

Lifestyle checks up for Binay, Purisima Page 4





Delano Manongs Page 9



Sept. 28 - Oct. 28, 2014

<u>2</u> Editorial



Editor's Note

ctober is Filipino American History Month. It's a month-long celebration, in commemoration of the Filipinos' contributions to America. It is nationally recognized, which was founded and introduced by the Filipino American National Historical Society in the early 80's. There are over 30 chapters of FANHS all over the U.S. The FANHS of Sacramento along with other Filipino community organization will have several celebration activities in Sacramento, as listed in this issue of Philippine Fiesta. We invite everyone to witness these activities and become part of the Filipino American History month cel-

ebration.

We congratulate Vicky Johnson for her outstanding contribution to the Filipino American community in Sacramento. She is the Filipino Women Association's "woman of the year" honoree for 2014. We also want to congratulate Howell Felix of the Filipino American International Youth Foundation for the successful launching of the second annual Barrio Fiesta Filipinas, which was held in the Elk Grove Regional Park. Please support these upcoming events that will be happening throughout this month of October in Sacramento and vicinity, as listed in this issue's calendar of events. Happy Filipino American History month celebration everyone!

With love always, Dinnah San Pedro



Revenge

By Ana Marie Pamintuan

e's only human, so President Aquino was just being honest when he admitted wanting "an eye for an eye" after his father, former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was assassinated in 1983.

Obviously P-Noy wasn't seeking vengeance on purported communist hit man Rolando Galman, who was tagged by the Marcos regime as the gunman. Poor Galman, shot dead with Ninoy on the tarmac, but still seen as a heel for allowing himself to be used as a fall guy.

Since it's an imperfect world and life is unfair, Noynoy Aquino never managed to exact an eye for an eye. In fact, the mastermind of the so-called crime of the (20th) century has not been officially established, even after six years of Corazon Aquino's presidency and with the nation now under the leadership of her only son.

As she battled cancer, Cory Aquino had salt rubbed on the family's wound when the Arroyo administration granted parole on humanitarian grounds and set free the soldiers who were serving life terms for the twin assassinations.

Worse, even some of their former staunch allies openly criticized the Aquinos for being heartless in opposing the release of the soldiers.

Noynoy Aquino, at the time a senator, explained to me why they were against the release. They realized



the soldiers could not have known who ordered the hit, Senator Noynoy told me. But he said there were two crimes committed: the first was the assassination itself, and the second was the cover-up. No one had been prosecuted for the second offense, he said.

It took about an hour for the soldiers to bring Ninoy Aquino in a military van from what was then called the Manila International Airport to the hospital at nearby Fort Bonifacio. From the injuries suffered by Ninoy, his family suspected that he was still alive but was finished off by the soldiers inside the van, Senator Noynoy told me. What happened in the van was among the stories the Aquinos wanted to hear from the convicts.

But the soldiers stuck to the official line that Galman did it. No one changed his story except one – Sgt. Pablo Martinez, who indicated that Cory's first cousin, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., ordered the assassination.

Last May, Martinez was killed while cycling along Roxas Boulevard after being hit by a Mitsubishi Montero driven by Philippine Airlines employee Henry Roque. Reports said the family wanted to pursue suspicions of foul play but did not have money for litigation. They did not press charges and instead agreed to settle with Roque.

It was not the first time that Danding Cojuangco was implicated in the murder of his cousin-in-law. There were 'his and hers' cliques in the Marcos-era security forces (with so-called reformists loyal to defense chief Juan Ponce Enrile later emerging). There were officers identified with Ferdinand Marcos. Those implicated in the Aquino assassination were identified with the other half of the conjugal dictatorship, first lady Imelda and her ally Cojuangco.

Among the popular conspiracy theories at the time was that Imeldific, seeing her husband critically ill with lupus, could not risk having Ninoy Aquino in town and ready to take over in case the presidency became vacant.

The late Raul Gonzalez, when he was the tanodbayan or ombudsman, told justice reporters he would present witnesses implicating Cojuangco at the retrial of the assassination case. But after Gonzalez had a run-in with the Supreme Court, he clammed up and no witnesses were presented. Noynoy Aquino would later say they did not believe their uncle was involved.

Ninoy's widow, the late President Cory, made no secret of her belief that the Marcos regime was responsible for the assassination. Whether it was Ferdinand or Imelda, it didn't matter.

Continued on page 6



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'Binay dummies run realty, security firms' New witness says VP owns P1B Makati property

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA, Philippines-A businessman replied, "Yes, sir." told Senate investigators on Thursday that he served as a dummy for Vice President Jejomar Binay in a security and janitorial services company that won contracts with the Makati government when Binay was the city's mayor.

Jose Orillaza, former president of Omni Security Investigation and General Services, told the senators that Binay sent his long-time aide Gerardo "Gerry" Limlingan to work at the company, though Binay's and Limlingan's names did not appear in the company's incorporation papers.

Orillaza was not one of the new witnesses scheduled to testify in the hearing called by the Senate blue ribbon subcommittee investigating alleged corruption in the Makati city government during Binay's term as mayor, but former Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, continuing his testimony, pointed to him as one of the dummies who helped Binay conceal his assets.

Mercado also testified that Binay used Limlingan, among other fronts, to hide his assets, which included an 8,877-squaremeter lot in Barangay (village) Comembo in Makati the current market value of which he estimated to be more than P1 billion.

On Wednesday, Binay released copies of his financial disclosures and income tax returns that showed his net worth as of the end of 2013 at P60 million.

On Thursday night, Binay denied he owned the Comembo property.

Binay's spokesman, Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla, said the Vice President had no dummy corporations or investments in other people's names.

"It is for Mercado to have," Remulla said.

Orillaza, who served as Omni president from 1999 to 2010, said Limlingan was not an officer of the company, but he knew him as Binay's "representative." He said Limlingan was his cosignatory for

checks issued by the company.

When asked by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III, the subcommittee chair, why he agreed to Limlingan's participation, Orillaza said he accepted the arrangement because Binay was part of the corporation.

"He was with us in the corporation ... Mayor Binay," Orillaza said. "It was an internal agreement between us right from the start."

Modus operandi

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV asked Orillaza if his statement meant he was admitting he

had been Binay's dummy. Orillaza quickly

That would confirm the practice or the modus operandi of Vice President Binay,' Trillanes said.

Orillaza said that as Omni president and Binay's dummy, he received a monthly salary of P50,000 to P70,000.

Asked if he received any share in the company's earnings or dividends, he said he accepted whatever Limlingan decided to give him.

But in 2010, Orillaza said he was ousted from the company because he was identified with Mercado, with whom Binay had a falling out over political plans.

Mercado claimed Binay turned his back on a promise to support him in the Makati mayoral race that year. Instead, Binay promoted the candidacy of his son, Jejomar Erwin 'Junjun" Binay Jr., who won the election.

Orillaza said he accepted parting ways with the company because it would not be able to collect payments from the Makati City government if he refused to leave.

All security and janitorial deals

Mercado said Omni cornered all security and janitorial contracts in Makati.

'It has thousands of employees," he said. Mercado said Omni's new owners, after Orillaza and his other partners were kicked out, were Marguerite Lichnok, Limlingan's wife, who represented 50 percent of the company's shares; Hirene Lopez, whose husband was the president of University of Makati and a member of the board of trustees of Pag-Ibig Fund, who had a 20 percent share; and Limlingan's staff members in his private office-Bernadette Portallano, who represented 20 percent, and Aida Alcantara, who held 10 percent.

He also said Limlingan was the president of JCB Inc., whose name was taken from the initials of the Vice President.

Where's Limlingan?

The Senate blue ribbon subcommittee is having difficulty finding Limlingan. It has sent a subpoena to Vive Hotel, where Lim-

lingan was reported to be living. But an officer from the hotel wrote the subcommittee to inform the Senate investigators that the subpoena had been mistakenly received and that Limlingan did not live there.

Mercado alleged that Binay used as his front Erlinda Chong, one of the owners of Meriras Realty and Development Corp., as a front. He said the other owners of Meriras were Limlingan, Lichnok, Imee Chong, Kim Tung Chong, Irene Chong and Kimfer Sen. Nancy Binay. The senator has denied



PUBLIC PROPERTY THAT REPORTEDLY BECAME BINAY'S An 8,877-square- lingan was one of meter property on J.P. Rizal Extension and Sampaguita Street in Makati City, the people who renow worth about P1 billion, is owned by Vice President Jeiomar Binay, ac- ceived bags of cash cording to his former Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado. The property (in- in kickbacks for set) is now occupied by commercial buildings and a Mormon church.

Chong.

As for the Comembo property, Mercado said Binay had told him to convince the Philippine Army's 525th Engineering Battalion to divide the lot between it and the Makati City government, with half to be developed as a housing project for soldiers and the other half to be developed by the city government.

But he said the Makati government lot was not used for the city's benefit. Instead, it was allegedly acquired by Erlinda Chong, he said.

Property subdivided

Mercado said the Makati property was divided into four lots, with a 3,730-sqm lot now belonging to the Manila Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The church dealt with Limlingan in buying the lot, he said.

The three other lots, with a combined area of 5,000 sqm, remain under the name of Erlinda Chong, Mercado said.

He said the property was bought for just P100 per sqm.

That, Trillanes said, seemed like a "grand robbery.

Mercado said he believed Chong was just a front because she never faced the Mormon officials when they were negotiating to buy the lot.

Limlingan dealt with Mormons

It was always Limlingan who talked to the

Mercado said he attended the meetings between Limlingan and the Mormon officials, explaining to them the transfer of titles.

According to Mercado, Limlingan was Binay's right-hand man, while Erlinda Chong was the cover for the cakes given to the city's senior residents earlier claimed to be supplied by the Vice President's daughter,

having anything to do with the cakes.

Erlinda Chong also manages the cafeteria at Makati City Hall and at Ospital ng Makati, Mercado said.

