



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

**"Together
We Make A
Difference"**

www.FilAmSC.org

★ Volume 18, Number 1

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Summer 2008 ★

Two New FAAGC Officers Elected

Lisa Edwards and Bernadette Yavis were elected FAAGC Assistant Secretary and Executive Board Member, respectively, in the special election conducted during the Columbia Fil-Am annual spring picnic held at the Sesquicentennial State Park on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008.

They replaced the recently resigned Al Taylor and Precy Walker, respectively, and will serve until June 30, 2009.

Lisa and husband Carlton have been active participants in FilAm activities since joining FAAGC a few years ago. Bernadette served previously as Executive Board Member and has helped coordinate the Fil-Am Dance Troupe. ♦

Fil-Am Professor Recognized for Outstanding Research

Edsel A. Peña, Professor of Statistics at the University of South Carolina, was awarded the 2008 USC Educational Foundation Research Award for Science, Mathematics and Engineering.

This award recognizes faculty members for outstanding research and is one of the two most prestigious annual prizes for research and scholarship at USC. Ed-
(continued on Page 2)



▲ Longtime FAAGC member Dr. Edsel Peña (right) receives his outstanding research award from then-USC President, Dr. Andrew Sorensen.

Columbia Fil-Am Annual Gala To Benefit Philippine Calamity Victims

The Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) will hold its 18th Annual Gala on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. The venue is at 200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 (just off the Greystone Blvd/Riverbanks Zoo exit of I-126).

The formal dinner-dance gala is the Association's main annual fundraiser to support its various activities such as the Philippine cultural dance troupe, scholarship fund, charitable endeavors, and other educational and multi-cultural activities in the South Carolina Midlands.

Fundraiser for the Red Cross

This year, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Philippine National Red Cross. The Philippine National Red Cross (www.redcross.org.ph) is mandated "to serve the most vulnerable individuals through its altruistic provision of services and to alleviate human suffering in moments of catastrophes and disasters."

We are providing financial support towards its efforts in providing continuous relief and rescue operations particularly in the areas of Antique, Romblon, Iloilo,

Mindoro and Negros that have been placed under the state of calamity following the recent destructive upshot of super-typhoon "Frank." Fifty percent of proceeds from gala benefactors, sponsors, patrons and donors will be sent directly to the PNR. Last year's gala raised funds which benefited four Philippine orphanages and child welfare institutions.

Gala Program and Tickets

The formal affair (*coat and tie or barong required*) includes a sit-down dinner and an entertainment program that includes Philippine folk and contemporary dances performed by the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe. The Drizzle Band will provide music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees.

Tickets are \$50 per person until September 6 and \$55 per person after September 6 and at the door. Student tickets are \$35 each. Due to hotel requirements for seating and catering arrangements, we would like all guests to buy, or at least reserve, their tickets by contacting one of our officers by September 6. It is possible that due to demand, only a very
(continued on Page 2)



▲ FAAGC officers Odess Brinkman, Lisa Edwards and Shirley McGuinness, with Jeremy Brinkman, wait for visitors to the bahay-kubo (bamboo hut) themed Philippine display during the 2008 Columbia International Festival last April.



The President's Corner by Alan Geoghegan

HELP US HELP OTHERS

Dear friends and Fil-Am members,

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our recent picnic at Weston Lake. We enjoyed a fun-filled day of food, swimming and some kayaking as well. We were able even to raise some funds for our Fil-Am with a *halo-halo* fundraiser. Thank you **Cecille Jacobsen** for the *halo-halo* ingredients and to all who helped bring food, cook and arrange our picnic. I noticed quite a few new faces, which shows a rekindled interest in our Association.

Fall beckons and we are already planning our **Annual Gala** scheduled for Saturday, September 13th at Embassy Suites. Please

buy your tickets as early as possible and we encourage you to make donations at various levels or place an ad in our gala program. This year, 50% of the proceeds raised from donors-to-benefactors will benefit the Philippine Red Cross to assist with victims of natural calamities. Help us help the Red Cross to help others. Please be generous and consider a level of sponsorship.

