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# Tambuli

Newsletter of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, New York, N.Y.

## Ladies Night A Smashing Success!

As the moon added a romantic sheen to the balmy breeze that wafted through the partially open vents of Colonial Inn, a booming voice breaks in, “ Honored and Distinguished Guests, Brothers, Sisters, Ladies and Gentlemen! We are gathered tonight to celebrate, honor and give tribute to our beloved Ladies! They make our lives complete and worth living. And behind every man’s success, stands a woman telling him what to do!” Declared the emcee of the evening, VW Mon Cruz. As everyone stood at attention, Bro. Nelson Reyes led the singing of the Star-Spangled Banner and *Bayang Magiliw*, followed by an invocation given by RW Joel V. Pal, Grand Chaplain. The welcome remarks was delivered by WB Levy Lavarino, chair of the Ladies Night Committee, and gave special compliments to the Ladies and their beaux, the dignitaries and brothers and sisters from other Lodges.

As token of their love and devotion, the brethren offered long-stemmed red roses to their ladies, led by WM Jun Almiron, as they waltzed to “*Ikaw*” a Filipino love song sang by Bro. Nelson Reyes. Reciprocating the collective show of affection, Sis. Thelma Talusan, wife of RW Dick Talusan, PDDGM, representing the Ladies echoed the same affection and called on the sisters to continue their support for the Lodge.

After a well-received introduction by RW Carlito Gallardo, Grand Director of Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York the guest speaker and past DDGM of the 4<sup>th</sup> Manhattan District, RW Ver Quijano, delivered a heart-warming inspirational speech that had virtually everyone’s eyes welling with tears, as he gave tribute to “the one lady” who exemplified what true love really is. She was his mother, whose pains, struggles and sacrificial love nurtured him and made him the man he is today. He went on to remind the Brethren, “ never ever forget to give thanks to the Ladies upon whom we depend so much for our lives, successes and happiness.”



*R. W. Quijano delivering speech.*

As part of the celebration, former First Ladies pinned specially designed lapel pins to their husband’s dedication and leadership Calling on the former first Ladies was Sis. Jean Almiron assisted by SW Bro. Ignacio Abe.

In his closing remarks, WM Jun Almiron expressed his gratitude for the love and tremendous support everyone gave, including the Brethren and Worshipful Masters from other Lodges and the generosity of donors who, despite their inability to attend contributed to the success of the affair.

The Ladies Night Committee consisted of WB Levy Lavarino, VW Mon Cruz, and Bro. Henry Garcia, Bro. Ige Abe, Bro. Albert Inguito, Bro. Pepe Aquino, RW Carlito Gallardo and their beloved Ladies. Gratitude and appreciation were also extended to the DJGing & hubby and the staff of the Colonial Inn of Norwood, New Jersey.

## Upcoming Events

- 09 APRIL, MON. 7 PM**  
MASONIC SALON, RM. 1818
- 13 APRIL, FRIDAY, 7:15 PM**  
STATED MEETING-Proficiency Exams
- 7-8 MAY, MON-TUES, ALL DAY**  
Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- 11 MAY, FRIDAY, 7:15 PM**  
SUMMONED MEETING, Elections
- 12 May, Saturday, details TBA**  
Testimonial Dinner for DDGM, etc.
- 13 MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY**
- 19 MAY, SATURDAY - 1 PM**  
Conferral 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree
- 08 JUNE, FRIDAY, 7:15 PM**  
Stated Meeting End of Term
- 16 JUNE, SATURDAY 2 PM**  
**OPEN INSTALLATION**

## “Dream Team” Prepares for May Conferral

Proficiency Exams on April 13; Conferral on May 19

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Conferring Team dubbed as the “Dream Team” have started their preparations for what will be a rare and historic degree work because it will be composed of Past Masters that will also feature a spectacular dramatization of the Hiram Legend. WB Levy Lavarino as the Conferring Master, will release the complete list of the participants shortly. The Hiram Legend is the acting out of the central core of Masonic teachings for men to have faith, to keep to the ideals of morality and virtue and to stand by their promises.

Degree work will start at 1:00 PM and will conclude with the dramatization of the Hiram Legend. Collation will then follow. WB Temy Colarte, who gave the name “Dream Team”, wrote to urge the team to “go easy on the brothers.” What he meant by that is anyone’s guess. WB Temy is with Aramco in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who keeps in touch with us in spite of the distance. See you soon, WBro. Temy!

## When the Ladies Came to Jose Rizal Lodge...

There was joy and rejoicing that we have not seen, heard or felt for a long, long time. Old friendships were renewed and new friendships created. There was a fusion of the old and the new producing a *sprit de corps* that was palpable and exciting. It took a life of its own that inspired everyone to give something to make it a memorable evening. Be it in the form of a song, a joke, a toast and even a quick ensemble of John Denver songs. The food was *supracalifragilistic* and *expialidiciously* prepared by Sis. Pinky to celebrate WB Levy Lavarino’s –“coming out” birthday party. Something in the air, food or drink must have been present that brought couples to the dance floor while WBro. Boy Iriberry and Bro. Nelson Reyes belted romantic songs. The evening ended when, like the Cinderella story, curfew struck. Everyone scurried to their own “tartanillas” with their princes and went home. No one left a shoe behind. Too bad Mr. Prince.

