



# PAANC Newsletter

Philippine-American Association of North Carolina, Inc.  
[www.paanc.org](http://www.paanc.org)  
2020 Summer Issue



## For Every Low, There is a High

The year 2020 will forever be etched in our minds as the pandemic is wreaking havoc in the world and is forcing us to modify our way of living. We are mostly confined to our homes now except for trips to the grocery store which is now full of peril in itself, for no one knows what you may encounter, who are those that follow health guidelines, who are unsuspecting carriers of the virus or which surfaces in the store may potentially be contaminated with the virus. For some, the pandemic will be remembered as the year they lost their jobs unexpectedly, still others lost loved ones to the virus in the worst of circumstances. For those who love to travel, vacations to far away places are all on hold until one can safely wander the world again. Bucket list destinations will just have to wait until one has the confidence to get on that plane, bus, train, or cruise ship once again.

Every time we turn the TV on these days, we are constantly reminded that we are in the midst of this pandemic and conflicting, confusing guidelines from the health authorities vary each day as they themselves uncover more about this virus. For all the challenges the pandemic has caused, there is a silver lining and some positive outcomes as well. The enforced quarantine has given families the gift of time to spend with each other. And if you can't be with your loved ones physically, thankfully, we have the technology to help us overcome that hurdle and do the next best thing, Face Time or meet online. For the older generation who were never adept at using the tech- gadgets now have learned to use and appreciate these advancements, something they now share with the younger generation.

The PAANC Board, has done the same and also had to adapt. We have continued to meet virtually, and carry out our responsibilities to the organization as best we can. Since our top priority is everyone's safety, we have decided to cancel our annual activities for this year. The outdoor activities however, like the Golf and Badminton tournaments are still being considered, as long as we are confident that we can keep everyone safe. It all depends on the day to day changes or developments where this virus leads us, so check our PAANC website and Facebook for further announcements.

As for the PAANC projects, such as Scholarships, Partners-in-Health, Outreach services, those are still on going. I am happy to report, that we have the ability to sustain those for the next couple of years even without our usual fundraising activities, all thanks to our generous donors in years past and to the Board for their sound planning!

So, until we meet again, I wish you all well! May we embrace the positives that this pandemic has brought about forcing us to examine our priorities and make adjustments that perhaps were badly needed. May we recognize that there are still blessings abound and that for every low, there is after all a high.



Claire Rhoades  
PAANC Chair 2020

## ~Moving On With Masks and Social Distance~

### Upcoming PAANC Events

(subject to change pending pandemic safety guidelines)

#### September 19, 2020 (Saturday) • Tee Time: 12 noon The 9th Phil-Am Golf Tournament

A Benefit for CMM2023-Tanauan/Batangas

Venue: Olde Liberty Golf Club (Tel# 919-554-4690)

100 Commonwealth Drive, Youngsville, NC 27596

Entry Fee: \$70 pp includes green fee/trophies/snacks/dinner  
Co-Sponsors: PAANC & TFGA (Triangle Filipinos Golf Association).

For more info, contact: Ed Panganiban, Tournament Host  
(919) 260-2791 • [epanganib@yahoo.com](mailto:epanganib@yahoo.com)

#### October 3, 2020 (Saturday) • 9-4 pm 7th Annual Charity Badminton Tournament

A Benefit for PAANC Humanitarian/Outreach Projects

Venue: Triangle Badminton & Table Tennis

2900 Perimeter Park Drive, #200, Morrisville, NC 27560

For more info, contact: Josie Spontak, Tournament Coordinator  
[PARAVEL135@aol.com](mailto:PARAVEL135@aol.com) • (919) 417-4146

#### October 24, 2020 (Saturday) • 9 AM 5K RUN FOR A MISSION at Bond Park in Cary, NC

A Benefit for PAANC Humanitarian/Outreach Projects

To register & for more information, contact:

Josie Spontak, Tournament Coordinator

[PARAVEL135@aol.com](mailto:PARAVEL135@aol.com) • (919) 417-4146

... and an important Public Service Announcement!