Napoles' of Binay

In his earlier testimony. Mercado alleged that Lim-Binav that he delivered for contractors

handling infrastructure projects in the city.

Mercado said what he had disclosed to the subcommittee was just part of what he knew and that he disclosed it as a response to the Vice President's claim that there was no evidence against him that would stand up in court.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said Limlingan was apparently the "Napoles" of the Vice President, a reference to detained businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles, the alleged brains behind the P10-billion pork barrel

Mercado also scoffed at the Vice President's claim that his net worth was only P60 million.

He said P60 million hardly covered the worth of Binay's antique-filled home, including a huge antique door from India. He showed a clip from a GMA 7 program that featured the house.

He also cited the house of Makati Mayor Binay, which he estimated to be worth at least P50 million, as it has an elevator.

Binavs no-shows

Despite being summoned to the hearing, Mayor Binay refused to appear in the Senate and on Thursday questioned the subcommittee's jurisdictional authority in the Supreme Court.

A lawyer for the mayor tried to stop the hearing, but the subcommittee denied the mayor's motion and went ahead with the hearing. The Vice President also declined an in-

vitation to the hearing, going instead to Tondo district in Manila to spend time with the poor on the old garbage dump Smokey Mountain

Rigged biddings

Also testifying at yesterday's hearing, Continued on page 6



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Mormon officials.

Lifestyle checks up for Binay, Purisima Graft, plunder complaints filed against PNP chief

By Christine O. Avendaño

MANILA, Philippines-Lifestyle check is again in vogue.

Vice President Jejomar Binay on Monday said he and his family were open to a lifestyle check "anytime," as he declared that his political foes had intensified their vilification campaign by rehashing graft and corruption cases against him that did not prosper.

Binay made the statement on the day a group asked the Office of the Ombudsman to charge Philippine National Police Director General Alan Purisima with plunder, graft and indirect bribery for the renovation of his official residence in Camp Crame and for allegedly undervaluing a property in Nueva Ecija province.

The group filed the case against Purisima while Malacañang, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) are drafting rules for the conduct of mandatory lifestyle checks on the 148,000-strong police force.

Measures to examine the lifestyles of PNP personnel are being drawn up after policemen were linked to crimes, including Metro Manila policemen who were implicated recently in kidnap-forransom cases.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas said he himself would submit to a lifestyle check once guidelines are issued in the next two weeks.

"I won't give the order for my subordinates to submit to this process if I am not ready to join them," Roxas, whose department is in charge of the PNP, told reporters in Baguio City on Monday.

'Anytime'

Asked about a proposal by the United Makati against Corruption (Umac) for him and his family to be subjected to a lifestyle check, Binay said "anytime."

Umac is demanding the lifestyle check so that the Binays could prove they had nothing to

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hide amid corruption allegations against the Vice President, including receiving kickbacks from the allegedly overpriced Makati City Hall Building II that was built when he was still Makati mayor.

The Vice President spoke to reporters after he attended the 2014 Bagong Bayani Awards at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

It was the first time Binay gave an interview following a televised address to the nation last week in which he denied benefiting from the construction of the parking building or any infrastructure project in Makati.

Binay then made reference to a story by ABS-CBN about the alleged property owned by Purisima in Nueva Ecija after a reporter from the television network asked him if he was amenable to a lifestyle check.

Binay replied "yes" and said it turned out to be a "big story," apparently referring to the TV network that used a helicopter to go to the property in Nueva Ecija.

Accepting donations

In a complaint filed Monday, the Coalition of Filipino Consumers (CFC) accused Purisima of plunder and indirect bribery for accepting donations from his Mason brothers to renovate the so-called White House in the PNP Camp Crame headquarters in Quezon City

ČFC secretary general Perfecto Jaime Tagalog said Purisima was barred from accepting any gifts or donations as a public official.

The group also accused Purisima of graft because he declared his property in San Leonardo town, Nueva Ecija, for P3.75 million, believed to be below the property's actual value.

Tagalog said the Ombudsman should investigate further since Purisima was refusing to release to the group his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN). "Declaring the mansion [in]

San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, in the amount of P3.7 million is clearly an act of undervaluation or misdeclaration of value of the property, which is in violation of the guidelines in the filing of SALN," he said.

Blue ribbon subcommittee

The Vice President said his accusers had failed to provide any concrete evidence against him in the ongoing Senate blue ribbon subcommittee inquiry into the P2.3billion parking building.

On lawyer Renato Bondal's claim that the Binays own a 400-hectare property in Cavite province, the Vice President said this was just the claim of Bondal.

Binay noted that Bondal had also claimed that birthday cakes given by the Makati City government to senior residents were overpriced at P1,000 each. It turned out that the price of each cake was only P309.75.

Bondal was one of the two complainants who filed a plunder complaint against the Vice President and his son, Makati Mayor Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr., over the allegedly overpriced parking building.

Asked whether he was confident that he would pass a lifestyle check, Binay said the question seemed to have a premise that he and his family had "something to hide.

"Alangan namang sabihin kong hindi kami papasa," he said, adding that his detractors wanted people to believe things that were not true.

Binay had a net worth of P60,118,766 at the end of 2013, according to his SALN, a copy of which was obtained by GMA News Online. His net worth was P59,804,934 in 2012.

His real property last year was worth P13,878,458.

The Vice President said that as a







Vice President Jejomar Binay and Philippine National Police Director General Alan Purisima.

public official, he also underwent lifestyle check.

'So, there is nothing new about their accusations. The only thing new is that they have intensified their vilification against me because I have declared my bid for the presidency," Binay said of his political foes.

Binay said he would decide soon whether he would attend the Senate inquiry scheduled for Thursday and asked the media to just wait for it.

Action, reaction

Told that some people had criticized his address to the nation because he merely gave motherhood statements, Binay said he expected the criticisms. "They did say that for every action, there is a reaction."

He said he was not dismissing the criticisms, but even if he made those denials there would always be people who would play deaf.

Binay said those speaking against him following the address was part of the "spirit of democracv.

'Open book'

In the Senate, the Vice President's daughter, Sen. Nancy Binay, said she had no problem with proposals to subject her family to a lifestyle check since her family's life was an "open book."

She said people could examine her father's SALN that showed the family's properties and assets. BIR records would also show how much taxes he paid, the senator said.

She said that when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was in power, her family was placed under intense scrutiny in an attempt to bring them down.

"This is nothing new to us," she told reporters. "It has always been done to us because they wanted to put us in a tight spot."

Purisima's SALN

Sen. Grace Poe has asked Purisima to personally submit his SALN.

Poe said her office communicated its request for a copy of Purisima's SALN and the police chief had vowed to comply.

Poe said the committee on public order, which she chaired, would scrutinize the PNP chief's SALN during a hearing on the PNP modernization scheduled for Sept. 30.

"We in the government should be quick to disclose this, especially if there are questions about it. I understand it's hard to find the SALN of the PNP chief," she told reporters.

Calls are growing for Purisima to disclose his SALN amid reports that he has several pieces of property that he has yet to publicly disclose.

The police force has come under the spotlight following a rash of crimes involving policemen, such as the Sept. 1 robbery-abduction of two employees of a contractor on Edsa.

The alleged mastermind of the robbery-abduction case, Senior Insp. Oliver Villanueva, declared a net worth of P6.1 million and assets worth P8 million last year despite earning only P605,133 the year before.

By asking for a copy of Purisima's SALN, Poe said she was not prejudging the PNP chief.

'What's important is leadership by example, which would erase any doubts. If everything is aboveboard, then there should be no apprehension to show the SALN. We're not just looking for reforms in the PNP system. The PNP leadership should enjoy the confidence of everyone, including members of the PNP," she said.

Malacañang has appealed to the public to give the PNP time to implement the lifestyle check for officers and members.

'Let's give them a chance," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte of concerns whether the PNP probers would take action on members who fail the lifestyle check.

Binay's net worth

Congratulations Mrs. Saint Paul 2014!



The FAVA ladies with Mrs. St. Paul 2014, Beth Velasco.

By Dale Esperante

lizabeth Cruz Velasco was officially awarded the title of Mrs. Saint Paul 2014 on September 6th 2014 at St. Paul Parish Hall, 8720 Florin Rd., Sacramento, CA 95828.

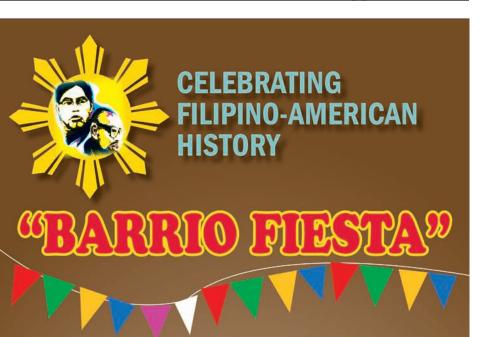
"Beth, as she is fondly called, has served as a Eucharistic Minister for several years and as a member of the Pastoral Council under Father Vic for the past two years. When asked why she participated in this campaign to raise funds to hire a Youth Director, Beth responded, 'I believe that our youth is the future of our church. If we do not teach them about Jesus and the Catholic faith, we will find ourselves slowly losing our identity as Catholic Christians. Our youth need guidance, support and encouragement to survive the world we now live in. I would like to thank everyone who supported me in all.





With husband Jess this journey. God bless you flanked by her friends from the Filipino American Veter-A photo shows Beth ans Association (FAVA). Another photo shows Beth with loving husband Jess Velasco and their grandchildren. Beth and Jess are blessed with three beautiful daughters and seven grandchildren.

"Elvis" entered the building to serenade Beth, the newly crowned Mrs. St. Paul, as well as the very appreciative crowd. Congratulations to the parish of St. Paul for a successful evening of fellowship with family, friends, and faith community!



