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Review of 2005 Activities and Preview of 2006

- **Feb 5, 2005 – Participation in the ethnic Festival at the Olympia Center**

Our FACSPS folkdancers, composed of youth and their parents, participated in the annual Ethnic festival sponsored by the Olympia Parks and Recreation Office. They danced, among others, the *Pandanggo*,

Mazurka and the always exciting *Tinikling*. Always a thrill was teaching the audience to dance *Tinikling*.

And In 2006- This forthcoming February 4, 2006, Saturday at Olympia Center, we will participate anew in the Ethnic festival. Our time slot is 3:45 to 4:15 o'clock in the afternoon. Lucy Hochrine will choreograph the folkdances of the youth while Lucy Carino the parent's group. We invite everyone to attend the Festival to support the diversity and cultural enhancement of our Community.

And similar to last year, our volunteer members (Emy Ramos, Girlie Chua, Ninfa Jala et al) will serve Filipino food (*lumpia, adobo, pancit*) at reasonable prices during the festival.

- **March 19, 2005, Saturday – Seniors Program at the Olympia Center**

Every year without fail our seniors show their talent and love by presenting a variety show at the Olympia Center. 2005 was no different. Our seniors presented a rollicking program punctuated by the selection of Ms. FACSPS Queen and her court Ms. Charity and Ms. Wisdom. Lucy Carino is our 2005-2006 FACSPS Seniors Queen. Our local thespians shared the stage with the seniors. A delicious concoction of potluck food

completed the evening of respect, merriment and love.

The message of the annual seniors program is our awe for our seniors. We appreciate that they live and enjoy the good life and show perseverance and true grit in raising their families. We honor them for being models of virtue.

And In 2006, the Seniors Program will be held on June 24, 2006, Saturday, starting at 3:00 PM at the Olympia Center. An added featured is when the seniors bring their grandchildren for a fun contest of spelling and general knowledge with the grandchildren of the other seniors. *Pasiklaban ng mga apo!* This entire month of February, every Monday at 7:00AM and Friday 12:00 midnight the past Seniors Program will be shown on TCTV Channel 22 in Thurston County. Please watch the rollicking show. Don't miss it.

- **May 7, 2005, Saturday – General Membership and Election of Officers at Olympia Center**

During the General Membership meeting held on May 7, President Rufino Ignacio reported on the status of FACSPS and its accomplishments. The report included the activities, finances, scholarship program, visiting artists, our charitable projects with Loving Presence Foundation, and Pilipina and related activities.

By the end of the Meeting an election was held where the following officers were elected:

Rufino Ignacio (President), Ruben Ramos (Vice President), Rey Ronquillo (Treasurer),

Jazmin Nicolas (Executive Secretary), Erlinda Reed (Auditor), Fernan Carino (Correspondent Secretary).

Following the Bylaws of FACSPS the following members were appointed Coordinators:

Mayleen Panaligan (Scholarship), Lucy Hochrine (Cultural Civic), Dolly Casitas (Membership), Mila Byers (Social), Lyn Asperin (Media and Publication), Walter Anderson, Jr. (Finance & Budget), Ted Zarate (Website), Ramel Dizon (Fundraising), Nida Martin (Adviser).

***And In 2006**, the General Membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6 at the Olympia Center starting at 3:00 PM.*

- **May 14, 2005, Saturday – Scholarship Awards Program at the Olympia Center**

FACSPS recognized the achievements of our different high school and college students during the Awards Program on May 14 at the Olympia Center. Through open competition, twelve graduates from area high schools were awarded \$600.00 each as college-bound grants. Seventeen (17) high school and 5 college graduates from FACSPS families were commended with certificates and \$60.00 each. The college bound scholars were Andrew Byers, Marjorie Cariaga, Eleanor Carino, Philip Cendana, Joseph Chen, Jennifer Hooper, Jesse Lee, Allison Nichols, Aidan Reyes, Angelica Santos, Lucas Sharma, and Brad Stringfellow.

Tiffany Galindo, Jean Esther Foronda and Von Agustin were awarded the FACSPS Arts and Cultural Enhancement plaques.

