

Rizal @ 150

The Great Malayan

By: Dr. Romulo Sinajon

Today we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of our national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal. His life and his achievements rank amongst the best in the world. Consider this; he speaks 22 languages and his writings and achievements brought down a colonial power. He was a man of many talents. He was an anthropologist, botanist, dramatist, educator engineer, physician, horticulturist, writer, poet, novelist, painter, philosopher, surveyor, sociologist, zoologist and traveller. He was a peace loving individual. Most of all he was a patriot, a hero and a martyr. He sacrificed his own life for the redemption and welfare of his people.

Dr. Rizal was born 150 years ago but the problems he faced in his time still exist today. We have the modern friars of today that are ravaging and plundering our country's wealth! We may be governed by our own people now, but our government leadership is filled with many corrupt people that only use their time to enrich themselves and their cronies.

As a child, Dr. Rizal was brought up by a loving family and properly educated to the proper Christian values and teachings. His first experience with abuse of power was when his mother, Dona Teodora, was false-



ly accused and sent to jail on a fabricated charge. When he was eleven years old, the execution of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora deeply affected him. This incident awakened his intellect and made him understand goodness and justice.

When Rizal was a freshman medical student at the UST, he received his first taste of Spanish brutality. He was slashed in the back by a lieutenant of the Guardia Civil when he failed to recognize him due to darkness. He reported this to the Spanish governor – general but nothing came of it. In 1879, he won a literary contest when he submitted a poem entitled “La Juventud Filipina” (To the Filipino Youth). The following year, he again won another literary contest with his prose entitled “El Consejo de los Dioses” (The council of the Gods). Rizal was happy for he proved the fallacy of the alleged Spanish superiority over the Filipino and revealed that the Filipino can hold his own in fair competition against all races.

After finishing the fourth year of his medical course, Rizal continued his medical studies in Spain. After his studies, he toured Europe. He travelled to Paris, Berlin, Austria and other small towns along the

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President's Report

By: Ching Quejas

Second Quarter 2011

Kalayaan Centre moves on – not too fast, but we are moving on and we are okay. The board, the office staff and our volunteers continue to work hard together keeping operations at normal level and making the Centre more visible and functional.



Highlight of this period is our new kitchen that was made possible thru a grant we received from the New Horizons for Seniors Program. We now have a brand new kitchen complete with appliances including a dishwasher, a cooking range, refrigerator and a microwave. We have lots of storage space for our glassware, china, cutlery and other things. Now we can resume our cooking lessons and demonstrations. Facility users will be happier with a well-equipped and presentable kitchen. There is more elbow room too and less work for the volunteers assigned to the kitchen. Next month we will know from the Ontario Trillium Foundation if the application we filed in March for the renovation of our multi-purpose hall has been approved or not. If approved, and hopefully it is, we will undertake another major improvement on our facility. Yes, we keep moving on for the ben-

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ANG PINOY

Ni: Tito Adona

(Volunteer and Language Instructor)

Nagdiwang kamakailan ang mga Pilipino hindi dahil sa bumaba ang rating ng Pangu-long P'Noy ayon sa huling survey na lumabas, ayon sa mga oposisyon ang pamahalaan daw ni P'Noy ay pinatatakbo na pangrang student council, puros trial and error. Wala pa raw nagagawa kundi batikusin ang nakaraang pamahalaan, sisi dito sisi duon.

Bahagi pala ng kasayahan ng mga Pinoy ay ang nabalitang pagbebenta ng Porche ng Pangulo, dahil hindi magandang halimbawa na naghihirap na ang bansa ang pangulo ay naka bili pa ng mamahaling Porche kahit galing pa rin sa kanyang balsa ang pinang bili sa kanyang sasakyan.

Nagdiwang pala ang mga Pinoy dahil sa ika 150 na kaarawan ni Jose Rizal ang pambansang bayani ng Pilipinas. Dito sa Mississauga, naging makulay ang mga pagdiriwang, nagkaroon ng simpleng programa at isang makulay na salusalalo sa Kalayaan Cultural Centre.

Ang binabanggit kong kasiyahan ay ang pagkapanalo ng koponang Azkals sa larong football na kung saan nilamapaso nila ang koponan ng mga taga Sri-Lanka ng 4-0. Nagkaroon na ng bagong kinahihilingan ang mga Pinoy maliban sa larong basketball. Sa tulong na rin ng mga manlalaro na Pinoy ang magulang at lumaki sa Europe, tulad ng magkakapatid ng Youngusband iba pa manlalaro. Namumulat na rin sa katotohanan na meroon malaking pag-asa na manalo ang mga Pinoy sa ganitong paligsahan. Ang susunod na katungali nila ay ang mga manlalaro ng Kuwait, sa mga manlalaro at opisyal ng koponang Azkals, Mabuhay Kayo!

