

MAY, 2018

# Ipagdiwang!

The Newsletter of the Filipino-American Association of  
Coastal Georgia

Web: <https://filamcoastalgeorgia.com/>  
Facebook: FilAm Coastal Ga

## Spring Picnic Welcomes New Members

The Filipino-American Association of Coastal Georgia proudly announces the 29 families who joined during the Spring Picnic!

### Annual Memberships

Jane & Jayson Parker

Mercy Olegario

Margie Pockat

Rose & Reggie Robinson

Jose & Luz Quirimit

Charmaine Phan

Geomarth Valleza

Rev. Neil Bush

George & Summer Brooks

Melvin & Jennifer Cadlaon

Virgil & Shirley Loy

Celia & Eduardo Espineli

Jill & Marie Grass

Lydia Glover

Derell & Eden Waldhauer

Paulina & Anthony Shannon

Rey De Los Santos

Terry & Mary Damon

Nathaniel Realubit

Leslie Zipay

Diane Albuna

Reynaldo & Lou Manzo

Remilda & John Kennerly

Aneth Hughes

Prudence Hissam

Christopher Macabugao

Linda Madison

### Lifetime Membership

**Noriel & Analiza Lipat  
Family**

## Fil-Am Welcomes Newly Elected Officers

**President:** Melvin Cadlaon

**1st Vice President:** Nathan Realubit

**2nd Vice President:** Analie Apuya

**Secretary:** John Moisant

**Asst. Secretary:** Chris Macabugao

**Treasurer:** Clifford Garcia Cajayon

**Asst. Treasurer:** Aneth Goles Hughes

**Auditor:** Summer Brooks

**Sergeant at Arms I:** Rey De Los Santos

**Sergeant at Arms II:** Sonny Albuna

**Public Relations Officer:** Linda Madison

### **Council Appointments:**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Jennifer Cadlaon

**Assistant Editor:** David Pamplona

***Congratulations and Salamat to the  
2018-2020 Fil-Am Leadership Council!***

# GSU Symposium on the Philippines



The first annual Symposium on the Philippines was hosted on March 28th-29th at the Armstrong Campus in Savannah, proudly hosted by both the Department of International Studies and the Fil-Am of Coastal Georgia, and was sponsored by the Savannah International Alliance.

This two-day event was one of several Symposiums held in the 2017-2018 school year at Armstrong, representing one of the diverse

Asian populations in Savannah, and sponsored by the City in lieu of the Savannah Asian Festival.

True to form, the Philippines was well-represented! Speakers attending included Consul to the Philippines Henry Howard, General Counsel to the North American Federation of Filipino Associations, Attorney Bryan Ramos, and two of the Fil-Am's own: missionary pastor Neil Bush and Professor Luvzmindanda Quirimit!

Topics included Introduction to Filipino History and Culture, U.S.-Philippine relations, missionary efforts in the Philippines and the Voice of the Emerging Filipino.

Events were punctuated by singing, folk dancing, a traditional Eskrima/Arnis demonstration and of course, Filipino treats, all provided by the Fil-Am!

Although it is our hope that the City will reinstate the Savannah Asian Festival, the Fil-Am is proud to represent our Homeland at any time!

*"The Youth is the hope of our future."  
Dr. Jose Rizal*

## Youth Spotlight: Ariana Lipat

Learn more about this inspiring Fil-Am Youth (and nominate others) at our website: <https://filamcoastalgeorgia.com>



# A Letter from the President

On Behalf of our Fil-Am Association and myself, please accept my thanks for the support you have given at our 2018 Fil-Am Spring Picnic and Elections held at Lake Mayer on April 18<sup>th</sup>! Through our Association's Facebook account, website and word-of-mouth, we welcomed many more attendees than we felt we could hope for, and for that I am thankful, and indeed grateful beyond telling for the 29 families who joined our membership that day! As an Association and as a people, we truly owe our success to the Lord Jesus for each of these families, and indeed every member of the Fil-Am. Please join me in praying that His grace, mercy, and wisdom continue to pour out to each family in our Association, abundantly in measure throughout all aspects of our lives.

I am also thankful for the outgoing officers for their selfless time and efforts they have given to this association voluntarily. They have served to the best of their abilities through our various events (and inevitable challenges) to meet the goals and mission of this association: celebrating and increasing the Filipino presence and culture throughout Coastal Georgia. I wish them continued success in their new ventures, even as they offer their own ongoing support to the Fil-Am.

Looking forward to the 2018-2020 term, I am likewise thankful for the new set of officers who have stepped up to the plate of service. No one person can successfully lead our Association, and it is only by their help and God's grace that we have been experiencing success and continued blessing! These men and women are committed to the cause of the Fil-Am, and it is their express duty to help our Association to keep the course, helping lead us all as we move forward to a new chapter in the life of the Fil-Am: federal recognition.

Based upon a majority vote at the Spring picnic in April, the Fil-Am has decided to formalize itself as a true Non-Profit Organization. We do so not as a means to become something else but to build upon what we already have. We are still a social organization, a cultural organization and a community organization. However, with an official recognition by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization, we will find ourselves with renewed strength—the ability to accept tax-deductible donations, the ability to raise special funds to assist in times of disaster relief for our beloved Homeland, the ability to apply for and receive grant monies, and to access assistance for our cultural events and community projects!

In closing, my heart is full of thanks for our Association, our Filipino culture, and our purpose. It is my great hope that your membership and involvement will fill yours with the same.

*"It is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal. It is like a stone wasted on the field without becoming part of any edifice." –Dr. Jose Rizal*

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated on the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2*

# Filipino-American Association of Coastal Georgia Financial Statement: January 2018-April 2018

*(Submitted by Aurora Blaxton, Treasurer, April 2016-April 2018)*

Fixed CD \$11,105.75

Ending Balance 12/2017 \$4,570.16

## Income

Membership Dues	\$900
Entrance Fees: Spring Picnic	\$426
Donation: GSU/Armstrong	\$300.00
	<b>Total \$1,626.00</b>

## Expenses

Officer Lunch at The Vault	-\$413.00
Reservation for Lake Meyer	-\$150.00
Reservation @ Grand Lake (Ball)	-\$500.00
Condolence gift to Maria Lacanilao	-\$50.00
Spring Picnic Lechon	-\$350.00
Spring Picnic Shrimp	-\$120.00
Spring Picnic Menudo	-\$100.00
Spring Picnic Spaghetti	-\$60.00
Spring Picnic Pancit	-\$75.00
Spring Picnic Pizza & Rice	-\$41.77
Spring Picnic Plates, Drinks & Bracelet	-\$101.00
Spring Picnic Game Prizes	-\$60.00
	<b>Total -\$2,020.78</b>

Ending Balance \$4,175.38