**NOVEMBER 3, 2020 (TUESDAY)**

**ELECTION DAY**

**BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED  
BE INFORMED AND EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT  
& CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AS U.S. CITIZENS  
VOTE WISELY ON**

**NOVEMBER 3, 2020 (TUESDAY)**

**New Voter  
Registration Link:  
[NCAAT.VOTE/PAANC](https://ncaat.vote/paanc)  
Registration Deadline: Oct 30**

For more info/assistance, contact  
Josie Spontak, PAANC-NCAAT Liaison  
[PARAVEL135@aol.com](mailto:PARAVEL135@aol.com) • 919-417-4146



## Op-ed:

### *Now is the time .....*

by Linda McGloin, PAANC Publications

Many years back while in school run by nuns in the Philippines, one of the skills taught, in tandem with enriched academic and spiritual immersion towards a full and balanced professional and occupational development and preparedness for the real world, was how to type. I remember the instructor Sr. Terence, one of the youngest and sweetest nuns who inspired many a young girl to dream of becoming like her. Perhaps because of her, going to typing class was not a chore, but was like being with one of God's helpful little angels for an hour twice a week that semester. Sr. Terence taught typing like learning how to play the piano — correct positioning and movement of fingers and doing exercises like there was no tomorrow. To this day I think the class acquired the skill because of her gentle advice: to type a particular sentence over and over and over again until one's fingers could fly with rhythmic ease across the typewriter without searching for keys.

Borrowed from somewhere, the line was: *"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country."* Aside from the important adjustment to insert the words "... and women", that simple line today takes on an urgency desperate enough to be heard and understood, and must be resolved. For us, it is our kind of living "a tale of two cities" — the United States of America and the Philippines, vastly dissimilar as night and day, as *David and Goliath*, yet seemingly mirroring in varying degrees thorny issues borne from cultural and historical complexities.

The pursuit of liberty, equality, and happiness are inalienable and undeniable rights—the guiding principle for a democracy to thrive. The brilliant written words of founding fathers in 1776 are remembered and honored with pomp and ceremony each year, envisioning proudly "a shining city on the hill" that's America, albeit "cracks on its walls" with its displacements of indigenous peoples and imported slavery tightly bound to the agricultural economy of the past. That kind of bondage may be gone today, but its consequence has given rise to a frightening brand of blinding self-righteousness and entitlements colliding with on-going covid-19 pandemic and economic downturn, and aggravating continuing systemic racism whose victims have been, are, and continue to be the marginalized. But, hopefully, that may be changing.

Likewise for the Philippines, which to this day is in continuing pursuit of freedom from foreign domination, even after scathing years of proud rebellion and being tossed like a handball and appropriated by past colonizers. Sadly, only to roll back and lick its wounds as its own leaders and lackeys in power wield iron hands, clamped down human rights, and rule with impunity. The consequence has given rise to a deeper chasm between complacency and *déjà vu* to the point of boredom among the rich and the majority poor struggling to put food on the table amid the onslaught of a devastating pandemic. But, as always, the people are resilient, so there's hope.

The ties that bind the USA and the Philippines are hard to ignore. *Now is the time* for us Filipinos and Filipino-Americans to understand what is really going on around us. Let us remove our long-time held blinders when we send in our early ballot or go to the polls on election day. Our future hangs on a balance just as the standing of this country in the world of nations, including the Philippines. Our vote, wisely cast, can make a difference. And truly, ***"Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their country."*** Peace. ■

## A Work in Progress:

### PAANC Statement of Support

The Philippine American Association of North Carolina (PAANC) supports justice and equality for all, and opposes all forms of systemic racism, racial discrimination, ideologies of racial superiority, xenophobia and related intolerance. The PAANC supports peaceful movements for social change, the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, efforts to prohibit discrimination, and promotion of the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural, as well as civil and political rights for all. ■

### Why Black Lives Matter for the Philippines!

Learn more about African Americans in Filipino history! Recommended reading: Kirby Aruallo's book **"Black Lives & Brown Freedom: Untold Histories of War, Solidarity, & Genocide"**

Kirby Aruallo is the co-founder of the Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies at the University of California Davis, and has been teaching Filipino people's history and writing in indigenous Philippine scripts (*Baybayin & Kulitan*) for over a decade. For more information, go to Aruallo's website at: [www.kirbyaruallo.com](http://www.kirbyaruallo.com). He has more than a dozen short youtube mini-lectures on Philippine history, including on African Americans in the Philippines, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wm2ljZ6h3xl>



### POETRY CORNER: RAMBLINGS by ram

i cannot be bothered by a calculating  
mind, too cold for a pulsating heart ...

don't make me run, that is beyond me  
go ahead, i just want to live ...

i like to laugh now and then  
we hang like thin somber threads  
if we break, i'd rather do it laughing ...

paranoia eats a man's soul  
threatening the very core of existence  
a multi-fanged monster thriving on  
insecurity and/or greed? ...

money is a ticket to power trips reeling  
clouds of hysteria ...

let us liberate our images, let us widen  
our visions, let us add reality, let us  
liberate ourselves ...

