



Batch 68 USTHS 2009 Reunion Las Vegas Schedule of Activities

Friday, May 1, 2009
5:00 p.m. Cocktails-Dinner
Batch 68 Mixer (Pre-Reunion Icebreaker)
7945 Lisa Marie Ct Las Vegas, NV 89113-1757

Note: Cars will be available for those who want to see Las Vegas lights (driving tour) and free light show at the Freemont Street Experience, north end of the strip (last show is at midnight).

Saturday, May 2, 2009
Golf for Golf enthusiasts (TBA)
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (TBA) Day tour with shopping
Batch 68 Reunion 4:30 -11:00 p.m.

Gold Coast Hotel/Casino
4:30 p.m. Registration/Photo shoot
5:30 p.m. Programme
Star Spangled Banner
Myrna Benipayo Panganiban Jayvee Omana
Rose Labarda-Aquino Raffy Eusebio

Lupang Hinirang Myrna Benipayo Panganiban
Opening Prayer Chito Pangilinan
Toast to Batch 68 Rod Cantiveros (Faculty)
Batch '68 Parade

Message Bing Macavinta
(Chairperson 2009 USA Reunion)

6:30 p.m. Dinner/Entertainment
NorCal Dance Number
MidWest & LV: Surprise Number
East Musical Number
SoCal I Need to Know
Dance/Raffle/Games/Dance

10:50 p.m. Closing
Jayvee Omana & Rose Labarda-Aquino
Enrie Samson-Sabio (Program Coordinator)
(Emcees)

Batch 68 USTHS List Pacific Time Zone

Table with 2 columns: First name, Last name. Lists names of graduates from the Pacific Time Zone.

Eastern Time Zone

Table with 2 columns: First name, Last name. Lists names of graduates from the Eastern Time Zone.

Central Time Zone

Table with 2 columns: First name, Last name. Lists names of graduates from the Central Time Zone.

Mountain Time Zone

Table with 2 columns: First name, Last name. Lists names of graduates from the Mountain Time Zone.

Far East Time Zone

Table with 2 columns: First name, Last name. Lists names of graduates from the Far East Time Zone.



VOLUME 1, NO.1, MAY 2009

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, USA

68 Grads storm Las Vegas with fun & memories



Bing Macavinta
Chairperson
2009 USA Reunion
USTHS Class of 1968

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to fabulous Las Vegas and welcome to our very First USA Reunion. I hope everyone is feeling the excitement of seeing one another again. This has been a long awaited event. Now that we're finally here. I hope you find delight in re-kindling friendship, meeting new ones and simply having the time of your life!

We have come a long way and this weekend is a special time to reminisce the happy memories of our high school days. And as we face our golden years (can you believe it?)—let us live joyfully the remaining distance of our journey!

I want to thank Rod Cantiveros for giving us this colorful newsletter. Here is our very own newsletter, "USTHS Class of '68 - Chi-Kahan." His creative vision brings fun and enjoyment to all readers. Thank you Rod for traveling far to be a special part of our USA reunion. I also want to thank Precious Lotilla- Javier for gracing our event.

Last, but not the least by any means, today is a success because of your presence - so fellow batch mates,

THANK YOU!

Yours truly

[Signature]



Rose Labarda Aquino

Why Chi-Kahan?

For the Pinoy, "chikahan" is simply chat or small talk. But notice the "Chi"- before "kahan". Traditional Chinese qi or ch'i, or the Japanese ki means the active principle forming part of any living thing. It is frequently translated as "energy flow" and literally means the "air" or "breath" or "spirit". The term is analogous to "life process".

So, batch mates, let's chat, share, plan; even dream together. And beyond that, hopefully, this communication going on through the newsletter will simulate our "ch'i", the life-breath that animates living beings; us, living, breathing Batch '68! Cheers! Read on.

WHAT'S INSIDE



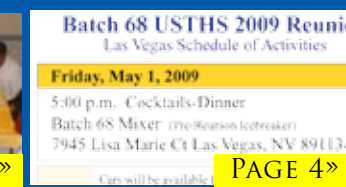
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RANDOM THOUGHTS

THE MAKING OF 2009 USA GRAND REUNION - UST BATCH 68 -

PIGEON STORY

BATCH 68 USTHS LIST



Rose Labarda-Aquino

It's finally here. The much-awaited, first ever, grand reunion of Batch '68 University of Santo Tomas High School (USTHS Manila, Philippines) Alumni residing in the United States, Nevada and Canada will be held in Gold Coast Casino Resort in Las Vegas on May 2, 2009. As of this writing, seventy two have registered. The biggest number will be coming from Southern California.