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6 Heritage

Compositions: A Filipino American Experience

Compositions: A Filipino American Experience, curated by Janet Alvarado, is an exhibition of historical photographs by Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado which dramatically captures the Filipino community in and around San Francisco during the 1940s and 50s, will be on view in the San Francisco Main Library's Skylight Gallery, Sept. 20 – Dec. 7, 2014

The combined talents of Filipino American scholars, authors and musicians went into the making of Compositions, which includes the exhibition, a literary anthology, a musical performance, panel discussions and other related programs.

These unique historical photographs by Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado provide an enhanced understanding of the earliest roots of Filipino American life. The lively photographs of neighborhoods include celebrations, street scenes, night clubs, house parties and other examples of community life.

An accompanying anthology, Claiming Our Stories, features contemporary Filipino American writers talking about the rich cultural history and contributions Filipinos brary, Skylight Gallery.



have made to the City.

In Sounds of the City, original musical compositions will be performed by jazz musician Melecio Magdaluyo. The music, while contemporary, compliments the themes in the exhibition and intimately highlights old San Francisco in the neighborhoods photographer Ricardo Alvarado captured in the exhibition.

Compositions – A Filipino American Experience – Sept. 20 – Dec. 7, Main Li-

The Delano Manongs at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco

Positively Filipino and the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco present a special screening of Marissa Aroy's "The Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers Movement" on Thursday, October 16, 2014, 6 p.m. at the 5th floor Social Hall at the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco.

forces with the other ethnic workers to create the United Farmworkers Union.

A Q&A with director Marissa Aroy follows after the film. Seating is limited. Please RSVP at pfpublisher@yahoo. com by October 13, 2014.

"The Delano Manongs: Thursday, October 16, 2014 6:00 p.m.

5th Floor Social Hall The Delano Manongs tells the story of Philippine Consulate General in San the Filipino farmworkers who spurred the Francisco

Great Grape Strike in 1965 and joined 447 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94108

'Binay dummies run realty, security firms' From page $\tilde{3}$

Ernesto Aspillaga, a former head of the Makati city government's general services division (GSD), claimed that biddings for infrastructure projects under Binay and un-der his wife, Elenita, who succeeded him, were rigged on their instructions to favor their selected contractors.

Aspillaga's testimony came after that of his successor Mario Hechanova, who said the bidding for the P2.28-billion Makati City Hall Building II was rigged in favor Hilmarc's Construction Corp. on orders from the Vice President when he was the mayor of Makati

Hechanova said the bids and awards committee (BAC) prepared the documents for Hilmarc's' supposed rivals, the identities of which were provided by Hilmarc's.

Predetermined winner

Hechanova's testimony was also supported by Alejandro Tengco, chief operating officer of JBros Construction Corp., who told Thursday's hearing that contrary to the records, JBros never bid for Makati City Hall Building II, which is a parking building.

Aspillaga said he started working for the city as a draftsman in 1972 and also served as city councilor from 2004 to 2010. As head of the GSD, he was also part of the BAC

He said the procurement of supplies always had a predetermined winner even before the bidding process began.

"I will admit, that was a [farcical bidding]. Because when the purchase request signed by the mayor reached my office, it had an attached note saying which supplier should win," Aspillaga said.

He said that was the practice from 1996 to 1998 under Jejomar Binay, from 1998 to 2001 under Elenita Binay, and from 2001 to 2003 under Jejomar Binay again

Aspillaga said he was sure that the note came from Jejomar Binay because he was familiar with his handwriting.

The same practice also continued when Elenita Binay was the mayor, and he said he was certain the note came from her because he also knew her penmanship.

Trillanes asked if that meant there was no real bidding on Jejomar Binay's watch.

That's correct, Aspillaga replied. He said none of the other BAC members questioned him when he prepared the

documents for the procurement. Trillanes moved that Aspillaga be placed

under the government's Witness Protection Program. Aspillaga is a coaccused of Elenita Bi-

nay in criminal cases in the Sandiganbayan involving alleged overpricing, rigged bidding and malversation in Makati City, filed several years ago.

Aspillaga said he worked for Jejomar Binay since 1986. They traveled abroad together and, like Binay, he was also a member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Filipino-American Collection **Grand Opening** Reception Public Library

Friday, October 3 at 4 p.m.

Eskwela Natin is sponsoring the opening of the Filipino-American Collection at the Southgate Public Library. This is the first time a collection of Filipino books will be available for the public to borrow and learn more about Filipinos in America and the Philippines. There will also be a window display in the lobby featuring the Philippines for the month of October. Join us in celebrating Filipino-American Heritage Month!



Southgate Library | 6132 66th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95618



Perry donated 55 books to the new "Filipiniana" section at the Southgate Public Library on August 26, 2014. The opening of a "Filipiniana" section at the library is a project of Eskwela Natin. The public is encouraged to donate books on Philippine history, literature, and events. Ribbon-cutting for the opening is scheduled for October 3, 2014. A short program and refreshments will follow. The public is invited. - with Joe Carrasco.

Revenge

From page 2

Imeldific, whose expenses as a former first lady and current member of the House of Representatives continue to be charged to us taxpayers, had no comment yesterday on P-Noy's wish for vengeance.

Her only son and Ferdinand's namesake also said it was not his place to comment. Taxpayers are also paying for the upkeep of Senator Ferdinand Jr., who has admitted that he may run for president. If he wins, it will be the ultimate vindication for the Marcos clan.

The Aquinos did not get an eye for an eye, but Filipinos have allowed them to enjoy a vengeance of sorts by sending two of Ninoy's direct heirs to Malacañang. The baby of the family, Kris Aquino, is also one of the nation's most successful entertainers.

But the Aquino assassination continues to be a crime without a mastermind or motive. It's like the Marcos assets seized by the government in this country, the United States and Switzerland. The assets were confiscated because they were declared to be ill-gotten. Switzerland considers the

return to the Philippine government of the Marcoses' deposits in Swiss banks - now more than \$600 million with accumulated interest - as a landmark in restitution for victims of despotic regimes.

But how come no one has been sent to prison for amassing the dirty money? The amounts involved should warrant a life term for plunder.

Seeing people get away with large-scale corruption has to be the biggest inspiration for crooks in government. The straight path or daang matuwid pursued by Ninoy and Cory Aquino's only son has made some inroads against corruption, but the problem remains deeply rooted at all levels of government. Seeing the so-called crime of the century go unsolved also has to be among the inspirations for the prevalence of political assassinations. We'll be seeing more of them again as the 2016 elections approach.

P-Noy can now shrug off the failure to exact an eye for an eye following the murder of his father. For the aggrieved, success is the best revenge. But for the long-term health of a nation, justice is better.

Habitual Singers

By Manzel Delacruz

ll eves were focused on the devastation in Tacloban, Leyte after Typhoon Haiyan (known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines), the deadliest typhoon in Philippine history, ripped through the Visayan Islands in 2013. It wreaked havoc not only in Leyte, but also the islands of Cebu, Samar and Bohol.

In Bohol, the people were still reeling from a 7.2 earthquake of October 15, 2013, which shook structures to the ground, causing massive destruction of schools, commercial buildings, homes and churches. Efforts to raise funds for recovery from the earthquake were thwarted weeks later, when Typhoon Haivan hit.

Bohol's heritage churches in Baclayon, Loboc, Loon, Maribojoc, Loay, Dimiao and Dauis were damaged extensively, some of them leveled to the ground. These churches are a distinct collection of Roman Catholic edifices established during the early Spanish colonial period. Four of these churches - Baclayon, Loboc, Loon and Maribojoc - are named National Cultural Treasures for their cultural, historical and architectural importance to the Filipino people. Loon Church, reportedly the largest in Bohol and one of the oldest, was destroyed and turned into a pile of rubble. The Church of Maribojoc was also leveled to the ground by the quake with nothing left standing.

The quake also destroyed newer churches made with reinforced concrete. San Isidro Labrador Church in Tubigon lost its facade and other structures in the church complex. Saint Michael Parish Church of Clarin, also made with reinforced concrete, collapsed, leaving just the bell tower and the facade of the church standing. The Inabanga Church also collapsed, leaving just the facade and back of the building.

It has been over a year now, and progress is slow as people struggle to pick up the pieces of their lives. During a recent vacation to the Philippines, Fr. Arnold Zamora, whose roots are from Bohol, visited a small island. One Sunday, he walked with friends to the nearest church, when it started to rain heavily. They thought that the church would protect them from the pouring rain but sadly, the church roof leaked everywhere, including in front of IHMS is the home of SPOT, founded by Fr. Fr. Jesus Labor, former Pastor of Church



the altar.

"It was literally raining inside the church and the floor flooded," Fr. Arnold reported. "Suddenly in the middle of the priest's homilv there was a blackout. Luckilv, the electricity came on after minutes of darkness.'

Nature has presented the Singing Priests of Tagbilaran (SPOT) an important mission. In the devastated island, where a church symbolizes a refuge for the spirit, it can be demoralizing to people when the refuge itself becomes rubble, leaving them without a place of worship and kinship.

With the churches in need of restoration or reconstruction, the priests of Bohol have actively involved themselves in reaching out to those who can help. SPOT in particular have been singing for church rebuilding.

Bohol's main attraction has been its Chocolate Hills, an array of perfectly round hills that are usually green most months but turn brown in the summer. The famous tourist attraction is located in Carmen, Bohol, the epicenter of the 7.2 earthquake that also rocked the neighboring island of Cebu. The viewing deck at the Chocolate Hills sustained serious damage. The quake also caused landslides on some of the hills.

But another main attraction now comes from Tagbilaran, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary (IHMS) - the Paring Bolanon (Boholano Priests). IHMS produces a large number of priests who serve internationally, including His Most Reverend Archbishop Bernardito Auza, who is now serving as the Permanent Observer of the Holy See in the United Nations. Before becoming the Vatican ambassador to the UN, the archbishop also served as Apostolic Administrator of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince for a year following the death of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot as a result of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. And, yes, he is also a singing priest. Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza (Photo from

CBCP News)

Arnold Zamora. They are all graduates of of the Good Shepherd in Pacifica, recently IHMS and received their musical training there. They started as part of the Jeduthun Ensemble, the choir of IHMS. Fr. Arnold Zamora and Fr. Irvin Garsuta have both served as music directors of SPOT. Fr. Irvin holds the distinction of being its resident artist, designing CD covers, posters and other promotional materials.

