Toy Arre Honored at the 4th FilCom Bayanihan Gala.

by JP Orias

The FilCom Center 4th Bayanihan Gala was held at Sheraton Waikiki last December 1, 2011. The annual fundraiser of FilCom Center honored its president and chief operating officer Geminiano "Toy" Arre, Jr. as its Bayanihan Awardee this year. Arre expressed to retire in July and was asked to stay till the end of the year or until a suitable replacement is hired. Arre devoted seven years of his professional life to the Center’s success and “elevated the Center to its next level” a candid assessment from FilCom President Emeritus Roland Casamina. Arre joined the Center’s prestigious list of Bayanihan awardees which include Patti Lyons of the Consuelo Foundation, Lito Alcantra, President of Group Builders, Inc. and Hawaiian Airlines. His short and emotional acceptance speech thanked “the Almighty -- from whom all life flows and to whom all life shall return” and his family whom he looks forward to spending his retirement with. This year, the angklung took the center stage not as a musical component of the bamboo band but as a symbol of the Bayanihan Award for its unique attributes and group compatibility—the intrinsic meaning of Bayanihan.

This year’s gross revenue was slightly lower than the previous fundraisers but generated a higher net margin due to lower production cost. Bryan Andaya, Event Chair and Secretary for the FilCom Board of Directors, claimed that “Given the ongoing economic challenges faced by many of our donors, I am relieved and happy we were able to match last year’s fundraising performance with a substantial decrease in associated expenses. We must continue to fundraise on an annual basis and make it our Number 1 priority.” The money raised goes to the general fund to cover the operating cost and programs of the center.

To be continued on Page 5
A Message from the President

This will be the last time I will be writing this column. I would like to extend my heartfelt salamat to all those who have generously given their time, talent and treasure in support of FilCom Center’s varied community projects and programs. Operating grants from the federal, state and city governments; sponsorships and monetary contributions from the private business sector, community organizations and individuals and the in-kind services by myriad of volunteers who served in many different capacities in the planning and implementation of programs like NCLEX Review Classes, Filipino Fiesta and Parade, Seniors Program, Filipino4Kids, to name a few. Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors who gave me the opportunity to lead the Center and upon whose shoulders rest the responsibility for making sure that FilCom remains a viable resource to meet community needs.

Thank you to the hardworking Staff—Tess Quemado, Arceli Rebolrido and Eric Victoria, who somehow managed to keep FilCom operating everyday for the last seven years; to our Property Manager, NAI Chaney Brooks, for making sure our occupancy remained as close to 100% ; and to our Accountant, Sterling Leong, for ensuring that our financial records are in order and always audit-ready.

Thanks to the Advisory Board of Governors not only for their invaluable guidance but for their active participation and unconditional support.

Have a great 2012. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Geminiano “Toy” Q. Arre, Jr.
President & Chief Operating Officer

To develop, own and operate a community center that provides social, economic and education services, and to promote and perpetuate Filipino culture and customs in the State of Hawai‘i.
FilCom Welcomes its Newly Elected Board Members

Paul Alimbuyao was born and raised in the Summer Capital of the Philippines, Baguio City. He obtained a bachelors degree in Commerce at St. Louis University, Baguio. He came to Hawaii in 1990 with his wife, the former Mary Ann Julie Cortes Ang, and two children: Christian Paulo & Ricky Gerald. After a brief stint with the former Liberty Bank and Hawaiian Trust Company, he joined First Hawaiian Bank in 1997 where he is now Vice President & Manager of the Wealth Management Service Center’s Trade & Asset Processing Department. Paul is also an active Board member of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.

Filipinos should be proud of the FilCom Center whose objective is to promote and perpetuate Filipino customs and traditions in the state of Hawaii. I hope to contribute my skills, knowledge and experience to ensure that FilCom remains a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy. - Paul

Rosemarie E. Aquino hails from the City of Manila. She earned a bachelors degree in English and Asian Studies from the College of the Holy Spirit, Manila. She also had the privilege of attending the National Postgraduate Employee Benefit Trust School of the AB Executive School Division at the Northwestern University in Chicago. Rose was a former Commissioner of the Hawaii State Board Commission on the Status of Women and a board member of the American Cancer Society, Honolulu Unit. She serves as one of the Board of Directors of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, and is currently the Vice President of the Philippine Business, International Banking Division of Bank of Hawaii. Rose is married to adoring husband, Marciano “Sonny.”

