



Only Leni can succeed me - Duterte
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PF NEWS

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Bayanihan's Fathers' Day
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Fiesta! Fiesta!



Pista Sa Nasyon at Waterfront Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA on June 3, 2017.
Photo by Dale Esperante



Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento on June 4, 2017 at Jose Rizal Community Center, Sacramento CA.
Photo by Dave San Pedro

Digong's 'new' friends



On May 23, 2017 while President Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte was enroute to Moscow for a five-day visit, the rebel group Maute struck. At about 2:00 PM, the Battle of Marawi began. At least 500 members of Maute attacked a Philippine Army brigade stationed at Camp Ranao in Marawi City. They were seen rampaging through the streets waving ISIS black flags.

Continued on page 2

Duterte maintains high approval, trust ratings

President Duterte brought to Malacañang the popularity he enjoyed as a longtime Davao City mayor after he won the 2016 presidential election.

Like so many things, what goes up must come down. In the case of Mr. Duterte, his popularity ratings saw slight declines from September last year to March this year but his ratings were still relatively high, according to surveys conducted by Social Weather Stations (SWS) and Pulse Asia Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S OATH Exactly a year ago, Rodrigo Roa Duterte took his oath to serve as the highest official of the land before Supreme Court Justice Bienvenido L. Reyes in a ceremony attended by his children.

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The mighty Speaker

By Val G. Abelgas

Power corrupts. And absolute power corrupts absolutely. This tenet has never been more evident than in the recent actions by the House of Representatives led by its Speaker, Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez, who threatened to abolish the Court of Appeals because it ordered the House to release six officials of the Ilocos Norte provincial government, who were cited for contempt and detained inside the confines of the chamber.

The six senior Ilocos Norte officials were cited for contempt for failing to answer questions in connection with the House inquiry into the alleged misuse of tobacco funds in the province. Some of the provincial officials said they could not remember the transaction in question while some apparently gave answers that were not to the liking of House Majority Leader Rodolfo Farinas, a former Marcos ally who is now in a feud with the Marcoses in Ilocos Norte.

Farinas is in his last term as Ilocos congressman and is expected to challenge the Marcos anointed in the 2019 local elections. Gov. Imee Marcos is also in her last term as governor.

The six Ilocos officials went to the Court of Appeals and sought protection under the writ of habeas corpus, which empowers the court to order an institution holding the petitioners to present them. The appellate court granted them the writ and ordered their provisional release on a P30,000 bail.

Alvarez, obviously blinded by his newfound power, went ballistic. Alvarez said

he would defy the court and the House has not released the six as of this writing. Fariñas said the CA could not infringe on the constitutional power of Congress to cite errant resource persons for contempt.

Alvarez, mimicking the tough talk of his friend President Duterte, told reporters: "That's gross ignorance of the law. Mga gago yang tatlong justices na yan!" Alvarez said, referring to the justices who issued the order. In different interviews, Alvarez also called the three justices "idiots," "rotten," and "crazy." In debates and discourses, name-calling has been known to show signs of inferior argument or an inability to present solid arguments.

Two days later, Alvarez dropped another bomb on the appeals court, threatening to abolish the court or reducing its budget to one peso, which would effectively shut it down, and insisted that the court had no authority to compel the House to release the so-called "Ilocos Six."

"The CA is not even our co-equal branch. It is merely a creation of Congress. It exists because it was created by Congress," Alvarez told a radio interview. "The CA justices had better start thinking because any time, we can dissolve the CA." If this is not a threat, I don't know what is.

This is simply a case of bullying by the country's fourth highest ranking official, who has shown his brute arrogance in many instances in the past. When his girlfriend had a spat with the girlfriend of another congressman, fellow Davaoño



Pantaleon-Alvarez

and former friend Rep. Tony Florendo, Alvarez threatened to scrap the 40-year-old joint venture agreement between the Bureau of Corrections and the Florendo-owned Tagum Agricultural Development Co., Inc.

Earlier, Alvarez threatened all members of the administration coalition to vote in favor of the death penalty bill or face expulsion from their committee chairmanship and memberships. Akong his victim was former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who was stripped of her functions as a deputy speaker.

Just recently, Alvarez threatened to disobey the Supreme Court if ordered a joint session of Congress to review Duterte's martial law declaration.

"They [the SC justices] do not have the right to dictate on Congress what we should do," he said, citing separation of powers among the three branches of government. "Punitin ko yan [I will tear it up]!" he said, if the tribunal makes such a decision. Preempting the President, Alvarez also said martial law should be extended until the end of Duterte's term in 2022.

Alvarez was echoing a similar threat by the President, who said: "Until the police and the Armed Forces say the Philippines

Continued on next page

PerryScope
By Perry Diaz

While in Moscow, Duterte declared martial law at 10:00 pm that same day. He cut short his visit after meeting his new friend Russian President Vladimir Putin for a short time.

Last June 2, Duterte complained about the quality of "secondhand"

American military hardware. "I will not accept any more military equipment that is secondhand. The ones the Americans are giving, I do not want that anymore," he said. He threatened to form alliances with China and Russia and asked them to provide weapons to the Philippine military.

