



The Philippines at a dangerous crossroads - Page 8

PF NEWS

A Division of Five D's Arts, LLC

Volume 15 No. 5

October 2016



Self Fidelity: Lights - Page 17

Duterte says sorry to Jews

But slams US, EU anew on human rights issue
By Carla P. Gomez



APOLOGY Addressing the crowd at Bacolod City's top tourist attraction, the Masskara Festival, President Duterte apologizes to the Jewish community for his statement that he would be "happy to slaughter" 3 million Filipino drug addicts like what Germany's Adolf Hitler did during the Holocaust.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday apologized "profoundly and deeply" to the Jewish community for saying on Friday that, like Adolf Hitler, he would be happy to slaughter 3 million Filipino drug addicts, but he vowed there would be no backing down from his war on illegal drugs.

"I want to make it clear here and now, there was no intention on my part to derogate the memory of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Germans," Mr. Duterte said to applause from the crowd.

Still, he repeated his blasts against US attacks on human rights violations that had marred his antinarcotics campaign.

"The Americans, I don't like them ... They are reprimanding me in public. So

I say: Screw you, fuck you, everything else. You are stupid," he said. He repeated his intention to review basing agreements with the United States.

He also denounced human rights lawyers of the European Union, saying they were "stupid."

"I apologize profoundly and deeply to the Jewish community. It was never my intention, but the problem was, I was criticized, (and critics were) using Hitler, comparing (the German leader) to me," the President said at the 37th Masskara Festival.

"I said something wrong," he said, acknowledging that Jews "don't really want you to tinker with the memory (of the Holocaust) and we know that."

Continued on page 2



The Filipino Women's Club, as one of the most active Filipino American community organizations in Sacramento, which is currently led by President Memie Weitzenberg. Here is at their last event in honor of Cynthia Bonta, as the recipient of the Outstanding Filipina Award.
Photos by Dave San Pedro

Honoring an Outstanding Filipina

By Dale Esperante



Cynthia Bonta, a woman not only of the Filipino Community but of the World Community around her, as the Filipino Women's Club 2016 Outstanding Filipina of Sacramento.

The Filipino Women's Club (FWC) presented their 2016 "Outstanding Filipina Award" to Cynthia Arnaldo Bonta, one who embodies the best of motherhood as well as the exquisite virtues of a Filipina. "Motherhood is raising a child to be a contributing member of society by being a protector, a teacher, an enabler, a guide, an example" (Cynthia told Cherie M. Querol Moreno, author of Fil-Am #SHEro Cynthia Bonta, Fil-Am lawmaker's mom, published in Philippine News).

On the evening of 10 Sep 2016, Sacramento's Rizal Community Center opened its doors to family, friends, and colleagues of Cynthia Bonta. They came to honor Ms. Bonta, a woman imbued with the resolve to push for social reforms through civic action and political persuasion. Continued on page 10

BANKRUPTCY?
"Get a Fresh Start"
Jasmin Nguyen
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Law Offices of Jasmin Nguyen
9299 E. Stockton Blvd. Suite 50
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Tel (916) 714-7100
Fax (800) 383-5066
"We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code."
STOP Creditor harassment, lawsuits, garnishment, foreclosures and repossessions.
Eliminate: Credit cards debts, unsecured business and personal debts.
FREE CONSULTATION WITH AN ATTORNEY!

Auto / Home / Life / Business
Greg Comia
Insurance Agency, Inc.
Tel. 916.682.6053
7500 Elsie Ave., Suite 106, Sacramento, CA 95828
comia@nationwide.com

The Law Office of
ALEX BRAVO
PERSONAL INJURY & IMMIGRATION SERVICES
Tel. No.: 916-684-4432
Fax No.: 916-684-9332
2230 Longport Ct., Suite 100 Elk Grove, CA 95758

Family Dentistry
Michael O. Ramos, D.M.D.
Mary C.S.R. Cuevas, D.M.D.
916.441.5992
2525 "K" STREET, SUITE 205
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

EAST LAWN
ACE
AMERICAN CEMETERY EXCELLENCE
Award Winner
Fab 40's
City of Sacramento
Liberty City
5k Run/Walk
www.5krunwalk.org

Heavenly Food Creations
"A Full Catering Service"
Tel. 916.690.4513
Rhuena Buentipo
Owner/Operator
www.heavenlyfoodcreations.info
heavenlyfoodcreations1@hotmail.com



Editor's Note

Here comes the winter season again. Getting up in the morning is a bit of a struggle this time around. It's still dark outside at 6:00 AM when I leave for work. One thing is for sure, as we know we are going in to the busiest season of the year: preparing for the scariest and weirdest costume for Halloween, thinking about what to prepare for Thanksgiving, or to be a little more creative with our Christmas decorations this year. But before all that, the first thing is the upcoming national election next month. Please vote and vote wisely.

And here's PF news issue for this month. Besides our lively coverage of our community celebrations and events by our contributing writers, take notice also the write ups and articles about what has been happening in our beloved country with the new (100 days in office) president with his war with the drug lords, the so called drug addicts and the drug pushers, and the consequential extrajudicial killings. There are other important issues, I feel, that should also be given priorities. Let's hope and pray for the Philippines and the safety of our people!

Please don't forget Barrio Fiesta at the Elk Grove Park this coming weekend, with their fun run and the concert the day before the actual event.

With love always,
Dinnah San Pedro

Duterte says sorry to Jews

"But I was very emphatic, I will kill the 3 million. It had nothing to do (with the massacre of the Jews by the Nazis), but perchance, there was something really, a bad taste in the mouth to say it," Mr. Duterte said.

'Revolting, inhumane' World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder on Friday said Mr. Duterte's remarks were "revolting" and demanded that he retract them and apologize for them.

"What President Duterte said is not only profoundly inhumane, but it demonstrates an appalling disrespect for human life that is truly heartbreaking for the democratically elected leader of a great country," Lauder was quoted as saying by BBC.

The President stressed that his apology was only to the Jewish community and was not to the European Union or human rights organizations that had expressed concern at the extrajudicial executions that had marked his administration's campaign against widespread use of "shabu," or crystal meth.

Mr. Duterte was elected President in May on a campaign promise that he would eliminate the drug menace, which he described as a "pandemic," a problem that had infected a broad sector of Philippine society and had escalated with the protection of barangay chiefs, local government officials, military and police authorities, lawmakers and judges. Like toothpaste

The war on drugs has claimed more than 1,200 lives in police operations.

Another 2,140 people have been killed in drug-related incidents blamed on vigilantes, criminals and police "ninjas" out to cover their tracks in recycling confiscated narcotics and selling them in the face of Mr. Duterte's relentless crackdown.

For his part, Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday urged the President to exercise caution in issuing statements, saying these were regarded as policy, citing the international furor over Mr. Duterte's allusion to Hitler's mass executions of Jews.

Presidential statements, Lacson said in a radio interview, are "like toothpaste coming out of the tube."

"If you said it, it's hard to take it back," he said. "You can correct, clarify or change the meaning of his statement but to those who heard it, his words were clear, and it's hard to change the intent of the statement."

Lacson disagreed with presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella's move to blame other people for the Hitler analogy during the campaign.

"That's too far out," he said of the statement of Abella, who was apparently referring to former President Benigno Aquino III. Aquino had warned that Mr. Duterte's rise to power was akin to that of Hitler in the 1920s and 1930s.

Oblique deflection
The President's comments

on Friday that he wished to kill millions of drug dealers as part of his anti-narcotics war and those he made about the deaths of millions of Jews were "two entirely different things," Abella said.

"The President's reference to the slaughter was an oblique deflection of the way he has been pictured as a mass murderer, a Hitler, a label he rejects," he said.

"He likewise draws an oblique conclusion, that while the Holocaust was an attempt to exterminate the future generations of Jews, the so-called extrajudicial killings, wrongly attributed to him, will nevertheless result in the salvation of the next generation of Filipinos."

The maverick 71-year-old President appeared to liken himself on Friday to the Nazi leader, and said he would "be happy to slaughter" 3 million Filipino drug users and peddlers, adding that he had been portrayed by critics as "a cousin of Hitler."

Abella said Mr. Duterte recognized the deep significance of the Holocaust and said that the initial comparison to Hitler "did not originate from the President."

"The Palace deplores the Hitler allusion of President Duterte's antidrug war as another crude attempt to vilify the President in the eyes of the world," he said.

Another apology

By Ana Marie Pamintuan

Not that President Duterte would mind, since his world stops at the water's edge and he's not the leader of Israel, but he has probably lost fans in the Jewish state.

Yesterday Duterte apologized to Jews for his remarks likening himself to Adolf Hitler. I watched video footage of the speech, and the President did start off complaining about the comparison, which he said would make anyone mouth expletives. But then he rambled on, as he usually does, before returning to the topic. In disjointed Filipino and English, he said Germany had Hitler who killed three million Jews, while he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug suspects.

The rambling statement could have used a lot of connecting words, to put his actual sentiments in proper context.

It's unfortunate because as I have written, Filipinos have a special place in the hearts of Israelis, due to acts of kindness extended by our nation to Jews persecuted in the Holocaust. We're the only nation with a large monument to that kindness at the War Memorial in the Israeli city of Reshion Lezion, built to commemorate the six million Jews exterminated by the Nazis.

Fortunately for Duterte, the people that gave the world Albert Einstein are probably more ready than most to accept explanations about media reporting that lacks proper nuance or loses context in translation. During my visit a common lament I heard from Israelis was that their actions were often misunderstood, thanks in large part to a lingering narrative in the foreign media that portrays Jews as regional bullies.

I've written that Duterte has fans in Israel and may find some affinity with his hawkish Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. But Duterte must learn circumspection in his statements.

Administration officials can dispute it, but Rude Rody's intemperate remarks are compounding his extermination of drug suspects, in the process reaping so much bad press for the country.

Philippine officials may be exerting more effort to convince the world that Duterte is simply trying to make the country a safer place for law-abiding citizens. But since he's the

President, his statements carry more weight and tend to sabotage that effort, making the world focus on the worst aspects of his war on drugs.

Duterte can look at Israel as an example of the impact of negative media reports on foreigners' perceptions of a country. Like it or not, such perceptions affect tourism and investments that a country like the Philippines could use to create jobs and ease poverty.

Among the most remarkable aspects of my visit to Israel was how different it was from the image I had formed of the Jewish state, based mainly on foreign media reports.

My mother had expressed concern about my safety in what we all believed was a place torn by violence. Instead I found myself in a country with one of the lowest crime rates in the world, where women in bikinis walked along the beach even at night, where there's a vibrant nightlife.

For sure, news reports of armed conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors were not made up. And there are still territorial issues that must be settled with the Palestinians. Missiles from Lebanon and Syria can strike any part of Israel any time.

But such attacks have always guaranteed blistering Israeli retaliation. And perhaps these days the volatile region is busy dealing with a common enemy, the Islamic State. So Israel has enjoyed calm for some time now. But good news is no news so this is hardly reported.

Last Thursday morning in Jerusalem, I was able to visit the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, where the late Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres was lying in state in a flag-draped casket.

There was an endless line of visitors wanting to pay their final respects to a founding father of the Jewish state. Foreigners were asked to present passports at the entrance and journalists needed government clearance to enter. But otherwise the security measures seemed surprisingly lax, especially considering that VIPs from all over the world were expected to arrive in the afternoon for the Friday funeral.

In the evening my return flight to Manila via Istanbul was delayed by nearly two hours. There was chaos as personnel kept changing the boarding gate assignments at Ben Gurion International

Airport because the VIPs including US President Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and Prince Charles had arrived. But at least the airport was never shut down, and my flight arrived on time at the NAIA.

That was the only problem I encountered during my visit. The entire country felt like an oasis amid a violence-torn Middle East. This was surreal in the light of my long-held perceptions about Israel. Today, if I were asked by a Filipino Christian who can go overseas only once in his or her lifetime to recommend the best country to visit, I'd say Israel, and never mind what you see on TV news.

It's not just because the country is where Jesus Christ and the people who founded the Christian (and Jewish) faiths from the time of Methuselah lived. From my beachfront hotel in Tel Aviv, for example, it's just a five-minute drive to the ancient city of Jaffa, where a tiny house is marked as the home of Simon the Tanner. The house is believed to be where Peter the Apostle lived and raised Tabitha from the dead.

Aside from the Biblical landmarks, however, Filipino tourists are also sure to be enchanted by the magnificent Israeli landscape, from forbidding deserts to the picturesque Mediterranean coastline to the Dead Sea. And Jewish history from ancient to modern times is compelling. Wherever you stand in the Middle East conflict, you have to be impressed with what the Jews have accomplished in their state.

And yet only three million foreigners visited Israel last year, with most of the tourists from the US, Russia and, increasingly, China. Only 15,000 Filipino tourists visited, 54 percent of them on religious tours or pilgrimage, according to Amir Halevy, director general of the Ministry of Tourism.

Halevy stressed that these days no place in the world is safe from deadly violence. But Israel, he said, has better experience in securing the public.

"Hopefully, people here will feel very safe," Halevy told me.

He expressed hope that more Filipinos would visit, especially since the Philippines "is a very, very popular country in Israel... people here love the Filipinos."

Let's hope the love is not denied by the mouth of the Philippine President.

US defense chief finds Rody remarks 'deeply troubling'

By Jose Katigbak

WASHINGTON – As the body count mounts in the Philippines' deadly war on drugs, and its combative President's rhetoric plumbs new depths, the mood in Washington toward a key Asian ally is hardening, with Defense Secretary Ash Carter hinting at US impatience.

He said he found it "deeply troubling" that President Duterte did not mind being compared to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler by some critics of his bloody war on drugs. On Friday, Duterte compared the killings of drug addicts to the Holocaust.

Influential US lawmakers are warning that the extrajudicial killings in the drug war could affect American aid.

And while the Obama administration maintains that its 65-year-old alliance with the Philippines remains "ironclad," a senior US diplomat is cautioning Duterte against more anti-US posturing.

"I think it would be a serious mistake in a democratic country like the Philippines to underestimate the power of the public's affinity for the US. That's people power," Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel told AP.

