



NEWSLETTER OF THE KALAYAAN CULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Volume 1 No. 2

June 2009

# Kalayaan!

In June, every year, we celebrate the Philippine independence day. Kalayaan! We commemorate June 12, 1898 when the Philippine flag was first hoisted, at a balcony



in Kawit, Cavite in declaration of Philippine independence. It took blood, sweat and tears to courageously hoist the flag. It took the lives of Rizal, Bonifacio, Luna, Mabini and many more to bring the radiant red of the flag to fly proudly together with the noble blue, the sun, and the three stars.

The event is celebrated by Filipinos around the world. In the GTA, the celebration normally starts with flag raising ceremonies in Toronto, Markham, Mississauga and other areas, followed by picnics in the park. A Gala Night highlights the festivities. Dignitaries,

politicians and other celebrities are normally present at these events. Filipino culture in songs, dance, and attire are much evident during these celebrations.

Kalayaan Centre is heavily involved in the celebrations, lending full support to Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization in the Gala Night, fund raising lottery draw, the picnic at Mississauga Valley and the cultural show at the Living Arts Centre. At the Gala Night Chiqui-Kat Pineda Azimi, one of the active volunteers at KCCC, and one of Mama Ching 's angels was co-emcee of the program. Chiqui also performed two songs to the appreciation of the crowd.

This June, Kalayaan Centre is also celebrating a special kind of independence, independence from a debilitating exorbitant mortgage interest rate. The Centre has successfully negotiated a new mortgage with TD Canada Trust which reduces the interest rate effectively by about 5 1/2%.

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**Get into the Swing  
2009 Kalayaan Centre  
Golf Classic**

**at the  
Royal Ontario Golf Club**  
Saturday, August 29, 2009  
Regular Fee \$135.00/person  
Early Bird \$125.00/person  
Includes loot bag, prizes,  
dinner



## A Special Fashion Show

**Rodel Roda-Meier**, a couturier by hobby, presented her designed clothes in a fundraising Children's Fashion Show event for the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the KCCC Grand Hall. Featuring "CLOTHES TO CELEBRATE LIFE"



It was the first children's fashion show in the Filipino Community. Kids from 5-months old to pre-teens modeled eighty pieces of clothes designed and made mostly by Rodel, making it a labour of love. Rodel coached and rehearsed the children how to walk up the runway, how to stop, turn, and curtsy.

The audience was delighted to see toddlers and pre-school children curtsying and smiling as they walked the runway. And the cute models seemed to enjoy the attention focused on them. Everything about the show was classic, the children, clothes, and music. The audience was captivated throughout the afternoon. The clothes that were modeled were in two categories: *The Heirloom Treasures Collection* and the *Simply Charming Kids Collection*.

(Continued on page 4)

## Ang Pinoy nga Naman

Ni: **Tito I. Adona**

Volunteer Language Instructor



Ang panalo ni Manny Pacquiao laban sa kanyang katungali na si Ricky Hatton noong May 2 ang aking naging inspirasyon

upang isulat ang aking mga nakikita dito sa Canada tungkol sa mga Pinoy. Halos lahat ng pahayagan at mga Sports Column sa internet ay nagbigay papuri sa tapang at galing ni Manny. Sa panahon na iyon ang sarap maging Pinoy dahil napakataas ng tingin ng mga ibang lahi dahil sa kakaibang gilad, disiplina at tapang na pinakita ng Pambansang Kamao.

Sisimulan ko sa aking nasaksihan ng minsan nagpunta ako sa isang laboratory dahil sa pinakuha ako ng aking doctor ng blood test. Pumasok ako sa isang laboratory marami na ring mga pasyente, iisa pa lang ang nasa reception at siya ay Pinay. Habang kinukuha ang mga detalye ng mga pasyente, walang puknat ang dating ng mga pasyente. Kung baga sa labanan napapaligiran na siya ng mga kaaway pero di siya sumusuko. Nakangiti pa siya, pagkatapos ng mga papeles, pumasok siya sa isang maliit nga silid, tinawagan yung pasyente at kinunan niya ng dugo at natapos na.