The Singing Priests of Tagbilaran are now on the third generation of singers, with some first generation members. One of the distinguished original members, Msgr. Jeffrey P. Malanog, is currently the Vicar General of the Diocese of Tagbilaran and also Pastor of St. Joseph's Cathedral, one of the heritage churches damaged in the earthquake. Msgr. Malanog formed the third generation of SPOT, now on tour in the US to raise funds to help rebuild the churches.

The popularity of the Singing Priests in the US comes not only from their ability to entertain crowds with music and fun, but also their natural ease in connecting with their communities of faith. For the archdioceses of San Francisco and Los Angeles, the move to invite them for pastoral work served well. Many of the priests ended up as administrators and pastors of parishes, and some of them served in California, namely:

Msgr. Floro Arcamo, former Vicar of Filipino Clergy in SF Archdiocese and former Pastor of Star of the Sea in San Francisco, formed the Singing Priests of San Francisco and recorded and performed in the US. He was also a former Pastor of St. Mark Church in Belmont and St. Andrews Church in Daly City. He retired years ago and resides in San Francisco.

Fr. Eugene Tungol, currently the Vicar for Filipino Clergy in the SF Archdiocese and Pastor of Church of the Epiphany in San Francisco. He is also a composer/ lyricist and considered the major catalyst of SPOT's performances in the US and a mentor for many Boholano priests.

moved back to the Philippines to retire after several years of service in the SF Archdiocese. In his younger days as a priest, Fr. Jess used to ride his motorcycle into the remote villages in Bohol to do missionary work, offering Mass or other services to those who could not afford to travel to the churches in town. Now that he is back in Bohol, he might just be found working again with the poor.

Fr. Mel Monreal, Pastor in St. Columba Catholic Church in San Diego. Fr. Mel is a lead vocalist and his voice is often heard in SPOT recordings. He occasionally travels to the San Francisco Bay Area to reunite with fellow Boholano priests.

Fr. Manuel Corso, former Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Daly City and Holy Angels Church in Colma is also retired.

Fr. John Pernia, former Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Daly City. Fr. Doming Orimaco, Pastor at Our Lady

of Mercy in Daly City, still joins the Singing Priests when his schedule permits.

Fr. Arnold Zamora, founder of the Singing Priests of Tagbilaran, is a nationally renowned music director and arranger/ composer in the Philippines. He is Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in San Francisco.

Fr. Arnold remains a resident arranger for the Philippine Madrigal Singers, which he joined while pursuing his choral conducting degree in the University of the Philippines. His friendship with musical giant Ryan Cayabyab led to musical collaborations, resulting in Fr. Arnold's crossing over to different music genres including jazz, pop and Filipino classics. His non-liturgical musical compositions are frequently performed by the Singing Priests. He also serves as the official chaplain for the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco. Fr. Arnold's parish, Holy Name of Jesus, will be hosting the Singing Priests' benefit concert on September 26, 2014 to help rebuild the churches destroyed in the Bohol earthquake of 2013.



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tigation. Based on conservative

estimates of the land value alone.

the property - excluding improve-

ments - is worth about P23 mil-

'In addition, Binay and his wife,

Elenita, current Makati mayor [in

2001], also own at least two Hi-

dalgo condominium units, located

inside the posh Rockwell Center

in Makati. A 208-square meter

unit in Rockwell, like the ones oc-

cupied by each of the two Binay

daughters, costs around P28 mil-

Go and her team of investigative

reporters had

'interviewed

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Quo vadis, Jojo?

By Perry Diaz

or more than four years since his election to L the vice presidency, Jejomar "Jojo" Binay was on top of the world enjoying an unprecedented popularity no other politician before him had enjoyed. Indeed, he was so popular that he was convinced that the Liberal Party (LP) of his good friend, President Benigno "P-Noy" Aquino III, doesn't have anybody who could beat him in the presidential derby in 2016.

Riding on the crest of popularity, Binay exudes optimism in clinching the presidential election. Only about a month ago, he was the "unbeatable" front-runner in the race. The Liberals were so frustrated with Mar Roxas's waning presidential standing that supporting Binay as the common candidate of the LP and Binay's yet-tobe-named-political-party — still in its embryonic stage - is now a viable option. With Binay running under that coalition would lion.' make him so formidable that nobody in the current crop of wannabes could defeat him. Indeed, if the presidential election were held at least 15 today, he'd trounce them all.

Lord of Makati

But the election is still a year and farm a half away. Although nobody has come out openly against Binay, the to "demolition job" has begun. An tions, and loarticle written by Miriam Grace cal residents A. Go in March 2001, titled "The Lord of Makati," is being repub- nay lished in the print media and has the become one of the hottest topics in ties, and who the social media.

According to the article, Makati's former mayor Jojo Binay had ties. Without these testimonies, it "accumulated at least P80 million would be difficult to trace ownerworth of real estate properties in Makati and Batangas, which he if they are available at all, do not kept undeclared." This excludes link him or his family members to "P12 million in declared invest- the properties."



Buddies: Jojo and P-Noy

The question is: How did Binay hide his ownership of these properties? According to the realtors who were questioned by investigative reporters, Binay's modus operandi works this way: "He forms Junjun a company, which buys or builds and 23 others the house for him. He then lists down unknown names from dif- with ferent addresses as incorporators in relation to of the company. After buying the the property, registration papers do not overpricing in bear his name. Instead, the original owner is asked to either issue a tion of an 11mortgage in Binay's favor or sign a paper bestowing him with a power



proper-Makati parking building emblazoned with Binay's political propaganda. all confirmed

of attorney over the property. Only his ownership of these proper-Binay has copies of the pertinent documents, such as deeds of sale and land titles.' ship to him because documents. Plunder

bon saying that Binay got 13% in kickbacks from all city projects. He said that he acted as Binay's "bagman" and personally delivered money to Binay's house in duffel bags con-

taining anywhere from P1.5 million to P10 million.

While all these alleged shenanigans were being exposed,

Binay, his son Makati Mayor Binay, charged were plunder alleged the construcstory parking building that Makati City allegedly built for a whopping P1.56 billion! The complaint claimed that in

2007 then-Mayor Jojo Binay had "proposed and approved" a city ordinance for the construction of the parking building with an initial budget of P400 million; thus, making it "the most expensive parking building in the country, if the entire world."

The question is: If the Binays were indicted for plunder, would the graft court, Sandiganbayan, issue arrest warrants against them? If so, it could be the end of Binay's presidential run. Unless he would continue to run from behind bars just like when Sen. Sonny Tril-But finally the truth is catching up lanes ran for senator in 2007 from

former Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado testified before the Senate Blue Rib-Committee.

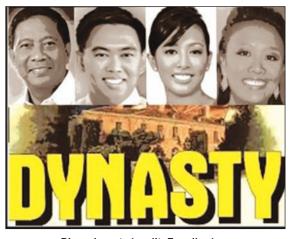
to Binay. Recently,

the race, he would be released to assume the presidency, which would give him immunity from prosecution, including plunder.

his detention cell. And if he won

Public opinion

While the Ombudsman is investigating the plunder charges against the Binays, the court of public opinion is in "full session." With emotions running high in light of the pork barrel scam, the people are looking at l'affaire Binay with keen interest, after all Jojo Binay could be their next president. And the specter of the "Lord of Makati" becoming the country's "Grand Lord" could just be too much for those who are convinced that Jejo-



Binay dynasty (credit: Equalizer)

mar "Jojo" Binay is corrupt to the bones, which begs the question: Would the court of public opinion deny him the presidency?

With the plunder case and the "demolition job" that's going on against the Binays, it makes one wonder if Jojo could overcome the biggest obstacle in his quest for power and glory. He believed so not too long ago. But does he now?

Quo vadis, Jojo? (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



Sept. 28 - Oct. 28, 2014 Philippine Fiesta 9

Remembering the Delano Manongs: **The Filipinos behind Chavez and Huerta**

By Hansook Oh

esar Chavez and Dolores Huerta are two very wellknown historical figures and Mexican-American civil rights activists to Californians and Americans across the nation. The two are known to have organized Chicano farm workers to demand better working conditions and wages, and fought for political power.

Although Chavez and Huerta deserve the respect and historical significance placed on their work, we should not leave out the important presence and pivotal role of Filipinos in the labor rights movement from our collective memory. Although Chavez was an extraordinary person and a great charismatic symbol, we should not forget that he made mistakes in regard to his decisions as a leader within the UFW that marginalized Filipinos in the organization.

Like much of Asian Pacific American history, the stories of the first Asian Pacific Islander immigrants to this country are left out of our mainstream history books. Most people have never heard of Filipino rights leaders such as Larry Itliong, co-founder of the Filipino union, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC); Philip Vera Cruz also a co-founder of AWOC and who served as the second vice president of the UFW until 1977; and Pete Velasco and Andy Imutan, also vice presidents.

According to the book, Philip Vera Cruz: A personal History of Filipino Immigrants and the Farmworker's Movement, "one hundred thousand Filipino men left the Philippines for Hawaii and the mainland United States during the first 30 years of the twentieth century. The earliest groups of these men were recruited to work in the sugar cane and pineapple fields of Hawaii. But many also made their way to the mainland... and found work on farms throughout California and the Pacific Northwest and in Alaska's canneries." According to the film, "Delano Manongs:

According to the film, "Delano Manongs: Forgotten Heroes of the United Farm Workers," Filipino migrant workers had been union organizing since the 1920's. However, the event that can be seen as the catalyst for the Filipino labor movement and ultimately, for the development of the UFW, was the Filipino-led Delano Grape Strike of 1965.