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Celebration of Freedom

By: Frances Sevilla



It was the first evening gala celebration of Philippine Independence in Mississauga in ten years. It was a well-attended formal event hosted by the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga, a founding member of the Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization. It was held, aptly and significantly at the grand hall of the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre on Saturday, June 11, 2011. Dress code was the Filipino ceremonial attire and the guests came in their well-kept, well preserved finery, very elegant and colourful in their Barong Tagalog and their ternos.

Newly-arrived Philippine Consul General, Honorable Pedro O. Chan and Her worship, Hazel McCallion, City Mayor of Mississauga graced the occasion who both gave inspiring speeches. The Mayor lauded the hard-working and dedicated Filipinos and who are good team workers. Off the cuff, she asked Consul General Chan to send in more Filipinos to Mississauga. The Consul General countered in his speech that there is no problem about sending more Filipinos to Canada because Canada is a great country full of opportunities for everyone. Ruffy Romano in his introduction of the Mayor said "the Filipino Mayor". Hazel said she would love to be a mayor in the Philippines, recalling her trip to Manils on which occasion she met the City mayor at that time but, she said, Philippine weather is too hot and humid for her.

The KCCC intergenerational Rondalla was a special feature on the program of the evening providing Philippine music that made the atmosphere more Filipino and the singing of **Lupang Hinirang** and **Bayan Ko** to which it provided accompaniment, more beautiful and heartfelt setting the tone of patriotism for the night. Indeed, the songs' relevance to the country's history of protest and strug-

gle for independence never fails to touch our hearts when we sing it. The old **kundimans** /love songs in the repertoire sent the old lover boys reminiscing about their serenades and escapades in their younger days.

The seniors were the stars of the evening. Except for a special vocal solo rendition by a younger breed, Chiqui Pineda Azimi, a popular singer-performer, who sang a Pilipino medley, they ran the whole show. Ben Montada, the event chair and Vangie Alcasid emceed the program. Vangie did the invocation and Ruffy introduced the guests of honor. Twelve pairs of seniors or 24 in all, danced the **Los Bailes de Ayer, (dances of yesterday)** with Pons Canonizado giving the background of the dance and introducing the participants: Ruffy Romano and Nora Nunez, Bert and Mayette Balbastro, Cesar and Becky Cruz; Rudy and Vangie Alcasid, Jojo Sebastian and Charity Roda Lim, Delfin and Marilyn Palileo; Archie and Zeny Ayala, Pons and Lita Padua, Jimmy and Divine Villamater; Ben and Lumi Montada, Dom and Carmen Sunga and Pete and Lucy Mendoza. They danced so gracefully like pros to the delight of the guests.

Puedeng puede pa sila. Hindi pa sila la-os. Mama Ching Quejas, President of the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga (and the KCCC too) gave the closing remarks and thanked everybody for joining in the celebration and the committee for their effort to make the event a success. The program was short but meaningful. By 8:30, the dance floor was open and the ballroom dancers took over for the rest of the evening.

The event was special, memorable and significant. Independence Day revelry came back to Mississauga after 10 years and for the first time in its lifetime, the Kalayaan Centre was the venue of the celebration. And we are thankful, the KCCC board were all there, to appreciate the significance of holding the celebration where it should be. The Centre is our flagship, it is a symbol of what we are, our aspirations and our ideals and it is so named to stand for our freedom. It is our home away from home and as the saying goes, no matter how humble, there is

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RIZAL

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Dr. Romy Sinajon

way. He was also writing his novel at the time entitled, "Noli Me Tangere" (Touch Me Not) and completed his work February 21, 1887. After publishing, he decided to come home, in spite of advice by friends not to go home due to the uproar of the anti-Filipino elements regarding his novel. His enemies consisting of the friars in high places of the Catholic Church were plotting against him.

