



MAY/JUNE 2006 News Notes

News & Notes is a communication piece published bi-monthly for members of An Taclobanon Association of So. California



*From the desk
of the
President*

Countdown to the Fiesta and Summer Celebration

I can't believe it's already the middle of May, how swiftly time flies! For many of us, this means the end of the school year is just around the corner. For some of us, this means our fiesta celebration is almost upon us. So before we make plans for our summer vacation, let's not forget to give thanks to Him who has given us the opportunity and the strength to make plans to celebrate our 25th Annual Fiesta in honor of Sr. Santo Niño.

The end of the school year is approaching for many of us. A lucky few might even be out already. But in order to reach the big payoff - summer vacation - we have to deal with the stresses that the last few weeks bring: end of the year exams, summer schools lists, parents who do not understand why their children are failing, rooms to be cleaned and items to be stored, accounts to be reconciled, and many more items that I'm sure I missed. And of course your personal life continues to move forward through all of this,

not to mention that we are in the midst of the Novena prayers. Heaven forbid you get sick at this time of year! For those of you who still have kids going to school, let's all pray so that you can make it to the summer without losing too many hairs.

Be that as it may, let us look forward with eagerness to our fiesta. With all the planning and meetings, I'm sure it will be another special occasion for all of us.

This year, we will see a ballroom dance competition to help raise funds for our Medical Mission Project. We will also be launching a major fund-raising efforts through a raffle of a car. Tickets are \$1.00 each and will be going on sale pretty soon.

I'm excited for the Hermano/Hermana Mayor, Alberto and Angeles Gonzalo and their families, Marilou and Tating Zosa, Jun & Elsa Gonzalo, Marybeth and Walter Ventocilla, and their circle of friends. They have put in so much of their time, talent, and energy to make our fiesta a success. Let's all join them as we celebrate this traditional event.

Today's Quote: "Plenty of people miss their share of happiness, not because they never found it, but because they didn't stop to enjoy it."

— William Feather, American writer (1889-1981)

IN THE NEWS...



- **Seminar for Non-profit Organizations** - Peter Caludac, current Auditor of An Taclobanon recently attended a 1-day seminar focused on non-profit and exempt organizations just like ours. Resource speakers from the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, State Board of Equalization and The EDD gave out the latest information. Peter says he came out from that very informative session with a deeper understanding about non-profit associations.
- **Car Raffle** - In its efforts to raise funds for the Medical Mission Project in Tacloban, Leyte, a 2007 2-door Mitsubishi Eclipse will be raffled off in November. Tickets go on sale starting May 20, 2006. The price of each ticket is \$1.00. See flyer for raffle rules and guidelines.
- **Ballroom Challenge** - Entries are now being accepted for this fun challenge. The contest will be one of the highlights during the fiesta celebration on June 24th. See attached flyer for rules and other details.
- **Nominations Now Ongoing** - One of the activities during the fiesta celebration will be the election of 16 board of directors. To help facilitate the process, the Nominations Committee is asking for nominations to be submitted now so these can be included in the pre-printed ballot. For any questions on how this process works, contact Susan Urbayan David.

Memo to all members:

Please remember that our fiesta celebration is coming up on Saturday, June 24th from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.



As in previous celebrations, this is a modified potluck where members, instead of having to prepare and bring various assigned food items, are asked to make a contribution instead.

In this regard, please note the following:

- ★ **\$50.00** - amount being requested from each family as your contribution to the potluck being requested. This essentially serves as your share of all the potluck items, not just one.
- ★ If paying in check, kindly make it payable to An Taclobanon Association. Please send your contribution to Baby Esperas Cui, Treasurer, at 35 West State Street, Pasadena, CA 91105.
- ★ Thanks, and looking forward to your attendance; may Sto. Niño bless us all.

- From the Committee

*From the
President's
ex-Files...*
Raify Lagado



Give Of Ourselves

A look back at a 'coach' who left us with a legacy of wisdom on how to live

Often I find myself re-reading a favorite book. I do so because I usually find things I missed the first time around. A good book is so rich in detail and insight that it's hard to take it all in at once. This may seem strange, but I find it's common for avid readers to return to a beloved book again and again.

