



# The Mabuhay Star

Issue 2016

**Official Newsletter of Mabuhay, Inc., a Filipino-American Organization**  
**[HTTP://mabuhayinc-md.org/](http://mabuhayinc-md.org/)**

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## Message from the President

*By Liezl Argente*


Hello to all Mabuhay, Inc. members, families and friends! Welcome to the 2016 winter issue of The Mabuhay Star. We are delighted to share with you the various events, activities and achievements of Mabuhay, Inc. for year 2016. We hope that you will enjoy reading our newsletter.

I would like to thank you for the continued support to Mabuhay, Inc. and for allowing me to serve as your President for 4 ½ years. I am very delighted that I was able to share my time, talent and treasure to Mabuhay, Inc.

I also would like to extend my congratulations to all the newly elected officers of Mabuhay, Inc. 2017-2018.

On behalf of Mabuhay, Inc. and my family, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mabuhay!



**MABUHAY, INC.**  
(A Filipino-American Association)  
[www.mabuhayinc-md.org](http://www.mabuhayinc-md.org)  
[mabuhayinc1985@gmail.com](mailto:mabuhayinc1985@gmail.com)

**Pasko and Induction Ball**  
**Friday, December 2, 2016**  
**5:30 pm – 12:30 am**

*Sheraton College Park North Hotel*  
4095 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705

**Lunar Year Celebration***By: Irva Defensor Strobel*

On February 13, 2016, from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., on the Ground Level of Nordstrom Wing of the Fashion Center at Pentagon City, Mabuhay, Inc., the MICS students and parents participated in the Lunar New Year Celebration, together with other Asian countries. Each country presented costumes and traditions of its culture through music, dances and fashion shows.

We had wonderful live entertainment, including dragon parade, lion dance, the fan dance and tinikling performed by our MICS students. Our family was part of it. Eric, Precious, and I demonstrated our traditional clothes as part of a Filipino fashion show, together with Liezl Argente, Monette Roxas-Tharp, Irene Barnachea, Kathy Barnachea, Eliza Buan, Mariane De la Cuesta, Melissa De la Cuesta, Milo Lopez, Mylene Lopez, Manny Lopez and Hodie Quidlat.



## SENIORS' ACTIVITIES

### Golden Group Egg Hunt

By: Judy Cardano

The Mabuhay, Inc. Golden Group attended a Filipino Mass and Easter egg hunt at Holy Family Church in Woodmore, Maryland with President Liezl Argente and Judy Cardano (Senior Director). Attendees are Thelma and Willy



Fulgueras, Susan and Meynard Roxas, Tony and Alice Roxas, Ellie and Nino Foronda, Cecilia Licerio, Dalisay Lopez, Reggie Carbonilla, Marrietta and Roy Cobo and Emma Yang. Our Golden Group enjoyed the camaraderie of each one and the potluck food at the Filipino Mass and the egg hunt. Thank you to Monette Roxas Sharp and her committee for having us. Below is a group picture of the Golden Group attendees.

### Decoration of the Lenten Cross

By: Joy Arellano



On March 26, 2016, another annual event sponsored by Mabuhay Inc. for the senior members is the decoration of one of the 14 Stations of the Cross at the Holy Family Church in Woodmore, Mitchellville, MD. This is a significant religious practice in keeping with the Lenten spirit in the Philippines. It was another way of giving our Senior Citizens a taste of home away from home. The event culminated with a sumptuous lunch buffet at Osaka in Crofton, MD. Thank you to all who made this happen.



## Strategic Planning



2016 Strategic Planning Meeting with Mr. Marlan Maralit

Marlan Maralit, known for his organizing work with AFCSME and other community organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, conducted Mabuhay, Inc.'s first organizational development and strategic planning retreat last February 20, 2016 at the College Park Community Center.