"why" is a question repeatedly marking  
the span of a lifetime, a dangling lid  
capping an empty bottle eager for  
refill, eager to pour, why? ...

there is not much difference between  
war and peace, values are confused,  
history waits ...

i would rather be a trifle less and  
achieve the me than be what others  
think I am and lose myself ...

i look beyond, there is eternity  
in many colors, i look within  
there is barely time ...

every day we seem to play the game  
called 'living', every night we pretend  
we aren't ...

WHO AM I to hold the world  
between paper and pen?





### ***Finding My Voice In Chaos***

By Shareen Sayed Elnaga

Since high school, I have been an advocator and lover of sharing stories. All too often, precious stories and narratives get lost in the chaos of the world whether it be a news story that goes uncovered or an oral history left untold. But, now that we are living in the 21st century where technology surrounds us, we have more power to keep stories alive. That is the reason why I created a podcast: Politix with Shareen.

The purpose of this podcast is to share stories, particularly my story and my way of viewing the world. It is also a place where I want to compile the stories of marginalized folks, as their stories are too often left out. I also want to mobilize my listeners to think about politics and social issues that are coming to the forefront of our decade.

Honestly, when I started this podcast in May I had no idea what I was doing. It is now the end of summer, and although I have recorded a few episodes and played around with the technology, there is still so much for me to learn about podcasting. But the way I see it, if I don't start I will never learn. This was a hard realization to come by especially during the pandemic when many days feel uncertain and lackluster, but this motivation kept me going. And I don't just mean the motivation to create a podcast, but a motivation to share my story in the midst of all the chaos in the world. A motivation to feel heard. A motivation to feel listened to. As a young person, as a woman, as a person of color, and with other identities that I hold close, these motivations are at the core of my being. So, I guess a podcast is not a bad way of putting these motivations into practice.

While I have spoken a lot about my experience and podcast, I hope that you can take away a few things that this journey has taught me so far:

**1. That new hobby you want to try--fishing, playing a new instrument, cooking, dancing, juggling--regardless of what it is, *start today!*** When I was nervous about starting my podcast, I realized that delaying it would only be denying myself of my own greatness!

**2. Connect with yourself and reflect on how you feel on a daily basis.** I knew that I needed an outlet for all of the emotions that I was feeling at the beginning of this pandemic and for other personal stressors in my life. It took a lot of reflection to realize my need for an outlet, but once I did I was able to create the podcast--my outlet-- for myself and others.

**3. Make time to do things that are ONLY for YOU.** This one is so important. I feel like in this country especially, we live to work rather than work to live. I don't know about you, but I do not want to spend my life working whilst forgetting to live. My podcast is my way of making time that is "me time" where I am bound to nothing and no one except my own expectations.

**4. Unleash your artistic side.** I have always loved singing and music growing up, but I never realized my niche for other forms of art like writing, speaking, and painting! Now that we are in quarantine and will be for the foreseeable future, we may have more time on our hands to explore our inner artists and creators.

**5. Get inspired!** I know it is really easy to feel discouraged and even hopeless right now with the state of the world, but even in all this darkness, we can find inspiration. Move-

ments for social justice inspired my podcast, and your inspiration might be completely different, and that's to be encouraged! There is inspiration all around us. We simply just need to be intentional in seeking it.

I hope that these lessons will resonate with anyone who reads this, as these were and still are the lessons that continue to comfort and inspire me during these times. I also hope that even amongst all of the grief, fear, and uncertainty that many of us feel, that you too may still find inspiration not only in the world around us but within yourself.

If you are interested in tuning in for my podcast, you can click this link <https://anchor.fm/politixwithshareen> or search "Politix with Shareen" on Google or Spotify. ■

Shareen Sayed Elnaga is a student at UNC-Chapel Hill Class of 2021, a Public Policy and Political Science Major & Hispanic Studies Minor, a Moxie Scholar Cohort of 2020, and Co-President of Healthy Heels Ambassadors. The PAANC Newsletter is pleased to have Shareen as a regular contributor.