Russel did not draw a direct comparison, but past Philippine presidents have been toppled by popular protests dubbed "people power," including former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986.

Duterte has bristled at US criticism of the drug war and repeatedly spoken about dialing back security cooperation – although he says he will maintain the alliance.

Last week he said that joint military exercises of Filipino and American troops scheduled for next week in the Philippines will be the last such drills.

His foreign secretary, however, quickly said the decision was not final. Such a step would impede

Washington's plans to expand the footprint of US forces in Southeast Asia to counter China.

The previous Philippine government signed an agreement to give the US forces access to five Philippine military bases. That reflected Manila's anxiety over the territorial ambitions of China with which it has competing claims in the disputed South China Sea.

"If he followed through on this pledge it would be devastating to alliance management," said Gregory Poling, a fellow with the Southeast Asia program at the Center for Strategic Studies. "How does one sustain a military alliance if your militaries don't exercise together?"

The Obama administration has consistently played down the significance of such pronouncements from Duterte, which have typically been walked back by other Philippine officials.

On Friday, the Philippine leader said that Adolf Hitler had killed three million Jews and that he himself would be "happy to slaughter" three million addicts.

More than 3,000 people have died in the crackdown on drug pushers and users since Duterte took office three months ago.

Germany and the United Nations – through its Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide – have condemned Duterte's Holocaust remarks.

"It is impossible to make any comparison to the unique atrocities of the Shoah and Holocaust," said Germany's foreign ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer in Berlin.

UN's Adama Dieng called Duterte's statements "deeply disrespectful" of the right to life of all human beings. He reminded that the Holocaust was one of the darkest periods in history and that any glorification of the cruel and criminal acts committed by those responsible was unacceptable and offensive. He added such statement was also undermining the efforts

of the international community to develop strategies to prevent the recurrence of those crimes.

Earlier, World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder said Duterte's remarks were "revolting" and demanded that he retract them and apologize.

"Drug abuse is a serious issue. But what President Duterte said is not only profoundly inhumane, but it demonstrates an appalling disrespect for human life that is truly heartbreaking for the democratically elected leader of a great country," Lauder said in a statement issued from Jerusalem. 'Deeply troubling'

In Hawaii for the US-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) defense forum, Carter expressed alarm over Duterte's Hitler remarks.

"Just speaking personally for myself, I find these comments deeply troubling," Carter said. A day earlier, he had described the US relationship with the Philippines as "ironclad."

The State Department has tended to parry questions about Duterte's outbursts. Spokesman Mark Toner also described the Holocaust reference as "troubling."

However, Sen. Ben Cardin, top-ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, pulled no punches.

"It is reprehensible and, frankly, disgusting that a democratically elected leader is talking about the mass murder of his own people, with Hitler's Holocaust as his inspiration, no less," he said.

Cardin and Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy, author of a law that prohibits US assistance to foreign security forces that commit gross human rights abuses, took to the Senate floor this week to decry the drug war. They accused Duterte of terrorizing Filipinos through his drug war and endorsing "mass murder."

Leahy, a senior figure on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said because of the "systemic

challenges" in the Philippines, it may be necessary to consider further conditions on aid until the Duterte government "demonstrates a commitment to the rule of law."

Carter said he had not discussed Duterte's comments with his Philippine counterpart, Delfin Lorenzana, who was also in Hawaii for the ASEAN meeting.

"Just speaking personally for myself, I find these comments deeply troubling," Carter said. The Pentagon chief noted that the Philippines is a longtime US treaty ally.

"Like all alliances, it depends on the continuation of a sense of shared interests," he added. "So far in US-Philippine history we have had that. We look forward to continuing that. But that's something that we continue to discuss with the Philippine government."

When Carter visited the Philippines in April, he praised the strength of the partnership. Earlier this week in San Diego, he called US-Philippine defense relations "ironclad."

That seeming closeness took a sharp downturn when Duterte was elected president in June. In early September, President Barack Obama canceled a meeting with Duterte after the Philippine leader publicly called him a "son of a b***h." Later, Duterte said he regretted the comment. Beijing aid

The aid Manila gets from Washington is substantial – although it may pale next to the investment that could potentially flow from regional economic powerhouse China, where Duterte is expected to visit this month in a bid to improve ties with Beijing.

The Philippines received about \$175 million in US development assistance in 2015 and \$50 million in foreign military financing. In 2016, it has gotten \$75 million for



Defense Secretary Ash Carter

counterterrorism and maritime security. Since 2011, it has received three decommissioned US Coast Guard cutters to bolster its meager navy.

Russel said Thursday it was no surprise that senior lawmakers were looking to monitor where US assistance funds were going, given the "collateral damage" from Duterte's drug war. But he added it's premature to impose restrictions on aid.

He stressed Washington's desire to work with Duterte. He said the US-Philippine relationship – rooted in a 1951 mutual defense treaty – remains very popular in the Southeast Asian country, notwithstanding Duterte's repeated references to rights abuses committed a century ago under American colonial rule.

"All politicians have to be responsive to both the mainstream public attitude and the national security and economic interests of their country. All of that leads to continued close ties between our two countries," Russel said.

Earlier this week, Duterte said joint military exercises of Filipino and American troops scheduled for next week will be the last such drills, although his foreign secretary quickly said the decision was not final. Duterte said the Philippines will maintain its military alliance with the US because they share a 65-year-old mutual defense treaty.

Aides to Carter said he likely would seek clarification in Hawaii from Lorenzana regarding the future of US-Philippine military exercises.

Lorenzana is well known to US officials after serving for more than a decade at the Philippine embassy in Washington prior to taking the defense portfolio after Duterte was elected.



Fabiola Vera, Legal Assistant
Estefania Aceves, Legal Assistant
Michael P. Karr, Attorney

Lizbeth A. Galdamez, Attorney
Yesenia Silva, Legal Assistant
Anna Agoncillio, Legal Assistant

Law Office of Michael P. Karr & Associates

1275 Halyard Drive, Suite 200 West Sacramento, CA 95691

916.443.2595 Fax 916.443.2515

MkarrAssoc.com

Helping people with their Immigration needs since 1991

Adjustment of Status
Family Visa Petitions
Citizenship
V-Visas
Fiance Visas

Deportation Defense
Hardship Waivers
Battered Spouse Petitions
Asylum
Work Permits

Labor Certification/Immigrant worker Visas
World-Wide Visa Processing
Appeal to Board of immigration Appeals
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
Consultations on Criminal Defense of Aliens

Speak Spanish, English, Tagalog and Cebuano

Call now for an initial consultation!

Allies tell Duterte: Don't talk too much

By Wendel Vigilia

ALLIES of President Duterte in Congress yesterday asked him not to talk too much and instead focus on work until such time he has completely adjusted to his being Chief Executive.

"I would advise the President, huwag na ho kayong magsalita, magtrabaho na lang kayo," said House majority leader Rodolfo Fariñas said when asked how the President could best present himself.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella and Communications Secretary Martin Andanar have not replied to requests for a reaction.

Duterte's latest controversial statements involved Hitler, Jews and drug pushers, which caused outrage among Jewish communities around the world and drew condemnation from Germany, Israel, the United Nations, the Pentagon and international human rights groups.

Duterte has been lashing out at those who have challenged his campaign against illegal drugs, including US President Barack Obama and UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

Sen. Richard Gordon, a member of the majority bloc at the Senate, said Duterte is "too noisy" and he should not be saying he will kill drug pushers.

"Maingay ang Pangulo, sobrang ingay ng Pangulo. Tama lang na ipakita niya na galit siya sa droga pero huwag na siyang mag-ingay na, 'I will kill you.' Hindi tama 'yan," Gordon said referring to Duterte's statements about drug pushers.

"Kaya he is falling on his own sword. Nadadapa siya sa kanyang espada dahil salita siya ng salita. Napagbibintangan tuloy ang bansa na 'yan ang nangyayari,'" he said.

He also said Duterte would be mad at him but "we have to protect the country from bad statements and the President has duty to be a statesman. He must not be heard saying bad words."

Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez defended Duterte from criticisms he is putting the country's economy at stake by being antagonistic to Western powers, particularly the United States and the European Union while being friendly to China and Russia.

"We have elected a President and not a diplomat. Diplomacy is a matter of style.

Let's respect that. His priority is our internal problems here at home," he said.

Fariñas defended the President from criticisms he has been drawing, saying the media and the public should cut the President some slack as he is still trying to grow into the position of President from being a city mayor.

"The President speaks for so many people. Minsan parang mayor pa rin pananalita niya tapos 'yung media pinapalaki. Iba yung biruan kapag mayor ka, yung (local) media naiintindihan nila yun," he said.

He said the President is having a hard time transitioning because now that he is President, "everything he says is being watched by the whole world."

"I hope he's given more time. After all, he was the one chosen by the people. He's trying to change but he's already 71 years old. At least, he is a sincere person," Fariñas said.

The President on Sunday apologized to Jews, saying he never intended to "derogate" the memory of those who were killed during the Holocaust.

Duterte, upon arrival from Vietnam last Friday, told reporters that he had been "portrayed to be a cousin of Hitler" by critics of his campaign against illegal drugs.

Noting Hitler had murdered millions of Jews, Duterte said, "There are 3 million drug addicts (in the Philippines). I'd be happy to slaughter them. 'If Germany had Hitler, the Philippines would have ...,'" he said, pausing and pointing to himself.

Duterte has apologized for naming Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino and several others for linking them to illegal drug operations.

Alvarez said the President is undergoing a lot but remains courageous enough to admit mistakes even if his administration is just nearing 100 days in office.

"Six years pa siya (Duterte) mag-a-apologize," Alvarez said in jest. "We all commit mistakes. Nobody is perfect. He may be the President but he is also human. At least he has that courage to apologize."

'JUST A THREAT'

He also defended Duterte from critics who accuse him of planning to commit genocide when he threatened to kill three million drug traffickers.

"A threat is just a threat. It may or it may not happen. Nothing happened yet. It is



President Duterte

not genocide. Any leader can threaten a criminal, but if the criminals start threatening law-abiding citizens, then it's an entirely different story," he said.

Gordon, at the resumption of the investigation of the Senate justice committee, jointly with the committee on public order and illegal drugs, on the spike of alleged summary executions, Duterte's threat to kill all drug pushers and addicts forces them to prepare to fight back, thus increasing the number of encounters between policemen and the drug suspects.

He said he does not want the President to keep on making public what he would do in his desire to make the country drug-free. He said the President should instead express his dismay over rampant killings and order law enforcement agencies to solve these killings.

"Kaibigan ko ang Presidente, pareho kami nag-mayor pero ayokong salita nang salita ang Presidente kung ano gagawin niya. Pero dapat ang sasabihin niya, 'Masyadong maraming hindi nasu-solve at i-solve 'yan,'" Gordon said.

The senator said the country needs the leadership of Duterte, PNP chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa and all provincial commanders in solving the killings.

"We need action agad. 'Pag may namatay, huli agad... alam ng police kung sino ang akyat bahay... we have to be accountable,'" he added.

"Kahit isa lang ang namatay at hindi na-solve ng pulis ang kaso, ang tao matatakot. Kaya siguro tayo tinitira ng foreign media," he said.

Gordon then turned to the international media and said foreigners should not be hesitant to visit the Philippines.

"To the media here, the foreign media, I don't care what you say about us. We have not thrown the rule book because the Senate is investigating extrajudicial killings, whatever you want to define it," he said.

"The law has not been thrown kaya 'wag kayo matatakot sa Pilipinas because the Senate is investigating," he added.

Angry Duterte threatens to end Edca

By Christine O. Avendaño

President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday threatened to stop the implementation of the Philippines-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (Edca) and said he would soon announce a new policy in connection with the country's ties with the United States.

In a speech in Bacolod City where he attended the 37th Maskara Festival, the President slammed the US in response to its reprimands over his deadly war on drugs.

"If you Americans are angry with me, then I am also angry with you," said Mr. Duterte, whose campaign against illegal drugs has resulted in over 3,000 dead, many of them apparent summary executions.

Mr. Duterte announced his administration was reviewing the Edca. He noted that while it was an official document, it was just an executive agreement since it was not signed by President Benigno S. Aquino III.

The Edca, which was signed in 2014 but was not implemented until the Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality in January, was signed only by former Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and a US aide, he said.

"Better think twice now because I would be asking you to leave the Philippines altogether," the President said to the US government. That is, if the US would be "unable to produce the signature bearing the permit to conduct war games."

Talk with Medvedev

Mr. Duterte made the statement as he reiterated he would strengthen the country's ties with China and Russia. He disclosed that he had talked with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev when he was in Laos for the Asean summit last month.

Mr. Duterte said the US was not helping the Philippines in its war on drugs. The government, he said, did not have money for



US - RP Edca

it as it was working with a national budget prepared by the Aquino administration that did not prioritize the drug problem.

Americans in Mindanao

He said he was considering telling the Americans in Mindanao to pack their bags so he could negotiate with a group of Muslim scholars, who he said refused to negotiate with him due to the US presence in the South.

He said these scholars had told him they would talk to him but would not negotiate peace "as long as the Americans are in Mindanao."

"This prompted me to say there may be a time I may ask the US to leave Mindanao to be able to connect to them [scholars] and talk, and maybe they will decide to negotiate," he said.

"I'm just being your president," he added, reminding the public that he had earlier said he would "open another front in our foreign policy" due to the humiliation the US was giving him.

The President said he met with Medvedev and he told the Russian leader about the way the US was humiliating him and the latter told him

he would help him.

He said that China, on the other hand, told him to go with Beijing because the US would not be able to give the Philippines assistance.

In response to the insults he was getting from the US, President Duterte said: "Tomorrow I will be friends with (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and (Chinese President) Xi Jinping."

Criticized by many

President Duterte has been criticized by the US as well as the United Nations and international human rights organizations for disregarding due process in his war against drugs.

Over 3,000 people have been killed since he assumed the presidency on June 30.

Hundreds of thousands have reportedly "surrendered" and are packed in jails because they feared being shot by police.

