

SPECIAL EDITION

SAMPAGUITA E-NEWS



A Letter from the President

Dear FASCOT family,

I received this email from a dear friend, Susan Liang. “Be well Neneng. Thank you for the past two years. You kept the club alive.” I could only say that as the norm of team leadership has been established, I like to pass the baton with utmost grace to the 2022 President, Nori Riechers. I trust that our organization will be in good hands.

My leadership finally came in full circle. We held the Kick Off in 2020, the Acquaintance Party with hundred guests! This year, thank God, we barely made the Culminating Activity. We held the Induction of the 2022 Officers in a restaurant. The highlight of the event was the recognition of all 2021 officers, board of directors and advisors and the surprise award went to Nori Riechers, Outstanding Treasurer. And something new this year is the Presidential Award. The recipient for Community Leadership and service to our country went to our very own Marie Aliwalas Lankford, 2006 FASCOT President and Pan Asian Community Alliance President.

During the gathering, I heard Manol saying, “Neneng, you’re the right person at the right time chosen to lead during the pandemic.”

It’s Friday, December 10, 2021. I was just watching the News Hour on PBS. Our very own Filipina Journalist, Maria Ressa Nobel Peace Prize Winner is in Oslo, Norway along with Russian Journalist Dmitry Muratov to receive such prestigious honor for their courageous fight for freedom of expression! Mabuhay! God bless the Philippines!



Thank you all!

Special “Thank you!” to our very own fine artist, Manol Oswald who designed the beautiful Newsletter Journal with greetings and ads. Accolades to you, Manol!

Maraming salamat po, sa inyong lahat! So long!

- Neneng



Neneng & Norie Mayo enjoying the Induction and get-together!
Editorial Staff:
Carmen, Manol, Eileen, & Neneng.





Congratulations

Marie Aliwalas Lankford 2006 FASCOT President and President of Pan-Asian Community Alliance was awarded the FASCOT Presidential plaque for Community Leadership and Service to our country. Past presidents joined with Marie.



Nori Riechers was recognized as 2020-2021 Outstanding Treasurer!



INDUCTION OF 2022 FASCOT OFFICERS AT LUNCH MEETING

By Eileen Godollei

Two dozen or so FASCOT members, plus a few guests, met at Wok & Roll restaurant on Ina Rd. on Nov. 27, 2021 to induct the newly elected officers of FASCOT and enjoy a luncheon get-together. Several special awards were also presented.

Current President Neneng Fassler, our Master of Ceremonies, led the following new officers in taking an Oath of Office:

President	Nori Riechers
Second Vice President	Mark Norris
Secretary	Eileen Godollei
Assistant Secretary	Norie Mayo
Treasurer	Arneil Aro
Assistant Treasurer	Carmen Norsworthy



The theme of President Fassler's presentation of awards was a celebration of team spirit and collaboration. The difficult circumstances during the pandemic led to innovative ideas. In 2020-2021, we were not able to sell food at Tucson Meet Yourself, or have our major annual events. Adopt-a-Roadway was also put on hold due to the ongoing construction on our stretch of highway. Fassler pivoted to the new ways in which we were able to keep members involved and raise funds, including the very successful Raffle (dedicated to our late, much-loved member, Aida Short), and the Annual Appeal. (I would add that the club newsletter for which Neneng wrote many articles, in both regular quarterly issues and additional special issues, also did a lot to maintain the morale. As did her many emails to cheer up members who were feeling down.) Fassler presented framed certificates of appreciation to the 2021 officers, board of directors and advisors, for their services that included, Robert Hamburger, Eileen Godollei, Mark Norris, Susan Liang, Herminia Maxon, Ed Diaz, Emelyn Eubanks, Carmen Norsworthy and Manol Oswald. Lady Dorothy Elli, Phil Harms, Shiraz Peera, Lita Doss and Marylou Natividad were unable to attend. Several of those who received certificates made brief speeches. Then Fassler presented an attractive desktop award to outgoing Treasurer Nori Riechers for her dedicated service in that role. She mentioned that Nori's reports have always been very detailed, clear, accurate, and on time, and it is so important to have a good grasp of our club's financial situation as we move forward.

