



# CONNECTING . . .

KALAYAAN FILIPINO CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (KFCO)

Volume II, Issue 2

24 Jan, 2018

## **KFCO Invites You to a Valentine Dinner Dance on Feb. 17, 2018**

Come, shake a leg, melt the winter blues, enjoy Valentine Dinner and Dance this Feb. 17, 2018. This is one of the fundraising projects being undertaken by Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO) under the Chairmanship of Eula Rulloda for this year. Hope you can join and support us in this endeavor.

*Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization*  
cordially invites you to our  
*Valentine Dinner and Dance*  
and Induction of KFCO Executive Council  
Saturday, February 17, 2018  
6:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre  
5225 Orbitor Drive  
Mississauga, Ontario  
Tickets : \$30.00  
No. 181  
Attire : Semi-Formal  
Dinner : 7:30 pm

## **Flag Raising at Mississauga City Hall Come June 12, 2018**

Ward 4 Mississauga Councilor ,John Kovac, has been strongly encouraging the Filipino Community to make use of the flag raising opportunity at the City Hall on June 12, 2018. Invitation for the Community to

participate has been open since last year.

We have a lot of kababayans here in Mississauga and Peel Region, it is high time to show our colors, presence, cohesiveness, and Community recognition. Save this

Tasked with the coordination with the City as well as with other Filipino organizations is KFCO Chairman, Eula Rulloda. Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe headed by Estring Aguinaldo has already indicated their support.

## Guest: Mildred Ramirez

One of the invited guests during the KCCC Volunteer and Sponsors Recognition Night was Mildred Ramirez. She came to Canada in 2005 as a visitor and worked herself to be a caregiver. Now she is with the up kids.



Peel Multi Cultural Council focusing on assisting migrants, new immigrants, those looking for work, resume preparation, English class and especially on live-in caregivers. She has 3 grown-

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**Snapshot Corner-** from the files of Joe Pastolero, who is a member of the KCCC Monday line dancing group. He is currently enjoying his retirement and takes photography as a hobby.



These pictures were taken at Riverwood Park in Mississauga. There are two species of birds common on said area. These birds are the black capped chickadees (short beak) and the white breasted nuthatch (long beak). These birds are used to getting fed that they can eat seed off your hand.

## What is a Community Centre?

Googling its definition, it is a place where people from a particular community can meet for social, educational, or recreational activities.

Borrowing from the definition of Wikipedia: Community centres or community centers are public locations where members of a community tend

to gather for group activities, social support, public information, and other purposes. They may sometimes be open for the whole community or for a specialized group within the greater community.

Come to think of it, is the community getting its fair share from KCCC? Does it

meet your expectations? Do you at times think it might just be a one way street?

Take a simple example of different functions and bookings being held at KCCC, did you notice bulletin board advisory to at least show info for these events? How about non-KCCC programs or happenings? Why such a scenario?

*just an observation: Rene Sevilla*

## Giggle Gang Will Celebrate Their 2nd Yr. Anniversary

The Giggle Gang under the mentorship of Christine Macri invites us to their upcoming 2nd Yr. Anniversary celebration to be held at KCCC Main Hall on Feb. 2, 2018. Supporting the community and a passion to dance, this group can tell you that you're never too old to dance and it's never too late to start. With a firm belief that life is too short to NOT live it fully and with passion, they encourage others to live, learn, laugh and love. Get involved, live in the present and move towards the future with purpose and spark! Hurry, limited tickets!!





### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Anniversary

**Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre**  
**5225 Orbitor Drive, Unit #3**  
**Mississauga, ON**



**Lunchbox**  
Cafe & Catering

**February 2, 2018 6:30pm**

**Early bird: \$25 After Jan 19: \$30**

**Attire - Semi-Formal**    **Dinner \* Dance \* Games \* Entertainment \* Prizes**

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**RED and GOLD** if you want to participate in the evening's theme, otherwise semi-formal attire is also fine. Please note, there will be **NO TICKET SALES at the door** so please **ensure you have your tickets with you.**

## Fr. Tito Caluag

### 21 January 2018 - Feast of the Santo Niño (re-sharing his article)

We, in the Philippines, have been given the special privilege to celebrate the Feast of the Santo Niño every Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. Historically, the Christian devotion to the Child Jesus is the oldest in the country, with Magellan gifting Rajah Humabon and Queen Juana with the image of the Santo Niño.

Culturally and spiritually, our devotion to the Santo Niño speaks volumes of what is core to our heart and soul as a people. This devotion, plus the devotions to the Black Nazarene of Quiapo and Our Blessed Mother, gives us a unique insight into our psyche, our soul as a people.

I propose three points for our reflection, namely, empathy, the “hala bira” spirit, and, finally, trust and courage.