The creators of the film describe how Larry Itliong, "a five foot five cigar-chomping union veteran," organized 1500 Filipinos (AWOC) to strike against the grape companies of Delano, California. After eight days of striking alone, AWOC was joined by the National Farm Workers Association, founded by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, according to the Cesar Chavez foundation.

"It was the strike that eventually made the UFW, the farmworkers movement, and Cesar Chavez famous worldwide and lasted until 1970 when we finally won our workers' contracts with the growers," said Vera Cruz, in his personal historical account.

UFW could not have been so successful without this coalition of Filipino and Chi-



Delano Manongs

cano workers, but Vera Cruz explained that as a minority within a minority, Filipinos were "used and pulled back by the UFW, the Teamsters and the growers for many years."

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Philip Vera Cruz

In his account, Vera Cruz explains how many Filipinos like Itliong quit their positions in the UFW because they felt they had "no real power within the union." He said to a certain extent, Chavez and the union did not "conduct themselves in a truly democratic manner" and that criticism of Cesar was not allowed. Volunteers were kicked out by Cesar and Huerta "without a word of explanation."

The event that angered Vera Cruz the most and cemented his decision to leave the union

was when Chavez accepted an invitation by Filipino dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, to visit him in the Philippines. Outwardly Marcos would pretend to support farm workers, but jailed them in his own country and tortured his political prisoners. Vera Cruz objected



to this visit, but Chavez did not listen and went to the Philippines anyway.

Vera Cruz does not deny the great things Chavez has done for the movement of labor workers. He cited Chavez's "wonderful charismatic personality, integrity and honesty that caused people to want to support him and his causes." He noted Chavez's hunger strikes and recognized that he "put his life on the line" and would "never ask a worker to do something that he himself wouldn't do."

However, Vera Cruz saw that "the movement must go beyond its leaders," and that a movement is different from a union. Even if Chavez was not there, the "conditions would have created the necessary leadership." This Cesar Chavez day, remember the hundreds of Filipinos who helped give Chavez the strength to lead.

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Community News

Filipino Women's Club celebrates their 75th Anniversary Dinner Dance





By Carle and Sarah Enloe

On September 20, 2014, the Sacramento Filipino Women's Club (FWC) held their Pista Sa Nayonin celebration of their 75th Anniversary at Jose Rizal Community Center.

It was a huge success! Past presidents (PP) Josie Patria and Sarah Enloe were Mistresses of Ceremonies (MC). SisterOlive Kingsbury, RVM, gave a very meaningful invocation. Then a delicious dinner was served.A video of the FWC members and their activities that spanned 75 years to date was playedduring dinner.

After dinner, all the FWC ladies led the singing of Stars Spangled Banner and the-University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinities (UP-AASAV) Choirsang the Lupang Hinirang. President Judge Dee Brown gave a very hearty welcome to the guests and thanked all the Ladiesfor their support and for allowing her do her judicial work.

First Vice President MemieWeitzenberg acknowledged their special guests, and community leaders. MC Josie introducedthe PPs, Mrs. FWC's and Outstanding Filipinas who were present. It was an honor for MC Sarah to introduce the Guest Speaker, the Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor, City of WestSacramento, who gave a very inspiring speech.

This year's Pista sa Nayon theme was "Honoring the 2014 FWC Outstanding Filipina". We are proud of Mrs. Victoria "Vicky" Johnson, 2014 FWC Outstanding Filipina Award recipient, who, for many, many years, is a very loyal and active







member of FWC; has served as PP of to name afew. the Sacramento Deanery Women's Council; Past Regent of the CDA - Catholic Johnson for her generosity - they had the Daughters of the Americas Court #1890; mostelegant decor ever and some lucky past and current president of the Young La- guests were glad to bring home their flowdies Institute #48; also an active member er arrangements. The dining tables, the in the Filipino community since 1962; buffet table, the door table and the all time favorite of all - Sinag-tala Theatrical and Performing Arts Association, decorated by a professional florist that she and member of Midtown Lions Club, just hired and paid for.

Photos by Sarah Enloe

The FWC thanked their honoree, Vicky "Putong" area were tastefully



Sonny Alforque, Artistic Director and CEO of Sinag-tala, introduced the honoree. Mayor Christopher Cabaldon presented Vicky Johnson her FWC Outstanding award assisted by MCJosie; which provided the perfect time to present the members of the FWC, led by the two most recent Mrs. FWC

- Virgie Monteagudo and Mercy Guerrero, as they sway balanced to "Ang Dalagang Pilipina" sang by the UPAASV Choir, accompanied by Sonny's guitar.

Vicky Johnson, 2014 FWC Outstanding Filipina, gave a brief speech and thanked everyone for their support. The program closed with a cultural presentation by the Sinag-tala Ensemble - back by popularity demand, presented their repertoire - "Niyog", Mr. Boholano, and the ultimate Tinikling dance!

This 75th Anniversary wouldn't be complete without the beautiful and unique souvenir program- thanks to MC Josie, who came up with the wonderful idea and the hard work of MC Sarah assembling the souvenir program. The FWC is humbled but proud to share that this is only their 2nd printed Souvenir Program.

The FWC also extends their deepest gratitude to all the sponsors, raffle donors and others who made this special celebration a success! With sincere thanks to the Philippine Fiesta Newspaper for their continued coverage of FWC.

Lastly, congratulations to the event committees and their respective committee members for a job well done! We look forward to next year's Pista sa Nayon and for many more years of celebrations in the near future

Mabuhay Ang Mga Magagandang Pilipina!

Ambassador George G. and Mrs. Caridad Aducayen, Jr. Celebrate Another Milestone Their 65th Wedding Anniversary

By Carle and Sarah T. Enloe

he Aducayen family, along with friends, and members of the Filipino community, gathered on Friday, August 8, 2014, at the Happy Garden Seafood Restaurant, Sacramento, CA, to celebrate another marvelous milestone in their lives - Ambassador George G. and Mrs. Caridad "Caring" Aducayen, Jr.'s 65th Wedding Anniversary.

The restaurant was beautifully decorated for the occasion.At the appointed hour, Eddie Aducayen, their son and Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the evening's event, opened the program by welcoming everyone.

Father Leon Juchniewicz, Pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, gave the invocation for the evening and performed the renewal of their wedding vows in front their family members and guests. Then a delicious sit down dinner was served. During dinner, a photo montage of the lives of Ambassador George G.and Mrs. Caridad Aducayen, Jr. was shown. After dinner, there was a talented line up of entertainment for the honorees and their guest's enjoyment.

Chloe Villegas opened the program with two songs followed by the BicolandiaDancers and a surprise member who joined in As the cake was being served, their finale. Then the Enero Children wowed the guests with their happy couple. Then there was dance routine. The Kapitbahay



taining dance routine. Following the entertainment program, thefamily paid tribute to their Father and Mother - Ambassador George and Caring Aducayen, Jr.

The cake cutting ceremony and toasts followed. Their anniversary cake was a replica of their original wedding cake. It was beautiful! there were several toasts to the a special duet by MC Eddie and Dancers closed out the program Caroline Kang, his older sister, of entertainment with their enter- sang especially for their Father

and Mother. It was their special song. Even the Ambassador sang along a little. After the duet, there were special speeches from the Ambassador and Mrs. Aducayen. Of course her speech was filled with humor!

Mrs. Aducayen acknowledged that she is the luckiestwife for having the Ambassador as her husband. She went on to express her love for him and thanked God for giving them a very fortunate and wonderful life together.

Mrs. Aducayen concluded by

thanking the Ambassador for al- long time friends. ways making her feel young! She went on toacknowledge all the guests and thanked them for their kind words and best wishes. Then MC Eddie introduced his father. Ambassador Aducayen, who gave a short and moving address. Ambassador Aducayen thanked and expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Father Leonfor giving them his special blessing in the renewal of their marriage vows.

He then went on to thank everyone for coming, especially his

The Ambassador recountednumerous incidents during their long life together. He concluded his speech by thanking Wesand Linda; Francis and Caroline; Eddie and Kristine; and to all their grandchildren for everything they do for them to make them enjoy life to the fullest. Then he wished everyone an enjoyable evening. Following the speeches, the dance floor was opened for general dancing

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San Lorenzo Ruiz is also ours! By Dale Esperante



t was a declaration by Reverend Father Octavio

Ventura, Parish Vicar of St. Charles Borromeo (SCB). During his homily on the 9th day of a novena mass in honor of our beloved first Filipino saint, Father Octavio who is of Mexican heritage explained that San Lorenzo is for all of us now. "San Lorenzo Ruiz is not a Filipino!" "He was a Filipino, but now he is a Catholic," was how the Vicar calmed down the startled Filipino parishioners. Paraphrasing Father Octavio, "He was a flower that grew in the beautiful country of the Philippines. Now the Philippines is proud to share its eternal flower to the world." "Before, the Philippines used to just receive. Now the Philippines can also

give." We share a Catholic Saint who now belongs to everyone. For this writer, this was the only time I've heard a priest applauded during his homily!

Reverend Father Oscar Medina-Gomes, also of Mexican descent, con-celebrated the mass with Father

Octavio. Father Oscar is the Pastor of the parish of St. Charles Borromeo. Realizing how important the 9th and final evening of rosary/novena/mass to all the devotees of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Father Oscar gave up his only day off of the week from his official church duties, to show his support to the Filipinos by being part of the celebration.