Duterte last week triggered a fresh round of global condemnation when he threatened to kill up to 3 million Filipinos and compared himself to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

AMAZING INSURANCE

Auto, Home, Business, Life, Health, Annuity, Alarm, Solar

Direct: 916-719-6449, Office 916-822-1214

www.amazingins.com

MetLife, Universal North American, First American, CSE, Pacific Specialty, Access, Titan, Progressive, Infinity, Foremost, Mass Mutual, Pacific Guardian, John Hancock, Blueshield, CNA

Recruiting for new agents & trainees!



Lic: 0H23498
Amazing Insurance Services, LLC.
5803 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95824

Filipino American History Month 2016 Events

By Chris Mateo

October is Filipino American History Month, and to celebrate, there are three FREE events coming up and open to the community. These events are a resource fair in Elk Grove on the 15th, a voter education event on the 20th, and a recognition of Filipino organizations at the State Capitol on the 27th.

The Philippine National Day Association (PNDA) is hosting the "Comm-UNITY Resource Fair" in Elk Grove on Saturday, October 15th, from 10am to 1pm. The exact location is the Old Town Plaza at 9615 Railroad Street (across from Lola's Lounge). The event will feature several local food trucks, including the Ma Sarap Food Truck, which will serve hot sizzling authentic Filipino food and delicacies. Other confirmed trucks include Wandering Boba, Kona Ice, and North Border Taco. There will be many community organizations and resources present, too. These include SMUD, Sacramento Covered, My Sister's House, Sinag-tala, Elk Grove Unified School District, and the Bayanihan Clinic of UC Davis - a clinic that provides primary and preventative care to underserved populations, including Filipino veterans and immigrants. Attendees can also look forward to many family-friendly performances and activities, as well as a designated area for voter registration. [For more information on this event, please contact Ms. Rosie Daus at rosemarie.daus@gmail.com.]

For those that do register that day, those that are already registered, or

those that still want to learn about candidates and issues before they register, the Filipino community will have its own voter information event, #FilAmplify, on Thursday, October 20th. FilAmplify, is the Filipino-American Voter Education Forum, and will take place from 6pm to 8pm at the Sacramento Community Service Center (7000 65th Street) in South Sacramento. This event will feature a panel discussion between several Filipino-American community leaders and elected officials.

The panelists will focus on sharing the importance of voting, especially for the Filipino community. The name of the event is a reminder that the Filipino community is large and rapidly growing, and should amplify its voice in order to speak up for our family and friends. The event will also provide time to register to vote via mobile devices and will conclude with a general overview of candidates and initiatives that will be on the November 8th ballot.

Finally, many Filipino organizations within the Sacramento region will be recognized at the 3rd Annual Filipino-American History Month at the Capitol on Thursday, October 27th. The event will kick-off with a brunch at the State Capitol, followed by some guest speakers and a recognition on the Assembly Floor. [NOTE: While this is a free event, an RSVP is required due to limited space. To RSVP, please contact Chris Mateo at chris.m.mateo@gmail.com.]

For more information on any of these events, please visit the Philippine National Day Association Facebook page for regular updates, or by contacting Chris Mateo at chris.m.mateo@gmail.com

COED's 4th Annual Reception and Benefit



Thank you to all of COED's supporters and sponsors for a very successful event! -- with Raeselle Lourdes, Patricia Carlos, Dee Pizarro and Gabriel Carlos Catapang.

If you are being abused physically, sexually, emotionally, or financially ... help is only a phone call away.

My Sister's House (free) services:

- 24/7 Multi-lingual Help line (916) 428-3271
- Safety planning, information and referrals
- Outreach, training, and education to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking
- Shelter for abused women and children



Source: gettyimages.com

A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children

My Sister's House



24/7 Multilingual Crisis Line
(916) 428-3271

www.my-sisters-house.org
info@my-sisters-house.org



[mysistershouse](https://www.facebook.com/mysistershouse)



[MySisters_House](https://twitter.com/MySisters_House)



[my_sisters_house](https://www.instagram.com/my_sisters_house)

Time to Re-roof

CAPITOL ROOFING COMPANY

Best Service! Best Price!



We do all types of roofing.

Joseph E. Stayner
 (President)

License No. C39-794669

6205 48th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95828

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE!
Tel. 916.381.2863 Fax 916.381.7557



US citizenship with a side of adobo

By Rob Bonta
California Assemblymember

I learned what it means to be a U.S. citizen at the family dinner table.

My earliest memories are of the vivid stories my parents told me, stories that shaped the values I hold to this day and that emphasized the importance of citizens playing an active role in shaping and improving our world.

Over warm bowls of sinigang, my father told my brother, sister and me how he marched in Selma, Alabama, and stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the historic battle for civil rights.

Over chicken adobo and steamed rice, my mother shared how she lived in the Philippines during a time of great political upheaval; how she strongly opposed the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship and the human rights abuses that defined



Photo by Dave San Pedro
Rob Bonta is the first Filipino American member of the California State Assembly.

it, and how she fought for democracy and self-determination.

I was born in Quezon City, Philippines. And when I was just two

months old, in the ramp-up to Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law, my parents decided to leave the country and come to California. My mother was and continues to be a prominent leader in the Filipino American social justice movement.

And while eating ube ice cream and leche flan, my parents recounted how we lived in a trailer in legendary La Paz, the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America in the Central Valley, just a stone's throw away from the home of Cesar Chavez. They described how they worked alongside civil rights leaders like Chavez, Philip Vera

Cruz, Pete Velasco, and Dolores Huerta, organizing Filipino and Mexican farmworkers in their struggle for fair treatment and

better working conditions.

Through these lessons shared at the family dinner table, my parents instilled in me a sense of civic duty to fight for justice and serve others. Today, as a California State Legislator, I focus most of my time and energy working to help our most vulnerable community members who have historically had little or no voice.

Being a U.S. citizen may not compel you to seek elected office, like it did me, but it must stir in you a sense of ownership in and commitment to this great country. Whether you were born a U.S. citizen like I was or naturalized like my mother, you are a full member of the United States. All of us are equals. That is a powerful and fundamental defining tenet of this nation.

In my view, all U.S. citizens must be involved in shaping our democracy and changing the community for the better. Engagement and activism are critical.

This engagement can take many forms. At its most basic, everyone who is eligible should register to vote. And once registered, we must vote in every election for the rest of our lives. Showing up to vote during presidential elections only is not enough. We also must vote on local measures and propositions. Who should be your city councilmember or county supervisor? Do the elected members of your school board share your vision for the type of education you want for your children?

As a member of the California State Assembly, I authored and got passed AB 817 to help make voting easier. This law provides language assistance to voters at polling places. As our state becomes more diverse, it's critically important to provide the tools to help all citizens exercise their constitutional rights. AB 817 allows lawful permanent residents to serve as volunteers during elections. This is a great way to expose future citizens to civic engagement and help current citizens exercise their right to vote.

There are other ways to be an active and engaged citizen. Serve on a jury. Show up at a school board

or city council meeting and share your opinion. Help a candidate that shares your values get elected or walk or make phone calls to get a local measure passed, like a school parcel tax.

During elections, we often hear the partisan rhetoric that either Democrats or Republicans are hurting our country. But neither Republicans nor Democrats are the enemy. I believe the real threat to our nation is apathy.

We overcome apathy by staying informed. Reading a local newspaper, following social media, or watching the news on television helps to build the connective tissue among us and helps to reinforce the words in the Constitution that "We the People" matter—that we are indeed a "we" and are all in this together. And that "we" are responsible for speaking up in the face of injustice.

Many countries do not give their citizens the fundamental right to make their voices heard, challenge the system, and work to realize a more perfect union.

People should embrace healthy discussions about the course of our nation and the condition of our people. We should talk about how to make our nation stronger and more just for our citizens and non-citizens. And we should act to carry out that vision.

This privilege of living in the United States must never be taken for granted. And the duty of being an engaged and active citizen must never be forgotten.

California State Assemblymember Rob Bonta serves in the 18th District, representing Alameda, Oakland and San Leandro. His mother, Cynthia, was a leader of the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP) Sacramento Chapter in the '70s and '80s. This column is part of a series of op-eds by public officials about citizenship, published by New America Media in collaboration with the national, nonpartisan network New Americans Campaign. For more information about upcoming citizenship workshops near you, go to: newamericascampaign.org/events.

What's precious to you is precious to us.SM

Auto. Home. Life. Retirement. They all matter, so wrap them all in a blanket of Nationwide[®] protection. We put members first, because we don't have shareholders.SM

Join the Nation[®] that knows what's important.

Combine your policies and save up to 25%

Comia Greg

Auto Home Life Business

Phone: (916)682-6053

comiag@nationwide.com



Nationwide[®]
is on your side

Not all Nationwide affiliated companies are mutual companies and not all Nationwide members are insured by a mutual company. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle Join the Nation, What's precious to you is precious to us and We put members first because we don't have shareholders are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2014 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. NPR-0718A0.2 (8/14)



Family Dentistry

Michael O. Ramos, D.M.D.

Mary C.S.R. Cuevas, D.M.D.

91 6.441.5992

**2525 "K" STREET, SUITE 205
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816**



PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

China sets eyes on Benham Rise

As soon as the United Nations had awarded Benham Rise to the Philippines than China sets her eyes on this undersea landmass in the Philippine Sea. According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), this 13-million-hectare area off the coast of Aurora province is potentially rich in mineral, natural gas deposits, and manganese nodules that are vital in the production of steel. Studies conducted by DENR have also shown large deposits of methane in solid form (methane hydrate or methane ice). Further studies also showed that natural gas deposits in the area would enable the Philippines to achieve energy sufficiency.

The Benham Rise is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). However, she did not claim it until 2008. The following year, the Philippines, which was the sole claimant, formally submitted her claim to the U. N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

Larger than the entire island of Luzon, Benham Rise was awarded to the Philippines in 2012, after the United Nations approved her claim that Benham Rise was an extension of her continental shelf. In December 2013, the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) informed the DENR — with finality — that Benham Rise is part of the country's continental shelf and territory. As such, it is not subject to any maritime boundary disputes and claims. Wrong!

In February 2016, the Philippines' Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) reported that several Chinese ships were seen in the Benham Rise. The following July, China Daily published a report about China's "secret undersea exploration" in the Benham Rise area. The report said that China discovered massive mineral deposits. It also said that the volume of natural gas deposits in the

area was at par with what was discovered in the Spratly Islands.

Quid pro quo

With the recent warming up of relations between China and the Philippines under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, China has a grand opportunity to solidify her hold on the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal when

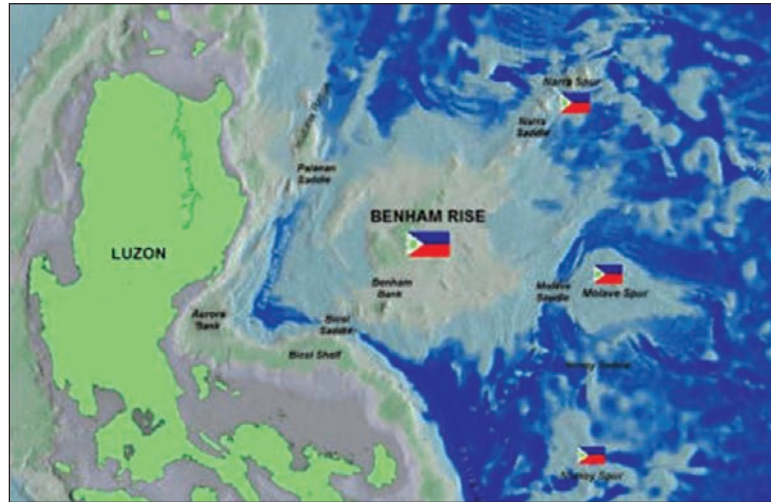
and Clark Airbase — as logistical support bases for her growing navy and air force that she needs to project power into the Second Island Chain, which runs from the Ogasawara Islands and Volcano Islands of Japan through Guam and the Marianas to Papua-New Guinea.

If China builds an artificial island on top of Scarborough Shoal (which at 58 square miles is slightly smaller than the area of Quezon City, the capital of the Philippines), she'd be in a position to militarize it. And once militarized — like what she did to the seven artificial islands she built in the Spratlys — she'd be able to control the choke point at the Bashi Channel in the Luzon Strait, which is the gateway to the Philippine Sea... and beyond.

Chinese Dream

In my column "China raises the ante" (July 31, 2013), I wrote: "Last June 27, 2013, an intriguing article appeared in the *Want China Times* titled, 'China to take Second Island Chain by 2020: analyst.' It says: 'Within seven years, China will be able to control the Second Island Chain — a series of island groups that runs north to south from the Japanese archipelago to the Bonin and Marshall islands — now that the PLA Navy commands the nation's first aircraft carrier, according to the Hangzhou-based *Qianjiang Evening News*.'

"The article also said: 'In 1982, Admiral Liu Huaqing, the former commander of the PLA Navy and the mastermind of China's modern naval strategy, said that it would be necessary for China to control the First and Second Island Chains by 2010 and 2020. The PLA Navy



must be ready to challenge US domination over the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean in 2040. If China is able to dominate the Second Island Chain seven years from now, the East China Sea will become the backyard of the PLA Navy.'

Lake Beijing

"Lake Beijing" bounded by Second Island Chain.

With China's goal of controlling the vast Western Pacific, which includes the East China Sea (ECS), South China Sea (SCS), and the Philippine Sea, the entire Western Pacific would be transformed into "Lake Beijing." The Philippines would be right in the middle of the lake, isolated from the rest of the world. "Lake Beijing" would also encompass the mineral-rich Benham Rise as well.

As things are today, China is behind in her timetable to achieve control over the First Island Chain, which includes the ECS and SCS. However, by militarizing the Spratly archipelago, the Paracel Islands, and Scarborough Shoal, China would be able to establish a "strategic triangle" formed by these three island groups where China could monitor — and control — all the movements in the SCS. The next step would be to declare an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the entire SCS. With an ADIZ already in place over the disputed Senkaku Islands in the ECS, China would then be ready to break out into the Second Island Chain right up to America's doorsteps, Guam. And the last — and final — step would be to take full control of the choke point at the Strait of Malacca, and eventually... penetrate the Indian Ocean.

