

Philippine Fiesta™

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Power corrupts P-Noy Page 8



FAVA's Filipiniana and Scholarship Evening Page 10

In search of the country's 'National Hero'

Page 9



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Everyday Heroes

What makes a hero? Putting the interests of others above one's own. Some die in the process, and are immortalized for their sacrifice: national hero Jose Rizal, peasant revolutionary Andres Bonifacio, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. Other heroes are less known and even unnamed, like the thousands who fought and died in defense of the nation during World War II.

From fighting invading armies, standing up to tyranny and corruption and defending basic freedoms, the nation has its heroes. There is also another type of heroism. This is shown by those who face challenges big and small every day, dedicating themselves to making life a little better for others.

Teacher **Efren Peñaflorida** rose from abject poverty and decided to empower those like him to overcome the accident



of impoverished birth, in the best way he could: by bringing them basic education on a pushcart. Peñaflorida has been recognized as a hero by CNN and his organization now has a school building with about 60 students in Cavite.

There are other Filipinos like Peñaflorida whose lives are defined by service to others. These heroes can be found not just in careers that call for putting one's life on the line, such as the military and police, but in all

walks of life. Those who brave threats and ostracism by colleagues to blow the whistle on the theft of public funds are heroes. So are those who lead by example in delivering honest and efficient public service. There is heroism in exercising civic responsibility in day-to-day affairs.

Today the nation observes a special day for honoring its heroes. The best tribute that can be paid to them is by emulating their dedication to interests other than their own.

Elusive peace

Filipinos may be puzzled to be ranked a notch lower than Libya and, in Southeast Asia, ahead only of Myanmar in terms of peace. The Global Peace Index, however, rates countries not only in terms of wars and armed extremism but also external threats and violence arising from crimes and politics.

In the 2014 index drawn up by the Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace, culled from data provided by the Economist Intelligence Unit, the Philippines ranked 134th out of 162 countries in peace indicators. It was a five-notch slide for the country, and a long way from the rankings of its Southeast Asian neighbors.

Singapore, not surprisingly, garnered the best regional ranking at 25th, followed by Malaysia at 33rd, Laos at 38th, Viet-

nam at 45th, Indonesia at 54th, Timor Leste at 69th, Cambodia at 106th and Thailand at 126th. In the Asia-Pacific, New Zealand was rated the most peaceful nation, followed by Japan and Australia.

The Philippines slid in ranking despite the signing of a framework agreement for peace with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front. With the index also basing assessments on "patron-client" relations, the country could slide further as the 2016 elections approach and political violence escalates as usual.

Filipinos have grown accustomed to a spike in political killings in ev-

ery election season and the seemingly unending violence in the conflict areas of Mindanao. People are also used to daily reports of violent crime all over the country. We are reminded only that this is not supposed to be the usual state of affairs when foreigners complain about threats to their safety when they are here.

Those threats keep away tourists and investors, disrupt economic activity, derail development efforts and hamper poverty alleviation. Filipinos have to stop believing that the current level of violence is normal and tolerable. The problem calls for more resolute action and combined efforts by the government and citizenry.

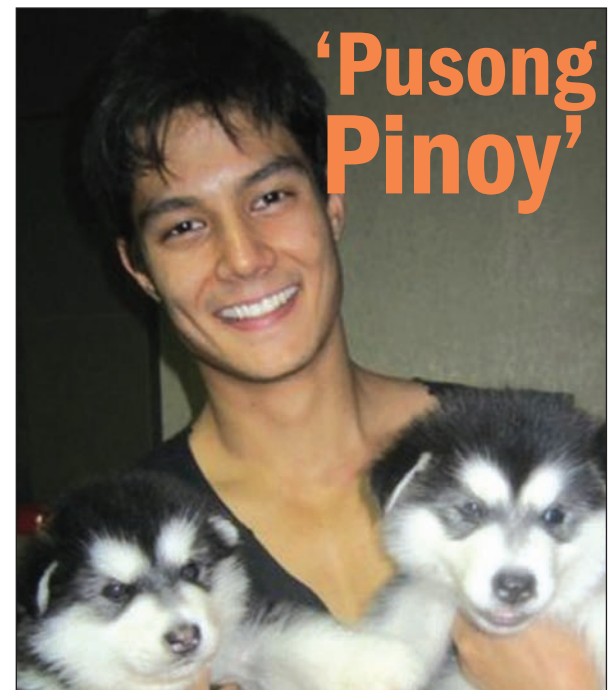
By Bong Austero

We marked another cultural milestone Sunday night when the big winner of a local television show that claimed to celebrate and proclaim everything authentically Pinoy (thus the title of the show Pinoy Big Brother) was... a non-Pinoy! Japanese-Brazilian model Daniel Matsunaga snatched the million-peso prize money and the title of being the ultimate Pinoy na nag-pakatotoo (most authentic Pinoy). There was much rejoicing... and as people came to their senses, the usual attempt at justifying and explaining what just happened.

I like Daniel Matsunaga. In the few episodes of the show that I watched, he did seem like the most amiable and the most mature person on the show although it can certainly be argued that he probably had the most experience in dealing with different - and difficult - people as a model who had worked in countries not his own. He was also, I think, older among those that were left in the Big Brother house. And okay, the chiseled abs and the handsome face weren't liabilities, either. My reservations about his victory have nothing to do with Matsunaga the person. I also don't blame his fans and supporters.

But I am not sure ABS-CBN, the network that makes such a big to-do with being supposedly in the service of the Filipino people, should be commended for imposing on the Filipino psyche a tenuous definition of Pinoy identity for the sake of commercial considerations. As today's kids would say, anyare ABS-CBN (what the heck happened here)?

Matsunaga was supposed to have won on the merits of having manifested Pusong Pinoy (Pinoy at heart), an affectation that people grabbed and tossed around so conveniently, as if becoming Filipino or having the temperament and social identity of being Filipino was something easily accomplished. I've always thought being Filipino was something even naturally-born Filipinos, have to live up to every day of our lives. But like I said, it's not Matsunaga's fault; he probably does love being Filipino



Daniel Matsunaga

and genuinely wants to belong. But we shouldn't be so careless in ascribing national traits on public television. More importantly, our media networks should be more discerning particularly when it comes to matters that have far-reaching implications on our fragile sense of nationalism. PBB is a business project, but commercial considerations cannot be the only agenda. There is more to television shows than just ratings and profit-making. Even business needs to have a conscience.

The result of the voting Sunday night was a classic case study on how Philippine democracy works. People were encouraged to vote based purely on emotional considerations and on commercial values that ABS-CBN promoted; the odds were heavily on Matsunaga's favor. As an international model, he clearly knew how to package himself. Those in advertising would attest that a more direct link to the show's title was afforded by the label given to him. Someone with a Pusong Pinoy clearly had a more direct tie-in to the search than the shallow labels given to the rest. In short, Matsunaga was a superbly crafted media creation. And in this country, a media creation always triumphs in any election. Someone with a better story creates greater emotional appeal, and media are more than happy to keep things at the emotional level. Why bother with making people think, why go to great lengths poking people's consciences, why make people struggle with difficult ethical dilemmas

when there is an easy way out? Media are content with promoting the easy way out which is to encourage people to simply vote with their hearts and guts, long-term consequences be damned! So what if there were three others equally-deserving and probably more needy Filipinos in the slate, Matsunaga was Pusong Pinoy anyway, right? The simplification rankles because matters of national interest are not as uncomplicated.

Those who insisted that PBB was just a television show missed the bigger picture. What happened last Sunday has far-reaching implications on matters of national preference, taste, and affections and those who should have known better in this country missed a great opportunity to deliver a powerful lesson on civics.

I maintain that media networks have a strong responsibility to propagate a strong sense of national identity and nationalism. I don't mean that we should exclude foreigners and become xenophobic - but we must learn to strongly value our roots over global influences. We must teach our kids to appreciate a more diverse and inclusive perspective, but we must make sure that we do not lose affection, and subsequently, preference for our own. As a way of illustration, it is okay to make our kids appreciate foreign pop culture provided we go out of our way to show that our own pop culture is not necessarily inferior. Given a slate of equal choices, we must teach our kids to pick Filipino, particularly when the Filipino choices are just as deserving and worthy.

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Stop the negativity, unite instead – Aquino

On National Heroes Day, President Benigno Aquino III slams detractors, encourages Filipinos to be more constructive rather than negative.

By Natasha Gutierrez

MANILA, Philippines – Teachers, soldiers, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

This is the image painted by President Benigno Aquino III of heroes on National Heroes Day – ordinary Filipinos, he said, who serve as proof “that our nation is indeed a nation of heroes.”

On Monday, August 25, Aquino cited heroic actions of various Filipinos – like Noli Dela Cruz, who rescued 36 of his neighbors during Super Typhoon Yolanda by roping clothes together – and encouraged Filipinos to imagine what 100 million Filipinos can achieve together.

“On days like this, I cannot help but think and ask myself: What can be achieved when a hundred million Filipinos work arm-in-arm towards a single goal?,” he said.

These heroes, he said, have one thing in common: “Instead of hurling criticism or spreading negativity, which some of our countrymen have grown accustomed to doing, these remarkable Filipinos chose to empower their fellowmen.”

Aquino encouraged Filipinos to be more constructive rather than negative, and reminded them that “even if our society had made progress, it is clear that our battles continue.”

“The days of colonizers, of wars, of Martial Law are long gone. Yet there are still a select and selfish few who remain determined to bring back the old and abusive political systems,” he said.

“This is the fight that confronts us today: to remain vigilant against those who seek to sow doubt and lies; to stand firm and refuse to allow ourselves to be manipulated by those who only pretend at reform; to reject the crooked, and resolve to stay on the straight path.”

Slamming detractors, he also called attention to the achievements of his administration.



On National Heroes Day, President Benigno Aquino III encourages Filipinos to be constructive.

“We have been treading the straight path for more than 4 years now. The seeds of change we have sown are already bearing fruit—and, seeing this, those who want to take advantage of the people are becoming desperate,” he said.

As the president delivered his speech in Taguig, militant groups gathered in Manila to protest all forms of funds allotted to lawmakers or pork barrel, and called for Aquino’s ouster. They also decried charter change and the possible lifting of term limits for presidents.

Charter change became a hot topic recently after Aquino said in an interview that he is reconsidering his views on the touchy subject.

Latest surveys show a steep decline in Aquino’s satisfaction ratings after the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional parts of the administration’s Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), the government’s so-called economic stimulus package.

Hope in the youth

During his speech, Aquino also cited an article written by a 13-year-old student tom Bacolod, Maria Francesca Santiago, who he said at her age, “already exhibits more discernment than some who are much older than her.”

The president said Santiago noticed that “the latest trend is to hurl

criticism, even at those who are doing everything in their power to uphold the interests of the people” and “in the face of the challenges our country has experienced, instead of remaining open-minded and searching for the truth, there are some who choose to spread baseless accusations.”

Aquino expressed optimism and hope for the youth, based on Santiago’s observations.

“If this is the caliber of thinking of the youth today, I am certain that we are indeed facing a brighter future,” he said.

He called for unity and encouraged Filipinos “not [to] waste the opportunity we have today,” and “to make certain that we will bequeath to coming generations a Philippines freer and more progressive still rests on our shoulders.” “This is the only way for us to ensure that, when the next generations commemorate National Heroes Day, they will remember, express their gratitude for, and reflect on this chapter of our history, and they will say: This was indeed the time when all Filipinos decided, as one people, to become heroes,” he said.

Rallyists against pork sparse, but spirits high

By Jaime R. Pilapil

The number of rallyists was sparse but fervor was high as thousands of people gathered at the Rizal Park (Luneta) in Manila on Monday to seek an end to all forms of pork barrel, which the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) described as “a reprehensible form of thievery.”



Clad in a ballet tutu, social activist Juana Change poses beside a cut-out poster of President Benigno Aquino 3rd during the “Stand Up, Sign Up Against All Pork” rally in front of the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Members of religious, civic, youth and militant groups were one in saying that the pork barrel system should not continue as they joined a nationwide campaign that seeks to gather six million signatures to be used for a People’s Initiative against pork. Monday’s gathering came a year after the so-called Million People March held on August 26, 2013, a series of protests for the abolition of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) or the pork barrel of lawmakers.

Fr. Rex Reyes, the general secretary of the NCCP, called on the people to stop President Benigno Aquino 3rd from continuing his wrongful acts and abusing the democratic system of government.

“Ang illegal na pondo na nasa kamay ng ating Pangulo ay hindi lamang isang karumal-dumal na porma ng pagnanakaw at paglalapastangan sa mga taong kaniyang pinangakuang paglingkuran. Ito ay paglapastangan sa sistema ng pamahalaang demokratiko sa pamamagitan ng ganitong kalakaran ay yumayabong ang pagtatangkil sa personal na kapakanan ng mga politiko at napapanatili ang abusadong kapangyrihan ng mga dynasty [The illegal funds in the hands of our President are not only a reprehensible form of thievery and an injustice to the people he promised to serve.

This is a travesty of the democratic system because through this scheme, the personal interests of politicians are sustained and the

abusive powers of dynasties are further entrenched,” he said.

The protesters noted that Monday’s rally showed the people’s dwindling trust in the Aquino administration and in Congress.