For the regular announcements before the end of the mass, Marie Uber, SCB's San Lorenzo Ruiz organizer, thanked the sponsors from Day 1 to Day 9 for their generous devotion. Included in her acknowledgements were the talented musicians who provided the spiritual hymns, the Altar Servers especially Brothers Manny Corpuz and Anslim Soares, the Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers, the Lectors, and the first organizer of SCB's San Lorenzo Ruiz -Bebien Hataka. Marie also invited all who were present of a fellowship pot luck after the mass. Special dishes, a cake, and a "litson" were brought in by fellow parishioners. Marie also added a special welcome to the three newest clerics of the parish: Father

Oscar, the Pastor; Father Octavio, the Vicar; and Sister Josie (a Cebuana), responsible for SCB's Catholic Faith Formation. I heard the second round of applause of the evening. Knight of Co-

lumbus Charles McGloughlin quickly followed Marie behind the lectern. He was singled out in a good way by Father Octavio during his homily, Charles being the only non-Filipino in the congregation. Knight Charles explained that being Irish and a devotee of St. Patrick's, he is always appreciative to see Christians of every nationality celebrate St. Patrick's Day. So being in a parish with a strong Filipino group, he wants to be a part of San Lorenzo Ruiz's celebration. Charles also stated that the Diocese finally got it right by sending these two personable priests to SCB. He described Father Oscar as the good shepherd by his gentle



and loving delivery of his homily. On the other hand, he described Father Octavio as the "sheep dog", ready to protect the good shepherd and his flock.

The Bayanihan Choir delighted the parishioners with an all-Filipino hymns this evening. Father Oscar, before ending the mass, asked the congregation to cheer for the day's saints: Saints Cosmas and Damian who were brothers. Fr. Oscar – Viva St. Cosmas! Congregation – Viva! Fr. Oscar Viva St Damian! Congregation - Viva! And finally: Fr. Oscar – Viva San Lorenzo Ruiz! Viva! Answered resoundingly by the mostly Filipino congregation accompanied with the third round of applause this evening. Another request from Father Oscar before ending the mass was directed to the choir. He asked the choir to sing the San Lorenzo Ruiz song in Filipino. The music came together as one in the House of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. As our beloved priests processioned out, the Bayanihan choir offered the concluding song in Filipino.

Retirement party for Eva Morales at their beautiful house by the lake in West Sacramento on August 31, 2014. Hosted by her better half, Edgar, it was attended by families and a hundred of coworkers and acquaintances from her previous employer for over 30 years as a registered nurse (RN) at both Kaiser Hospital and the University of California Medical Center in Sacramneto.



Fiesta for a Filipino Saint By Dale Esperante

Nine days of rosaries, novenas, and masses culminated into one of the most important Filipino catholic events in the Sacramento region. The Third Annual Diocesan San Lorenzo Ruiz Fiesta was held at St. Rose of Lima in Roseville on 27 September 2014. The Auxiliary Bishop Myron J. Cotta celebrated the 10 a.m. mass followed by a procession. From 11 am – 2 pm, food, entertainment including Filipino songs and dances took place in the Hall. The emceeing duties were shared delightfully by Rolly Mamauag and Bea "Beep" Alo

Hundreds of parishioners from all over the region attended the festivities. Representatives from the following parishes took active parts in the celebration: Fairfield's Holy Spirit, Vallejo's St. Catherine of Sienna, South Sac's St. Charles Borromeo, Roseville's St. Clare, Natoma's Divine Mercy, Vacaville's St. Mary, Citrus Heights' Holy Family, Elk Grove's Maria Goretti, Florin's St. Paul, Roseville's St. Rose of Lima, and a strong active group from Yuba City. This Fiesta for San Lorenzo Ruiz was

This Fiesta for San Lorenzo Ruiz was made possible by the efforts of the Filipino Apostolate Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento (FACDS) and all the aforementioned parishes. Johnny P. Regadio is the tireless President of FACDS. One of the counsels is Reverend Father Jovito Rata, the Vicar of the Filipino Apostolate. The Bishop of Sacramento wrote in his letter to his "Dear Friends in Christ: It is a pleasure for me to express my best wishes as you celebrate the Feast







of San Lorenzo Ruiz on September 27, 2014 at St. Rose of Lima in Roseville. I pray that the event will be a special occasion of grace and fellowship for everyone. May the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary bring all of you the joy and hope of her Son, Jesus, so that you can continue doing God's good work." Signed Jaime Soto

The Auxiliary Bishop wrote, "My Brothers and Sisters: It is a pleasure for me to express my best wishes as I join you in celebrating the Feast of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz on September 27, 2014. As Auxiliary Bishop, it's a joy to celebrate this special Mass in

honor of Saint Lorenzo with the community. May this day of fellowship be filled with many blessings for all. Saint Lorenzo, pray for us! In the Peace of Christ." Signed Myron J. Cotta.

To paraphrase Father Octavio of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, "San Lorenzo Ruiz is for all of Us! He now belongs to the World!" It is just right to end this report with a brief litany, "San Lorenzo Ruiz – Pray For Us."

Photos by Dale Esperante





A Groovy retirement party for Frank Ayran

given by his wife Jenny and his children held at Stonelake Club in Elk Grove, CA on August 30, 2014. Frank retires from the California State University in Sacramento and has had prior years of military service in the navy and the navy reserve. He was joined by his families and friends, including his band group from Ignite Community Church. Guests partied all night long to the sound of the 70's by his church band, where he also performed as bass guitarist.

14 Community News Birthdavs

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Calendar of Events

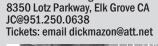
OCT. 4, 2014 (SATURDAY) 4th Annual 2014 SACRAMENTO ALOHA FESTIVAL **10** - 6 pm Cal Expo - FREE Admission SACALOHAFEST.ORG



OCT. 11, 2014 (SATURDAY) BARRIO FIESTA Celebrating Fil- Am History 6 - 11 pm - \$15.00 Jose Rizal Community Center Sacramento, CA 95823 Ling 916.206.7039 Aida 916.686.9886



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RAESELLE LOURDES

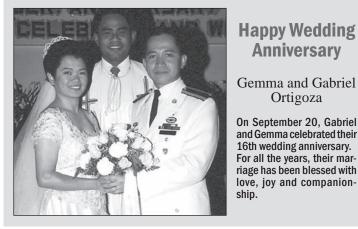
SEPTEMBER 25

Happy Birthday to a wonderful friend and family man, Joe Gonzales.

NELDA ABELEDA

SEPTEMBER 24

He was surprised by his family and friends who came from far away on his birthday, 20 Sep 2014. This photo was taken during one of his quiet moments at the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604 annual event recognizing the best citizens in our community. Joe can always be counted on to support the American Legion Post and Auxiliary Unit 604. He is a true friend of the community!



PERRY DIAZ

SEPTEMBER 28

In Loving Memory of our dear Atty. Damaso E. Bangaoet, Jr. of Baguio City, Philippines May 31, 1940-September 14, 2014 died at Los Angeles, CA, USA

JENNY SALVADOR

OCTOBER 7

Panagbenga which was founded in 1995. He also served as President of the John Hay Poro Point Development

Board. He, along with other like- fia and Olivia. He will always of service and sacrifice to the City of Baguio, most imporside now. A memorial service honor on Tuesday, 7 October **Convention Center.**

ADELINA MIGUEL with Christopher SEPTEMBER 11

Anniversary

Ortigoza



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Atty. Damaso Bangaoet, Jr. is the Father Corp (JPDC) and Chairman of the Baguio General Hospital (BGH) Advisory

worked for the promotion and beautification of Baguio making wife, Laurel Bing Bangaoet, lovsupportive brother to Angelica Katrina, Patricia, Bryan, Raf, So-

minded people, passionately be treasured for his example it a big tourist destination once tantly to the family. His time again. He was the Cherished of rest has come but we are anchor of strength to his loving at peace that he is by Jesus ing father to Bong and Aisha, and tribute shall be held in his Michail and the coolest lolo to 2014. at 5 PM at the Baguio

Heritage

In Memory of

By Nancy Cristi Bautista

robably, only few people are not aware of the significance of 9/11 event, or maybe. they are just ignoring or denying its profound existence. For the majority, it has been thirteen years of dis-complacency within their own home, with the hidden jitters of the thought that it is not if, but, when it happens again.

Most of the people around the globe who had witnessed the horrific incident, either by being at these very tragic places or just learning it on the news, can imagine how devastating it was. They all could remember exactly where and what they were doing at that very moment.

Right after what had happened on that day of September 11, 2001, the victims, which meant, all of us, have been somewhat affected in different ways. Gloom had been the general emotion of all, except probably, the ones who had felt that they were vindicated.

However, as years have passed by, more and more people could

done to humanity. It seems like people get immunity from the hurt, making these past experiences just a thing of the past. On the other hand, it seems like the thugs are now more emboldened with such indifference.

in in the second

As this article is being written, news about violence in the foreign land are not contained just outside the country. There was a president who once said that it was better to fight these terrorism away from the country than here. Now, there are news about homegrown youths who have been recruited to join them to inflict violence and fatal injuries. So far, these recruits have been creating harm in the foreign lands, but, these particular evils also have US passports and they could easily get back to our nation.

To the current time, there are two significant precarious organizations who factually are hurting and killing people who will not Him, we will prevail.

join their religion.

Each time September 11 approaches, sadness and suspicion envelope people's sense of awareness, which, underiably is the lifestyle of the time. In spite of avoiding to profile someone or a group of people due to probable accusations of racial discrimination, the feeling is kept within themselves and just portray to the public a believable façade.

Traveling used to be a spontaneous whim, where to go and how to get there. Now, one has to measure this desired vacation with a critical thinking of risk, choosing

maybe a lesser, but, safer trip. Business are also greatly affected with the notorious scary tactic, whether true or not. Nations are divided more than ever.

Ours is a very volatile earth, and being agitated more by people who have a very vicious way of thinking. Their propaganda is perversely convincing, which results to some people reacting to be politically correct to the point of unknowingly generating their calamitous agenda.

