



Filipino Seniors of Mississauga Bulletin – Winter Edition

A Message from our President



President's Message

Greetings to all members of our beloved FSM association. As you are all aware, the end of my Presidency is coming to an end, so allow me to send my last message to all of you. It has been a great pleasure for me to be your leader and an honour bestowed on my part. The responsibilities and duties are not to be taken for granted as there is so much to do and accomplish. There were high points and low points, but we all weathered through it.

There were many changes and new beginnings accomplished in the last two years. First, our FSM membership almost doubled as our members recruited friends and family to join. We are one of the most active Filipino Association in the GTA. Second, we were able to procure the spacious and most sought-after Room 1 at the main building of the MVCC for our Wednesday and Saturday drop-ins. The smaller room in the Gymnasium building was bursting with our higher Saturday attendance. Third, our Public Relation Officers, Mila Santos and Rudy Alcasid started publishing the FSM Bulletin and was emailed to all members, to be enjoyed in Canada and around the world. Members enjoyed all the photos, stories, trivia, and announcements written thereof.

The two years went by so fast. We had been very busy with all the hustle and bustle of the numerous activities. We had the Induction of Officers on May 14, 2022 as our first big event, with the Honourable Philippine Consul General Orantes Castro, as our guest speaker. We went for day trips to the Casino, to St. Jacob's Country, Muskoka Boat Cruise, and Cranberry Farm. Birthdays and special holidays were celebrated. Foremost of our celebration was the FSM 40th Anniversary. The special Rigodon de Honour dance was presented. Our Filipina Heritage Member of the Parliament of Canada was our Guest of Honour, the Honourable Rechie Valdez.

The last two years have been a blast, maybe the FSM best of times. There was never a dull moment. So many activities in 2023 spent with friends and family to create memories for a lifetime! So, I want to say goodbye, but I will still be around. I wish our incoming President Rene Sevilla all the best and good luck. You have my support all the way!

My heartfelt prayers for a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New year to All.

Peter Santos

President, Filipino Seniors of Mississauga



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

The Philippines celebrates Christmas as the best in the whole world. It is known as the country that celebrates the longest. It starts as early as September and ends the first Sunday of the New Year, which is called the Feast of the Three Kings. The Philippines also have customs and traditions that we can say is uniquely ours. These customs are deeply rooted and influenced by the Roman Catholic Church.

Here are the most common customs and traditions.

1. Iconic Belen...the Nativity Scene. It shows the image of the Holy Family and is a standard decor in homes and in front of churches. Filipinos call it Belen, short of Bethlehem.



2. Noche Buena...Holy Night... Refers to the Christmas Eve Feast on December 24, after coming home from the midnight mass.



3. Simbang Gabi...it is a series of very early morning masses for 9 days, that starts on December 16 and ends on Christmas Eve. After the mass, church goers enjoys snacks of Arrozcaldo, puto, puto Bong Bong.



4. Misa de Gallo ...the Christmas Eve Mass, the ninth of the Simbang Gabi and marks the official start of Christmas. This mass usually includes the re-enactment of the Birth of Jesus Christ. It is believed that if you attend all the 9 Simbang Gabi, your wishes and prayers will come true.
5. Parol or Christmas lantern...it is a five pointed star shaped, made of bamboo sticks and covered with bright coloured paper with a candle inside. It symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem where Jesus was born. It is also hung in front of homes to light the way for early morning church goers.



6. Namamasko or Christmas carollers...young children go from house to house singing Christmas carols to the homeowners. In return, they are given money as Pamasko which is then divided among themselves.
7. Pamasko or Aguinaldo...young children go visit their godfathers and godmothers to get their gifts of money or clothes and candies.
8. Media Noche...a tradition where people stay awake to greet each other during the first few seconds of the new year . It is then followed by a sumptuous feast. People also set off fireworks that will drive evil spirits away and usher in a prosperous new year.
9. Fiesta ng Tatlong Hari...Feast of the Three Kings....the first Sunday of the new year is celebrated as the day when the 3 kings visited the newborn Jesus. Special mass is celebrated and a sumptuous feast follows after the mass.





Muskoka Day Trip, Saturday, September 23

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga started early in the morning as the drive to Muskoka was a little bit far. It was a sunny morning, temperature was warm and the energy of 54 excited day trippers was exhilarating. By the looks of some of the day trippers, it looked like a Barbie Day. So many were dressed in pink suits, tops, hats, pants and all. What a sight to behold!!!



Our first stop was at the Lavender Shoppe in the beautiful town of Gravenhurst. Scents of lavender wafted in the air and in the lavender shop everything lavender are for sale...soaps, lotion, tea, jelly wine. Many of us were enticed to buy as a souvenir or bought a bottle of lavender lotion to freshen up our tired and wrinkly skin.



