

# Pamana III



The Bayanihan Legacy of the  
Filipino Community of Seattle  
2000-2009



Cover art detail from:  
*PERLAS NG SILANGANAN FIESTA*  
*Celebrating the Pearl of the Orient*  
*The Filipino American Story*  
*Intaglio mural by Weng Gavino*



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*Celebrating the Pearl of the Orient*

*The Filipino American Story*

*Intaglio mural by Weng Gavino.*

*15 panels, 5' high x 37.5' long*

*Installed at the Filipino Community Center*

*5740 Martin Luther King Jr. Way South*

*Seattle Washington 98118*

# President's Message:

**Mabuhay! Welcome!**

I am pleased to share with you Pamana III depicting the legacy, the “pamana” of the non-profit Filipino Community of Seattle (FCS) agency and the Filipino American communities in the Puget Sound area of Washington State, USA. This is the third book in the Pamana series, covering a ten year period from 2000 to 2009.

Pamana III takes us beyond the FCS into the Puget Sound area and integrates the work of Filipino American contemporary artists in telling our community building – bayanihan story.

As President of the FCS, I am proud of our community leaders and volunteers who used their time, talent and treasure to help realize our vision of “...empowered community of global citizens...” and manifest our mission to “promote Filipino American ethnic pride, diversity, unity and advocate for educational, socioeconomic, and political empowerment and

provide relevant and effective community programs and services.”

Enjoy our legacy, our stories and the many faces of our Filipino American community. Share it with others. Appreciate the rich lives, the accomplishments, the contributions and the challenges we Filipino Americans face. We have done our best to capture a snapshot of our legacy and our history for posterity.

My deep gratitude to the Pamana III Project Team, Project Chair Major Urbano Quijance, Editor-in-Chief Bert Caoili, Associate Editor for Copy and Book Maria Batayola, the writers, contributors, researchers, graphic designers, participants and supporters of this project. This project is funded in part by a Neighborhood Matching Fund award of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. The development and publication of Pamana III was truly a collaborative grass roots-driven community building celebration effort. My special thanks to Major (Ret.) Quijance. Affectionately called “Tata”

meaning elder, he has been the backbone of all Pamana books having served as the History Chair for Pamana I (1935 to 1986) and the Project Chair for Pamana II (1987 to 1999).

This year, 2010, the non-profit Filipino Community of Seattle celebrates its 75th anniversary. May we continue to serve with excellence and vigor towards the common good!

Sincerely,

*Alma B. Kern*

Alma Quintans Kern  
August 30, 2010  
FCS President



# Pamana Book Series Chair:

**As with the first** and second PAMANA book, I am deeply touched by the privilege afforded me by past and present administrations of the Filipino Community of Seattle (FCS) to serve as Chairman of a worthy project that documents the past and addresses the future.

The youth and community advocates of tomorrow will want to know how the FCS began and how the growing community and the intervening years spawned so much sacrifice, dedication and hard work to build an enduring legacy so that generations ahead will not forget.

With God’s blessings, I have been afforded a long, happy and fruitful life. And I consider being Chairman of the PAMANA book series both a crowning achievement and a humble contribution. In this regard, I wish to thank all of

the community leaders, organizations, families, individuals, businesses and supporters who have given the project their unselfish assistance. To the project’s many committees, researchers, workers and hard working contributors, I express my heartfelt gratitude. The job has been more enjoyable because of the inspiration and team spirit displayed by all. I can never thank you all enough. It has truly been a privilege for me to lead the work in all of the three editions of the book series.

I personally thank my team: Publisher Alma Kern, Editor-in-Chief Bert Caoili, Associate Editor for Copy and Book Maria Batayola, Master Proofreader Romy Ramos, Graphic Designer Bill Johnson, Graphic Layout Rey Lagunero and Rolly Polintan, team support Fannie Sumaoang and my Revenue and ResearchTeam members Fely Belleza, Efren Belleza, Carmen de Guzman, Vilma Mendoza, Virgie Palisoc, Lydia Palma and Myrna Victoriano.

PAMANA III is a culmination of a project that will mark for Filipino-Americans in this part of Washington State the celebration of seventy-five years of the existence of a community organization that we all collectively own. I am very proud and honored to be part of it.

*Urbano Quijance*

Urbano Quijance  
Major, U. S. Army Retired  
Overall Chairman,  
PAMANA III Committees  
Seattle, Washington  
August 30, 2010





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# The Sociopolitical Global and Local Context



**Foreword:**  
To fully appreciate Filipino Americans, one needs to have an understanding of how they came here, what factors intensified the Filipino global diaspora and what challenges they are facing here in America. Dr. Dorothy Cordova, Professor Vince Rafael and Professor Rick Bonus share with us their vast knowledge and perspectives in this area.

**THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY:**  
Long ago and to this day, diverse peoples live in the lush and rich Philippine archipelago, the Pearl of the Orient, a string of 7,100 islands. With 171 living languages, distinct cultures thrive from the mountain tribes of Luzon up north, to the central islands of the Visayas, to the Islamic people of the southern island of Mindanao, all exuding the values of “bayanihan” community building, creativity and joy. With a strong work ethic and the trusty “carabao” water buffalo by his and her side, anything is possible...



<p>meant to bring us together. Our lives are, indeed, more complex and interwoven as they are more rich and dangerous at the same time.</p> <p>When we extend this thinking of nations linked by global capitalism, we consequently have reason to imagine how our local and foreign labors are connected with the labors of other racial and ethnic groups here and elsewhere. In these senses, we will then be able to promote the advocacies that previous generations have already started in the name of anti-labor exploitation and anti-racism. Many people will observe how race in relation to labor continues to be a primary distinguishing marker of social identity for Filipinos in America and the site for generating a politics of struggle against racism and other forms of oppression.</p> <p><b>The Struggle for Value and Recognition</b></p> <p>In Seattle and its outlying communities alone, we have a stunning list of Filipino individuals and groups who are active in state and local politics that advocate for the interests of workers of all kinds, veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, women and children who are trafficked, immigrant rights and victims of domestic abuse. We have a</p>	<p>Filipino community center whose active participants nurture our elderly, keep our traditional cultures alive, bridge ties with our youth and keep us together through networks of support. We have business-minded people who are engaged with commercial interactions that benefit and sustain Filipino communities here and abroad. We have educators from all levels and kinds of schooling who promote bilingual education, teacher training in Filipino history and</p> 	<p>to preserve and value our heritage as Filipinos and Americans. We have artists and cultural workers in the hundreds who use culture as a site of empowerment and engagement with dynamic forms of representation and recognition. We also have grassroots organizations that ally with similar groups in the homeland to organize and coordinate efforts against political, military and corporate disenfranchisement and environmental destruction. And we have countless native,</p> <p>immigrant, professional, regional, provincial, city, religious, sports, queer and youth associations which perform valiantly and selflessly the work of collective advocacy, support and nourishment.</p>	<p><b>Linked by Blood and Commonalities</b></p> <p>Filipinos as members of collectives are able to use their privilege on account of their First World – developed world presence to create and sustain solidarities with each other and with other groups. We identify as and ally with Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Chicanos and Chicanas, Latinas and Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans and European Americans because we are linked together by blood and by the commonalities of our struggles, our desires, our passions and our commitments to social justice. Given all of these histories and contemporary realities, our stories as U.S. Filipinos have become so much more than the typical stories of immigrant assimilation and integration. We have stories that narrate in so much more fascinating ways, our locations in the larger histories of labor, our experiences of struggle, resistance and resiliency, and our lives here in America allow our identities and communities to continue to be reinterpreted, complicated, and transformed. 🇵🇭</p>
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# The History of the Non-Profit Filipino Community of Seattle



**Foreword:**  
*The history of the Filipino American community of Seattle reflects the ongoing values of “bayanihan” creating community and providing mutual assistance wherever they are, creating connections with “kababayans” fellow Filipinos and “sama-sama” togetherness. The following chapters tell the story of mutual assistance, community building and creating a home, a center where all can gather.*

**THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY, CONTINUED:**  
*Conquered by the Spanish, then occupied by the United States of America, Uncle Sam beckoned Filipinos to perform the back breaking work of helping turn the indomitable wheel of economic progress. Coming to the Pacific Northwest as scholars, farm hands, Alaska cannery workers, military, laborers and professionals, Filipinos benefited their new community and created better lives for their families through higher education and sheer hard work...*



website under the direction of Website Master and media relations specialist Ning Rogge. At this writing, the FCS website, fcseattle.org boasts of more than 185,000 hits after being on the Internet for six months.

So here we are, at the eve of the 75th anniversary, as dynamic and as relevant to Filipinos and Filipino Americans alike, just as it was in 1935 when it was established. The commit-



ment and dedication of our elders has brought us to where we are. FCS is truly the premier organization for, by, and of Filipino Americans in the Pacific Northwest.