I believe that we must always support the communities where we live and work. Being on the Board of Directors of FilCom Center gives me an opportunity to provide that support. My vision is to help secure adequate resources for the organization to fulfill its mission as well as enhance its public standing by clearly articulating its accomplishments and goals to the public. - Rose

Jeffrey S. Cudiamat is the Owner and President of Structural Builders Hawaii, Keiki Care Center and Structural Hawaii, Inc. He graduated Valedictorian from Pearl City High School in 1992, obtained his baccalaureate degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California and is currently pursuing a masters degree in Structural Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He is a licensed Professional Structural Engineer and Civil Engineer in the State of Hawaii. Jeffrey was included in the 2010 Pacific Business News Forty Under 40 and recognized in 2008 as the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Young Filipino Entrepreneur of the Year. Married to lovely wife, Cheryl, he is blessed with four children—Carson, Tyson, Melina & Mia.

When I was employed as an engineer by the engineering firm designing the FilCom Center, I volunteered my weekends to provide free structural engineering and drafting during the design phase of the FilCom Center. It was an honor and a privilege to give back to the Filipino community back then, and it will continue to be an honor for me to serve on the FilCom board now. - Jeffrey

Avelino J. Halagao, Jr. is currently the Director of Communications in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor; 2011 Selection Committee Chair, United States Housing & Urban Development CDBG Program; Founding Advisory Board Member of the After-School All-Stars Hawaii which provides free, quality comprehensive after school programs in middle schools including educational, sports, cultural and community enrichment programs. AJ, as he is more commonly known, obtained a Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the University of Virginia, Juris Doctor from University of California, Los Angeles and a Masters of Business Administration degree from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

I am honored to serve on the FilCom Board. The FilCom Center is more than just a physical structure. It represents a central place for our community to gather, collaborate, learn and enrich our lives. I hope to be able to further and advance the goals of this vital institution. - AJ

Nobleza Magsanoc-Lewis is the Senior Vice President for Finance at the Communications Pacific, Inc. She earned her baccalaureate degree in Accounting and MBA degree at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa (UHM). She was a business advocate for the Honolulu Minority Business Development Center, Operations Manager of the Pacific Resource Partnership, auditor with Coopers & Lybrand and lecturer of UHM’s community colleges. Nobleza previously served FilCom as one of its directors. Her being elected anew to the board makes it her second stint. Born in the City of Lingayen, Pangasinan, Nobleza is a happy wife to James C. Lewis.

It’s definitely more of a privilege for me to be a board member of an organization that clearly strives to promote Filipinos as an integral part of our local economy and local culture. - Nobleza

All five welcomed their new roles with fervor, and expressed their desire to help FilCom in any way they can. Their term ends on December 31, 2013.
Ang Pilipino... Noon at Ngayon (The Filipino... Then and Now)

By Jenny Alconcel Quezon

The Annual Filipino Fiesta and Parade held last May 2011 went smoothly even with the occasional residual drizzle from the past few days of flood watch announcements. Featured GMA Pinoy TV guest stars, Iza Calzado and Dennis Trillo, were met with screaming fans way past the scheduled 4PM closing, followed by long lines of adoring fans for their autograph signing and photo opportunities.

Thousands of people flocked to Kapi‘olani Park, fighting traffic and parking just to join in the excitement of the various booths, variety show, traditional plate lunches and best of all, the six (6) round-trip tickets to the Philippines which were generously given by this year’s Title Sponsor, Hawaiian Airlines.

Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaii Tourism Authority, the City & County of Honolulu, GMA Pinoy TV, Hawaii Community Foundation, Western Union, Honolulu Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce, Renato and Maria A.F. Estrata Foundation, Congress of the Visayan Organizations (COVO), Island Insurance Foundation, United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH) and Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) were the sponsors of this edition of the Annual Fiesta and Parade.

The St. John Choir, Katrina Fernandez, Royal Hawaiian Band, FilCom Banda Kawayan, BIBAK, Sinulog Dancers, Mahalohalo Kolintang Ensemble, Philippine Consultate Chorale, Deputy Consul Paul Cortes, Albert Maligmat, The Society of Seven, Bandalan Doces Pares, Kulintronic and the Manny Pacquiao Look-Alike Contest provided the day-long entertainment.

