



Balitang Pamilya

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PASACAT
philippine performing arts company

Quarterly Newsletter Issue 1 • Jan–Mar 2018

WELCOME to our first Quarterly Newsletter of 2018!

Welcome to the launch of Balitang Pamilya, our newsletter of highlights and features of PASACAT members, events and activities. The world witnessed and yet another mass shooting on Valentine's Day. This tragedy is an example of why building community is important to the development of society as a whole. By people doing positive in this world more goodness will prevail. The organization has welcomed hundreds of children and their families who have connected over the years establishing lifelong friendships. Please encourage your family and friends to find community – whether in PASACAT, church, sports or clubs – get involved and give back to our villages that need more kindness and compassion for a world that can be so destructive. Thank you for your membership in PASACAT as we embark on our 48th Season.

2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

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By-Laws Chair

Marketing/PR Chair

Membership Chair

Programs Chair

Immediate Past President

PASACAT CLASSES

Wednesdays

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Level 1 Junior Dancers

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Level 2 Junior Dancers

7:00 – 8:15 pm

Level 3 Junior Dancers

Important Dates:

March 12
Board Meeting

April 1
Easter Sunday

June 2
31st Annual Junior Concert



2017 Parol Festival Committee: Pictured Standing (L-R) Alex Castro, Michael Estela, Eva Frigerio, Joanne Manalo, Ana Cabato, Chestli Buen, Nicholas Macario, Simon Magbuhat, Ed Sinsay, JR Melchor. (Front L-R) Marvin Calderon Jr., Kathlyn Cancel, Katherine Macario, Trisha Yalong, Kelsey Sinsay, Gemma Cabato, Melanie Aguron.



Executive Director Message:

Love of culture is the mark of a great people! This is the motto created by PASACAT's founding President in 1970. The National Endowment of the Arts is once again on the chopping block with the Federal Government budget and is a reflection on how the arts are valued in today's political climate. But who will keep **our** culture alive?

As we look back on our 2017 Season, we witnessed an amazing year of Philippine culture at its best - from our 35th Jr. Concert performed by 36 well trained dancers; Sarap Tikman II which featured the Ryan Cayabyab Singers from the Philippines; to a truly stellar showcase by PASACAT members and guest artists which are exemplary of PASACAT's artistry at the 20th Parol Festival. Guided by a dynamic and fresh young board, we exceeded our financial and attendance goals. The support from PASACAT families was just as instrumental in growing our organization and building community.

To answer the question - 2017 provides the answer, as it is our Board, Staff, Parents, musicians and dancers who will keep our culture alive. Your attendance, participation, support and work keep our doors open and as we approach PASACAT's 50th Anniversary in 2020, we look forward to the evolution of our Junior Dancers and Senior Apprentices who will keep the PASACAT legacy alive.

Mabuhay!

Ana Labao Cabato
PASACAT Executive Director

Board of Directors Corner:



In 1970, individuals of the local community decided to come together to bring an organization to life with hopes that their efforts would benefit future generations. Today, we come together to continue their work by striving to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. Our vision of the future is to make PASACAT into the premier cultural arts hub at the forefront of fostering a robust cultural consciousness.

We can only reach that vision with your help. I encourage you to help by joining a committee this year. PASACAT's growth will come from the strength of our committees and that strength will come from your own effort, dedication, and hard work.

I look forward to working with you to bring forth our vision.

Mabuhay!

J.R. Melchor
PASACAT Board President

Want to Get Involved?

Interested in helping on a committee?
We welcome all insights and skills
and can match your expertise
to the right opportunity!

Committees include:

- Budget Committee
- By Law Committee
- Membership Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Event Planning Subcommittees

Contact admin@pasacat.org or speak to
any staff or board member.

WE NEED YOU!

Our organization at Work:

1. Developed PASACAT's Vision Statement
2. Worked to modernize PASACAT's By-Laws language
3. Established and approved a 2018 Budget
4. Exceeded goals for Sarap Tikman II and Parol Festival events
5. Artistic Staff to travel to the Philippines for Bayanihan

Parol Festival 2017 a Huge Success!

The 20th Annual Parol Lantern Festival was held on December 9, 2017. Celebration Hall at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center was transformed into a Philippine Christmas village with over 200 parols on display around activity areas, the stage, custom-made bahay kubos, and the star-filled arches guests walked through as they entered the venue.

PASACAT held parol making workshops in the weeks leading up to the festival. These efforts resulted in many of the parols that were exhibited and sold that night. The workshops were free and provided an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn how to make and decorate the "Filipino Christmas star" and to see first hand various materials and techniques used.