Pagkatapos niya naupo ulit sa mesa, tinapos ulit yung mga papeles. Lahat ng pasyente ay nakatitig sa kanya, nakingiti, masipag, disiplinado at masaya niyang ginagawa ang kanyang tungkulin, hangang sa tinawag na ako. Binati ko siya at ang sabi ko hanga naman ako sa iyo, mag isa ka lang pero nakayanan mong gawin lahat. Ang sinagot lang niya sa akin ay isang matamis na ngiti. Mayatmaya pa dumating na ang kanyang kasama tumingin lahat ng pasyente, humingi siya ng paumanhin sa kasama niya at sinabi niya na naantala siya dahil sa traffic. Ang aking nasaksihan ay nagpapakita ng katangian

na masipag, masigasig at disiplinado. Iba talaga ang **PINAY!**

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Ang isa pang aking napansin sa malaking kumpanya na aking pinapasukan, nakilala ko ang isang Pinay na taga Food and Beverage. Isang serbidora, kasabayan ko kung lumabas, pero ng tinanong kung bakit lagi siyang huling lumabas, ang sagot sa akin, inaayos daw muna niya ang mga mesa, para sa kinabukasan ay nakahanda na. Pinauwi na siya ng kanyang mga kasamahan dahil sobrang oras ang kanyang serbisyo, ang sagot niya, kahit wala akong bayad, tatapusin daw niya, dahil siya rin daw ang gagawa nuon at wala ng iba. Pati ang kanyang superbisor ay hanga sa kanyang pag trabaho at ugali. Masipag, matiyaga at disiplinado, maipagmamaliki mong kababayan dahil sa ganda ng ugali. Iyan ang **PINAY.**

Hindi naman lahat na aking napansin ay katulad ng mga una kung naisulat. Ito naman ay kakaiba. Nagpaayos ako ng aking kotse dahil gusto ko ay Pinoy na mekaniko, para masasabi ko ng husto ang gusto kung ipagawa. Meron naman akong karanasan tungkol sa mg piyesa ng mga auto dahil naging ahente ako ng mga spare parts ng kotse at trak sa Pinas. Sinabi sa akin kung ano ang dapat gawin at palitan ng piyesa. Pumayag naman

ako at inalam kung alin ang papalitan. Sinubukan kong maghanap sa labas ng nasabing piyesa. Nagulat ako dahil ang halaga ng piyesa na ipapalit kung ikukumpara sa aking napagtanungan ay mahal. Sa madaling salita, meron na siyang patong, meron pang kumisyon sa nagbenta ng piyesa, meron pang ganansiya sa singil sa pag gawa. Masasabi mo sa likas ating wika ay gahaman. Kababayan mo na siya, sana ang tutulong sa iyo, pero siya pa ang manloloko sa iyo. Meron ganyang **PINOY na kakaiba.**

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Merong Pinay akong nakilala. Sa kanyang edad, hirap ng maglakad dahil sa kapansanan merong arthritis at 'gout', dapat ay nasa bahay na lang, sa halip nagpapakatbo ng isang samahan para isulong ang kulturang Pilipino sa Canada, tinutulungan ang ating mga kababayan at patatagin ang pagkakapit bisig natin. Kaya naman ng aking nakita ang kanyang dedikasyon ay naging silbi upang ako ay mag kusang loob o mag Volunteer sa Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre. Ang aking tinutukoy ay si **Mama Ching, iyan ang Pinay**, handang tumulong, kahanga-hanga ka, Mama Ching Maligayang Bati sa iyong kaarawan, sana humaba pa ang iyong buhay para maraming matulungan na ating kababayan, **MA-BUHAY KA!**

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## Hawaiian Night at KCCC Friday, July 24th, 2009

Join us for an incredible night of  
Dinner, Dancing, and a Hawaiian Dance Show  
by Siony's Dance Company!



**KCCC is Where to BE**  
*by: KARYN MILNE*  
*The Coordinator*



Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC) has been abuzz with activity this spring and things

aren't slowing down anytime soon! Whether you are looking for informative health lectures or just to have a good time, KCCC has it all. Come and be part of our community by attending one of our upcoming events or activities, becoming a member, or signing up as a volunteer. Meet new friends and feel good about the time you spend at KCCC!

**2009 Upcoming Events:**

- Jun 27 Hepatitis B Information Session
- Jul 24 Hawaiian Night
- Aug 15 Annual Walkathon
- Aug 29 KCCC Classic Golf Tournament
- Sep 13 Medical Fair
- Sep 19 Casino Trip & Wine tasting
- Oct 20 Halloween Bash
- Nov 14 Zarzuela at Meadowvale Theatre
- Dec 11 Community Connections & Volunteer Appreciation
- Dec 31 New Year's Eve Ball

**2009 Upcoming Activities:**

Thursday nights: Ballroom dance lessons will be starting soon at KCCC with dance instructor Terry Brown. 10 students are needed to start the classes.