Folkdance pieces were presented. A comical skit, *Why Women Wash the Dishes*,

delighted the audience. Jesse Lee sang and accompanied himself on the piano. Jesse spoke on behalf of the graduates.

A highlight of the program was the inspirational speech of the 92-year old poet laureate of the FACSPS, Atty. Maria Aurelia del Valle. She spoke eloquently and read a poem about youth and having their ambition hitched to the stars.

The scholarship program is a major activity of FACSPS to inculcate the value of education to one's life, values and family. Mayleen Panaligan chaired the scholarship program.

The two hour program was filmed by FACSPS, under the leadership of Ruben Ramos, and later shown in its entirety in Channel 22 of TCTV in October 2005.

And in 2006. *This year's Scholarship Awards Program will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at the Olympia Center starting at 6:30 PM. Applications for the \$600 scholarship are presently being accepted through the school principals of area schools. Application forms are also available in the FACSPS website www.facsp.org. FACSPS family members are asked to submit the names of their children graduates (high school and college) this year for participation in the program and to receive their certificates and \$60 recognition award.*

- **Santacrusan On May 28, 2006**

On Saturday, May 28, 2006, starting at 5:00 PM at Sacred Heart Parish, we are drawing plans for the first-ever Santacrusan to be held in the vicinity of the Parish.

Santacrusan is part of the socio-cultural and religious practice of Filipinos alongside celebration of fiestas. Its origin dates back

from the medieval times in Europe during the crusades. Please call Mila Byers (923-9326) if you wish your children to participate in Santacrusan in May. Let's savor the jolly month of May...of flowers, of lovely Spring of love and joy.

- **June 11, 2005, Saturday – The UST Singers at River Ridge High School**

FACSPS hosted the globetrotting University of Santo Tomas Singers to a Gala Concert at River Ridge High School on June 11. The concert was part of our Visiting Artists Program that presents the beautiful, lovely and exotic songs and dance, and arts of the Philippines. The audience enjoyed the

evening of classical, Broadway and Filipiniana performed by the 34 members of the entourage. The numbers were creative and of titillating choreography. The audience gave the performers a long standing ovation.

And in 2006. *FACSPS is hosting the multi-awarded University of the Philippines Concert Chorus (UPCC) on **Friday, April 21**, starting at 7:30 PM, at the brand new and magnificent South Puget Sound Community College Arts Center.*

We will also present the UPCC in a noon mini concert at Pierce College on Thursday, April 20.

UPCC has an elaborate repertoire of Broadway, Filipiniana, jazz, rock and classical pieces. It holds the singular honor of being invited ten times to the prestigious Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland, and four times for command performances for Queen Elizabeth II. The UPCC was chosen as one of the best world choirs at the 4th Lincoln Center International Choral Festival in New York City.

To quote Welsh critic John Hearn, *“They (UPCC) have no equal as a virtuoso ensemble. The vibrancy of their music and their interpretation of rhythmic passion and movement encompasses all language.”*

- **Still Another Group of Visiting Artists in August, 2006**

The Integrated Performing Arts Guild (IPAG) of the Mindanao State University will visit Olympia and be hosted by FACSPS to a Gala Concert on Saturday, August 12 at the Olympia High School Theater starting at 7:30 PM. IPAG is the renowned “Bayanihan” of folk arts in the Philippines. The repertoire includes suspense and fun-filled folktales of Southern Philippines

presented through songs, dance and dramatics. IPAG traveled extensively in Europe and Asia where it won awards for their well-researched performances particularly the authenticity and excitement of its works.

The visit of the IPAG to Olympia will contribute to our appreciation, and that of the larger American community, of the originality and unending thrill of Filipino music and performing arts. IPAG is composed of Christian and Muslim students from Mindanao, Sulu and Palawan.

In both UPCC and IPAG shows, tickets are at \$15 (for General Admission) and \$10 for students and seniors.

Please call Rufino (456-5540) or (902-1665) to reserve tickets to both UPCC and IPAG performances.