### **Celebrating Online:**

Read about a front line worker at:  
<http://www.positivelyfilipino.com/magazine/a-compassionate-healer-and-fierce-fighter-for-fellow-rns>

**Zenei Cortes, RN**  
**President, California Nurses Association**  
**2017 —**



**A Compassionate Healer and Fierce Fighter  
for Fellow RNs —**

*"What would the world be without registered nurses, unsung heroes of health care on whom physicians and surgeons rely to heed their directives? ..."*

Opening line of an article by Cherie M. Querol Moreno and featured in Positively Filipino | Online Magazine for Filipinos in the Diaspora

POSITIVELY FILIPINO is the premier digital native magazine celebrating the story of the global Filipino. The POSITIVELY FILIPINO online magazine chronicles the experiences of the global Filipino in all its complexity, providing analysis and discussion about the arts, culture, politics, media, sports, economics, history and social justice. [www.positivelyfilipino.com](http://www.positivelyfilipino.com)

*"The Registered Nurse is the heart of patient care, someone who provides the healing touch."*  
—Zenei Cortes in Positively Filipino.

## My Philippines Story

By Kieran Ved

The first time I visited the Philippines was in December 2000 and I was 11 years old. Fast-forward to now, and I hardly remember my trip. It was Christmastime so I just remember wanting to buy toys at the malls, meeting a few relatives here and there, playing Pokemon on my Game-boy color, and being in traffic for long amounts of time wherever we went.



I then visited the Philippines in December of 2018 and again in the summer of 2019, basically 18 years after my trip. Visiting after so long was a very eye-opening experience for me, and especially now that I am older. I was in awe of the place. It was like visiting another world, and I loved everything about my trip. Growing up, most of my Filipino influence came from my mom and her side of the family, namely aunts, uncles, cousins, and my *Lolo* and *Lola* who all resided in the US.

It wasn't until my trip in 2018 when I felt like I fell in love with the land. I landed in Manila and started meeting my relatives. I was meeting so many people, that I started to become naturally curious how exactly they were all related to my mom, and thus me. I began to sketch a family tree, taking down everyone's names and starting to make the connections. How amazing it was to meet so many cousins and hear all about family history I was not aware of before! These were the same cousins, aunts, and uncles I had met during my first trip in December 2000 that I hardly remember. Now I was able to develop a familial relationship with them.

During my recent trip, I was able to travel to the province where my grandparents' were raised. My Lola grew up in the town of Minalin, Pampanga Province, and my Lolo in Dingras, Ilocos Norte. Some relatives still lived in those respective places, so I met them too. My relatives there lived in simple houses and a large plot of land, similar to farmlands. I envisioned how my grandparents must have grown up in the 1930s in these towns. The provinces were absolutely beautiful, very different from the city life of Manila. The more I learned about my family history through stories from different relatives, the more I became intrigued with finishing the family tree I had started.

My relatives shared old photographs that I had never seen before, one of them was a black and white photo of the grandparents of my *Lola* (my great-great grandparents) taken in the mid-1920s. I learned that I was related to people who were famous during their day. Some highlights: a presidential advisor to then President Diosdado Macapagal, Demetrio Muñoz founded the D.M. Transit and the Muñoz Market was named after him in Quezon City; Kit Nieto who is the current mayor of Cainta, Rizal, and his mother Ethelyn Pasion, who was the undersecretary of the Department of Health. I also learned my *Lola* had a half-sister whom no one really talked about, and that I (and my mom) certainly didn't know about either! (The background to that can be a whole other story...).

I came back to the US and dove right into my Lola's old photo albums, which I had never looked through before. I was amazed at all the old photos she kept of relatives, including her parents, and her siblings from when they were young. It also included some people I had met when I first visited the Philippines at 11 years old, but who have since passed away in the 18 years since I went back. I wish I could go back in time when I met the elder generation to ask more questions about family

history and family stories! My uncle told me a story that when he was a boy growing up in Manila, he had his watch stolen one day in the city. He went to his lawyer father, who knew one of the police chiefs in the town, and had him help accompany my Uncle to look for it. The policeman took my Uncle to a certain house in the city, knocked on the door, and told the occupants inside that this boy is missing his watch and they would like to search the house for it. The occupants let them inside and opened up drawers of jewelry. The policeman asked my uncle if he saw his watch anywhere amongst the items. My uncle saw it and pointed it out, grabbed it, and they left that house with his watch and that was that!