But a few days later, on June 5, the U.S. handed over – I mean, given free -- \$150 million worth of brand-new weapons that included 300 M4 assault rifles, 100 grenade launchers, and four M134D Gatling-style machine guns that can fire thousands of rounds a minute. The U.S. Embassy issued a statement, saying: "This equipment will enhance the [Philippine Marines'] counterterrorism capabilities, and help protect [troops] actively engaged in counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines."

The Pentagon also confirmed the presence of 50 to 100 special-operations forces that were providing technical support to the Philippine Marines. Another force of 300 to 500 U.S. military personnel are involved in providing regular bilateral training, exercises, and other activities. However, in a press conference, Duterte claimed that he didn't ask for the American weapons and found out their presence in Marawi after they had arrived.

Battle of Marawi

Today, with the battle of Marawi intensifying, the Philippine spokesman confirmed the Philippine military's deaths amounted to the biggest single-day loss in the fighting. "There were intense firefights, house-to-house gun battles," the spokesman revealed during a press conference in Marawi. He added that the

Digong's 'new' friends



Maute militants rampage through the streets of Marawi waving ISIS black flags.

government suffered 58 casualties and more than 20 civilians killed. It was estimated that 10% of Marawi is still under the Maute group's control. Tens of thousands have fled the city, with more than 200,000 people displaced. About 2,000 people are believed to have been trapped in insurgent-held areas. Duterte believed that the

declare martial law nationwide to deal with the threat of "Islamist" militancy. But some social scientists would disagree with Duterte's approach in solving the Marawi problem; that is, to apply military solution to a social problem. And as most of us know, Mindanao is the hotbed of social unrest ever since the Spaniards arrived in this country.

For one thing, Mindanao – or more specifically, the Muslim region of Mindanao – is the poorest region in the country. The bigger the Muslim population is, the poorer the region. Why so? This has baffled social scientists ever



U.S. hands over weapons to the Philippines to fight the Maute militants.

militant attack was part of a wider plot by ISIS to establish a base in Mindanao. He declared martial law hoping to quell the threat, which begs the question: Does Duterte have sufficient military personnel and weaponry to stop what seems to be cancerous spread of hatred and violence? Or does it take more than a military remedy to remove the cancer?

Military solution

By virtue of Duterte's declaration of martial law, it is presumed that he believes



Muslim women refugees flee the battle of Marawi.

the Marawi problem can be solved militarily. He even suggested that he just might

since the country gained her independence. So should it be fair to presume that the Muslims of Mindanao aren't self-sufficient enough to maintain a higher economic production?

That's farthest from the truth. On the contrary, Mindanao is the richest region in terms of natural resources and agricultural productivity. So, what's the problem? How can Mindanao's calculus change to make it as rich as Luzon or Western Visayas? Let's use a simple example of how productivity works: A small city's production output is P500 million, which she turns over to the central government in Manila, who in turn allots P50 million back to the small city and puts the remaining P450 million in the national treasury. As you can see, for every 10 pesos generated by the small city, the central government allots only 10% back to the small city. Meanwhile, the central government spends the money earned by the small city on projects or programs that don't benefit the small city. What results is a disproportionately funded small city who has no other source of

Continued on next page



Editor's Note

The month of June is another busy month for everyone in the community. We can tell by the several community events write ups by our hardworking contributing writers. In this issue includes coverage of the Philippine National Day celebration at the annual Filipino Fiesta event at the Jose Rizal Community Center, feature articles, and other community and family celebrations.

What's precious of them all are the highlights of Rize All's first recital held at the Laguna Town Hall in Elk Grove. It was so much joy to see little ones perform on stage. It's their first performance in front of a big crowd, a positive experience, which can surely help boost their confidence at their very young age.

With that said, Dave and I are beyond grateful for the contributions of several Filipino American community organization in Sacramento to Rize All Arts Center first dance recital, namely: Bayanihan of Sacramento, American Legion Magellan Post 604, Filipino American Veterans Association, Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Ilocano Foundation of California, Maharlika Lions Club, Philippine National Day Association, Sinag-Tala, United Naguilian La Union Circle of America, Inc., and our dear friend Maria Bahoric.

Summer has officially begun with the weeklong three-digit temperature. Stay hydrated and be safe, as we enjoy family outings, vacations, and the happiest 4th of July celebration!

Be free and proud,
Dinnah San Pedro

Digong's 'new' friends

From page 2

lift the poor in Mindanao? Last April, Duterte's economic team announced several big-ticket projects aimed to reduce poverty and fill the country's infrastructure gap. They call it "Dutertenomics," whose

10-point socio-economic agenda primarily aims to reduce poverty from 21.6 percent in 2015 to 13 to 15 percent by 2022. In addition to the poverty reduction, a major plank of Dutertenomics will be a big infrastructure push, which they said would usher a "golden age of infrastructure" in the Philippines that includes a railway system for Mindanao. But what does Dutertenomics do for the Muslims of Lanao del Sur and the six others that are high on the poverty list? Is Dutertenomics going to change how provincial revenues are distributed?

Dutertenomics

But Dutertenomics has hit a snag before it could even take off. That "snag" is the Battle of Marawi and it seems that it is getting bigger and bigger and getting out of control. With foreign fighters from the Middle East joining the ranks of the Maute and Abu Sayyaf militants, the rebellion is escalating to a point where America might find herself directly fighting the militants in support of Philippine troops – not just technical support but "boots on the ground" as well.

