



Piyesta Pinoy in Bolingbrook a huge success!

YEAR three and stronger than ever! One of Chicagoland's biggest celebrations of the Philippine culture returned to Bolingbrook for the 3rd year last June 11, 2016 and it was a huge success!

An estimated crowd of about 7,500 came to join the Piyesta in spite of the very hot and humid weather. For the first time in Piyesta Pinoy Bolingbrook history, we had no rain this year. Thanks to the consistent prayers to St. Clare by the volunteers.

The weather cooled off later in the evening that brought in more crowd in time for a couple more hours of entertainment featuring two bands and several singers performing at Piyesta for the first time. As Mayor of the Village of Bolingbrook for 30 years, I am honored to extend my personal greetings to my Filipino friends for a successful 2016 Philippine Independence Day Fest.

The Filipino play an important role in our community and continue to make significant contributions for the good of all our residents," said Village of Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Clair. "Mabuhay and Filipinas! Mabuhay po tayong lahat!" said Consul General Genesio Calonge.

A huge thank you to Village of Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Clair and the village staff, to Consul General Genesio Calonge, to Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti, Member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans

and Pacific Islanders Billy Dae and his mom, Alex Morales representing the Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerchis.

Illinois State Comptroller Leslie Mungro and Romeoville Mayor John Nook for your welcome remarks, program book message and most especially for your presence for those who are able to join our event. "We would like to express our admiration and appreciation for

our cultural heritage and traditions ... to strive for unity in the community, and ... to share our moral values with our youth through community involvement in the celebration of our 118th Philippine Independence Day.

We wish to extend our warmest appreciation to the Philippine Consulate General of Chicago and the Village of Bolingbrook for

hosting and for their partnership," said PACF President Adelina Pajardo. This year's festival was attended by Pinoy's from all over the Midwest including Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Iowa and even as far west as Arizona, California and Washington and as far east as New York.

Many thanks to The Filipino Channel for being celebratory. Kim Chiu and Xian Lim stars of the very popular teleserye "The Story of Us" along with versatile emcee Poca from the Bay area in California. Announcing the Split-the-Pot raffle winners: 1st Prize - R. Simbal, 2nd Prize - Ed Simbal and 3rd Prize - Nancy Hallares.

Fifty percent of the cash proceeds went to the raffle winners and the other fifty percent went to DACP funds for cultural and humanitarian projects/ Festival organizer the Philippine American Cultural Foundation would like to thank our organizing partners and hosts - the Philippine Consulate General of Chicago and the Village of Bolingbrook for

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2016 Piyesta Pinoy draws record crowd, estimated to be 7,500



Singers James Dela Cruz, Alpha Nicolasin and Girelle Pascual

of Bolingbrook. We also would like to thank our sponsors for their donations and continued support: Platinum Sponsors - The Filipino Channel, Three Horses, Joann Rice, and Western Union; Gold Sponsors - Anita Health and Seafood City; Silver Sponsors - Bank of America, Country Financial, Dazlone Boutiques, LBC Mandali Corporation, Mark A. Tan - T Capital, Salad Master/Triple A Health Ventures, Max Madison Mitsubishi Signature Events, and Creative Impressions; Bronze Sponsors - Bolingbrook Eagle - Globe Telecom, Global Cargo Movers LLC, Tareo Lorenzo, Philippine Week Committee and WET, Inc; Domes - All State, Cey & Calar Studio Corp, Costco, Nivea Gas, Gorette Productions LLC, Glendale Heights Barangay Lions Club, Home Depot, Dr. Kha M Nguyen, DMD, PNB, Transformation Beauty Spa and WFG; Maraming salamat to Magasnoes, One Philippines, PINOY News, and VIA Times; CRK TV for media sponsorship. Maraming salamat to product donors Bar Louie, Costco, Fiesta Market, Francesco's Restaurant, Mejo's, Hong Ning Restaurant, Mabuhay Restaurant, Val's Asian Mart, Icecream bars from

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You couldn't drop a pin in the SRO crowd!

Magnolia, Sipao from Oriental Kibhoan, Three Horses Rice and Longines from Uncle Mike's Place. Maraming salamat to partners Advocate for Prosperity, A.P.R.E., APO Midwest Chicago, BIBBAK Illinois, Chicago Suburban Christian Church Melrose Park, CRK TV Pinig, Creado Capampangan, Couples for Christ/Pamille for Life, Deora Brothers, PANSO, PACHO, The Field Massman, the Filipino American Network, Gawad Kaligang Digan - Lano Association of the Midwest, Inc. (HAMMD), ESPFA, the Legion of Mary, NAFFAA, PESTO, the Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois, Rivaland America, Skepton Alumni of the Midwest, Top Prado Blades and World Martial Arts Academy.

Maraming salamat to our food vendors Bojio's, El Taco Grande, PM Asian Food Mart, Kustinang Pinoy, Mang Juan, Mabuhay Restaurant, Manila Fiesta, Uni-Mart, Val's Asian Mart, Kitty's Irish Ice, and the concession stand at the venue, Bolingbrook Performing Arts Center.