A Muskoka boat cruise by Lake Joseph in Port Carling was our next stop. The lake was calm and blue, the scenery was beautiful, though we were a week or two early for the changing of the leaves into autumn colours of bright red, orange, and gold. We saw many multimillion-dollar cottages. Some cottages are owned by Hollywood movie stars, but the captain of the boat informed us that they were long gone back to their own homes.





We drove around the area for a while to reach the designated Fish and Chips restaurant, where we had lunch, located in the town of Bracebridge. The servings were huge and was enough to satisfy our hunger pangs after all the walking we had done so far.



Our last stop was in the town of Bala, Ontario. Well known for their cranberries and with much anticipation, we reached our destination. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, we were not able to go wade and see the cranberry bogs. So, looking from afar, we decided the Cranberry shop is much better to explore. We bought fresh and dried cranberries, cranberry wine, jelly, sauce etc. Us Seniors loves to shop.... wherever and when ever the opportunity comes.



The ride home was smooth riding. Everyone was tired and half asleep in the bus. It was a two hour ride home. At the end of the day, we were happy to explore new places and spent the day with our friends of the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga.



Filipino Seniors of Mississauga 41st Anniversary Party

Time went so fast. It feels like it was only yesterday that we celebrated our FSM 40th Anniversary with a big and glorious party at the Delta Hotel. So, this time we decided to have the 41st Anniversary at our home room at MVCC, with just the members of FSM. The celebration took place October 14, 2023 and it was a 41st Anniversary/Thanksgiving Party. In conforming with some traditional North American Thanksgiving foods, we had ham, baked salmon, roasted vegetables, corn, and roast chicken.

Under the artistic ability of Jess and Rudy Alcasid, Room I at MVCC was fully decorated and beautiful with fall colours and our FSM logo in full display. Members were asked to come in their colourful shirts, tops, dresses and trousers. It was a sight to behold. We had dancing, singing and games. Everyone had a good time, and we were all thankful, as Seniors, we were able to come together and celebrate all our blessings and our well lived lives.







FSM Halloween Party

Spooky, Spooky, Spooky! Saturday, October 28, 2023, Room 1, MVCC was full of witches, devils, goblins, ghosts, deathly masked people, Barbies, a rabbi and a Chinese Emperor. It was the Halloween Party of FSM. The place was adorned with ghostly images, black and crawly spiders, black scary devil's masks, etc. Members came in their weird spooky costumes that you are unable to recognize them anymore. All were in the party mood and wanted to show their attire. And the winners of all the fanfare were the Devils, Chit Atienza...the female devil and Jess Paladio, the male devil 🐼🐼🐼🐼









FSM Christmas Monetary Drive for the Food Banks of Mississauga

Brainchild of FSM President Peter Santos and his wife Mila, FSM started their seasonal monetary collection for the Food Banks of Mississauga last year in 2022. The idea was started during the 40th FSM Anniversary Dinner Dance, but because of the overruns that we incurred during that event, there was not enough money for the food bank. So, during the Christmas Party in 2022, a voluntary collection for Food Banks Mississauga was done with a total amount collect of \$255.00. Mayor Bonnie Crombie attended the Christmas Party on December 15, 2022 and our collection was directly given to her.



Then, on October 14, 2023, during our 41st Anniversary and Thanksgiving Party, there was a collection for the Food Banks Mississauga and a total amount of \$250.00 was raised. This was delivered by FSM President Peter Santos to the Food Bank Mississauga. The Officers of the Food Bank were so grateful for our donation, as there are so many people in our community who use the food bank.

Our latest Food Banks Mississauga Christmas Drive, during our FSM Christmas Party on Dec. 16, 2023, we collected an amazing \$706.00. The money was delivered to the Food Banks of Mississauga on December 19, 2023.

Food Banks Mississauga is so thankful for your donation. FYI a \$1.00 donation provides a full meal for one client. Our donations are going far to help fight food insecurity.

Both Peter and Mila cannot express how thankful they are for your donations and generosity, and hope that this outreach project will continue in the years to come.



Photos taken at the Food Banks Mississauga Warehouse.

In attendance: Sakaina Sumar-Ebrahim (Food Banks Officer), with Peter, Mila, Jo, Linda, Jo Mari, Jocay, Jess, Loreta, Chit, Rudy .



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in different Philippine languages