This newsletter shows the various achievements of our members and their families. I congratulate all of you on your various accomplishments throughout the past year.

I look forward to seeing you soon.



18th Annual Gala

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limited amount of tickets will be available at the door. For a small fee, babysitting services will be available on-site for children aged 2 to 10.

Out-of-town guests or members wishing to stay at Embassy Suites Hotel can reserve a discount suite at a special rate of \$149 plus tax, which should be booked as early as possible. Please call the Embassy Suites at (803) 252-8700 or (803) 362-2779

(website quick-link: <http://tinyurl.com/ESH-Columbia>) to make a reservation; mention that your stay is in connection with the Columbia Filipino-American Gala.

Gala Souvenir Program

Since the gala is the major annual fund-raising event of the Association, we are also soliciting all kinds of contribution in the forms of advertisements and donations (see form included in this issue). We request that all ads and contributions for being a sponsor, patron or donor be received no later than **September 1**

to be included in the printed gala souvenir program. As noted earlier, 50% of donations from benefactors, sponsors, patrons and donors will directly benefit the Philippines Red Cross.

For tickets or more information about the **Fil-Am Gala**, please contact **Alan Geoghegan** [(803) 787-5255], **Sally Ellis** [(803) 788-0144], **Odess Brinkman** [(803) 210-7577] or any other officer listed on this page. In the Sumter area, contact **Cecilia Jacobsen** at the **Fil-Am Store** [(803) 494-5613].

For hotel directions and updated information, visit the Columbia Fil-Am website at www.FilAmSC.org. ❖

By-Laws Amendments

Possible amendments to the Association By-Laws are being sought from members to make the FAAGC more responsive and attuned to current conditions.

The current By-Laws specifies that "amendments... may be proposed by the By-laws Committee, the Executive Board, or... by any member."

For details, contact **Noel Alon** (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com). Copies of the By-Laws can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

<http://www.filamsc.org> ❖

Maraming Salamat THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Recent Membership Renewals

- * Dr. Felicitas B. Santos
- * Terry & Dee Kirkland
- * Sean & Shirley McGuinness
- * Imelda Go
- * Francine Walker
- * Don & Evelyn Liester
- * Judy Salvador
- * David & Marissa Massie
- * Jim & Juvie Lowder
- * David & Odess Brinkman

We hope others will continue their support of the Fil-Am Association by renewing their membership for Association Year 2008-2009.

How To Reach Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

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The Official Newsletter of the
FILIPINO-AMERICAN
Association of Greater Columbia, SC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

The **FIL-AM BULLETIN** is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communications with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (as well as financial donations) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

NOEL ALON

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**Carlton Edwards, Mike Padua,
Dino Pantì**
Photographers

FilAm Professor

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sel was nominated by his colleagues in recognition for his innovative and outstanding research accomplishments. The award, consisting of a \$3,000 prize and a certificate of recognition, was presented by outgoing USC President, Dr. Andrew Sorensen, during the Spring General Faculty Meeting on April 28, 2008. ❖

MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **ANNA BENEDICTOS** of Columbia, SC. A registered nurse working at Palmetto Health Richland, she is the daughter of long-time FAAGC member Belen Fernell of Sumter, SC.

★ **ROBERT & DIVINA ("Divine") CARTER** of Columbia, SC. Now working at Sears, she hails from Cagayan de Oro City and likes ethnic dancing. Self-employed Bobby is from Aiken, SC.

★ **CARLTON Jr. & AMY EDWARDS** of Blythewood, SC. He is an area manager of Boozer Lumber while she is a pharmacist at K-Mart. They have three children: Trey, 8; Brandon, 6, and Kaylee, 7 months. His mother is FAAGC Assistant Secretary Lisa Edwards.

★ **ED & YANI IRAG GOULD** of Lexington, SC. In the Greater Columbia area now for three years, she is a teacher from Urdueta, Pangasinan. She likes contemporary and ethnic dancing and hopes the Association can provide her with "more solid ties with the Filipino community." A locksmith business-owner, he is from Lexington, SC. They have a one-year old child, Yana Lei.

★ **JEFF HALL** of Sumter, SC.