On September 18, 1891, another novel the "El Filibusterismo" came off the press. This was another novel that exposes the discrimination, cruelty, injustice of the Spanish occupation in the Philippines. He also founded the Liga Filipina, but after, he was arrested and deported to Dapitan without benefit of trial. He lived for 4 years in Dapitan. During this time he practiced medicine, met Josephine Bracken, whom he fell in love with and they lived together as no priest would marry them. He had a son born prematurely and died after birth. While he was mourning the death of his son, ominous clouds of revolution were darkening the Philippines skies. Andres Bonifacio, the Great Plebian was sowing the seeds of an armed uprising. Dr. Rizal was contacted for his support, but he objected to Bonifacio's plan for a bloody revolution. He believed

Celebration of Freedom

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no place like home. The enjoyment of the evening was no less than it would have been, celebrating it in a more expensive and ostentatious venue. We believe it is in the spirit, it is what we feel inside that matters. We should be proud of what we have and try to improve it as we can afford to as we go along. Long live the Kalayaan Centre! - §-

the people were not yet ready. He also promised the Spanish authorities his word of honour not to escape and he did not want to break it. Instead he volunteered his services as a military doctor in Cuba. However he was arrested while travelling to Cuba. He returned home to Manila where his trial was a farce and a sham. He was convicted and sentenced to death. He was shot by a firing squad and died at the Bagumbayan field on December 29, 1896 at the age of 35. Before he was shot, he and Josephine were married under Catholic rites. He also renounced Masonry and returned to the fold of Catholicism.

Dr. Jose Rizal's life was short but full of meaning and experiences. His life story inspires us to be noble, to help one another and to dream in the face of adversity. With Dr. Rizal, his intelligence was directed at trying to wake up and tell the Spanish occupiers that they should change their ways. They should treat the Filipinos fairly and honestly. However greedy men and women when their hands are full of gold plundered from the poor people, don't listen to some messiah. They will keep on plundering the very land and people that sustain them! Dr. Rizal was a gifted individual. With his pen mightier than the sword, he was able to rally the "Massa" and wake them up to realize that the talking is done and action is what is needed. He was not a violent man. He resisted the urge to join the revolution and instead volunteered to join the Spanish Army in Cuba. He also gave his word that he will not escape. How honourable can you be? Dr. Jose Rizal is truly a man worthy to be called a martyr and a hero! There are others also worthy to be called the national hero of the Philippines, but his achievements surpassed them all. He might not have taken arms to prove his point but he ultimately gave up his life to sacrifice for all of us.

Dr. Jose Rizal, national hero of the Philippines! - §-

(source :Jose Rizal life works and writings by Gregorio F. Zaide)

2011 KCCC Golf Classic

By: Judy Montenegro

Fore!

All is set for the the 2011 KCCC Golf Classic to be held at Royal Ontario Golf Club on Saturday, August 27, 2011. This is the fourth year for KCCC's annual golf tournament and every succeeding year, the number of golfers and sponsors has steadily increased.

This year's tournament returns to Royal Ontario Golf Club in Hornby (Milton), Ontario. Originally a stable and equestrian center, it is now one of Kaneff's premier golf courses with fairways and greens framed by large meadows, mature trees and a rolling terrain. The course has five sets of tee blocks, stretching from 5225 back to 7074 yards, allowing golfers of all calibers to find the desired amount of challenge to suit their game.

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 \$140. Prior to tee-off time in the afternoon, players have the opportunity to practice their shots at the adjacent driving range.

Exciting hole-in-one prizes are in store for golfers at this year's tournament with a \$10000 cash as the grand prize. Three other prizes at designated par-3 holes include a 3-day Carnival Bahamas cruise for two (\$1999 value), a golf vacation for two to your choice of over 120 resorts and golf courses (\$1999 value) or a set of premium golf clubs and matching bag (\$799 value).

After your day of golf, relax at Royal Ontario's clubhouse and enjoy a sumptuous dinner, inclusive of your golf tournament fee. Individual and team prizes will be awarded during dinner. In addition, a raffle and auction will be featured.

To register, please contact the KCCC office at 905-602-0923, email info@kalayaancentre.ca or visit www.kalayaancentre.ca/golf for further information and on-line registration. You can pay via Paypal.

Advertising and sponsorship opportunities are available.

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School Reunion

By: Gerry Rulloda



Young Gerry

This coming December, I am going back again to my hometown Aringay for a school reunion. Elementary school reunion if you ever heard of having one. High school reunion is the one we know as there are more memories to remember but elementary school? I don't remember much about elementary school other than being given the strap with dirt blowing out of my dirt pants. Another one is making those industrial projects like making a buri hat or a flying wooden bird on wheels while the girls are doing home economics stuff. But the most memorable that I don't want to remember at all is the Saturday event right after our graduation. It is the circumcision. We gather at the river at 9 a.m. and around 11a.m. Lakay Sario shows up with his really sharp instrument. You are supposed to be in the water for at least 2 hours. Three minutes before your turn, they give guava leaves to chew. So there I was wet and chewing when my name was called and 2 steps before I reach Lakay Sario, I turned left and ran towards home amid the cheering of the younger ones and jeering of the older ones. For some years, you know how they call me. I got mine done at the hospital when I was a little bit older and braver.