The special guest of honor at this gathering was Marie Lankford, who is both past president of FASCOT and the current president of the Pan Asian Community Alliance of Tucson, a 501c(3) non-profit organization which provides cultural enrichment programs and community assistance, including tutoring/mentoring programs for children, assistance with taxes, citizenship classes, Hula and Korean dance classes. President Fassler had emailed us all a biography detailing Lankford's many achievements as an immigrant from the Philippines who went on to have a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force and then became a counselor, administrator, teacher and philanthropist. Fassler expressed her admiration and thanked her, in particular, for making sure that Filipino culture has always been represented in the Pan Asian cultural events that Marie Lankford has helped organize. The desktop award that FASCOT presented to her was beautiful.

Outgoing Treasurer/incoming President Riechers thanked 2021 President Fassler for all the incredible creative energy she has poured into keeping the club going this past year, under very difficult circumstances. Riechers also mentioned the Sampaguita Dance Group led by Neneng Fassler who usually performed during TMY to share the beauty of Filipino culture. She mentioned that next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of FASCOT, and expressed her hope that we will be able to resume our signature events. Riechers also indicated that we may be holding events in the form of an outdoor picnic in a park to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19.

The buffet lunch at the Wok & Roll was much enjoyed. It was wonderful to see many members again. It was also good to see Greg Lankford, Dorothy Lew, PACA Executive Director, Jerry and Cecille Muller from the Mabuhay Foundation joined the get-together.

REMINISCING

By Neneng Babanto Fassler

Someone asked me about the history of the creation of FASCOT Scholarship Fund and now called Educational Assistance or grant. That brings back memory of how I also accidentally served as FASCOT president in 1997. No one stepped up to take the position. Ate Alice Polintan and Anching Gutang visited me and convinced me to take the helm of leadership. Both promised to back me up. And I won with no opposition. I also remembered Joe and Mariles Abong and their little twins were new in town. They signed up for membership. I discovered that Mariles earned her Fine Arts degree from the Philippines. I immediately assigned her to chair the Committee on Decoration for Pista sa Nayon event. Since then, Joe and Mariles remain loyal members of FASCOT.

In 1996, President Bing Contaioi along with her board approved the creation of the Scholarship Fund. This is truly Bing Contaioi's legacy. I could still hear Marge Turano, putting the motion on the table, "I move that FASCOT creates a Scholarship Fund." It was unanimously approved. There was Alice Polintan, Cecilia Knauss (Andersen), Neneng Fassler and the rest of the board members who were attending the meeting. There was not enough time to present to the general membership for approval and be ratified, so the task was carried on to the 1997 leadership.

It was also in 1997 that our team approved the idea of launching the first Reunion of FASCOT past presidents. That same year, the general membership unanimously approved the creation of the Scholarship Fund and was ratified. The Scholarship was added to the Constitution and Bylaws and submitted to Arizona Corporation Commission. Bing remained actively involved in our team and served as advisor. Cecilia Knauss and Neneng Fassler crafted the first criteria of selecting a deserving applicant. And Rene Contaioi suggested few items. The original criteria was approved by the Executive Board: 1.) Graduating high school student or freshman college whose parent is FASCOT member—incentive to increase membership 2.) need-based assistance 3.) 3.5 GPA 4.) Extra-curricular/community service 5.) Volunteer/community service of parents with FASCOT 6.) Volunteer/community service of student with FASCOT 7.) Essay

1998. It was during the term of President Roger Narciso that the awarding of scholarship to deserving student took effect.

2001. During Joe Abong's presidency, the board approved to change the word "Scholarship" to Educational Assistance to better reflect the 'one time' assistance. Abong also founded the Filipino-American Sampaguita Club of Tucson Adopt-a-Roadway project. The first coordinator was Doug Wiggins who served since 2001 to 2019. Cheerleader, Mariles Abong has always served goodies, coffee and doughnuts. In 2020, the fabulous three were awarded a Certificate of Recognition for keeping the AAR going since 2001. Terry Milligan, new AAA Coordinator took over in 2020.

2004. President Imelda Cuyugan led the crafting of the few amendments to FASCOT Constitution and Bylaws, was approved by the general membership and ratified. The idea was the amendments might perhaps meet the criteria as the club wanted to apply for 501c(3) or Foundation. During those times the club extended Educational Assistance to students whose parents were not FASCOT members anticipating for approval. Few attempts were made until Dennis Maduli's term in 2010, but our application was denied. To add, it was in 2010 also that our FASCOT website www.fascot.org was finally restored by our newly hired webmaster Grace Higgins. Neneng and Grace have been partners to keep the website updated regularly.