- **June 12, 2005, Sunday, Participation in the Pagdiriwang at the Seattle Center**

FACSPS presented modern dance pieces to the delight of the audience at the Seattle Center during the *Pagdiriwang* celebration to commemorate Philippine Independence. The pieces were *Totoy Bibo*, *Bulaklak*, and *Otso-otso* presented by our men and young ladies. The pieces were specially requested by the Seattle program organizers to provide

variety to the two-day program. In the past FACSPS presented stage plays (Movie Artists; One More Chance, etc.) for *Pagdiriwang*. FACSPS is the only one among Washington community organizations that has drama group staging plays in various locale with themes of Filipino culture, traits and traditions

*And this June 11, 2006 at the Seattle Center, FACSPS will present a new play to delight the audience at *Pagdiriwang*.*

- **July 8, 2005, Saturday – Exec. Dir. Gerard Rikken of Loving Presence Foundation and Remy Rikken of Pilipina report to FACSPS.**

The Executive Director of Loving Presence Foundation based in Surigao, Mindanao, Philippines made a presentation to FACSPS to report the accomplishments and future of our joint program with the Foundation. Log on to www.lovepres.org to read more about LPF and our joint program. The joint program supports youth with physical deformities (blind, deaf mute, hare lipped, lame, etc.).their schooling, vocational training, and continuing physical therapy.

With Gerard was his wife Remy during the three-day Olympia visit. Remy reported on the activities of Pilipina, another program we support for gender (women) concerns in the Philippines. Such programs include addressing domestic violence among women, mail-order bride, equal opportunities for women in different fields of endeavor, and other concerns.

- **August 6, 2005, Saturday – Family picnic at the Rainier Vista Park in Lacey**



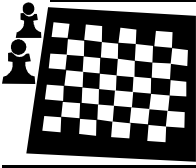
Fely Weidebush and her troupe enjoying halo-halo

The FACSPS annual family picnic held at Rainier Vista Community Park in Lacey was a wholesome fellowship of FACSPS families and guests. Picnics are social institutions that we can't do without. Members, young and old, enjoyed the whole day of fun and games and food. Enthusiastic balitaan and camaraderie was the order of

the day. *Lechon*, fried chicken, *pansit*, *adobo*, barbeque, salads, corn-on-the cob, potato salad, etc. and *halo-halo* (thanks to Fely Wiedeubush and her troupe) were some items we shared, among many more (wow, Filipino party, what do you know?). Let's do it again next year, the next and the next....another tradition fulfilled.

And In 2006, our Family Picnic is on Saturday, July 29 at the Rainier Vista Community Park starting at 11 AM

- **August 13 – FACSPS Chess Tournament at Hallen Hall, Lacey**



Our first try at a chess tournament did not fare very well. However, we accomplished it just the same. The drawback was holding it in summer when outside activities were more preferred by the targeted participants.

We will try again in 2006 possibly at the onset of winter that promises more tournament participants. We will likewise have their commitments to participate long before the scheduled tournament. Dr. Rex de Asis, dentist extra-ordinaire, a former junior champion in the Philippines, is in charge of the chess tournament.

- **August 21-28, 2005 – International Friendship Softball Series, Olympia**

The Philippine national girls' softball team (13 to 14 years old) visited Olympia for a series of friendship games on August 21-28 after their World Series engagement in Kirkland. They played nail-biting games at Stevens field against select teams from Olympia (Mustangs, MVP Athletics) and

Mt. Vernon (NW Crushers) and against FACSPS softball squad coached by Leo Balladeo. It is not often that we get a chance to watch a Philippine team play. The team was triumphant in every way – winners, in and out of the softball diamond. They demonstrated outstanding athleticism, decorum and team spirit.

During the softball series in Olympia, the athletes and officials were hosted by FACSPS families. We thank so much the host families for their kindness and hospitality. They were Edgar & Dolly Casitas, Hanford & Erlinda Reed, Arnold & Beth Fajardo, Ric & Lyn Asperin, Rex & Mary Agnes de Asis, Vic & Carmen Azanza, Ben & Pat Pineda, and Ruf & Marlene Ignacio.

The team returned to the Philippines bringing with them gifts and donations from the good people of Olympia. Happiness and sadness, tears and laughter lingered. Goodbye was not easy.

