregon for the last 19 years and your FAAV has been volunteering and supporting this event by assisting our kababayans in different capacities.

In June, our annual Philippine Independence Day picnic took place in Vancouver Lake. This is another event of FAAV that has a big turn-out wherein 400-500 people come every year to enjoy the lechon, pancit, lumpia and other Filipino dishes. During the picnic, there were traditional Filipino games, folk dances, Zumba and other performances of local talents. This is an enjoyable gathering of Filipinos from all over the Pacific Northwest. Later in the same month, we put the FAAV Philippine Scholarship project into action by selecting 4 deserving high school students for the award from the Philippines! We selected 2 students from Binangonan, Rizal and 2 students from the Aeta Indigenous Group from Orani, Bataan. Although these students go to public school with free tuition fees, your FAAV provides their allowance for food, transportation and miscellaneous expenses. We work directly with The Sisters of the Poor of St. Catherine of Siena in Rizal Province and God's Harvest Ministries in Bataan and Zambales. These are the organizations that help manage disbursement of funds to these deserving students.

*(continued at page 10)*

## Samot-Sari ni Ka June (continued)

## June Sustento-Reyla

Ang **Monito /Monita** ay isang kaugalian ng mga Pinoy na ginagawa habang papalapit ang Kapaskuhan na kung saan ang mga kasapi ay nagpapalitan ng regalo. Madalas ito ginagawa sa pamilya, mga mag aaral, sa opisina at iba pa. (Monito Monita is the Filipino version of exchanging gifts which is usually done at Christmas parties among families, friends, colleagues, schools etc.)

### Filipino Christmas Carols



Gamit ang kanilang mga instrumentong pang saliw sa kanilang paskong awit, tulad ng lata ng gatas, tansan, at iba pa, ang mga musmos ay tumatapat sa mga bahay upang umawit ng pamaskong awit. (Using their hand-made recycled musical instruments (like metal bottle caps as tambourines, milk cans as drums, and more), they assemble a mini-choir together with their gang (cousins, friends or neighbors).

Karaniwang ang may-ari ng bahay ay mag aabot ng barya at ang mga bata ay kakanta ng awit pasasalamat. (Generous households would give them coins or any amount of money as a token for their caroling. With these, carolers will sing “Thank you, thank you and babait ninyo thank you!”) (Thank you, thank you, you are so kind thank you).

At kung wala naman maiaabot ang may ari ng bahay, sasabihing “Patawad”. (On the contrary, if you do not have something to give you may also say “Patawad” (Sorry) – this means that you want them to skip your home).

### Christmas Village

Ang bawat bayan at syudad sa Pilipinas ay naghahanda sa araw ng kapaskuhan. Ito ay tinatawag na “Christmas Village”. (In the Philippines, different cities and municipalities would set up Christmas Village in their town halls or plaza as a Christmas treat to their constituents.)

Ang bayan ay puno ng mga kumukuti kutitap na mga maliliit na ilaw at mga palamuti ang “Christmas tree” upang mapasaya ang sambayanan. Ito ay walang bayad at bukas sa madla. (Glittery lights will cover trees, Christmas-themed decorations fill stages and giant Christmas trees will be the main attraction. Aimed at giving joy to kids and families, Christmas Villages are open to the public with no entrance fee.)



### Noche Buena

Ang **Noche Buena** ang pinaka sukdulan sa pagdiriwang ng kapaskuhan. Ang buong pamilya ay nagsasa sama sama sa disperas ng pasko, kung saan ang hapag kainan ay punong puno ng pagkain, karamihan ay pagkaing hugis bilog, at ang lahat ng ito ay upang ipagdiwang ang kapanganakan ni Hesus.