Wednesdays: 12:10-12:50pm  
 A Yoga-At-Lunch program will begin in the fall.

A KCCC Book Club will hold its inaugural meeting at the end of June and will meet monthly thereafter.

The New Horizons for Seniors program meets at different times of the month and has activities ranging from arts & crafts, to a cottage getaway, to Zarzuela rehearsals, and more...

**For more information or to register for any Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre event or activity please contact Karyn at:**  
[coordinator.kccc@bellnet.ca](mailto:coordinator.kccc@bellnet.ca) or  
 905-602-0923. Or you can always visit us at: [www.kalayaan.ca](http://www.kalayaan.ca).

**P'wede ka Nang magpadala ng pera sa ibang Bansa**  
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**A Special Fashion Show**

*(Continued from page 1)*



**Rodel coaching and encouraging one of her models.**

**The Heirloom Treasures Collection** captures the traditional European style with feather-soft French laces, antique trims and touches of hand lacing, reminiscent of what children of royalty around the world wear for christening and growing up as toddlers. Each piece is of very fine cotton, hand-embellished with embroideries, beads, and fine laces that require time to make. These are clothes that carry memories of a special childhood that are treasured and kept in the family then handed down to the next generation.

**The Simply Charming Kids Collection** is playful, elegant, uncomplicated and chic. Blending styles that are classic and contemporary, with touches of exquisite hand smocking, it tries to preserve the long tradition of mothers who love dressing their children on a casual day, on a typical Sunday afternoon or to church.

The modeled clothes were age appropriate for children, clothes that celebrate the innocence and delicate beauty of a child. Quoting the designer, "the angelic qualities of a

**TAGALOG LESSONS**

*By: Karyn Milne*

Entering into the world of Tagalog or 'Pilipino' has been a rewarding experience. As the Coordinator for KCCC and a non-Tagalog speaker, I find it beneficial to be able to speak with our members and volunteers using some Tagalog. The smiles on people's faces when I say something in Tagalog to them is worth learning every word!

Recently I was fortunate enough to attend Conversational Tagalog language classes taught by 'Guru' Tito Adona. Or, as I now like to call him, Tito Tito! I thought that I could learn Pilipino by myself but I was missing how to link it all together. I was only grasping parts of the language (words) and not the whole, (sentences).

Comprehension and appreciation for the language is what Tito Adona brought to the table. I now realize how important sentence structure and pronouns are. No longer are they just singular words to me, they are now sentences injected with meaning. I thank the excellent teachings of Tito Adona for giving me a new hobby and a thirst for learning a language entirely new to me.

Another interesting discovery for me is how everyone from the Philippines pronounces English so well. At first I thought it had something to do with how each syllable is

baby, the sweet and inquisitive toddler, the carefree spirit and budding personalities of growing kids are the seeds that sprouted the creation of "Clothes To Celebrate Life". The beauty of a child is so special and their short childhood is great reason to celebrate them everyday."

Rodel Meier has dressed beauty queens and many brides in the US and Canada.

pronounced with emphasis in Tagalog and somehow this transferred over to how people enunciated English. I now believe it is because the Philippines is "the third largest group of English speaking people in the world, after the United States and the United Kingdom." (asianinfo.org) I only recently learned this interesting fact!

After hearing about my positive experience with Conversational Tagalog Classes at KCCC, I am hoping that more people will join Tito Adona for the next session. Please contact Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre if you are interested at 905-602-0923 or send me an email at [coordinator.kccc@bellnet.ca](mailto:coordinator.kccc@bellnet.ca).

The word *Tagalog* is derived from *tagalog*, from *tagá-* meaning "native of" and *ilog* meaning "river." Thus, it means "river dweller."

