

# God bless Marikina and the Filipino people



*Hi!*  
**Society**

By **MONET LU**

LAST weekend, as everybody knows, will be sadly remembered as the weekend when the worst devastation hit the Philippines. One that it hasn't seen in years. The magnitude of this typhoon will forever change the lives of all of us, abroad or back home, the cry and agony of our *kababayans* seen and heard all over the world were just too hard to bear.

We leave it up to our faith in God to believe that even in this harrowing time, there is a purpose behind it. I can't do anything but cry, seeing our helpless fellow Filipinos, my brother and his family, my nieces and nephews in the middle of this turmoil. *Salamat sa Diyos at ligtas sila.* My hearts goes out to the victims, some I know personally. I'll just pray to God that our beloved country will suffer no more and for us, who are here in America, to be more vigilant in helping our *kababayans* in Marikina, the place where I was born.

*Alam ko na makakaya natin ang mga trials na ito.* To our mayor, Maridez Fernando and MMDA Bayani Fernando, our prayers are with you. May the Lord give you more energy and strength to serve and protect our Marikina and the people of the Philippines.

For donations, please contact the Philippine Red Cross-Marikina Chapter, Marikina Associations of Southern California or the Philippine Consulate near you. May God bless us all.

### Atlanta Summer

On a lighter note I would like to welcome to Los Angeles Vera Watkins, Meg Bhuiyan and Ara Armas, the lovely ladies of Atlanta. Last summer, on my first trip to Georgia with my friend Leila Aquino, I was so delighted to meet this warm and hospitable ladies. Meg, Leila's BFF, is Kapampangan and is doing very well in Atlanta. With her sheer determination and hardwork, she now owns and manages a successful medical office. Along with her hubby Sarwa, she became our tourist guide and showed us the beauty of Atlanta, from a laser light show in Stone Mountain to wine tasting in Chateau. Vera Watkins of Marena Group, manufacturer of body contouring and surgical garments, is a delight! She is bursting with energy and instantly became my dance partner. Girl, you got my groove back!

Spending our time in a luxury boat at the lake was such a treat. Vera has a wonderful soul that touches everyone around her.



The gang's all here



Leila and Meg



Ready to rumble



Vera Watkins with talented and good-looking Nashville pop star Ryan Gallagher

Love ya girl! The amiable Monika, for hosting us lovely dinner, my thanks to you. Many thanks also to the lovely couple Warner and Ara Armas and to the beautiful people of Atlanta. *Muchas Gracias, Merci, salamat!*

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The author is a Marikina-born, award-winning celebrity beauty stylist with his own chain of salons

across Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Ultimately, Monet is known as an all-around artist who produces sold-out fashion and awards shows as well as unforgettable marketing campaigns. Monet is also the founder of the revolutionary all-natural beauty products available at [www.skinbymonet.com](http://www.skinbymonet.com). He supports many humanitarian efforts to include projects in his native Marikina, The Bantay Bata Foundation, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit [www.monetsalon.com](http://www.monetsalon.com) for more information.



THE Filipiniana Dance Co of Las Vegas with choreographer Freddie Durano of the

Bayanihan Philippines Dance Co celebrated with Bikolanos and Calapenos last Sept 26.

At the "9th Annual Our Lady of Penafrancia Bikol Festival" at Lorenzi Park, they danced the "Subli" and "Bulaklakan" as a religious tribute to Our Lady of Penafrancia.

That evening, they graced the ABS-CBN President Charo Santos-Concio and Oriental Mindoro Vice-Governor Estee Ceron-Bisnar complimented their performance of Pandango sa Ilaw, Wasiwas and Tinikling at the "3rd Annual Association of Calapenos USA International" at The Orleans Hotel.

For information about the group, please contact:

Jacque De Joya 702-348-9745 [jacque@dejoyagriffith.com](mailto:jacque@dejoyagriffith.com) or Sally Balecha 702-596-3231 [sally\\_balecha@yahoo.com](mailto:sally_balecha@yahoo.com).



## CALLING ALL B.C.H.S. ALUMNI!

BCHS Batch 77-78 and the Binangonan Association of Southern California are cordially inviting all graduates of Binangonan Catholic High School in celebrating the 1st USA Grand Alumni Homecoming and the celebration of the Feast of Sta. Ursula on the 24th of October, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Buena Park, California. Special guest will be our beloved principal, Ms. Herminia C. Manez., who will help in the induction of officers headed by Rolando Celestial as the newly elected president.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Virginia F. Cerda at (626) 485-8838.



## V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL - BATCH 64 GRAND REUNION IN CERRITOS, CA.

Celebrate with us and relive our Golden memories. Early reservation is suggested.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

MARIQUITA ZARAGOZA - 562-897-2562

OLIVA MANALOTO - 562-506-6912  
email: [pinoysngr12@yahoo.com](mailto:pinoysngr12@yahoo.com).



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