Led by Mr. Maralit, members of the Board learned about aligning our group's strengths with opportunities in order to build a better organization. Breaking into smaller groups, we learned to set SMART goals for 2016-2017. These goals should be:

**Specific** – specifies a key result to be accomplished

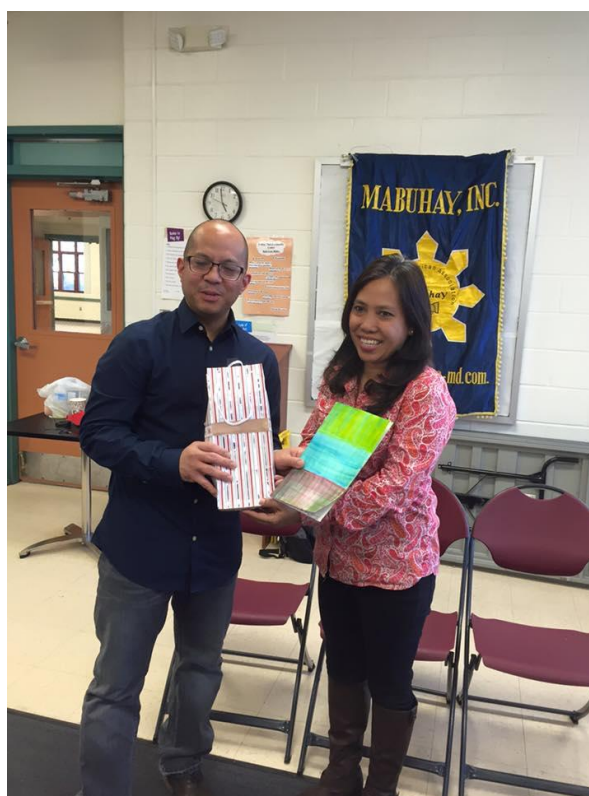
**Measurable** – is specific & as quantitative (verifiable) as possible

**Assignable** – specifies who will do it

**Realistic** – specifies what is doable

**Time-based** – specifies when the result can be achieved

We also focused on Teamwork and Project Planning and Execution



## CAMP MABUHAY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDSHIPS

By: Mencie Y. Hairston

We raised the roof!!

What an incredible weekend it was at Camp Mabuhay 2016! Campers traveled from DE, PA, NJ, MD and VA to attend the 2016 Mabuhay Fiesta and to celebrate the Camp's 20th year last August 12-14, 2016 at the Carriage House in Columbia, MD.

In keeping with the "Fiesta" theme, campers were divided into groups named after Filipino festivals: **Penabenga** (Baguio Flower Festival); **Ati-Atihan** (Feast of Santo Nino celebrated in Aklan); **T'Nalak** (Mindanao

weaving festival) and **the Carabao Festival** celebrated in Bulacan: Each group learned about their festival, learned a parade dance and created their costumes.



Led by Tita Liezl and the wonderful Titas and Titos from Mabuhay, Inc. the entire camp was treated to a "Kamayan" lunch which some people call a 'boodle fight'. The campers, their parents, the volunteers all had a great time! The Cooking Stations led by Tita Cynthia Van Kirk were busy with "taste testers"! (We are still waiting for our taste of Tita Monette's 'palitaw'.)

Dinner was catered with fiesta fare and lechon! Each group presented their festival to the cheer of the crowd. Entertainment was provided by The Mabuhay Dancers, the Mabuhay Harana Group and the camp's favorite dance group, Tito Boy Scouts!! It was such a fun-filled night.

Nobody wanted to leave!

The Camp Mabuhay Families are grateful to Mabuhay, Inc. for its financial support of the camp and to the volunteers (Ate, Kuya, Tito and Tita) who are the 'awesome sauce' that made the 20th year the best camp ever. See you all next year!

"We raise our voices and say, 'Mabuhay!'"



## MI Youth Group Projects

### School Bell Project at the Sto. Nino Elementary School, Leyte, Philippines

By: Kayla Argente

The Mabuhay, Inc. Youth raised enough money through their fundraising activities to give Santo Nino Elementary School in Tanauan, Leyte, Philippines, a new school bell. The school was heavily damaged by Typhoon Haiyan and for a long time, the school was using a gas container as their bell. Now, they hear a real bell sound at school time.

Only through the combined efforts of all the members of the Mabuhay, Inc. Youth, was this possible. The Mabuhay Inc. Youth would also like to thank Cris and June Cortez for generously matching the funds raised by the Mabuhay, Inc. Youth. We appreciate everyone's help and determination in this project to benefit the children of the Santo Nino Elementary School.

