

Gina, Phil and Sarah to Riviera Golf & Country Club, Silang, Cavite. While Gina and Phil went swimming, I played golf. We enjoyed the new 5-star clubhouse, the scenic golf course layout, and its surrounding thick vegetation as well as its rolling terrain similar to Tagaytay and Baguio. That evening, the Villanuevas invited all of us as well as all the Laico relatives to a sumptuous dinner at the new 5-level National Sports restaurant in Greenbelt, Makati. We relished not only the food but also the lively band and its singers.

The 3rd to arrive was Art & Grace. They arrived near midnight November 15. Their first five days were spent with Grace's family in Urdaneta Village, Makati. During the weekend, Art & Grace's family enjoyed the white sand beach & 1st class resort in Ternate, Cavite, Caylabne Bay Resort. The last four days with us were just too short to give them more fun-filled adventures at a leisurely phase. On Wednesday, November 23, Art & I left early for a whole day of golf at the Riviera Golf & Country Club. Being a weekday, I thought we could play immediately upon arrival at the easier more forgiving golf course designed by Fred Couples. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Our only option was to play on the most challenging course, by Bernard Langer, and to wait for more than an hour before we could start. This course with a par of 72 was studded with big & deep bunkers; most fairways were rolling & slanted at the sides; the roughs were very thick; & there was a good sprinkling of ravines & water hazards. As if adding insult

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to injury, the wind was abnormally strong that day which probably added about 10 points to our scores. After 18 holes, I had a bloated score of 117 but Art even surpassed my score by 3 points. The next day, Art & Grace had a hair workout at David's Salon & later went shopping at Alabang Town Center. In the evening, most of the Laico relatives attended the buffet dinner hosted by the Villanuevas at their Alabang residence in honor of Art & Grace. On Friday, November 23, Art & I again played golf with two village friends at the easier Philippine Navy golf course in Fort Bonifacio. This time Art exacted his sweet revenge by defeating me at my home golf course where I've been playing at least once a week. That's golf. Don't you know that playing golf is actually your life in capsule form? All through our lives, we try to conquer ourselves & experience defeats, frustrations & victories along the way. After all, our greatest challenge is not others but ourselves. In the evening, Art & Grace treated the David family & Grace's mom to a well-known Thai restaurant in Glorietta, Makati. Later we proceeded to Malate to listen to a live band in one of the newest disco clubs. They were kidding me that at my age I could still enjoy the loud & wild music of the young. On their last day, Art & Grace together with all members of the David household went to Tagaytay. Our trip was punctuated by an overheated car which forced us to stop at a car service station in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. We had a preset lunch at Sonia's Garden, well-known for their expertly prepared organic food. We left the place fully satisfied & happy. For the rest of the afternoon, we went swimming in the heated pool at Canyon Woods Resort. Paul & I also enjoyed the massaging effect of the jacuzzi adjacent to the pool. In the evening, we had the full company of Grace's family in our house exchanging pleasantries & handing over our pasalubong to relatives living near Silicon Valley.

Last but not least, all our children & their respective partners, who visited us, were happy to see that their Mom's health has never been better than at present. Ching has added some weight; her face has become pinkish; her skin, smooth & clean; & it appears that her recurring cold & loud groaning have left her. Her taking of Intra, an herbal food supplement, might have helped her.

Happy holidays to one & all!

## LIHIM NI ALING CRISTI

### Bibingka Galapong de Nonon

by Nonon Flores

#### Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups self-rising flour  
1 cup evaporated milk  
1/2 cup water  
1 1/2 cup sugar  
2 eggs  
Slices of cream cheese (your preference)  
2 salted eggs  
grated coconut

Prepare 2 aluminum pie pans: Line with wax paper and banana leaf -- trim around the edges to fit the pan. Mix the first five ingredients together till well blended. (By hand! Use your muscles, not the electric mixer.) Pour into the prepared pans. Top with the slices of cream cheese and slices of salted egg.

**Optional:** Beat 2 more eggs and pour on top to get a golden brown color. (I don't do this--need to cut down on cholesterol.)

Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until lightly brown.

**Optional:** After baking, immediately spread 1/4 stick of butter on the top while still hot, and sprinkle with sugar. Broil in the oven if you want a little burnt (*sunog*) effect, but this step is very delicate because it could easily burn if you forget about it just because the phone rings, or you suddenly have an Alzheimer's attack, you know? Should be in the oven for just about 2 minutes, or keep checking until you get the desired appearance.

When done, (*sa wakas*) remove the wax paper liner from the bottom, how to do it is up to you--use your imagination and originality--too challenging!

Sprinkle grated coconut on top before serving.