The visit and the games were memorable. From the players and coaches of the Philippine softball team, letter from them said it all. "Memories with all of you are engraved in our mind and we're very hopeful that someday in the near future, you

all visit us in our native land.....the Philippines, especially in Bacolod."
"



Softball players with new found friends in Olympia Toy, Jason and Sophia

And In 2006, If the same Team (Domingo Lacson National High School) will represent the Asia Pacific region in 2006, they will return to Olympia to play anew in the International Friendship Series on August 21-26 at the Bucknell Sports complex in Lacey against select teams from Washington.

A number of Filipino American families, on their own initiative, adopted the Team with food and vitamin allowance while in the Philippines so that, hopefully, they will emerge triumphant and return to Washington for the World Series and our own FACSPS Friendship Series. The families in the adopt the DLNSH Softball Team are: Walter & Joan Anderson, Ric & Lyn Asperin, Vic & Carmen Azanza, Leo & Aida Balladeo, Conrad & Bing Caballero, Edgar & Dolly Casitas, Ed & Auring Chow, Rex & Mary De Asis, Rudy & Femy Diaz, Ramel & Grace Dizon, Arnold & Beth Fajardo, Jon & Ester Foronda, Hector & Myrna Garcia, Cris & Marissa Guzman, Tom & Lucy Hocrine, Nick & Jazmin Nicolas, Ben & Pat Pineda, Ed & Zeny Ravancho, Hanford & Linda Reed, Shane & Judith Son, Scott & Stella Thalhamer, Ted & Eileen Zarate, and Ruf & Marlene Ignacio. They donate \$12.00 each month for the team. The money is sent to the team in Bacolod via Western Union.

If you wish to participate in the adopt the DLNHS Softball Team initiative, please call Rufino at 456-5540. It is a direct way to help people and to develop a champion team from the motherland Philippines. It is a nice feeling to "own a Team" through your modest donation.

- **October 15, 2005, Saturday – Fundraising Formal Ball at Indian Summer Golf Club for hurricane Katrina victims.**



Fundraising Ball At Indian Summer, Reception Hall
(L-R) Dolly, Mayleen, Linda, Lyn

On October 15, 2005 a formal fundraising for the victims of hurricane Katrina was held on a romantic evening at Indian Summer Golf Club. It was a success—of class ambience, food, elegance and dance. This year we netted \$1,300.00 that we sent to the American Red Cross for the hurricane victims.

Guests were greeted by handsome gentlemen Ted Zarate and Walter Anderson at the foyer, checked in by Linda Reed, Lyn Asperin, Dolly Casitas, and Mayleen

***And In 2006**, the autumn Fundraising Ball will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at the Indan Summer Country Club. Look forward to an evening of music, dance and merriment on top of feeling grand dancing in a formal Ball for a worth cause.*

- **December 10, 2005, Saturday – Christmas Party at Hallen Hall, Lacey**

The Holiday season was celebrated with family, loved ones, and friends at Hallen Hall on December 10, 2005.

Our rainy Washington did not dampen the joyous occasion. Upon entering the hall, there was no doubt – it was a Filipino Christmas Party. Very festive, the hall was decked with hollies, huge Xmas tree, colored lights and gifts. There were community singing children’s gifts, the

Panaligan. The room was marvelously decorated. The tables set with fresh flowers donated by Jane Openiano. Guests were entertained by the Seattle Highlight band. Delicious food was provided by Indian Summer catering service. We danced the night away to our hearts content.

There was the induction of new officers for 2005 -2007 performed by our amiable Atty. Leonor Rivera Fuller, Chair of the South Puget Sound Community College. Leonor was Guest Speaker. She talked about charity and the art of giving—she even sang a delightful song to the tune of *Sa Libis Ng Nayon*:

*Kung ang hanap mo ay ligaya sa buhay
FACSPS ang iyong tulungan
Taga Olympia man may gintong kalooban
At paggalang sa ating kaugalian.*

Another successful event goes to our FACSPS history book. With the upbeat music of the band, the dance floor looked small with everyone wanting to dance at the same time. Indian Summer said we will have a larger dance area nest time around.

feast, and the good cheers from all. These created ambience of a special Christmas holiday.