“President Aquino has provided the basis for the people to unite and exercise their sovereign power. The sign-up is itself a form of protest, a stinging indictment of the failure of the Aquino regime and the administration-dominated Congress to abolish the corrupt pork barrel system. The rally is a call for accountability in the pork scam as well as an expression of opposition to amend the Charter and perpetuate Aquino in power,” Renato Reyes Jr., Bayan secretary general, said.

Anakbayan, meanwhile, said that contrary to Malacanang’s claim that the national budget has been rid of pork barrel, the illegal system continues.

“One year has passed since the last Million People March, and until today pork schemes still exist under the corrupt administration of [Aquino]. The administration sustained the pork schemes from the presidential level to the congressional level,” Vencer Crisostomo, Anakbayan national chairman, noted.

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP) President, Marc Lino Abila, said the Luneta rally showed that Filipinos no longer trust the legislative

Continued on page 4



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Ex-Makati exec: VP Binay benefited from 'overpriced' parking building

By Louis Bacani

MANILA, Philippines - A former Makati City official claimed on Tuesday that Vice President Jejomar Binay benefited from the alleged overpriced construction of the Makati City Hall II parking building.

Ernesto Mercado, Binay's former vice mayor from 2006 to 2010, admitted during the televised Senate Blue Ribbon sub-committee hearing that he benefited from the phase 1 and 2 of the project.

"Tayo namang mga politiko alam natin ang sagot doon e. Kung ang vice mayor po ay nakinabang, aba'y siguro higit na nakinabang po ang mayor dito," Mercado said at the televised Senate hearing.

"Kung ako ay nakinabang, imposibleng hindi nakinabang ang aking mayor," he added.

With the latest allegation, the Blue Ribbon Committee should now invite the Vice President to the hearings, according to Senator Antonio Trillanes IV, who called for the Senate investigation into the controversy.

"The vice mayor has directly mentioned the involvement of Vice President Jejomar Binay into the corruption and the anomaly that is the Makati carpark building," Trillanes said.

Binay and his son, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay, are facing a plunder complaint over the alleged overpriced building filed by lawyer Renato Bondal.

During the hearing, Mer-



Vice President Jejomar Binay

cado said he was an ally of the older Binay since 1986. Their relationship soured in 2010 after the Vice President did not fulfill his promise to support him as a candidate in the Makati mayoral race.

'Nancy made cakes for seniors'

The Vice President was not only the official implicated by Mercado as he also alleged that Binay's eldest child, Sen. Nancy Binay, also earned from the alleged overpriced birthday cakes given by the Makati City government to its senior citizens.

He said the neophyte senator used to manage the production of the cakes.

"E alam naman po ng lahat ng taga-Makati 'yon e. Siya naman po talaga ang gumagawa nun (cakes) noong araw na hindi pa siya senador," Bondal said.

The senator had not joined the hearings while the Makati mayor did not attend Tuesday's hearing due to "personal reasons."

Meanwhile, a former Makati City official said Mercado has no credibility since he admitted receiving kickbacks from the construction

of the alleged overpriced building.

Former city administrator Marjorie de Veyra said Mercado abused the trust and confidence given to him by the older Binay.

"While vice mayor, he was known to frequent casinos here and abroad, where he is considered a high-roller and given five-star treatment by casino operators. He is known to lose millions in cockfights," De Veyra was quoted as saying in an article released by the Makati City government.

"We wondered how he was able to afford such a high-living lifestyle but his admission of personally gaining from the Building 2 project gives us the answer," she added.

De Veyra said Mercado's statements are "self-serving" since he did not show evidence to back his allegations against the Vice President.

"He has been saying bad things about the Binays since 2010 when he ran and lost against Mayor Junjun Binay. But he has not given any proof because he does not have any," De Veyra said.

BIR on Pacman's tax reprieve: Fight not over

By Zinnia Dela Peña

MANILA, Philippines - The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has not given up despite the recent legal setback to its efforts to run after Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao, saying the fight is not over until the boxing icon settles his tax liabilities amounting to more than P2.65 billion.

The Supreme Court (SC) issued a temporary restraining order enjoining the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) from implementing its order last July requiring Pacquiao to post a cash bond of P3 billion or surety bond worth P4.95 billion for unpaid taxes in 2008 and 2009.

The SC also stopped the appellate tax court and the BIR from implementing garnishment orders and tax lien on Pacquiao's assets.

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares said they would ask the SC to reconsider its decision.

She said the government's main tax collection agency had put a lien on the box-



Rep. Manny Pacquiao

ing champ's house in Forbes Park. Pacquiao acquired the property for P388 million in 2011.

A lien on the property means the BIR has legal claims on the assets until the tax deficiency has been paid.

"The garnishment has started. This can not be restrained anymore," Henares said.

She said the high court ruling did not cover the freeze order on Pacquiao's bank accounts totaling over P2 million.

Henares reiterated that Pacquiao has yet to show proof that he paid taxes in the US.

The BIR chief said the government has given the

lawmaker enough time to present documents that would disprove the agency's claims.

"It's been more than two or three years and he has presented nothing to us. We're just doing our job," Henares said.

The SC also ordered the CTA to resolve Pacquiao's case with dispatch.

The case stemmed from his failure to pay taxes on earnings from his fights in the US in 2008 and 2009, his shares in income from pay-per-view cable services that aired his fights and his endorsements of various products.

His tax liability has ballooned to almost P3 billion.

Rallyists against pork

From page 2

branch.

"This action is an immense source of shame for Congress. The people do not consider them credible enough to cast reforms and end corruption. Thus, the confidence of the people in the government is lost. They have fully decided to take reform in their collective mandate, a resort that emphasizes Congress' incapacity," Abila added.

ity," Abila added.

Youth Act Now said it is proper for the people "to fight an evil system."

"Today, as we respond to the call of the times, we can say that we are all heroes. We are a nation of heroes, resilient and staunch in the face of adversity, ready to fight against the evil that is the pork barrel system even if it means going against the current and confronting the

formidable status quo," Youth Act Now spokesman Victor Villanueva said.

"Any ordinary citizen, youth or student can be a hero by deciding to act at a time of great upheaval. Today, we are not only commemorating our fallen heroes, we are all heroes in our own right, in our own little way," he added.

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Sacramentans Garner Top Awards

The University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association of America (USTMAAA) held its 22nd annual grand convention and reunion at the Grande Lakes Ritz Carlton/J.W. Marriott Resort, in Orlando Florida, July 2-6, 2014. Graduate physicians practicing all over the world arrived ready to rekindle old friendships and share experiences.

Four national awards were presented in various categories: Most Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, Most Outstanding Alumnus in Community Service, Most Outstanding Alumnus in Academic Achievement, Most Outstanding Alumnus for Service to Alma Mater.

Class 1964 had an especially memorable reunion. They were celebrating their golden jubilee. Sixty four graduates attended, the largest class attendees. Still standing tall and proud being able to move and dance the Fox trot as a class presentation. And most especially, for the first time ever, USTMAAA awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to, you guessed it: class 1964 of course. Every class member of the Unforgettable Class of 1964 received a certificate.!! Additionally class 1964 garnered three of the four national awards. Two of the national awardees are from Sacramento.

Dr. Antonio S. Daquipa was awarded the Most Outstanding Alumnus for Community Service. As Sacramentans, everyone know he and his wife Dr Nenita had been performing surgical missions to



Dr. Antonio Daquipa (R) was awarded the most Outstanding Alumnus for Community Service.



Bohol, Lucena Quezon, San Fernando La Union, saving lives, and changing lives to many of our indigent kababayans. Additionally, they had sent four forty foot containers with various hospital equipments and supplies. A shipment in 2005 consisted of Laparoscopic equipments. For humanitarian purposes they shipped a well drilling rig as well as hospital supplies in another forty foot container to Tanzania Africa in 2007. To date over 80 wells have been dug. An ongoing mosquito net project to help all children born at a newly constructed Maternity and Children Hospital was started during their visit in 2007. A mosquito net costs \$5.00 which the locals use for food instead of purchasing a mosquito net. The doctors Daquipa continue to join surgical missions

with their classmates in 2007, 2013, 2014 after the earthquake and typhoon and will do so again in 2015.

He is also a recipient of the TOBAW (Ten Outstanding Boholano Award All Over the World) award in 2006 at the every three year Tigum Bolanon sa Tibook Kalibutan, a convention of Boholanos from all over the World to coincide with the Blood Compact celebration.

The Maharlika Lions Club funded some of Dr. Antonio Daquipa's missions. He is a charter member and has held various leadership positions.

He and his wife have three grown children, Maria, Mark, and Anthony as well as two grandchildren.!! The other Sacramentan awardee was Dr. Corazon Chico-David who was awarded the Most Outstanding Award for Academic Achievement. She taught at the University of Nebraska Medical Center before she joined the US Air Force, serving in various Air Force Bases all over the world. She is a retired USAF Colonel. She and her husband Rafael have one son Jerome, and two grandchildren.

My Sister's House Hosts Book Read and Panel Discussion on Sex Trafficking

But for many, love is their unmet need". So begins Runaway Girl: Escaping Life on the Streets by attorney, advocate and sex trafficking survivor Carisa Phelps.

Runaway Girl is Phelps' memoir. In it, Phelps describes how at a young age she became ensnared in and eventually escaped sex trafficking at the hands of a brutal pimp in California. Unfortunately, her experiences are not uncommon for young women in America. Runaway Girl is the book selection for the first Human Trafficking Community Book Read and a panelled discussion hosted by My Sister's House Friends Committee. The panelled discussion will be at Barnes & Noble at Arden Fair Mall (1725 Arden Way, Sacramento) on Thursday, September 4th at 6:30 p.m.

My Sister's House is a local domestic violence agency focused on Asian and Pacific Islander wom-

en and children impacted by domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault in the Central Valley.

My Sister's House has been a leading partner of Sacramento's regional anti-human trafficking program since 2009. In addition to providing the venue for the discussion, Barnes & Noble will contribute a portion of in-store purchases made from August 29th through September 4th, and online purchases made from August 29th through September 9th, to My Sister's House. Purchases must be accompanied by either a My Sister's Cafe coffee mug or a special bookmark created for the Book Read (both to be available at the store during this promotional period) in order to be credited towards My Sister's House.

Copies of Runaway Girl may also be purchased for \$15 each at My Sister's House events or by contacting info@my-sisters-house.org.

My Sister's House is organizing the Human Traffick-



ing Community Book Read and panel-led discussion to increase public awareness of the issue. Human trafficking is modern day slavery. It can involve forced labor or sexual exploitation, adults or minors, U.S. citizens or foreign born persons of any ethnicity. It occurs in every state in the United States. It is happening here in Sacramento.

For more information about the Human Trafficking Book Read and panel-led discussion, contact My Sister's House by calling (916) 930-0626 or by e-mailing info@my-sisters-house.org. To schedule a training or presentation about human trafficking, please contact L. "Rico" Ozaki at ricoomsh@gmail.com.

Eskwela Natin (Our Filipino School)



Dear Kababayans, Thanks a million to the Sacramento Public Library's top leadership, our Filipino School Eskwela Natin just earned its place in the sun! As soon as possible in October 2014, the Southgate Public Library located at 6132 66th Avenue, Sacramento, CA will dedicate a section in their library for Filipino books. The books will be officially catalogued into

their online website thereby allowing the community easy access and quick availability information. This exciting action will undoubtedly allow all our students and their families and friends to have more access to more knowledge and references relating to our very rich Filipino culture and history.

What can you do to help and to become a major part of this very worthy cause? We are requesting one and

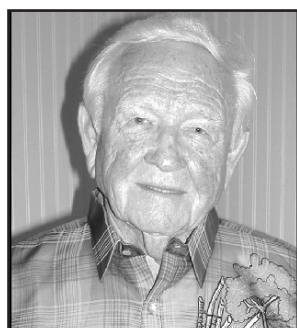
all to donate any Filipino books that they may want to give to the library so we can fill up all the shelves with pride and honor to our Motherland Philippines. Mabuhay!

Donation Contacts:
Dolores Diaz at 916.396.2351 or Email: DoloresVDiaz@gmail.com
Joe Carrasco at 916.682.9715 or Email: jcarr92136@frontiernet.net

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UPAASV Supports University of the Philippines (UP) Strategic Plan

By Beatriz Alo

In a forum on July 18, 2014 held at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, University of the Philippines' President Alfredo Pascual addressed the University alumni, their families, and friends about his projects and initiatives he has been pursuing along the directions he set for UP's Strategic Plan entitled "Padayon UP... Onward UP". He made a powerful presentation which strongly focused on his vision for the University --- "to make it a great university by taking leadership role in the development of a globally competitive Philippines."



The UP Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinities



UP President Alfredo Pascual and Beatriz Alo

Some highlights of his projects and initiatives are: *University of the Philippines system is now a complex of 7 constituent universities with about 50,000 students, 5000 faculty members, 1000 research & extension staffs and 8000 administrative staff including the Philippine General Hospital medical personnel. *While it is still the number one university in the Philippines, its position has slipped downward among world and Asian universities prompting the university President to focus on UP's urgent concerns like College Admission Test (CAT) policies, technical and information systems capabilities, research, faculty development and retention, to name a few: *To address these issues, the UP President urges: Revision of the admission test to pick out the best students not only from a select few (usually in metropolitan areas) but from the broad segment of Philippine society, specially the less privileged; putting in place up to date technical and management systems and information technologies coupled with best practices to make the University more efficient and responsive to its current size and future needs; and providing state of the art facilities and equipment and advanced training, thereby strengthening the research capability of the university.