The completion of each parol was a true labor of love. Whether you decorated a lantern or watched others do so, you gained a greater appreciation of the beauty and craftsmanship of the cultural icon.

The annual Parol Competition awarded cash prizes for best parol entries including those made at workshops and on the day of the festival. The grand prize winners this year were Marlon Marzan, first place; Baby Bigornia, second place; Jeffrey Jones, third place. The workshop winners were the Briggs Family, first place; Lorie Ricario, second place; Tisha Van Patten, third place. The day of the festival workshop winner was Jonathan-Robert Caceres. Congratulations to all of the participants!

PASACAT Senior Dancer and Rondalla singer, Energy 97.3's Marvin "Marvy J." Calderon was emcee for the festival. Non-stop entertainment throughout the day included the Mater Dei Carolers, Dasmariñas Rondalla, PASACAT Harana Singers, Philippine Chamber Singers from Los Angeles and the PASACAT Junior Dancers.

The headline entertainment was the Mama Bares. The dynamic group consists of veteran performing artists from Miss Saigon, one of the longest-running musicals on Broadway. The Mama Bares are Joan Almedilla, Ai Goeku Cheung, Deedee Magno Hall, and Jennifer Paz. With over 20 years of performance experience, these women have paved the way and broken down doors for many Filipino/Asian Americans in the musical theater industry.

The festival featured several new activities and displays. A crowd favorite was the Terno Exhibit that featured American women's history and fashion as seen in the evolution of the terno gowns. In "Tita's Crafts Corner" children could make parol ornaments, listen to stories and color Christmas images. The festival concluded with a pabitin for the kids.

A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the making and setting up of parols especially Kelsey Sinsay, Melanie Aguron, Lorie Ricario and Oriente "Baby" Bigornia and family. Thank you to Michael Estela and family for helping to bring the Philippine authenticity to the Festival by building the Peping's Fruit Stand and Nanay Puring's Sari Sari store as well as the lighted archway that greeted our guests as they entered – not to mention the numerous parols that were decorated. Thank you also to Ed Sinsay for the building of the church façade for our stage and for the ongoing maintenance of props and stage decorations. The success of the Parol Festival could not have been achieved without the support of countless volunteers and staff!

In Honor of their Charitable Contributions

PASACAT acknowledges the support of
the following for this event

Founders Circle



PACIFIC ARTS
MOVEMENT

Sam & Christine Flores
Marietta Franco
The Cabato Family

Familia

AARP
Ana & Omar Tordilla
California Bank & Trust
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The Filipino School

Ninong Ninang

Clarisse Lopez of Healthwise Home Health Care
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The Barangay Arts & Culture Movement, The
Cancel Family, FACES, FilAmArt Alive, Maria Flora
G. Trimor-Tamoria MD, The Padrigan Family, The
Soto-Contemprato Family, Tess Bundalian of
Farmers Insurance Agency

Kaibigan

Evelyn Adrid, Geanne Chantengco-Schnars, The
Nepomuceno Family, Perla Brownly, Regina
Orbita, Steve & Pat Degracia

Parol Festival 2017 in Pictures



Looking Back at 2017

By: Apprentice Dancer, Lora Frigerio



My name is Lora and I am 13 years old. I started PASACAT when I was 9 years old in 2014, so that makes this year, my fourth year in PASACAT. 2017 was a big year for PASACAT, especially the Junior class. In 2017, we had 35 Junior members, making that one of the biggest Junior classes in PASACAT history! 2017 was also the year 15 of the older Juniors became Apprentice Dancers. I am proud to say that I am one of those 15 chosen dancers and I am so happy to be working and dancing with some amazing dancers and teachers.

We held our 30th Annual Junior Concert in June and our 20th Annual Parol Festival in December. Both of those events were super successful and fun to take part in. It was my third Junior Concert and my fourth Parol Festival. Throughout the year we also had a series of small performances like Sarap Tikman, hosted and put on by PASACAT itself, Balboa Park's "A Taste of Asia and the Pacific", the Filipino American Educators Association of California Conference at the Handlery Hotel, UCSD Summer Bridge, The New Children's Museum 5th Mass Creativity, the Philippine Independence Celebration for the County of SD Fil-Am Employees Association, LumpiaFest, and much more.

