



NEWSLETTER OF THE KALAYAAN CULTURAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Volume 2 No. 2

June 2010

Pagdiriwang

By: Janille Rafanan
Student Summer Worker

The word *kalayaan*, or *laya*, meaning freedom or liberty, was not openly spoken but was always in the hearts and



minds of the Filipinos during the 300 years of Spanish colonization.

For over three centuries, the islands had been forced to undergo political, economic, and cultural colonization, from Spanish domination to American control. During the time of the Spanish colonial rule especially, Filipinos did not have a voice to speak out and the power to fight for their own rights. Yet, although unspoken, *kalayaan* was nevertheless the aspiration that was deeply fought and defended with life, blood and honour, bringing hope and light in the hearts of many Filipinos.

Despite eras of struggle and exploitation, the Filipinos never gave up on their dream that one day a free country

could finally be achieved for the future generation. Before this day could happen however, years of suffering and oppression had to be endured by our people.

The trial and execution of Dr. Jose Rizal was only one of the many struggles that Philippines had to go through. However, with common struggle also came resistance, sparking the formation of the Katipunan by Andres Bonfacio and the Revolution. The revolution was culminated on June 12 of 1898 when General Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Philippine Revolution, proclaimed the independence of the Philippines in Kawit, Cavite. This act became a defining symbol of a defiant people vying to control their own fates and

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2010 Golf Classic

**Challenge your Golf Game at
Lionhead and Play for a Cause!**

By: Judy Montenegro

KALAYAAN CENTRE invites you to participate in the 2010 Golf Classic to be held at Lionhead Golf and Country Club on Saturday, August 28, 2010. Lionhead is Kaneff Golf's most upscale property in the GTA and provides golfers with the opportunity to play some of the more stunning and challenging holes to be seen in Ontario. KALAYAAN CENTRE's tournament will be played at the Legends course, a spectacularly designed course with bent grass greens, fairways, and rough that rivals the U.S. Open in its length and density.

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A SPECIAL CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

By: Mama Ching Quejas

Sunday, May 16, 2010, was an exciting children's day at the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre. Twenty one children participated in a special children's fashion show modelling clothes designed by Mrs. Rodel Meier to raise funds for the KALAYAAN CENTRE.

Mrs. Meier directed and produced the show and was assisted by Charity Lim, Mayette Balbastro and Kalayaan Centre's many volunteers led by Chito and Merla Carbonell.

It was the second fashion show in the Filipino



community that featured models from toddlers to pre-teens. Twenty one children representing six mixed cultures modeled 90 pieces of classic outfits by Mrs. Meier making the show really a labour of love. Her children's clothes with the logo 'Clothes to Celebrate Life' are designed mainly for fundraising events. She coached the children and choreographed the simple runway sequence that well suited the young models.

The cute models delighted the audience, the toddlers each curtsying in their own expressive way and smiling all the while obviously enjoying the attention focused on them. Indeed, it was a show far different from an adult fashion show that captivated the audience throughout the afternoon and it raised quite a remarkable donation for the community centre. In fact, it is the biggest fundraiser event ever for the Centre in the amount of \$16,000.

KALAYAAN CENTRE feels so lucky and very thankful to Mrs. Meier for gra-

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A SPECIAL CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW

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ciously accepting the challenge to do another fundraising event and donating the whole proceeds to help our Centre.

Featured were classic dresses and gowns for first communion and wedding. The se-

watching each model walk on the runway with confidence and the proud families and friends all applauding and cheering them continuously. This is what a community centre does—it brings varied families and friends under one roof in perfect harmony to enjoy and celebrate life.

The clothes that were modeled were in

next generation.

The Simply Charming Kids Collection—is playful, elegant, uncomplicated, comfortable 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



"The beauty of a child is so special. Their short childhood is a great reason to celebrate them everyday."

quence of the fashion show was presented in beautiful white and colors of purple and red, tones of blue and turquoise, apple green, yellow, pink and hues of fuschia and navy.

Rita Tabago, one of the models and a voice student of Leander Mendoza, rendered a special tribute of thanks to all the sponsors, the parents and guests with the song "Part of My World" from 'The Little Mermaid' Disney Classic, and a Filipino song – "Thank You Po".

The captivating wedding parade was the final scene that featured a teen bride to complete the wedding picture and it finished with all the children joining in a choral rendition of the song "I Want to Teach the World to Sing". Light refreshments were served after the show. It was so much joy

two categories: the Heirloom Treasures Collection and the Simply Charming Kids Collection.