Fast forward. 2021 Executive Board and President Neneng Fassler has started brainstorming about the Educational Assistance criteria considering that FASCOT remains a 501c(4) non-profit organization with limited funds. A foundation usually opens scholarship to the whole community but FASCOT remains a 501c(4) non-profit organization. Discussion continues until next year.

1997 Christmas and First Past President's Reunion Program Souvenir (excerpt)

What we did was a team effort and we worked on our goals together.



Every person or member of the club is very important. The members are the lifeblood of the club.



Dreamers, Believers and Leaders

The 1997 Officers and Board Members lead the historic, unanimous approval of the automatic yearly funding, or share, of the Student Scholarship Fund. This is indeed a true legacy for our children, our future.

(* Dolores Biggs not in the picture)



Teamwork is the Key to Accomplishment!



Standing from L to R: Roger, Marge, Aida, Neneng, Alice, Anching
Front row L to R: Rene, Bing, Ida's grandchildren, Ricky & Bianca, Ida, Tom
(*Dolores Biggs not in the picture)

Outgoing Sampaguita Officers

1997

President Neneng B. Fassler
President-Elect Roger Narciso
First Vice-President Tom Trajano
Second Vice-President Dolores Biggs*
Treasurer Marge Turano
Secretary Aida Short

Board of Directors

Rene Contaio
Anching Gutang
Alice Polintan
Bing Contaio - Advisory Council
Ida Schroeder - Advisory Council

Incoming Sampaguita Officers

1998

President Roger Narciso
President-Elect Tom Trajano
First Vice-President Idabella Schroeder
Second Vice-President Teresita Garcia
Treasurer Mariles Abong
Secretary Aida Short

Programme

- * Emcee
Rene Contaio - Board Member
- * Invocation
Tom Trajano - First Vice-President
- * Dinner and Cultural Entertainment 6:30 - 8:30 pm
 - I. **Presentation of the Fil-Am Sampaguita Club Past Presidents Cultural Entertainment - Singkil**
Princess Joanne Turano and the members of the Royal Court
 - II. **Induction of Officers**
Acceptance Speech - Roger Narciso
 - III. **Candle Lighting Ceremony - Past Presidents Participation**
Singing of the *Silent Night* (Audience Participation)
Presidential Dance - Chotis Folk Dance
Remarks - Speaker representing the 1970's leaders
Speaker representing the 1980's leaders
Speaker representing the 1990's leaders
Waltz Dance - All Presidents Participation
Closing Remarks - Neneng B. Fassler - President 1997
- * **Dance! Door Prizes! Dance!** - Music provided by **The Big Band**
~ First 15 minute band break - **Tinkling Dance**
Beverly Trajano, Allan Harlow, Kyra Batte & Marites Narciso
~ Second band break - **Singing of Christmas carols**
Roger Narciso, Tom Trajano, the Caroling Group and the Presidents
- * Usherettes: Judy Perkins & Charlene Fassler



Our sincere wishes
for a Happy Holiday
with Joy and Goodwill!