A pageant of the first Christmas was presented by our children narrated by Lyn Asperin and Dolly Casitas. The very young kids were cute and lovable and applauded for their performance. Soon after, the lady teenagers showed their wares as well. They performed the bootylicious dance “Chopeta”

instructed by Lucy Hochrine. Amy Quenga, Boy Hawes, and a Native American performer wowed the crowd. Another group of teenagers tutored by Tes Fernandus danced a lively jazz number.

Of course, don't undermine the capabilities of the "forgets". They danced to the tune of "Bulaklak"...ladies and gentlemen turned ladies. With *Bulaklak*, the shouting, laughter, giggles and chuckles filled the hall with the music hardly audible.

Kid's highlight of the evening was the arrival of mythical Santa Claus with a sack full of gifts. Santa showered the kids with candies and stuffed toys. All night dancing went on coupled with in-between raffle of sacks of rice. Music was great and very upbeat. All went home with smile on their faces after the magical and joyous evening.

And In 2006, our traditional Christmas Family Party will be held on December 9 at Hallen Hall

- **December 15, 18 – 22, 2005 – Home to home Holiday Caroling**



Home to home Christmas caroling is an FACSPS tradition on its eighth year. Every year we bring holiday cheers to our members through carols. We dish out our angelic (really?) voices accompanied by guitar, keyboard, and tambourine. We sing with gusto alongside our host families. We sing holiday pop tunes, Filipino original composition, and classic novelties.

"We wish you a Merry Christmas"...always the first song is our way of knocking at the door. Rain, shower or fog, none can stop us from sharing the happiness of the season.

In return, our carolers in red caps and festive gears are feasted by our very hospitable hosts. Hospitality is a given in any Filipino American home. Fiesta – style food is brought even before we finish the last song. What a cheerful atmosphere of fellowship and storytelling!

Donations from host families this 2005 grossed **\$2,175.00** to be used for our scholarship program and culture enhancement activities.

We thank our gracious and very kind 2005 host families, from the bottom of our heart and for the additional poundage, in 2005 as follows: Ryan & Lorene Caido, Tom & Lucy Hochrine, Peter & Mary Homberg, Jesse & Mercy Carbonel, Danny & Lita Quirong, Basilio & Lourdes Elevado, Ernie & Tessie Valdez, Jon & Cristina Caido, Bob & Tet Jones, Ramel & Grace Dizon, Shane & Judith Son, David & Anabel Malabed, Nora Alejandro and Gloria Boyd, Simplicio & Ester Foronda, Marivic Beltran-Papa & family, Edgar & Dolly Casitas, James & Ritzel Kelly, Glenn & Vicky Cabiao. *Maraming maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat to our host families & carolers.*

FACSPS' Mary Holmberg, Member of our Scholarship Committee, honored as one of Washington's leading elementary math teachers.

She's already a National Board certified teacher. Now 6th grade teacher Mary Holmbers has been recognized by MESA Washington as one of our state's outstanding teacher-leader in math. MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) brings resources into K-12 schools to close the academic achievement gap and build a pathway to careers in engineering and science. Mary was chosen to receive MESA's Mona Bailey Outstanding Teacher Award along with just two other Washington teachers. Congratulations, Mary and Meadows.

Log on to <http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060120/NEWS03/60120017/10> for the detailed write-up of Mary's accomplishments. This was published on January 20, 2006 issue of The Olympian.

ALWAYS WATCH FACSPS TV! ABANGAN !

From January 1, 2006 to June 30, 2006

FACSPS presents Two-hour shows about our Activities on Channel 22, TCTV (Thurston County TV) every

Monday starting at 7:00 AM (morning) And Repeats on Fridays at Midnight.

Our Shows change every month.

Showing in January are the stage play One More Chance and 2003 UPCC Concert excerpts

And in February, we will show the rollicking Seniors Program

The Editors of the **FACSPS News** are Lyn Asperin (Media and Publications Coordinator) and Dolly Casitas (Membership Coordinator). Our website www.facsp.org Webmaster is Ted Zarate. Our FACSPS TV is under the care of Vice President Ruben Ramos.

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