This event is the brainchild of Bing Macavinta who embraced this reunion as a personal mission to get as many batch mates as possible to finally meet together after forty years. She traveled to many states to seek out long-lost batch mates, from New York to Virginia, Chicago, Texas and Northern California.

USTHS '68 graduates have been exchanging news online as far back as 2003 through their USTHS'68 website. Some groups from Southern California and Northern California have started bonding during birthdays, Christmas and other events; so with those in the East. But somehow not all in the East have met with the West and vice versa. Then there are their Canadian counterparts. They are not as many, but the US group is absolutely looking forward to meeting their classmates.

In February, last year, some Batch '68 alumni from the US and Canada had a chance to gather together in the Philippines in conjunction with the pre 400th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Santo Tomas. This "royal" and



"pontifical" university traditionally known as the "oldest university in the Far East" will be celebrating four centuries since its foundation in 1611. All loyal Thomasians will be there to celebrate the super-bash 2011.

Batch '68 also celebrated their very own Ruby or 40th year anniversary in the Philippines. It was spearheaded by Bebet Gillera Gozun, former Secretary of environment and natural Resources (DENR). No doubt, we expect this first USTHS Batch '68 Grand Reunion in Las Vegas to be even bigger.

Southern Californians will host the event in May. Core Team Planning Committee members are Rose Labarda-Aquino, Josie Larida Bacud, Cesar Balbontin, Linda Ocampo Espejo, Gus Estrada, Raffy Eusebio, Dolly Cunanan Galang, Cory Gillera, Ernie Morales, Jayvee Omana and Chito Pangilinan. Event Chair is Bing Macavinta.

If you are a USTHS Batch'68 graduate you wouldn't want to miss this chance of a lifetime! So, get to the website for more information. And, "come let us sing for dear UST High, sing!"



Teresita "Tisha" Reyes-Nixon

I would like to give tribute to the late Mrs. Murrillo, the principal during our high school days.

I remember Mrs. Murillo as my geometry teacher who always wore her hair in a bun. She was very strict, but to me, she was rather kind. She impressed me as an excellent teacher and an excellent principal. I also found her to be very caring, understanding and loving. One day in class, while going around the room, she even went to the point of commenting that she could smell our B.O. (Bad odor from armpits). We took that in stride and considered it as a good hygiene reminder for active young bodies like ours.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

It's quite amazing how the bond of friendship among Batch '68 remains tight through the years. The never-ending reunions, welcome get-togethers, ballroom dancing and the way each one shows support in both happy and sad occasions are really touching. A new-found member is being treated like a long-lost relative. It's really a joy to meet old friends once again, but what makes it more challenging is trying to figure out who this smiling face is before you, after 41 long years. Batch '68 seems to be forever young at heart, as well as in looks.

UPDATES

Unknown to many, we have batch mates who are actively involved in humanitarian projects, helping the disadvantaged and poorest of the poor. Reggie de los Reyes-Nolasco spearheaded a fund-raising project for typhoon victims in Iloilo last year. Dr. Merle Cruz-Encarnacion comes back to the Philippines every year to work with the Medical Missions, visiting far flung and poverty-stricken areas not reached by doctors and nurses. Tisha Reyes-Nixon's Aquinas Institute is involved in apostolic work, adult education and training, among others. Other batch mates serve in various soup kitchens and feeding centers both in the US and the Philippines. Batch mates, let us continue to give back to the communities that need us!

On a personal note, Mrs. Murillo was the one who was instrumental in submitting my name for a competition as a model student. I received the Award from the Ministry of Education as a model student, along with Estela Dayao. And then there was this incident- someone in my 4-E class stole a portion of the monies in our collection. As treasurer of the high school student council I tried to pay it back with my meagre allowance. At that time, 30 pesos was hard to pay back if you only had an allowance of 50 cents. When Mrs. Murillo found out what happened, she told me not to worry about paying it back. Was I ever relieved! I do forgive whoever stole that money; she probably needed it. Mrs. Murillo has long gone, but she will always be in my heart!

Julieta "Julie" Casis

Dolly Cunanan Galang

THE MAKING OF 2009 USA GRAND REUNION UST BATCH 68

Our lives may have taken different paths, in various locations and countries, but one common thread binds all of us. We are all a part of the Class of 68. During this year's class reunion, let's catch-up and reminisce with old friends, celebrate our past, look forward to a bright future, and most of all, party the night away! The planning committee proudly presents Class of 68 Reunion weekend in Las Vegas.

Our first kickoff meeting was held last July 12, 2008 at the Puente Hills Mall, City of Industry, CA (our favorite hang-out place). Our meeting usually last four to five hours, discussing as to "WHEN, "WHERE, "HOW", this 2009 USA Grand Reunion will be a successful and memorable one. A lot of sacrifices, commitment, dedication and hard work are the key ingredients to make this USA Grand Reunion. We have several monthly and weekly meeting till every question or issues were taken into consideration. The last and final meeting was held last April 26, 2009 where we finalized and tied up loose ends.

