

Brgy. Bel-Air Newsletter



(Bel-Air Village, Salcedo Village & NOBLA)

November 30, 2007 Volume II No. 11

The Official Newsletter of Barangay Bel-Air

BRGY. CAPT. NENE LICHAUCO THANKS HER CONSTITUENTS AND FRIENDS

On November 22, 2007, the constituents and friends of outgoing Barangay Captain Nene Lichauco joined her and her family for a thanksgiving get-together party.

The celebration began with a Thanksgiving Mass concelebrated by seventeen priests, some of the clergy to which Tita Nene, as she is fondly called by many, has extended her helping hand in various occasions. To name a few, these are Bishops Francis de Leon and Mylo Vergara and Msgr. Emmanuel Sunga.

After the Mass, the visitors were treated to a sumptuous feast prepared by some residents, Mesdames. Linda Floro, Malyne Lorayes, Ida de Guzman, Judah Liu, Tracy Tuason, Ope Lopez, among others. Entertainment was provided by the Hi-Chords and the members of Bel-Air Team. Brgy. Capt. Lichauco was likewise presented a Plaque of Appreciation by the members of Makati City's Block 9 police sub-station for her continuous support for the maintenance of peace and order in the community.

Friends, residents and constituents alike will sorely miss her for being such a service-driven person. During his homily, Bishop Mylo said that the reason why she is driven when she serves in anything she does is her deep connection with God. In any kind of service, the primordial foundation is one's relationship with God.

Bishop Mylo further said that we do not only thank Tita Nene for her twenty-five (25) years of service but we thank God for God has visited this community.

Towards the end of the Mass when the Brgy. Capt. was requested to say a few words, she thanked everybody for coming over. She expressed her gratefulness for having the opportunity to serve the community for twenty-five years and for touching her life. She also thanked the Barangay Council, the BAVA Board, the Women of Bel-Air, the Bel-Air Seniors, the youth and everybody who were behind her, for their support in all her undertakings in her capacity as Barangay Captain.

As she steps into a new chapter of her life in public service after 25 years of community building, teamwork and friendship in Bel-Air, we can only hold on to her promise that she will always be around in times of our needs.

Hence, we do not say "*Farewell*" to Tita Nene, our energetic Brgy. Captain but rather, "*Hope to see you around.*"

**MABUHAY KA, BRGY. CAPT.
NENE LICHAUCO!**

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

December 8 (Saturday)

- Advent Recollection
- Gemini Room, 10:a.m. – 3:00p.m.
- Fr. Mario Sobrejuanito (Recollection Master)

December 16 – 24

- Misa de Gallo (Simbang Gabi)
- Multi-Purpose Hall, 5:00a.m.

December 24 & 31

- Christmas & New Year's Eve Mass
- Multi-Purpose Hall, 9:00p.m.

*** We would like to invite our residents to sponsor once more the Dawn Mass including the Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve Mass. For reservation, please call Lea at 899-6509.**

**** There will be no Sunday anticipated Mass on Dec. 15 because the following day (Dec. 16) is the start of the Misa de Gallo and Dec. 22. Sunday anticipated mass will resume on Dec. 29, 2007. For more details, you may inquire with Lea.**

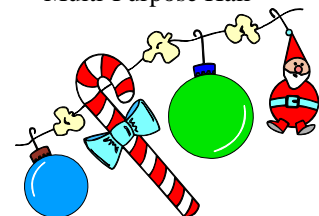
December 19 (Wednesday)

- Annual Household Helpers Christmas Party
- 7:00p.m.
- Multi-Purpose Hall

* Registration is from Dec. 1-15, 2007. Pls. look for Neri Doria at the Barangay office.