UP needs to attract and keep the best talents, and to do so, requires a long term solu-

tion to close the salary gap between UP faculty and technical staff with those who are paid higher by the private universities.

The key to achieve these goals is financial sustainability. Several strategies are being pursued, among which is to tap the University's alumni. Each alumnus was an investment made by the Filipino taxpayers to advance the country's progress. In turn, each alumnus can invest in achieving the University's continued mission of "shaping the mind that shapes the nation." President Pascual gave a number of ways by which the alumni can invest in UP namely; undergraduate scholarships, professorial chairs, faculty development grants, donations for buildings, facilities and equipment, grants for research and creative work projects, endowments of artworks, artifacts and other assets, return service to UP as a consultant or visiting professor and arranging donations or linkages for UP.

In full support of these directions, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinities (UPAASV) has a student loan program that assists for tuition and other expenses to financially-challenged UP students. To continue its assistance to the University and other worthwhile Sacramento community projects, UPAASV is holding its 7th Anniversary dinner dance fundraising event on October 4, 2014 at the Clarion Inn, 1401 Arden Way Sacramento CA, featuring the Big Band live music of the River City Swing Band. Donation is \$40.00 per person for this very worthy cause. For details, please call Beep Alo (916) 213 5441 or Rose dela Cruz (916) 686 5887 or email upaasv@gmail.com.



9th Annual FCSV's Scholarship Awards



FCSV 2014 Scholars Karla Bernardo, Elizabeth Evangelista, Chase Mitchell, Josiah Zapanta, Angelica Garcia, Hazel Gumabay. Interview panel; Michael Galinato, Germaine Fong, and Christine Sison together with overall chair Aida Azurin with chair members Mercy Guerrero, Margie Pasalo, and Mina Guerra.

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity members and officers are grateful to everyone who have participated to the success of this project.

It was an afternoon of get together by the Fil-Am community at the Jose Rizal Community Center to witness these young scholars as they received the awards with their very proud parents.



Members of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.

FCSV Mrs. Philippines 2015-16 candidates



FCSV Mrs. Philippines Candidates Christine Sison, Kathleen Gallagher and Mercury Acosta.



Guest speaker Judge Dee Brown



President Aida Azurin and members.

ST. PAUL ANNUAL FESTIVAL



St. Paul Catholic Church invites the community to share in their 42nd annual festival on September 14, 2014. The festival is a full day of family activities. The festival is held on the Parish campus at 8720 Florin Road in south Sacramento (corner of Florin and Gardner). Festival Day is preceded by a Festival Dinner/Dance on Saturday, September 13th in the parish hall with a no host bar at 5 and dinner at 6. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from the parish office - call 916-381-5200.

Festival Day opens at 10 am on Sunday, September 14th with a wide vari-

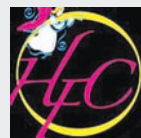
ety of international foods, game booths, drinks (including soft drinks, beer, and margaritas), fun land for children, pull tabs, bingo, raffles, theme baskets, sweet shop, and other family fun. Entertainment will be presented throughout the day including the Caballos Bailadores (The Dancing Horses). Festival day ends with our super cash raffle with 3 big winners - 1st \$1,500, 2nd \$1,000 and 3rd \$500. Super raffle tickets available from the office and available all during festival day.

The festival at St. Paul Parish provides family-oriented entertainment and activities for the entire community. St. Paul is a multi-cultural, inclusive and welcoming community.

For more information about the festival call the church office at 381-5200. Visit the St. Paul website at www.stpaul-florin.org

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Day of the pig

By Conrado de Quiros

On the face of it, the antipork marchers had a couple of advantages.

One was that they explained their beef, so to speak, better. Or far more intelligibly. "Pork barrel is a lump-sum public fund with sole discretion given to the President, legislator or group of legislators, or any public officer on how it will be spent. The exercise of discretion by public officers relates to the allocation, release or use of these public funds, the identification or selection of projects, implementers or beneficiaries, or any or a combination of or all of these."

Compare that to Butch Abad's statement: "The Supreme Court defines pork barrel as lump sums in the budget that require post-enactment intervention of legislators during budget execution, except in the exercise of their oversight function. Do they accept that definition? If not, how do they define pork barrel?"

Government's disconnect is patent, which gives you an idea of why it has been losing the communication war on DAP/pork these past months. Unless you're an accountant or a lawyer, you won't understand what the hell the Budget Secretary is talking about. The antipork marchers have figures as well to support their claim that pork, as they define it, continues to this day. Under the Grass-roots Participatory Budgeting Process, another concoction of Abad's, they say, the Department of Interior and Local Government has gotten a lump sum of P1.37 billion, the Department of Agriculture P1.7 billion, and the Local Government Support Fund P2.78 billion.

You start resorting to legalese or "technicalese," and you will be perceived as trying to hide something. That was what Renato Corona resorted to when he was being tried for corruption among other things, and he was a juridical entity. And that was what doomed him. Serafin Cuevas' "Objection, your 'heigneur,'" made for an interesting meme, but not much else.

Two is that the antipork marchers seem to have made a proprietary claim on National Heroes Day as their day for seeking redress for grievances. Not a bad symbolism, particularly with its usual message of "Everyone can be a hero," or "Every Filipino is a hero." It's an invitation for people to go out of themselves, to be larger than themselves.

Last Monday's rally, however, also suffered from a couple of disadvantages.

One was that it wasn't quite the march it was last year. The power of last year's march was that it was spontaneous, amorphous, anonymous. It arose from the bowels of the earth, or quite literally from several (young) people in the social media expressing their disgust over pork while poverty raged across the land and calling on the populace to do something about it. Someone suggested a Million People March at the Luneta and the populace responded.

The authorities would later estimate the crowd to be only 75,000 to 100,000, a far cry from the million optimistically projected for it. But I don't know that you can pin it to that number; the crowd, perfectly in keep-



ing with the spontaneous, amorphous, anonymous nature of the exercise, kept flowing in and out of the square throughout the day. It wasn't confined to it for any long period at a given time. But whether 100,000 or a million, it was representative of a cross-section of the population, from poor to middle-class to even rich.

Last Monday's rally had nothing of that. It wasn't spontaneous, amorphous, anonymous; it was organized, definite and strident. Where last year's rally drew in a "united front," this one had a largely leftist composition. Driven home by the bulk of the marchers marching down Mendiola afterward, a ritual that has lost a great deal of its power over the years. With not unexpected results: Where last year's rally was rich in quantity and quality, drawing in a multitude of people or varying persuasions, this one drew in a sparse and pretty much like-minded crowd.

Two was that last year's rally focused on an issue, this one focused on a personality. And the sublimely ironic thing is that for the first time in our political life, issue trumped personality.

Last year's rally was all about pork, its informal organizers kept saying it wasn't about destabilizing government, certainly it wasn't about ousting P-Noy. You needed no further proof of it than that Corona made an appearance there and got booed for his pains. The marchers' message was simple: Don't use this for your political agenda.

This year's was completely different. Its chief point was ousting P-Noy, specifically by way of impeaching him. That's what made it largely forgettable. The news on TV last Monday uniformly had it as fourth or fifth story of the day. It was nowhere close to headline stuff, despite the advertisement that had been leading up to it.

Frankly, I don't know why government's enemies persist with that tack. P-Noy's vulnerability is not himself, however his numbers have been falling over the past year. His vulnerability is the people around him, notably Abad, Mar Roxas, and the top officials of the Liberal Party, or the growing perception that he is boxed in by them, that he is resting the fate of the nation on them. That's what's bringing his numbers down. That's what's causing members of his official and personal families to abandon his unofficial "anointed" and go for Jojo Binay. Their mantra is: "I trust P-Noy absolutely, I distrust the people around him absolutely."

The efforts to demonize P-Noy—one placard in the rally last Monday put him side by side with Marcos—won't demonize P-Noy, it will demonize the people doing it. Certainly, it will alienate them from the same people who attended last year's rally. It won't get them heard, which is a pity as their point about hidden pork in next year's budget is an interesting one, is a hear-able one.

That was the day that was, the day of the pig.

The American Legion - Post & Auxiliary Unit 604 Installation of Officers at Magellan Hall

By Dale E. Esperante

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 officers of the only Filipino-American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit in Sacramento!



The Area One Commander, Mike Hughes, installed the Post Officers. The District 6 Auxiliary Past President, Glenda Schultz, installed the Auxiliary Officers. The installation

reminder.

After the official program adjourned, a fiesta-size banquet table topped with a

Magellan Post 604

Commander - Tom Amaba
1st Vice Commander - Lionel "Will" Williams
2nd Vice Commander - Ato Delacruz
Chaplain - Glenn Carrasca
Sgts-At-Arms - Ken Thompson & Bill Bostock
Judge Advocate - Dick Weitzenberg
Historian - Fred Amper
Finance Officer - Andy Tancioco
Adjutant - Dale Esperante
Service Officer - Howard Williams

Executive Members:

Pat Engkabo
Fred Aquino
Andy Tancioco
Bill Versoza
Howard Williams
Past Commander - Joe Gonzales

Auxiliary Unit 604

President - Letecia O'Quinn
1st Vice President - Alice Pambid
2nd Vice President - Olive Jackson
Treasurer - Jocelyn Banag
Secretary - Lita Calindas
Sgt-At-Arms - Penefrancia Williams
Marshall - Teopista Francisco
Chaplain - Trinidad Cabalfin
Historian - Marilou Amper
Parliamentarian - Lilia Rivera

Executive Members:

Carina Gonzales
Aurora Manglicmot
Luz Arcaya
Godelia Wilfong
Cathie Deloso
Past President - Florentina Abad

was held on August 3, 2014 at the Legion's Magellan Hall located at 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA 95828.

After installing the Post Officers, Commander Mike Hughes took a few minutes to recognize two individuals. Prior to being elected to the position of Area 1 Commander, Mike served as the District 6 Commander. He presented certificates of appreciation to the following post officers who also served as district officers under him: Post Service Officer Howard Williams who also served as District 6 Service Officer; and Past Commander Joe Gonzales who also served as District 6 Historian. In addition to recognizing individuals, Commander Mike also recognized Magellan Post 604 as one of the district posts who helped District 6 in reaching 100% in membership goal for membership year 2014-2015, and for receiving the distinctive award for being the "Number One Recruiting District" in the entire nation! Congratulations to all!

Congratulations also to the new post commander! After the installation ceremonies, Commander Tom Amaba officially thanked everyone especially the visiting installing officers for coming to, "...one of the top social events of the Post..." The commander also stressed our duty, "...to serve and help the Fil-Am veterans of the American Legion Post 604..." He even reminded everyone of the "sacrifices of the founders of Post 604 before the outbreak of WWII." The founders were originally "farmers and laborers."

The commander's speech was heartfelt as well as educational. This writer heard the number 39 when the commander mentioned the number of Filipino farmers and laborers who established the beginnings of Magellan Post 604. Although challenged by their era's hardships and sacrifices, the 39 Founders still managed to procure the valuable property where Magellan Hall is currently standing. The accomplishments of the 39 Founders long before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 should be an inspiring example for all of us to follow. Us being the Filipino-American Veterans as well as the Filipino-American Community. Thanks to Commander Tom Amaba for the

cornucopia of delectable dishes awaited to be shared. The enthusiastic ladies of Auxiliary Unit 604 volunteered to be the servers for the lengthy line of appreciative members and guests. Special mention for this successful feast goes to those Auxiliary Ladies who spearheaded the planning for the abundant dinner menu. They are: Malou Amper, Olive Jackson, and Bella Nidoy. The positive personalities of these three strong supporters of the Post received a great response of help and contributions from their fellow auxiliary unit members. Kudos and much appreciation to the Auxiliary Unit 604 Ladies!

To burn off all the consumed calories enjoyed by everyone an hour ago, guest Zumba Instructor Melinda Domondon volunteered to donate her time and energy by providing a sample taste of Zumba dance exercises to the members and guests. A group of ladies and about three men enjoyed the approximately 30 minutes of exhilarating moves led by Instructor Melinda.

The day was a success! It was a day of patriotism, a day of rituals, a day of epicurean delights, a day of camaraderie, a day of invigorating Zumba exercises, a day of appreciating the culture, but mostly a day to remember why there are still members of the American Legion Magellan Post and Auxiliary Unit 604 - "to help and serve Filipino-American veterans..."

The Legion appreciates the leadership of Past Commander Joe Gonzales during his tenure as commander, and also for leading the successful organization of Installation Day. The Legion appreciates the new commander, Tom Amaba, for assuming the leadership role again as current commander, as well as reminding us during his speech about the hardships and sacrifices of the Post's 39 Founders. The Legion appreciates all those who continue to be members of Magellan Post 604 and Auxiliary Unit 604. Because of the leadership and membership, the only Filipino-American Legion Post in Sacramento is still standing strong!

Congratulations to the newly-installed officers of Magellan Post 604 and Auxiliary Unit 604! Mabuhay to All!