★ **JOE & LIN HETRICK** of Hopkins, SC. Longtime residents in the area, both are now retired; he is a U.S. Navy retiree.

★ **JEFFREY & MARIA FREDI ZMINDA ("Frennie") NOAH** of West Columbia, SC. In the Greater Columbia area now for over three years, she is an accountant from Boac, Marinduque. Jeff is a cost estimator with Monterey Construction. She says that "joining the Association will expose our son (Nicholas, 7) to the Filipino culture" and let her "family to be able to give back to the Filipino community." She

thinks the Association should "take every chance to recruit new members" to help achieve its objectives.

★ **MIKE & MARILOU O'NEILL** of Blythewood, SC. Recently arrived from the Philippines, Malou is a teacher from Metro Manila who now works at La Petite Academy. He works with the Small Business Administration. They have joined FAAGC to "meet new friends and participate in its activities."

★ **MARK & PRESCY RAMIREZ** of Columbia, SC.

★ **RICHARD & SARAH MARTINEZ RINN** of Columbia, SC. In the area for about three years, she is originally from Masbate City and works in sales at Rooms To Go. A realtor with Assist2Sell, he is from Danvers, Massachusetts.

★ **VICENTE ("Vic") & JULIE RIZALDE** of Chapin, SC. Newly arrived in the area, they list Cagayan de Oro City and Cebu City as their Philippine hometowns. He is a retired stockroom supervisor while she is retired registered nurse. They have a daughter, Anna Marie, and a granddaughter, Julie Anne.

★ **RAMON & EVELYN SEE** of Blythewood, SC. Just three months in the Greater Columbia area, they hail from Metro Manila. She is a registered nurse at Palmetto Health Baptist while he is printing press cutter. They hope the Association can help provide "better camaraderie among Filipinos" and have "more community activities to show better the Filipino culture." They have two children: Sean Cruz, 16, and Raen Nina, 11.

❖

~ Congratulations ~

➤ to **Jake & Noreen Bolotano** on the recent birth of their second son.

➤ to **James Francis Gunn and Revelyn Baig Fornbacher** on their marriage on April 26 in Sumter, SC.

➤ to **Judy Salvador** on her upcoming marriage to **Ranjel Asis** in West Columbia, SC, on September 6. A FAAGC sustaining member, she served as Association Secretary from 1993 to 1996 and was a long-time performer with the Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe.

➤ to **Keith H. Seymour** on his recent award for creating the scrapbook that won for his Knight of Columbus St. Joseph Council #12554 the *Pulliam Award for Publicity & Public Relations* in its district and the state of South Carolina. A former FAAGC Executive Board Member (2005-2007), he is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. ❖

NEW FBI SPECIAL AGENT

Steve Jones (right) was awarded his credentials as a Special Agent of the FBI by FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, (left) at graduation ceremonies at the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia, on July 2, 2008.

The presentation came at the conclusion of 21 weeks of training. Steve was also the recipient of the *Director's Leadership Award* as determined by a vote of the staff and fellow students of the graduating class. Steve has been assigned to the FBI office at Norfolk, VA.

Son-in-law of FAAGC sustaining charter members Jim & Tessie Kenerson of Columbia, Steve is the husband of Tessie's and Jim's daughter, Tessa. Both former officers of the Charleston Police Department, Tessa and Steve now live in the greater Tidewater, VA area where Tessa will continue her studies for a degree in nursing.



RECENTLY RETIRED

SUSANA B. PASICATAN, MD, retired from the SC Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) in April 2008 after working for 28 years. Her husband, **Alfonso A. Pasicatan, MD**, retired earlier in June 2006. Both worked as psychiatrists with the SCDMH.

The Pasicatans are FAAGC sustaining charter members and Susana served as the first FAAGC First Vice President (1991-92).

Photo was taken at the Diamond Hall Supreme Hotel, Baguio City, where the Pasicatans attended Susana's 50th Grand Alumni Homecoming of the Baguio City High School in May 2008.