The making of 2009 Grand USA reunion started with a dream, launched by twelve hardworking core team players, and finally embraced as a reality. We would like to say "Maraming...Maraming...salamat to the UST Batch 68, who made it today and to those who did not make it. "Sana maunit muli." "Mabuhay" to the UST Class 68.

AQUINO RESIDENCE Meeting & Practice March 21, 2009

bing dolly josie linda cory jayvee & evelyn lynne & cesar gus ernie rose & manny



MIDNIGHT CONFESSION

Bing Macavinta

I know it sounds eye catching, but that's all. If anything else, it is to poke your curious sight and mind. This is an attempt to fill in a space for our first newsletter. Anyway, I think I was a freshman. It was the Saturday PE class, when I thought I would swing by the church to go to confession before proceeding to the gym for the class. I confessed saying to the priest:

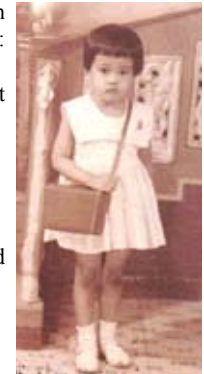
Me: My sins are... I look at a magazine that I am not supposed to look at. (I couldn't tell him it was Playboy).

Priest: What kind of magazine?

Me: Magazine with pictures of naked women.

Priest: Who owns this magazine?

Me: Well, I couldn't possibly tell him, it belonged to my cousin. I certainly didn't want my cousin to get in trouble. So, I said, it's my neighbor's. ANOTHER LIE!



Priest: I want you to get this magazine and bring it to my office. He gave me my penance. I couldn't remember it now, but he reminded me to bring the magazine to the main building.

Me: Leaving the church and going straight to class, I was truly bothered. I felt my penance was conditional upon my confiscating this supposed neighbor's magazine and bringing it to his office. It was traumatic for me then.

After class, I went to the main building, trying to locate where this office was. It's been a long time now, but I recall going up this huge & wide stairs, intimidating to say the least to an innocent, abiding high school. It was a very scary experience.

Well, you didn't think I would do what I was commanded to do, did you? That would be almost suicide—I could see me being reported to Mrs. Murillo and being expelled! I carried that secret for a long, long time. Now it's out in the open ☺

PIGEON STORY

Rod E. Cantiveros, faculty

One night at the UST hallway, the officers, members and the adviser, (yours truly) were finishing the UST HI cultural exhibits for the university-wide UST Day celebrations. It was almost 8 p.m. and we felt hungry. "Edwin Fernandez, (USTHI president) here's the money and you can buy food for our supper," I said. "Sir, may darating na pagkain na...", Rolando Gosiengfiao, cultural organization over-all chairman, said.

Special fried chicken came. Katakam-takam and it looked good! But I noticed the color of the meat: grey. "Iba yangtang klaseng chicken ito," I commented. We're

hungry and we ate it all. Even the bones were consumed. I liked it. Next morning, an announcement thru intercom was aired: "Five pigeons were missing from the cage and if anybody who knows about this, please report it to the office." I almost swallowed my saliva and I stopped explaining the lesson in my classroom. I remembered last night: 5 "fried chickens". I continued my lesson with my First year high school students. The bell rang and I met Edwin, Rolando and the rest of the group near the Library. They just winked their eyes. I just winked mine. Gladly nobody reported what happened to Fr. Pinon's pigeons.

THEY REST IN PEACE

Rose Labarda-Aquino

They are at peace, those who have gone before us. While here we are, still struggling. But that is the true meaning of tragedy. The tragic hero struggles until he falls. So, my dear batch mates, I guess that is the way to go. They Rest in Peace: ensure that their memory is forever etched in our hearts.

Every time we rise from a fall, let us remember:

- RICKY (Yatco), ANACLETA (Chua), VICTOR (Jongco), REGALADO (Montemayor Jr.), ROLANDO (Villanueva), BENNY (Guidote), SEBASTIAN (de Guzman), ROMEO (Lechuga), GENEROSO (Orijola), CESAR (Yap), EMILY (Gosiengfiao), ANTONIO (Escano), RAMON (Lopez), JOEL (Pajarillo), BENJAMIN (Zamora), Wilma (Franco), FERNANDO (Guanlao), REYNALDO (Mediarito), ANTONIO (Picache)

They fought the good fight. They ran the race. Now they rest in peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

USTHS 68' Grads' Las Vegas Reunion thanks Dr. Tristan Pangilinan and Dr. Flora Leyba Baetiong for their generous donations.