

# The BKP Bulletin



A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF BAGONG KULTURANG PINOY, INC.

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Summer/Fall 2010

September 2010

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## BKP PHILIPPINES FORGES NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Always on the lookout for ways to expand its reach, BKP found synergy and common ground with various Non-Governmental Organizations in the Philippines. So this past July, BKP Philippines signed a Memo of Agreement with a number of NGOs: Bato Balani, Synergeia, 7 Degrees of Change and Adarna House. BKP hopes to collaborate with these groups, with the goal of setting up one hundred mini-libraries within ten years. This partnership is expected to facilitate the process of working closely with local governments and specifically, to help determine how best to utilize government and private contributions.

One vital component of this agreement is incorporating BKP's Read Aloud teaching methodology into the library programs. Our BKP volunteers will be conducting "Training the Trainer" sessions so that

teachers or volunteers from all of these locations can be trained.

A synopsis of each organization is as follows:



### Adarna House

([www.adarnahouse.com.ph](http://www.adarnahouse.com.ph)) is the leading publisher of children's books and manuals for teachers and daycare workers in the Philippines. Their mission mirrors that of BKP's, which is a strong commitment to education and literacy of the Filipino children. As described in its company profile, Adarna House's real business is not only inspiring children to read, but helping them develop a strong sense of self and country.



### **Bato Balani Foundation**

([www.batobalanifoundation.org.ph](http://www.batobalanifoundation.org.ph)) is a non-profit organization that is devoted to building the country's future by focusing on all aspects of the educational sector: teacher training, school development, student development and special involvement programs. The beneficiaries of their mission are not only teachers and students, but also educational and research institutions. Their programs include teacher training, school administration management development, school and library assistance and development, scholarships and other school-based, education-oriented programs.



### **Synergeia Foundation**

([www.synergeia.org.ph](http://www.synergeia.org.ph)) is an alliance of individuals and organizations who share a vision of basic education enhancement. Along with the National Department of Education, two hundred and fifty local governments as well as educators and parents, Synergeia implements processes that improve learning and teaching methodologies to help improve, among others, the proficiency of Grade 1-6 students in reading, understanding, speaking and writing the English language. Their multi-awarded education movement already oversees over 150 local communities and their grassroots literacy programs.



### **7 Degrees of Change**

([www.7degreesofchange.org](http://www.7degreesofchange.org)) is a US-based volunteer and book donor organization that is committed to shipping fifty-thousand books annually to the Philippines and other Asian countries. Currently, they work in partnership with Rotary International as well as students in the Philippines, specifically PREP (Promoting Rural Education in the Philippines). The founders and volunteers of this organization not only enable the underprivileged to explore the world of books, but they also teach them about lifelong skills, leadership skills and bring about the exchange of cultures between US and other countries.

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### **BKP**

### **UPDATES**

We are pleased to announce that we have opened three new mini-libraries so far this year, for a total of one hundred twenty-three. Congratulations to the staff of the following libraries for making it happen!

*Bacon West Central School in Balete,  
Bacon District, Sorsogon  
Cainta Municipal Library in Cainta, Rizal  
Villa Esperanza Elementary School,  
Tangub, Bacolod City, Negros  
Occidental*

We celebrate the opening of these libraries, but, we, unfortunately, also lost twenty libraries in Manila due to the devastation when Typhoon Ondoy pummeled Luzon last year. As a result, these libraries are temporarily shut down and we are awaiting their word that they are once again ready for operations. It goes without saying that restocking their book shelves will be our top priority once these structures are restored.

## BKP CHAPTERS NEWS



Kudos to BKP-NY staff for having sent books to ten libraries since it started its operations in May of last year! The group has been working at a fast pace this year, already shipping six thousand books. By this year's end, at least two more libraries, one in the Cordillera Mountains, Pampanga and another in Surigao province, will be able to begin operations, having been scheduled to receive hundreds of books from BKP-NY.

Recent recipients of the BKP-NY books are the following:

*Senora de Guia Parish in Magallanes, Cavite*

*Rizal Technological University in Mandaluyong, Manila*

*Tahimik Sa Tondo in Tondo, Manila*

*Del Monte Elementary School in Baranggay Del Monte, Samal Island, Davao Del Norte*

*San Antonio Elementary School in Los Banos, Laguna*

*Sion Elementary School in Baranggay Sion, Samal Island, Davao Del Norte*

*Tabon Elementary School in Palawan Municipality, Quezon*

*Underground Elementary School in Palawan Municipality, Quezon*

*Municipality of Matnog in Sorsogon*

*Francisco Balagtas Elementary School in Santa Cruz, Manila*



*CLE Training at Rizal Technological University, Mandaluyong*



*An Engaged "Tahimik Sa Tondo" Reader*

Aside from the book distribution program, BKP-NY, through collaborative efforts with BKP and BKP Philippines, has also facilitated literacy workshops for teachers and volunteers in three libraries, with more scheduled this year.

Still, for all its accomplishments, BKP-NY needs help in promoting their cause. If anyone in the greater NY metropolitan area is interested in helping out or donating books or money, please contact BKP-NY at [info@bkpny.org](mailto:info@bkpny.org) or [volunteer@bkpny.org](mailto:volunteer@bkpny.org). For more information, please visit their website at [www.bkpny.org](http://www.bkpny.org).



Carolina Clemente Leap, a career educator who resides in San Diego, CA, is currently spearheading the launching of a BKP chapter in her area. Last July, she met with a number of board members in Boston and, along with her mother, Dionisia Bergado, received training in our Read-Aloud Method (Concentrated Language Encounter/ CLE). As of this writing, she is busy working on the structural pieces of the chapter, including assembling the members of the board and developing its website. Although still a work in progress, [www.bkpcalifornia.org](http://www.bkpcalifornia.org) is now activated. Carolina is finalizing plans for her first book drive, which she hopes to jumpstart when school starts in August.

Carolina found herself sharing the common vision with BKP founders to help impoverished children of the Philippines read their way out of poverty. A visit to the country late last year served as the impetus for her to personally finance the procurement of books and shipping them to her own elementary school in Quezon City as well as to Dionisia's old elementary school in Samar. It also provided the motivation for her commitment to continue this endeavor on an annual basis.



*Carolina Leap at the CLE Workshop, with Executive Director, Judi Babcock*

From the training, it was clear that Carolina's solid teaching skills gained from years of educating young adults promise to be quite suitable to her role within the BKP organization. We wish her and her group much success!



### **OPENING BKP CHAPTERS**

If anyone is interested in starting a BKP chapter, we'd love to hear from you. You can visit our website: [www.aklatan.org](http://www.aklatan.org) and contact Judi Babcock.



### **TO LEA, FOR YOUR PASSION AND DEDICATION:**



After five years of directorship, Lea Sison has relinquished her duties, well deservedly, to have more time traveling and just being with her family. To the new board, she has bequeathed a legacy of accomplishments. Under her directorship, BKP opened approximately seventy additional mini-libraries, for a total of one hundred twenty-three. In addition to her duty overseeing all aspects of the BKP affairs, Lea's directorship style was always defined as hands-on. She organized all book packing sessions during her term, picked up books at various town libraries and addressed each packed box to designated BKP libraries. To get a first-hand look at the BKP operations, she visited more than two dozen libraries in the Philippines and plans to visit more in the future. Thankfully, Lea will remain active with BKP.

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### **NEW WEBSITE, FACEBOOK**

We are looking forward to our new website ([www.aklatan.org](http://www.aklatan.org)) which is being updated by Len Brault and Harry Potts. Thank you both! The BKP Community appreciates your expertise and help in this worthwhile cause.

We can also be found on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, we invite you to join the *Friends of Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.*

## **BKP AIDS FLOOD VICTIMS**



*Family Pack Distribution in Taytay*



*Goods Distribution*

Special thanks go to those who, through BKP and BKP Philippines, donated goods, money and time to the victims of the Ondoy flood.

**FOR A BKP DONOR, RETURNS OF  
OVERWHELMING SUCCESS**



She knew the enormity of the need for books at her old school, so Fely Lambino, an alumna of Jose E. Timbol Elementary School in Santa Maria, Davao Del Sur, and an ardent BKP volunteer, worked tirelessly to put up a library there. Since it opened in 2007, the school has elevated the quality level of its education. Consequently, it has gained a good reputation, not just in the local area but throughout the Visayas and Mindanao regions, and has been deemed by the National Department of Education as academically more competitive, “a one of a kind elementary school in Region XI”.

According to Lucia Lambino of JTSCES, the teaching staff, made up of high school students, elementary school teachers and even out-of-school youths, had an overwhelming experience during the CLE training and is thankful for being given the chance to have fun.

She said that because of BKP, the school has earned additional points for its learning materials and gave a list of student achievements in various areas such as Read-a-Thons, English and Filipino Com Arts Fest. Their students have also participated (and received recognition) in Journalism competitions, specifically, Photo Journalism, Editorial Cartooning, Newswriting and Editorial Newswriting. This September 2010, they have the honor of hosting the Division Com Arts Fest in Filipino and English competitions.

JTSCES has been bestowed the “Brigada Eskwela” award and has been named to the Hall of Fame by the Department of Education. Lucia also mentioned that through the BKP learning center, the school qualified for the APPES (Accreditation Program in Public Elementary School) Level I. In her own words, Lucia pointed out that “all the achievements the school made these last years proved that BKP learning system is not just effective in academic excellence, but it also makes the students and the school excel in different activities and competitions”.

School officials from other regions have visited their school and have made JTSCES a model for their own. Soon, other divisional and regional personnel are also scheduled to observe how BKP’s system works.

Needless to say, the administrative and teaching staff of JTSCES is grateful to its alumna, Fely Lambino, for the endless opportunities that her BKP library has given their students.

Congratulations, Fely! Well done.

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**Donors**

We are fully grateful to those who have supported our cause through monetary donations and to those who have donated goods to aid the victims of the Typhoon Ondoy flood.



## Volunteers

Thanks to all the BKP volunteers for their gift of time, especially during book-packing activities. These involve sorting (pre-school, elementary and high school), stamping and packing books to send to designated libraries in the Philippines. These are normally scheduled on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month and are usually done at the Centre Congregational Church in Lynnfield MA. However, due to the severe floods this past spring, its basement was damaged and was under repairs this summer. Thanks to Judi Babcock and Weng Jimenez for opening their homes for book packing during this time. We hope to be able to hold our October 2nd book packing session at the church.

BKP volunteers have also worked in other projects, such as Book Drives and our Annual Ballroom Dance.

We always need help and welcome all inquiries on being a BKP volunteer, so please do not hesitate to contact of us or visit our website ([www.aklatan.org](http://www.aklatan.org))



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### FROM THE BKP LEDGER....

BKP's income from January to July 2010 was \$1,868.60. Expenses were \$2,871.61, for a net loss of \$1,003.01. In 2009, the total income was \$10,797.86 and expenses were \$6,611.78, for a net gain of \$4,186.08. Income is from a combination of donations, ticket sales, proceeds from raffles, auctions and advertisements in the souvenir booklet. Expenses are usually almost all for shipping expenses, but in 2009, \$2,322 was used for typhoon relief. BKP has a cash balance of \$14,576.95 at this time although there are shipping expenses for which we have not yet been billed. Note that \$6,485.97 was transferred from an investment account with Primerica. The Primerica account, which is now closed, might not have been included in some prior financial reports. BKP shipped 79 boxes of books from October 2009

through August 2010. Each box generally holds 400-500 books.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Judi Babcock, BKP Executive Director*

I have been involved with BKP since its conception. Rowena and I became friends in 1994 through our sons. She told me of her plan to found a mini-library in her neighborhood in Manila in 1998 and I told her I wanted to help. I've attended and hosted book packing, thanked book donors, helped with set up for the fund raisers and served on various committees. As a non-Filipino directing BKP, I'm going to need more help in some areas, but I'm confident that my fellow board members and other volunteers will assist me.

I am very excited about the success of BKP NY and the formation of the group in San Diego. I would like to see more BKP groups form in other cities. Please mention us to your friends and relatives in other areas and, if they are interested, encourage them to start groups in their cities. - *Judi*

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### BKP BOARD - 2010-2011

Executive Director: *Judi Babcock*  
BKP Philippines Director: *Alice Qulicot*  
Treasurers: *Cecile Mercado, Ana Mullin*  
Recording Secretary: *Ralph Hammond*

Director of Library Operations: *Lea Sison*

Fund Raising Committee:

Chairperson: *Ning Zuelke*

Members: *Myra Robinson, Lilibeth Aristorenas*

Book Packing Committee:

Coordinator: *Marie Lagman*

Members: *Ben and Chit Lagman, Liz Freeman, Lea Sison*

Publicity and Book Donor Liaison: *Liz Freeman*

Information Liaison: *Nanette Flynn*

Founder and Liaison to BKP Chapters: *Rowena Jimenez*

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### SUPPORT OUR CAUSE

**MONETARY DONATIONS** – *You can be a patron, sponsor, donor or a friend of BKP. Your monetary help will defray shipping costs as well as costs for training Read Aloud volunteers in the Philippines.*

**MINI-LIBRARY SPONSORSHIPS** – *You can spearhead the set-up of a mini-library in your hometown. We will provide you with all the information, tools and resources you will need.*

**OPENING A BKP CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA** – *You can organize your own local group of people who share passionately in your vision. The BKP core group will be the central resource of information on what is required to form a local chapter.*

**GIFTS OF TIME** – *You can volunteer your time to collect books, sort, stamp and pack books to designated libraries back home. Or you can also offer your time to help during our book drives, our Annual Ballroom Dance event and other fundraising activities.*



**BOOK DONATIONS** – *You can donate your gently used and unwanted collection of children’s books and ask friends and families to do the same.*

*If interested, please visit our website [www.aklatan.org](http://www.aklatan.org) and contact Judi Babcock at [judibabcock@uwalumni.com](mailto:judibabcock@uwalumni.com).*

**SHARING YOUR TALENTS** – *You can help us spread the word around by putting your communication skills, writing skills, technical, artistic or any other type of expertise to use in our newsletter, website, various publications and other promotional materials.*

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***YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE BKP CAUSE:***

**Patron**   
**\$251 - \$500+**

**Sponsor**   
**\$101 - \$250**

**Donor**   
**\$51 - \$100**

**Friends**   
**\$50 or less**

Checks should be payable to BKP. Please mail your donation, along with this form, to: BKP, c/o Cecile Mercado, 17 Greystone Ct., Burlington, MA 01803.

**I would like to help some other way.**   
**Please describe below:**

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Thank you for your support!



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