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**KCCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009**

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**MAMA CHING'S 85TH BIRTHDAY**



**The Kalayaan group posing with Mama Ching on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Grand Hall of KCCC.**

Mrs. Consolacion (Ching) Quejas, a greatly esteemed figure of our community, President of Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC) and the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga, recently celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! Mama Ching as she is fondly called, had two sizeable birthday parties on April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> (her actual birthday) in the Grand Hall of Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre. Family, friends, politicians, and diplomats, came out to pay their respects to this remarkable woman who has long contributed to the community through her dedicated volunteer work. The Grand Hall looked stunning with white table cloths, white chair covers with lavender bows, and beautiful purple tulips for centre pieces. Music was provided courtesy of Le Jem Entertainment. Family and close friends organized the program for the



**Philippine Consul General, Alejandro B. Mosquera, presenting Mama Ching with a special plaque on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

first party. KCCC volunteers arranged a second birthday fundraiser for the community. Each party was well attended and Mama



**Mama Ching, being led into the Grand Hall of KCCC by Ruffy Romano and Joey Salazar.**

Ching had many tributes given in her honor. Special plaques in recognition of Mama Ching's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday were received from Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, Deputy Premier George Smitherman, MP Albina Guarnieri, MPP Peter Fonseca, and Mayor Hazel McCallion. Even the Philippine Consul General, Alejandro B. Mosquera, presented Mama Ching with a special plaque! The program consisted of dinner, tributes, musical renditions, a KCCC Rondalla performance, and a video on the



**Cutting of the birthday cake**

special events of Mama Ching's life. Afterwards there was dancing until the early hours of the morning! The events were a memorable way to celebrate the extraordinary life of a woman most have come to know and love.

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**THE HISTORY OF KCCC**

The KCCC is a creation of the Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization, known simply as Kalayaan, the umbrella organization of Filipino associations in Mississauga. It was established in 1983 for the sole purpose of celebrating Philippine Independence Day every year.

Kalayaan soon grew in membership and expanded its role to include other community concerns. In 1996, the executive envisioned the establishment of a community centre owned and managed by Filipino-Canadians and in 1997 when the Kalayaan constitution and by-laws were framed, a provision was included to create a foundation for the establishment of such a community centre.

When Kalayaan filed for registration the government required that a separate entity be created for the purpose of the foundation hence a separate constitution and by-laws were framed to govern the entity now called the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre.

The centennial celebration of Philippine independence at the Sky-Dome in 1998 temporarily halted further efforts to start operating the KCCC. But the hiatus was actually a blessing because after the centennial celebration a surplus amount of \$120,000 was unanimously approved at a community meeting in February 1999, to become seed money for a community centre.

In September 1999, the KCCC constitution and by-laws were ratified and the following month, on October 17, 1999, the first board of directors was elected with Willie Cantos, first president, at the helm. The board served for two years, followed by Carlos Padilla, president and his team in 2002 for another two years.

In 2004, Ching Quejas succeeded Carlos Padilla with six female and twelve male directors plus two appointed assistants, a female assistant secretary and a male assistant treasurer. It was during this board's term that the building was purchased and the dream to have our own "home" was realized.

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## Editorial

### Paruparong Bukid

By: **Edgar Frondozo**



These days, whenever I hear the song sung in parties or get together it goes, "Paruparong Bukid, Bukid Paruparu" over and over again. And people laugh feeling smug. Yet, this is sad, because we are losing a cultural heritage.

Paruparong Bukid is one of the first songs I learned in elementary school. It is a traditional Pilipino folk song with a lively tune. Yet I have also forgotten the words because I also found it easier to just repeat and reverse the first line over and over again.

I searched the internet for the words and I rediscovered a song rich in cultural imagery, a song about a beautiful maiden elegantly dressed in traditional attire (Maria Clara dress) complete with payneta and comb,

as she admires herself in the mirror and practices her walk. The song is also about our admiration of the butterfly-like gait of the young woman as she walks the street with her dress fluttering.

*Paruparong bukid  
na lilipad-lipad  
Sa gitna ng daan  
papagapagaspas  
Isang bara ang tapis  
Isang dangkal ang manggas  
Ang sayang de kola  
Isang piyesa ang sayad*

*May payneta pa siya -- uy!  
May suklay pa mandin -- uy!  
Nagwas de-ohetes  
ang palalabasin  
Haharap sa altar  
at mananalamín  
At saka lalakad  
na pakendeng-kendeng*



## NAYON

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Kalayaan Cultural Community  
Centre

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**The Filipino-Canadian Medical Association  
and Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre  
present the:**

# MEDICAL FAIR 2009



**Sept 13, 2009, Sunday: 9:00am - 4:00pm**  
Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre,  
5225 Orbitor Drive, Suite 3, Mississauga