A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S★ G★A★L★L★O★R★E

Although the 2008-2009 school year is just getting into full swing, for posterity sake and historical record, we would be remiss if we don't carry on our annual tradition of recognizing high-achieving children (and adults too) in the extended Fil-Am community during the immediate past school year (2007-2008). Belated this may be, **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following graduates and awardees — and all others not mentioned here due to our lack of detailed information on their individual accomplishments — despite repeated telephone, e-mail, mailed and verbal reminders, only a few families submitted the needed information and/or photos in time for inclusion in this issue.

★ **JESLIE ANN CUARESMA**, PharmD, has been nominated to receive the



CVS/Caremark Paragon Award, the highest and most prestigious award the company bestows to its best registered pharmacist in every district. She will represent more than 50 CVS pharmacies in the Washington, DC area in the national convention honoring CVS pharmacists to be held in Florida in September where a national winner will be chosen.

A 2006 University of South Carolina (USC) graduate, Jeslie Ann has been with the company for 2 years and is the current Pharmacist-in-charge at the CVS branch in the George Washington University campus. One of the pioneer *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performers, she is the oldest daughter of Manny and Leah Cuaresma of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **BRYAN MOISES BROWN** graduated on May 3, 2008 from Francis Marion University (Florence, SC) with a Bachelor of Science



in Sociology, minor in Psychology. A member of the FMU varsity baseball team, he was named most valuable player (MVP) during the 2006 "FMU world series." He is currently working in Texas. A former pioneer performer of the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe*, he is the younger son of Linda and the late Douglas Brown of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **RAYMUND MIRAFLORE ELAMPARO**

graduated on December 17, 2007 from USC with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. He plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy in St. Augustine, FL. A former *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and the first recipient of the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* award in 2003, he is the eldest son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **BUTCH DEO ELAMPARO**

graduated on June 4, 2008 from Ridge View High School. Recipient of LIFE, USC University, and USC Engineering & Computing scholarships, he is attending USC-Columbia to major in computer science. He is the youngest son of Butch & Dhel Elamparo of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **CHRISTIAN YSMAEL TUPAS**

graduated on June 4, 2008 from Richland Northeast High School. He is the eldest son of Douglas (Butch) & Helena Tupas of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **MARK ALLEN B. VIRAY**

graduated on June 4, 2008 from Ridge View High School. Active with the Ridgeview ROTC and the Ridgeview Marching and Symphonic bands, he served as president of the RVHS Fil-Am



older son of Mario & Wyda Viray of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **AILEEN ALON** completed her second year at Winthrop University (Rock Hill, SC) on the 2007-2008 Dean's List. She was inducted into two national honor societies: Pi Gamma Mu (social sciences) and Phi Kappa Phi ("the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society"). In addition to her previous Palmetto Fellow and Winthrop Trustee scholarships, she received the Iva B. Gibson Study Abroad Scholarship and the Julia P. Gaillard Scholarship for the 2008-2009 school year. She was a graduation marshal during the December and May commencement ceremonies.

She continued her voluntary involvement with Model United Nations (MUN), serving as the first Director of Administrative Relations for the 2008 National High School MUN Conference in New York City; she was also the Security Council Chair for Winthrop's MUN Conference in April. A jewelry and metalwork major in the Honors Program, Aileen will continue her studies in Florence, Italy, for the Fall 2008 semester. A former longtime *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer and a recipient of the *Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship* award in 2006, she is the daughter of Noel & Helen

Alon of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ELAIZA "Leigh" APAN** graduated from



Blythewood Middle School and received a certificate award as a "B M S Class of

2008 Student to Watch." She also received the *President's Award for Educational Excellence* in recognition of her "outstanding academic excellence" and a "honor roll achievement citation" from SC State Senator Joel Laurie. She participated in the national French Contest. A *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* performer, she is the older daughter of Bernadette Yavis of Blythewood, SC. ♦

★ **ANGEL LUNA** finished sixth grade at Dent Middle School on the honor roll and received a certificate of achievement as a "Rising Star." She is the older child of Archie & Maria "Zeny" Luna of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JOSHUA CALEB B. VIRAY** "graduated" from Lake Carolina Elementary



School on the A-B honor roll. He will be attending Kelly Mill Middle School

this year. He is the younger son of Mario & Wyda of Columbia, SC. ♦

CONGRATULATIONS & MABUHAY!