But military operation alone would only exacerbate the poverty situation of Muslim Mindanao. What Digong should do is find ways constitutionally or by congressional fiat to alleviate the poverty situation. The bottom line is: the central government should – nay, must! – find ways to stimulate the economy in Muslim Mindanao to sustain a healthy development of the region.

The mighty Speaker

Farinas said 180 members of the House of Representatives have signed a draft resolution asking the Supreme Court to disbar the three justices of the Court of Appeals' Special Fourth Division for "ignorance of the law and abuse of authority."

Albeit with questionable intent, Farinas has at least decided to go before the Supreme Court to settle the issue. The Constitution vests the courts the power to issue the writ of habeas corpus precisely to ensure that no government official or entity would abuse its authority to detain individuals. It is a vital element of democracy to check abuse by the people who wield power. The appellate court was merely enforcing the Rule of Law, which ordains that, in the words of San Beda Graduate of School Law Dean Fr. Rahnilio Aquino, "when a citizen is detained, jailed or otherwise deprived of significant and fundamental liberties, he may turn to the courts and ask them to inquire into the legality of the power that restrains him."

Still not content with threatening to abolish the second highest court of the land, the House dynamic duo decided they would move to disbar the three CA justices who issued the order. On Monday,

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Displaced family living in poverty in Mindanao.



U.S. and Philippine military officers plan the Balikatan (shoulder-to-shoulder) Exercises in 2017.

But military operation alone would only exacerbate the poverty situation of Muslim Mindanao. What Digong should do is find ways constitutionally or by congressional fiat to alleviate the poverty situation. The bottom line is: the central government should – nay, must! – find ways to stimulate the economy in Muslim Mindanao to sustain a healthy development of the region.

At the end of the day, the timely arrival of Duterte's "new" friends – the Americans—to help quell the Maute rebellion is a quantum improvement in U.S.-Philippine bilateral relations. It is also a great opportunity for him to pursue structural and economic reforms and to defeat poverty -- which is the real enemy – and achieve social justice for the poor. Failure to do so would only perpetuate the simmering social discontent in the region that could explode into another – if not larger – uprising. Duterte has his *work cut out for him.* (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Duterte: Robredo is only legitimate successor to presidency

By Nestor Corrales

Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday said Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo was the only legitimate successor to the presidency as provided for in the Constitution.

Duterte made the remark as he laughed off the self-proclamation of lawyer Ely Pamatong as the President of the Philippines.

He said Pamatong was "pretender to the throne."

"Kaya sasabihin ko sa inyo na may problema rin tayong isa because there is a pretender to the throne, assuming that I die within maybe tomorrow, next year, or next month," Duterte said in a speech on Wednesday during the celebration of the 120th founding anniversary of the Presidential Security Group (PSG).

Earlier, he also led the groundbreaking ceremony of the new PSG Station Hospital Compound at Malacañang Park. He was as-

sisted by Health Secretary Paulyn Jean Ubial and Col. Lope Dagoy, PSG chief.

"There are two claimants to the presidency. Ang isa, nag-organiza na at he has claimed that he has deposed me, presidential candidate Amato – si Pamatong," he added.

Duterte dismissed the self-proclamation of Pamatong, saying it was only Robredo who could replace him should the presidency become vacant.

"Sabi niya (Pamatong), nag-takeover na siya," Duterte said. "Eh ngayon, nandiyan si Leni. Baka magkamali kayo ng kampo ha. Dito tayo sa Constitution. There is a successor there."

Robredo is facing an electoral protest before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal after losing vice presidential candidate Ferdinand Marcos Jr. questioned the results of the elections.



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Bulacan massacre suspect: 'I killed them all'

By Maila Ager

"I killed all of them. I hope you forgive me."

This was how suspect Carmelino "Miling" Ibañez confessed on Thursday to the massacre of a family in Bulacan province last June 27.

Ibañez said he killed all five victims—28-year-old Estrella Carlos and three children, and her mother, 58-year-old Aurora—because he was drunk and high on drugs.

"Ako po ang pumatay sa kanilang lahat. Nagsisi po ako sa ginawa ko po (I was the one who killed them all. I'm

so sorry for what I've done)," the suspect said.

"Sana po ay mapatawad po ako kasi po lulong po ako sa droga saka po sa alak po. Pasensya na po kayo (I hope you forgive me, I'm just high on drugs and drunk)," Ibañez added.

The suspect was presented by the police in a televised press conference.

Chief Supt. Aaron Aquino,



Bulacan massacre suspect Carmelino "Miling" Ibañez.

Philippine National Police Region 3 director, said the suspect was a construction worker and native of Negros Occidental.

Ibañez lived just two houses away from the house of the victims.

It was Estrella's husband, Dexter, who discovered the bodies of the victims when he

returned home from work Tuesday morning.

Duterte maintains high approval, trust ratings

From page 1

Last September, the President's approval and trust ratings in Pulse Asia surveys were at their highest, both at 86 percent.

Huge approval of and trust in the President were recorded in Mindanao, his bailiwick, with an approval rating of 93 percent and trust of 96 percent.