2017 was also a year full of practice, practice, and more practice! Sure, we practice every year, but it felt like way more in 2017. We practiced every Wednesday from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, then the schedule changed to Level 1 from 5:00pm to 5:45pm, Intermediate from 5:45pm to 6:45pm, and Apprentices from 6:45pm to 8:00pm. For the Junior Concert and Parol Festival we had extra practices either during the week or on Saturdays. I don't think I've ever heard the words "Chin up, chest out, stomach in!" or "Pull up, pull up!" or "Squeeze your penny!" more than I heard them in 2017! We put in so much of our effort, time, and energy into our dancing so that every little detail will turn out perfectly. I think the PASACAT building permanently smells like hairspray and makeup.

One thing I like most about PASACAT is the community and how much of a family we are. I remember the first day I joined I was so nervous to meet all the new kids and start dancing steps and dances I've never heard of. But the first feeling I felt when I sat down in that circle in front of the mirrors and introduced myself, was welcoming. Immediately, I felt like I had been dancing and learning with these kids for years. I felt like I was a part of things and that they needed me and wanted me to be there with them. One thing I will never forget was on the day of my first Junior Concert, another girl and I were the first to go out on stage in the Cordillera suite. I was pacing and hyperventilating backstage and I was so nervous to go out there. I distinctly remember Anabelle, Amy, Myka, and Kalista telling me that it'll be okay and that I'm going to do great and not to worry because it isn't as scary as it looks. That made my whole performance. I remember going out on stage feeling confident and ready and I kept repeating their words, "It'll be okay, you're going to do great!" They probably don't remember it today, but I do. They helped me become a confident dancer and performer and I will never forget that.

PASACAT is my home, the dancers are my family, and the culture is my life. One reason we as dancers bond so much is that we have so much in common. We love to dance, we love to learn about our Filipino culture, and we live for the rush and the feeling when you're on stage and you're dancing and it is silent out in the audience except for the music and the sound of your own breathing because that's when you know everyone is watching you. Everyone out there is mesmerized by you. The elderly are taken back to their childhoods in the Philippines and the young are inspired by how fast your feet move and how bright your smiles are. We are the next generation of doers and of teachers. We bring our culture to you. Our mission is to preserve and promote Asian Pacific culture through the arts, thereby extending goodwill and enhancing cultural understanding. I think our mission, is complete.

PASACAT Through My Eyes

By: Board Vice President, Michael Estela



I am a Filipino-American, not an American-Filipino - by heritage and by choice. I prefer to eat rice with every meal; and dishes like kaldereta, pork adobo, lechon kawali, bulalo or pinakbet get my vote every time over any pasta, salad or hamburger.

Many years ago, I recall a Catholic priest's homily where he said, "We are only temporary custodians of knowledge, it (knowledge) is not ours to keep, it is our job (therefore) to pass it on." Several years later, I found myself reflecting on this, pondering who passes on our language, traditions, knowledge of culture today and helps us maintain our identity?

Living in San Diego, we are fortunate to have a large Filipino community that keep a steady demand for Filipino food markets, bakeries as well as turo-turo style and restaurant establishments. A quick visit to these places and you are reminded of the language, aromas and taste of the Philippines once more. PASACAT adds another dimension to the mix through the Philippine Arts - specifically traditional folk dance, authentic costumes, music and song. While advances in technology have placed the world at our fingertips permitting the study our history and culture, I've learned first hand as a former rondalla member and dancer that it takes a far more personal interaction. It is the practical application, fit, form and polish that can only be done by the skilled hands and watchful eye of a dance master that transforms the novice to apprentice and apprentice to skilled performer.

Now in its 48th year, PASACAT is one of the oldest Philippine Performing Arts organizations with year-round programming in the United States. It has had generations of performers share the beauty of the Philippine culture one performance at a time with the community it serves. Throughout the years, many have passed through its doors - with each new class friendships were formed, with each new performance a unique family is born. With each new member, a cultural identity is discovered, learned and appreciated - forged on the stage.

I am a proud Filipino-American, and I have a richer understanding of my Filipino culture and identity and it is because of my time on the dance floor with these amazing people - my extended family called PASACAT.



Above: Michael Estela volunteering at PASACAT "museum on wheels" booth at Balboa Park.

Left (from left to right): Parol Festival Committee Co-Chair, Chestli K. Buen; PASACAT Associate Choreographer, Matthew Padrigan, Board Vice-President, Mike Estela; Master Dancer, Gemma Cabato

In case you missed it, here are some highlights from last year...



30th Annual Junior Concert held on June 3, 2017. Pictured above Kalista Cancel and Jammil Bagsic performing Paunjalay.



PASACAT hosted free dance workshops "Young at Heart" on October 11th and 18th in celebration of Filipino American History Month.



Parol Festival committee meeting on event details.



Junior dancers performing at Barrio Fiesta at St. Michael's Poway Church.



Halloween 2017



Board retreat