PerryScope

Power corrupts P-Noy

By Perry Diaz

After repeatedly denying it in the past, President Benigno “P-Noy” Aquino had let the cat out of the bag: He wants a second term! And he wants it for a strange reason: To curtail the power of the Supreme Court. Whoa! What happened?

Going back to Day One of the Aquino presidency, it reminds us of the promise of hope and pagbabago (change) that P-Noy made to the people whom he called “boss.” He promised in his inaugural speech that there would be no more “wang-wang” and the bosses roared in approval.

But what was really the centerpiece of the mandate his bosses gave him on Election Day was predicated on his campaign promise of “Walang korap, walang mahirap” (No corruption, no poverty). Yes, there will be no more corruption, no more poverty! That pumped the people up. Finally, here is a man who would deliver the poor from their hellish lives. Hope... Pagbabago... No more pagpag for food. How sweet.

For the next four years, the poor experienced the taste of sweetness. But it was not the sweetness of progress. It was artificial sweetener to keep them contented from day to day. And for as long as they get a taste of “sweetness” they’d be out of harm’s way. Indeed, feeding the poor has always been the ultimate act to pacify the malcontents. Feed them and everything would just be sweet and sassy.

The “sweetener” that P-Noy gives to the poor is called Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps, a form of conditional cash transfer (CCT). Its goal is to

eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by implementing health and education programs for households that have children ages 0-14. It operates in 79 provinces covering 1,484 municipalities and 143 cities. Currently, the program has more than four million registered households.

Plunder

But no sooner had the program been implemented than allegations of “ghost” beneficiaries were made triggering demands for investigation. However, the Aquino administration had repeatedly denied the requests.

But nothing is more serious than the plunder of pork barrel funds, which were intended for projects that would have benefitted the people – particularly the poorest of the poor and the hungry or “food-poor.” Instead they were diverted to bogus non-government organizations (NGOs) controlled by Janet Lim Napoles – the “Pork Barrel Queen” – who, with the connivance of elected officials, had siphoned off at least P10 billion from Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) allocations to lawmakers. In exchange for the lawmakers’ “cooperation,” Napoles gave them kickbacks anywhere between 40% and 70% of the scammed funds. Napoles pocketed the rest.

Prominently involved in the pork barrel scam was Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Florencio “Butch” Abad who issued the Special Allotment Release Orders (SAROs) approved and signed by the President authorizing the National Treasury to release the funds from PDAF.

In 2011, P-Noy set up the Dis-



Benigno ‘P-Noy’ Aquino



bursement Acceleration Program (DAP) – a brainchild of Abad -- drawing funds from purported “savings” in budget items and funneling them into a huge “piggy bank.” Since its inception, more than P150 billion were transferred to DAP. But what was anomalous was that DAP funds were spent without congressional authorization.

Double whammy

Then the unthinkable happened! On November 19, 2013, the Supreme Court by a unanimous vote of 14-0, declared the PDAF unconstitutional. Seven months later, on July 1, 2014, it ruled that three parts of DAP are unconstitutional.

It was a stunning setback for P-Noy. He accepted the ruling on PDAF but he stood his ground on

DAP insisting that it was legal. This set the tone for his “war” against the Supreme Court, which he treated with contempt. He swiped at the Judiciary for “meddling” too much into the affairs of the other two co-equals, the Executive and the Legislative branches.

In my article, “Is DAP worth fighting for?” I wrote: “P-Noy’s tirade against the Supreme Court is like a little boy throwing a tantrum, making unreasonable and foolish demands. He knows better that the Supreme Court’s ruling, once it became executive, is final and there is no appeal. Perhaps his legal staff should give him advice on the legality – and futility – of what he’s doing.

“What he should have done was do a mea culpa routine just like when then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo appeared on TV and said she was sorry for the ‘Hello Garci’ scandal. She did it without admitting guilt. It was brilliant! Indeed, there is nothing more profound than admitting a mistake. It’s the best defense.”

Charter change

Then the unexpected happened! Last August 14, a Manila newspaper reported: “President Aquino is now amenable to amending the Constitution and extending his term apparently to check the power of the Supreme Court, a coequal of the executive branch. The President said the judiciary appeared to be using its power to check the executive and legislative branches without restraint. ‘When I took this office, I recall that it was only for one term of six years,’ he said. ‘Now, after having said that, of course, I have to listen to my bosses [the people].’”

But the following day, P-Noy backed off after a tsunami of opposition flooded the airwaves, the broadsheets, and the social media. Ninety percent of those who commented in the social media were against a second term for P-Noy. Many commented that his mother, the late President Cory Aquino, had opposed former presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s attempts to amend the Constitution allowing them to run for a second term, which begs the question: Would Cory have opposed her son’s attempt to stay in power longer than what the 1987 Constitution allows him?

Judicial independence

But regardless of whether P-Noy would extend his term or not, it has become apparent that his hubris was born out of the power that he amassed during the four years of his presidency. Now that he has full control of both houses of Congress and had placed generals loyal to him in key positions in the military, only the Judiciary remains independent, which had demonstrated in the PDAF and DAP unanimous rulings that “judicial independence” still reigns supreme.

Indeed, the Supreme Court’s judicial oversight and review – which P-Noy objects to -- and the checks and balances inherent in our trilateral form of government, guarantees that our country shall be governed by the rule of law and not by the rule of man. I must also add that for as long as we have an independent Judiciary, nobody – not one man or group -- should ever have absolute power. And as Lord Acton had once said: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” This is a mantra that should always remind our leaders that corruption thrives on power.

Has power corrupted P-Noy? (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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In search of the country's 'National Hero'

By Ellson Quismorio

Dr. Jose Rizal is considered by many as the greatest among Filipino heroes. But officially, he isn't even a national hero.

In fact, the Sampaguita and Narra, the national flower and national tree, respectively, have a more canonical place in the pantheon of Philippine national symbols (which include national heroes) than the great polymath Rizal or even the equally admired and revered revolutionary leader, Andres Bonifacio.

RIZAL SHRINE — The early morning sun provides a perfect backdrop for the Rizal Shrine, perched on a hillside in Barangay Casat, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya. While Jose Rizal is widely recognized as the country's national hero, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts said that no law, executive order or proclamation has ever been enacted or issued officially proclaiming any Filipino historical figure as a national hero. (Ceasar M. Perante)

Unlike Rizal or Bonifacio, the Sampaguita and the Narra tree are backed by two Commonwealth-era Executive Proclamations that explicitly declare them as the national flower and national tree. Both declarations were made in February 1934 by Governor-General Frank Murphy.

Technically, it can also be said that the Philippine Eagle, declared as the national bird through Proclamation no. 615 under President Fidel Ramos in 1995, has a more lawful basis to being a national symbol than any de facto Filipino hero.

According to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), no law, executive order or proclamation has ever been enacted or issued officially proclaiming any Filipino historical figure as a national hero.

Even Rizal, whom we've been taught in school growing up as the Philippine national hero, has in fact never been given that official title. To borrow the term of Bohol 1st district Rep. Rene Relampagos, this has made the venerated novelist-artist-nationalist our "colorum" national hero.

But how could that be? In providing an explanation, the NCCA states that "Heroes, according to historians, should not be legislated. Their appreciation should be better left to academics. Acclamation for heroes, they felt, would be recognition enough."

However, the Commission does note that laws and proclamations have been made in honor of Filipino heroes.

These include the declaration of the year 1996, which is the centennial of the Philippine Revolution, as the "Year of Filipino Heroes" and the last Monday of August as National Heroes Day.

The latter, celebrated today, marks the anniversary of the Cry of Pugad Lawin, which signaled the start of the Bonifacio's Katipunan-led revolution in 1896.

Last February 17, Relampagos filed House Bill no. 3926 or the proposed "Philippine National Symbols Act of 2014," which seeks to declare Rizal as the sole Filipino national hero. "[Rizal] is the most well-known advocate for reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish Colonial era," Relampagos argued.

The measure, filed during the 16th Congress, likewise seeks to officially recognize other national symbols like adobo as the national dish, the jeepney as the national vehicle, bangus as the national fish and mango as the national fruit.

WHAT MAKES A NATIONAL HERO?

The Philippine government, through the academe, has actually made an attempt in

the past to identify and officially recognize Filipino heroes.

In 1993, Ramos created the National Heroes Committee (NHC) specifically to evaluate and recommend Filipino national personages/heroes "in due recognition of their sterling character and remarkable achievements for the country."

Dr. Onofre Corpuz and Dr. Alfredo Lagmay came up with a six-item criteria, which was adopted by the Technical Committee of the NHC. These are the following:

- 1.) Heroes are those who have a concept of nation and thereafter aspire and struggle for the nation's freedom.
- 2.) Heroes are those who define and contribute to a system or life of freedom and order for a nation.
- 3.) Heroes are those who contribute to the quality of life and destiny of a nation.
- 4.) A hero is part of the people's expression.
- 5.) A hero thinks of the future, especially the future generations.
- 6.) The choice of a hero involves not only the recounting of an episode or events in history, but of the entire process that made this particular person a hero.

After two years of deliberations, the Committee, which included the country's top historians, selected nine individuals and recommended their declaration as "national heroes."

The shortlist was made up of Rizal, Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Sultan Dipatuan Kudarat, Juan Luna, Melchora Aquino and Gabriela Silang.

Unfortunately, the NHC recommendation

made way back on November 22, 1995 to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS, now DepEd or the Department of Education) was never acted upon.

Again, the NCCA provides a possible explanation: "This was probably because it might trigger a flood of requests for proclamations. Another possibility is that the proclamations can trigger bitter debates involving historical controversies about the heroes."

Apparently there is wisdom in the NCCA's assessment, given that some of the historical exploits of even Rizal, Bonifacio and Aguinaldo for that matter, continue to stir up controversy decades after their deaths.

'IMPLIED' NATIONAL HEROES

Where does this leave us Filipinos then? As it is we are not hero-less, since the Commission mentions the existence of "implied" national heroes of the basis of the national (nationwide) holidays commemorated in their names.

There are three Filipinos who fall into this category, namely Rizal (honored every December 30 on Rizal Day), Bonifacio (November 30, Bonifacio Day) and the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. (August 21, Ninoy Aquino Day).

Ninoy Aquino is the husband of the late former President, Corazon "Cory" Aquino and father of the incumbent President Benigno S. Aquino III. As to whether or not Ninoy belongs in the same breath as the two Philippine revolution icons is a topic



RIZAL SHRINE

for another day.

For what it's worth, there is an imposing figure over in Luneta Park (which by the way, was declared a national park by President Ramon Magsaysay in 1955) aside from Rizal's own monument. That figure belongs to Lapu-Lapu in the form of a 31-foot statue at the Teodoro F. Valencia Circle of Luneta Park.

Conspicuously missing from the NHC list, Lapu-Lapu has been imprinted into the minds of pupils as the first Filipino hero ever, being the first to rise up against foreign invaders. He gained fame for leading local warriors in the Battle of Mactan, Cebu which led to death of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan on April 27, 1521.

Since the 14th Congress, legislative measures have been introduced to declare April 27 as "Lapu-Lapu Day," therefore making it a national holiday and in effect giving the Mactan datu the implied title of national hero.

Lapu-Lapu's silhouette currently figures prominently in the seal of the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection.



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FAVA'S FILIPINIANA AND SCHOLARSHIP EVENING

By Dale E. Esperante

The Filipino-American Veterans Association (FAVA), Inc. of Sacramento held their annual presentation of scholarship awards on 9 August 2014 at the American Legion's Magellan Hall.

Filipiniana, referring to Filipino taste and fashion, became de rigeur when it was announced that one best dressed couple, one gentleman, and one lady would be appreciated and recognized for their cultural pride and fashion. Magellan Hall became a venue for an elegant evening affair attended by leaders and members, family and friends, veterans and scholars, line and social dancers, and out of town ballroom dancers because of the strong representation of all things Filipiniana.

To start the evening, FAVA President Fred Aquino made a brief announcement and followed it with an introduction of the Master of Ceremony (MC), this writer. After the MC's welcoming remarks, Ms. Betty Quevedo was introduced to deliver the invocation. Thanking Betty after the invocation, the MC announced that the FAVA Ladies behind the buffet line were ready to serve. The serving was generous as well as delicious based on comments overheard around my table.

After an hour elapsed, President Aquino asked the MC to start the official program. The MC introduced himself as being a lifetime member of FAVA and an air force veteran, being FAVA is a veteran organization. However, when he mentioned air force, some of the air force veterans in the audience unexpectedly gave a polite cheer. Being fair, the other branches of the armed forces were given a chance to cheer as well. The MC continued with, "Let me hear it from the Navy." The navy veterans just about rocked the building when they made their presence known. Followed by, "Let me hear it from the Coast Guard," a mild response was heard. The same tepid response was heard from the Marines. Then the MC paused and wondered aloud, "I must be forgetting something," and said "oh

the Army." The army veterans' raucous cheer reached about the same decibel level as the navy veterans. For this evening though, the MC would give it slightly to the Navy over the Army for having the most responsive group of FAVA veterans when it comes to cheering proudly for their military service branch. This makes one wonder if there should be a search for more Coast Guards and Marines to join FAVA. As for the Air Force, they were the first group to respond politely which warmed up the evening's winner, the unabashed Navy gents.