But his high approval and trust ratings slowly dipped as the months went on. In March, his approval and trust ratings fell to 78 percent and 76 percent, respectively.

Trust ratings

Across geographical areas, trust in the President from last September to March also declined—in the rest of Luzon

(15-point drop), Metro Manila (7-point drop), Mindanao (6-point drop) and the Visayas (2-point drop).

It was a similar trend across socioeconomic classes, with double-digit declines in Class E (11 points) from last September to last December.

The President's net satisfaction rating (satisfied minus dissatisfied) in an SWS survey last September was a "very good" +64. It slightly declined to +63 last December and March this year.

Highest in Mindanao

As expected, Mindanao had

the highest satisfaction rating of "excellent" +85. It dropped 11 points last December to +74 but rose to +87 in March.

The President's trust ratings in the SWS surveys had significant movements. Last September, he got an "excellent" net satisfaction rating of +76, which decreased to +70 in March.

In the Visayas, his trust rating was an "excellent" +73 last September. It declined to a "very good" +63 in March.

Trust in the President among Mindanaoans was an "excellent" +92 last September, but it went down 7 points to +85, before it increased to +89.

Satisfaction with the Duterte administration had no significant movements between last September and March, except in Class E. It increased by 7 points from a "very good" +62 last September to +69.

Drug campaign

Support for the administration's bloody campaign against illegal drugs also saw declines.

Last September, the administration's performance in its war on drugs had a net satisfaction rating of +76. It barely moved last December to +77, but dropped to +66 in March. While the President continues to enjoy a relatively high satisfaction and trust ratings, more Filipino families con-

sider themselves poor and "food-poor." More households are also experiencing hunger. Self-rated poverty went up, with half of Filipinos rating themselves poor, up from 42 percent last September. Self-rated food poverty also rose from 30 percent last September to 35 percent in March.

Among the regions, Metro Manila had the highest increase in hunger incidence from 7.3 percent last September to 12 percent in March.

Joblessness

SWS said joblessness last December was the worst in two years at 25.1 percent, which slightly went down to 22.9 percent in March.

In SWS surveys, respondents were satisfied the most with the government's performance in helping the poor, giving it a rating of "very good" +63 last September and +66 last December.

The issue of fighting inflation got the least score in March, with a "moderate" +13.

In Pulse Asia surveys, increasing the pay of workers remains the issue deemed most urgent by Filipinos, while fighting criminality had the highest net approval rating from September to March.-INQUIRER RESEARCH

House approves bill on 'correct' rendition of Lupang Hinirang, stiffer penalties

House Bill No. 5224 dictates the right way to sing Lupang Hinirang, raises penalties and sets fines of P50k to P100K

By Vince F. Nonato

MANILA — The House of Representatives has approved on third and final reading the measure updating the rules on the correct rendition of the national anthem Lupang Hinirang, and requiring everyone to sing along when it is played in public.

House Bill No. 5224 also seeks to impose stiff penalties of P50,000 to P100,000 on "any person who, or entity which violates any provision" of the proposed law—much heavier than the P5,000 to P20,000 fine provided for by the current Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines.

Under the proposed measure, singing along when the anthem is played at public gatherings "shall be mandatory and must be done with fervor." It may be noted the current flag code, enacted in 1998, did not use the word "mandatory" when it directed public attendees to sing along during gatherings.

As a sign of respect, all persons must stand at attention facing the Philippine flag, if displayed, or the band or conductor; civilians salute the flag with their right palm over the left chest.

But, the House bill also seeks to provide leeway for people whose religious beliefs prohibit them from singing. The current flag code did not contain any provision, while the House measure states these people "must, nonetheless, show full respect... by standing at attention."

The House bill also seeks to standardize the proper rendition of Lupang Hinirang in accordance with the

musical arrangement and composition of Julian Felipe: in 2/4 beat when played, and within the range of 100 to 120 metronome, in 4/4 beat when sang.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines will also be mandated to disseminate an official musical score sheet to reflect the correct way of singing the anthem.

The proposed flag code will also oblige the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to "ensure that the national anthem... shall be committed to memory by all students" of public and private schools.

The House bill also strikes out the current flag code's prohibition on the display of the Philippine flag in front of "buildings and offices occupied by aliens."

Under the proposed law, failure to observe the rules on the proper rendition of the anthem and display of national symbols will also lead to administrative discipline for the employees of all government offices and privately-owned entities displaying the flag.

The House announced the development in a Monday statement. With the approval of the law on third and final reading via a unanimous vote of 212-0, the measure now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Authors of the bill include Reps. Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (2nd District, Cagayan de Oro City), Evelina Escud-



World War II veteran Porfirio G. Laguitan, 91, salutes during the singing of the national anthem on a Monday flag-raising ceremony in Taguig City Hall.

ero (1st District, Sorsogon), Christopher de Venecia (4th District, Pangasinan), Marlyn Alonte (Lone District, Biñan City), Victoria Isabel Noel (Party-list, AN WARAY), Jose Christopher Belmonte (6th District, Quezon City), Deogracias Victor Savellano (1st District, Ilocos Sur), Sandra Eriguel (2nd District, La Union), Pablo Ortega (1st District, La Union), Anna Katrina Enverga (1st District, Quezon), Lianda Bolilia (4th District, Batangas), Ros-sana Vergara (3rd District, Nueva Ecija), Ron Salo (Party-list, KABAYAN), Mark Go (Lone District, Baguio City), Cecilia Leonila Chavez (Party-list, BUTIL), Luisa Lloren Cuaresma (Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya), Divina Grace Yu (1st District, Zamboanga del Sur), Vilma Santos-Recto (6th District, Batangas), Glona Labadlabad (2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte), Ana Cristina Go (2nd District, Isabela), Celso Lobregat (1st District, Zamboanga City), Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (6th District, Pangasinan), Harlin Neil Abayon III (Party-list, AANGAT TAYO), and Manuel Jose Dalipe (2nd District, Zamboanga City).