(Noche Buena is the climax of Christmas, when we gather together to share the abundant food on the table on Christmas eve, share a meaningful Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ)



## 2024 List of Officers and Directors Filipino American Association of Vancouver, WA (FAAV)

Board Chair -	Charles "Chuck" Lorenzo Reidy
Vice Chair -	Cori Susi Harms
Co-Secretaries -	Rita Gaerlan Schaljo & Joan Barcelon Roberts
Treasurer -	Gretel Tiongson Ness
Assistant Treasurer -	Francis "Kiko" Raymundo Guevara
Auditor -	Bernardita "Bernie" Estoesta Gerhardt
Newsletter Editor -	June Sustento Reyla
Community Relations -	Evelyn Katigbak Manalo
Community Resource Developer -	Zenny Cacharro-Pidlaoan Way & Bernardita "Bernie" Estoesta Gerhardt
Welcome Wagon Committee -	Vivian "Tita V" Verzosa Tadeo Hilda Lapad Lagamon & Zenny Cacharro-Pidlaoan Way
Archivist -	Vivian "Tita V" Verzosa Tadeo
Audio Visual & Photo Historian -	John "Jon" James Mogan Oribello
Webmaster -	Rita Gaerlan Schaljo
Director -	Luis Moreno Ordoña
Director -	Theresa "Tess" Mallari
Director -	Malia "Dolly" Horlton
Director -	Amy Aguinaldo
Director -	Felda Felina Saunders
Director -	Feliciano "Bob" Flores Osilla, Jr.

**We wish to thank the following generous donors  
who donated prizes or funds for our Pasko Na Naman games.**



Leonard Domingo  
 Corrie Lalangan  
 Agnes Cabanilla  
 Olga Trehwella  
 Amy Aguinaldo  
 Hilda Lagamon  
 Zenny Way  
 Parker Butte & Lane  
 Eisen Dela Cruz  
 Bob Osilla  
 Portland Trail Blazers



**FAAV Philippine Scholarship Program****Rita Schaljo**

Generous supporters and FAAV Directors have made it possible for FAAV, starting last year (2022), to build up a Philippine Education Fund in order to start a Philippine Scholarship Program. The Objective of this Program is to assist students in the Philippines who, despite having free tuition, cannot afford basic necessities such as food and transportation to get to school. By early 2023, an FAAV Philippine Scholarship Committee was formed to look into the process, establish the scholarship, and identify areas in the Philippines where we can find applicants.

The initial focus of this program are high school students. FAAV was able to identify two groups in the Philippines that we can work with. The Sisters of the Poor of St Catherine of Siena, located in Binangonan, Rizal, is one group that FAAV was able to connect with, through the recommendation of our new Board of Director, Tess Mallari. FAAV was also able to connect with Shepherd of the Tribes Mission located in Zambales and Bataan, through the recommendation of our Board of Director, June Sustento Reyla. After the application period in July 2023, FAAV awarded 4 high school students with 25,000 Pesos each for the School Year 2023-24 which started in August 2023 and will end in May 2024.

**Congratulations to our 2023-24 Philippine Scholars!**

Jolina Aquile, grade 11, Abucay, Bataan



Marivic Maala, grade 10, Orani, Bataan



Jericho Apran, grade 11,  
Binangonan, Rizal



Mharc Lebron Jarabejo, grade 10,  
Binangonan, Rizal

## Meet our new Directors



**Tess Mallari.** *I earned my Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a major in Computer Science degree from University of Santo Tomas in Manila. I joined FAAV because this organization provided me with an excellent platform to align my passion for Filipino culture with meaningful, community-oriented work.*



**Felda Felina Saunders.** *I have been coming to FAAV meetings since before covid, I enjoy the togetherness as a family, the respect for one another, and to the Barkadas. How everyone comes together and helps the chair of each event or project. Everyone comes together as ONE! ohhh and the delicious food each meeting.*



**Malia Horlton.** *I like FAAV because I believe in their mission & I have a passion for their cause. Also I see a great camaraderie around the group.*



**Amy Aguinaldo.** *I graduated at Siena College with a Bachelor Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. I used to work as an auditor at Red Lions Hotel.*