The hard work put into the decorations and final touches of the floats created by the various organizations paid off as onlookers and passersby received the marching groups with much delight as they paraded through the streets of Kalakua and Waikiki. Governor Neil Abercrombie served as the Parade Marshall followed by Philippine Consulate General Leoncio Cardenas, FilCom Board Chair Abby Shaw, GMA Pinoy TV, Western Union, Hawaiian Airlines, Unite Here Local 5, Knights of Columbus, BIBAK, ANCART, Himig at Indak, COVO, Farrington High School Fil-Am Club, Filipino American League of Engineers & Architects, Annak ti Kailokuan iti America, Ilocos Surian Association of America, OFCC, Renato and Maria A.F. Estrata Foundation and UFCH.

Regional cultural booths proudly displayed their arts and crafts representative of their region, a keiki booth and various health and wellness tables were also set up for the throngs of people to enjoy at the Park.

The unwavering excitement of the Fiesta grew even stronger towards the afternoon as the people waited for the drawing of the six (6) Hawaiian Airlines Round-Trip ticket to Manila until the names of the lucky winners were called— Leonora Calawayan, Ricardo Fajardo, Agripina R. Rilleva, Dante Verdadero, Jane Vergara and Lynne Villanueva. Congratulations, winners!

Finally, the FilCom President and COO, Geminiano “Toy” Q. Arre, expressed his deep appreciation for the continued support of the sponsors, participating organizations and the utterly enthusiastic volunteers who come through every year for this annual gathering. Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Filipino Fiesta & Parade on May 5, 2012. Mahalhay! ✡
Honoree, Toy Arre, with FilCom President Emeritus Roland Casamina and Board Chair, Atty. Abby Madrid-Shaw at the 4th FilCom Bayanihan Gala

Toy Arre Honored... From Page 1

Norman Hashimoto, a FilCom donor and Arre’s campaign chair when he became the first non-Japanese to be president of the Japanese Jaycees said “This is why service to humanity is the best work of life. We do not have to be well off or not so well off to help one another. For humanity’s sake, we are all in this together. It is a blessing to help one another young or old, rich or poor.”

The theme-oriented program entitled “Mabuhay Mr. Toy” was well received, short and classy. It started with rondalla music by Maharlika Strings at cocktail time and followed by a dinner faire that featured Cora Aczon on the piano with songs by Albert Maligmat, Kristian Lei, Ross Sinafranca, M.D. and hosted by Bennette Misalucha. Pièce de résistance of the evening was the bluesy rendition of “What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?” by Corie Fulgencio-Arre, wife of the honoree. Nobleza Magsanoc Lewis, member, FilCom Board of Directors and Senior Vice President, Finance Communications Pacific summed up the evening as “…a first-class production. It was just sheer PERFECTION from start to finish... from décor to entertainment. The evening was so special for our honoree, Toy, and for everyone who was there.”

Banda Kawayan
Continues to Draw Children’s Interest

The Banda Kawayan has been performing in various events, the latest of which were at the Schofield Barracks for the closing ceremonies of the Distinguished Lecture Series Dinner, and in one of the cultural programs at Honolulu Hale. With member-children serving as young ambassadors and promoters of the Banda, kids and adults alike are drawn to joining the band. Parents are very supportive of their children’s new-found interest that some find themselves playing with them too. Now, the Banda has sixty-seven registered members (fifteen adults and fifty-two children between 9 & 17 years old).

The Banda’s extensive repertoire includes the Philippine and the U.S. national anthems, Ilocano, Tagalog and Visayan folk songs, pop music (including the Hawaii Five-0 theme music), Hawaiian songs as well as Christmas carols.

With the help of the Education through Cultural and Historical Organization (ECHO) Grant, U.S. Department of Education, a second set of Banda Kawayan instruments was purchased and flown in gratis again by Hawaiian Airlines.

Performing offsite continues to present logistic challenge in transporting the instruments particularly the marimba and kalogong. The frames of these two instruments will be redesigned for easy and fast knockdown & assembly as well as for easy storage and transport.

Someday soon, we hope the Banda will be heard live in the neighbor islands. 
NAMI’s NCLEX Review Program: A Response to the Global Need for Nurses

The Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc. (NAMI) continues to offer its very successful NCLEX Review classes for qualified nursing graduates who are ready to take the RN Board Examination. The 10th session ended last November 16, 2011 with a full enrollment of fifty students. The class, which regularly meets on Wednesdays from 5PM to 9PM, also includes computer literacy training since the NCLEX Exam is computerized.