Mabuhay ang Filipino! Salamat sa ating mga nakaraang liders at sa ating mga supporters, past and present. 🇵🇭

**MAY THE SARIMANOK – THE HARBINGER OF SUCCESS, BE WITH THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY OF SEATTLE AS IT PURSUES DREAMS IN BAYANIHAN STYLE AND HUMILITY. KULINTANG AND SARIMANOK ARTIFACTS FROM THE FCS COLLECTION DONATED BY JOHN & ALELI HOWELL. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SONCO. ►**



# The Filipino American Contributions in the Puget Sound Area



**Foreword:**  
*Filipino Americans have been in the Puget Sound area for a long time. They continue to express their values of community, creativity, fairness and entrepreneurship. Learn about their contributions and the challenges they faced in various facets of life. These articles are merely snapshots. They are by no means comprehensive.*

**THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY, CONTINUED:**  
*With a strong spiritual foundation, Filipinos came with open hearts and minds to manifest their dreams. Presented to the Northwest by the ideal Filipina woman Maria Clara clad in the national flag, her dress depicts their “pag-katao”, their character: the color blue for loyalty and red for courage; the sun for freedom and independence with its eight rays representing the eight regions that toppled Spanish tyranny; and the three stars representing the unified Philippine islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao...*



<p><i>Philippines will continue. The Philippine diaspora was created in an environment of global economic disparities exacerbated by free trade agreements. These conditions on top of the deep Philippine economic disparity from Spanish colonization, the loss of access to the US military economic opportunities, and tight immigration quotas, leave Filipinos and Filipinas vulnerable to the mail order bride industry and human trafficking in all of its various forms.</i></p> <p><i>The question then becomes what can we do about it as Filipino Americans? Ms. Catague and Rep. Veloria call for people to educate themselves and others about the push and pull factors of human trafficking, work with law enforcement to enforce HB 1175, advocate for stronger laws and enforcement, volunteer time to address said issues and campaign for more research and services funding, demand fair trade policies and donate time and money.</i></p>			
	<p><b>KEEP THE LIGHT ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SAFETY CENTER. ►</b></p>		

# An Abundance of Bayanihan and Support



**Foreword:**  
*Somehow Filipinos are able to sense other Filipinos anywhere in the world. A shy smile, a soft question of “Where are you from?” then “What is your name?” is enough to start a conversation towards friendship, mutual assistance and bayanihan – community building.*

**THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY, CONTINUED:**  
*Many Filipinos adopted the Pacific Northwest as their home. They continue to practice strong family values and “bayanihan” creating community to provide mutual assistance. They create, recreate and sustain connections with “kababayans” fellow Filipinos to bring about “sama-sama” togetherness. The Filipino American elders of greater Seattle in their wisdom bought and paid for the Filipino Community Center where all can gather and celebrate special events like the traditional “Fiestas” across the Philippines. Today, it stands as a beacon of light for all to come...*





# G Gratitude



**Foreword:**  
*Filipino Americans are helpful and generous. The attitude of “may paraan” – there is a way was consistently present, paving the way for the publication of this Pamana III book.*

*THE FILIPINO AMERICAN STORY, CONTINUED:*  
*Always looking for a better future, Filipinos bring their full selves to manifest their dreams. They have an inherent belief that there is always a way “may paraan.” Though ultimately, whatever happens is fate “bahala na.” Reaching out to a larger world, Filipino Americans grab the brass ring and hope that the “sarimanok”, the rooster harbinger of good fortune is at hand.*

*Narrative by Maria Batayola*

Olivia Zapata 2009



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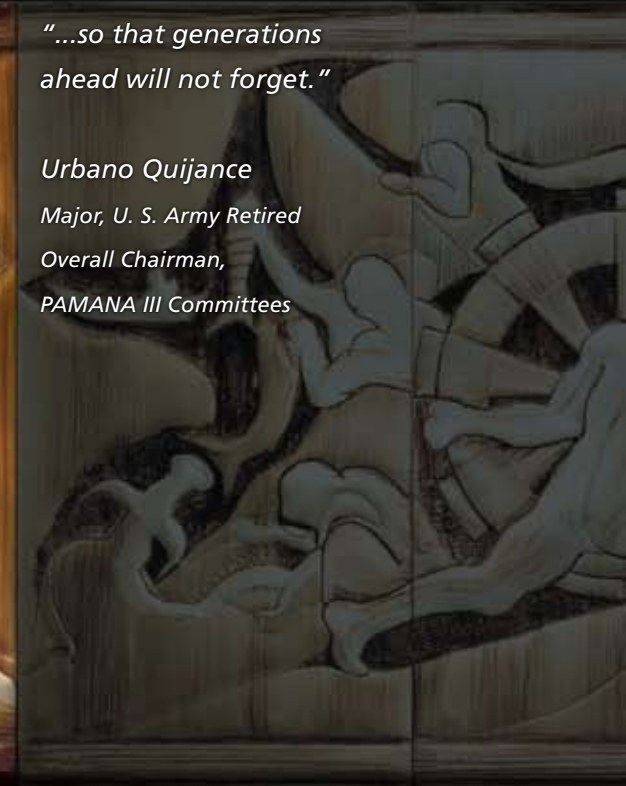
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