

ANZA-BORREGO SPRINGS GETAWAY

By: Miriam Tan Cole and Thanks Louella Dolar for the great pictures!!!

After a unanimous vote following a detailed pictorial “tour” supplied by **John Olivar** and a planning meeting at **President Louella Dolar's** residence, several **SUAF@SD** members braved the winding road to the much advertised desert flowers and iron sculptures of Borrego Springs.



In the early hours of March 4, 2017, eleven members assembled at the Mira Mesa Park and Ride. Our very own President Louella was our navigator who, with her husband **Bill** and son **Joey**, drove ahead of the *Pinoy Shuttle* where the rest of the gang piled in. “A shuttle?” you may ask. It was decided that due to the ages and health condition of the people involved, it was agreed to hire a van with a driver to ensure safety for all.

The roads were hilly, winding and scenic but uneventful (thank goodness) and after an hour and a half drive, we arrived in the heart of the city of Borrego Springs. There we stretched our legs and planned our tour of the Ricardo Breceda iron sculptures. Very concisely put, we just “followed the leader,” meaning our navigator and President Louella. So in the middle of cacti and sand, we followed dubious paths that led us to the red iron sculptures in the shape of scorpions, ferocious animals, dragons, prehistoric animals, people and dinosaurs. Needless to say, the



smart phones and cameras were busy clicking away at posing, noisy Sillimanians in front of larger than life sculptures.

After we tired ourselves with the sculptures, we decided to venture to the desert flower areas. There were a lot of cars parked on the shoulders of a certain road which was purported to have a good display of the flowers. However, we did not see any of the breathtaking yellowed fields or solid purple meadows that were printed in the San Diego Union Tribune. Instead, we saw the usual sand and some green here and there. But upon closer look, there were indeed flowers everywhere – they were so miniscule that one would need time to look more closely to marvel at the detail and delicacy of each flower. So instead of a dramatic vista, some of us did enjoy the wonder of desert life. And all of us enjoyed our time together which culminated in the Anza Borrego City park for a potluck/picnic.



After the delicious lunch, we went to our respective vehicles for our trip back. It was unanimously decided in the shuttle that it was so relaxing to be a passenger with an experienced driver behind the wheel instead of ourselves. We made a shopping stop at the Dudley Bakery Shop to buy some bread and Julian pies. At about 6 p.m., we arrived at the Park and Ride safe and fun-drenched.



Sillimanians in the shuttle were: **John Olivar, Inday Garrido, Grace Villanueva Tan, Nate Tan, Frank Gularek, Laarni Gularek, Fely Tan Narvaez and Miriam Tan Cole.** Allen Garrido and Precila Fabugais Garrido met us at the heart of the city. **Sonia Sheeks** and friend joined us at the picnic.

"For a complete pictorial account of what was experienced by the SUAF get-away adventurers click this link"