HOW TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon (*Tagalog*)
- Malipayong Pasko ug Bulahang Bag-ong Tuig (*Cebuano*)
- Malipajong Pasko ug Bulahang Bag-ong Tuig (*Boholano*)
- Maugmang Kapaskuhan asin Masaganang Ba-gong Taon (*Bicolano*)
- Malipayon nga Pascua kag Mahamungaya-on nga Bag-ong Tuig (*Hiligaynon/Ilonggo*)
- Naimbag a Pascua ken Naragsac nga Baro nga Tawen (*Ilocano*)
- Malugud Pascu at saca Masayang Bayung Banua (*Capampangan*)
- Maabig ya Pasko Maliket ya Balon Taon (*Pangasinense*)
- Maupay na Pasko ngan Mainuswagon na Bag-o nga Tuig (*Waray*)
- Malipayon nga Paskwa ag Mahigugmaon nga Bag-ong Dag-on (*Inakeanon*)
- Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo (*Chavacano-Caviteño*)
- Felices Pascua y Prospero Año Nuevo (*Chavacano-Zamboangueño*)
- Marayaw na Pasko aw Bag-ong Tuig (*Dibabawon*)
- Malipayon nga Paskwa kag Masadya nga Bag-ong Tuig (*Inonhan*)
- Mepiya Pagasaulog aw Maontong Kaling Omay (*Manobo*)
- Madyaw na Pasko aw malipayong Bag-ong Tuig (*Mansaka*)
- Maligayang Pasko at Masayang Ba-yon Taon (*Sambal*)



In Memoriam

The Filipino Seniors of Mississauga extend our deepest sympathy on the loss of your loved ones. May they Rest in Peace and May God comfort you and your family in your time of sorrow. 🙏🙏🙏

Gloria Aniceto
Ruben Javier





Filipino Seniors Christmas Party – Saturday, December 16, 2023

The Filipino Seniors of Mississauga love to party and Saturday, December 16, 2023, was a very special day. The MVCC Room 1 was transformed into Christmas Land. Christmas flower centerpieces, Christmas wreaths, Christmas decors and Christmas poinsettias adorned the hall. FSM was ready to party. Members came in full regalia of Christmas attire and outfits. Ugly sweaters, Christmas sweatshirts and tops, fancy Christmas dresses, the place was brimming in a sea of red and green. The party started with a group carol singing led by Clem. The Christmas message of the Celebration of the birth of Jesus our Savior, was eloquently delivered by FSM President Peter Santos. Christmas prayers and grace was led by Vangie.



The merriment and games and Christmas parade were enjoyed by everybody. Prizes were given out to the winners with much delight. We had more than enough prizes...thanks to all who gave money and gifts. The Christmas Attire winners...Lilia, Cecile, Vangie, Rudy, Brenda, Chit







FSM Executive Council, Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons

Please congratulate our incoming Officers, Chairpersons and Board of Directors:

Executive Council

- President - Rene Sevilla
- Vice President - Jo Mari Azarraga
- 2nd Vice President - Chit Romano
- Secretary - Charity Lim
- Assistant Secretary - Valerie Ferrer
- Treasurer - Sonny Autea
- Assistant Treasurer - May Balbastro
- Auditor - Cesar Cruz
- Assistant Auditor - Minda Sayoc
- Public Relations Officers - Lerma Valdez, Rodel Meier
- Special Service Officer - Archie Ayala
- Property Custodian - Rudy Romano

Committee Chairperson

- Program, Activities, Ways and Means - Mila Santos
- Membership Committee - Ginny Sevilla, Jocay Dawang, Espie Pantaleon
- Sunshine Committee - Jo Azarraga, Gloria Dy
- Social Media - Lerma Valdez
- Function Support, Logistic Services - Jess Paladio, Merle Rivera

Board of Directors

- Peter Santos
- Ben Santos
- Mila Santos
- Diego Linan
- Merle Rivera
- William Dy
- Jess Paladio
- Luz Aguilar



Funny Christmas Jokes

- How do sheep say Merry Christmas to each other? Fleece Navidad.
- What is every parent's favorite Christmas song? Silent Night!
- How did Joseph and Mary know how heavy baby Jesus was at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.
- What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!
- Why did the scarecrow get a big Christmas bonus? Because he was outstanding in his field.
- What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas? "I'll never part with it!"
- Elves use what kind of money? Jingle bills.
- What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!
- What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.
- What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite.
- What do you call Santa when he stops moving? Santa Pause.
- What do snowmen eat for dessert? Ice crispies.
- How do you help someone who has lost their Christmas spirit? Nurse them back to elf.
- What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? A cookie sheet!





A Message from Your Public Relations Officers

By Mila Santos and Rudy Alcasid



Hello everyone, it has been a fun and eventful 2 years for the Filipino Seniors of Mississauga! Thank you to everyone who participated in the dancing, singing, cooking, volunteering, donating, driving, going on trips, eating, hopping on a bus, hopping off a bus, drinking coffee, designing dresses, making music, playing music, partying, taking photos, and most of all, having fun! It made the articles for the bulletins easy to write! We hope you enjoyed the newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together!





We would also like to thank Peter and Mila's son Paul, and his wife Nicole, for their help and assistance over the past 2 years with the drafting, designing, and editing of the newsletter.



At this time, we wanted to let you all know that we (Mila and Rudy) will be stepping down as your Public Relations Officers and will be handing the baton over to our new Public Relations Officers of the FSM. We had front row seats to watch the most active Filipino Seniors Association in the GTA and we are excited to see what the future will bring for the FSM!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



THANKS FOR
the Memories



Filipino Seniors of Mississauga