

Fil-Am Newsletter:



Upcoming Events:

December 2nd:

Family Christmas party
"Candyland"

December 9th:

Adult Christmas Ball with a
twist of 60's-70's theme

****Awards for best costumes for
both events!!**

June 9th:

Filipino
Independence/Friendship
Day/Picnic



NOTE: All future newsletters will be online or mailed by request only. Please check out our website for upcoming events: www.filamcoastalgeorgia.com

New Fil-Am Officers:

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Melvin Cadlaon |
| 1st Vice President | Rosemarie Robinson |
| 2nd Vice President | Sonny Albuna |
| Treasurer | Aurora Blaxton |
| Asistant Treasurer | Shirley Loy |
| Secretary | Linda Madison |
| Asistant Secretary | Paulina Shannon |
| Public Relations | Analie Apuya |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Rod Madison |
| Sergeant-At-Arms II | Anthony Shannon |
| Auditor | Felisa Flora J. Paler |
| Editor-In-Chief | Marianne Juan |

Letter from the President:

By the grace and favor of God and the Filipino-American community, I am excited to find myself as the new president of our association! As an immigrant and son of immigrants, I remember well the Filipino associations of New Jersey, where I grew up, watching my own father as one of its officers of the Bolinao Association of New Jersey and attending functions, learning our traditions, language, great history and of course, delicious food! Although as a young person I did not have a full appreciation of what was happening at our events and the importance of the labor each member put in to different aspects of the association, all those things helped to shape me, to make Bayanihan while we were all living in a sea of other peoples.

The importance of the work of that association to all generations of Filipinos makes me excited to be a part of a growing community whose roots stretch back to 1984 here in Coastal Georgia. Those pioneers formed a group of support and education to lift up and welcome Filipinos and their families as they slowly moved to this area, and now we are a part of the cultural makeup of Coastal Georgia—a culture not obscure, but important!

Now more than ever, it is vital for Filipinos to support each other, and enjoy our culture while spreading it to the communities we live in. Coastal Georgia desperately needs our Association to influence culture and local government, to provide networking for Filipino-American citizens striving for success and transitioning for immigrants who come for our American Dream.

We welcome all members, new and established, to not only hold membership but to advance our cause of spreading Filipino culture and influence to Coastal Georgia by bringing your unique talents to our Association as we change and grow this year through traditional means and new ideas, such as technology on our website, social opportunities at picnics, our Family Christmas Celebration and Christmas Ball (more to come on those later).

On behalf of our officers, I am here to say that we provide guidance and direction, but we cannot do it alone. I welcome your ideas and suggestions, and especially your efforts to make our Association rank among the best, helping establish a welcoming Filipino Community here in Coastal Georgia so that more will come to settle here!

We encourage you to join, participate and share the rich culture and diversity of the Filipino culture. Our growth depends on all of us, big and small, wealthy and poor, shy and gregarious, younger and older. May that which the pioneers have laid down or us continue to grow and flourish for our families and future generations to come. Mabuhay!

Melvin Cadlaon,
Fil-Am President
e-mail: melvin@filamcoastalgeorgia.com

Attention to all officers:

Our next meeting will be this August 12th, Saturday.2:00pm at the Madisons' home, please mark your calendars!

The torch has been passed as we welcome our new officers for the year 2017-2018. We thank all of our past officers for their dedicated service and to those who continue to give us their “walang sawang serbisyo.” We appreciate you all!

Fil-Am Spotlight:

Chief Magistrate Judge Rizza P. O'Connor

The first ever Filipino-American Judge in Georgia.



Rizza with husband Daniel, son, Judson and daughter, Evie.

The eldest daughter of Mr. Orly Palmares and Mrs. Evelyn Palmares, Rizza P. O'Connor is part of the oldest and most respected Filipino families here in Savannah. She has been raised as an achiever and to that she does not fall short. Rizza is a graduate of the Walter F. George Law School at Mercer University where she obtained a Juris Doctor degree in 2010 while serving as the Student Bar Association President. She also graduated cum laude from Mercer with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Business Management and the Law. Rizza was sworn in as Chief Magistrate Judge in November 2013. Not only is she the first ever Filipino-American but also the youngest Asian-American to serve as a judge in Georgia. Now a mother of two adorable toddlers, Judson and Evie, and a wife to a fellow lawyer Daniel, she juggles a full-time career and home life. According to her: "I feel my purpose is to live according to God's will and live a life pleasing to Him. I am thankful that both my public and private roles give me a chance to fulfill that purpose."

Rizza P. O'Connor is certainly an awe-inspiring character and a source of great pride and joy to the whole Fil-Am community. In behalf of the Fil-Am Association of Coastal Georgia, we congratulate you and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Currently
Seeking
Submissions!

Do you know a local inspiring Filipino?

Want to have your Adobo recipe published?

Ready to Announce that Social Occasion to the Filipino-American Community?

Want to offer your business services?

The Fil-Am Newsletter is seeking submissions for future content. Please send all submissions to:

Marianne@FilAmCoastalGeorgia.com