What is at stake in these disputed waters is control of the huge mineral deposits, marine resources, and the world's busiest maritime lanes. What could the U.S. and

her allies in the region do to stop China from gaining control over this huge body of water, which extends more than 10,000 miles from the Indian Ocean to the Second Island Chain?

If the U.S. fails to stop China, she might as well kiss the Indo-Asia-Pacific region goodbye and cocoon herself into isolation just like before she entered World War I. But inaction does not guarantee peace either. The "Munich Appeasement" of 1938 did not stop Germany from invading Czechoslovakia. On the contrary, it emboldened Germany to pursue territorial expansion, thinking that the Great Powers — particularly America — wouldn't intervene. In fact,



Xi Jinping and Rodrigo Duterte

Duterte visits China in October. It is expected that Chinese President Xi Jinping would shower Duterte — who has shown willingness to put the territorial disputes between the two countries in the back burner — with low-interest loans for infrastructure and economic development projects, and military hardware. But as China had demonstrated in previous "quid pro quo" deals with third-world countries, she'd get more than what she bargained for.

Indeed, China's "wish list" could include lucrative economic contracts in the areas of energy, transportation, port management, agriculture, mining, and oil and gas exploration. It wouldn't be surprising if China acquires long-term agreements to use the former American bases — such as the Subic Naval Base



Chinese Admiral Liu Huaqing

to take Second Island Chain by 2020: analyst.' It says: 'Within seven years, China will be able to control the Second Island Chain — a series of island groups that runs north to south from the Japanese archipelago to the Bonin and Marshall islands — now that the PLA Navy commands the nation's first aircraft carrier, according to the Hangzhou-based *Qianjiang Evening News*.'

"The article also said: 'In 1982, Admiral Liu Huaqing, the former commander of the PLA Navy and the mastermind of China's modern naval strategy, said that it would be necessary for China to control the First and Second Island Chains by 2010 and 2020. The PLA Navy



Iran's Hassan Rouhani, China's Xi Jinping, and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

as Germany continued her conquest of Europe, then U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt told the American people in 1940: "I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again: your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." Wrong!

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Roosevelt declared war on Japan the following day. A few days later, Germany declared war on the U.S.; thus, bringing the world to war once again for the second time.



North Korea's Kim Jong Un

Which begs the question: Is appeasement a guarantee for peace or just a momentary stop-gap that would only encourage a rogue country — China, Russia, North Korea or Iran — to start another world war? Sad to say, if history is the barometer of things to come, the imbroglio in the SCS has all the elements of war in the offing. And as China sets her eyes on Benham Rise, the world teeters on the brink of World War III.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

Klassik

Five D's Arts, LLC
Custom Screenprinting & Design, Photography & Fine Arts

(New Location)
 9880 Waterman Road, Suite 140
 Elk Grove, CA 95624

For more information call:
 916.835.1450 or 916.708.3462
 Email: dave@fivedsarts.com

66.708.3462 916.215.7077
 9821 Mack Road (SO Mall)
 Sacramento, CA 95833

PerryScope
By Perry Diaz

The Philippines at a dangerous crossroads

President Rodrigo Duterte's ascension to the Philippine presidency happened at a time when the country was anxiously waiting for the Permanent Court of Arbitration's (PCA) ruling on China's maritime claims in the South China Sea (SCS). And when the ruling was finally released on July 12 invalidating China's "nine-dash line" claim and that China had no historical rights to the rocks, reefs, and shoals in the SCS, the newly installed president found himself in the international limelight. And when the media asked him where he stood in regard to the arbitration case his predecessor former President Benigno S. Aquino initiated, Duterte gave conflicting statements.

In a matter of days – nay, hours -- Duterte was pushed into the choppy waters of the SCS to deal with China's aggression. He found himself in a precarious situation with nobody to call for help. It was sink or swim. And when U.S. President Barack Obama offered to meet with him at the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos to talk about their countries' security relationship and the issue of human rights violations, Duterte was miffed. He didn't like Obama saying that he'd like to talk to him about human rights violations. But had he known how U.S. foreign policy preservation of human rights. That was just the way the U.S. Congress would allow the U.S. government to give mili-

tary assistance to other countries.

Instead, just like his "kanto boy" upbringing, Duterte responded the way he was used to, saying: "Putang ina, I will swear at you in that forum." "Putang ina" is the Tagalog phrase for "son of a whore." For Duterte's outburst, Obama cancelled the meeting. Duterte missed an opportunity to solidify his administration's relationship with the country's only treaty ally and benefactor.

Independent foreign policy

Soon after that incident, which by international standards shouldn't have happened, Duterte started talking about pursuing an "independent foreign policy." He indicated that he'd ask Russia and China to supply the Philippines with military armaments. He said that he'd open the country to trade with Russia and China; and is prepared to give them 120-year leases. And what would he get in return for prostituting the Philippines to these two countries run by dictators? Oh yeah! Duterte might finally get his railroad in Mindanao. But he should know that whatever economic assistance the Philippines gets from China, China is going to get back huge slices of the Philippines' priceless patrimony.

War against drugs

With Duterte's takeover of the government, he pursued to eliminate the drug menace, which according to him has created 4,000 drug pushers and addicts... and counting. He encouraged the national police to go after them and to kill them if they resisted arrest.

And it was at this juncture that Obama was alarmed. Guided by



President Rodrigo Duterte

the Leahy Act, he wanted to discuss with Duterte the more than 3,000 extrajudicial killings since he took office two months ago. Named after Sen. Patrick Leahy, the law's principal sponsor, Leahy Act prohibits the U.S. Department of State and Department of Defense from providing military assistance to foreign military units that violate human rights with impunity.

Gone ballistic

And that's when all hell broke loose! Duterte went ballistic and uttered the "P" word, which is the equivalent of the American "F" word. Duterte then issued – through the media -- a series of policies that would severely affect U.S.-Philippine relations. In a fit of anger, he declared that he would soon "cross his Rubicon" with the U.S. He also said that the U.S.-Philippine joint military exercises that are now happening would be the last during his presidency. He also said that he would terminate the Philippine Navy's participation with the U.S. in joint patrols in the West Philippine Sea. And, worse, he said that the Philippine Navy would not venture beyond the 12-mile territorial limit, which would be tantamount to surrendering the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to China.

If this is the gist of his "independent foreign policy," then what we're seeing here is not independence but a capitulation of national sovereignty, which would undoubtedly lead to vassalage under China. I say this because

China will not stop bullying the Philippines and other neighboring countries that don't have the ability to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. Simply put, China wants the entire SCS for herself. And she's not coy about it.

Deterrence by denial

Honestly, no country in Asia could defend herself against China's aggressive moves. Even Japan, the world's third largest economic power after the U.S. and China, has to ally herself with the U.S. and allows the U.S. to deploy 50,000 troops on her soil, including several naval and air bases. Ditto with South Korea, who is under constant threat from nuclear-capable North Korea. With several U.S. air bases and 28,000 American troops stationed in her territory, South Koreans feel safer knowing that for as long as the American forces are in their country, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un would think twice before invading South Korea.

Before the American bases were kicked out of the Philippines in 1992, their presence served as deterrence against foreign invasion. The purpose of what is known as "deterrence by denial" is to make aggression difficult and unprofitable by rendering the target harder to take, harder to keep, or both. To achieve this, the defenders – Filipino forces with the aid of American forces stationed in the Philippines – must be able to inflict substantial damage to the invaders.

Salami-slicing

It's interesting to note that two years after the Americans had left, the Chinese took possession of Panganiban (Mischief) Reef and built fortifications on it. In 2012, China grabbed Scarborough Shoal and prohibited Filipino fisherman from entering its huge lagoon to fish. Two years after that, China started building artificial islands on seven reefs and shoals – including the Mischief Reef – in the Spratly archipelago, all within the Philippines' EEZ. Thus far, China's unimpeded salami-slicing of Philippine territory has put into question the Philippines' defense capability or the lack thereof.

With Duterte's "independent foreign policy" crafted in an atmosphere devoid of reason, the PCA's ruling, which invalidated China's "nine-dash line," is imperiled and the ruling could be deemed moot and academic in light of Duterte's "retreat" from the SCS.

Indeed, the Philippines is not in a position to sever her relationship with the U.S., which Duterte had indicated in his public pronouncements. But his threats to do so are alarmingly dangerous. It doesn't make any sense why he would kowtow to China and Russia at the expense of the U.S., the country's strongest military ally, biggest foreign investor, and second largest export market next to Japan. Unlike communist China, both the Philippines and the U.S. have compatible democratic institutions and both subscribe to the rule of law and adhere to the norms of international order. China doesn't.

In these troubled times, the Philippines has reached a dangerous crossroads where she has to determine which road to take. While it is tempting to try new and uncharted roads, President Duterte should – nay, must! – take the road that would lead the country to economic prosperity and the preservation of individual freedom for her citizens. And if he takes the wrong turn, it could lead to perdition.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

Five Ds Arts, LLC
Screenprinting & Design
916.835.1450



Rize & Dance is dedicated to providing fun, safe, age-appropriate recreation enrichment programs which encourage social development; provides diverse experiences; promotes health and wellness; and allows for students to participate in positive after school activity related to the movement arts.



Dane@RizeAll.com
Amanda@RizeAll.com

MERCADO STUDIO PRODUCTIONS
PROFESSIONAL VIDEOGRAPHER/ FILM EDITOR/ MOVIE MAKER

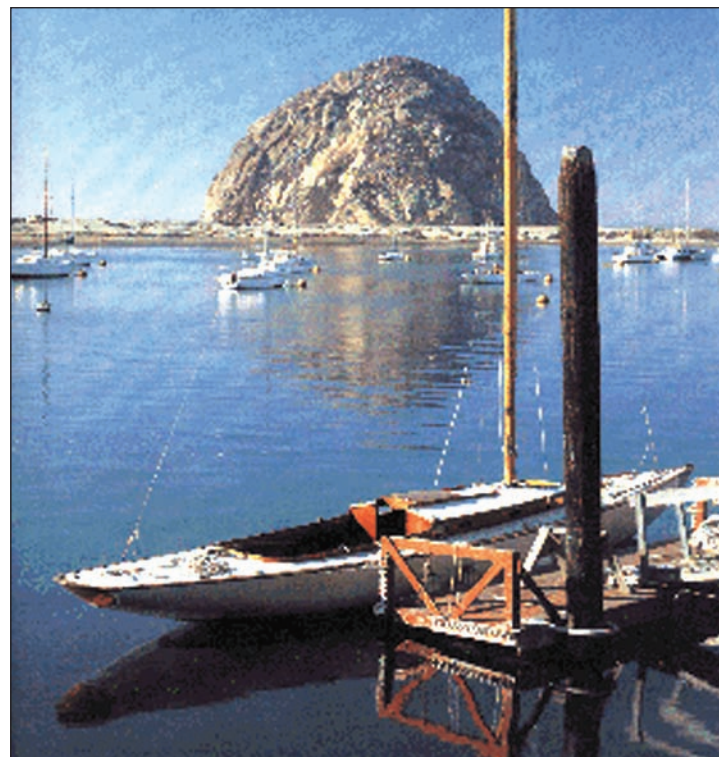
ERROL S.A. MERCADO SR
916-509-1330
MERCADOSTUDIOPRODUCTIONS@GMAIL.COM

YOU CAN FIND US ON FACEBOOK.COM
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Filipino American History Month 2016: 5 Fun Facts And Pictures To Celebrate

By Janice Williams

Filipino American History Month starts on Saturday. Founded by the Filipino American History Society in 1982, the month-long celebration honors the first documented presence of Filipinos' in the United States when the Luzones Indios arrived in what's now considered Morro Bay, California, on Oct. 18, 1587. However, it wasn't until November 2009 when the U.S. congress passed new laws officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month.



Nearly 400 years ago, a Spanish galleon sought reprieve from the treacherous waters off Morro Bay. Among its occupants were several Filipinos who were among the first non-Europeans to gaze upon California. Morro Rock and the six other volcanic peaks between Morro Bay and the City of San Luis Obispo were formed by volcanic activity over 20 million years ago. The Rock marks the narrow and once treacherous entrance to Morro Bay, sighted originally by the Spanish explorer Juan Cabrillo in 1542. Cabrillo never landed there, and it wasn't until Juan Gaspar de Portola's expedition in 1769 that Europeans first explored the land and met the Chumash Indians, the native inhabitants of the region. Chumash villages and camps have been found at Los Osos Creek, and Montana de Oro and Morro Bay State Parks.

Filipinos represent the largest group of Asians in the U.S., and their presence is growing. In a 2010 report, the U.S. Census Bureau said that Filipinos were the fastest growing racial group, accounting for 25 percent of the 14.7 million people who identified as Asian.

Here are some interesting facts about the history of Filipinos in the U.S.

1. Filipino-Americans have the largest Asian-American presence in 11 of the 50 states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Washington, Wyoming and South Dakota.

2. Filipinos were the first Asian group to land on U.S. soil. The Luzones Indios – three Filipino

men – arrived in California in 1587.

3. In 1902, Congress passed the Cooper Act, which banned Filipinos from owning property, voting, operating their own businesses, holding public office, living in U.S. residential areas or putting them on a path to citizenship. The law, also known as The Philippine Organic Act, was later amended.

4. During World War II, over 250,000 Filipinos pledged allegiance to the American flag and

fought as soldiers in the Army Forces and as guerilla fighters in the Philippines during the Imperial Japanese occupancy.

5. With such a large population in the U.S., it's no surprise that Filipino-Americans have taken on celebrity status. The list includes Manny Pacquiao, Bruno Mars, Enrique Iglesias, Shay Mitchell, Rob Schneider, APL.DE.AP of the Black Eyed Peas, Cheryl Burke, Hailee Steinfeld and Steve McQueen.