As reported by Cris, the bell is made of solid brass, sturdy and heavy; possibly weighing >25 lbs. It

creates a tone that is incredibly sounding...when this majestic bell is sound - the pulsing tone echoes Mabuhay...Mabuhay.... Mabuhay!



## 2016 Youth Bowling Fundraiser

By: Kevin Argente

The Youth Summer Bowling Fundraising was held on July 31, 2016, at AMF College Park Lanes.

Congratulations to Michael "Baboo" Buan and Nanding Roxas winners of the 2016 Youth Summer Bowling.

The proceeds of the fundraising went toward the youth projects and activities especially the Sto. Nino Friendship Bell project.

Thank you to all participants.





## Merienda Cena

By Lita Dialino

This event was co-chaired by the Director of Outreach Committee, Irva Defensor and the President, Liezl Argente. Judy Cardano, the Director of Senior Citizen Committee played an active role by bringing in the senior members who will benefit from all the information.

Merienda Cena was held at the Community Center of College Park MD on October 8, 2016. The committee invited two knowledgeable and well respected speakers to share information on topics that affect our families and the community.

The first speaker was Mr. Charles E. Kelly from Lakemont Memorial Gardens who shared information on planning for the inevitable by documenting your wishes and how to prepare matters and choosing the option that works best for you. Quite a few members heeded his advice to look into a program that suits their needs.



The second speaker was Marilou Tablang Jimenez, MD DFAPA. She is a very well-known and established Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist practicing for 30 years in MD. She shared a lot of important information on detection and treatment for different stages of depression.

The participants were very interactive during the question and answer session. They now have in their hands basic information how to make a difference in people's lives by sharing and applying the facts they just heard.

Lastly, Merienda was wonderful with all the good food served by the committee and some donation from the participants.



By Lita Dialino

### Archdiocesan Fiesta Celebration for San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod on September 25, 2016.



This is an annual celebration spearheaded by Fr. Pete Literal whose aim is to strengthen the unity and harmony of Filipinos and to manifest the faith of families as we thank the Lord for blessings bestowed upon us. I Care Apostolate, Mabuhay, Inc. and BLD ME9 got together to show the God given talents they have. The talent of being part of the Grand Filipino Chorale directed by Dr. Robert Bagtas and the talent of showing the art of dancing, choreographed by Liezl Argente were wowed by the audience. We were featured in the Catholic Review newspaper.

This was followed by the Salo-Salo with the desire to promote hospitality whenever we celebrate a Town Fiesta at home. The Potluck idea was so evident. Everyone can visit any tent that was set up. What a joyous event.

We pray that we can continue to be united in so many ways.





## Mabuhay, Inc. Culture School (MICS) Highlights



### Learning about our Filipino-American culture and Filipino Heritage @ MICS

*By: Moks Laureles*

Students from Mabuhay Inc. Culture School (MICS) have been learning about our Filipino-American culture through folk dances and songs, Filipino language and stories, arts and crafts, painting, and video sharing. College Park Community Center (CPCC) has been the center of all the wonderful learning and sharing of our rich Filipino-American heritage every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Moks Laureles has been facilitating the exchange and re-discovery of famous Filipino-Americans while Jet Guerrero has been sharing personal stories, Filipino and Filipino-American history. Mencie Hairston introduced painting for the arts and crafts sessions while Liezl Argente has been teaching Filipino folk dances like the Tinikling and Subli. MICS alumni and Mabuhay Inc. Youth President Kevin Argente has been exploring Filipino food and vocabulary through Filipino language lessons. Education and Culture Chair Austin Conaty helped all of us do our best jobs.

MICS students also performed folk dances at local venues and have rendered volunteer community services during recent holidays. During these events, our students get an opportunity to earn service hours required before high school graduation. The MICS school year starts in October and ends in May.

Please join us every Saturday afternoon with your children to help them know about their Filipino-American culture and appreciate their Filipino heritage. Filipino-Americans, ang galing-galing!



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

By: Marilen Manzo

On January 18, 2016, Mabuhay, Inc. Cultural School (MICS) teachers, students and their parents volunteered their time at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of



Service held at the North Bethesda Marriott Conference Center sponsored by the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. The MICS group joined other volunteers from different areas for two (2) hours of service, which include helping package 80,000 meals for food banks in the county, assembling care packages for children in foster care, making no sew blankets for hospice care, creating fleece blankets for the children of Syrian refugees and paracord bracelets for veterans.