The Heirloom Treasures Collection—a retro inspired clothes in beautiful white cotton that captures the traditional European style of featuring fine cotton laces and hand lacing for church communion and special occasions, paired with a stylish hat or hair accent. The boy's two-piece bobbie suits set with hand detailings are classic period pieces that reminds us of Prince Charles's toddler years. These are unique clothes that carry memories of a special childhood that are treasured and kept in the family then handed down to the

next generation. dressing their children on a casual day, on a typical Sunday afternoon, visiting friends, celebrating special occasions or going to church with the family. Children of an earlier era were always dressed in styles that bring out the sweetness of their early years.

The modeled clothes are age appropriate for children, clothes that celebrate the innocence and delicate beauty of a child. Quoting the designer, "the angelic qualities of a 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. Their short childhood is great reason to celebrate them everyday." §

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their own future.

It was also on this day the Philippine flag was first unfurled and the national anthem played, symbolizing acts of pride, honour and heroism of the Filipino people.

Last June 12th marked the Philippine's 112th Independence Day anniversary, celebrated by Filipinos all around the world. The event was celebrated and organized by the Kalayaan Foundation Organization in Mississauga. As an organization that was moulded for the sole purpose of celebrating the Philippine Independence Day, Kalayaan Foundation created Kalayaan Centre to promote Philippine history, culture, kinship and unity in the community all year round. This year, the special Philippine Independence Day festivity was held at Mississauga Valley Community Centre, where friends, family and the community gather together to witness and share a special program.

The celebration included the performances of the Philippine Heritage Band playing "*Ang Bayon Ko*," the reenactment of the GOMBURZA execution at the hands of the Spaniards, a special mass, and a visit from Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga. Despite the weather, the Philippine flag was proudly displayed for everyone to see, rife with such powerful symbolism that illustrated the country's history of both rebellion and pride.

With the celebration of the Philippine culture, heritage and history, much also had to be said about the country's future when Benigno S. Aquina III, also known as Noynoy Aquino, was proclaimed the 15th president of the Philippines earlier this month. As Aquino vows to fulfill his promise to fight poverty and corruption, Filipinos around the world are given a sense of hope for their country and an awaiting change for the future.

Our history definitely illustrates Filipino pride, honour and unity and defines the kind of people we are. The celebration of independence from decades of colonization, Filipinos look forward to a promising future of a clean government and prosperous country.

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KALAYAAN CENTRE LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

Win! \$100 cash or gift certificate from Apple Store

Design a New Logo For Kalayaan Centre

Share your talent and be a part of the community. Kalayaan Centre is a non-profit, charitable organization proudly serving the Filipino-Canadian community.

Who is eligible to participate in this contest?

Entry into the 2010 Kalayaan Centre Logo Contest is limited to Canadian citizens and residents of Ontario.

How do I participate in this contest?

In order to participate in this contest, you must send an original design to admin@kalayaancentre.ca that will retain the brand of Kalayaan Centre as an organization that serves the Filipino-Canadian community.

How many designs can I send?

Entries to the contest are limited to one (1) per entrant and/or unique e-mail address for the duration of the contest.

Are there any design specifications? Yes, designs must be:

- High-resolution in JPEG format
- Must be original and must not infringe the rights of Kalayaan Centre or any third party;
- Labeled as follows: last name_first name_#.jpg;
- In full colour (utilizing red, blue and yellow, preferred);
- Void of nudity, foul language, or offensive imagery, all of which will be determined by the Kalayaan judging panel.

Contest Ends July 30, 2010
Visit <http://www.kalayaancentre.ca>

Li'l Boo Music Studio

Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre

Li'l Boo Music Studio
and
Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre
proudly present

This One's for You

Featuring **Leander Mendoza**
with special guest **Ms. Josie de Leon**

Tickets \$25
(includes show and light refreshments)

All proceeds will be donated
to the KCCC

Saturday July 31, 2010, 7:30pm

KCCC Grand Hall
5225 Orbitor Drive, Suite 3
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 4V8

For Tickets call (905) 602-0923 or (416) 566-9806
email: KCCC@bellnet.ca

Feels Like Home

By: Janille Rafanan



Envisioned as a country of cultural mosaic, Canada has allowed me to appreciate our differences and take pride in the uniqueness of our individual identities. However, having been exposed to different kinds of people, practicing different kinds of beliefs and speaking different types of languages had somewhat drifted me away from my own Filipino identity over the past years. It wasn't because I had forgotten how to be a Filipino, I just needed to be reminded that in the midst of all the different national identities in Canada, there's always plenty of time to appreciate and discover who I am as a Filipino and share that story.