IN CELEBRATION OF
FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH,
 PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAY ASSOCIATION
 PRESENTS

Comm-UNITY Resource Fair

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 10AM-1PM
OLD TOWN PLAZA
9615 RAILROAD AVE, ELK GROVE

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL FILIPINO AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS EAT WELL WITH SACTOMOFO FOOD TRUCKS WHILE REGISTERING TO VOTE!

PROUD SPONSOR:
 ELK GROVE CITY COUNCILMEMBER DARREN SUEN
 ASSEMBLYMEMBER JIM COOPER

PARTICIPANTS WILL INCLUDE:
 SACRAMENTO COVERED
 SMUD
 MY SISTER'S HOUSE
 BARKADA SACRAMENTO
 SINAG-TALA
 AND MORE!

2016 Run For A Safe Haven

SAVE \$5
 When you register before
 Oct. 15, 2016

Stand, walk or run for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking survivors.

Register: www.runforasafehaven.com
 Multi-lingual Helpline: (916) 428-3271
www.my-sisters-house.org

My Sister's House

PF News

**ang saya-saya,
 ang ganda-ganda!**

Advertise/Subscribe
 CALL 916.708.3462 916.835.1450

Pinay

Kamiseta
 Five Ds Arts, LLC
 Screenprinting and Design
 916.708.3462
 916.835.1450

Philippine Fiesta

916) 708-3462 (916) 835-1450 (916) 215-7077
 E-mail: philippinefiesta@fivedsarts.com Website: philippinefiesta.net

Five D's Arts, LLC (Publisher) Web Designer: Rees Retuta

Managing Editor Dinnah S. San Pedro	Editorial Assistant Dane San Pedro	Layout and Design Dave San Pedro	Photographer Dave San Pedro Frank Ayran
--	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---

CONTRIBUTORS

Carleton Enloe Sarah T. Enloe	Faina Abaya Jose Abaya, Jr.	Maria Kang Gabriel Ortigoza	Nancy Bautista Perry Diaz	Glenn Carrasca Dale Esperante
----------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------	----------------------------------

Philippine Fiesta is a broadsheet monthly publication and a registered trademark of Five D's Arts, LLC. Advertisers purchase space and circulation only. All property rights to any advertisement, illustrations and photographs produced for the advertisers by Philippine Fiesta shall be the property of Five D's Arts. No such ad or any part thereof may be reproduced or assigned without the consent of Five D's Arts. Opinions expressed in letters, articles and illustration are those of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the publisher. Please send in suggestions, announcements and advertisement one week preceding the publication.

Subscribe to Philippine Fiesta Newspaper and receive by U.S. mail, 12 issues of a true Filipino -American community newspaper for only \$20.00 a year.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____
 E-mail: _____

Please make check payable to Five D's Arts and mail payment to 9970 Winkle Circle, Elk Grove, CA 95757 or charge to VISA/Mastercard No. _____
 Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Honoring an Outstanding Filipina

By Dale Esperante

The evening's program started with the emcees Sarah Enloe and Josie Patria introducing themselves and welcoming everyone. Dr. Billy Monteagudo, a Eucharistic minister of St. Paul's, delivered the invocation. Dr. Billy prayed for a minute of silence for the recently departed members of the FWC community before reciting the evening's blessings.

The Filipino Women's Club (FWC) presented their 2016 "Outstanding Filipina Award" to Cynthia Arnaldo Bonta, one who embodies the best of motherhood as well as the exquisite virtues of a Filipina. "Motherhood is raising a child to be a contributing member of society by being a protector, a teacher, an enabler, a guide, an example" (Cynthia told Cherie M. Querol Moreno, author of Fil-Am #SHEro Cynthia Bonta, Fil-Am lawmaker's mom, published in Philippine News).

On the evening of 10 Sep 2016, Sacramento's Rizal Community Center opened its doors to family, friends, and colleagues of Cynthia Bonta. They came to honor Ms. Bonta, a woman imbued with the resolve to push for social reforms through civic action and political persuasion.

The evening's program started with the emcees Sarah Enloe and Josie Patria introducing themselves and welcoming everyone. Dr. Billy Monteagudo, a Eucharistic minister of St. Paul's, delivered the invocation. Dr. Billy prayed for a minute of silence for the recently departed members of the FWC community before reciting the evening's blessings.

Carol Munar catered the sumptuous dinner. After an enjoyable dinner break, the Bayanihan of Sacramento USA Choir rendered a harmonious Star Spangled Banner. Followed by Tony Daquipa, Jr. of the Bay Area, an invited guest of Cynthia Bonta. Tony is an American born and raised Filipino-American, but when he sang Lupang Hinirang and played his guitar, he sounded like a native Filipino. Patriotically done Bayanihan and Tony!

FWC President Memie Weitzenberg delivered her Welcome Address. Her voice bared some emotion when she mentioned recently departed friends. She then glowed with pride when she mentioned lifelong friends and colleagues, who have travelled far and wide with her during the years. Folks who are still actively involved with her in community projects, raising hopes and realizing dreams like Cynthia Bonta.

Recognizing an outstanding young scholar, FWC Scholarship Chair Vickie Debord and Member Zenny Yagen called on Matthew De Guzman – 2016 FWC Scholarship Recipient. Matthew is an impressive young man who excels in academics and sports. To paraphrase an Air Force adage, Aim Higher young man because we know you can!

The Tributes: Elinor Lumbang Emch, family to Cynthia Bonta, travelled all the way from Switzerland to share the values he learned from his family elders and especially from Cynthia. He is now a valuable member of a European corporation. Though he may be just one of two Filipinos currently with the company, he is extremely proud of his heritage. Attorney Jerry Chong related his friendship and association with Cynthia. West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon shared that he arrived in California in the year 1965, the same year Cynthia arrived in this country. Cynthia arrived via an ocean liner; however, Mayor Cabaldon arrived via the miracle of childbirth. He has known



her as an activist for decades. She is still as active now as if she were still 28, her age when she arrived in this country.

Derek Ledda accepted the distinct honor of introducing the Honoree. Having heard detailed information from the Tributes, Derek focused on his 40 years of friendship and association with Cynthia. He is one of the few fortunate friends able to discuss various topics of interest with Cynthia. Compelling discussions at times. To sum it all up, Derek ends up accepting most views proposed by Ms. Bonta. He still looks up to her as his mentor.

Mr. Ledda proudly introduced Cynthia Bonta. Everyone stood up to welcome her acceptance of the award. Her speech included her appreciation to the Filipino Women's Club, adding reference to the Philippine National Day Association and a few other organizations she has been involved with. She mentioned names of lifelong friends, specifically the sisters, Josie Patria and Memei Weitzenberg. She named Sarah Enloe, Leila Pereira, Remy Solomon, Lilia Rivera, Mercy Guerrero, Aida Azurin, Ling Avera and all the other strong Filipinas of Sacramento. She also introduced all three of her children who came from far and away. Lisa Ligaya Bonta Sumil,



Jonathan Marcelo Bonta, and Rob Bonta witnessed their mother honored by the Filipino community of Sacramento, specifically by the members and associates of the Filipino Women's Club. Cynthia then spoke about her most important role, that of being a mother. Her conviction that Outstanding Children Make Outstanding Mothers is a great reminder that Mom is the guiding light of the family. She is definitely proud of her three successful children. And so she should be, because we are also proud of them as we are so very proud of you, Cynthia Bonta.

Five D's Arts, LLC
 Screenprinting and Design
 For more information call:
 916.835.1450 or 916.708.3462
 Email: dave@fivedsarts.com

Naguilianders Hold Global Reunion

By Faina E. Abaya

Who would believe that Naguilian, a farming town in the great province of La Union, Philippines has produced highly educated and skilled men and women who bravely left their birthplace to find a better life in the different parts of the world.

Education and job skill are their important tools that make most of them to succeed in the places where they have found suitable works to establish themselves as they build a strong foundation for their families to a foreseeable bright future. Their pioneering spirit has been recorded in the annals of their long and at times tumultuous journeys across vast oceans and great continents.

Their unyielding determination for better future was a story of the triumph of human endurance and perseverance innately inherited from their forebears who likewise left their homeland in search for better life. That natural trait defines who they are in the face of possible adversities that could block their ways in the attainment of their objectives.

However, despite the comfort that they are enjoying with their respective families in the countries where they are now residing, the Naguilianders (the people of Naguilian) feel something wanting in their lives. Indeed, they nostalgically and terribly missed the closeness, warmed friendship, camaraderie and social togetherness of their town mates, who were separated between different time zones and geographical distances not easily accessible by any means of transportation.

To ease the loneliness and seemingly isolation from their close friends, neighbors, school classmates and even relatives, the Naguilianders organized themselves for just one purpose, to rekindle once more their traditional social gathering. In 1982 the City of Sacramento became the first place in the United States to organize an association for the former residents of the town Naguilian founded by Fred and Adela Vita that became known as the United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Incorporated (UNLUCAI).

The social concept of the organization attracted the attention of other Naguilianders living in the greater area of Sacramento and even beyond which convinced them to join and enjoy the family atmosphere whenever a social



Photos by Faina Abaya

gathering was held.

The enjoyment and the usual old time bonding among the members during their meetings or social gatherings have caught the interest of other town mates living in the United States and Canada that they also organized themselves with the same purpose. Eventually,

the organizational concept has become worldwide, although, each one has its own name and set up but the objectives are now multifarious while being independent from each other.

Social gathering as envisioned

by the original founders was no longer the sole purpose of all the Naguilian organizations worldwide. Nevertheless, all have similar objectives such as fund raising for the best interest of their town, school buildings for remote Baran-



gays, town church improvements, scholarship grants, Medical and Dental Missions and aids for natural calamity victims. In short each Naguilian organization has various missions for the betterment of their community where they are currently residing and, of course, to the place where they spent the best years of their early lives, their beloved town of Naguilian.

With the advent of modern communications and the accessibility of reaching even the remotest places on earth, distance and time are no longer impediments to bring together Naguilianders into one venue for a Grand Global

Reunion. Their endless built in yearning to be together has paved the way to hold such worldwide gathering.

The resounding success of the first Naguilian Global Reunion at Las Vegas, Nevada in 2003 initiated and coordinated by Global Naguilian Alliance Network (GNAN) under the leadership of Delia Vita, Paul Nonog and Renato Aberin was repeated several times in different major cities such as Las Vegas, Vancouver, Honolulu, Manila and even the town of Naguilian. That was also the first and the last time that the founders of UNLUCAI Fred and Adela Vita attended such global gathering of their town mates. And for the third time on September 4, 2016 Global Reunion was again held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Grand Ballroom of the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino on Flamingo Avenue just a walking distance from the Strip where major Hotel Casinos are mostly concentrated. Most of the more than 300 attendees were billeted at the Gold Coast Hotel and nearby hotels to access easily the venue of the Reunion.

The Global Reunion was attended by all the Naguilian affiliated organizations from North America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Middle East. Actually, the gathering was a two-day affair on September 3 and 4 held in the same venue. The first day was billed as "Meet and Greet Lunch" with Hawaiian motif requiring practically all participants in their best Hawaiian attires. Most of the ladies were wearing the elegant Muumuus with multicolored fauna and flora printed designs and likewise the men were also wearing shirts with various Hawaiian scenes of colorful designs.

As expected, most of those who were present were familiar with each other and they reminisced the good old days when they were growing up in their beloved town. They also enthusiastically talked about their families, jobs and the political situation in their town but they were unanimous in supporting Mayor Reynaldo Flores of whatever improvement projects that the town undertakes. They also vouched the Mayor's good governance of the town that redounds to the best interest of all the residents and those living abroad. Raffles with varied prizes in kind or basketful of assorted fruits have added to the enjoyment and excitement of the day's gathering. There were lots of music and dancing until the affair ended.

The second day of the gathering on September 4, 2016 was the Grand Global Reunion held on the same venue at the Grand Ballroom of the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino when all the participants finally

Continued on page 12

Naguilianders Hold Global Reunion

From page 11

arrived. And as expected the Hotel Ballroom was well decorated in accordance with the fastidious and discriminating taste of the more than 300 participants from the different parts of the world. All the tables are covered with gray linen with matching square top cloth and as center piece was a crystal vase with freshly cut red roses. The stage was also decorated with fresh assorted flowers with conspicuously displayed large banner welcoming all the attendees adding in bold letters,

“KICK OFF PREPARATION 2018 GNAN GLOBAL REUNION & NAGUILIAN BASI FESTIVAL”. Indicating the next Global Reunion will be at Naguilian which will coincide the 179 Foundation Anniversary of the town.

The magnificent and splendid set up of the Hotel Ballroom was accentuated by the glamorous appearance of the attendees who were wearing their best formal evening attires. The ladies showed the beauty, grace and elegance of both young and those gracefully aging. Likewise, the gentlemen also showed their sartorial elegance in their suits and Barong Tagalog of different designs. The reunion has continued music, dancing and entertainments from different organizations which regaled and mesmerized their audiences. Those who performed and well received by their audiences are; San Diego Dancers who performed professional like Ballroom Dancing, Special dance by the alumni of Naguilian High School who were also honored during the occasion on their Jubilee year, the well-choreographed dance performance of the members of UN-LUCAI, the NLUASC performers dancing La Jota Moncada and the well applauded Tinikling dance of the same organization.



Photos by Faina Abaya

Mayor Reynaldo J. Flores sent his greetings saying that “Events like this not only give us moments to bond but also manifest how we loved our beloved town”. Adding further “We look forward to a well-attended 2018 Global Reunion right in our beloved town, Hall of Fame Awardee as the cleanest, safest and greenest Municipality in the entire Region I which made possible through our solidarity”.

The 2016 Global Reunion guest speaker, Vice Mayor Abe Rimando said in his speech among other things, “The Global Reunion paved the way to a stronger commitment to bond together and foster camaraderie among us”.

Furthermore, he said that “These keep us going in the attainment of our vision to become a city, robust with socio economic activities and development”.

Raffles with modest amount of money and assorted gifts to the winners were conducted to the enjoyment and excitement of all who were expecting to win at least a prize. The modest amount of money was won by Delia Vita who donated the same to one who needed most.