Not too many fond memories. So I wonder if there is some ulterior motive on this reunion, like fund raising of some sort; add more pizzazz to the town fiesta or just plain reunion. But in any case, I'm going.

It will be 50 years after elementary school. I've gone to the 40th year high school reunion. Not that I haven't seen my school mates ever since we graduated from high school because I go back to the Philippines every year or so to visit my aunt who raised me. I was an orphan at age of six months. And I've been visiting her

ever since she didn't want to stay in North America anymore. She passed away 5 years ago and it's becoming more difficult for me to ask my wife to go back and visit my hometown. But she is always accommodating and last year she even came with me and we took that grand vacation with the grandkids and their parents.

In one of my previous articles, I wrote that people go back where they were born not because they miss the place but because they miss their childhood. To me, this is partly true because my hometown Aringay is one of those rustic places that still look the same 50 years ago when I was a kid. It looks like it was left in time.

So what am I looking for with this reunion? Oh, I can guarantee you that for one or two weeks, I will enjoy the company of my childhood friends, and behave like a kid again. Surprisingly enough, there is no economic barrier in our group as long as you don't do your gatherings in a plush restaurant. We celebrate from our house to the next and everyone will come, rich or poor. We will reminisce old times and tell the same stories over and



over again. There will be some schoolmates that didn't go to high school and it would really be interesting to hear their life stories. You will be surprised. I heard one of the naughty ones eventually became a missionary now in South Africa, another who was least likely to succeed is now a retired very rich man. We don't ask how one became rich. We just enjoy their company for that one brief moment. One brief moment. Is it worth it? I bet you it is.

Kalayaan Centre 2011 Upcoming Activities

- July 23 KCCC Walkathon
- July 30 Philippine Fiesta Celebration Square
- Aug 27 Golf Classic
- Sep 23 Hawaiian Night
- Oct 29 Halloween Party
- Dec 31 New Year Bash

Weekly / Monthly Activities

- Rondalla Class
Thursday 7:00pm
- Line Dancing
Monday 6:30pm
- Philippine Tango
Monday 7:30pm
- Conversational Tagalog
Wed 6:30pm
- Ballroom Dancing
Tue 7:00pm
- Board Meeting
3rd Friday of the month
- KCCC Book Club
Monthly

To sign-up for an activity, please contact the Centre:

Tel. **905-602-0923**
Email: info@kalayaancentre.ca

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Pilipino (Tagalog)
Adult Conversational Classes will resume mid-September, interested parties, kindly contact Kalayaan Cultural Centre for details. Pagyamanin natin ang ating Sariling Wika, mag-aaral ng Pilipino (Tagalog)

Presidents Report

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efit of the community.

Service Canada has approved two positions for student summer jobs so we have employed two university students. They will work for 8 weeks each at \$10.25 per hour, 30 hours per week. One works as administrative assistant and the other as researcher assistant to the coordinator. These summer positions are a great help to our volunteer staff and good for the students. Aside from helping them financially, they gain experience that will be helpful to them when they graduate and look for work.

I reported in the first quarter of the year that we would pay only a little portion of the property tax due from us for this next payment. I have good news about that. *Per the tax roll we received just the other day, we don't have to pay anything for the whole tax year 2011. We have enough credit from previous payments to pay for the current year.* That is another blessing for us. All the good things have been coming our way and we are very thankful to God Almighty. I hope these things inspire our leaders and make them feel it is worth their sacrifice working for our centre.

Kalayaan Centre is holding a raffle draw in an effort to augment our finances and ensure our fiscal stability. The early bird draw was done during the community picnic on Philippine Independence Day celebration, July 12, 2011. The final draw will be on July 30 during the ***Fiesta Ng Kalayaan at the Mississauga Celebration Square in the City Hall premises.*** The tickets are at \$2 each and the prizes are: for the early bird, the prizes awarded were \$400, 200 and 100. On the final draw, the prizes are: \$2,000; \$1,000; \$800 and \$500. I urge everyone to buy at least a ticket and help keep KCCC afloat. The centre is ours together to cherish. For tickets, you can approach any of our directors or call our office at 905-602-0923 or e-mail us at kccc@bellnet.ca.

The next annual walkathon is

scheduled to take place on July 23rd. We have mailed some of our invitations but a large number have not been mailed due to the ongoing postal workers' strike. We have called and e-mailed those whose e-mail addresses and/or telephone numbers are available.

