

# GOOD GOD, MORE LAICOS!!

December 25, 1998/Laico Lines

2

by NONON LAICO FLORES

**A**s we grow older, we come to realize that God reveals his love to us in so many ways, but most especially through wonderful people. We were deeply touched by the love God revealed to us through our cousins from the Laico side, namely Lita de Guzman and Minnie Valentin (their mother, Tia Betty, was Lolo Jim's sister) and the Kabigting sisters - Lily Laue, Raquel Fok, Mila Scherer, and Aida McCann. The Kabigting sisters' mother was Tia Lydia, Lolo Jim's sister who also loved to play the piano.

When they learned that Peewee was giving a concert in Maryland and that some of us - Nini, Nonon, Mitos and Rory - would be there to attend it, they were all excited and enthusiastically made plans for a get-together. Minnie and Lita drove all the way from New Jersey and we were all entertained at a dinner in

Mila's charming home in Silver Springs, which had an ingound pool. Although we planned to take a dip at the pool, this never happened because we were so engrossed in our *daldalan* (*agawan pa*)\* and of course the *halakhakan*\* which is a Laico trademark when we get together.

It was my first time to see Raquel and Aida as grown-ups. The last time I saw Raquel, she was still a teenager, and Aida was still a young child with Tia Lydia. Lily, with the ever *makinis kutis*\* looked so happily married. (As Sinatra says, love is wonderful the second time around). Raquel was glamorous as ever. She managed to join us in-between driving for her sons on a very busy weekend before her son's graduation. Her son, Patrick, graduated high school with honors and

(continued on page 3)

*Lia and Alex find their perfect home in*

## LAICOVILLE, USA



By LIA JUAREZ-SILVA

PITTSBURG, CA - This was a very busy year for our family. It started as early as December 1997, when we had my mom and sister Bambi over from the Philippines. Bambi and I hadn't seen each other for nearly six years. It was a nice reunion, especially now that we are both married and have children (The last time we had seen each other, we were barely out of college). She spent the next

*'This place feels so much like home and we are really enjoying the company of relatives.'*

nine months at our house and we got a chance to do some catching up. She also experienced that life is different here in the States - no traffic, no brown-outs, no water shortage and of course no maids! My mom on the other hand, stayed only for a few weeks.

By the middle of the year Bubbles followed along and spent about eight weeks here. This time it was a real treat for me to have the *Tres Marias* together. Our schedule by this time was very hectic and we tried to make use of every free minute. Every weekend there were parties or other things going on. Some

(continued on page 3)

LILY LAUE HOLDS THE "WELCOME COUSINS" CAKE AT MIMI SCHERER'S HOME. STANDING: RORY, NONON, LITA LAICO VALENTIN DEGUZMAN, MIMI LAICO KABIGTING SCHERER. SEATED: NINI, LILY LAICO KABIGTING LAUE, MINNIE LAICO VALENTIN, PEEWEE, AND MITOS. NOT IN PHOTO: RAQUEL LAICO KABIGTING FOK AND AIDA LAICO KABIGTING MCCANN.



# GOOD GOD, MORE LAICOS!!

(continued from page 2)

is now a freshman at McGill University in Montreal.

Mila went all out preparing the sumptuous dinner while her husband, Terri, and son, Don, provided the Clinton jokes. Even her younger son, Eric, made it home to meet his cousins Joedie, BJ, Jeremy (Villanueva) and Jeff (Villasenor). Aida has such a

*These are some memories of my wonderful sisters and brothers while I was growing up. If any of them are inaccurate, sorry, too late to change them. They've been there for years.*

- Rory

## I REMEMBER WHEN...

by Rory Laico Packwood

### CHING...

- would fashionably put up her hair in a french twist or *chignon* (which was the rage then) to work, and wear high heels, which showed off her very prominent ballet dancer leg muscles.

- was so thrilled with her first baby, Arthur. I would help her take care of baby Arthur in their first apartment in Vito Cruz, Singalong.

pretty daughter, Andrea, who somehow reminds me of a young ballet dancer in a Nutcracker Suite production.

Lita of course came bearing some of her specialties - *empanaditas de casoy\** and Food for the Gods (in this case, Goddesses) and she had apportioned them so each of us had a nice *pabaon\** to bring home. Such a generous heart!

Minnie was still so bubbly - have you ever met anyone who doesn't seem to have any cares? That's her. She also gave us some thrills with her driving - can you believe driving *paatras\** in the expressway because she missed the exit? I tensely mumbled a quickie act of contrition! Anyway, Minnie later said that she had to do it because she could never forgive herself if we missed Peewee's concert because she missed the exit and we had to take a different route.

Well, we were really blessed to have been brought together after all these years and got to know God's love through each other over a weekend.

#### \*daldalan

(*agawan pa*) - non-stop yakkety yak talking all at the same time.

\**halakhakan* - really loud non-stop Ha Ha Ha Ha, Hee Hee Hee.

\**makinis kutis* - smooth, silky Estee Lauder complexion.

\**empanaditas de casoy* - hard to translate but addictingly delicious.

\**pabaon* - goodie bags, a must-have for Filipinos.

\**paatras* - backing up on the expressway which only Minnie is gutsy enough to do.

## LAICOVILLE, U.S.A.

(continued from page 2)

places that we went to (to name a few) were: Lake Tahoe, the local Bay Area attractions, and Disneyland on the Fourth of July.

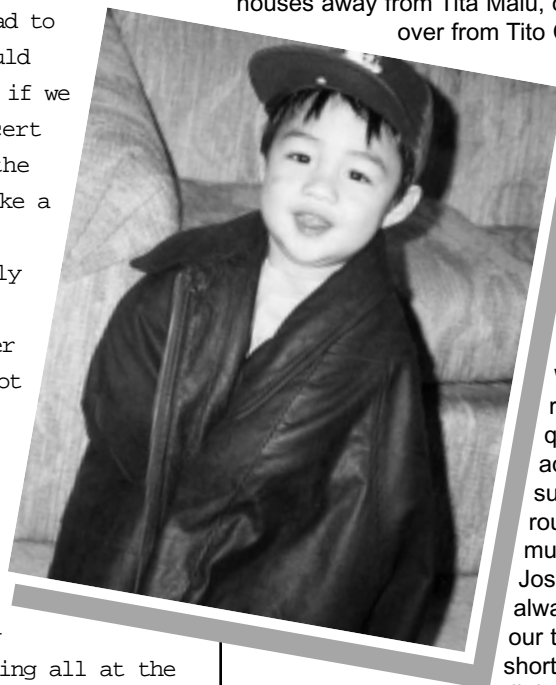
In the midst of all our activities and everyday work schedule we tried to squeeze in house hunting. Our goal was to purchase a house by the end of this year. As most of you know, the Silicon Valley area is one of the hardest places to find an affordable home. Alex and I looked as far as sixty miles south of San Jose, in places like Gilroy, Hollister and even Los Banos (these places are garlic and farm country) and also sixty miles east of San Jose. We were a bit discouraged at one point, but we kept on looking.

After all the research and driving around, who would've imagined that the place that we would call home was right in the heart of "Laicoville" or Oak Hills, Pittsburg, CA. Yes, folks, we live five houses away from Tita Malu, one street over from Tito Chicho and

Aisa, and

two blocks from Tito Popoy.

We've only lived here for two months. We're experiencing quite an adjustment, such as a rough commute to San Jose, and always feel that our time is too short. Despite all that, this place



feels so much like home and we are really enjoying the company of relatives. Even little Andre feels the same, especially since playmate Isabelle Dizon lives just around the corner.

Of course, we are never without a house guest. Bambi and Bubbles are back home in the Philippines, but Bingo took their place and so we have a whole new agenda ahead of us. I think 1999 is going to be even more exciting and I hope to see all you here at our place for the Grand Reunion and to celebrate the coming of Y2K. *Beware!*