And that self-discovery story begins here.

Prior to being involved in the Kalayaan Cultural Centre, I had been teased by friends as "yellow on the outside, white on the inside." Of course, I had always denied this statement because I know I am a Filipino, who from time to time would eat with her bare hands and would gladly dine on chicken adobo rather than a cheeseburger for lunch. Though there's a part of me that embraces the Filipino culture, there's also a part that longs to know more. I wanted to know more and explore our history, our language, our music, our arts, and our people because there is more to us that makes us different besides our exotic food or our table etiquettes.

When I first walked in the Kalayaan centre, I expected that my job would require me to be more engaged in the community and take part in events and activities that will bring people closer together. I had an opportunity to do this when I had previously volunteered for the Children's fashion show. I met wonderful people who willingly gave their time and effort to make such an event memorable not only for the kids involved in the show, but also for the audiences who had given their endless applauds and more importantly, their undying support for the centre.

Now, as I sit here and look back on my first week in the centre, I realize there is so much more to Kalayaan than being

active in the community. It is also about celebrating and taking pride in the Philippine culture. Kalayaan has given me more than just an opportunity to work with the community and be a part of an organization that unites people together. More importantly, the centre has allowed me to further discover who I am as a Filipino and celebrate it with pride and honour.

The people in the centre have clearly defined the characteristics of a true Filipino, as they all work together towards making a difference in the community. They go beyond what is expected of them and because of all their efforts, the centre continues to welcome the community and provide Filipinos a place to embrace their culture and national identity. The centre itself has also been a new home for me, as I feel very blessed to have wonderful people around me who never fail to encourage me and help me out when I need it.

With that, I can honestly say that my experience here at the centre so far is changing me for the better, as I learn new things everyday and enjoy the company of such caring people who continue to remind me that everyday is a celebration of our culture, our history, and most importantly, our uniqueness.

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ORTHO
TICS

Presented By:
DR. FERDINAND MEJILLA
Physiomed Health Group

on
Saturday, July 17, 2010
10:30 am-1 pm
at

Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre
5225 Orbitor Drive, Miss, ON, L4W 4Y8

INFO SESSION

WALKING CAN HURT,
ORTHOTICS CAN HELP!

2010 Golf Classic

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There will be two competition formats in this year's tournament: open individual and a four-person team best ball. This gives golfers the choice of going for the format of play they will enjoy the most. The best ball is new to this year's competition and provides a friendly and fun format for all standards of golfers. Winners of this year's best ball division will have the distinction of being the first team champions of the Kalayaan Centre Golf Classic.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. and tee off time is at 12:30 p.m. The green fee, golf cart, and awards dinner is \$130, if paid before August 1, 2010 and \$145 after.

After a day at the golf course, dinner and awards ceremony will follow at Lionhead's clubhouse. No one will go home empty-handed as generous sponsors provide all golfers with token items of the event.

Since the inception of the in 2008, most of the Kalayaan Centre Golf Classic participants have returned year after year to play in this event. Join our golfers for a day of fun and prizes and support Kalayaan Centre!

Kalayaan Centre relies primarily on fundraising activities such as this golf tournament to help finance its operating expenses, including mortgage payments for the Kalayaan Centre itself. Kalayaan Centre is committed to providing every Filipino-Canadian with a "home" that we can call our own and we hope that you can show your support to Kalayaan Centre by joining this tournament.

To register, please contact the Kalayaan Centre:

Call 905-602-0923

email info@kalayaancentre.ca

online www.kalayaancentre.ca/golf

Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

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PILIPINO TAGALOG CLASS GRADUATION

By: Tito Adona

Nagtapos kamakailan sila Jayson Tinker, Christine Rabanillo at Angelie Lomozjo ng kursong Conversational Pilipino (Tagalog) matapos ang anim na sesyon. Ang nasabing pag-aaral ay ginabayan ni Tito Adona, isang volunteer at Language Teacher ng Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre. Makikita sa litrato na iginawad ni Mama Ching ang katibayan ng pagdalo.