The night also witnessed the presentation of the Outstanding Leadership awards by Vice Mayor Rimando, Paul Nonog and Delia Vita to Dr. Dan Lovinaria, President of Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists; Helen Supang Pelegrin, President of Ilocano International Association of Maryland; Evelyn Rimando-Ramirez, President of Philippine Association of Medical Technologist-USA; Leticia Ubungen, Founder and Committee Chairperson, Saranay Association of Toronto; Eliseo M. Bananal, President, Filipino-American Senior Citizens Association of San Diego, North County, 2014-2015; Henry Dumo, President of Filipino-American Senior Citizens Association of San Diego North County, 2016-2017; and Oswald Joven, President, The Filipino-American Community of Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville, Inc.

The glorious and successful 2016 Naguilian Global Reunion has all the enjoyment of dancing, entertainments, bonding with friends and lasting memories that will linger long into the minds of those who attended. Remember, we will see you in 2018, our Global Reunion in our beloved town of Naguilian.

The special guests from the Philippines were Naguilian municipal government officials represented

by Vice Mayor Abe Rimando and wife Denia, Councilors Salvacion Estepa and Georgina Estepa Flores. The different Naguilian organizations present with their respective Presidents are; GNAN Regional Branch of North America, Andrew Costales; Naguilians of Ontario, Jaime Garcia; Manitoba, Samuel Cachero; Western Canada, Andrew Costales; Hawaii, Cathy Lamug; Pacific Northwest, Nati Javillonar; (Sacramento) United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Inc., Henry Bambao; Naguilian Association of San Diego, Delia Matriano; Southern California, Fernand Nieva; East Coast, USA, Judy Campanilla; GNAN Regional Branch of Asia, Marciano Conde; Annak ti Naguilian, Singapore, Glorifina Rimando; Hong Kong group, Dina Mendoza; GNAN Hong Kong, Loreta Cachero; Malaysia, Bhabes Delizo; Taiwan, Mercedes Abenes; Macau, Liberty Soriano; GNAN Regional Branch of Middle East, Teddy Floresca; Saudi Arabia, Willie Montero; Qatar, B. Floresca; GNAN UAE, Jeffrey Soriano; Lebanon, Jovitambanco; Israel, Letty Camat; GNAN Regional Office of Europe, Evelyn Mendoza; United Kingdom, Vilma Madayag; Germany, France and Monaco, Mary Ann De La Rea; Australia and New Zealand, Cynthia Estigoy Philippine Naguilian Organization, Inc. Willie Florendo and the Mabuhay Foundation of Sacramento headed by Tony Yadao and wife Lydia.



Mai's Facial

Eyebrow & Lips Tattoo

Before



After



Micro-Dermabrasion
**Women of all ages *Help close spots *Fine lines & wrinkles *Sun damaged skin *Scar tissue reduction *Dark spots pigmentation*

Custom Organic
**Moisturize *Heals & energize *Beautiful soft skin *Help sleep well *Release aching, headache & dizziness*

Business Hours
 Mon. - Sat. - 9am-7pm
 Sunday - Closed

Cell (916) 600-0488
Bus (916) 421-7836

6454 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento Ca 95823

IGNITE

community church

10:30am SUNDAY SERVICE
12:00pm FELLOWSHIP MEAL
MONTEREY TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL
8661 POWER INN ROAD
ELK GROVE, CA
(ENTER THROUGH AUBERRY DRIVE)



Ignite Your Passion For God

Nellie's R&B Night

By Dale Esperante

The R&B stands for Red and Black, the fashion theme of the evening. Dr. Nellie Galagalac Umali celebrated her 60th birthday with a splendid affair on 24 Sep 2016 at Rizal Community Center, seemingly the entire community attended. Rizal teemed with elegance, tables covered with white linen and chairs beautifully adorned, yet the ambiance still radiated a relaxed friendly vibe among friends spruced up in their best R&B threads.

Dr. Fred Aquino started the evening's program by presenting the Mistresses of Ceremonies: Mrs. Ann Viernes escorted by Mr. Manuel Viernes and Miss Mercy Guerrero escorted by Mr. Nick Catudan. The emcees are two of the ardent BFFs of Nellie and they expressed it so during their introductory speeches.

Sister Josie Tanudtanud of St. Charles Borromeo delivered the invocation before the dinner hour. The feast prepared by Chef Carol Munar fulfilled the gastronomic expectations of the guests. Thank you for the ambrosial experience Chef Carol.

Presentation of Entourage: Mr. and Mrs. Segundo Azurin; Mr. and Mrs. Bobby de los Reyes; Mr. and Mrs. Melchor Munar, Mrs. Josie Patria; Miss Tessie Larot; Daughter Anna Lizzette Umali Bachelor and her husband Anthony Bachelor. The emcees saved the best for last, Dr. Nellie Galagalac Umali. Daughter Anna Lizzette accompanied by her husband Anthony presented Nellie with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Nellie with flowers and wearing a lacy white gown, the next natural sequence would be a tango performance by her and dashing partner, Fred Aquino. They glided the entire floor with passionate dance moves as if no one else existed in the vast expanse of Rizal Hall. Dr. Fred danced with surgical precision as Dra. Nellie did the same thing, only backwards and in high heels. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

When the microphone was handed to Dr. Nellie, now dressed in a sophisticated

black gown, she expressed her love and appreciation to all. With courage, she candidly shared her story about being a breast cancer survivor. She displayed a tremendous amount of spirit in her demeanor and showed genuine affection for life, family, and friends. She exhibited the true character of a daughter of Batangas, Philippines—brave and assertive but sweet to her family and friends.

Reflections from her friends: Aida Azurin, Josie Patria, Edna del los Reyes, Carol Munar, Tessie Larot, daughter Anna Lizzette. Nellie embraced all the loving comments from her closest friends and daughter as she sat front and center during the reflections. When Nellie's daughter Anna Lizzette started tearfully to reflect on her relationship with her mom, Nellie typical of a loving mother stood up and steadied her one and only child.

Public dance interspersed throughout the

program to allow the guests to let loose on the dance floor as Nellie planned. Nellie's accommodating personality enhanced the beauty of the evening's affair.

Another big moment, this time for the men to do the presentation of roses, as they lined up for an individual dance with Nel-

lie who was now dressed in an intoxicating red gown. The men: Anthony Bachelor; Bobby Esparza; Billy Richardson; Filip Dragnev; Gener Deang; Joe Gonzalez; Carlos Cordero; Segundo Azurin; Dr. Billy Monteagudo; Melchor Munar; Alex Avera; and last but not least, Dr. Fred Aquino.

Following the men, the ladies as the candle sponsors offered Nellie words of love and encouragement: Lourdes Belasco; Vicky Johnson; Rose Basos; Ling Avera; Alice Pambid; Josie Patria; Cleo Sabarre-Ner; Linda Deang; Adelina Fernandes; Lita Barerras; Helen Umali; Benita Sobrepena; Placida Butcher; Dr. Angel Awad; Dr. Ethel Rios. A couple of these ladies proudly announced that they too, like Nellie, are cancer survivors.

Happy Birthday Song by everyone resonated to honor Nellie Galagalac Umali—candles blown, wishes made, and birthday cake cut and served!

The DJs Paul and son Edward Cordero played the best dinner and dance music for this occasion added to the joy of the celebration. People danced and danced and danced until it was time to say adieu!

Happy Birthday to one of the community's stalwart member, mom, daughter, and friend—Dra. Nellie Galagalac Umali!



Photos by Dale Esperante

Mauro Cyrus (MC) Paradela
Pianist-Singer/DJ Host/Karaoke Host



Tel. 916.544.3287
email:cyrus.paradela@gmail.com
Email: cyrus.paradela@gmail.com

Sweet Escape

Custom Designed Cakes
Dessert Buffets

Betty Ho

916.397.0992

www.sweetescapebybetty.com
www.sweetescapebybetty@gmail.com

Triple Birthday Celebrations!



Just another Golden Ladies' get together at Applebee's Restaurant in celebration of friends birthdays: Elbert, Rowena, and Hilda. May all your wishes come true. Happy Birthday!



Larry Patria

Larry Patria with wife Josie at the celebration of his 79th birthday, held at his daughter Josie's residence in a beautiful garden setting, and joined by families and friends.



In Memoriams



Demetrio Ordone Casuga
May 6, 1951 - Sept. 3, 2016



Luz Del Rosario Albaniel
Aug. 16, 1916 - Sept. 7, 2016



Trinidad 'Inday' Marzan
Dec. 15, 1934 - Sept. 10, 2016



Adelina Miguel
Sept. 11, 1916 - Sept. 26, 2016





Now Is The Time... Tomorrow Might Be Too Late.

Advance Funeral Planning gives you peace of mind that comes with knowing your funeral arrangements are taken care of, which will lessen the burden of those you leave behind. By pre-planning your funeral, you will save money and can make payments over time; something you cannot do at the time of death. You can guarantee that what you pay today will fully cover future needs. Planning ahead insures your wishes are followed exactly and that your entire family can be together in the same place. And most of all, it will eliminate stressful decision-making during a time of grief.

Tumutulong, nakakaunawa, nagmamalasakit para say iyo at sa mga mahal sa buhay. Sa ikatatahimik mg isip, tumawag lang po.



Contact Manuel Buenaventura
Consultant
916.505.8555

Come take a tour of our locations and see our beautiful memorial parks, funeral homes, as well as our new cremation gardens, burial areas for both flat and upright monuments, mausoleums, crypts, glass-front or granite niches and a variety of other choices to be customized specifically for you.

Free Monthly Luncheon Seminars
Come learn all your options and enjoy a catered lunch. A list of the dates and locations can be found at www.EastLawn.com

<p>EAST LAWN Memorial Park & Crematory 4300 Folsom Blvd. P.O. Box 19334 Sacramento, CA 95819 Tel 916.732.2000</p>	<p>EAST LAWN Sierra Hills Memorial Park & East Lawn Mortuary 5757 Greenback Lane Sacramento, CA 95841 Lic. #FD-1242 Tel 916.732.2020</p>	<p>EAST LAWN Pet Loss Center & Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery 6700 Verner Ave. Sacramento, CA 95841 Tel 916.732.2037</p>	<p>EAST LAWN Albert Brown Mortuary 3476 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, CA 94611 Lic. #FD-242 Tel 800.652.1873</p>	<p>EAST LAWN Elk Grove Memorial Park & Mortuary 9189 E. Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95624 Lic. #FD-1455 Tel 916.732.2031</p>	<p>EAST LAWN Andrews & Greilich Funeral Home 3939 Fruitridge Road Sacramento, CA 95820 Lic. #FD-136 Tel 916.732.2026</p>
--	---	--	--	--	---

Birthdays



FREDERIC CALINDAS
SEPTEMBER 21



JOY CRUZ UTANES & hubby Fred
OCTOBER 21



LETTY CHENG
OCTOBER 5



AIDA AZURIN and hubby Segundo
OCTOBER 16



Celebrating Ernie Santos' birthday with wife Mila, daughter Lynne and son-in-law Greg on September 17, 2016.



Celso Sabiniano celebrated his birthday on September 17 with wife Jocelyn, son Matthew and daughter Alex.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 22, 2016 (Sat)
My Sister's House
Run for a Safe Haven
 5k fun run/walk
 Start and finish at William Land Park at the Village Green area (corner of Freeport Blvd. and Sutterville Rd.)
 Race Day Registration: 8:00am
 Register at <http://www.runforasafehaven.com>



OCTOBER 15, 2016 (Sat)
Fil-Am Chamber
Golf Tournament
 Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Courses
 8301 Freeport Blvd.



October Celebrants



Birthday of Raeselle Lourdes on September 25 with Beep, Elisha and Rose.



L-R: Rose Meris (deceased) - Oct. 29, Fely Lasaga - Oct. 1, Linda Cordero - Oct. 24, Alex Estioco - Oct. 23, Letty O'Quinn - Oct. 8, Alice Pambid - Oct. 6

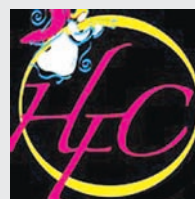
Anniversary



TINO and LIRIO FLORESCA
 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary
 September 24



Having a Special Celebration
 or a Company Party?
Heavenly Food Creations
 "A Full Catering Service"



Call 916-690-4513

Rhuena Buentipo
 Owner/Operator

heavenlyfoodcreations1@hotmail.com

License No. 12-00010606



By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

Col. Cirilito Sobejana, A True Hero

Col. Cirilito E. Sobejana (PMA 87), a fellow Ilonggo, was then 1Lt when he was severely injured by gun shots in an encounter against terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group in the island of Basilan in 1994.

He and other wounded rangers were then airlifted via UH-1H helicopter from Basilan to Zamboanga for treatment at Camp Navarro General Hospital, a military hospital located at Lower Calarian, Zamboanga City.

As a member of medical team at Southern Command that treated Sobejana on the very day he was rescued from the jungle of Basilan, the plan was to amputate his wounded right forearm that already turned blue from a very tight metallic wire tourniquet applied at the scene of action to prevent the



Col. Cirilito E. Sobejana

wounds from bleeding.

Sobejana negotiated to save his right arm. To make the long story short, by all means, yes, it was saved but with limited motor function.

Because of advance in medicine, he was evacuated to the United States for vascular, orthopedic, rehabilitation, and other medical related treatment.

Sobejana was awarded Medal of Valor, the highest award given to military personnel of the AFP.

He was the only army officer I saw performing a salute with his left hand. Navy officers may acknowledge salute, the highest form of courtesy, with their left hand.

Since his recovery, Sobejana has been back to the field, now in Central Mindanao as the 601st brigade commander.

True to his oath as protector of the people and to keep the integrity of the republic, Sobejana is a true hero (gabbyortig@yahoo.com).