Maraming salamat to our Parade of Costumes 2016 participants and individual sponsors: Consul General Genesio Calonge, Hermano Mayor Steve Haer, Hermana Maria Haer, Hermano Dr. Virgilio Jimson, Joe Manacillo, Darwin Posadas, Danny Salazar, Patrick Salazar, Mariano Santos, Edgar Tabalan, Bart Tabalain and Pio Villegas, Hermanas Poly Bayona, Angie Francisco, Veronica Leighton, Inaida Posadas, Alice Salazar, Sheryl Salazar, Mellinda Santos, Grace Tabalan, Villy Tabalain and Lita Villegas, Ninings Dr. Amador Acosta, Andy Chen, Ruby Garcia, Ely Natividad, Danny Salonga and Mark Tan, Ninings Zenaida Acosta, Carmen Garcia, Evelyn Natividad, Ditas Salonga, and Lita Vasth.

Maraming salamat to our amazing performers: National anthem singer Emil Nicolasin and Divine Alomar; Cultural performers - BIBBAK Illinois, Chicago-Ankling and Rondalla Ensemble, Loyola Kayas Cultural, PACF Performing Arts, UICU PSA Barakda newcomers Philippine Dance Troupe of Fox Cities from Wisconsin and the Digan - Lano Association of the Midwest, Inc. (HAMMD); Singers - Hilford Books, Raul G., Gene Flores, MER with violinist Jason Vinluan, Emil Nicolasin, Chaz Patern, Alyssa Suboman, Kayla Tejero, Nina Mae Vidal and Sybhar Ybara; Dancers - Meghan Despojo,

Trina Nicolasin and Stephanie Banao; DJ Tony Hurtado; Musical Bands - Rize Martin Band, Live Wire Band, No Limits Band and Samasama Project; and Emcees Alpha Nicolasin, Luchi Siap, Ma, Girelle Pascual, and James Dolacruz. Maraming salamat to the chefs of our Pili-Am Chefs Cooking Exhibition: Accomplished Pili-Am Chefs Marilyn Mc-Nabb, Eric

Valentino and cooking coach Ken Mendez are showcasing their own recipes. Special thanks to cooking personality Johanna Mirpari, also known as Momma Cuisine and host of In the Kitchen, for facilitating and engaging the audience during the demonstrations organized by Mangro Rice Productions, in partnership with the Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF) and the Filipino-American Community Health Initiative of Chicago (PACHIC). Maraming salamat to providers of our children's activities: Village of Bolingbrook Park District for the train ride and rock climbing wall, Fontaindale Public Library for the Book Mobile, Village of Bolingbrook Fire Department.

Maraming salamat to our program booklet sponsors: Western Union, Send-it City, Gorette Productions LLC, Signature Event Design, Max Madison Mitsubishi, Nivea Gas, Bank of America, Salerno's Rosedale Funeral Chapel, Dazlone Boutiques, Creative Impressions Plus, Salad Master/Triple A Health Ventures, LBC Mandali Corporation, Loyola Parezo, Lead Ways Associate, Tareo Lorenzo, RJ Jewelry, Anita Health, Mark A. Tan - T Capital, Country Financial, Bigby's Four House, Max & Aning Carlos, Dr. Kha Nguyen, DDS and Dr. Evelyn Poles, DDS, Rosemarie Santi, Jasmin Oriental Mart, Three Horses Joann Rice and The Filipino Channel.

Maraming salamat to the 2016 Piyesta Pinoy sa Bolingbrook Committee who worked very hard

Xian as Macy's looking for Ms. Right.



since last year to make this year's festival a huge success; Overall chair Roben Salazar, sponsors/ vendors/sponsors/reserve seating Cindy Lopez and Telly Yumping, food concession and volunteers food Mele Salazar, food vendors Jan Paul Ferrer, partners/cultural/games/exhibiting Marshall DeLeon and Rae Joyce Bagullat, BFD Train/Track Climbing Wall/Library Inc/Fire track Isabella Gerdan, Mayor/Village/Illinois state Officials Liaison Romy Balota and Michelle White, Pinao-Orlando/Coordinating Ely Natividad, Ely & Evelyn Natividad, Program book/ stage manager Anna Gina Millan, Programs-Emcees and stage managers Alpha Nicolasin, Luchi Siap, Ma, Girelle Pascual and James Dolacruz, food cooking demo and marketing Rome Nicolasin and Donna Reyes, Volunteer coordinators Everett Iau and Danie Boyle, Security Allan Desiderio and the Security Team, AT Tech Siara Barin Cabalona, Parade and Stage crew Emil Nicolasin, Social Media Iris Kay Strauss, Mark Tan and Videographer/Photographer/Social Media team, and Marketing Andy Gaston and Celeste Gomez. Thank you to all our volunteers and ushers heroes and excuse us for not listing all your names. The successful operation of each area from souvenir program to communications, raffles, stage performances, volunteers, cultural activities, delicious food, first aid, and others made this celebration truly enjoyable and ... the best ever. It would not be humbly possible to orchestrate such efficient and meaningful activities without your help.

Lastly, maraming salamat to all our kababayan, families and friends who had attended this year's festival. We hope to see you again next year! We hope that you will continue to join activities that promote our cultural heritage and traditions and pride as a Filipino American community. Looking forward to your involvement and participation in our next Filipino community event, MABUHAY! O

Can you tell where Xian is amidst all the selfie-lak?



TCF Hour emcee Poca



They came from all age groups



The dense crowd lost all self-control!



Can you tell where Xian is amidst all the selfie-lak?