Recently, I was reminded of one of my favorites, Mitch Albom's 1997 *Tuesdays with Morrie*. It's about Albom, a sportswriter, reconnected with Morrie Schwartz, his old college professor, who was dying slowly, from a debilitating illness. They get together on Tuesdays to talk about life, love, friendship, and death.

One of the most interesting discussions in the book has to do with the subject of money and success. This particular discussion happened on the eighth Tuesday that the "coach" (Schwartz) and the "player" (Albom) met to discuss life. The chapter starts with Albom holding up a newspaper headline with a quote from cable TV mogul Ted Turner about his inability to buy CBS. The headline was "I don't want my tombstone to read, 'I never owned a network.'"

Albom asks Morrie what he thought of the headline. "It's all part of the same problem, Mitch"; "We put our values in the wrong things. And it leads to very disillusioned lives." Morrie said that all of us have been brainwashed and he blames it on the fact that we are bombarded by images and words telling us, "Owning things is good. More money is good. More property is good. More commercialism is good. More is good. We repeat it – and have it repeated to us – over and over until nobody bothers to think otherwise. The average person is so fogged up by all this, he has no perspective on what's really important anymore.

"Wherever I went in my life, I met people wanting to gobble up something new. Gobble up a new car. Gobble up a new piece of property. Gobble up the latest toy. And then they wanted to tell you about it. 'Guess what I got? Guess what I got?'"

Schwartz said people he met were so enraptured by their toys because they were 'hungry for love that they were accepting substitutes. They were embracing material things and expecting a sort of hug back. You can't substitute material things for love or for gentleness or for tenderness or for a sense of comradeship. When you most need it - no matter how much of them you have - neither money nor power will give you the feeling you're looking for.

Some of us know people with plenty of money and power who are lonely only because they have isolated themselves from others. "There's a big confusion in this country over what we want versus what we need," he told Albom. "You need food, you want a chocolate sundae. You have to be honest with yourself. You don't need the latest sports car; you don't need the biggest house. The truth is you don't get satisfaction from those things. You know what really give you satisfaction?...Offering others what you have to give." In order to have a meaningful life.

Morrie told Albom, you need to "Devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning." And whatever you do, make sure you "do the kinds of things that come from the heart. When you do, you won't be dissatisfied, you won't be envious, you won't be longing for somebody else's things. On the contrary, you'll be overwhelmed with what comes back."

Albom's book was a phenomenal success, but looking around, I see people building houses with more space than they could ever possibly need, driving ridiculously expensive cars, living in gated communities and behind fences in an area with virtually no crime rate. Many people lack a common thread linking them to others around them. Tilting against this trend is tough. Those in voluntary, charitable organizations have an opportunity to do just that, by putting people and service ahead of profits. You can make a living while helping others. It's the most basic tenet of civilization, helping others.



Dates to Remember...

- May 20 @ 4:00 pm — 6th Novena at the residence of Dom & Belen Castillo and family
- May 27 @ 4:00 pm — 7th Novena at the residence of Lito & Susan Urbayan-David in Pomona
- May 29 Memorial Day Holiday
- June 4 **Sunday** — 8th Novena at the residence of Mariza & Eric Cordeta in Carson
3:00 p.m.— Mass, followed by Novena
- June 10 @ 4:00 pm— 9th Novena at the residence of Larry & Maria Cora Bantula-Abella in Diamond Bar
- June 14 Flag Day
- June 18 Father's Day
- June 21 Summer Solstice
- June 24 Sto. Niño Fiesta Celebration

☞ For more details and/or information on Novenas, visit our website at www.antaclobanon.com



To the Graduates of Class 2006!

An Taclobanon Association wants to congratulate you on what you've already accomplished, and wish you a successful and rewarding future. Our hopes and best wishes to all of you. Have faith in yourselves, have confidence in your abilities! Now, a few thoughts...

What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God.

Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude.