The audience was then invited to join the veterans in paying due respect to the flags. The microphone was passed on to Mr. Joe Zaragoza for the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and then the Bayang Magiliw. Fortunato Delacruz accompanied Joe by playing the keyboard.

For the official welcoming remarks, FAVA President Fred Aquino was introduced by the MC. President Aquino delivered his brief speech welcoming and thanking everyone for supporting FAVA's Scholarship Program. He concluded his remarks with a simple but profound "Welcome."

For the main reason of this evening's celebration, the Director of Education and Welfare, Mr. Bobby Aglubat, was introduced. The

MC, who is also the Scholarship Committee Chairman appointed by Director Bobby, invited committee members Daphne Abdeen and Olivia Jackson to join as co-presenters. The first scholar, Keilani Cordero, was called forward to receive her award. Keilani is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Cordero. Keilani has proven herself to the committee as deserving of the award based on the scholarship package she meticulously submitted, as well as the successful completion of an official interview process. Keilani will be attending the University of the Pacific focusing on a Pharmacist career in the future. The second scholar was represented by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zaragoza. Mr. Joe Zaragoza accepted Justine Nguyen's award on her behalf. Justine couldn't be available because of a family priority. Ms. Nguyen is also deserving of her award based on the excellent scholarship package that she submitted to the FAVA Scholarship Committee. Justine's ultimate goal is to be a Dermatologist after completing a Respiratory

Therapist degree. She will be attending the University of Mary. After the presentations, the MC asked Ms. Keilani Cordero for some brief remarks to the audience. Keilani said that she was very happy and thankful to FAVA for the award. Then Mr. Joe Zaragoza was asked to say a word for Justine. Joe thanked everyone on behalf of Justine and explained that because of a family priority, Justine could not personally accept her award. The reason for the evening's celebration was because of the scholars, and the audience agreed by giving the scholars a big round of applause.

After the scholarship awards presentation, the MC asked the hard working DJs (Paul Cordero and Chris Villavert) for music to start the evening's social dancing. Joe and Lilia Rivera with the line dancers, fun dancers, social dancers, young and older dancers, and ballroom dancers converged on the dance floor. The warm temperature in the Hall didn't deter anyone inside from having fun dancing and socializing. About an hour passed before the president asked the MC to give everyone a breather by announcing a raffle drawing break. The prizes for the winning tickets were all monetary donated by generous members of FAVA. First prize was \$100, second prize \$60, and third prize \$50. Other winning tickets were worth about \$20 through less than

\$50 each. About three short raffle breaks took place. The final break was for the big money. The winners definitely enjoyed a very rewarding evening with FAVA courtesy of generous donors!

At approximately 10p.m., it was time for the judges to reveal the winners of the first ever FAVA Filipiniana contest. Judges Bea Alo, Edna Tancioco, Lilia Rivera, and Dr. Camasura announced the winners: Filipiniana Couple Joe and Carina Gonzales; Filipiniana Lady Olive Jackson; and Filipiniana Man Fortunato "Ato" Delacruz. The winners were directed by the judges to parade around the dance floor to model their winning apparels. Their enthusiastic cooperation was welcomed by the resounding appreciation of the cheering crowd. The monetary prizes were also generously donated by members of FAVA.

Having the raffles and contest successfully completed, the dance floor was kept busy up to almost the closing minute. The two groups that stayed on the dance floor until the end were the line and ball room dancers. The always supportive Line Dancers, participated actively by community leaders Joe and Lilia Rivera, are from the local area. The ball room dancers came from out of town places like Dublin, Vallejo, Vacaville, Brentwood, and Stockton, all because they were invited by FAVA friends, Gus and Lourdes Deguzman.

Everyone who supports or continue to support FAVA is greatly appreciated. In addition to those mentioned above, FAVA also appreciates the following for their participation and contributions: The leaders and representatives of the Sacramento Filipino-American Community; Ticket Accountants Sonia Delizo, Let Pangilinan, Tina Bambao, Malou Amper, Bella Nidoy, and Memie Weitzenberg; FAVA Ladies and Veterans; Drinks and Supplies by Yollie Delacruz; Decorations by Rose Delacruz and Edna Tancioco; Raffles by Aida Calindas, Nanette Nerona, and Paul Cordero; The aforementioned Scholarship Committee members; the Scholars and their Families; National Anthems by Singer Joe Zaragoza accompanied by Ato Delacruz; Filipiniana Judges Bea Alo, Edna Tancioco, Lilia Rivera, and Dr. Camasura; the positive leadership of President Fred Aquino and the subtle leadership of Director of Education, and Welfare Bobby Aglubat who also prepared the program. Of course, FAVA would not be here if it weren't for the courage and perseverance of the charter members of FAVA. Congratulations FAVA Family and Friends!



Hi-Pertensions Plus "Elvis" Make Total Entertainment

By Faina E. Abaya

The Filipino American Community of Sacramento and its immediate vicinities were fortunate to have hosted world class entertainers who, undoubtedly, in all their performances have regaled, enthused and joked with their audiences showcasing their professionalism in the field of entertainment.

There is no doubt that Filipino singers, musicians and plain entertainers are in demand the world over not only for the Filipinos who have found comfort and solace in the places where they have established themselves but also with mixed fastidious audiences who enjoyed and appreciated their performances.

One such class of performers who can be compared to the best that the world can offer in the field of entertainment is the Hi-Pertensions composed of Carina Afable, Linda Magno and Norma Ledesma.

The three singing artists have formed the Hi-Pertensions in 1973 after their individual successes in film, stage and television shows. From that time on, they were able to blend themselves to become one of the most sought after and successful group singers in the Philippines.

Such distinction has been maintained and received accolades repeatedly not only among Filipinos but also from different nationalities in all the places where they had performed. Their concerts have been filled up to capacity regardless of the venues where their performances were held. As the members of the Hi-Pertensions mature gracefully, the Philippine scene has become too tight for their shows and concerts as they are being sought after by many Filipino communities in every nook and corner of the world.

On July 2, 2014, the Hi-Pertensions was billed up to perform at the school auditorium of Luther Burbank High School on Florin road, Sacramento which made all directions pointed to the said place and as early as 5:00 PM, the eager fans of all ages had already queued for their tickets at the gates of the auditorium.

An hour later, the auditorium was already filled up to capacity estimated to be more than 900 restless and excited fans. Although most of the

fans were Filipino Americans, surprisingly, there were also other nationalities that were also in the audience. Accordingly, most of the other nationalities had seen them performed and were profoundly impressed of their singing and showmanship which made them excited to see such quality of performance again.

To ease and calm down the eagerness of the restless audience who were nostalgically yearning for the appearance of the Hi-Pertensions, the Filipino American Elvis impersonator Llyod Aaron Douglas was brought in on the stage. Complete with the King's blue regalia like, oversized belt, high collared costumes and his signature guitar, the blare of rock and roll music and song reverberated in all four corners of the auditorium.

The impersonator has not shied away from the original Elvis appearance with his duck-tail hair cut and long side burns as he made his sensual hip gyrations and hand movements that usually caused hysteria of the then hip hop young generation.

The one hour performance of the impersonator rendering song after song of the "King" from the better known to obscure such as "Love me tender", "Always in my mind", "Are you lonesome tonight" and many others that could only be appreciated by the Elvis like energy and staged performance.

Showing the King of Rock and Roll many performances, the impersonator went down from the stage and mixed with the audience as he sang his way into the crowd of ladies of all ages giving them multicolored scarves for remembrance and personal enjoyment.

Just after everyone had enjoyed eating their pizza during the intermission time when familiar melodious medley music was being played as all stood up and applause to welcome the three artists. The main attraction of the evening show fi-



Elvis (Lloyd Aaron Douglas)

nally appeared, the Hi-Pretensions in persons elegantly and gracefully singing their way into the hearts of their admiring audience.

Their appearance simply belied the passing years to have changed their singing abilities and performances, rather, improved honed with experience and being together for a long period of time giving joy and happiness to countless of Filipinos and others who appreciated their music and songs to ease their homesickness away from their distance homes. Everyone in the audience were deeply impressed by their choice of costumes of white blouse with matching feather like scarf, silver necklace and tight black pants which projected their beautiful facial expression and complement their impeccable fair complexion. If their performances of yesteryears were impressively good, the night of their performance singing familiar songs and medleys were much better with their powerful renditions which at times received standing ovation from their admiring fans.

The trio projecting the showmanship of their world class performances also sang their way into the hearts of their mesmerized audience by coming down from the stage and picked anyone to sing together for the enjoyment of all which also received thunderous applause. Likewise, their respective solo performance also cap-



Hi-Pertensions Artists-Norma Ledesma, Carina Afable and Linda Magno

tured the energy that they have shown and exuded when they were young, such as Carina's "60's Medley", Norma's "Love song medley" and Linda's "The prayer".

Their love of the country where they came from and their highest respect to all veterans who fought and died gallantly in the field of battles and wars to protect and give us the way of life that we are now enjoying, the three artists dedicated the songs "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" and "America the Beautiful" for them which received deafening thunderous applause. With Elvis and the Hi-Pertensions they melancholy exited with the classic Pilipino song "Dahil Sa Iyo" as they profoundly expressed their thanks to all for making their concert extremely successful.

Indeed, it has been proven that the appeal of the threesome artists have crossed cultural differences and national boundaries through their inimitable music and singing performances. They undoubtedly made thousands of their countrymen and other nationalities happy in different places of the world and they always feel at home with their performances. Hereunder are the individual achievements of the three artists;

*Norma Ledesma -Started singing at age 5. Her album "Her Kind of Music" was Awit Award Best Album of the Year 1968 and her recording "Forbidden Love" was Awit Awards Best Song for the year 1969. From age 9 to her late 20's she appeared in about 15 films. She had also a television show called "Norma & Norma Ledesma Show".

*Linda Magno has been a Villar Records Recording Artist in the P-

hilippines where she received the Philippine National Press Voice Award, Tinig Star Award, and Aliw Award for Best Performer. She also performed at the Toronto Variety Club Telethon and also sang at the Dragon Boat Festival in Vancouver, Canada where she is now based.

*Carina Afable - Started in the entertainment business when she was only 8 year old. She appeared in about 8 movies and was nominated Famas Best Supporting Actress for the movie "Patria Adorada"; TV Shows were, Philippine Chelsea Dance time, May I Sing to You, Carina Show, Kiddieland and Stop Look & Listen. In USA she appeared in Barney Miller Show & Weiner schnitzel TV Commercial and she did Concerts all over USA, Canada and Europe

The Hi-Pertensions have performed in 5 Star Hotels all over Asia for international crowd such as; Manila Hilton, Shangrila Hotel in Singapore, Jakarta Hilton, Kuala Lumpur Hilton, Dusit Thani Hotel in Bangkok and many others and likewise they have concerts over the USA and Canada including Caesar's Palace in Atlantic City.

The Hi-Pertensions concert in Sacramento was managed and participated in by; Heavenly Voices Productions; Donnie Pestrana, Cecilia Pestrana and Thelma Orias. Over All Coordinator: Dory Aries Pose' Stage Director and Opening Hi-Pertensions Video - Cherry Silos and Musicians: Alex Lagman (Musical Director and Keyboards) Albert Buycoo (Lead Guitar), Dexter Javier (Base Guitar) Phil Javier Jr (Drums).

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Charles and Calixta Delizo Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

By Faina E. Abaya

The concept of marriage which is simply the union of man and woman celebrated in a holy covenant or in a civil written agreement has been altered by the passing of time and the intrusion of same sex marriage. Thus, the simple traditional marriage contract becomes complicated and triggered a universal issue as to who are the parties that can validly enter into the contract of marriage.

Yet, whatever the concept that we believe in, the fact remains, that who ever have the capacity to contract such kind of relationship shall have one in common, their passion to love as they stay together which no human laws shall in anyway deny or prohibit it. And, if such relationship has reached a certain number of years, the married couple will nostalgically remember how it has happened which they will surely celebrate in their own personal way.

Charles Delizo also known as Charlie and Calixta who is, likewise, fondly called as Caring were just teenagers when they met during a Barrio Fiesta in Tudingan, Naguilian, La Union. They were love struck that resulted into an early marriage after just a short whirlwind courtship.

On July 12, 2014 at Holiday Villa Restaurant spacious Social Hall, the happy couple gloriously celebrated their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary in the presence of their children with their respective families, relatives and closest of friends. The social hall was well decorated with artistically arranged white and golden colored balloons to project the meaning of the celebration. When the social hall was already filled up to the capacity of about 200 invited guests, the Emcee announced the arrival of the celebrants entourage.

The five children of the celebrants with their respective families were called to enter the hall as everyone stood up to welcome



them with thunderous applause. The four sons were wearing golden colored vests with matching neckties while their respective spouses were in their formal evening gowns. The only daughter, likewise, also wore a golden evening gown. The celebratory spirit of everyone was heightened as they applauded deafeningly when the celebrants made their graceful appearance into the hall.

Many from the attendee's relatives to closest of friends who were present during their wedding 50 long years ago have one common impression for the celebrants. The love that they bestowed for each

other has not waned nor has been eroded by the distance past, rather, it becomes stronger and firmer. Charlie Delizo projects his fatherly imaged and strong personality with his tailored black suit and a golden colored matching necktie while his love partner Caring was elegantly beautiful with her floor length golden gown to accentuate her fair complexion and contagious smile. Indeed, they were a sight of gracefulness and elegance as the couple proceeded to their reserved seats at the presidential table properly set up for them and their children.