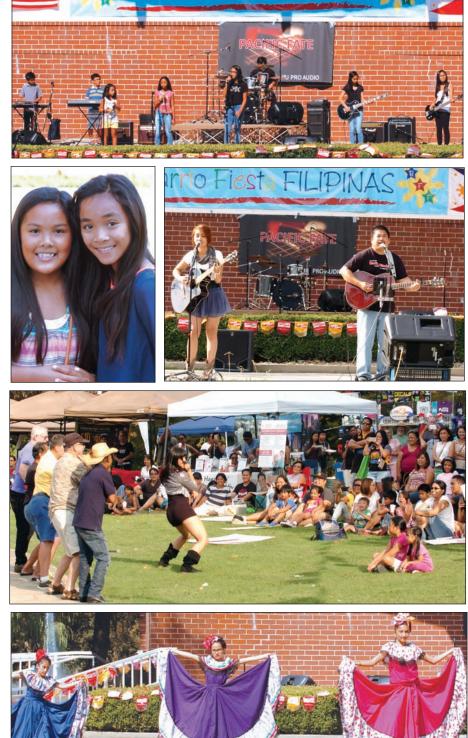
No matter what the political affiliations our citizens have, this is a wake up call for everyone, here

care less what that insidious infliction has and abroad. Our country is not fighting not only for economic power, but, for our basic freedom, including religion; for our own lives and for our future generations. Instead of waging war against one another, we should unite to fight the real enemies, the people whose goal is to eliminate those who do not agree with their beliefs.

Finally, some leaders of few nations created a coalition to partially fight these evils, but, pray that this strategy will suffice and not to be too late. True that there are countless problems here and abroad, but, priority to suppress and eradicate this evil is necessary now because this enemy is the type that will not wait.

With God's guidance and love, in addition with our prayers and unity in our belief in





Photos by Dinnah San Pedro On Saturday, September 20, 2014, the second annual Barrio Fiesta Filipinas was held at the Elk Grove Regional Park in Elk Grove, CA- presented to the community by the Filipino American International Youth Foundation, under the direction of Felix Howell. It was a beautiful day to spend and celebrate the best of Filipino Heritage and Culture, filled with musical and dance





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The Life Story of Macario P. Celestial

By Gabriel Ortigoza

t was January 5, 1896 when an infant was born in the remote village of Bingawan in the town of Calinog province of Iloilo. He was named Macario Plaga Celestial. Macario has an older sister named Maria. Both became homeless at an early age when their parents died. Maria was lucky for the reason that she was taken-cared by relatives who belong to the religious sect of Jehovah's Witness. Macario was left in the farm to survive. A soft-hearted Baptist pastor Antonio Plagata invited Macario to his house, treated him as family, and later considered him an adopted son. Maria married a Pormilos.

In mid 1910s, Macario, together with his first cousin Javier Celo and two other relatives namely Bonifacio Castronuevo and a certain Mr. Catedral, were sent by Rev. Antonio Plagata, an educator, to an American missionary operated educational institution called Jaro Industrial School located in Iloilo City. Macario only finished third year high school and decided to go back to Calinog while the rest pursued their studies until they all finished their formal education. Macario became a teacher at Ulayan Elementary School in Calinog. At that time any student who has reached any level in high school were already allowed to teach. Macario later became one of the first municipal councilors of Calinog, Bonifa-cio Castronuevo became a principal in Bingawan, Mr. Catedral became an educator known to be a Math Wizard, and Javier Celo became a municipal mayor of Calinog.

While teaching at Ulayan, Macario had a female student named Triposa Celeste. Triposa's siblings Ruperto and Ruben were also Macario's students. Triposa was always absent in class so she got the attention of this handsome Castillan teacher. When asked to explain why she incurred absences at school the poor student justified by saying she worked in the grain farm to help her parents. Macario was so concerned and later develop affection towards Triposa. To make the long story short, Macario and Triposa got married but the groom had to pass through



M.P. Celestial hardworking Macario did at all

of his life. At an early stage of their marriage, Triposa addressed Macario sir. Why she called her husband sir? Because Triposa was a student of Macario before they got married.

In 1939, Triposa's brothers invited the couple to migrate to Mindanao which is considered to be the country's Promise Land because Filipinos who successfully voyaged in the island were sure to have at least ten hectares of farmland. The couple with their children (Harlando, Daisy, Joel) help her parents. Dr. Rick-and with Triposa's siblings etson told Daisy he was imand their family migrated to Mindanao and settled in the place called Mlang. Mlang was still a village of the town Kidapawan at that time. Upon arrival at the said village, the group got local guides to bring them to places available for settlement. Macario's group paid one silver peso (Philippine currency) in exchange of ten hectares (about 24 acres) of forrest land. The group settled in a sitio called Dugong and thrived. The rest of the couple's children were born advised her to take college in Dugong. They are: Leodigario, Filoteo, Nena, and Nelfa.

from mother municipality Kidapawan to become an Daisy finished her Bachelor independent town. Macario is one of the first appointed municipal councilors of Mlang with Domingo Lim as at the seminary. the first appointed mayor. In the next first municipal election, Macario run for municipal councilor and topped the election. In the following local election he was asked by Rodulfo Buenaflor to run as his vice mayor, both won at SBC instead. The obediwith a wide margin against their political opponents. After their term ended., Macario was offered to run for mayor but he declined saying he will concentrate on his call to spread the word of God. Macario founded Dugong Baptist Church. (Presently, the church building Industrial College). Again, is still being used as a place there was a hindrance - mon-



College (SBC). Macario's daughter

cost just to marry the love Daisy finished high school at SBC in 1954. During Daisy's valedictory address an unforgettable experienced happened. The makeshift stage collapsed! Luckily, the guest speaker Dr. Robert Ricketson, an American missionary who was the president of Philippine Baptist Theological Seminary (PBTS) in Baguio City and other guests on stage were not injured. After the ceremony, Dr. Ricketson asked Daisy what was her plan in life. Daisy told the American missionary she will go back to the farm to pressed with her valedictory speech and thought of helping her pursue college education. Daisy was reluctant to continue her education because of financial difficulty. The generous missionary offered to shoulder her travel expenses to Baguio and he further offered Daisy a Work-Student position at PBTS. It was an answered prayer for a young lady from Dugong. While at the seminary, Dr. Ricketson discovered Daisy's high gradesand education at Baguio Colleges Foundation (now University of the Cordilleras). In 1951, Mlang separated In 1959, Daisy finished AB English at BCF. In 1961. of Divinity at PBTS. Daisy immediately got a teaching job and worked for one year

In 1962, upon learning that a soldier assigned at Philippine Military Academy was courting Daisy the protective father Macario advised Daisy to go home in Mlang as soon as possible and teach ent daughter acquiesced and went home. In the summer of 1962, Daisy wanted to take education subjects needed for her teaching position at SBC. Daisy's father advised her to enroll at Central Philippine University (formerly Jaro Industrial School/Jaro of worship by the village ey. Macario had no financial

savings to send Daisy to CPU. As a responsible father he thought of writing a letter to his "Tav" Antonio Plagata stating he wanted to return the five hectares piece of farmland in Bingawan which Antonio gave him longtime ago before Macario migrated to Mindanao in exchange for Daisy's educational expenses at CPU. The letter was personally handed by Daisy to Antonio Plagata in Bingawan which the later agreed to Macarios proposal. Again, answered prayer for Macario and Daisy. Antonio Plagata sent Daisy together with his niece Josephine Plagata (Victor's daughter) to CPU. (Victor Plagata served as mayor of Bingawan from 1970 to 1986. Josephines husband Zafiro Palabrica became a mayor of the same town from 1988 to 1998. Presently, Matt Palabrica, son of Zafiro and Josephine, is the incumbent mayor of Bingawan and the municipal vice mayor is Mark Palabrica, Matt's younger brother. Bingawan is in good hands under theleadership of these Christian brothers). In summer of 1962, Daisy and Josephine stayed at the house in front of CPU owned by Antonio's brother Eleuterio Plagata who was at that time CPU High School principal. CPU Central Spirit is

circulating in Macario Celestial and family's Macario blood: Macario went to CPU (formerly Jaro Industrial School) in 1910s for his secondary education, Macarios daughter Daisy went to CPU to earn additional units in education in 1962, and two of Macario's grandchildren Sadie and Gabriel are graduates of CPU College of Nursing classes of 1989 and 1991, respectively; both are children of Daisy.

In 1987, Macario Celestial became his town's model person to be the first constituent in the municipality to volunteer his farmland to be subjected to government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, one of the flagship programs of the Cory Aquino administration (1986-1992 Macario P. Celestial joined his Creator while ccomfortably asleep in his Dugong residence in December 1994, he was 98 years old. A life well lived by God's faithful servant. (gabbyortig@yahoo.com).

Silence

By Marion de Celis Sarte

My own retreat Beyond the tangible, A safe haven Where I am able To harbor A world I hold In great ardor. Only the heart and mind can see What, at first, the eyes Cannot believe. It all begins with a small spark Alight in the dark, Easy to go unnoticed, When on earthly diamonds One is focused. The sparkle of their light ves one immeasurable delight. But does not last for long. But does not last for long. It is not forever strong. For what good are diamonds for When they do not Warm one's inner core? I frequently visit silence Who shelters the tenants Of my hopes, dreams, and wishes. And every once in a while Sparks of novelty Come to greet me Like an eager child. Like an eager child I welcome them in. To ignore them Would be a great great sm. tch them grow In silence, I wate Nurturing their even Until they become a co tars Of which adm It is a re f me. Of everything I hope to be. All I need to do Is embrace the still quietude And look towards heaven. For it is true –Silence is golden.



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Mayweather calls Pacquiao 'Miss Pac Man,' mocks Marquez KO loss

'Miss Pac Man is broke and desperate for a pay day. Your Pay-Per-View numbers are a joke,' Mayweather tweets



The only place we're likely to see Floyd Mayweather Jr. (L) and Manny Pacquiao fight one another is on Twitter.

MANILA, Philippines - Floyd Mayweather Jr. has once again taken to social media to take shots at Manny Pacquiao, posting a collage of Pacquiao's knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez on Twitter and Instagram to taunt the 8-division champion.

Mayweather (47-0, 26 knock-outs) added: "Miss Pac Man is broke and desperate for a pay day. Your Pay-Per-View numbers are a joke.'