Things turn out best for people who make the best of the way things turn out.

TRY NOT TO BECOME A PERSON OF SUCCESS, BUT RATHER TRY TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL OF VALUE. THEN YOU WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.



Alberto Gabriente Gonzalo



Born on November 21, 1921 in Dagami, Leyte, his friends fondly call him Mano Eto. His parents were Macario Gonzalo and Elisa Gabriente. Mano Eto spent his childhood in his hometown of Dagami, finishing his elementary education from the Dagami Elementary School in 1936. He then enrolled in Leyte High School where he graduated in 1940. He spent 1940—1942 at the Leyte Normal School (College). In 1947 he went to study at the University of Sto. Thomas, where he majored in Social Sciences & History. In 1950, he earned his Master of Arts with academic units

Mano Eto's experiences are varied. Among his more memorable ones, they include:

- Joined World War II in Leyte Guerilla forces in Alang-Alang under Major Pavilona—1942-1944
- Captured by the Japanese in Tacloban City on an intelligence mission; imprisoned for 17 days
- Tortured by the Japanese Kempetai, naked and unconscious, then thrown to the cell where his cell mates thought he was dead. An hour later, he regained consciousness
- Liberation of 1944, was Secretary to the Administrator of U.S. War Shipping Administration Office
- Secretary to the Division Chief of Manila Post Office Telegraph Department
- Teacher, Colegio de San Juan de Letran - 1949
- Instructor, St. Paul's College (forerunner of DWU) - 1950-1981
- Registrar, Divine Word University - 1953-1981
- Immigrated to the U.S. in April 1981
- Worked in the data processing department of First Interstate Bank, Simi Valley, California 1981-1992
- Served as Secretary, An Taclobanon Association from 1995-1996 and 1997-1998

Angeles Sudario Callera Gonzalo



Born March 25, 1925 in Dagami, Leyte ★ Parents: Mariano Callera & Francisca Sudario

Education:

1940 Dagami Elementary School

1947 Leyte High School

1950 BSE, University of Sto. Thomas

Major in Home Economics, Minor in History

Divine Word University; earned academic units in Master of Arts in Education

Experiences:

- Joined Women's Auxiliary Services during the guerilla days of the Japanese occupation of Leyte
- Supervised handicraft and arts in mat weaving, basket and slipper making out of native materials
- Teacher, Burauen High School from 1950-1952
- Teacher, High School, St. Paul's College from 1952-1960
- College Instructor, Divine Word University from 1960 to 1981.
- Came to the U.S. on April 12, 1981
- Dietary Supervisor, Jewish Home for the Aging, Grancel Village, Reseda, CA 1981-1998

Alberto and Angeles met for the first time while students at the University of Sto. Thomas. Man Eto says that "Angeles' personality was what really attracted me to her." However, Angeles recalls she didn't like him at first. But "his dark complexion and good looks were too much to resist!" Out of this attraction and inability to resist, a lasting friendship developed, and soon blossomed into a meaningful relationship, culminating in marriage on April 24, 1952. Bishop Lino Gonzaga officiated the marriage ceremonies held at the Bishop's Palace in Palo, Leyte.

The union is blessed with 3 children: Marilou (married to Jose "Tating" Zosa); Maribeth, (married to Walter Ventocilla) and Albert Jr. (who is married to Elsa Tajarros). Eto and Angie are the grandparents of Melody Ann Ventocilla. A second grandchild, courtesy of Jun and Elsa is on the way.

To augment their salary, Angie undertook part-time business activities which included the auto calesa, agricultural, fishpond, poultry and retail market stall, and real estate business.

They are now on their retirement years, spending the best years of their togetherness in love and affection. Needless to say, An Taclobanon Association has been very fortunate all these years for this couples involvement in the affairs of the Association. Serving as this year's Hermano/Hermana Mayor is a feather in their cap.