December 21 (Friday)

- Barangay & BAVA Employees Christmas Party
- 7:00p.m.
- Multi-Purpose Hall



SENIOR CITIZENS CORNER

“I Walked With Heroes”

By: Wahoo Borromeo

On November 20, 2007, the Bel-Air Seniors made a pilgrimage to the Mount Samat Memorial in Bataan to honor the gallant defenders of Bataan and Corregidor who fought the superior forces of General Tomoyuki Yamashita. The “Tiger of Malaya” (Gen. Yamashita) had underestimated the bravery and the tenacity of the Filipino soldiers to fight for their beloved country. Yamashita, with a larger, better trained and well-equipped men expected the Philippine Islands to fall in just a few weeks like the other Asian countries he ferociously conquered and devoured like a tiger. Instead of only a few weeks, it took Yamashita’s Imperial Armed Forces months to bring Bataan and Corregidor to their knees. In spite of Yamashita’s hatred for the Filipino soldiers and the frustration they had given him, he admired their bravery. Indeed, the Filipino soldier is equal to none.

Soldiers, starving, riddled with diseases and poorly-equipped, fought the invaders valiantly until the body can no longer go on. Only his love of freedom and his deep faith in his God kept the Filipino soldier to fight on. Many died fighting the enemy and those who survived experienced man’s cruelty to man in the infamous “*Death March*” from Bataan to Capas, Tarlac. More soldiers perished in the “*Death March*” and in prison.

As we walked around Mount Samat and gazed at the huge Memorial Cross, each Bel-Air Senior, with teary eyes, can proudly say:

“TODAY, I WALKED WITH HEROES IN MOUNT SAMAT!”

Special thanks to Bishop Soc Villegas who toured us around the historic Balanga Cathedral. Likewise, many thanks to Bataan Provincial Governor Enrique “Tet” Garcia and his charming wife, Vicky, who treated the Seniors with a morning *merienda* of delicious *pancit palabok* and cassava bibingka. They also provided us with two competent female tour guides who accompanied the group to Mount Samat, Montemar Beach Resort and the Acusar-restored antique houses.

CALLING ALL SENIORS OF BARANGAY BEL-AIR – Please attend the Tuesday, 7:30a.m. meetings at the park to share each other’s talents and to discuss the plans for the coming year’s exciting activities.

“BIYAHENG BEL-AIR, BIYAHENG CLEAN AIR”

“*Biyaheng Bel-Air, Biyaheng Clean Air!*” This is the battle cry of Bel-Air community while a 2-month test run of Makati City’s electric jeepneys or “*e-jeepneys*” in Barangay Bel-Air is being done.

The two jeepneys were turned over in a simple ceremony by Mayor Jejomar Binay to Bel-Air’s Barangay Captain Constanca Q. Lichauco last November 20, 2007, in the presence of BAVA Board members led by Pres. Antonio Ma. J. Guerrero, members of the Barangay Council, representatives from environmental NGOs such as Greenpeace, Green Renewable Independent Power Producers, Inc. (GRIPP), the Solar Electric Company, Inc., Rockwell Land Corporation and the media.

The vehicles will go around Bel-Air’s Phase 1, 3, 4 and Rockwell Center for free. Similar to an elongated golf cart, the “*e-jeepney*” is

spacious, clean, silent while running. It also has no bothersome, unhealthy fumes largely caused by smoke-belching vehicles because it runs on electricity through 12 rechargeable batteries. The charging of batteries within eight hours only costs from P150 to P200 worth of electricity as against the P1,000 to P2,000 worth of diesel or gasoline fuel spent for one day for a regular passenger jeepney.

The residents of Bel-Air Village are indeed lucky to be the first in Makati City to ride on a climate friendly, pollution free public transportation. With the “*e-jeepneys*,” they are assured of a free ride in going to and coming from their destinations.

The usual passengers of the “fuel-less” vehicles are housekeepers, construction workers, gardeners and caregivers. As one passenger said, the vehicle has helped her a lot from running late for work.

There are two terminals – Terminal 1 at Zodiac/Jupiter Gate (Gate 9) and Terminal 2 – Bel-Air Security Headquarters at 40 Solar Street. The jeepney at Terminal 1 runs from 6:00a.m. – 12:00noon, and 1:00p.m. – 6:00p.m., while in Terminal 2, the vehicle is available from 7:00a.m. – 12:00noon. and 1:00p.m. – 6:00p.m.

Pretty soon, the “*e-jeepney*” will replace the noisy, bumpy and smoke-belching regular passenger jeepney in Makati City and the rest of the country.

