

The March 20, 2010 Bash for Gerry Gil

It all started a few months ago when Danny Gil and his mother after consultation with Mon Pasicolan, Jimmy Ong and Gerry Abad decided that it was high time to dissolve the Gerry Gil Foundation (GGF). The last three ran the whole show.

As most would remember, when Gerry Gil died in 1995, a foundation was formed by the Gil family and close friends. Under the sponsorship of the Philippine Press Institute (PPI), the funding thus garnered seeded the yearly awards to deserving journalists. In the last few years however, these activities have waned to the point of near extinction. So what better way to end it with a big bang, rather than let it disappear with a whimper.

It was decided that the funding still left would be spent on a party for his old friends, and whatever remaining amount would be turned over to Gerry's mother for her to give to her favorite charities.

An email was sent out to the Upsca Loop, of the YahooGroups, numbering about 150 individuals:

Invitation to the March 20 party for "Gerry Gil and Friends" from Ramon B. Pasicolan, president of the Gerry Gil Foundation (GGF):

Dear All

The Gerry Gil Foundation and the Gil family will have a party for "Gerry Gil and Friends" on March 20, a Saturday, at 6.p.m. at the residence of Tigi and Nora Barcelona. Tigi's and Nora's home is one of the few remaining classical Spanish homes in Little Baguio, San Juan.

The dinner is going to be a casual and informal occasion to remember Gerry, whose birthday falls on March 23. Gerry's mother and brother Danny and Danny's wife, Lisa, will be co-hosts for the evening. Expected to attend are close friends of Gerry from his days in UP, Ateneo, Stanford University, the SVD Seminary, Press Foundation of Asia, Population Center Foundation, and Manila Standard.

The Barcelona home is at 201 Mariano Marcos Street, Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila (please refer to attached map). One way to get to the place is to take Wilson Street (in front of Unimart Greenhills) and follow it until you see Asiatrust Bank and Mini-Stop on P. Guevarra street. Turn left on this street until you see a stop light on the second corner. This is Mariano Marcos street. Turn right on this street until you see a big house on your right with a wrought iron gate. This is the home of Tigi and Nora. On the same street is a house where Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos once lived.

See you at the party!

Mon Pasicolan

The party would be catered, and at some point in time, we had to indicate how many people would attend. We started assigning who would follow up whom. It was easy enough for the Upsca crowd, as we knew more or less who were the "regulars". But for the other friends of Gerry, that wasn't as easy. So Mon asked Vic Tirol, of the PPI, to draw up a list of possible guests from the media and more. Edna Manlapaz did the same for the Ateneo group, and slowly over a period of a 2 weeks or so, we had a guest list of sorts. But who would do the final collating? Since I normally am quite free with my time in the province, I volunteered to make an Excel spreadsheet. This got more and more elaborate, as I added columns on who RSVP'd, who hasn't

been followed up yet, who most likely would come, who would have drivers, etc., etc. Originally, we had about a total of 40-50 in mind. But list started getting longer, as more names were added. Mon, however, insisted that there always is a fudge factor averaging about 70%, meaning only that percentage actually appear.

Since Mon had made a blanket invitation, we got replies as far away as Toronto, where Baby Nats said she would have loved to attend, but can she instead ask her younger sister Melinda to go. Since they happen to be our second cousins, we of course said yes. Melinda emailed that she especially had always wanted



to enter and see the fabled Barcelona house. See above photo.

But the clincher for two others was the event a few days later. A trip to Sagada Rice Terraces for the smaller group of "Lakbayans", much in a similar manner of previous trips to Batanes, Ilocos, France, Sedona, etc. Bernie de Castro-Muller in Switzerland, and Tony Estrera in Los Angeles said they'd fly in.

Since host Tigi insisted on having dancing and music just "like the good old days", organizers Mercy, Mon and Ting were happy to oblige and contracted a UP band of three musicians

An interesting trend also seemed to emerge in the guest selection. If so and so was coming, then maybe old flame so and so would make the party more interesting. After all, this was a party of Gerry's old friends, and some may not have seen each other since college days. We especially wanted to make Tigi happy.

So the list see-sawed up and down, as RSVP's trickled in by text or email. At one point, I had about 110, until I realized an error in the spreadsheet where the number of possible drivers (who would be served pack dinners) had been added to the main list. Finally, just before the caterer's deadline to give a definitive number, we had about 85 as a high number. With the fudge factor in mind, we told the caterer to prepare for 65 guests. As it finally turned out, counting the musicians and the immediate family of hosts Tigi and Nora, there were 63.

Below are mainly pictorials of the event, with commentary.



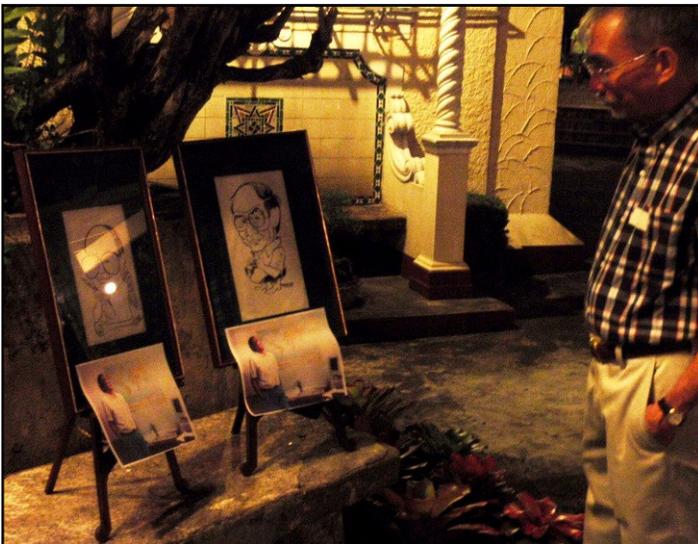
Jimmy Abad and Bernie Muller coming in.



L-R: Ting Ong, Tigi Barcelona, Angge Soriano, Jimmy Abad, Lisa Gil, Eva and Mon de Veyra.



Up front, Carol Vera-Llamanzares and Mrs. Gil, whom everyone referred to as Mommy Gil.



Vic Tirol contemplating on the picture and caricatures of Gerry.



Jimmy Abad, Lisa Gil and Susan Sulit.



Hostess Nora & son, with Melinda Natividad admiring the house interior.



Mon Pasicolan and Jennifer Llaguno.



Tigi and Nora belting it out with song.



Photograph on left shows Lino Faelnar and Mercy Abad doing the boogie. On right are Bobby Alvarez, Ely Segundo, Vic & Lorna Tirol.

Danny Gil, 3/21/10