## Cora Rice Event (Dec. 2015)

By Melissa Dela Cuesta

The MICS kids performed at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for the Cora Rice PG County Police event for less fortunate kids. This event is especially unique because Tita Lulu Alexander (who recently passed away) had close ties with the police department. The kids were provided with lunch and gifts that were packed the night before by volunteers, including Mabuhay members. We opened up the

entertainment portion of the event with the Sakuting, Fan Dance, and the Tinikling. The kids really enjoyed the performances and especially liked the music for the fan dance. They even started singing along with the music! Overall, it was a great experience and I cannot wait to do it again next year.



## National Cathedral FlowerMart Festival

By: Marilen Manzo

On May 7, 2016, MICS was invited to perform at the National Cathedral Flower Mart in Washington, DC. The Flower Mart is an annual outdoor festival held for garden enthusiasts and families in the Washington, DC

area. This festival attracts a lot of visitors because of the lovely floral exhibit put on display inside the cathedral made by foreign embassies showcasing the best flowers from their native countries. The Flower Mart festival also includes a variety of activities, entertainment and tours inside and outside the Cathedral grounds and food galore. Our very own MICS dancers were asked to participate in the entertainment portion where they did the Tinikling, the Fan Dance and the Stick Dance, all received with rousing success!





By: Austin Conaty

## MICS at Adoption Day 2016



On Saturday, November 5, 2016, Catholic Charities of Baltimore held their Annual Adoption Day Celebration. Mabuhay Inc. Culture School dancers, students and parents were there again. Liz Long of Catholic Charities had another great outing with craft tables where children made Chinese crafts, Korean crafts, and Filipino crafts.

It was great to meet families who had recently adopted children and to see the joy in their faces

as they made their crafts and then enjoyed the dance performances that took place. Mabuhay Inc. dancers were the first to perform as they dance the Filipino hat dance called Subli. That was followed by the crowd favorite dance the Tinikling Dance. Onlookers were invited to have a chance to do the Tinikling dance.



Many thanks to Tita Liezl for preparing our talented dancers, and to Tito Moks for leading the craft table. Our organization makes me proud when we attend outreach activities like this and I see firsthand our youngsters making a difference in other people's lives.



## Mabuhay, Inc. Golf Tournament

By: Yoli Dela Cuesta

Previously scheduled on May 21, 2016 but due to heavy rains, our Mabuhay volunteers and golfers were blessed with a beautiful weather on June 26, 2016. Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Invitational, the Lulu Alexander Golf Tournament, was dedicated to our dear friend and longtime Mabuhay leader Tita Lulu Alexander. Everyone had a great time on the course. Our event was graced by Prince George's County Police Chief Henry P. Stawinski III. We would like to thank our players who support us every year, our sponsors and donors, and our volunteers. We would also like to thank Cross Creek Country Club for hosting the event.



The following golfers won these awards:

### **Men's Division**

#### **Closest to the Pin**

Jon Rillera  
Tony Johnson

#### **Longest Drive**

Sean Cusson

### **Ladies' Division**

#### **Closest to the Pin**

Marianne dela Cuesta  
Alice Schimnpff

#### **Longest Drive**

Marianne dela Cuesta

### **Best Men Team (won by scorecard playoff)**

Lindberg Chatman  
Sean Cusson  
Matthew Urcinas

### **Best Coed Team**

Sterling Dorn  
Tony Johnson  
Rufus Lassiter  
Amm Zarsoza



## Mabuhay, Inc. Picnic August 2016

By: Liezl Argente

The Mabuhay, Inc. Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting was held on August 21, 2016, at Schrom Park Hills, Greenbelt, Maryland. We started our program with a Mass officiated by Monsignor Balbago and with the I Care Apostolate Choir. Our members and guests enjoyed the Filipino food especially the famous lechon. The kids had fun with games especially the pabitin. The young at heart enjoyed the line dancing and the rain did not stop them from dancing. We also did the Youth Award ceremony during the picnic and we presented the Board candidates for 2017-2018. We have two special guests who came to say hello, Major Steven Yuen from PG County Police and Mayor Judy Davis Pro Tem Greenbelt. We thank the Picnic Committee for their hard work in making the picnic a memorable and successful event. We thank our members and guests for attending.