When everyone settled at their respective tables, they were treated with sumptuous eight courses of Chinese cuisine to be washed out with red wine, soda or just plain water as they were entertained with family pictures and videos to make the celebration merrier and enjoyable. On each of the 20 tables, Belgian chocolate candies were placed for the guests as their give away favors. and all were also treated with Chocolate Fountain for dipping skewered assorted fruits.

After dinner, the daughter of the celebrants was

called to speak up on behalf of her siblings. She requested everyone to hold their champagne glasses as she offered a toast for her parents for more years of healthy and happy marriage. She also added that all her brothers and she was profoundly thankful to their parents for their love and guidance because if not for them, they could not have reached the status that they now enjoying with their family lives.

The three tiers of vanilla cake was personally cut by the celebrants for everyone to partake and immediately, thereafter, the traditional music for the celebrants first dance was played to the tune of Ray Charles "I can't stop loving you", as the happy couple made their way to the dance floor. By just looking at them on the dance floor, the celebrant's favorite song has deep meaning for them that makes no wonder their marriage has lasted for 50 years and counting.

From that time on, music, dance and entertainment for everyone's enjoyment continued until closing time.

Charles and Calixta Delizo were married on July 16, 1964 at St. Au-

gustine of Hippo church, in Naguilian, La Union, Philippines.

The parents of Charles namely Anastacio and Pelita Delizo were the ones who petitioned the family to migrate to the United States in 1983. The couple retired from the National Electric Company after working for 24 years.

Their happy marriage was blessed with four sons, a daughter, thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren, namely; Oldest son is Cleto married to Lora and their four children, namely Cleto, Jr., CJ, Adriana and Lily; Froilan married to Joan and their four children, namely Nicolas, Mia, Emy and JD; Charlieto married to Marisa and their three children, Cindy, Marcos and Andrea; Roland married to Myra and their son Branden; Charina married to Brian and their daughter Trinity. Charles and Calixta has also three great grandchildren, namely Reyes, Mia and Nadalene.

Among those who attended the celebration were; Henry and Tina Bambao, Pete and Vilma Ferrer, Marc and Norma Abenoja, Eligio Floresca, Pat Banayat, Alex and Ising Banayat, Rufino and Virgie Estioco, Rudy and Sonia Delizo, Ben and Lourdes Delizo, Tino and Lirio Floresca, Erna and Jane Bambao, Dick and Marilyn Bernal, Jun Abaya and partner, Pio and Liza Banayat, Dr. Porfirio and Mrs. Rilloraza, Cherie Nairn, John and Sonia Vilorio, Oswald and Lori Joven, Teddy and Letty Cheng, Elpidio and Auring Reyes, Efren and Evelyn Banayat, Edgar and Charity Avena, Carol Bambao and many others.



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Filipino community meet and greet with Darrell Fong candidate for assembly on August-16-2014 at the Patria's residence with host committee Dr. Fred Aquino, Aida Azurin, Ling Avera, Emelia Dones, Mercy Guerrero, Josie Patria, Lilia Rivera, Maria Bahoric and Memie Weitzenberg.



Mrs. St Paul 2014 Queen Beth Velasco with Sr. Kathy Quidlat and hubby Jess.



Baguio City High School International Alumni Association 7th. Triennial Reunion - August 14-17, 2014 - San Francisco Hilton



University of Santo Tomas School of Nursing Class 1965 Reunion with Fely Esplana



A day in the life of Dinnah with Dr. Tony Solomon, Dave, Frank Ayran and Jer Crisologo. 6.21.2014



Dr. Richard Pan state senate candidate with Sacramento mayor Kevin Johnson in picture with community leader Aida Azurin, Josie Patria and Maria Bahoric.



Birthday of Jun Abaya with relatives and friends in Elk Grove, CA on June 28, 2014



University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity annual picnic at Miller Park in Sacramento, CA on 8.23.14



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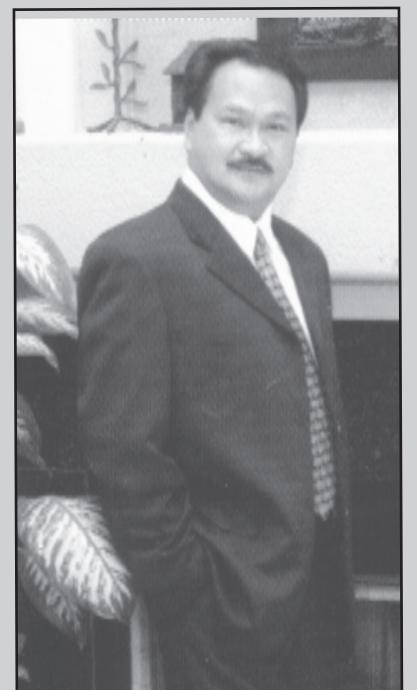
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SEPTEMBER 1



ALEX MELLIZA
AUGUST 24



DEIDRA SAN PEDRO
AUGUST 7

Joseph “Joe” Bahoric

December 25, 1931 – July 17, 2014

To all my dearest friends:

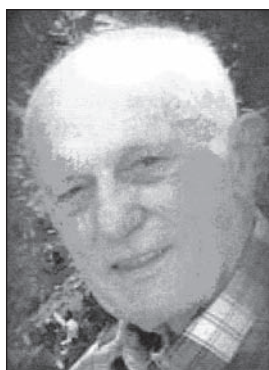
I thank God for friends such as you!

Losing Joe, has changed my life. I feel completely lost and hurt. I know that it will take time before I can begin to feel normal again. I just have to be patient as I work through the process of grief.

I extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to all of you who came to express special and meaningful sentiments to me and to my family at the Rosary prayer nights at myhouse, at the funeral home, and also at Joe’s memorial service. Everything mattered great-

ly that you were there for me. Your presence meant so much. Thanks to those who sent flowers, cooked food, and helped organized the occasion. Thanks to those who sent their sincere sentiments from afar.

To my dearest daughter, Marie, son-in-law, Steven, my granddaughters, Gabriel, Chloe, and Sophie, to all my loving sisters and brothers, my good Friends, acquaintances, and to everyone who showed their sympathy and support in other ways, and to all those who touched Joe’s life in a meaningful way when he was still alive. Thank you so much



for all your support during this difficult time and this is just another of the many kindnesses you’ve shown me throughout the years we have known each other. Thank you for your prayers and thoughtfulness. Thank you for your donations.

Sincerely,
Maria “Semy” Bahoric

“We Love You Nanang”

IN LOVING MEMORY ON HER
96th BIRTHDAY

Juliana Abad Bernardino Torralba

August 26, 1918 - October 4, 2013



Calendar of Events

SEPT. 20, 2014 (SATURDAY)
Barrio Fiesta Filipinas 2014
Free Admission - 10 - 7pm
Elk Grove Regional Park E.G 95624
Howell 916.601.9859
Eric 408.712.3743



SEPT. 20, 2014 (SATURDAY)
FWC PISTA SA NAYON
Honoring Vicky Johnson
Outstanding Filipina '14
6 pm - \$25.00
Jose Rizal Community Center
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Myrna 916.505.1421
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OCT. 4, 2014 (SATURDAY)
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By Nancy Cristi Bautista

Ang Wikang Pilipino

Ang Agosto ang naatasang gawing buwan ng wikang Pilipino. Bihira na siguro ang gumagamit ng talagang purong wikang ito. Kadalasan, ang ating mga salita ay hinahaluan ng ibang wika na galing sa ibang bansa o gawa-gawa lamang ng iba, lalo na ng mga kabataan.

Totoong hindi madaling magsalita ng mga katagang walang halong banyaga. Sa panahon ngayon, mahihirapan na tayong makipag-usap sa bawat isa na ang gagamitin lamang ay pawang mga katutubong salita. Maaring sa pagsulat, ito ay kayang gawin, ngunit, pagdating sa bigkasan, talagang hindi na totoong magkakaunawaan ang ating mga kababayan na gamitin ang mga wikang Pilipino. Kagaya ngayon, napakahirap nang magsulat na ang gagamitin lamang ay taal na Tagalog.

Ngayon nga, ako ay nangan-gapa na rin upang maipahayag lamang ang nais kong sabihin, at, palagay ko, marami na rin akong naisingit na ibang wika sa mga isinulat ko. Wala namang masama na haluan natin ang ating wika ng ibang salita. Ang nakaraan ng Pilipinas ay masasabing bahagi ng dahilan kung bakit ang ating pagsasalita at pagsusulat ay naging ganito. Tayo ay sumalalim sa pangu-ngupkop ng maraming bayan at kultura. Sa mga nagdaang panahon, ang ating wika ay nahaluan na ng iba't-ibang mga salita at kahulugan. Sa dahilang ang mga Pilipino ay madaling matuto, hindi naging mahirap sa mga ito ang pagtanggap at paggamit sa anumang dumarating na pagbabago.

Sa bilis ng paglago ng populasyon ng Pilipinas, ang pagdami ng mga salitang dumarating ay napakabilis upang ang dating wika ay maka-agpang sa mga ito. Sa kalaunan, ang mga sariling unang panahong wika ay nakakalimutan na o napapaghiwanan na ng uso, at kung minsan, ang pagsasalita ng mga ninunong kaalaman ay kinukutya at ikinahihiya na. Mas pinapaburan pa ang pagbigkas ng mga salitang kalye o ng mga galing sa ibang bansa, na kung minsan ay hindi naman mga tamang salita.

Minsang umuwi ako sa ating bansa, nagulat ako dahil ang karamihan sa mga bata, lalo

na sa mga may kaya ay hindi nakakaintindi o nakakapagsalita man lamang ng Tagalog. Ipinagpaparangalan pa ng kanilang mga magulang na ang alam ng mga batang ito ay Ingles o Pranses. Napakalungkot naman.

Ang aming mga anak ay tinuruan namin ng Tagalog noong bata pa sila at ngayong malaki na sila, sila ay nakakaintindi at sa unt-unti nilang pagbigkas, sila ay nakakapagsalita pa rin ng ating wikang pambansa. Samantala, ang aming mga apo naman, ay nakakaintindi at nakakapagsalita rin ng kaunting wikang Tagalog. Naturuan din namin silang magdasal ng kaunting Tagalog.

Upang bumalik ang paggamit ng wikang Pilipino, maaari namang ibalik ito sa kurikulum ng mga paaralan at gawing kaakit-akit ito sa mga kabataan. Gawin ng paraan na ang pagsali sa mga organisasyon ng mga iba't-ibang kabataan ay may kahalang mga nakakatanda, at maging isang masaya at maipagmamalaking pangyayari. Alam natin, lalo na sa mga kabataan, na nais nilang sila ay huwag mapapahiya. Masaya sila kung nararamdaman nila na sila ay nakagagawa ng mga pagbabago na ikauunlad ng kanilang sarili, o ng kanilang mga komunidad, at

kalaunan, ng kanilang bayan.

Hindi kinakailangan gamitan ng malaking pera ang pagpapakalat ng wikang Pilipino. Isa pa, sa pagpupulong na gagawin, ang kusang pagtulong ay mas nakakapagbigay ng karangalan sa sarili at sa kapuwa.

Kung ang bawat Pilipino ay magsisikap na magaral ng kahit isa man lamang salita sa wikang Pilipino isang lingo, at gamitin ito sa pagbigkas o pagkausap sa kapuwa Pilipino, maari sigurong kumalat itong unti-unting muli.

Ang pagkakaroon ng isang aklat ng may mga wikang Pilipino ay makakatulong din. Ating turuan ang mga munting nilalang ng kahit isa man lamang na salitang wikang Pilipino buwan-buwan.

Hanggang makakaya, sa ating pang-araw araw na pamumuhay, ating ipamalagi ang pagsasalita ng wikang Pilipino.

Tayo lamang ang ma-aasahang magtataguyod na mabuhay muli ang lagablab ng pagmamahal sa ating kultura at salita dito sa ating puso.

Rosary, Novena, and Mass The First Filipino Saint

By Dale Esperante

The following information was derived from a novena to San Lorenzo Ruiz at St. Charles Borromeo Parish:

“Lorenzo Ruiz was a Pilipino, although his father was a Chinese and his mother, a Filipina. He was born in Binondo, Manila between 1600 and 1610.

According to the documents cited to proclaim him “Blessed”, his parents were devout Catholics. He was christened “Lorenzo” after a martyr during the 3rd century persecution of Christians. His last name Ruiz was taken from the last name of his godfather.

In his younger years, Lorenzo served at the convent of Binondo church as a sacristan. Since he lived there together with Dominican priests, he learned from them not just Spanish but also catechism.

After several years, Lorenzo Ruiz earned the title of “escribano” or notary. He became an active member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, an organization devoted to the Blessed Virgin. This group was organized in the Philippines in 1587.

Lorenzo was married. He confessed before he was convicted that he was a family man - having a wife with three kids, two boys and a girl.

In 1637, a grave crime was committed in Manila. Authorities conducted a manhunt for Lorenzo because they believe he knew something about it or was involved in it. When Lorenzo learned of some missionary priests leaving for Japan, he asked if he could be allowed to join them. And he was allowed aboard the ship bound for Japan, along with the Dominicans, safe from fear of being implicated in a crime.”