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'A roller coaster ride'

By Christina Mendez

Like a roller coaster ride, there's no telling how his administration has fared until the ride is over.

This was President Duterte's take on his first year in office as he declined to assess his performance as the country's chief executive.

"I do not make any assessment. I only make assessment after my term," the President told reporters in an interview in Clark, Pampanga Wednesday night.

"It's a roller coaster actually. While you are there, it's a roller coaster. So, it should be at the end of the ride," the 72-year-old Duterte said.

If he is unable to finish his term, Duterte said he is leaving it up to the public to judge his administration with "fairness."

"If I don't exist anymore by that time, you make your own assessment. Just be fair," he said. "If I get to live, then I'll tell you."

The President marks his first year in office today in Davao City where he plans to spend most of his time in the next few weeks.

His Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said he would rather have survey firms measure the Chief Executive's performance.

"It's hard to grade oneself. Like what you said, it is self-serving," Andanar told reporters.

"Let us just look at the results of the latest surveys on our President. The trust ratings of SWS and Pulse Asia, where 75 percent all the way to 72 percent who believe in President Duterte, supports his policies," Andanar added.

Communications Assistant Marie Banaag said the President wants to spend his first year anniversary with soldiers in Marawi City if permitted by his security advisers.

"The President wished to be in Marawi but, of course, that is tentative. The President wished to make the people of Marawi feel that we are behind them, the government is behind them and the President has never left Marawi," Banaag said.

The Palace also scoffed at an assessment made by the Human Rights Watch that Duterte's first year was a "human rights calamity."

"We don't feel good about the comments of the Human Rights Watch. But we have also to be firm – and we have to realize that the President stood and won on a platform of genuine change," she explained. "He wanted a better life for the Filipino people."

"Well, Human Rights Watch should not brush aside all the programs, especially the enforcement side. How many operations have been conducted by the enforcement agencies, anti-drug agencies? It is not a joke to enforce 62,000 anti-drug operations in a year," Banaag said.

"That's so much sacrifice. And of course, also, we have around 1.3 million drug surrenderers," she added.

"The government is doing something about these through the inter-agency committee on anti-illegal drugs," she pointed out.

Banaag reiterated that the government has been acting on cases of illegal drugs and working vigorously to ensure that lives are not wasted.

High grades

Not surprisingly, House allies have given Duterte high grades, with Ako Bicol Rep. Rodel Batocabe giving him an 8.7 mark in a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest.

Allies dominate the House, led by Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez.

I-Ang Edukasyon Rep. Salvador Belaro Jr. gave the President 8.0 while Quezon City Rep. Winston Castelo lauded Duterte for what he believed was his skillful handling of martial law.

Batocabe, president of the Party-list Coalition Foundation, noted the substantial improvement in the country's peace and order, the infrastructure boom, as well as Duterte's being a "good communicator."

"The economic reforms initiated by his predecessors are being continued by his economic managers, thereby making the Philippines a rising economic star," the Bicolano lawmaker pointed out. Assistant Majority Leader Belaro, for his part, said the 8.0 grade "gives ample room for more accomplishments in the years ahead" or the remaining five years of the Duterte administration. Castelo commended Duterte and the security forces for their "professionalism" amid the conflict in Marawi City, as attested to by the Commission on Human Rights in a report last June 24.

For Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, the leader of the pro-administration minority, the President was in the



"I do not make any assessment. I only make assessment after my term," President Rodrigo Duterte told reporters in an interview in Clark, Pampanga.

learning stage and should be given more time to adjust.

"Let's give it to him. His first year was his learning curve. Remember that he was a reluctant candidate," Suarez told a news forum in Quezon City. On a scale of 1 to 10, he would give Duterte a six.

"He wasn't prepared, unlike the candidate I supported, who lost, unfortunately," he said. Suarez backed then vice president Jejomar Binay.

Asked in what areas Duterte did well, Suarez said it was in the anti-drug war.

"His election campaign promise was to rid the country of illegal drugs by killing all drug lords. So far, 2,600 drug suspects have been killed in police operations, while 7,500 have died under mysterious circumstances," he said.

But he lamented none of the more than 10,000 killed was a drug lord. "The big-time drug personalities are still pursuing their illegal activities, partly because they are protected by the police. I hope the President will focus his attention on them and their protectors," he said. Ifugao lawmaker Teodoro Baguilat Jr., for his part, gave Duterte a grade of four but lauded his achievements in the peace talks, economy and infrastructure.

Duterte, Baguilat said, "needs to drastically improve his performance if he really wants to use his considerable political capital to deliver on his promise of real and effective change."