New Commander of Task Force Davao

Col. Erwin Neri (PMA '88), a "bisaya" from Surigao province, is the new commander of Task Force Davao effective 08 September 2016. His name was one of the few in the short list recommended by the AFP to Davao City mayor Inday Sarah Duterte after that horrible September 2 Night Market blast in Roxas Street in Davao City which resulted to the death of 15 and injured more than 70 individuals.

Personally worked with the then 1Lt. Neri in 1995 during those numerous CMOs (Civil Military Operation) conducted in Baguio and Benguet by PMA where Neri was the administrative officer of MA3 (Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operation), yours truly was then a 2Lt at PMASH, I could tell that TF Davao is in good hand. Neri is a humble and low profile officer who is task and people oriented. He was also one of the officers, to include the then AC of S MA3 Lt. Col. Taguinod (PMA '77), in the success of PMA DRTG (PMA Disaster Response

Task Group) authored by the then Deputy MA3 Lt. Sg. , now navy captain Albert Mogol (PMA '87). PMA DRTG performed several rescue and recovery operations in the Summer Capital and its neighboring provinces and has been doing the same noble operation since its creation in 1995 until today.

When another distinguished friend from PMA Col. "Macky" Alberto (PMA '86) was the TF Davao commander, I was able to visit him at his office in 2015. I hope to pay a courtesy call to the current commander of TF Davao in my near future stop-over in the durian capital of the Philippines, the home of the country's Monkey Eating Eagle ((Aguila), and hometown of the president of the republic - Davao City.

Congratulations and praying for your success as the new commander of TF Davao.



Col. Erwin Neri



ang saya-saya,
ang ganda-ganda!

Advertise / Subscribe

916.708.3462
916.835.1450

philippinefiesta@fivedarts.com

Fundraising for the Veterans Hall

By Dale Esperante

The veterans of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 wish to express their appreciation to the community members who supported the Post's fundraising dance on 17 Sep 2016. Special thanks go to the groups of Lilia Rivera and the Kapitbahay), Mercy Guerrero and the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, and Ling Avera of the Ilocanos. These organizations of non-veterans made up about seventy-five percent of the guest list. Close friends and family members of the veterans made up the remaining twenty-five percent of attendees. For Magellan Hall being the oldest principal Filipino community center in Sacramento, only the aforementioned non-veteran organizations showed a strong showing of support on Saturday evening.

To add something out of the ordinary, the emcee announced the winners of a secret dance contest. The guests didn't know they were being watched by an undercover dance judge, until it was announced. The winners and categories: Linda Monzon (Best Single Dancer); Cathy Tan and Cesar Bernardino (Best Couple Dancers). The winners will be awarded a memento of appreciation from the American Legion Magellan Hall veterans.

Magellan Post 604's fundraisings aid in the care, maintenance, and operational upkeep of the Hall that was built by Filipino farmers in the 1940s. It was named Farmers Hall before it became Magellan Hall when the aging farmers sold it to the WWII Filipino-American veterans. Filipino-Americans with warm interest in our culture and history may want to see this slice of real estate near the corner of Gerber Road and Elk Grove Florin Road. Flags of our United States and our Philippine motherland can be seen waving proudly on a nice breezy day in front of the building.

For readers who are interested in helping the veterans in caring for the treasured Filipino-American property, please communicate your support to: The American Legion Magellan Post 604, POB 292091, Sacramento, CA 95829-2091. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



Join our pack!

Green Valley Pets
LOGGING • PLAYGROUND • SPA

"PET LODGING, DAY PLAY & GROOMING"
916.529.5930
380 EL DORADO HILLS, CA
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE PURPLE PLACE

Self Fidelity: Lights

By Noeh Nazareno

“What you have to ask yourself is what kind of person are you? Are you the kind that sees signs, that sees miracles? Or do you believe that people just get lucky? Or, look at the question this way: Is it possible that there are no coincidences?”

As quoted from the character Graham Hess in the film “Signs,” as played by Mel Gibson, it is suggested and posited that life may or may not be all that people tend to see it to be, as we each tend to choose one side or the other.

I suggest and posit that, as the film goes on to reveal, that the signs have always been there. Rather, you must be wise enough to see and read them, particularly before it is too late.

And in a more unusual form, I shall share one such instance: San Francisco Fest 2016.

Earlier this year, my Dad tells me he bought tickets for Mom and him to see a few Bay Area-based bands play at AT&T Park on Labor Day weekend. He suggested that Kristalyn and I get some tickets, and he even insisted on helping to pay for them (not that I couldn’t pay, but when he really gets excited, he can be pretty generous).

Being as life has been for this first half of the year, my girlfriend and I were pretty inundated with other things that by the time I got back to my Dad about getting tickets, he was no longer able to use the ones he bought himself because he’d be out of town with Mom to help Edmond and Sherylyn (my brother and his wife) move between assignments.

As Filipinos, money spent and the intentions for them being missed are common sore spots. My parents raised me very well, despite my rebellious and resistant behavior, so I was considerably reluctant to take the tickets. And believe me, Kristalyn and I have tried at least twice since to literally repay the generosity. But we had no idea what would be in store in the somewhat near future.

My parents had their last month of summer fairly planned out, and off and on, Kristalyn and I pondered what we’d do for ours. Originally, we’d hoped to join them all, but logistics would have made things that much more challenging; it’s too bad, because I’d been hoping to introduce Kristalyn to southern food at the source, and get myself stuffed with it as well. What ended up transpiring was a rather last-minute and quite frugal trip to Sin City, followed by a trek to Newark leading up to the concert.

One of the major themes at this

point in my life is the value of not wasting time and life. I’ve never believed in doing things as others hope, expect or demand, which means my vacations are lazy, culinarily gluttonous and, if I hadn’t mentioned, lazy.

Lots of sleeping, lots of eating, some moderate drinking, lots more sleeping and a bit of repetition. And looking back, a lot of happiness, seeing an old friend, and not the least bit of feeling like we did anything we shouldn’t have. Considering that was Las Vegas, well, that’s seriously awesome.

Our streak of enjoyment continued right back into California, arriving at our hotel late Friday night, hitting up the Island Pacific and Jollibee in Union City for our Saturday meals, checking out and going forth and north to AT&T Park for the finale of the trip.

I had no idea how grand a finale it would be.

So, the concert was on Sunday, September 4 at 3 p.m. My Dad’s birthday. Ouch.

I figured, “Eh, maybe it’s just an extra-length concert, three or four hours. Should be fine, even though I have work the next morning.”

Yeah, no. We get into the ballpark, program reads:

Tower of Power - 3:00 p.m.
The Doobie Brothers - 4:00 p.m.
Steve Miller Band - 5:45 p.m.
Santana - 7:30 p.m.
Journey - 9:30 p.m.
Holy crap.

I’ve done movie marathons in theaters, people who know me well know that a dozen hours spent in a movie theater is a typical thing for me. But this, this was different.

I tell Kristalyn, “Let’s get some food, and I’m sure we’ll make it through Santana. But we’ll probably skip Journey, or listen to a couple songs and go.” She concurs because, well, the last time I was in the area and had to be at work the next morning, I was late. Sounds like a plan.

If you know the Nazareno or Salvador sides of the family, you know that music runs in our veins differently than most people in general. And there are particular members of both families who are experienced in and/or connoisseurs of music. In my immediate branch, particularly, we’re quite broad in our interest and grasp, and my Dad and I love ours loud. And I do mean LOUD.

I am a writer, particularly a critic of film and media. It is a gift from God, a talent, that I am only coming to terms and acceptance with in my 30s; between my ethnic background, this Godforsaken capitol of California, the journalism industry and today’s society, it’s not something most people respect me for. But if you can and

do believe me, I generally use this gift, this talent, to reveal truth and to express my thoughts and feelings as earnestly as I can muster, with the goal to do so in such a manner that those who read me will comprehend and understand me fully.

That all being said, I could tell you that the mega concert that unfolded was not much different than most concerts I have been to before, but that would not be a thorough or complete description.

Hearing Tower of Power, boy, that brought me back to being five, six years old, with my Dad blasting the Sansui stereo in our living room with ToP on the computerized turntable. And back in 2016, I thought to myself, “This is gonna be life changing, and I don’t even know it yet.”

The Doobie Brothers. Some of their songs I love, some of them I hate. But I ended up loving the fact that they were without Michael McDonald. I believe that to be a great compliment.

Steve Miller Band. I’ll be frank: I know the name of the band, I knew the songs they were playing, never knew they were the ones who made ‘em. But before their set was over, I was really realizing that all these bands were basically playing full concerts, one right after the other. And the first, clear, life-changing moment: They were making me love them, making me love songs of theirs that I’d hated since childhood. And as if I hadn’t loved “The Joker” enough, seeing and hearing it live: Oh. My. God.

Santana. Been there, done that, and that’s not a bad thing, either. He was rockin’ it as usual, a real workhorse of a performer, nothing but heart. I’d heard for years, especially from Dad, how he’d been based out of San Francisco. But to see and hear him in his natural environment: Life changed again.

When I tell people how they should experience their favorite, most beloved things in their original, natural setting, I speak from the experience of having had a croissant for breakfast in a small hotel in Paris at the age of 14. As a true first, it’s my best example of why such experiences are unmatched and exist independently because comparison would be unfair.

So, after a failed attempt to get a concert shirt during the break between the last two bands, we made our way back to our seats as the final band started into “Separate Ways (Worlds Apart).”

Nothing prepared me for seeing and hearing what I would see and hear. Except for my own life.

There are songs of Journey that I love. Songs that I like. Songs that I don’t like. Songs that I hate. Some of that changed that night, most of it didn’t. That doesn’t matter too much.

What I heard was Journey. Dear God, it was Journey. But the lead vocal was coming out of this Fili-

pino dude named Arnel Pineda. And the immediate comparison I drew was to Mick Jagger: People who are bouncing balls of energy, strutting the stage, giving their all and having a ball.

Arnel was literally a tornado onstage, jumping and spinning, almost always moving, giving his entirety and then a hundred times more, like there was no tomorrow. And in that, as humans will, his voice was carefully navigating power and stamina, reminding me of my moments and times when notes were seemingly in reach, but the goal to deliver the performance the audience craves results in careful adjustments and decisions to not fail them.

My mind would go from, “He’s just like me, I’m kinda like him,” to “This guy isn’t just rockin’ it, he’s one of the world’s foremost rockers!” And then to the new life-changing moment I haven’t experienced at a concert in person: This guy is the front man for one of THE world’s greatest bands, and he HAPPENS to be Filipino.

Not being White is a razor-sharp tightrope, and it feels like we’re always between wanting to be seen and credited for our own selves separate and independent of any demographics we belong to, and wanting to be proud of said demographics. Not only that, but it always seems like we lose, whether we manage to balance ourselves and remain on the tightrope or not.

But this guy, Arnel, to me, he’s THE living, breathing example of someone who is at the top of the world and happens to be Filipino. He’s many, many times bigger to me than Manny Pacquiao (not because of Manny’s shortcomings, but because among the titles I hold, singer is one of them; Manny is clearly not a singer, just in case any of you want to be a smarty pants...).

His energy was unmistakable. His gratitude to the audience, to the fans, as genuine as I’ve seen, and I’ve seen a lot.

And as a Filipino, unlike most others in the media, I feel like I wanna go out of my way to be a fan, to be able to say, “Yeah, I love Arnel Pineda and I love Journey!”

There are a lot of people and things, and I’ve got my opinions about most of them. But as my parents taught me, you gotta be choosy about who and what you decide to like, and who and what you decide not to like. And they pressed me on to apply that to love and things opposite of that.

I have met and worked with incredible people in this community. I have been praised, publicly and privately, by more people than I can remember (for the record, I’ll just say it’s not many; I’m sheepish when it comes to taking compliments...).

To be honest, quite a few people know I have very critical and outspoken feelings and positions on Filipinos, our culture, and related people and issues. But as I write this, detailing the insane amount of things that would amount to would be easily dwarfed by what I found in Arnel Pineda.

And that’s saying a LOT.

Reaction-wise, it’s best summed up with a story I was told by a near and dear relative of mine.

While waiting for a flight, Arnel Pineda came and sat down next to them there at the gate. He looked tired, slightly haggard, and people were essentially rushing to him to ask for autographs and pictures; fortunately, not exactly a ton of people, but enough to probably wear the poor guy out some more.

After the silliness passed, pleasantries were exchanged between my relative and Arnel, and that was pretty much it. The flight arrived, they flew, that was it.

No picture, no autograph. Just a few moments with a fellow Filipino who happens to be the lead singer of one of the biggest bands in the world.

If I told you what September 4, 2016 means to me, I’d write enough to fill this entire newspaper. Maybe for my soul and posterity, I ought to, but I’ll save that for the times and moments people give me in person.

I don’t believe any of it to be an accident. I believe God was all



Arnel Pineda of Journey

over it, through it, everywhere.

Would it be blasphemy, egotistical, to suggest that those bands, those famous people, were present and doing what they do best, at least in some part for me? Because I don’t think it would be wrong to say they did, and that they did for the thousands of others there that day and night.

This society, this world, has become so cynical that it believes those in the spotlight who don’t give a care about them, and it refuses to believe those in the spotlight who are doing what they were made for, in the name of those who reject them.

When things like September 4, 2016 happen, I see signs, I see miracles. Because I believe that there is a possibility that there are no coincidences.

Be good to each other, read between the lines, realize there are things beyond happiness, that these things have been in you and around you all along, and the rest will come from said things.

Pacquiao Finds New Boxing Elixir; Fight Against Vargas Most Difficult

By Winchell Campos

There are times when we have to drag ourselves to wake up in the morning to start the day off heading out to work. Monotonous, drudging and uneventful, the daily repetition coupled by the morning rush hour traffic, could truly test one's will, not to mention aching bodies...

Not on a typical Manny Pacquiao day:

On his second session of sparring against an unbeaten prospect and a local veteran Thursday night, Pacquiao was a new kind of an elemental fighter. He was virtually untouched, calculating, dangerous but forgiving enough not to punish his partners in the ring. Not this early yet.

But what drives the NEW "Pacman," who, despite being rich, famous, well-loved, admired, powerful and more, has found a resurgence of sorts?