According to www.chapelofsanlorenzorui.org, In “Nagasaki, Japan, where feudalism was fanning the flames of Christian persecution. Lorenzo Ruiz found himself headed straight into the arms of death. He was arrested almost immediately upon his arrival in Japan in 1636, and subjected to torture by his Japanese captors for more than a year. Tied upside down by his feet and dropped into a well where sharp stakes lined the bottom, his torturers would stop just before he would be impaled, and thereupon try to convince him to renounce his faith.

“Deny your faith and we will spare your life,” his persecutors said.

To which Lorenzo Ruiz answered, “I will never do it. I am a Catholic and happy to die for God. If I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them to God.”

In past years, the following parishes in Sacramento have celebrated the Feast Day of San Lorenzo Ruiz.

Divine Mercy in Natomas
St. Rose of Lima in Roseville
St. Clare in Roseville
St. Charles Borromeo in South Sacramento
St. John in Folsom

Our Lady of Perpetual Grace in West Sac. This Year, more parishes will celebrate the “Fiesta” of San Lorenzo Ruiz. The celebration includes nightly rosary, novena, and mass from 18 through 26 Sept 2014 at every participating parish. The schedule below shows when the parish will host the mass for the Diocese.

18 Sep 2014 (Thursday), 6:30p.m.
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
1050 N. Texas St, Fairfield, CA 94533
POC: Carlos/Malou Orino (707) 426-1401



23 Sep 2014 (Tuesday), 6:30p.m.
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
3450 Tennessee St., Vallejo, CA 94591
POC: Fr. Resty Galang (707) 553-1355

19 Sep 2014 (Friday), 6:30p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
7584 Center Parkway, Sac., CA 95823
POC: Marie Uber (916) 704-7717
Email Dale: esperante1868@frontier.com

24 Sep 2014 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m.
St. Clare Catholic Church
1950 Junction Blvd., Roseville, CA 95747
POC: Adel Burgos (916) 774-0349

20 Sep 2014 (Saturday), 6:30p.m.
Divine Mercy Catholic Church
2231 Club Center Dr., Sac. CA 95835
POC: Mayet Delfin (916) 402-0881

25 Sep 2014 (Thursday), 6:30p.m.
St. Mary Catholic Church
350 Stinson Ave., Vacaville, CA 95688
POC: Fr. Eric Flores (707) 448-2390
POC: Maricel Lumaquin (916) 716-7471

21 Sep 2014 (Sunday), 6:00p.m.
Holy Family Catholic Church
7817 Old Auburn Rd., Citrus Heights, CA 95610
POC: Vicky Alonso (916) 761-5325

26 Sep 2014 (Friday) 6:30p.m.
St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church
8700 Bradshaw Rd., Elk Grove, CA 95624
POC: Luz Manrique (916) 525-5593
POC: Al Llenos (916) 647-4538

22 Sep 2014 (Monday), 6:30p.m.
St. Paul Catholic Church
Florin Rd. & Gardner Ave., Sacramento, CA 95828
POC: Fr. Joel Martinez (916) 381-5200

27 Sep 2014 (Saturday), 9:30a.m. – 2p.m.
SLR Feast Day Celebration
St. Rose of Lima Parish
615 Vine Ave., Roseville, CA 95678
POC: Carmen Dizon (916) 783-5211

Our appreciation goes to Johnny Regadio and Ms. Beatriz Alo for providing the current list and schedule. The nightly schedule of the rosary, novena, and mass may vary according to the Parish. For example, St. Charles Borromeo’s nightly schedule is in church, except on 23 September 2014 when it will be held in the chapel. Contact the parish’ POC listed above for further information.

Come and join the rosary and novena masses in honor of the first Filipino saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz.





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Solar Panels for Your Roof – Saving Money on Your Electric Bill

Many companies now offer various plans to put solar panels on your roof. The idea is for solar panels to generate enough electricity to provide for your average consumption at a cheaper rate than your utility (SMUD, PG&E, Edison, etc.) When the solar panels produce more than your usage, the extra power is fed back to your utility and you accumulate credits that will be applied against your power consumption when the sun is not shining. Your home will therefore be supplied electricity from two sources: first from the solar panels and second any demand above what solar provides (say, on cloudy days) is taken from your accumulated credits. Your home will at all times be connected to both the solar panels and to your utility company.

The main selling point is that solar can provide less expensive power per kilowatt-hour than your utility company, whose rates will more than likely continually increase. Current power plant equipment are mostly old and will need upgrade or replacement in the very near future. Meantime, these power plants are incurring increased maintenance costs.

Residential Solar plans fall into two general categories: (a) you buy the system or (b) you pay for power only. Variations in plans are available with different companies. All figures below are only examples.

YOU BUY THE SYSTEM (you pay upfront for the whole system using your funds) o You contract a company to install a suitable size solar system on your roof. o You pay the company for design, arranging



permit, materials and labor to install, test, etc. o You qualify for a Federal tax credit of 30% on the cost of the system. Other states may offer other incentives. If the whole system costs \$20,000, you will receive a tax credit of \$6,000, so your net cost will only be \$14,000. The Federal tax credit on solar expires in 2017. o Since you own the system, you shall take care of all future maintenance. o You likely will pay for added home insurance and added property tax. o For any power usage above what your solar panels can provide, you will still have to pay your utility. o For times when your solar panels produce more than your need, your meter will spin backwards and the extra power is fed back to your utility; your utility will give you a credit which will show up on your electric bill.

YOU PAY FOR POWER ONLY (no down payment, pay a monthly fixed amount for 20 yrs or pay in advance for 20 yrs – or variations) o An outside company installs system and maintains system for (example) 20 years. o Homeowner does not own the system, only pays the solar company for power. o Outside company takes the Federal tax credit since they own the system. o Homeowner needs a minimum level credit score to qualify

for no-money down. o Ideally your home should have exposed roof not covered by other structures or trees. o Homeowner promises to pay solar company a fixed amount monthly (example: \$78) for 20 yrs. The monthly \$ amount of course would depend on the size of the system installed on your roof. o For any power usage above what the solar panels can provide, you will still have to pay your utility. o For times when your solar panels produce more than your consumption, your meter will spin backwards and your extra power is fed back to your utility and you accumulate credits which will be applied against any power you use from your utility, like on cloudy days. o When you sell your home, the buyer should take over the remaining term of the 20 yr power purchase agreement.

IF INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION

Email your name, phone, best time to call ed.mercado@sunrun-home.com will refer you to a knowledgeable and experienced residential solar consultant. Disclosure: Mister Ed is with SUN-RUN but is not a commission or paid sales rep. Thank you.

Disney Dream Cruise

By Gabby Ortigoza

Disney Cruise is a dream our two children have been praying for. On July 31, 2014 their dream came true. We went to Florida for a cruise. We departed Port Canaveral in the afternoon of Thursday and sail to the beautiful islands of Nassau and Castaway Cay in Bahamas.



Castaway Cay is one of the regular destinations of Disney Dream. The island was built by Pirates long time ago. The good news, it is now owned and properly managed by Disney.

If we had unforgettable interaction with the dolphins at Atlantis in Nassau, it is in Castaway Cay where we had remarkable interaction with stingrays by feeding and diving with them. We were first taught to do stingray walk before we were allowed to immerse our feet in the sea water.

Disney Company built private houses called Cabana in Castaway Cay and each Cabana has designated private beach. There are 70 Disney crews living in the Island. This island has since then called the Caribbean Comforts at Castaway Cay - Ports of Call. Disney

Dream ship was primarily built for families who want to go on vacation, celebrate birthdays and anniversaries, and spend quality time together.

The Disney ship is the only cruise ship in the world that has no casino or gambling place. Disney Dream Line was built and operated in 2011. It took the Germans 18 months to build this ship in Germany.

The Dream's total cost is one billion U.S. dollars (U.S. \$1B). Disney is the first ship to have yellow lifeboat. Others ships followed thereafter. The ships aquatic amenities include one big family and one small children swimming pools. The ship has two funnels. It is also the first cruise ship to have fireworks and one good thing about Disney fireworks is that it is environmentally friendly.

The fireworks turn into fish food once it touch sea water. It is therefore edible. In our four days and three nights Disney cruise we stayed at Deck Seven Stateroom 7100. Disney Dream ship has a total of 14 decks. The ship is clean and well maintained.

One of the shows I attended while on this cruise is "The Making of Disney Dream." I was privileged to take note of some of its important information. The ship carries the flag of Bahamas. The ship's overall length is 339.8 meters or 1,114.7 feet with the breadth of 41.8 meters or 137 feet. It weighs 129,690 tons. Disney Dream's max speed is 24 knots. Disney Dream can accommodate a total of 5,500 passengers including 1,500 crew members (gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

Dawn

By Marion de Celis Sarte

I used to believe
That heaven could only be achieved
After one has passed this earthly life,
A merit hard earned, Through good works
And overcoming temptation and strife.
To myself did I beguile
This notion for quite a while,
Until I awoke one early morning
To find the hazy horizon dawning.
For a moment I caught my breath,
A newfound tranquility
Warming my soul to a great depth.
"So this is what heaven looks and feels like," I thought,
Pure and serene,
Without the evils that sin has brought.
The sun, like a budding rose, Cast its pink petals of rays
Across the land's fine greenery,
Still silken with morning dew,
Sparkling like drops of diamonds
On a queen's best finery.
The mark of a human, sight or sound,
Was nowhere to be found.
Only did this rare peace abound.
A moment so fleeting,
The world as it was meant to be, It was revealing.
I was thus enlightened
That a scene of such great beauty,
To greet us so tenderly,
When our eyes first opened,
Is a gift from The Divine Majesty.
To us, we have been blessed
To receive eternal happiness.
If in our hearts
We take this message to core,
Then to the highest heavens
Will our spirits surely soar.

Lisa J. Ventura

Attorney at Law

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Basketball won't distract Pacquiao from Algieri, says Roach

Freddie Roach says Pacquiao will not be sidetracked by his basketball dreams as he prepares to fight a 'tough' Algieri who has yet to taste defeat in boxing

Freddie Roach has grown accustomed to Manny Pacquiao's insatiable desire to conquer new horizons.

Since taking over head trainer duties for the General Santos City, Philippines native in 2001, Roach has seen Pacquiao evolve from a comebacking former champion at 112 pounds to an eight division champion who has won a congressional seat in his home country, released a soft rock album, starred in several movies and become the most recognizable face of his nation.

Now, as Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 knockouts) prepares to defend his WBO welterweight title against unbeaten New Yorker Chris Algieri on November 23, Pacquiao has added a new title: player-coach in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Pacquiao, 35, became the oldest rookie ever drafted in Asia's first play-for-pay when the Kia Motors expansion squad he coaches picked him with the 11th pick on Sunday, August 24.

At that very moment, Roach was settling into his suite at The Venetian Resort in Macau, China, where the two-continent promotional tour kicks off on Monday afternoon. Roach acknowledges that juggling multiple responsibilities is part of who the Pacman is, but says he has made assurances with Pacquiao that boxing comes first when it's time to fight.

"He's a congressman, he's always stayed busy, he used to do concerts after his fights. He gets bored very quickly, I don't think it's a problem," Roach, a six-time Boxing Writers Association of America (BWAA) Trainer of the Year, tells Rappler.



Pacquiao and Algieri

"The thing is with basketball, we stop 4 weeks before because of injuries with finger jams and twisted ankles. He's a grown man, I can't tell him what to do but if we negotiate a deal, it's a done deal."

Roach, like Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum, thinks of Pacquiao's foray into basketball, which is the Philippines' true passion, as more of a side hobby than a career, saying "That's not real. He's not good enough to play in that league, I know that."

PAC-KETBALL. Manny Pacquiao smiles on arrival at The Venetian in Macau ahead of his kick-off press conference. Photo by Chris Farina - Top Rank

PAC-KETBALL. Manny Pacquiao smiles on arrival at The Venetian in Macau ahead of his kick-off press conference. Photo by Chris Farina - Top Rank

Roach won a battle over basketball by having Pacquiao train in his hometown of General Santos City, where they've prepared for their last two wins over Brandon Rios and Timothy Bradley, instead of in Manila, where Pacquiao could train close to the Kia team.

"He's comfortable there, he's at home with his family," said Roach. "He gets to spend more time with his family there, he does have a basketball court there. He flies in teams to play against his team. The best

part about it is its only 3 hours away from China and it's on the same time zone and there'll be no jet lag whatsoever."

Serious threat

Roach has probably studied the 30-year-old Algieri (20-0, 8 KOs) more stringently than any other coach, having trained Ruslan Provodnikov for his fight in June, which Algieri won by split decision to take the WBO junior welterweight title.

The 5-foot-10 Algieri rose off the canvas from two first round knockdowns to outbox the slower, shorter power puncher from Russia en route to victory, and Roach isn't discounting the lesser-known fighter's threat.

"He's tough, he's got a big heart, he's got a good jab and he moves very well," said Roach of Algieri. "His height and his reach advantage and his jab could give us some problems."

Still, Roach remains confident that Pacquiao will eventually break Algieri down for his first stoppage win since a 12th round TKO of Miguel Cotto in 2009.

"Algieri is very hittable," said Roach. "People don't realize how fast [Pacquiao] is until they get in the ring with him, he does put his punches together very well. I think Algieri will get knocked out somewhere along the way.