Meanwhile, the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will lead a march to Mendiola today to press for more reforms under the Duterte administration.

"We are pressing President Duterte to fulfill his promise of change amid the worsening economic and political crisis. The people demand nationalist and progressive change, not another slew of broken promises," Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes said. "While there have been some positive development.



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Baguilat bats for passage of Anti-Discrimination Bill

By Artemio Dumlaog

Ifugao Rep. Teodoro Brawner Baguilat Jr. is urging his colleagues in Congress to come together and pass a law that will prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

This, he said, will help put "an end to the routine discrimination and sometimes violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenderers just because of their gender identity and sexual orientation."

Baguilat, who has authored an anti-discrimination bill still pending in the House of Representatives, has trained the spotlight on the LGBT community as part of the celebration of Pride Month. A consolidated bill that incorporates similar proposals by Baguilat and other lawmakers is in the period of sponsorship at the House.

The Ifugao lawmaker explained that while there is no law in the country that criminalizes LGBTs, there is likewise no law that expressly prohibits discriminatory actions against them, whether at home, in the workplace or in society.

A counterpart bill at the Senate has reached the plenary but passage of the Anti-Discrimination Bill has been hampered by opposition from the Catholic Church and its supporters who believe that the proposal could lead to the legalization of same-sex marriages.



Members of an LGBT group participate in a Gay Pride march against discrimination in Manila.

Rep. Baguilat also noted that while the Philippines has consistently scored high on gender equality reports, this masks systematic discrimination against the LGBT community.

He cited findings by the Rainbow Rights Project, which said that violence against LGBTs ranges from physical to emotional violence.

Sometimes, the harassment comes from family members, particularly males who want to "punish" the LGBTs for their gender identity or sexual orientation.

The Rainbow Rights Project likewise reportedly identified instances where lesbians, bisexuals and transgender women faced discrimination when applying for jobs.

They are often denied employment despite being better educated and having either equal or better qualifications than other applicants just because of their sexual orientation.

There have also been cases where transgender women

experienced harassment and discrimination when applying for passports and other documents for international travel, it further cited.

They were told, for example, that they should look like men in their passport photos because of a memorandum from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Police officers and members of the military have also been known for harassing, bullying and ridiculing transgender women, according to the paper.

In some instances, LGBTs were arbitrarily detained, asked or ordered to provide sexual favors just because they are different.

The Rainbow Rights Project also said that the government has adopted an "uneven approach" to advancing the rights of the LGBT community.

"It is time that a law that will prevent discrimination be put in place, and this should help reduce joblessness and underemployment and end violence against LGBTs," the Ifugao lawmaker said.

Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Health Fair 2017

By Faina Abaya

The annual FCSV Health Fair was held on June 10, 2017 at Jose Rizal Community Center which lasted from 10 AM-2 PM. This is one of the projects of FCSV to educate and disseminate information on how to prevent and manage all health issues in the community.

Chairpersons for the event were Aida Azurin, Ling Avera and Mercedes Guerrero president of FCSV who gave her usual heartwarming welcome address and introduced their resource persons, health educators and clinicians.

Lilia Rivera demonstrated some cardio vascular exercises vital to strengthen parts of the body which could help to prevent or

minimize the occurrences of heart problems. She was followed by Estela Rabara, a registered nurse (RN) who spoke how to stay healthy and avoid contracting allergy and possibly prevents or lessens the attack of asthma especially among children.

During the break the visitors were invited to visit the UCD clinic table where a group of volunteers led by Ena Gee (RN, ret.) were ready to check their vital sign, blood sugar, blood

pressure, etc. and gave recommendation to see their physicians about their possible health problems. The other resource persons who spoke on their respective health expertise were Elna Discipulo, (RN ret.) and Dr. Laura Ujano



The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Health Fair volunteers.



Dr. Laura Ujano Balangue



With Estela Rabara, Elna Discipulo, Ling Avera, Dr. Laura Balangue and chairperson Aida Azurin.

Balangue.

At 12 noon, a healthy lunch was served prepared by the FCSV ladies. In the afternoon there was Questions and Answers session about the importance on how to prevent and confront medical issues. As expected the event was

enthusiastically attended by residents of the community. They were thankful to the leadership of the FCSV and volunteers for it gave them the proper awareness on how to stay healthy all the time.

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Source: gettyimages.com

Cambodian female workers in Nike, Asics and Puma factories suffer mass faintings

By Karen McVeigh

Women working in Cambodian factories supplying some of the world's best-known sportswear brands are suffering from repeated mass faintings linked to conditions.

Over the past year more than 500 workers in four factories supplying to Nike, Puma, Asics and VF Corporation were hospitalised. The most serious episode, recorded over three days in November, saw 360 workers collapse. The brands confirmed the incidents, part of a pattern of faintings that has dogged the 600,000-strong mostly female garment workforce for years.

The Observer and Danwatch, a Danish investigative media group, interviewed workers, unions, doctors, charities and government officials in the country's garment industry, worth \$5.7bn in 2015.