Other stories my relatives told me included living in the Philippines during WWII and my great-uncle who was stationed in Bataan fighting for the guerillas; of my *Lolo* who fought in the Korean War; learning about relatives who did great things in their community; those who lived through the Mount Pinatubo eruption in Pampanga and whose house was subsequently buried by the *lahar*; of relatives who illegally sold "blue seals" (untaxed cigarettes) at Divisoria Market; of a distant relative uncle who was kidnapped as a toddler in Divisoria Market and then recovered a week later (before presumably being sold because he was found dressed up as a girl) with the help of famous radio announcer Rafael Yabut's broadcast; of relatives who had a shootout with rivals in the community; of another great-uncle lawyer who was appointed Land Commissioner Officer by the President of the Philippines, and who also rubbed shoulders with the NPA; of the family-owned Flores building in Intramuros, Manila that still stands today right next to the church; of an Uncle who was a judge but was kidnapped from his car and found murdered (he had been shot so many times that he was unrecognizable); and of a shameful story that some relatives still refuse to mention up to now about a great-great-uncle who killed his own niece sometime in the 1920s/1930s, before killing himself—the exact details are still a bit unclear.

Long story short, I traveled to the Philippines and fell in love with the land. I decided that my two weeks there was not enough time to catch up, with an almost lifetime of Philippines history I had been missing out on. I decided to travel again in Summer 2019, and spent a month there before starting my medical school studies. That trip can be a whole other write-up one day...;) ■



My relatives and I when I visited in 2019

Kieran Ved is a 2nd year medical student at ECU Brody School of Medicine in Greenville. He was one of the founding members of *Kasama* at UNC-Chapel Hill during the 2009-10 school year—a decade ago!.



## A Treasure of Photos in Kieran Ved's Family Tree



My great-great grandparents seated on the left, and my great-great-uncle and his wife/family seated on the right, photo taken around mid-1920s.



Great-great Uncle and his wife, date unknown

Great grandparents wedding, date unknown



... and fast forward to December 2000 visit with relatives

## FROM PAANC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For more information, contact  
Laura & Keith Lawton  
PAANC Scholarship Co-Chairs  
paancscholarship@gmail.com

### Presenting Two New North Carolina Scholars

**Congratulations to Alexis Duran and Alianna Cole, 2020 PAANC North Carolina Scholarship recipients!** Both students have been selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship based on their grade point average, community service, essay, and leadership. The scholarship is available to graduating or recently graduated high school Filipino-American students or continuing undergraduate Filipino-American students of the PAANC. Awarded yearly, recipients have attended local and out-of-state universities.



**Alianna Cole** is the daughter of Donna Cole. She is a cum laude graduate of Millbrook High School and was past vice president and president of the Venture Crew, a member of the National Honor Society, and a recipient of the Presidential Service Award. Alianna was a member of the PAANC dance group for 12 years and also volunteered with a local soup kitchen. She is a freshman at East Carolina University and intends to major in biology.

As part of her essay she gave a great perspective on the challenges of identifying with two different cultures and said, "The hyphen between Filipino and American is not to separate the cultures, but to bring together and be as powerful as ever. I will always appreciate the impeccable culture that I get to have in my life, and I will continue to take pride in the Filipino-American community."



**Alexis Duran** is the daughter of Dean and Eunice Duran. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Rolesville High School and was an N.C. Academic Scholar, captain of the Women's Varsity Soccer team, class of 2020 treasurer for three years, president of the Asian Student Association, and an officer of the Health Occupation Students of America club. Alianna was a member of the PAANC dance group for 12 years, a Wake Med Hospital volunteer, and also participated in Habitat for Humanity. She is a freshman at Clemson University and intends to major in biology.

Alexis' essay was about a person that inspired her, and she wrote about her mother, Eunice. She closed her essay by saying, "She is strong and open minded and always is receptive to everyone's thoughts and emotions. If there is anyone I wanted to be it's Eunice Duran. The best and most amazing mom in the world." ■

*"Education is the passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to those  
who prepare for it today."*



### ADVOCACY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING PAANC Supports PREDA Foundation, Philippines

PREDA Director Fr. Shay Cullen describes below some harsh realities of the sex trafficking trade, and ways to stop it.