A★C★H★I★E★V★E★M★E★N★T★S

G★A★L★L★O★R★E



★ **MIKHAIL MANZANO** completed fourth grade at Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School with a “Principal’s Award” for being a consistent “A” Honor Roll student for all four quarters. She received “honor roll achievement citation” from SC State Senator Joel Laurie and was an “Outstanding Achievement in Academic Excellence” awardee. She was recognized



for her “excellent achievement” as an “Accelerated Reader” and was on the “Governor’s Reading Honor Roll.” She participated in the Mother’s Day essay contest sponsored by Reed Jewelry and took part in Disney’s “The Jungle Book Kids” performance at Richland Northeast High School. She is the older daughter of Danny Mel & Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **ANGELO LUNA** completed third grade at Conder Elementary School on the honor roll and received achievement certificate awards in mathematics, reading & writing. He is the son of Archie & Maria “Zeny” Luna

of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **JHUDIEL MANZANO** finished third grade at Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School with a “Super Scholar Award”



for being superior in academics. She received “honor roll achievement citation” from SC State Senator Joel Laurie and a mathematics award for “multiplication madness whiz.” She took part in “Brain Booster” and was chosen to participate in the “District

Read-in” at Richland Northeast High School. She was also an “Accelerated Reader” awardee and was on the “Governor’s Reading Honor Roll.” She is the younger daughter of Danny Mel & Rowena Manzano of Columbia, SC. ♦

★ **CHRISTIAN DEREK AGUILAR** finished second grade at Sandlapper Elementary School as a straight A honor roll student. He received awards as Math Super Star Point Leader, for citizenship, and for perfect attendance. He has also been evaluated by the state as academically gifted. He is the son of Manuel, Jr. & Lourdes Aguilar of Columbia, SC. ♦

FIL-AM GALLERY



▲ Ready, get set . . . waiting for the GO signal for the traditional Easter egg-hunt at the 2008 Easter picnic at Sesquicentennial Park. Photo: Dino Pantl



▲ At the 2008 Columbia International Festival. Photo: Mike Padua



▲ At the 2008 Easter picnic at Sesquicentennial Park. Photo: Mike Padua



At the 2008 summer picnic at Weston Lake Recreation Area. Photo: Alan/Cecile Geoghegan

The Manila of Ropes, Paper, Folders, and Envelopes

by Imelda Go



As you know, there are many types of merchandise that are being made in the Philippines, which make their way to stores in the U.S.A. Examples include clothing, shoes, baskets, and shell craft. You know its made in the Philippines because the label says so. However, in the cases of Manila paper, the Manila folder and the Manila envelope, the names say it all. First, Manila is the capital of the Philippines. So what makes these items so Manila?

Abaca

The heart of the answer is the Manila hemp plant or *abaca* (*Musa textilis*) of the family Musaceae (banana family). Abaca is native to the

Philippines where it has been cultivated since the 16th century. It is not related to true hemp, but it belongs to the same genus as the common banana, which abaca closely resembles except that abaca's green fruits are inedible. These fruits appear after pollination usually by bats.

Manila Hemp

Manila hemp is the fiber extracted from the surface layers of the leaf-sheaths of the abaca. Mature abaca plants are cut and its leaf-sheaths provide long fibers, which are exceptionally strong and durable. Paper-making industries prize Manila hemp for its long staple length and cellulose content. Its fiber strands are up to three meters long. Longer fibers are considered stronger than shorter ones. Manila hemp is considered the strongest of natural fibers, being three

times stronger than cotton and two times stronger than sisal fiber.

Manila hemp debuted in the Western commercial world around 1820 and was the king of marine ropes (strong, light, water resistant) prior to the introduction of synthetic fiber ropes. The coarser fibers are turned into binder twine, matting, rope, and coarse sack cloth. The finer fibers are turned into native fabric and hemp hats, bags, and other personal and household items.