Our readings for the Feast of the Santo Niño celebrate the blessings and graces that come to us in and through Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is specially framed in the persona of a child: the beautiful prophecy in Isaiah of the birth of the child who will fulfill our deepest longings and God’s faithful promise, a theme repeated by St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, and, finally, Christ himself speaks, that unless we become like little children we cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

A child is the epitome of empathy. She can laugh, cry, listen, and play with others at the drop of a hat. Bill Bullard, a former U.S. legislator and public servant, defines empathy as “the highest form of knowledge . . . for it requires us to suspend our egos and live in another’s world. It requires profound purpose larger than the self kind of understanding.”

Children have no egos (yet) and through an active imagination and great capacity for play, they are able to enter the world of others in a non-judgemental way (un-opinionated). We see this in the merry-making, the dancing and singing on the streets of the Sinulog in Cebu or the Ati-Atihan of Kalibo; an empathy that is married to the playful, free spirit of a child, the “hala bira” spirit.

This “hala bira” spirit is the same spirit that marks the more western mardi gras and is reminiscent of the famous dance in the classic novel of Nikos Kazantzakis, “Zorba the Greek” (1946).

The two main characters, Zorba and Basil, are your yin and yang combination, the peasant and the aristocrat, respectively. After a convoluted story of comedy, earthy romance, and tragedy, the story ends with Basil’s project, to which he had enlisted Zorba’s

help, being the native of the place, ending in total failure.

Reeling from the failure, Basil asks Zorba to teach him how to dance. At the end of it all, the two laugh and dance together in the midst of failure. Basil learns the wisdom of the madness of song and dance. “Hala bira.”

There is wisdom in madness. There is wisdom in the “fanatic frenzy” on the streets of Cebu and Kalibo as we dance to “Pit, Senyor.” There is wisdom – and order and discipline – in the millions who join annually the Translacion of the Senyor Nazareno, the Black Nazarene of Quiapo.

These “fanatics,” the deeply devoted, live their life with faith and courage, believing their lives have been touched by a miracle – or praying for one, the miracle will come. It gives them grace to live courageous – if not heroic – lives.

The dancing and the singing on the streets are expressions and moments of gratitude and renewal. They dance and they sing to pray, to give thanks, and to renew; the renewal of faith and courage.

The faith of a child trusts in the promise of the other that there will be a great light in the midst of gloom that will usher in a period

## continued from Feast of the Santo Niño

of great rejoicing and hope, and the fulfilment of ancient promises in Christ; that it is the childlike who will enter God's Kingdom.

It is this trust that gives the child the courage to act and enter life. Courage is "katatagan ng loob," a strength of character that comes from a solid inner core, a core that has kept – or regained – its integrity.

It is this integrity that gives one the freedom to dance and to sing, to also live life with the "hala bira" spirit, a joie de vivre not simply in a bohemian way but more so one of celebration and gratitude.

All of these are synthesized in the grace of empathy with others, on the level of individual relationships and building on this on the level of community founded on

the acknowledgement of a shared humanity.

It is this empathy evoked by our devotion to the Child Jesus that makes us sing and dance without getting too wrapped up in our selves; makes us trust and act with courage not in a self-righteous and self-centered way, but always on behalf of the other with the hope of building a better world for all.

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## Meet KFCO's Secretary: Fely Castelo



Filomena Cunanan Castelo is the present Secretary of Kalayaan Filipino Cultural

Organization (KFCO). She is steering the Independence Day Gala Night Celebration this June 2018, one of the major events of the Organization.

Born in Lupao, Nueva Ecija, Philippines. Quite conversant in Tagalog, Ilokano and as a consequence of her parents background, she can understand Kapangpangan and Paggasinan.

Fely has a degree in Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from University of the East, Philippines. Taught for

13 years in Roxas Elementary School, Project 1, Quezon City. She attended York University in Toronto and earned a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Sheridan College in Oakville. This led to her work as an Early Childhood Educator for the YMCA Childcare Centre for 13 years. Fely is a certified teacher of the Ontario College of Teachers (primary and intermediate). She is employed by the Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Elementary School, Mississauga, teaching full day kindergarten.

A widow blessed with two grown up kids, Melanie and Nestor and three granddaughters: Jasmine, Marissa, and Erika. Bobby Gonzalez has been at her side for the past fourteen years.

She established the University of the East Alumni Group on September 9, 2001. Their mission is to help individuals through their Annual Gala Night every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of November. She was also a past officer of the original Culture Philippines, under the leadership of Rick Torres. She was a former KFCO officer during the chairmanship of Marlo Millari where she had the opportunity to chair the Independence Gala at that time with the partnership of the Philippine Festival Toronto led by the late Senator Enverga. She had a short stint as a director of Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC). Her community involvement also extends as a choir member, St Francis Xavier Church 7 PM Mass.

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# "Yugyugan Nanaman"

A winter dance event organized by the Ateneo Alumni Association of Canada to raise scholarships funds for deserving students back home.