SALCEDO MARKET GEARS UP FOR CHRISTMAS

by: Marc Medina

Manila's most talked-about food and plant market prepares for the Christmas festivities, opening with a cooking demonstration by Hyatt Hotel and Casino Executive Chef Hubertus Cramer and culminating in a food and craft fair hosted by the Ilocos Norte Provincial Government.

The Salcedo Community Market kicks off the Christmas season with a cooking demonstration of Christmas dishes by Chef Cramer and Chef Gene Cordova of the American Hospitality Academy.

The cooking demonstration will begin at 10:00a.m. on December 9, 2007 and will include a special raffle of prizes from the Hyatt Hotel and Casino and cooking products from Moulinex.

"The cooking demo will be our opening salvo for the Christmas season and we're sure that Chef Cramer and Chef Cordova will have interesting dishes prepared for our market-goers," says Constancia "Nene" Lichauro, outgoing Bel-Air Barangay Captain and current chairperson of the Women of Bel-Air Foundation, Inc.

The Women of Bel-Air Foundation, Inc. will take over the operations of the market beginning January 2008 and has promised to upgrade the services at Manila's most popular market for the past three and a half years.

In addition to the cooking demo, the Salcedo Community Market will take over the Jaime Velasquez Park on December 15, 2007 for a food and crafts fair entitled *"Panaggapas: The Ilocano Harvest"* in cooperation with the Province of Ilocos Norte.

The bazaar of fresh produce, food items and crafts from the Ilocos region will include such as Ilocos garlic, lason (shallots), tobacco, basi (sugarcane wine), sukang Iloko (sugarcane vinegar), cornick, sweet potato and banana chips, biscocho, linga (sesame seed) bars, as well as regional favorites like bagnet, empanada, miki, tupig, among others.

Abel Iloko (woven cotton cloth) blankets, table runners, napkins, baskets, mats and other arts and crafts items will also be available. Resorts and hotels in Ilocos Norte will be distributing leaflets and brochures highlighting the tourist offerings of the province. There will likewise be cooking demonstrations and food sampling opportunities.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon, who was just elected last May, describes the activity as a "showcase of Ilocano talent, creativity and industry, and the many possibilities of the province," while Cong. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. invites everyone *"who appreciates good, honest food, and hand-made quality products from people who have always been known for their industry and hard work"*

Gov. Keon and Cong. Marcos, Jr. will both be present to open the event which will run from 7:a.m. to 4:00p.m. on December 15. Mrs. Irene Marcos-Araneta of the Museo Ilocos Norte and Gameng Foundation will also grace the event.

"The Ilocos Festival is part of our advocacy at the market to bring in the best and finest of the Filipino products from the far-flung regions," says Mia Camus Villanueva, member of the Salcedo Market Committee.

Bravo-Master Coke cont'd from page 4

The Pundaquit Virtuosi, composed of children, many of whom are prize winners in national competitions, are an inspiring testimony of the fulfillment of Master Bolipata.

Together with our very own, concert pianist Madam Carminda Regala, they brought the audience to a magical tour of musical pieces by Mozart (*Eine Kleine Nachtmusick*), Bach, Bohm (Moto Perpetuo), Weiniaski's *Romance* from Concerto in D minor, among others.

The Bel-Air Ensemble serenaded the audience with 2 Filipino Christmas songs – “*Pasko na Sinta Ko*” and “*Pasko Na Naman.*” This was followed by more traditional Christmas carols performed by the guest artists to put everyone into the festive holiday mood.

At the end of the programme, Brgy. Capt. And WoBa Chairperson, Nene Lichauco, who gave the Welcome Remarks, thanked everyone for their participation and support in making the concert a very successful one.

Everybody was invited to partake of the sumptuous food prepared by Mrs. Linda Floro.

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE, OUR CHRISTMAS TREE!

Last November 24, 2007, after the Sunday anticipated Mass, the Village residents and their friends witnessed the blessing and lighting of the giant Christmas tree led by Brgy. Capt. Nene Lichauco and BAVA President, Tonette Guerrero.

The Christmas tree is one of the most popular traditions associated with the celebration of Christmas – tradition which Bel-Air Village has carried on up to this time.