Ang Conversational Pilipino (Tagalog Class for Adult) ay isa sa mga proyekto ng Centre upang makatulong at maitaguyod ang wikang Pilipino (Tagalog) sa mga nag nanais matuto ng nasabing wika. Karamihan sa mga nau-nang nagtapos, ay mga asawa ng mga Pilipino, mga anak na dito sa Canada lumaki at mga kaibigan na nagnanais na makaintindi at makapagsalita ng wikang Pilipino (Tagalog). Sa mga nagnanais matuto o mag-aral pumunta lang at mag-tanong sa Kalayaan Centre o di kaya ay tumawag sa telepono 905-602-0923.

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2010 Kalayaan Centre Golf Classic

Saturday, August 28 2010
Lionhead Golf & Country Club

Register today:
call 905-602-0923 or
email coordinator@kalayaancentre.ca or
online via www.kalayaancentre.ca/golf

LOOKING OUT!**FIFA World Cup**

By: Edgar Frondoza

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite in a way that little else does... It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers."

- Nelson Mandela



And so, for the last 20 years, Nelson Mandela has engineered the unification of a country so much divided in the past by apartheid. He brought the Rugby World Cup to South Africa in 1995 which united the people in support of their all-white team that eventually won. Now, South Africa hosts the 2010 Football World Cup and the country celebrates as black and whites danced alongside each other, happy, grateful and proud of South Africa's glorious moment.

This past week, South Africa's major cities and football stadiums are filled with unrelenting chorus of the vuvuzela. There is electricity in the air and the energy has even spread to South Africa's poorest areas. And yet, just two years ago a violent outbreak of racial intolerance, left many without homes and several dead - but now all of that seems forgotten. Football has united South Africa.

The power of sports to unite is also much evident in the Philippines. Every blow and every knock out that Manny Pacquiao delivers to his opponents bring shouts of joy and tears of pride to Filipinos around the world. Manila traffic stands still every

time Many Pacquiao fights. His stirring success in the ring has brought honour and hope to the Filipino people. Sport has the power to bring people together. We need to excel in more sports.

Basketball is our national sport. It was introduced to us by the Americans in 1900. In the 1950's and 1960's when many countries were still learning how to play the game, we dominated the court. We were perennial Asian champions and we captured the bronze medal in the 1954 World championship behind U.S.A. and Brazil. But in this game of big and tall, the country can no longer compete effectively in international level. Since 1972,



Philippines has not qualified to play in the Olympics basketball competition.

Filipinos are strong and athletic, but the general small stature of Filipinos is much more suited to a sport where height and build does not provide a big advantage but speed and technique does, like boxing and football (soccer). Many of the best soccer players in the world are under 6' tall, Pele 5'8", Maradona 5'5" and Messi 5'7", just about the same height as the average Filipino.

Newly elected Philippine President Noyonoy Aquino carries with him the promise of the courage and ideals of his father and the honesty and faith of his mother. He can also take inspiration from the vision of Nelson Mandela - *use the power of sports to change the country.*

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WALK WITH US!**KALAYAAN CENTRE****5th Annual 5-K Walkathon****Saturday, July 24, 2010****Registration begins at 7:45 am****Walkathon will follow at 8:30 am**

For more information

Call 905-602-0923 or

Send email to: coordinator@kalayaancentre.ca**NAYON****Quarterly Newsletter of the
KALAYAAN CENTRE****Editorial Staff:**

Edgar Frondoza
Evelyn Laraya Pond
Tito Adona
Ching Quejas

Guest Writer

Jannille Rafanan

Photographer

Rene Sevilla

Send contributions/letters to:nayon@kalayaancentre.ca**Visit us at:**www.kalayaancentre.ca**KALAYAAN CENTRE**

Tel. 905-602-0923

3- 5225 Orbitor Dr

Mississauga, ON

L4W-4Y8

2010 Upcoming Activities

Orthotics Info Session	Jul. 17
10:30am—1:00pm	
<i>With Dr. Ferdinand Mejilla</i>	
Walkathon	Jul. 24
7:45am—2pm	
HIV Info Session	Jul. 31
This One's For You	Jul. 31
7:30pm	
<i>Featuring Leander Mendoza</i>	
2010 Golf Classic	Aug. 28
Wine Tasting & Casino	Sept. 18
Zarzuela	Oct. 2
Halloween Party	Oct. 29
Piano Concert	Nov. 20
<i>Featuring Dr. Salon Reyes</i>	
Volunteer/Donor Appreciation Night	Dec. 10
New Year's Eve Ball	Dec. 31