#### The Corporations and The Sex Slavery Of Children

*Fr. Shay Cullen, 14 August 2020*

At no other time in the history of mankind has there been so many humans enslaved throughout the world. The population explosion in the past fifty years, the great disparity of rich and poor and the vulnerability of the impoverished youth and women have made human trafficking, the modern name of the age-old slave trade, so prolific. It is a practice by which humans dominate, control, abuse and exploit other human beings for power, pleasure and profit. ... Human traffickers cleverly manipulate, exploit and enslave members of their own species and make them work for them as slaves as do the ants.

Our modern societies are in the process of morally imploding. Going fast are the days when virtue, honor, human dignity, equality and human rights, social justice and the rule of law were the declared goals and practiced policy of many enlightened societies and nations. Now, it seems to be in reverse. In the United Kingdom, a modern democracy, the slave trade was banned in 1807 after growing very rich and campaigners and advocates won out in the end. Human slavery is with us today as never before. Thousands suffer from unjust labor practices and trading of food grown on slave-like labor. We can change that by buying Fair Trade products like dried mangoes and chocolates.

Hundreds of thousands of poor people, many of them women and children, are in slave-like conditions in developing countries such as Ghana and Sierra Leone. Their lives are spent growing and shelling 60% of the world's supply of coco beans for less than a slave's pittance to provide chocolate for the sweet appetites of western societies. Chocolate lovers ignore the exploitation and instead of buying Fair Trade chocolate, they buy the bitter taste of injustice from the likes of Nestle, Hershey's, Cargil and many more. These companies claim to be ethical and sustainable, yet have refused to pay the Living Income Differential (LID) to poor farmers. It is a mono-cropping boom funded by commodity buyers that is the chocolate curse on the dying forest.

As many as 99% of the 4.8 million estimated young women and teenage girls are victims of sex trafficking around the world. It is in Asia and the Pacific region where the worst sex trafficking of women and children is happening. Here 70% of the 4.8 million victims are abused, enslaved and denied human dignity. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem with people locked indoors especially children unable to escape from their rapists and abusers. Many of them become victims of online sexual exploitation. Some victims are as young as 3 years old.

Depraved males in developed nations like the UK, USA, Australia, Korea, EU, Brazil, Russia, are lusting for child abuse shows for sex thrills. The pedophiles pay by courier, and crouch before their computer screens as they order up child sex acts by phone. It is a dirty evil crime of abuse using technology. Child pornography and sex abuse of this kind is hard to detect unless there is strong computer software driven by artificial intelligence installed on the servers of the internet server providers.

### "Pandemic Fails to Cancel 8th Annual Truth to Power Exhibit"

[Excerpts from The Duke Chronicle, September 1, 2020]

For the past 8 years, Durham's Pleiades Art Gallery has hosted a juried exhibit, "Truth to Power", where typically 30 artists for all genres are selected to exhibit their works that address this theme. Each year, **PAANC member Tim McGloin** has had some of his photographs exhibited. This year the event was hosted by Duke's Power Plant Gallery at the American Tobacco Campus, where the exhibition shifted to a virtual format due to guidelines instituted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including an artist talk held Aug. 22 on zoom. This year the exhibition pioneered the ever-growing virtual art territory by presenting the artwork through an online interactive catalogue.



Photographer Tim McGloin captured his entry "Children Speak for Justice" at the May 30 Black Lives Matter demonstration in Raleigh.

Having attended many demonstrations, he highlighted that this piece captured "probably the most diverse demonstration that we have ever seen in terms of youth, in terms of the communities — African-American, Latinx, elderly people, young people and children."

His photograph spotlights children wearing Black Lives Matter face masks, holding posters that read "Is my life more valuable than his?" with arrows pointing towards an African-American boy holding a sign with the names of victims of police brutality. In keeping with the theme of social change and equal representation, McGloin took the opportunity to advocate for future inclusion of Native-American artists in next year's Truth to Power exhibit. "One of the missing communities in the Truth To Power exhibit has been Native-American," said McGloin. "I think if any community can speak truth to power, it's them." ■

In the Philippines the Anti-Child Pornography Law (RA 9775) demands that the telecommunication companies like PLDT/Smart and Globe Telecoms install such software that is easily available. They don't do it and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) seems not to have taken action for non-compliance other than give a small fine. We need a revised law that increases the penalty to a million dollars a month for non-compliance. Because of inaction, thousands of children are sexually abused as a result. Shame on them all. This evil of child pornography and live streaming of child abuse smells like a dead cat in the board room of the telecom providers. If only they would obey Philippine law, thousands of acts of human trafficking, sex slavery and abuse could be prevented, the criminals could be identified, tried and jailed.