The volunteer instructors of the RN Review Program are nursing practitioners and/or faculty members of Hawaii Pacific University, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa (UHM), UHM Kapi‘olani Community College and various hospitals and healthcare facilities.

This program is provided through the following kind hearted volunteer instructors— Nancy Atsumo-Walsh • Linda Beechinor • Nita Jane Carrington • John Casken • Clementina Ceria-Ulep • S. Penny Chung • Francisco Conde • Mitchell A. Cruz • Bethuel "Bong" Curameng • Donna DeMello • Ines Bejarin Finin • William Flores, Jr. • Connie Gazmen • Eden Goto • Janice Ferguson • Edna Higa • Reginald Ho • Jocelyn Cole Ibanez • Stephanie Ignacio • Marianela Jacob • May Kealoha • Linda Kim • Anna Leake • Lourdes V. Marcelo • Joe Niemezura • Josephine Norris • Emily Ramones • Beatriz Ramos-Razon • Pill Rosales • Brian Smith; and its Coordinating Team headed by its Founder/President, Beatrice Ramos-Razon • Secretary, S Jun Obaldo • Treasurer, Bong Curameng • Auditor, Michael G. Beruea • Board of Directors, Margie Beruea, Au Curameng & Delmar Magno • Technical Support, Joe Magno • Lynn Barnes • Jerry Felicitas • Josie Felicitas • Erilinda Ferrer • Estrella Guevarra • Pepito Guevarra • Edel Matias • Brenda Monegas • Oscar Querido • Violet Sadural.

Here’s a partial list of the new registered nurses who recently graduated from the NAMI Program— Cynthia Agyonoy • Winnine Almila • Jocelyn Bautista • Josie Bautista • Alice Blas • Theresa Boado • Carla Bumanglag • Angelina Cabusas • Alma Cadali • Brenda Carrioso • Kristel Castillo • Sheryl Chiuon • May Constantino • Phoebe Dahilig • Christian De Vera • Gail Dias • Beverly Domingo • Ana Dougherty • Robert Fernando • Lourna Ferrer • Planus Flores • Christine Juan • Kathleen Koh • Jocelyn Lopquia • Luigi Marinus • Carmela Marinas • Eunice Miquel • Brenda Monegas • Leah May Pascual • Oscar Querido • Delmar Ramos • Lea Ramos • Carol Robles • Desiree Saldan • Theresa Sarmiento • Diana Sarmiento • Dararin Serna • Rita Marie Tambunting • Franklin Tumano • Clarlene Tumaneng • Dexter Ranangol.

Call Beatriz Ramos at (808) 778-6291 to register for the 11th NCLEX class scheduled to begin on January 25, 2012 and will end on June 6, 2012.

Bayanihan for JAPAN: Relief Update

A check for $7,100 was issued to the Japanese Red Cross via the American Red Cross. The monies included those collected during the 19th Annual Filipino Fiesta and those sent through postal service.

Our thanks to the following individuals and groups who donated to this cause:

$500 and up — Renato & Maria Estrada Foundation • FBWA Foundation • Filipino Women’s Civic Club • Bayanihan for Japan.

$100 – $250 — Amefil Agbayani • Anak Ti Batac Intl. • John & Imelda Anderson • Toy & Corie Arre • Badger & Arakaki LLC • John & Mary Brogan • Caballeros De Dimas Alang • Dreams Come True Scholarship Foundation • James C. Fraser • John & Gail Nagamine • JP & MA. Josefa Orias • Mario & Judy Ramil • Beatrice Ramos-Razon • Cuyler & Abolina Shaw • Regino & Justi Tanaga • Alleen Upchurch • Cecilia Villafuerte.

Below $100 — Kathlyn Abe • Alvirito Agcaoili • Wayne & Muriel Arakaki • Lilaw Brewbaker • Anastacia Calixterio • Virginia Capinpin • Imelda Carbone • Brandon Dela Cruz • Elsa Domingo • Rhena Fidel • Chera & Paula Flores • Ruth Elyria S. Mabanglo • Madelene Obena • Fujiyo Okama • Malvyn & Leona Olivar • Benito & Aurora Ordillo • Evonne Perkins • Elizabeth Perry • Zosimo & Teresita Quemado • Teresita Ramos • Arcei Rebollido • Janice Sevilla-Meeker • Fani & Marie Tedios • Rafael Velasco • Daven & Charity Yamada • Judy Yanagishi • Lori Young.

