

The Philippines 2009 Fall Pilgrimage **October 16- October 26, 2009**

During the fall of 2009, the UUPCC will sponsor a group pilgrimage to experience the remarkable people and culture of the Philippines. There are over 2,500 Unitarian Universalists worshipping in 29 different congregations in the Philippines today, mostly on the large tropical island of Negros. We will have an opportunity to visit several of these UU groups and learn how their UU beliefs, courage and determination are guiding the lives they live in communities which are mostly characterized by extreme poverty. Their dreams and the determination of the UU Church of the Philippines to realize them and grow as a faith are truly inspirational. During this trip you will be warmly welcomed and offered a feast for your mind and your heart. Among the experiences you will have are :

- A visit to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines headquarters in the university town of Dumaguete where you will learn of their programs, ministry and aspirations.
- Participation in two amazing island festivals.
- A tour of historical sights in Manila followed by a cultural show highlighting island dances and amazing local dishes. You will also be able to meet the UUs of Manila, worship with the Bicutan congregation, and learn about their lives.
- Visits to several UU congregations in Manila and on Negros Island. These congregations include Doldol, a peaceful community that is working hard to improve the lives of their citizens, Aquino, home of the UU preschool, and Banaybanay, a progressive mountain village.
- A visit to a lovely spa resort for a day of relaxation and a chance to appreciate the Negros island beauty.

Our trip will begin in Manila on October 16th where you will be warmly welcomed. On the morning of the 17th you will be introduced to each other and receive an orientation to our trip and the Filipino culture. That afternoon you will fly over many of the more than 7,000 islands of the Philippines to reach Dumaguete on Negros Island and begin your Negros adventure. You will be welcomed with a ceremony and dinner by the folk of the UU Church of the Philippines. The following morning you will worship with the UUs of Dumaguete, have lunch, then head north to Canalaon City/Aquino to visit the UU church and preschool there, in the shadow of the volcano, Mt. Canalaon. That night you will spend at a hotel in San Carlos City.

On the morning of the 19th, you will head out to visit the churches of Nataban and Ulay/Cabiguhan. That evening you will spend in Bacolod City, enjoying the Mascara Festival. The following morning you will have an opportunity to visit the UU churches of Malingin and Doldol. That evening you will once again be in Bacolod City and able to celebrate the Mascara festival.

The day of October 21st will be a travel day. We will head south to visit a UU church located in the fishing village of Culipapa. That evening we will stay in a nearby resort. The following day we will visit the UU churches in Banaybanay and Caican, then we will return to the Dumaguete area.

On the 23rd, we will enjoy a beach resort near Dumaguete during the day, then celebrate the Buglas festival that evening. The following morning we will return to Manila to tour the city, then meet with the Quezon City congregation and dine at a restaurant which features great native food and dancing. The following morning we'll rest, then worship with the Bicutan congregation and have a farewell celebration. Then we will be heading back home on the 26th.

We believe this trip will help you get to know and appreciate the amazing Unitarian Universalists of the Philippines. Your understanding of the UU faith and your way of living out your UU values will be expanded. This tour is the second tour which has been coordinated by the UUPCC in coordination with the UUCP. UUPCC Networker for the

Philippines, Lee Boeke Burke, and UUCP President, Nihal Attanayake, will be your tour guides. Once you have signed on to this trip, we will be in contact regularly to help you prepare for the trip and to insure that your needs will be met and your questions answered. We also are planning for a March trip in 2010, date TBA.

The cost of the fall trip is \$1400. This cost includes all in-country transportation, accommodations, meals, drivers, interpreters and entrance fees. It does not include your airfare to Manila, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses, and airport transfers before/after specified trip dates. Your UUPCC registration fee pays for your membership in the UUPCC, the cost of processing your application and mailing your travel packet, and an impact fee paid to the UUCP. A fee of \$400 will be added as a single supplement. For more information, contact Lee Boeke Burke, chickadeetree@earthlink.net / 920 915 1667 or check out the UUPCC website, www.uupcc.org . Registration can be made online using your credit card if you wish.