## Birthday Celebrants for April 2012

- 09 WB Romeo Dadayan
- 12 WB Edward Usita
- 14 WB Arthur Aurellano
- 14 Bro. Michael Centeno
- 15 JW Bro. Tom Benolerao
- 20 Bro. Ernest Uy
- 23 Bro. Armenio Iniego
- 25 Bro. Edwin Buenaventura

## CONGRATULATIONS

Bro. Rodene Cortes for winning first place in the district MAGLA Ritual competition. He will represent the Metropolitan district in the Regional that will be held on April 30, 2012. You do us proud, Bro. Rodene! We know the best is yet to come! Go, Brother go! Mabuhay!

## **PETE DECENA: We can do it!**

Bro. Pete Decena, a long time band leader and vocalist and currently the Lodge's organist, declared with enthusiasm and determination, "We can do it!" when tasked with organizing an ensemble or a band where the brethren can give vent to their musical talents or to unmask latent and hidden gifts. Bro. Rodene Cortes, another musically gifted brother, offered to assist while Bro. Eduard Kho, a piano teacher, agreed to come on board all the way. At the same time, old-timer Bro. Ron Magno, an instrumentalist, has been waiting for something like this to happen. Who knows? We may yet hear a sampling of their initial piece of work on our next collation! What sayest thou, my brothers?

## **IGE ABE: Out of Love, a Guitar**

Determined to add to the musical development of our Lodge's life, Bro. Ige Abe and his wife, Sis. Mely, gave the Lodge a brand new Yamaha electric guitar and an amplifier with it. These were promptly commissioned when the Ladies Came to JRL and that contributed immensely to the musical ambiance of the evening. Their donation will play a major part in the creation of an ensemble that is energetically being pursued by several brothers. When organized, we can be our own entertainers during Masonic events and celebrations. It will also provide a creative alternative to activities we do outside and beyond the four walls of the Lodge. "We did this, out of love"- Bro. Ige Abe said.

## **Gossip around the Lodge...by Sylvester B. Almiron, Jr., WM**

*There is no truth to the rumor that the designated "ruffians" are bench pressing and breaking blocks while preparing for the degree work in May. It is entirely for cardiovascular health, they said.*

Last week I was in Dumaguete City where I had the pleasure of breaking bread with the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Past Grand Master of Philippine Masons, MW Reynato Puno. He was conferred the Doctor of Laws degree, honoris causa, by Silliman U and spoke before the graduates. After deploring the sad state of affairs in the country and the widening gap between the rich and the poor, he said,

***"The poor awaits your help, your idealism. Poverty must not be the lot of the super majority of our people. The poor cannot be the permanent pariahs of our society. We all have a stake in the empowerment of the poor. They cannot continue to be overlooked and underserved. We cannot continue to struggle against the poor. The poor have to win. The only way for the poor to win this struggle is for us to allow them to win."***

On Filipinos making their mark in Masonry in the US, he said, "One day, there will be a Filipino Grand Master in the US. It is abuzz that it might be in New York. I have no doubt it will happen soon; yes, it will happen!"

*On a historical note, WM Justice Puno was Grand Master of*

*Philippine Masons when JRL#1172 was constituted in May 1984. Unable to come for the ceremony, he was represented by PGM MW Rosendo Herrera, a well-known humanitarian and philanthropist. Since then, a cherished and close relationship between the Herreras and JRL#1172 had been forged that lives and endures to this day.*

One of the loudest whispers imaking the rounds indicate that our next DDGM was Past Master of JRL#1172 and another Lodge. He also runs a wineless, smoke-free salon. If true, this will be another purple apron for a brother and a feather in JRL's cap! Advanced congratulations RW! ...As we prepare to handover the mantle of leadership, I feel strongly secure that the chain of brotherhood will hold us firmly together as long as we allow the power of harmony, the strength of our commitment and a forgiving spirit to work among us. It takes just one weak link in the chain to break us. So let us resolve to keep that chain unbroken.

*I got the idea of "Gossip around the Lodge" from The 24 Inch Gauge Masonic Resource Guide. The author says, "Get rid of "From the East". Calling it that way "assumes the reader cares about everything the Master has to say. That's not even true about the President of the United States". So, if you have reached this far, the "departure theory" worked.*

Thank you! SALAMAT PO!



Picture above shows part of the beautiful ladies who adorned the Ladies Night. At Right: Prof. Leonor M. Briones, former Treasurer of the Republic of the Philippines & BOT chair of Silliman University, WM Dr. Sylvester Almiron, Jr., Trustee and PGM MW Justice Reynato Puno, who was guest speaker during SU's 99<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises on March 18, 2012. He recently retired as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of the Philippines when Jose Rizal Lodge was constituted in May 1984.



Picture at left: Not a care nor a frown can be seen on the faces of these revelers who descended upon Bro. Albert and Ginny Inguito's residence on his birthday! There was singing, dancing & toasting that, for some, lasted until the next day.

Also, a joyous celebration took place earlier in the Haverstraw residence of Bro. Henry Garcia, who celebrated his birthday on the Sunday the New York Giants, won the Super Bowl. No matter that he lost his bet, he is still a winner with Sis. Hemie by his side. Happy birthday brothers!



### Happy Easter! Or Maligayang Pascua de Resurreccion!

Do write us and share your news and views: [salmironjr828@gmail.com](mailto:salmironjr828@gmail.com), [iabe@rr.nyc.com](mailto:iabe@rr.nyc.com), [humanquest32@aol.com](mailto:humanquest32@aol.com) or [r\\_iggy@yahoo.com](mailto:r_iggy@yahoo.com). We'll be glad to hear from you! Brethren from far away –keep in touch!