The women who collapsed worked 10 hour days, six days a week and reported feeling exhausted and hungry. Excessive heat was also an issue in three factories, with temperatures of 37C. Unlike in neighbouring Vietnam, where factory temperatures must not exceed 32C, Cambodia sets no limit, though if temperatures reach a "very high level" causing difficulties for workers, employers must install fans or air conditioning.

According to unions, short-term contracts – common for workers in three of the factories – were also a key source of stress and exhaustion.

The minimum monthly wage in Cambodia is £120 and two hours' overtime a day boosts it to between £150 and £190, depending on the factory. Wages vary, but none of the four factories pays the "living wage", which in Cambodia is £300 a month, according to the workers' rights alliance Asia Floor Wage.

Bent Gehrt, south-east Asia field director for the Worker Rights Consortium, which monitors factories making clothing for US universities, said: "There is no proper investment in an adequate working environment and no investment in the living wage. If workers are fainting, it should be a clear indication you need to do something more drastic."

Short-term contracts were a "root cause" of job insecurity, he added, meaning peo-



Garment workers on the outskirts of Pnomh Penh prepare for the working day.

ple cannot refuse overtime: "Workers say if you don't do overtime, you won't get your contract renewed."

Mass collapses bring factories to a standstill and cost "hundreds of thousands" of pounds in lost productivity, according to the Garment Makers Association in Cambodia. A factory supplying shoes for Asics in Kamong Speu province had to close temporarily when 360 workers passed out over three days.

"Mass panic" had occurred when one woman suffered a seizure in a factory where temperatures were later found to be reaching 37C, said Norn Sophea, who represents the Collective Union of Movement of Workers. "Certain departments have small fans to cool the area, but in others the fans are only designed to remove dust from the factory. So it gets very hot," said Sophea.

Workers feared for their lives in one incident when 28 people collapsed rushing to escape a fire at a factory supplying Nike. Another described panic after thick smoke seeped into a factory supplying Puma.

On the outskirts of Phnom Penh, at a factory that makes sportswear for Puma, 150 workers passed out in March after thick smoke seeped across the factory floor. One woman, 28, was unconscious for two hours. "I heard the explosion. Smoke came into the factory. Workers were afraid and panicked. I ran to the gate to get out. It was locked but I ran to the manager's door," she said. "More and more workers came behind. Other workers could not run to get out and I heard they started fainting."

Kim So Thet, president of the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers' Democratic Union, has asked the factory to set up a cooling system. "It was very hot in the dry season," said So Thet. "The combination of the fire in the generator,

which smells like a poison, and the heat, makes the workers sick."

Puma said an investigation found no reports of an explosion. It added that a generator malfunction produced the smoke and workers left via the fire exit.

Poor ventilation and chemicals inside and outside factories contribute to the gruelling working environment, while workers at provincial factories can face exhausting journeys into work, standing for up to two hours in trucks.

Cheav Bunrith, director at Cambodia's Ministry of Labour's National Social Security Fund, says the number of faintings has decreased, from 1,800 in 2015 to 1,160 last year, thanks to education programmes on nutrition and free treatment for those feeling unwell. But he admitted factories could improve: "The cooling systems need to be set up appropriate to the size of the factory and a safe electrical system has to be set up."

Medical sociologist Robert Bartholomew, who has studied mass faintings, compares episodes in Cambodia to similar outbreaks in 19th century Britain when people worked long hours in unsafe conditions. It was, he said, a form of "subconscious political resistance". "The reason for these outbreaks is not so much physical but psychological, in the form of mass psychogenic illness" said Bartholomew.

"Providing some workers with better nutrition is all well and good, but there needs to be sweeping reforms in the areas of long hours, stressful conditions and poor wages," he said.

Contacted by the Observer and Danwatch, Puma, VF Corporation, Nike and Asics said they had investigated the episodes, which took place from last November to March. Nike said action had been taken to prevent fires and fire drills had been increased. It had also installed

Thai doctor fights against carcinogenic raw fish dish that killed his parents

By Oliver Holmes

Koi pla, raw fish ground with spices and lime, is thought to kill up to 20,000 people in Thailand every year

A doctor in Thailand whose parents died from liver cancer after eating a much-loved raw fish dish is travelling the country's rural north-east to warn people off the recipe.

Koi pla, a cheap plate of raw fish ground with spices and lime, is eaten by millions of Thais, especially in one of the nation's poorest provinces, Isaan.

But the meal often contains parasites that cause a type of liver cancer believed to be killing up to 20,000 Thais per year. Isaan has the highest reported instance of cholangiocarcinoma, or bile duct cancer, in the world.

The aggressive cancer is often caused by a parasitic flatworm – or liver fluke – native to fresh water fish in the Mekong region.

"It's a very big health burden around here," Narong Khuntikeo, who went on to become a liver surgeon after he lost his parents, told Agence France-Presse.

"But nobody knows about this because they die quietly, like leaves falling from a tree."

Without surgery, the disease has one of the lowest survival rates of all cancers, according to chol-



Freshly caught fish in the Thai province of Khon Kaen. Millions of Thais across the rural north-east regularly eat the raw fish dish koi pla. Photograph: Lillian Suwanrumpha/AFP/Getty Images

giocarcinoma charities.

Narong has brought together scientists, doctors and anthropologists in his fight against the "silent killer".