Tom & Aida Short
Mrs. Philippines Queen 1997



FILIPINO AMERICAN SAMPAGUITA
Club of Tucson

Celebrates

the

First Reunion of the Fil-Am
Sampaguita Club Presidents



Holiday Inn
4550 S. Palo Verde
Tucson, Arizona 85714

Christmas Dinner Party
December 20, 1997
5:30 - 1:00 am

Annual Report to the Fil-Am Community

- New Year's Celebration – Susan Liang, Chairperson
- Valentine's Day Celebration – Youth Participation
Raffle for Lucky Miss Valentine (Judy Perkins), Miss Love (Charlene Fassler),
Miss Charity (Alia Peera) – Executive Board
- Easter Picnic – Sampaguita Club hosted the picnic at the park for the club members,
non-members and FASA (Filipino-American Student Association) of the University of
Arizona – Tom Trojano & Roger Narciso
- Mother's Day Celebration – Children's Participation
Essay Contest in honor of Mothers and Grandmothers – Executive Board
- Pista Sa Nasyon – Major Fund Raising (Adult Participation)
Queen Aida Short, First Princess Yolly Perkins, Second Princess Mel Pike – Idabella
Schroeder, Chairperson
- Tucson Heritage Festival – Community Participation
Committee: Esperanza Gutang/Executive Board/Advisory Council
Booth Building Committee: Rene Contaoi/Pete Valenzuela
Fil-Am Youth Dance Troupe Public Performance
Artistic Director: Neneng Fassler
- Halloween Party – Children and Adult Participation
Holy Mass for the Faithful Departed Who Were Members of the Club. (All Soul's Day at
Our Lady of All Saints)
Committee: Mariles Abong and Aida Short
- Election of 1998 Officers – Cecilia Knauss – Advisory Council
Automatic Yearly Funding for the Student Scholarship Fund for the education of our
youth was unanimously approved by the General Membership. This is an
Amendment to Article IV, Section C.) Neneng B. Fassler - Chairperson
- Christmas Caroling Committee – Roger Narciso, Anching Gutang & Tom Trajano
Christmas Dinner Dance & Reunion – Executive Board
Ticket Reservations – Marge Turano
Journal Ad Solicitation – Executive Board
Invitation for the Past Presidents – Alice Polintan
- Newsletter Publication: Editor – Rene Contaoi, Publisher – Mark Schroeder
- Advisor to the 1997 Officers & Board Members
Bing Contaoi – 1996 President
Idabella Schroeder – 1994 President
- Social Services and Counseling Referral for Families in Crisis
Committee: Alice Polintan
Loss of Loved Ones (5 families) Members hospitalized (5)

To: Neneng B. Fassler

12/9/2021

From: Fr. Fred Polintan Jr.



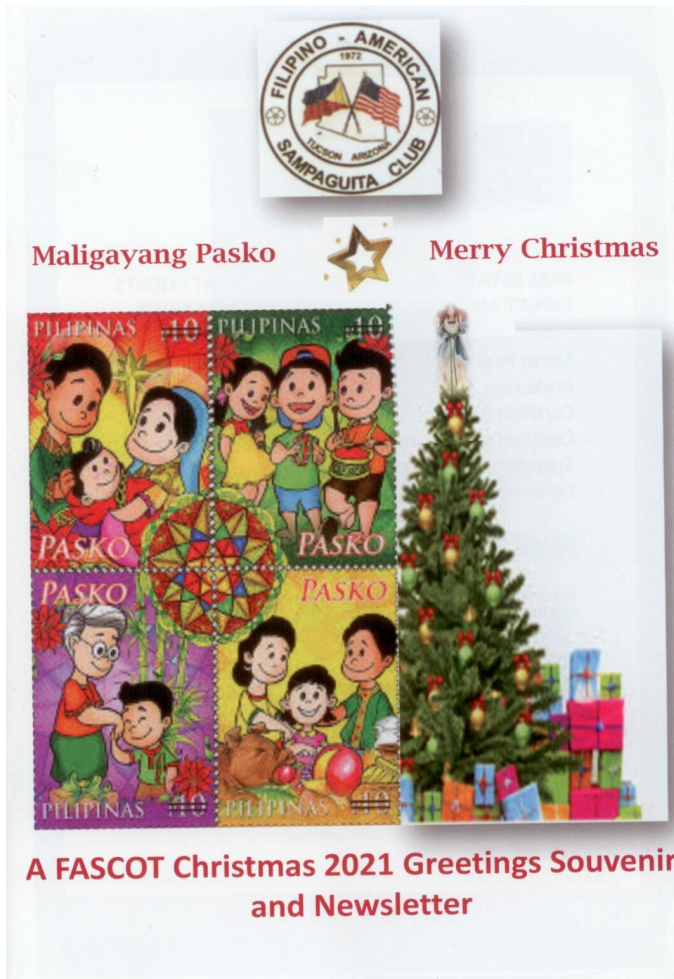
How are you? I wanted to share this picture. I wore my robe and hat on my recent trip. Children, young and old, and flight attendant, had a pleasant surprise seeing Saint Nicholas walking through the airport.

It was a JOY to bring Smiles and Love to others.

May you be Blessed during this Holy Christmas...!

Peace be to your Holy Life.

Father Fred likes to share this photo to all of you. He was our former 1975 FASCOT President.



Thanks to all subscribers of the ads and greetings!