Manila Paper

The term Manila paper refers to old Manila hemp ropes, which are turned into strong wrapping paper. Brown envelopes made from the pulp are known as Manila envelopes. The ubiquitous office folder is also known as the Manila folder.

Many specialized papers

can be produced from abaca fibers

since paper from Manila hemp pulp is highly porous or allows easy passage of water. These include tea and coffee bags, sausage casing paper, currency notes, cigarette filter papers, and high-quality writing paper.

The Philippines is the worldwide leader in abaca production and provides 85 to 90% of the worldwide requirement while Ecuador supplies the rest. The abaca fiber handicraft industry in the Philippines is thriving and is exporting its products worldwide.

So whenever you see Manila paper, Manila folders, Manila envelopes, and even the common tea bag, you can think Philippines. Abaca is another reason to be very proud of the Philippines' contribution to the world. ♦

References:

- *Abaca*. Retrieved August 5, 2008, from the National Abaca Research Center, LSU ViSCA, Baybay, Leyte, Philippines website: [http://www.lsu-visca.edu.ph/narc/about us/Abaca.htm](http://www.lsu-visca.edu.ph/narc/about%20us/Abaca.htm) (tinyurl.com/abaca1)
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- *Why is the "manila folder" called "manila"?* Retrieved August 5, 2008, from the Ask Yahoo! website: <http://ask.yahoo.com/ask/20031110.html> (tinyurl.com/abaca6)

Four Philippine natural tourist attractions are among the top candidates to be nominees for the *New 7 Wonders of Nature*.

The *New7Wonders of Nature* campaign seeks to "raise awareness of the incredible variety and beauty of nature around us." With the slogan "If we want to save anything, we first need to truly appreciate it!", organizers hope "these natural treasures [natural monuments, sites and landscapes] can be better preserved for future generations."

The Philippine sites (and their rankings as of August 20) are:

(11) **Chocolate Hills** — the



unusual geological formation of 1,268 perfectly cone-shaped and similarly-sized hills in Bohol;



(12) **Tubataha Reef** — the two-atoll coral reef marine sanctuary in the Sulu Sea;

(13) **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park**



— a limestone karst mountain landscape with five miles of navigable underground river winding through a cave, located north of Puerto Princesa, Palawan; and



(18) **Mayon Volcano** — the country's most active volcano con-

sidered to be the world's most perfectly formed cone. For daily updated rankings, check www.new7wonders.com/nature/en/liveranking/ [or use this quick-link:

tinyurl.com/7wonders]

Anyone with an email address can register and vote once in each phase (*nominee/Top 77* stage and *Finalist* stage) of the campaign via www.new7wonders.com.

Voting for nominees will continue through December 31, 2008. A panel of experts will then select from the Top 77 nominees the 21 finalists, from which voters worldwide will select the final new seven natural wonders of the world.

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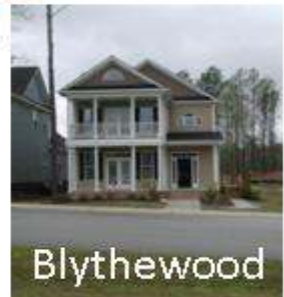
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Linda Brener, Realtor



*** Just A Reminder ***

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2008-09 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — *if there are three asterisks (***) on the line above your name*, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks.

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible. Dues can also be paid at the gala. If there are membership renewal questions, contact **Helen Alon** (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com). ❖

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The FAAGC 2008-2009 Directory of Members booklet will be distributed during the 2008 Fil-Am Christmas Party. Anyone who would like to place a business listing or a business-card-size ad in the directory (*for a small fee to help cover printing expenses*) is urged to contact the **Fil-Am Bulletin** Editor (738-0372; FAA GC@hotmail.com). ❖



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www.FilAmSC.org

for the clickable direct links to the websites mentioned in this issue of the **Fil-Am Bulletin**.
Current and some past issues (*in color*) of the **Fil-Am Bulletin** are also available online.



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Summer 2008



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Reminder:

* **Columbia FIL-AM Annual GALA**
will be held on **Saturday, September 13, 2008**
at the **Embassy Suite s Hotel** (200 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210)

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY**