

SHAPING FUTURES

By Michael Javines, 2007



I was born and raised in the Philippines. My family migrated to Hawaii in 1995. I heard about Sariling Gawa through my classmates at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I joined as a leader wanting to get to know more people and get to know what Sariling Gawa was all about. It was meant to be only a

one-time deal. I was undecided then on my major, bouncing around different majors: engineering, Math, chemistry, physics, etc. Being a leader for Sariling Gawa gave me a new direction in my life. Although my first *barangay** group was not the “perfect” *barangay*, the delegates helped me decide on my major and what to do with my life. I saw my passion for helping the youth through education. A new path was paved and I found a new direction in my career. I knew then that I would become an educator.

I wasn’t satisfied at how my first year as a leader ended. Not one to quit, I returned the next year to face the challenge as a *barangay* leader once again. It helped me to better myself

as a leader to my *barangay*. My thirst for new challenges and my pursuit of building a foundation as an educator kept me wanting to return.

I’ve been with Sariling Gawa for four years and have gained friends, support, a new family, a new purpose, and a new direction. I’ve been in touch with most of my *barangay* delegates and am proud to see them graduate from high school and go on to college. It is satisfying to see them succeed and move on happily with their lives. Although I may have spent only three days with them, I was able to share insights and knowledge to last a lifetime. I liked the feeling of being able to help them with obstacles and challenges that they face from what I had learned and gained when I faced those similar challenges myself. I became their *manong* to help them direct their lives.

Others have their own answers to the question, “What is the meaning of life?” To me, it is simple. The meaning of life is to help others. What better way to help others than to educate them. It is by education, sharing insights, passing on knowledge, and being a *manong* or mentor that I am helping to shape the futures of our Filipino youth. ♡

* The term “barangay” is the smallest local government unit in the Philippines and is very similar to a village. Sariling Gawa adopted this term to identify small groups during conferences.

Alma M.O. Trinidad, 2003

I owe my leadership skills to SG. SG has changed my life in so many ways. It instills a magic that one cannot attain elsewhere. I’ve gained inspiration, hope and positiveness from all the times I’ve experienced it. I’m a firm believer that positive social change can happen through a support system such as SG! SG is so unique because it truly instills cultural identity and pride, encourages youths to gain self-confidence and teach social and leadership skills that made them good citizens of the community. (Former Board President, Conference Program Committee, and Delegate)

Lira Legaspi Quitevis, 2003

When I started off as a delegate, the words ‘Filipino pride’ meant nothing. After my first day at SG, I vowed to uphold the pride of the Filipino people. And that’s why I keep coming back! (Former Board Secretary, Conference Co-Coordinator, Camp Leader, and Delegate)

Congratulations!

Domingo & Mary Los Baños

Lito Asuncion

Amy Agbayani

Ernie Libarios

Thank
YOU
SARILING GAWA

for 30 memorable years!



THE
BURIGSAY
FAMILY