The barb comes days after Pacquiao's account (which is believed to be handled by a representative) tweeted Mayweather about the American fighter's recent hearing at the Nevada State Athletic Commission regarding betting on sparring sessions where other boxers fight 31-minute rounds and marijuana use by visitors at his Las Vegas gym.

Mayweather claimed that the All Access reality show, which is produced by the Showtime network, is staged to promote his fights.

".@FloydMayweather's testimony to the commission on All Access' authenticity tells me everything I need to know about his desire to fight me," said the tweet.

Mayweather is currently working with former Pacquiao conditioning coach Alex Ariza, who clashed frequently with Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach. Ariza and Roach were involved in an altercation before Pacquiao's 2013 fight with Brandon Rios, with Ariza kicking Roach.

Pacquiao's biggest pay-per-view successes were his fights with Oscar de la Hoya and the third Juan Manuel Marquez fight, which registered 1.25 million buys. Mayweather's fight with Saul "Canelo" Alvarez in 2013 did a reported 2.48 million buys.

Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 KOs) is scheduled to fight unbeaten WBO junior welterweight titleholder Chris Algieri on November 23 at The Venetian in Macau, China on rival network HBO.

Pacquiao had renewed his challenge to Mayweather earlier this month, telling Agence France-Presse: "He's all talk. Until now he has not yet agreed to fight me.

Instead of blabbing, he should face me atop the ring.

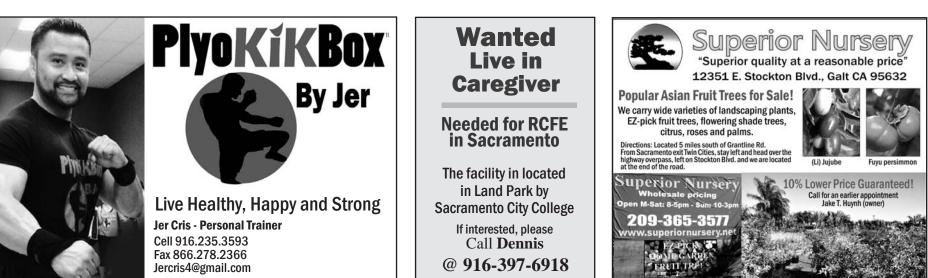
The two most popular pay-perview draws in boxing have circled each other for the past five years but have failed to come to terms for the historic match.

In the past, disagreements over pre-fight performance enhancing drug testing and purse splits had broken down negotiations, but Mayweather announced a new set of demands to ESPN UK after his second straight victory over Marcos Maidana earlier this month.

(RELATED: Mayweather sets new demands for Pacquiao fight)

Tickets Available at Sari Sari Buffet, Chelo, & South Villa

"If the Pacquiao fight does happen it has to happen on Showtime pay-per-view only and Mayweather Promotions have to do the fight.'



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Enter the Escrima: Bruce Lee and Filipino Martial Arts

AJ Ruiz

ruce Lee is regarded as one of the greatest martial artists, if not the greatest master of the art to ever live. His art revolutionized cinema forever, changing the way the western world perceived martial arts. Over the course of his life, Lee's fame came not only from his films, but also from the creation of his own art. Jeet Kun Do, "the way of the inter-cepting fist," drew influ-ences from every art Lee studied, which included Filipino martial arts.

What many may not know is that Lee was an avid practitioner of the Filipino escrima (stick fighting). Danny Inosanto (a Filipino American), one of Lee's closest friends and finest students, introduced him to the art. Inosanto recalled how Lee at first "took a pretty dim view of it" but later explained "what he liked and didn't like about escrima." Inosanto believes "what changed (Lee's) mind was the emphasis on the empty hands and seeing through



Dan Inosanto and Bruce Lee (Source: Karate Bushido Magazine/Dan Inosanto's photo archives)

In "Enter the Dragon," Inosanto,

explained, the message Lee want-

ed to convey to the public was

to "know all combative ranges;

the movies that it had a lot of functional value." From the repertoire of Bruce Lee masterpieces, two films stand out the most in terms of Lee's links to Filipino martial arts – "Enter the Dragon" and "Game of Death."

"Danny Inosanto taught his friend Bruce Lee how to use nunchaku

through the Filipino equivalent called tabok-toyok."

the guards in which Lee uses their own weapons against them. Lee demonstrates escrima, using doble baston (double sticks) to subdue the guards. This concept is directly related to Filipino martial arts because of the ability to adapt to the environment and utilize it to one's own advantage.

In "Game of Death," Lee fights Inosanto using both double sticks as well as nunchaku. What many may not know is, Inosanto taught Lee how to use nunchaku through the Filipino equivalent called tabok-toyok. During the process of the film, Inosanto explained, "Bruce's original concept for 'Game of Death' was to educate the film viewing public by making people aware that there are many different types of martial arts and that each martial art has a value in a certain environment."

Because many Filipino martial arts are weapons-based systems, it could be assumed that Inosanto was chosen for the film to properly represent the art. The movie also touches on the aspect of adaptation as the film progresses; Lee must eventually fight Kareem Abdul-Jabbar who is seven feet tall.

From these two movies and the concepts drawn from them, you can see how Filipino martial arts helped promote the success of Bruce Lee. Many are unaware that Filipino martial arts exist, yet they had been utilized by one of the most iconic martial artists to ever live. Today, more than 40 years after Lee's death, his legacy lives on, intertwined with Filipino martial arts and will continue to do for generations to come.



What's next for Jessica Sanchez?

The 'American Idol' runner-up refuses to let 'AI' be the peak of her career. She transitions now from a 'reality show' star to simply a star and talks about how being bullied has shaped her

By Meryll Yan

or all intents and purposes, Jessica Sanchez is just a regular 19-year-old girl.

She is shy but takes selfies, is afraid of spiders and loves cats, and counts Denny's and Jollibee as comfort food. She breaks out when she's stressed. She likes to have her nails done. She pokes fun at her brother, Zach, but cannot live without him.

The difference? She has 1.4 million Twitter followers, was runner-up in American Idol's season 11, and judges' unanimous save, Jescounts Jennifer Lopez, Apl de Ap and Manny Pacquiao as her friends. Oh, and that voice.

Jessica Now

Outside 1902 studios in instead of hers? downtown Los Angeles, Jessica waits with her mom half-Filipina American is Editha for the door to open. We surprise her by arriving a few seconds after her. We say hello and play a little bit at the time of the shoot, she of catch-up on the elevator ride up.

It's already been 3 years since Jessica first auditioned and emerged runner-up in a great irony for someone American Idol. Back then she was just a 15-year-old thrust into the stage, subject to the attention of the world and Simon Cowell, ager Kristin Collin and glam and yet night after night, she emerged victorious. Except and Madison Blue. for an almost-elimination that was thwarted by the Jessica admits. Considering



Jessica Sanchez

sica was on the high road to success. But where has she been since Ryan Seacrest called out the name of Phillip Phillips as American Idol

Today the half-Mexican, bleached blonde, all of 19 years old (she celebrated her birthday last August 4 but was 18) and working with musical producer Mark J. Feist on her next project.

She's still shy as ever who has such a powerful voice and stage presence. However, she beams when she sees her family - manteam of Denika Bedrossian

"It's a hard business!"

that most American Idol alumni have relatively been flash in the (season) pan, she still counts herself lucky. She guested in the hit show Glee. Her last single "Tonight," in collaboration with R&B star Ne-Yo, has 11.8 million views on Youtube and received a lot of radio airtime here in the Philippines. And she continues to perform.

There's been such a long wait but Jessica replies with optimism, "I've been super busy working on new music and I am so excited for everyone to hear it. For the first time, I've been collaborating with different producers and I've been writing which is very exciting as I did not have the chance to do that on the last album. The process of songwriting and being creative and starting music from scratch can be a lengthy process. I know my fans are waiting but this will take some time. I've grown up a lot since the last album and American Idol so I want to take my time with this and not rush anything. I've also been doing various TV performances and appearances so I am very busy!

Aside from the new music, Jessica has been performing for various organizations. Topmost on her agenda giving back to the Blujay Manila fans who propelled her to the finals of American Idol and still support her.

Charice gets tattoo to mark heartbreak

By Reyma Buan-Deveza

⁻nternational singing sensation Charice on Monday showed off her new tattoo with the intriguing quote: "I never knew to love until someone broke my heart."

Charice, who returned to the country to be part of the upcoming "The X Factor Philippines," said that she got her new tattoo in Los Angeles.

"Actually it's a true story but I'd rather not tell the story. I know a lot of people kapag nabasa nila 'yan makaka-relate. Again talagang kapag naglalagay ako, may meaning. When I put something like this there's a meaning," Charice said.

"It's part of me. It's part of the look and everything. Let's just say it's an accessory," she added.

The singer's first tattoo on her left forearm says "love eternally."

Happy and free

In the interview, Charice once again asked about her sexuality. "I don't care whatever

you think. As long as my fans love me and support me forever, I'm good with that," she said. "Whoever stays with me until the end hair.' I didn't get the chance



Charice

of my career or whatever, to decide for myself," she explained.

> "Now that I'm being so independent, while it's early, I really, really want to tell all the people that I don't care if you hate. I don't care if you don't like it," she added.

Charice said what is important is that she's really ĥappy.

'I'm extremely happy. Unbelievable. Like I could cry, I could cry because I'm going out in public showing my tattoo, showing my hair, showing my outfit. I feel more free," she said.





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those are the people [who

trust me]. The others that

still have doubts, questions,

who are confused... I will

Charice stressed that she

never had a change of im-

age, and that her look now

simply shows her real per-

is the real me. What you see

before wasn't me. A lot of

people around me like in

the US, like in here, they

didn't know what I really

want. They were deciding

for me. Like they were de-

ciding, 'let's do this, let's

gonna do that, do the curly

"What you see right now

understand."

sonalty.

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20 Entertainment





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