To those who, in one way or another, helped in this humanitarian effort, inyo angi aming pasasalamat.

2011 Pacific Business News Young Business Leader

BRYAN ANDAYA

Congratualtions to Atty. Bryan Andaya, FilCom Board Secretary/ Director and L&M Franchise Vice President and COO, for being selected as the 2011 PBN’s Young Business Leader. He is 39 years old.

As we know it, Atty. Andaya’s leadership goes beyond the business realm as he makes himself available to the community he serves, which includes his involvement with FilCom as an active board member chairing the 2010 and 2011 fundraising events, providing pro-bono services at the Legal Aid Society where he was a member, and previously serving as the President of the Honolulu Filipino Jaycees and the United Filipino Council of Hawaii.

With a loving and supportive family— his wife, Mary Ann, and two beautiful children, A valyne & Alyna, Atty. Andaya’s success is truly within his reach.

Getting to know Pike, The Maestro

Rafael P. Velasco is the conductor of FilCom’s Banda Kawayan. Maestro Pike as he is fondly called, has been directing the Band’s musical performances since October 2009. His love for music prompted him to join the ensemble which was then directed by two musicians hired by FilCom from the Philippines. It didn’t take long for Pike to master the instruments that he later became its maestro.

Before settling in Hawaii, Pike was a grade school principal in the Philippines. He directed and choreographed school musicals and plays; conducted the Ilocos Norte Children’s Choir International in Disneyland and Hawaii in the 1990s, served as a consultant of the Philippine National Music Competition for Young Artists and as a music coordinator of the Department of Education, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

Currently a Math teacher at the August Ahrens Elementary School (AAES) in Waipahu, Pike’s class goes beyond the walls of his classroom. He advocates post-secondary education and enthusiastically promotes this to students and parents. His efforts paid off when AAES was recognized as a School of Distinction by the College For Every Student (CFES), a nonprofit organization committed to helping underserved youth prepare for, gain access to, and succeed in college. Further, he initiated the Dream Makers’ Center of AAES that provides information and/or guidance to those who are interested in pursuing college education.

Mabuhay ka, Maestro Pike! ✦
Typhoon Sendong

Led by Brandon dela Cruz, Harry Alonso, Maria Estrada and Raymund Liongson, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce and a score of Filipino organizations quickly put together a fund drive at the FilCom Center last December 26, 2011. A phone bank was set up and manned around the clock by members of the Philippine Nurses Association, U.P. Alumni Association, OFCC, COVO, Filipino Junior Chamber, FilCom board members and many others. Volunteers used their own cell phones to make calls to relatives, friends and fellow club members. There were also a number of walk-in donors. In one day, the initial goal of $25,000 was achieved. Walk-ins continued to come, and the drive will run through January 6, 2012. As we went to press, a total of $64,000 was collected including donations deposited directly to the banks.

Arrangements were made with Bank of Hawaii, Central Pacific Bank and First Hawaiian Bank (FHB) to accept donations in all their branches. Checks must be made payable to the FilCom Center, with a note “Typhoon Sendong.” All collections through FHB will be donated to the Philippine Red Cross and the rest of the collection will be divided equally between the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City.

Typhoons Pedring, Quiel & Ramon

In response to the thousands of people displaced by the flooding and damaging wind caused by typhoons Pedring, Quiel and Ramon, Hawaii’s Filipino community has once again responded with a month-long fundraising effort to help the victims. FilCom, in collaboration with several Filipino community leaders, initiated “Kokua to the Philippines” – to assist the victims and their families. Community include Jun Colmenares, Raymund Liongson, Tony Sagayadaro, Vice Consul Paul Cortes, Lynne Gutierrez, Paul Alimbuyao, Felipe Tan, Richard Anog, Florante Pumaras, Ryan Fernandez, Angelica Lewis and Jay Raymundo. The drive was also supported by the Philippine Consulate general and Filipino organizations—UFCH, COVO, OFCC, Oahu Visayan Council, Filipino Jaycees, Knights of Rizal and others including those in the neighboring islands.