Any leader or corporation that allows and promotes human trafficking, sex trafficking and abuse of children is like a depraved monster wallowing in the mangled bodies of its victims. It must be slain by the warriors of truth and justice. We must never give up the struggle. ■

[Note: The “Communal Gardens in Siargao As A Model” is a really good idea for municipal towns and *barrios* throughout the Philippines. The push for communal gardens is also catching on in the urban centers and public schools here in the USA as well. Before the pandemic, several communal gardens were going on in schools and neighborhoods in Durham, NC.]

Reprinted from MindaNews - August 4, 2020 8:47 PM

### Siargao mayor wants communal gardens to be established in her town

By Roel Catoto, <https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2020/08/siargao->

PILAR, Siargao Island (MindaNews / 4 Aug) – Inspired by a community-driven initiative pushing organic farming, the mayor of this fish-rich town now wants all the barangays here to go into communal farming.

“We want all the barangays in Pilar to have their own communal garden inspired by the Hardin Ng Pagbabago. We will adopt this community driven-concept in all villages here,” Mayor Maria Liza Resurreccion told MindaNews Tuesday. The mayor also announced her plan last week at the farm of the Jaboy Vegetable Association (JAVEGA), one of the communal gardens under the umbrella of *Hardin Ng Pagbabago* (trans: Garden for Renewal)

The mayor, along with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry and the Police Provincial Office, was there for the JAVEGA organizational assessment and garden evaluation of *Hardin Ng Pagbabago*. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has decimated the town’s economy, and Resurreccion hopes that it will bounce back with the help of agriculture. She said a boat ride from Surigao City last year was an eye opener when she saw a Pilar resident bringing sacks of agricultural products like squash, string beans, cucumber, monggo beans, eggplants, and a few more.

“I wonder why can’t we locally produce these products here,” Resurreccion said, noting that Pilar used to be an agricultural town before it shifted to tourism, along with the rest of Siargao, during the past few decades. Resurreccion, who is the president of the league of mayors in the province, said it is important that that no one in her municipality will go hungry. The mayor said that she is taking over the operations of Municipal Agricultural Office after she realized that it has not performed well. The mayor recalled that some of the seeds purchased for the farmers even [went] expired. “I had to personally hand the seeds to the people to make sure these will be used before expiration,” she stressed. *Hardin Ng Pagbabago*, the community-driven initiative in Siargao promoting peace and sustainable community through organic farming, is set to schedule a meeting with the mayor this week to discuss collaboration work.

Captain Wise Vicente Panuelos, of the General Luna Police Station who is the founder of the community initiative project, said he and his team will present the proposal to the office of the mayor. “We were stunned by the mayor’s response and support to our initiative. We are looking forward for more collaborative work to ensure food security on the island,” Panuelos said.

Pilar Municipal Councilor Narda Trigo, chairperson of Association of Barangay Council, said she will work with other barangay captains to spearhead the legwork of communal farms with the rest of the villages. “Village officials have a great role here to lead the communal gardens just like what JAVEGA is doing now,” she said. Trigo noted that the residents of Jaboy not only have a source of nutritious food, but more importantly, the communal farm has created a positive change among the people as they become productive. She said she wants to help Jaboy residents more, noting that her family owns a land there, which she is offering for the farmers to use so they can expand their communal garden.

Jaboy is now one of the villages that supply organic vegetables not only in the town center but also in the neighboring municipalities of General Luna and Dapa. The communal farm started with only 2,200 square meters of land and planted with a variety of vegetables at a vacant lot of Jaboy Elementary School. JAVEGA will be expanding its farm to two hectares. ■



Members of the Jaboy Vegetable Growers Association (JAVEGA) harvest the produce of their labor at their communal farm in the municipality of Pilar in Siargao Island. Photo taken 2 July 2020. MindaNews photo by ROEL N. CATOTO



**Philippine-American Association of North Carolina, Inc.  
(PAANC)**

**1 Floretta Place #91101, Raleigh, NC 27675**

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