Ballroom Challenge

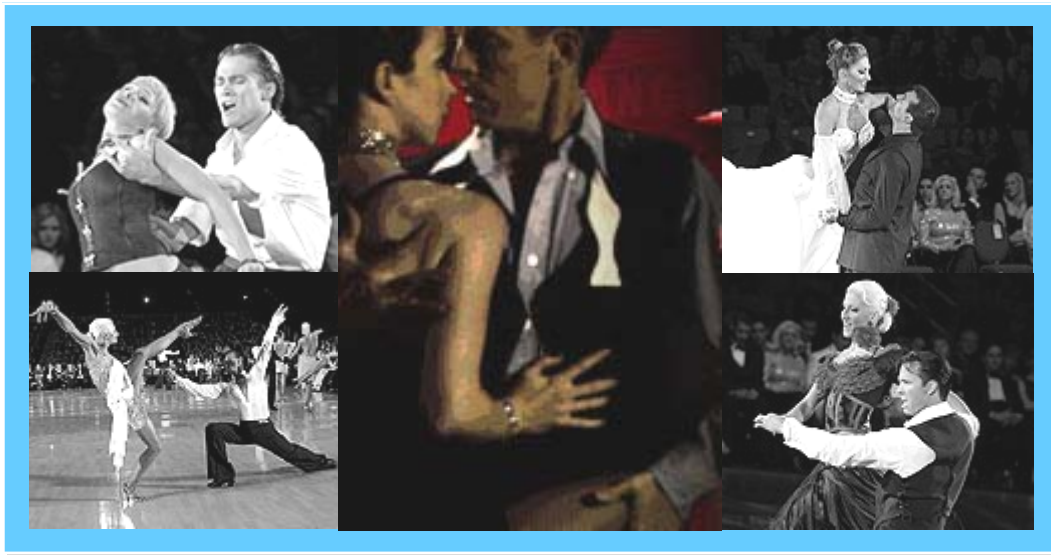
at the Fiesta Celebration - June 24, 2006*
A Fund Raising Event of An Taclobanon Association

We're looking for couples who enjoy dancing and are not too shy in showing their skills. If you have done little or no ballroom dancing, or whether you are an advanced dancer, we want your help! An Taclobanon is raising funds in order to continue with its Medical Mission Project. We believe that one of the ways this can be achieved is through a ballroom type dance friendly competition. Sort of like hitting two birds with one stone. Your participation will be greatly appreciated. Plus you will be making a contribution towards helping our indigent brothers and sisters in Tacloban.

So what are you waiting for? Get up and boogie and help a good cause!

Guidelines:

1. Entry is limited. Only the first 10 couples will be accepted (first come, first served). Please submit your entry via email to Marilougz888@earthlink.net
2. At least one of the couples must be a Taclobanon (not necessarily a member).
3. Registration Fee is \$25.00 per couple (pre-paid); \$30.00 at the door, payable in cash or check made to An Taclobanon Association of So. California.
4. To qualify, all entrants will dance the Tango. This will be held in the afternoon, at 2:00 pm.
5. Out of the initial 10 couples, 5 finalists will be chosen based on amount of funds collected.
6. In the evening, the 5 finalists will have the option to dance any style of their choice.
7. An Taclobanon will appoint a panel of judges who will then decide The Best Dancers, the 2nd best dancers, etc. Overall winners will be based on the amount of funds generated and/or collected.



The Santo Nino Fiesta will be held on June 24, 2006 at the St. Mel Parish Michael O'Connor Activity Center at 20870 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91364 ★ Festivities begin at 11:00 a.m.

For details and/or additional information, please contact:

Marilou Gonzalo-Zosa

At Marilougz888@earthlink.net

Or by telephone **(818) 307-0858**



Proceeds to benefit the
**MEDICAL MISSION
Project - 2008**



An Taclobanon

Association of So. California

Proudly announces

KEEP THE DRIVE ALIVE

A fund raising event to support

THE 2008 MEDICAL MISSION PROJECT TO TACLOBAN, LEYTE

To benefit the indigents
In Tacloban, Leyte through

TACLOBAN CITY HOSPITAL

LEYTE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL

Marc Castro

Project Chairman
(818) 640-6381

marcelito_castro@hotmail.com

**Tickets on
sale now**

You may purchase tickets from any of the Executive Officers, the Board of Directors or Marc Castro and any member of the Raffle Committee.

