

# TONY Saint John's Corner

## 19th FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY: A MILESTONE FOR CELEBRATION

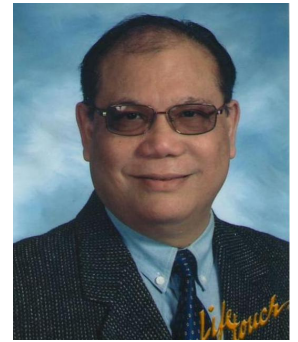
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**Anniversary. Gala. Party. Affair. Reunion.** There are many terms for it. And there are various definitions attached to it. But to us *Featineans*, there is one meaning, and that is.....it is our 19th Foundation Anniversary Celebration!

The *Featineans Association of Toronto* (TFAT) is, by all accounts, barely over a year old from its *debutante's* age of 18 years and it is still growing up. As a socio professional entity currently led by President Oliver Rey and the Executive Directorate, as well as, living founders Julio and Annie Buiza, Tirso Balitian & Tony A. San Juan, it is propitiously growing in fellowship, service, and partnership amid the ever- growing Filipino Canadian and mainstream communities.

Celebrating with you this evening is but an auspicious time to enumerate some of the things past, present, and perhaps, the future through the vagaries of reflecting, reminiscing, and remembering. To wit:

- It is the time for homecoming of fellow "*kaeskuela o kablase*" to congregate and confederate once more in the name of our *Alma Mater*.
- It is the time for the gathering of "giants and lilliputs" , though it is not so, as we are all siblings of equal importance within the established ideals and mandate of the Association.
- It is the time for renewing old ties and *pagkakaibigan*, for striking new ones and for meeting once again our longtime "no see, no hear, no talk" acquaintances.
- It is the time for knowing more of our TFAT--- what has been accomplished and achieved, what we are doing at present, and what is coming in the next "while".
- It is the time for bridging the generational chasm--- proudly retelling them, with green lies--- the good and the bad times of your student days and your escapades.
- It is the time for recollecting about the past, with resulting tears of joy and hearty laughs--- the bloopers or blunders of having done something--you knew what it was, swearing now you don't want to "repeat it again".
- It is the time for reflecting whether your decision to join this Organization is worth your while, time, and energy or not, conflicting with family responsibilities, spending quality time, or engaging in gainful things.
- It is the time for reminiscing the significant period that the Association has its leadership doubts and



membership struggles which "rocked the boat" from its very foundation but now, "gone with the wind".

- It is the time for forgetting about the competitive stances, *selosan* and *tampuhans* of the past and looking towards a better, brighter, and more challenging tomorrow.
- Is the time for forgiving the slights or *masamang loob* caused recently or years back that you feel need honest rectification and restitution and starting a clean slate anew.
- It is the time for expressing the much- deserved *pasalamats* to our friends, colleagues, guests, family, and supporters for accommodating our *paki-usaps* and giving us favours mutually or otherwise.
- It is the time for sharing our blessings and for generous giving, if you may, to others-- victims of calamities and circumstances through the spirit of committed volunteerism and compassionate fellowship.
- It is the time for recounting introspectively the best days of our lives and for admiring that we belong to a proud group of alumni determined to etch its niche in the Canadian landscape.
- It is the time for remembering those who are no longer with us - our departed adviser, charter secretary, and our fellow *Featineans*
- Is the time for serious stocktaking about how our Association is comparatively faring and understanding the attendant challenges and frustrations in keeping up in this ever-changing societal environment.
- It is the time, finally, for individual soul-searching concerning the true meaning and purpose of our continued existence as a brother, sister, father, mother, grandparent, husband, wife, lover, partner, student, neighbour, or whatever we are and recapitulating the reasons and rationale for achieving a peaceful and progressive enjoyment of life.

These are our meaningful **discernments** and the *raison d' etre* of our reunion, our homecoming, and our celebration today and in the future. Enjoy our 19th foundation year.

**Happy Anniversary to all!!!**