After the walkathon, the next big upcoming event is the annual classic golf tournament to be held on August 27, 2011 at the Royal Ontario Golf and Country club. It is keeping the golf committee quite busy at this time, getting sponsors and players and preparing the giveaways and prizes. Chaired by Executive VP Edgar Frondoza, the committee members are: Mars Cebrero, Chito Carbonell, Rodol Meier, Evelyn Laraya-Pond, Judy Montenegro, Jojo Sebastian, Tommy de Guia, Delfin Palileo and Gerry Rulloda. The golf tournament is one of the big events of the KCCC held annually and this time the committee is working hard to make it a banner year for its golf event.

The charity bingo will go electronic starting in December. Everything will be done electronically so member charities will not have a hard time anymore. All they will have to do is act as greeters and promote their own charities. And yet, the system of sharing in the proceeds will be the same. The government is doing all it can to help the charities and we are indeed thankful.

And before I forget, I am happy to let you know that we have been gradually paying off the no-interest loan we incurred from the members of the board in 2006 and 2007 when we just bought our building. When we filed an application for a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2008, we said we will repay the loans in 5 years. Well this is only the third year and by God's grace we have just a few thousands more to pay off out of the initial \$55,000 liability in 2008. God willing we hope to pay it all by the end of the year or before the first half of the 4th year. It makes us feel good indeed.

Something special happened at

KALAYAAN CENTRE Board of Directors 2010-2011

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Minnie Bandayrel

Ruffy Romano

the Centre in June this year. For the first time, Kalayaan Centre was the venue for the celebration of Philippine Independence Day. Aply, the celebration of the 113th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence was at the grand hall of the Centre. Hosted by the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga, we offered the facility as our share in the celebration. That the event was held in our home away from home was something significant. And the people welcomed the idea. The hall was to capacity. And why not? The place is mandated to be a venue for the celebration of our history and heritage. We might as well put it to use from now on. The enthusiasm we saw among the crowd that attended the celebration on June 11 should make us think seriously about this.

God bless us all, God bless the Kalayaan Centre. See you on the 3rd quarter.

LOOKING OUT!

By: Edgar Frondoza

How well do we know Rizal!



As we celebrate Jose Rizal's 150th birth anniversary, we ponder the meaning of his life, work and death. He is the Great Malayan, the

Greatest Filipino, our National Hero. Yet, how much do we really know him, how much have we learned from him. Is he still relevant today?

The debate still rages as to the meaning of his 'social cancer'. Many argue that Rizal was dealing mainly about the oppressive and corrupt government system under Spain. Others argue that Rizal was uncovering the far worse disease - the defects and weaknesses of the Filipino people. In his introduction to *Noli*, he wrote,

"I will raise a part of the veil that covers the evil, sacrificing to truth everything, even vanity itself, since, as thy son, I am conscious that I also suffer from thy defects and weaknesses."

More than 100 years after the Spanish rule, the Philippines still suffers from oppressive and corrupt government system, but this time by its own people.

He founded the *La Liga Filipina*, a civic organization aimed at uniting the whole archipelago into one vigorous and homogenous organization. Andres Bonifacio and Apolinario Mabini were among its members. *La Liga Filipina* gave birth to the Katipunan but Rizal rejected Katipunan's violent revolution. He believed that the Filipinos were not yet ready for independence,

"Why independence, if the slaves of today will be the tyrants of tomorrow?"

He understood that without enlightenment, independence is not a solution to the problems of the people. He supports "violent means" only as a last resort.

Rizal was an advocate of women's rights, a progressive



idea at that time. In his "Letter to the Women of Malolos", Rizal encouraged them to demand and fight for their rights. He emphasized the importance of the Filipino mothers in nurturing the youth in the proper values, principles and knowledge - the foundation of a progressive nation.

"... open your children's eyes so they may jealously guard their honor, love their fellowmen and their native land and do their duty"

In his article "The Philippines a Century Hence" first published in *La Solidaridad*, he expressed optimism about the future of the Philippines but he is aware that real freedom is generations away. And for this reason he challenges the youth, "the fair hope of the fatherland", to be



NAYON

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KALAYAAN CENTRE

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educated and to develop civic virtues. In *El Filibusterismo*, he wrote,

"Where are the youth who will consecrate their golden hours, their illusions and enthusiasm for the welfare of their country?... We wait for you, O youth! Come, for we await you!"

Rizal fought and died for his country, but his dreams for the Philippines expressed in his *My Last Farewell* are yet to be fulfilled,

*"..to see thy lov'd face,
O gem of the Orient sea,
From gloom and grief,
from care and sorrow free;
No blush on thy brow,
no tear in thine eye"*

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