"Ruslan had good early rounds, he had success with the one punch and he was looking for that one punch all night long. Manny's not a one punch fighter, he's a combination puncher, plus he's much faster. He probably doesn't hit as hard but he does have power and he's so fast with his combinations, he's a completely different kind of fighter."

Floyd Goes on the Defensive

By Robert Ecksel

Children's books are fine—for children—but presumably 50 Cent is all grown up. Intelligence takes many forms. There are book smarts. There are street smarts. There are ring smarts...

For those who pay attention to such things, the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is in the news. It may be trivia question a few years from now, but for our purposes, only the present is real, or as real as it gets or is likely to be.

ALS, which used to be called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a scourge and whatever promotes a cure is welcome. Many have accepted the Ice Bucket Challenge, people as diverse as Mauricio Sulaiman and Wolf Blitzer, Tiger Woods and Lil Wayne, Martha Stewart and Hulk Hogan, Ronda Rousey and Miley Cyrus, Lady Gaga and Joan Rivers, Chris Christie and Justin Bieber, Charlie Sheen and Rob Ford, Ted Cruz and Lindsay Lohan, and Mark Zuckerman and Kermit the Frog.

There has, however, been some blowback. President Obama, presumably busy with other things, refused to be doused with ice water, no matter how worthy the cause. U.S. diplomats, members of the military, and the House of Representatives have been forbidden to participate. And a Roman Catholic diocese in Ohio is discouraging its 113 schools from joining in.



Floyd Mayweather

But of more interest than Joan Rivers and Rob Ford, interest being relative, is the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge of former rapper turned fight promoter, 50 Cent. In accepting the challenge, he in turn challenged his former best friend and current voodoo doll, Floyd Mayweather, to accept the challenge as well, but not without some score-settling.

Having an ax to grind and willing use whatever forums are available, 50 Cent is making sport of mocking Floyd Mayweather. There may be plenty to mock, especially if mockery rocks one's boat, but mocking Money's intelligence, more specifically his inability to read, is a low blow.

According to 50, "I got a phone call from my man Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy said he'll put it on the actual show. We don't want to put pressure on you. We know you can't put pronounce those words in the Harry Potter book, so we're going to let you read Cat in the Hat."

That 50 Cent chose Harry Potter and Dr. Seuss to prove him point speaks volumes about his own ed-

ucation. Children's books are fine—for children—but presumably 50 Cent is all grown up, even though you would know it from the video below.

Mayweather the defensive master has gone on the defensive by reproducing two checks totaling \$72,276,000. However impressive, if redundant, those numbers may be, it's a bad move. Being rich doesn't make one intelligent, as Donald Trump and scores of others keep reminding us. It might buy respect, of a sort, but not the kind of respect one can bank on. To not dignify 50's remarks doesn't make one a pussy, it makes one smart, which returns us to the subject of intelligence or lack thereof.

Intelligence takes many forms. There are book smarts. There are street smarts. There are body smarts. And Floyd Mayweather's body intelligence is off the charts.

When Max Baer was asked if he blew his career on wine, women, and song, he replied, "Two out of three ain't bad."

One out of three ain't bad, either.

But who's counting?

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Sharon's midlife crisis

By Allan Policarpio

In a lengthy message posted recently on her Facebook page, singer-actress Sharon Cuneta talked about her constant battle with weight and apologized to her fans for "letting them down."

"I let myself go, I allowed myself to get fat and stay fat," she said. "I became complacent. I never lost faith in God and in you [my fans], but I ignored the fact that I had lost faith in myself."

Sharon admitted that her drive had diminished, adding that she has no one to blame but herself for failing to take care of God's blessings. "I feel that I had lost that hunger to be on top of my industry, maybe because I finally had a peaceful home and a loving family and focused on my children so much," she said.

She also said that she had a midlife crisis



Sharon Cuneta

and, at one point, entered a "rebellious" phase. "I hated myself for the way I looked and the time I continued to waste by not focusing and working on bettering my own person," she said.

Sharon vowed: "I'm going back to basics."

KC sure mom would surpass hurdles

Actress KC Conception has commented about the so-called "mid-life crisis" that her mother, Sharon Cuneta, is going through.

In a statement sent to ABS-CBN, KC admitted that she was clueless about her mom's pickle as revealed by the latter in a lengthy post on Facebook.

"Nag-uusap kami ni Mom and wala naman syang na-mention sa akin na problem. Masaya nga 'yung talk namin sa phone nun," she said.

KC surmised that the post is just Sharon's way of "letting her fans know that she is still here, and she still cares for them."

"Sa lahat ng ginagawa ng mom ko, she always remembers her fans and wants them to be happy. It's her way of saying she has not forgotten them," she added.

On her mother's weight issues, KC ac-



KC Conception and Sharon Cuneta

knowledged that it is going to be a long process and that she understands her mom's struggle.

Meanwhile, the 29-year-old daughter thanked Judy Ann Santos for her unwavering support.

Judy Ann shared in a recent press conference that Sharon is recovering from what she described as "state of depression and loneliness."

"Ang daming acceptance and realizations ni Ate. She's doing good, she's doing well and ang hinihingi niya lang ngayon sa mga tao is understanding and prayers," Judy Ann disclosed.

KC shared, "Ate Juday has always been there for my mom, sincere sya sa friendships nya and she's part of our family."

Along with Judy Ann, KC assured that their whole family, as with friends and fans are behind Sharon "one hundred percent."

She added, "Kaya nya yan."

Path to Citizenship Now Available to Family of Active and Non-Active Military

While we have had high hopes for change to our immigration system under the current administration, little has been done by way of comprehensive legislation that benefits undocumented residents in the United States. While many remain disappointed and discouraged by the lack of significant reform, the government has made some small changes to existing immigration law which have expanded benefits for undocumented individuals and opened doors to citizenship which did not previously exist. One of these great new benefits is the expansion of "Parole in Place" to include the families of United States military veterans. "Parole in Place" has traditionally allowed the immediate relatives of active military to be paroled into the United States. This parole would cure unlawful entry and allow those relatives to apply for adjustment of status to receive a green card, and eventually citizenship.

The reason behind Parole in Place for active military was to make sure our brave men and women serving the country did not have to worry about the immigration status of their loved ones. The government wants our soldiers confident and their families safe and secure in the U.S.

Parole in Place has now been vastly expanded to include the family members of United States military veterans. This means that if you are the spouse, parent or child (under 21) of any U.S. Citizen who has ever served in the military, you may be eligible for parole. Once you are paroled, you will then be able to apply for adjustment of status here in the United States to receive your green card.

This opens the door to citizenship for potentially thousands of individuals. If you are the wife, husband, child or parent of a former service man or woman, you may now apply for this new benefit. When your parole is granted, it is as if you have re-entered the

United States without ever having to leave the country! Right there, in the Sacramento USCIS office, a government official paroles you into the United States and hands you a brand new I-94 card. This card is the key to your green card, and eventual U.S. Citizenship.

This benefit is potentially available for all immediate relatives of veterans, regardless of the amount of time served in the military, the nature of service, and even the nature of discharge from the military. Military service includes membership in the Armed Forces or Select Reserve of the Ready Reserve. Some spouses and children of U.S. veterans will continue to qualify for this benefit even if the veteran has passed away.

Parole can cure many types of immigration violations, including entry without inspection (EWI). However, some violations may not be cured through parole and thus some individuals should not apply for this benefit. Each case is unique and should be evaluated by an

immigration attorney before applying.

The United States government recognizes that all of our veterans who have served bravely and risked or sacrificed their lives for this country deserve their loved ones to have lawful status in the U.S. Because of this, applying for Parole in Place is free. You will not have to submit any filing fee with your application. If you believe you may qualify under this new benefit, we invite you to come speak to an immigration expert at Wilner & O'Reilly law firm. We are always proud to help our United States veterans. U-Rah!

Michael Wang is an attorney with Wilner & O'Reilly, Immigration Lawyers and practices exclusively immigration and nationality law. If you have any further questions, contact him directly at (916) 643-4657 or visit their website at www.wilneroreilly.com

Anne Curtis, Sam Milby look back on previous 4-year relationship

They were together for quite a while, and the two are re-connecting again as friends, having co-starred in their new movie 'The Gifted'

Four years after they parted as a couple, Anne Curtis and Sam Milby reunited to promote the movie The Gifted, during an appearance on Gandang Gabi Vice.



SAM AND ANNE. The two actors were previously in a relationship. Photos from Instagram

During the August 24 episode, the former couple talked about becoming friends again.

"Sa Dyesebel we became friends again," Anne said. "Everyday magkasama kami, syempre chikahan."

(In Dyesebel, we became friends again. Everyday, we were together, and of course, we talked a lot.)

Sam said that he has photos of Anne with him in his phone, which he happened to find.

"May nahanap akong mga nakakatawang pictures. E gusto kong ipakita sa kanya. So inilagay ko sa phone ko," he said. "Nahanap ko lang, hindi naman sadya. Nasa folder ng computer."

(I found some funny photos. I want to show it to her. So I put it in my phone. I just found them. I did not mean to do it on purpose. It was in

a folder in my computer.)

When asked about their break-up, both said that they were "very young" at the time. The two started dating in 2007 and were together for four years. They also were part of the soap Maging Sino Ka Man.

Both have since moved on. Anne now in a relationship with Erwan Heussaff, while Sam still remains single. Both have pursued many projects and are enjoying successful careers in the industry.

In theme with the movie, when Vice asked Sam what he part he thought Anne was most 'gifted' with, Sam mentioned her lips.

"Obviously very full, very nice and juicy," he said which made the audience laugh.

In a separate interview on

the show Banana Split, Sam, said that it was great that he and Anne are now comfortable with each other.

"Meron kaming past. Si-yempre nagsimula doon sa Maging Sino Ka Man. 4 years na wala kaming project together. Masaya naman. Parang starting over again 'yung friendship namin sa Dyesebel, tapos dito sa movie," he said.

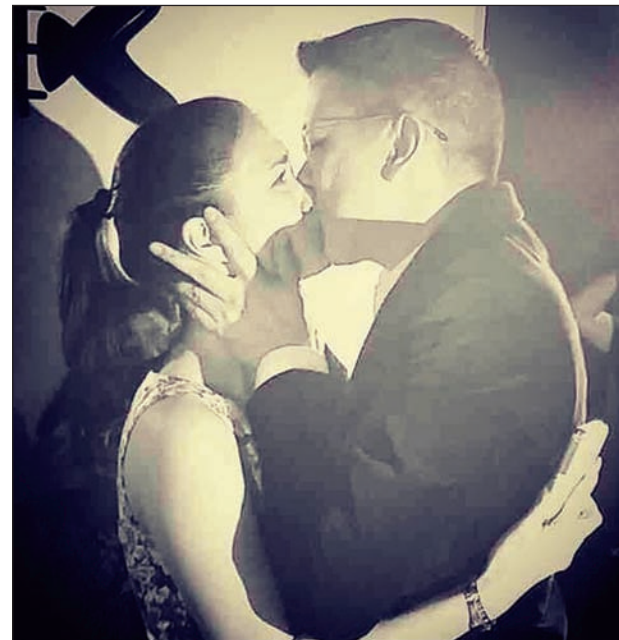
(We have a past. Of course it started in Maging Sino Ka Man. We didn't have a project together for 4 years. It's all good, it's like we're starting over in our friendship, with Dyesebel, and now with this movie.)

Both are currently promoting their movie The Gifted to be shown in September. The movie also stars Cristine Reyes. –

Heart, Sen. Chiz engaged; Celeb friends congratulate couple

By MB Entertainment

Actress Heart Evangelista is set to walk down the aisle in the arms of Sen. Chiz Escudero, who proposed to her Saturday night.



Heart Evangelista and Chiz Escudero

A couple of photos posted online by their friends show Escudero down on his knee while holding out a ring to Evangelista, who allowed him to slip it into her finger as people around them looked on.

Reports have it that the proposal happened in Sorogon where Evangelista has been staying for vacation.

Among those who attended the engagement were Evangelista's celebrity best friends, Lovi Poe and Alessandra de Rossi.

On Instagram, the two shared their congratulatory messages for the couple.

"I'm so happy for you guys! Chiz and heart. You finally found someone who gives you that feeling that people write novels about. Someday when the time comes all I have to do is look at you both and always remember to choose happiness more than anything in this world," read Poe's post, along with Evangelista and Escudero's kissing photo.

Poe further revealed that the engagement came "after months of planning." Her other post also showed they had a party marked with fireworks display.

De Rossi, for her part, simply said "Congrats @iamhearte @iamchize!!!!!!!!!!!! yahoo!!!" Her post was accompanied by a photo of Evangelista's elegant diamond ring.

Meanwhile, Poe's boyfriend, Rocco Nacino, who was also present, shared that it was his "1st time to witness a marriage proposal."

"Everyone had butterflies in their stomachs! Happy to

be part of this priceless moment last night. Congratulations @iamhearte and Chiz!" he said.

On Sunday, Heart shared a screengrab photo that shows part of her dad's message to her. It read: "always be happy heart love u."

Recall that early this year, Evangelista and Escudero went to Europe during which rumors swirled that they got engaged but they denied it.

Evangelista is 29 and Escudero is 45. No wedding date has been announced yet as of writing

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