**Apply for a Fil-Am Vancouver Scholarship Award!**

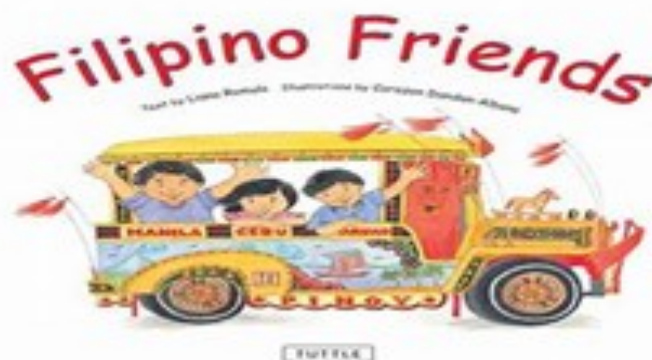
Open to students pursuing a vocational, certificate, technical, associate, or bachelor's degree program.

Details and application online at:  
[www.FilAmVancouver.org/scholarship](http://www.FilAmVancouver.org/scholarship)

High School Seniors, vocational and academic students, are you aspiring to be a leader in our Filipino Community? The Filipino American Association of Vancouver (FAAV) can help you in this journey.

Annually, FAAV offers \$1,000 Scholarships to deserving students. The criteria are: you must be a permanent resident of Clark County; must be of Filipino descent; and must be a high school senior by the time of selection and award, or must be currently pursuing a vocational certificate, technical, associate or bachelor's degree. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply more than once. This year FAAV awarded 4 students \$1,000 each. Please keep an eye on our website at [filamvancouver.org](http://filamvancouver.org) for when applications open for 2024!

Bernadette Gerhardt, FAAV Director





## Congratulations to our 2023 FAAV Scholarship Recipients

**Destinee Cenita** is currently a junior attending Pepperdine University. Destinee is involved in Community Service from volunteering in the city of Malibu's nature department, Alpha Phi director of primary recruitment and the Red Cross. Destinee is working with her sorority, raised \$100,000 for a local hospital in support of women's heart health. Destinee is working towards a Bachelor of Science Degree and majoring in Biology. Future plans include going to graduate school, and pursuing being a Physician Assistant or Physical Therapist.

**Jacob Gianan** is attending the University of Washington as a junior and pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering/Applied Mathematics. Jacob is currently a Hardware Design Intern at SpaceX in Hawthorne, California, working with the Product Design for Consumer Products. Jacob's volunteer activities are UW Filipino-American Student Association and UW Men's Club Volleyball. Jacob's goal is to *"work in a field that will send autonomous machines, and eventually humans, to other planets in order to investigate the possibility of supporting life on a planet aside from Earth, which would combat the exponentially growing human population."*

**Kirstin Walla** is attending her first year in college at Marymount Manhattan in New York City in their BFA Musical Theater program. Kirsten lists her past organizational membership and community service: Metropolitan Performing Arts, Washington Asian Cultural Organization, and Vancouver School of Arts and Academics Day of Caring peer leader. Kirsten was at a crossroad to choose a career path between STEM or the Arts. Kirsten chose the Arts. Kirsten wrote *"Stem may make living in this modern world possible, but it is the Arts that makes the modern world worth living in."*

**Rachel Zeta** is a student in the University of San Francisco and double majoring in Design and Advertising. Rachel is very active within the University of San Francisco community. She serves as an Athlete Tutor, demonstrating her commitment to supporting fellow student-athletes in enhancing their learning strategies and test-taking skills. Additionally, Rachel assumes the role of a Design Lab Assistant. Rachel related that she *"wants to bring more creativity from diverse voices and styles into the corporate workspace."* Rachel continues, *"Ethical and sustainable practice with collaborative creation is my goal in whatever career I pursue."*



**Destinee Cenita**



**Rachel Zeta**



**Jacob Gianan**



**Kirstin Walla**

## The Year That Was *(continued)*

**Evelyn Manalo**

In June, our annual Philippine Independence Day picnic took place in Vancouver Lake. This is another event of FAAV that has a big turn-out wherein 400-500 people come every year to enjoy the lechon, pancit, lumpia and other Filipino dishes. During the picnic, there were traditional Filipino games, folk dances, Zumba and other performances of local talents. This is an enjoyable gathering of Filipinos from all over the Pacific Northwest.