He starts his day jogging, sometimes even drenched by the light drizzle, characteristic of Manila's September mornings. When monsoon rains come a-pouring, he has to improvise or call off training sessions in the morning and double-up in the afternoon.

He probably has more offices and work loads than most of us combined and despite having only 24 hours a day to fit everything in, he has thus far successfully juggled everything with much success.

He used to be a full-time boxer, period, and part-time this or part-time that. Now, he is a full-time Senator of the Philippines, a full-time father and a full-time servant of God.

His fight against welterweight champion Jessie Vargas of the United States is no picnic either and has turned out to be one of the most difficult. In terms of sacrificing for a fight, this one looks like a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle and a nightmare for his appointments secretary. Doing things simultaneously has made this fight hard and taxing. Sometimes, he finishes training sessions at past 10 PM, signs autographs for fans who keep on queueing up, before he could step into a makeshift dining table inside the gym. His entourage would still have to weave through traffic and call it a day before midnight, preparing once again for the next day, and the next...



Pacquiao and Vargas

He is no longer young. At 37, he could very well be considered as the grand daddy of the sport. In terms of boxing "mileage," he is an overworked veteran of 66 fights, fighting at an average of three fights a year going into his 22nd year of boxing. Imagine driving a 2003 model sedan with a 400,000 kilometer mileage on your engine: That could very well be a good comparison to Pacquiao's condition, including the bumps and dents and cuts, and yes, days in the repair shop.

Pacquiao has just recently gone under the knife, repairing a torn rotator cuff only last year, right after he fought Floyd Mayweather using virtually one effective left hand with no significant right hook or a jab to boot.

Always looking for an exciting fight, his style of boxing has endeared him to fans the world over. By opting to make the match into your phone-booth type, end-of-your-seat and nail-biting affair, he would go on a prowl and mix it up, go for the kill, rather than get into a boring encounter directly the opposite of Mr. Defensive Fighter of the Year's style.

More or less, he has sparred with more than 400 boxers of all shapes and sizes and styles and nationalities: bigger, faster, stronger, taller, smaller, slagger, amateurish, wild, disrespectful, ugly, stinky and hairy, among many others. Throughout his career, his boxing intelligence quotient has continued to grow immensely so, learning and maturing in every battle.

He took the Vargas fight because of his love for the sport and that the American fighter has taken his old WBO welterweight belt. Pacquiao believes he can still give something to the sport.

"I think I still have more to show (in the sport). I feel great, energized and inspired," said Pacquiao, Friday after hitting the mitts with long-time trainer Fred-

die Roach, who just came in three days ago from the United States.

His was an understatement, if one had to ask Roach or assistant trainer Buboy Fernandez, who have directly felt the brute power of Pacquiao's punches. Both Roach and Fernandez agree: Pacquiao has upped the oomph in his punches. "Tumatagos sa mitts, manginging ang buong katawan mo. Hindi ganyan ang lakas niya dati," said Fernandez, who has been with Pacquiao for the longest time as kids roaming in the streets of General Santos City.

Personally, having been with the Fighting Senator from Sarangani province for more than a decade and a half, the decibels of his gloves meeting the heavy punching bag has truly gone a notch up. And this is the same guy, the Senator, who has wore a suit, a different wardrobe just a few hours ago.

During one of those "hard" training days, he had to go jogging at 10 AM because the rains came earlier. He skipped noontime siesta in order to catch a Senate session involving an apparent witness into EJKs or extrajudicial killings. On those days, he would try his best to gather, interpolate and search for the truth from an apparent confessed mass murderer and get kudos for not just stepping into the plate but one who has come out slugging. On other days, he would join other Senate committees wherein he is not just a member, but a very active Senator.

He finishes the day in secret, reading the bible before he sleeps at night, a 180-degree turnaround from his being carefree. This time, his days, divided into hours and minutes, are spent well. Quality time for a doting father and a public servant as well as a servant of God.

Pacquiao has not changed much since. He is still that young kid eager to show his new toy to everyone. His demeanor is now more subdued, as he shows off his new gadgets: a pair of fists, exclusive and limited edition, probably one of the most pricey pair of fists available out there.

At the end of the day, Pacquiao does find joy and satisfaction in serving his fans, his constituents and his God, a newfound elixir that has brought his career to new highs.

MANNY KNOWS

By Eddie Alinea

Chief trainer Freddie Roach, echoing the favorite slogan of fighting senator Manny Pacquiao, has been using in his 21-year professional career, last Thursday cancelled one of the most rigorous aspects of his ward's training regimen in an effort to prevent the eight-division champion from getting overworked.

"He knows, so when he asked me to dispense with working with the mitts, I readily consented," Roach told this writer when asked why Pacquiao went directly to the heavy bag and the speed ball right after six rounds of sparring with world-ranked junior-welterweight and local lightweight Leopoldo Dornio.

"That's the beauty of working with Manny, you don't have to feel your way around. He will tell you right away whether to do or not to do something you want him to do," the celebrated trainer said. "He knows when he's had enough and when he still lacks something."

"That's the reason why both of us have endured each other in more than two decades of working

together," Roach who just arrived last Tuesday to take over the management of preparations from assistant Buboy Fernandez, explained. "We complement each other."

Roach though said the situation now is different from



Manny knows

power. Before Roach set foot in Manila, along with sparring partner Jose Ramirez, Pacquiao had already been in deep training for no less than a month with Buboy and fellow assistants Nonoy Neri and Roger "Haplas" Fernandez.

Pacquiao is seeking to reclaim the World Boxing Organization welterweight championship he held twice from current holder Jessie Vargas November 5 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Ramirez, still unbeaten in 18 fights with 12 KOs since turning pro four years ago, continued feeling Pacquiao's punching power and quickness in Thursday's four rounds of sparring.

"Manny's stronger and faster today, despite complaining of tiredness and body pains," Ramirez noted. "It's still some four weeks left before the fight and I believe he will be a little bit more powerful and speedier."

Dornio, who sparred for two rounds shared Ramirez's observations, saying, "Ang bigat ng kamay ni Senator Manny at ang bilis. Hindi mo malaman kung saan nanggagaling ang sun-tok."

NBA star 'King' James endorses Clinton for president

NBA superstar LeBron James is endorsing Hillary Clinton for president of the United States in a move that could carry a lot of weight with voters in the pivotal state of Ohio.

"I support Hillary because she will build on the legacy of my good friend, President Barack Obama," James wrote in an Op-Ed piece published on the Business Insider website on Sunday, October 2 (Monday in Manila).

"I believe in what President Obama has done for our country, and support her commitment to continuing that legacy."

The article is slated to run on Monday in the Akron Beacon Journal, the newspaper in James's hometown.

James returned to his



LeBron James

home state after a spell with the Miami Heat, and led the Cleveland Cavaliers to an emotional NBA title in June.

In endorsing Clinton he writes about his decision to return to Ohio, recalling his childhood as the son of a single mother.

"Only one person running truly understands the struggles of an Akron child born into poverty," James writes. "And when I think about the kinds of policies and ideas the kids in my foundation

need from our government, the choice is clear.

"That candidate is Hillary Clinton."

James, a 3-time NBA champion and 4-time NBA Most Valuable Player, has become increasingly outspoken on social issues, including the racial tension that has flared across the country over police killings of black men.

James praised Democratic candidate Clinton's message of unity.

"I don't know everything it will take finally to end the violence," James wrote. "But I do know we need a president who brings us together and keeps us unified."

"Policies and ideas that divide us more are not the solution. We must all stand together — no matter where we are from or the color of our skin. And Hillary is running on the message of hope and unity that we need." — Rappler.com

Janine Tugonon wins international modeling competition

Manila, Philippines – Janine Tugonon has another win to add to her resume. The former Miss Universe Philippines and Miss Universe 2012 first runner-up is one of the 12 models chosen for Nu Muses, an international modeling competition.



NU MUSE. Janine Tugonon is one of the 12 winners of the Nu Muses modeling competition.

The winners were announced on Saturday, October 1, and Janine shared the news, saying: "I thought I did really bad during the testshoot/final casting since I was having a bad day that day. But got the call from my agent [a] few days after and it was AMAZING!!! Thank you so much [Nu Muses] for including me."

In her profile on the Nu Muses website, Janine said that she wanted to be a Nu Muse because it's a step towards her dream of becoming an internationally known model and actress.

"Being in this calendar is a huge opportunity to showcase my beauty and personality, a great exposure for me and hopefully will be the beginning of a long lasting successful career in this field I'm very passionate about. Hope I'll be given the chance," she wrote.

Janine also answered why she thought she was a timeless beauty: "I consider myself a timeless beauty because of the kindness, the confidence, the strong personality, mindset and perspectives I have inside of me. My aura is reflected by what's within me. And that is timeless, the complete package (mind, face, personality) I can give and show from the inside."

Nu Muses is a search for 12 calendar models, created by treats! magazine creator Steve Shaw and photographer David Bellemere, who has shot for magazines Vogue and Marie Claire, as well as brands like



Janine Tugonon

Hermes and Lanvin. "The mission of NU MUSES is to celebrate the forgotten art of the classic nude, to capture the elegance and romance of the female form, worthy of gracing fine art galleries and walls," reads the Nu Muses website.

Winners of Nu Muses will have a nude photoshoot with David himself, \$10,000, a trip to Miami for the calendar's launch at Art Basel, a feature in the December issue of treats!, and a feature in a documentary.

On her thoughts on nudity, Janine told Nu Muses, "Nudity for me is ART at its purest form. It is the bare, the untouched and the raw beauty that a woman can showcase and be proud of."

The 11 other girls who will be featured with Janine are:

- Rachel Cook
- Jessica Clements
- Nidhi Sunil
- Isabelle Boemeke
- Alejandra Guilmant
- Sabina Karlsson
- Ariela Soares
- Keilani Asmus
- Vika Levina
- Ebonee Davis
- Anna Wolf

Congratulations, Janine! – Rappler.com

FIL-AM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SACRAMENTO

Golf Tournament

**Bartley Cavanagh Golf Course
8301 Freeport Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95832**

Saturday, Oct. 15th 2016

FACCS SACRAMENTO

Find us on: **facebook**
@FilAmSac

Flyer Sponsored By: **Century 21**

TOURNAMENT DETAILS
 Format: 4Man "Best Ball"
 Shotgun: 8:00am Sharp
 Tournament Fee: \$65.00
 Entry Fee includes: Green Fees, Cart & Lunch
 Respond By: October 12, 2016

For More Info:
 Michael Lopez 916.715.4559
 Jay Paular 916.284.9349
 Ed Abella 916.416.8110

SIMPLY MAGIC Band

Glenda D. Odra

Cell: (916) 955-1546
 Office: (916) 447-7100
 Glendaodra@hotmail.com

Dj Ozgee & Entertainment

(916) 239-8895

RJ MATA

DJ and Vocalist
 916.642.5390

My goal is to provide the best music & entertainment to your satisfaction.

PERSONAL INJURY and IMMIGRATION

Law Office of **ALEX C. BRAVO**

Bus. 916.684.4432 **Alex C. Bravo**
Fax 916.684.9332 **Attorney**

2230 Longport Ct., Suite 100 Elk Grove, CA 95758



Auto • Home • Life • Business
Greg Comia Insurance Agency, Inc.
Tel. 916.682.6053 comiag@nationwide.com
7500 Elsie Ave., Suite 106 Sacramento, CA 95828





My Sister's House

Run for a Safe Haven

What: 5k fun run/walk
 When: Saturday, Oct. 22th, 2016
 Where: Start and finish at William Land Park at the Village Green area (corner of Freeport Blvd. and Sutterville Rd.)
 Race Day Registration: 8:00am
 Warm-up and Kids' Half Mile: 8:30am
 5K Run/Walk Race Start Time: 9:00am
 Awards Ceremony Begins: 10:00am
 Register at <http://www.runforasafehaven.com>



Christmas in October

TARA na BFF...

HALINA AT TAYO'Y
 MAGSAYA ISAMA ANG
 BUONG PAMILYA
 SAMASAMANG
 IPAGDIWANG FIESTA AT
 PASKONG KINAGISNAN

2016 Barrio Fiesta FILIPINAS
 Celebrate The Best of Filipino Heritage and Culture

Makisyaw • Makikanta • Maki-Jamming • Maki-saya • Maki-Fiesta

FILIPINO FAMILY FESTIVAL

October 8, 2016, Saturday,
 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM
 Elk Grove Regional Park 9950 Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove, CA. 95624
FREE ADMISSION

Special Performance and Album launching by:
INTROVOYS Banda ng Dekada Nubenta



MORNING EVENT: **FAMILY FUN RUN**
 (register now)

- FESTIVAL PROPER**
- Jumping Houses
 - Entertainment
 - Filipino Food Booths
 - Booths
 - Musical & Cultural Performances
 - Unlimited Photobooth
 - Miss Gay BFF
 - Pinoy Street Food

Interested Vendors, sponsors, volunteers, entertainers, please contact:
 Howell Felix (916) 430-9245 (916) 430-9158 • Eric - 510-289-5641 (txt msg only)
 Email: bffpinoy@gmail.com • FB: <https://www.facebook.com/pinoybff>

KAPPA PSI EPSILON'S ANNUAL VETERANO Luncheon

WHEN: NOV. 19, 2016 | 11:00AM – 2:00PM
 WHERE: MAGELLAN HALL
 8831 GERBER ROAD, FLORIN CA 95829
 *RIDES CAN BE PROVIDED

CONTACT GABRIELLE FOR ANY INQUIRIES AT
KPSIE.EPSILON.COMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM

California
MENTOR
 Family Home Agency

Share your **heart**. Share your **home**.
 Become a **Mentor** today!

California MENTOR is seeking loving families with a spare bedroom to support adults with special needs. Receive a generous, monthly stipend and ongoing support.

Please join us for an Information Session

Tuesdays at 4:00 PM & Thursdays at 11:00 AM
 7801 Folsom Blvd. Ste 375, Sacramento, CA 95826

Contact Thomas at (916) 383-9785 ext. 17
www.MentorsWanted.com