

Vintarinian, USA aka United Vintarinians, USA

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The organization, a bit of history...

In the early 50's, San Francisco area immigrants from Vintar banded together to survive the effects of the Great Depression, to share what little they had and for moral and spiritual support. In the 60's when times became better, the sharing was of their bounty. And so with the parties/ socials becoming more regular - they formally organized the United Vintarinians, USA with headquarters at Brady St. San Francisco. Past presidents included Mr. Max Leano, Mr. Johnny Malasig Alvarado, Mrs. Irene Richardson, and Mr. Juan Pacis.

In 1982, the late Mr. Ben Borja in collaboration with leaders from the San Jose and Sacramento areas organized the Vintar, USA to help Vintarinian immigrants in these two areas share with Vintar. Past presidents included Mr. Albert Acacio, Mr. Flor Benigno, Mr. Jose Benigno, Mr. Johnny Benigno, Mrs. Beth Parmalee-Navarro, Mrs. Mildred Racimo-Verhage, Mr. Ben Borja, Mr. Benjo Calixto and Mr. Vincent Pacis.

On July 25, 1999, simply because it made more sense, the two groups: Vintar USA and United Vintarinians of USA merged to form Vintarinian, USA with Vincent Pacis as president.

The members – their legacy and commitment ...

In testimony to the unity and orderliness known for a Siwawer, the officers and members of Vintarinian USA have been busy the past few years. They celebrate an annual fiesta with a dinner and dance, play at annual summer picnics and sing Christmas carols at December parties. Meetings are held at various members' homes so they can socialize and catch up with goings on in Vintar. A Recognition Program is in place to honor and reward their high school and college graduates and to keep them mindful of the objectives of the organization. A December tradition is to partner with the Cagayanos to honor our Filipino-American veterans annually with a Christmas luncheon.

More importantly, they have not forgotten to share with those in Vintar. Their scholarship program now supports four high school and three college students. Recently, photocopiers were donated to Pallas, Central Surong and F. Camaquin Schools. A \$2,500 refurbishing of the stage at F. Camaquin is in the works. Some medical equipment were sent to the Puericulture Center and \$10,000 has been donated for rebuilding the center. The members are grateful to Mrs. Mercedes Hernando and Mrs. Dolores Borja, our local representatives in Vintar for all their help.

With a legacy of unity, order, resourcefulness, generosity, and an appetite for parties, the members show their appreciation to those before them by living their dreams.

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