Later in the same month, we put the FAAV Philippine Scholarship project into action by selecting 4 deserving high school students for the award from the Philippines! We selected 2 students from Binangonan, Rizal and 2 students from the Aeta Indigenous Group from Orani, Bataan. Although these students go to public school with free tuition fees, your FAAV provides their allowance for food, transportation and miscellaneous expenses. We work directly with The Sisters of the Poor of St. Catherine of Siena in Rizal Province and God's Harvest Ministries in Bataan and Zambales. These are the organizations that help manage disbursement of funds to these deserving students.

In September, we had partnered with Beaches Restaurant for the "Beaches Give Back Day" wherein 50% of what FAAV supporters spent dining at Beaches was given back to FAAV for our scholarship fund. Friends and family of FAAV came and participated in this fundraiser. This year's effort earned \$1500 towards the FAAV Scholarship project.

In October, the 27th anniversary celebration of the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz, was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albany, OR. Some of FAAV directors attended and represented us by singing with the choir as well as carrying the FAAV banner together with other churches and Fil-Am association in the area. This has been a tradition of the Catholic faith community and your FAAV is a big supporter of this event.

Other community service initiatives this year and beyond include:

Taal Volcano Relief Efforts in Batangas, Philippines where FAAV donated rice, canned food and care packages to the evacuees temporarily housed for safety in different public schools at that time.

An appearance on PTV 4 Manila in Damayan, the longest-running charitable TV show in the Philippines, introducing the Filipino American Association of Vancouver, WA and its projects and community service efforts.

Abra Earthquake victims – FAAV donated food packs in collaboration with their local local govt units.

Aeta outreach projects in Bataan wherein FAAV has donated several balikbayan boxes full of clothing and basic needs such as canned food, books, beddings and many more.

Other activities, collaborations and fundraisers that FAAV has supported were:

World Beat Festival held in Salem, featured country was the Philippines

Young Voices of the Philippines concert

Ağuman Capampangan

Calabarzon

FilAm Portland Mrs. Philippines Gala

And many more!

Each FAAV director has committed dozens of hours over the course of the last year volunteering and enriching the Filipino community in the Pacific Northwest. Community is something we all greatly value and find fulfillment in serving. But it's also our families, friends and generous supporters like you, that we cannot thank enough because you allow us to do what we love. We were busy, we worked hard but we managed to have fun along the way! And for that, we thank you sincerely.

Happy holidays and Maligayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

To engage in civic, cultural and activities that promote, and community values, and Filipino



humanitarian, educational, charitable would preserve, share with the the customs, heritage of the culture.

# Maligayang Pasko



...at Masayang Bagong Taon!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**PASKO NA NAMAN 2024**  
**Dinner Gala**  
December 7, 2024

**Check us out on the Web:**  
[www.filamvancouver.org](http://www.filamvancouver.org)

**Barkada Tayo!**  
Be a Friend and Supporter of  
FAAV, a 501(c)(3) organization  
Check us out at  
[www.filamvancouver.org](http://www.filamvancouver.org)  
or email us at  
[faaccv@hotmail.com](mailto:faaccv@hotmail.com)



## In Memoriam



Hermilo "Milo" Tadeo, 79, passed away on November 3, 2023 in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, Philippines. He was an active member of the Fil-Am Association. He is survived by his wife, Leticia; his children Ginny, Larry & Vanessa, and Mike & Vera; grandchildren; siblings Enrico Tadeo & Vivian Tadeo and Connie Tadeo.



Jose "Joe" Manzano, 83, passed away on October 16, 2023. He was a beloved member of FAAV for many years and served as its chair in 1994-1995. He is survived by his wife, Elenita; his children, Ron, Liza & Aldon, and Mar-Izza; grandchildren Taylor, Ryan & Pauleen; & siblings Belen, Gabby, & Efigenia.