This year, huge, golden knots, representing the 50 years of Bel-Air, are interspersed with Christmas lanterns and balls in the tree. The knots symbolize unity – unity among the residents who, although of diverse culture and beliefs, are one in attaining on what is good for the entire community.

It also signifies the bond between the residents which, throughout the years, became stronger, weathering all kinds of storms.

“Oh Christmas Tree, our Christmas Tree, you are our symbol of unity”

HALLOWEEN PARTY '07

(Post-Article)

by: Miss Karen Mendoza

The Halloween Party in the morning was participated by more than 400 children, nephews & nieces of the Bel-Air staff and employees. The kids enjoyed the various games, received numerous prizes as well as loot bags

At 2:30p.m., more than 700 kids from Bel-Air and Salcedo Village gathered at the Covered Court in their very glamorous and unique costumes. There were also games and prizes for the kids with the most creative, scariest, “*spooktacular,*” bewitching, cutest, most original, most disturbing, best costume and youngest registrant. Additional entertainment that added to their enjoyment were the mad scientists,, mummy making, henna tattoo artists, art booth, game booths, design a pumpkin contest, freebies and free food. After which, the kids went trick-or-treating around the village.

The SK would like to extend their sincerest gratitude to all Bel-Air & Salcedo residents who made the Halloween party a success by donating candies and cash. Thank you to everyone.

SPECIAL THANKS TO -

ABET ANIDO of Juno St., ARO family of Comet St., BALTAZAR family of Aries St., CAMUS family of Antares St., GODUCO family of Mercury St.. PAGULAYAN FAMILY of Libra St. and SANTIAGO family of Mercury St. for donating reading materials for our sick, disabled or recuperating soldiers and veterans.

Donations are still accepted. Please bring them at the BAVA Office.



TURNING PAGES: 50 YEARS OF BEL-AIR

We invite you to relive the Chronicles of Bel-Air with Turning Pages: 50 years of Bel-Air. It is the much-awaited coffee table book celebrating the Golden Anniversary of Bel-Air Village. This is now available at Bel-Air Village Community Centre, 40 Solar Street for only P1,000.00.

Please look for Lianne of the Women of Bel-Air Foundation, Inc.

LETTER FROM BRGY. CAPT. CONSTANCIA LICHAUCO

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

*It has been an incredible 25 years of public service, and I feel that Bel-Air has been more than a community of neighbors and friends. Perhaps, I should address this letter instead as "Dear Family," because that is what Bel-Air has been to me: **family**. But, even family members must, at some point, part ways.*

Bel-Air has taken up so much of my professional and personal life, but also has given me so much fulfillment. And so, when people ask me whether I have any regrets, I say that my career serving the Bel-Air family has given me nothing but joy.

I've had the pleasure to see Bel-Air evolve into what it is today: a community bound by civic spirit and genuine affection. When I first joined Bel-Air Village Association in 1983, things were not all what they are now (as many old-timers like myself will tell you). Apart from the physical surroundings in Bel-Air, our community did not have that sense of camaraderie that we enjoy today.

I must say that it's been a joyful, gladdening experience to see all that change. And the best part of that is, change came from the community itself. All we at the Bel-Air office had to do was help the ideas merge and take shape. Bel-Air, as it is today, did not spring from one mind, but from the combined efforts of several minds and several hearts. Nobody said it was going to be easy, but we all agree that it was a fulfilling experience to watch our community grow.

*For that, I must give my heartfelt gratitude and respect to the staff, the office personnel, the tanods and maintenance men, the officials of both BAVA and the Barangay, to all of you, all of us. At the risk of sounding sentimental, I must give you all a great big hug for making my Bel-Air career without doubt the most memorable years in my life. Second only to my life with my late husband, of course, and my joys in raising my large family. I must, above all, thank **them** for their patience during those long days and late nights making sure that everyone in the community was resting as well as my grandchildren were at home.*

And so I must thank you all once again for the faith and confidence that you have given me all my years in Bel-Air. Apologies must be made to the people I have crossed inadvertently or the disappointments that I have caused in the course of fulfilling my official duties. Please know, with all my heart, that it was done with the best, the most sincere intentions that Bel-Air be a better place for all.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

With my fondest love,

Nene