

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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05 February 2013

The Art of Photography, the D.E.A.F. Way **Workshop to be Held at Mill Neck Manor**

The world of photography and sign language interact in this one-of-a-kind photography workshop taking place at Mill Neck Manor House on May 4, from 10 am – 2 pm. Through the guidance of award-winning Deaf photographer Alnoe T. Paler, Deaf participants will be introduced to the “art of photography the D.E.A.F. Way.” Topics like composition, lighting, aperture and shutter speed will be discussed inside the classroom, followed by practice sessions in the historic Mill Neck Manor House and around its picturesque surroundings. At the conclusion of the sessions, participants will have the opportunity to showcase their work in the Manor House.

Alnoe Paler is a native of the Philippines and now resides in New York. Paler became Deaf before the age of 3, but with determination and strong faith, faced his challenges and has gone on to a successful photography career. He is a graduate of the University of San Carlos in Cebu, Philippines and holds a BA in Fine Arts in Advertising Arts. “I was the only Deaf person at University and there were no interpreters. At the time, there were really no programs for Deaf people, so I had to attend a hearing school. It was very difficult, but I always tried to think positively. Through faith, hope and love, I felt I could do it.”

Currently a freelance photographer, Paler has worked as a press photographer for the Cebu Daily News and has taught at the College of St. Benilde-De La Salle University in Manila in the Sign Language Learning Program. As Paler entered photo competitions and began garnering awards for his work, he gained further confidence in his abilities. “I was inspired to keep going.” Winning awards and gaining recognition, though certainly gratifying, provided Paler with the satisfaction of knowing he was helping to further dispel the belief of “certain things hearing people didn’t think Deaf people could do.”

Paler’s introduction to Mill Neck began last year when he participated in Mill Neck’s Fall Harvest Festival. In addition to setting up an information booth, he captured many wonderful moments throughout the two-day Festival with his camera. More recently, Paler was a guest

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speaker at the Deaf Education Center during Deaf Awareness Week, where he shared his story and photos with students and staff. He acknowledged the struggles he faced at the beginning of his career, but reminded the audience that perseverance and hard work do eventually pay off.

Through his travels and workshops, Paler's mission is to bring hope to people with disabilities. For Paler, photography allows him to express himself and he even describes his method of picture taking as the "D.E.A.F way," whereby he incorporates "details, emotions, angle and frame" in his compositions. He is grateful for his success, in part because it permits him to be a visible advocate for the Deaf, saying, "Deafness is not a hindrance to success."

The cost (includes a bagged lunch) for Paler's workshop is \$50 per person for Mill Neck Manor alumni, \$65 per person for non-alumni. Although this workshop is geared toward beginners, participants should have basic photography skills and must bring a camera. Proceeds from this workshop will benefit the Visual Arts Program at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. Advance registration is required. To register or for more information, visit: www.millneckmanorhouse.org and click "Calendar." You may also call 516-628-4243 or e-mail info@millneck.org.

The Mill Neck Family of Organizations is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for people who are Deaf, or who have other special needs, through excellence in individually-designed educational, vocational or spiritual programs and services. For more information, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.millneck.org>.

Photo Caption:

Alnoe Tabenara Paler will conduct photography workshops for Deaf participants on May 4 at the Mill Neck Manor House.

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