## Special Mentions

### Mrs. Philippines International, Maryland USA

Monette Roxas-Tharp, an active member of Mabuhay, Inc., was selected as Mrs. Philippines International for the State of Maryland. She will be competing at the Mrs. International Pageant on August 7-12, 2017, in Charleston, West Virginia with other 60 candidates from the USA and other countries of the world. Congratulations, Monette!



### Knights of Columbus Father Michael C. Kidd #14455

Roy Cobo, Mabuhay, Inc.'s Treasurer, was recently installed as the Grand Knight for 2016-2017 of the Knights of Columbus Father Michael C. Kidd Council #14455. He replaced Jimmy Cardano, one of Mabuhay, Inc.'s Board of Trustees, who held the Grand Knight position from 2015-2016. Congratulations, Roy!

## In Memoriam

We remember all those Mabuhay, Inc. members who passed away this year, and most especially, Dr. Bong Juanitez, past Mabuhay, Inc. President and Chairman of the organization's Board of Trustees. May they all rest in peace.

Fernando Calizo – January 31, 2016

Dr. Bong Juanitez – May 14, 2016

Victoria Medina – August 19, 2016

Hubert Nicholson – June 23, 2016

Juan Rozal – Sept. 18, 2016

Dr. Cesar Estoye – Nov. 4, 2016



## Upcoming Events

- December 2 - Pasko 2016 and Induction of Officers
- December 10 – Cora Rice Deserving Kids 2016
- December 17 – MICS Parol Making Workshop
- December 23- MICS participation at the last night of Simbang Gabi at Holy Family Church

### 2016 Events

January 18, 2016 – Youth Outreach – MLK Day of Service  
 February 13, 2016 – Chinese New Year – Pentagon Mall – Performance/Fashion Show  
 February 20, 2016 – Strategic Planning and Board Retreat  
 April 16, 2016 – King and Queen of Hearts – Attick Tower  
 March 26, 2016 – SOME Volunteer Service  
 March 26, 2016 – Decoration of the Lenten Cross (Senior Citizens)  
 May 7, 2016 – Flower Mart Festival Performance  
 May 14, 2016 – MICS Year End  
 May, 15, 2016 - Mother's Day Brunch  
 May 21, 2016 – Golf Tournament  
 June 18, 2016 – Father's Day Brunch  
 July 30, 2016 – Youth Summer Bowl Fundraiser  
 August 20, 2016 – Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting  
 August 12-13, 2016 – Camp Mabuhay  
 September 25, 2016 – Filipino Fiesta Celebrating Two Filipino Saints  
 October 8, 2016 – Merienda Cena  
 October 15, 2016 – MICS Open House  
 October 29, 2016 – MICS Halloween Event  
 November 3, 2016 – Installation of Santo Nino Elementary School Bell (Youth Project)  
 November 5, 2016– Catholic Charities Adoption Celebration  
 November 12, 2016 – Election of Youth Officers  
 November 19, 2016 – Election of New Board Officers  
 December 2, 2016 – Pasko 2016 and Induction of New Officers  
 December 9-10, 2016 – Cora Rice Deserving Kids – MICS Gift Wrapping and Performance  
 December 17, 2016 – MICS Parol Making Workshop  
 December 23, 2016 – Simbang Gabi at Holy Family Church in Mitchellville, MD

# MABUHAY, INC.

(A Filipino-American Association)

Established in 1985, MABUHAY, INC. was organized in response to a felt need in the Filipino American community for a support group — a network of individuals, families and their friends who have similar concerns about assimilation into the American mainstream, interracial marriages, raising biracial children, and maintaining ties with the “old country” — the Philippines.

## You Can Help

### BE A SUPPORTER

Your tax deductible contribution will help us carry on the various projects we have for our youth, senior citizens and community outreach.

Mabuhay, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

### BE A MEMBER

Membership is open to everyone who supports the goals of the organization.

Register online at [www.mabuhayinc-md.org/](http://www.mabuhayinc-md.org/)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**