Kokua to the Philippines

Caterers

Creations In Catering
Mike Rabe, President
Office: 848-8777
Mobile: 478-3272
Fax: 848-8775
mikera@hawaiicaterers.com
www.hawaiicaterers.com

Golden Coin Restaurant
Joseph Uy
Office: 848-8080
Mobile: 853-1002
Fax: 847-8473; 680-0758
josephuy@goldencoinfood.com
wevee317@yahoo.com

Loulen’s Restaurant
Louie Butay, President
Office: 853-2212
Mobile: 853-2212
Fax: 931-2725
loulen-inc@gmail.com

Marian’s Catering
Scott Harada, Catering Manager
Office: 621-6758; Fax: 621-3670
marians@hawaiian.net
www.marianscatering.com

FilCom Staff

FilCom Office
Suite 302
Phone (808) 680-0451
Fax (808) 680-7510
www.filcom.org

Geminiano “Toy” Q. Arre, Jr.
President & COO

NAI Chaney Brooks
Property Manager

Sterling Leong
Accountant

Tess Quemado
Administrative Assistant

Arceli Rebolindo
IT - Office Assistant

Eric Victoria
Facilities Officer

Tenants

Christ Embassy Hawaii
Pastor Florence Amosa
Pastor Moses
Suite 103
Office: 347-7325

E-Fil
Clement Bautista
Suite 305
Office: 734-1136;
Mobile: 256-4380
Fax: 956-4622
www.efilarchives.org

FilCom Tax Service, LLC
Merla Balubar
Suite 101
Office: 671-1800
Mobile: 389-6610
Fax: 676-8118
merbal@hawaiiantel.net

Filipino Community Vision Ctr
Dr. Calvin Alonzo
Suite 102
Office: 677-7222
Mobile: 497-5446
Fax: 677-3300
dalonzoyahoo.com

Hawaii Energy Connection,LLC
Suite 213
Chris DeBone, Managing Partner
Mobile: 352-7828
Fax: 524-7365
chris@hawaiieneryconnection.com

LSM Accounting Solutions
Lisa Melvin, Director
Suite 301
Office: 674-0700
Fax: 674-0800
www.admin@personalaccountant.net

Milltown Dental Clinic
Dr. Marilou Cababat
Suite 104
Office: 678-8300
Fax: 678-8303
mcc@aol.com

Primerica
Irene Brakenridge, President
Lyle Brakenridge, Manager
Suite 214
Office: 635-4310
Mobile: 206-9595

Waipahu Family Health Ctr
Donna Domingo
Suites 108 & 305
Office: 676-7233
Fax: 677-7991
ddomingosilva@wcchc.com

West Oahu Realty
Guy Tamashiro
Suite 105
Office: 676-8858
Mobile: 375-8300
Fax: 676-8872
westoahu@pixi.com

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Community Programs

- **NCLEX Review Classes**
  Conducted by the Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc. (NAMI)

- **Smart Seniors Program**

- **Computer Classes**
  - Basic Computing
  - Word Processing
  - Spreadsheet
  - Internet/Web Surfing

- **Himig at Indak Ballroom Dancing**

- **Banda Kawayan**

- **Filipino Folk Dancing**

- **Martial Arts:** Karate & Escrima

- **Filipino Fiesta and Parade**

- **Pasko sa FilCom**

- **Filipino4Kids Summer Program**

- **U.S. Citizenship Classes**

- **eFil Digital Archives**

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**Upcoming Events**

- **11th NCLEX Class**
  January 25 to June 6, 2012

- **20th Annual Filipino Fiesta & Parade**
  May 5, 2012

- **10th FilCom Anniversary**
  June 17, 2012

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**BE PART OF THE FILCOM CENTER. HERE’S HOW —**

1. **Come to a FilCom Event.**
   Send your email address to filcom@filcom.org to receive event notices or visit our website at www.filcom.org for announcements.

2. **Volunteer.**
   Are you interested in teaching ESL or a class? Or perhaps help us in the office or during functions? Call us.

3. **Give a Tax-Deductible Donation.**
   Your donation will help the Center continue its programs and preserve a rich cultural heritage. In lieu of gifts or flowers to honor friends or loved ones on important occasions, consider giving to FilCom. It will be a gift that keeps on giving.

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**FilCom News Staffers**
April - December 2011

- **Contributing Writers**
  Jose Pedro “JP” Orias
  Jenny Alconcel Quezon

- **Layout and Design**
  Corie O. Fulgencio-Arre

- **Circulation**
  Tess Quemado, Arceli Rebollido