You could be the next winner* of a brand-new 2007 Mitsubishi Eclipse. Purchase your ticket for a chance to win and support the 2008 Medical Mission Project for Tacloban, Leyte.

You could be the next winner* of a brand-new 2007 Mitsubishi Eclipse. Purchase your ticket for a chance to win and support the 2008 Medical Mission Project for Tacloban, Leyte.

2007 Eclipse*

The look is different, because the car is different. The Eclipse is the physical embodiment of a lifestyle that demands form and function, beauty and technology. And with an available 263-horsepower, 3.8-liter MIVEC V6, Rockford Fosgate® audio and one of the most distinctive shapes on the road, it delivers. The 2007 Eclipse. It anticipates desires and exceeds expectations.

*Vehicles shown with accessories. Rockford Fosgate® audio system is available equipment on certain coupe models. Not all features standard on all Eclipse models. Please see dealer for details.



Proceeds from this fund raising will go towards our 2008 Medical Mission Project Tacloban, Leyte. Raffle tickets go on sale starting on May 1, 2006. One winning ticket* will be drawn on Saturday, November 18, 2006 during the An Taclobanon Induction Ceremonies dinner/dance event.

Support An Taclobanon Association of So. California's fund raising drive and win this brand-new Eclipse GS.

All Eclipse models are built to thrill. Sophisticated and shapely, with technologically advanced engineering. No matter which model you choose, the Eclipse is the kind of sports coupe that really keeps the thrills coming.

Comes standard with: a 2.4-liter **MIVEC engine**, a choice of five-speed manual or Sportronic® automatic transmission, a 140-watt (max.) Mitsubishi CD/MP3-compatible audio system with six speakers, 17-inch five-spoke alloy wheels, an anti-theft alarm system, auto-off halogen headlamps, power windows/locks/mirrors, air-conditioning, a split fold-down rear seat, two 12-volt accessory outlets, anti-lock brakes, an integrated

Contest Rules/Guidelines:

1. Each ticket will cost \$1.00. More than one person may share in the raffle ticket purchase. Title to the property shall be in the name on the Raffle ticket stub and non-transferable or assignable.
2. A person or entity may purchase any number of tickets in cash only. No more than 40,000 tickets will be sold.
3. Individual purchasers of raffle tickets must be 18 years of age or older.
4. There will be cash prizes to the individual or entity selling the most number of tickets
 - 1st prize: \$1,000.00
 - 2nd prize: \$600.00
 - 3rd prize \$300.00
5. Each numbered purchased raffle ticket stub will be placed in the Raffle ticket drum. The seller of the winning ticket stub shall be entitled to a \$100.00 cash prize
6. An Taclobanon shall appoint a single individual who will be responsible for maintaining control and security of all of the Raffle ticket stubs. Such individual shall, by public certification under oath at the time of the drawing, certify that all Raffle tickets purchased have their stub in the container of stubs where the winning Raffle ticket will be drawn.
7. The public drawing will be held on November 18, 2006 at the Induction Ceremonies dinner/dance event. If a sufficient number of tickets have not been sold by October 31, 2006, an alternate drawing date will be on **June 16, 2007**.
8. If for any reason the raffle is canceled, An Taclobanon must reimburse each Raffle ticket purchaser within sixty (60) days of the Raffle cancellation date (alternative date) but may retain up to 1% of the ticket price for administrative costs.
9. The Raffle is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Winner will assume all fees including licensing and registration.
10. Winner need not be present during the drawing. Actual color of vehicle may vary.
11. The Raffle winner shall take the vehicle in 'as is' condition, and cannot exchange the prize for cash value; no prize substitution allowed.
12. The purchase of raffle tickets does not qualify as tax-deductible charitable contribution.
13. Proceeds of the Raffle are for the benefit of the Tacloban Leyte Medical Mission and other charitable projects of An Taclobanon Association of Southern California.