His team has spent four years driving ultrasound machines and urine testing kits around the Isaan region, testing villagers for the parasite. Up to 80% of the inhabitants of some communities were found to have ingested the parasite. At a recent testing visited by AFP, a third of villagers showed abnormal liver symptoms and four were suspected to have cancer.

"I've never been checked before, so I think I will probably have it because I've been eating [koi pla] since I was little," said Thanin Wongseeda, a 48-year-old queueing up for the screening in Kalasin province.

Thanin's test came back negative, but he said he would stay away from the uncooked fish salad from

now on.

Narong is encouraging others to do the same but it is proving difficult, especially in a country famed for and proud of its treasured local dishes, their recipes passed down across generations.

Local health officials have introduced a school curriculum of colourful cartoons that aims to teach children about the risks of raw foods.

But older generations are harder to convince, says Narong.

"They'll say: 'Oh well, there are many ways to die,'" he said. "But I cannot accept this answer."

Doctors recommend frying the mixture of chopped fish but many villagers say cooking the pink flesh gives it a sour flavour.

"I used to come here and just catch the fish in the pond," said Boonliang Konghakot, a farmer from Khon Kaen province. "It's so easy to eat raw."

cooling systems and air conditioning, after an audit found temperatures above Nike's code of conduct limits up to 30C. "We take the issue of fainting seriously, as it can be both a social response and an indication of issues within a factory that may require corrective action." Nike doesn't use short-term contracts.

Puma said it made recommendations, including providing energy bars and medical checks, maintenance of the ventilation system and a worker management committee. Puma is now replacing short-term contracts for workers who have given more than two years' service. It was engaging with Better Factories Cambodia – a partnership between the United Nations' labour organisation and the International Finance Corporation. "The causes for mass faintings seem to

be multiple and often complex," it said. "Only when there is a collaborative approach between the brands, factories, the workers and the government will the situation improve."

Asics also works with BFC: "Workers fainting appear to be a complex situation, caused by a number of different factors," it said. "The factory, alongside Asics and BFC, will address specific measures, with a

focus on workers' awareness and health and safety training, as well as including an improved air ventilation system."

VF said it worked with 1,000 supplier factories internationally: "Our teams work hard to make certain that working conditions in our contract supplier factories, including temperature or working breaks, are followed per local laws and regulations."



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PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

‘Martial law kuno’



Philippine Marines patrol Marawi City.

Long before President Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte imposed martial law in Mindanao, he was already toying with the idea of declaring martial law, not just in Mindanao but the entire country. Why? What caused him to consider martial law when his supporters in the House of Representatives have provided him with an ironclad defense from any attempt to impeach him? Or are there other reasons – secret and unpublished – that would satisfy his private agenda?

For one thing, one can say that Duterte was a democratically elected “strongman” like Russian President Vladimir Putin. While Duterte is not a “dictator” in the mold of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos, he was able to exercise near-absolute power in pushing his legislative agenda. Indeed, senators and congressmen who opposed his wishes were severely dealt with.

In the House of Representatives, except for a few party-list congressmen, nobody dares oppose his legislative agenda that includes restoration of the death penalty, the switch to a federal government, and lowering of the age of criminal liability. The House Speaker, Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez, a protégée of Duterte, is totally supportive of his legislative agenda. And the congressmen – who are balimbings (political turncoats) as a matter of political survival – fear him.

In my column, “Is martial law just a matter of time?” (January 27, 2017), I asked: “Why would Digong [Duterte] want to declare martial law, when his grip to power is strong? Would it be fair to presume that he might have been thinking of the day when his grip weakens and loses control of Congress? And the specter of that happening could give him sleepless nights, insecurity, and paranoia. Could this be the reason why he is not comfortable sleeping in Malacañang Palace protected by the elite Presidential Security

Group?”

Narco list

When the Philippine National Police (PNP) submitted an intelligence report – “Narco list” – to Duterte, several judges’ names were included on the report. Duterte threatened to have them arrested. Supreme Court Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno strongly opposed it and issued a statement that said, “Law enforcers must first secure warrants of arrest from judges before judges allow themselves to be ‘physically accountable to any police officer’ as she warned of a constitutional crisis.” This did not bode well with Duterte who responded angrily, “I’m giving you a warning. Don’t create a crisis because I will order everybody in the executive department not to



Pres. Rodrigo Duterte announces the “narco list.”

honor you,” he said referring to Sereno. He added, “Please, don’t order me. I’m not a fool. If this continues, [that] you’re trying to stop me, I might lose my cool. Or would you rather I declare martial law?” But Duterte relented and the matter with the “narco judges” was dropped.

Battle of Marawi



Battle of Marawi. Philippine Marines attack Maute stronghold.

On May 23, 2017 while Duterte was enroute to Moscow for a five-day visit, the rebel group Maute struck. At about 2:00 PM, the Battle of Marawi began. At least 500 members of Maute attacked a Philippine Army brigade stationed at Camp Ranao in Marawi City. They were seen rampaging through the streets waving ISIS black flags.

While in Moscow, Duterte declared martial law at 10:00 pm that same day. He cut short his visit after meeting Russian President

Vladimir Putin for a short time. In an attempt to acquire weapons from Russia, Putin told him to provide a “shopping list” and he’d look at it. Duterte flew back home without the “bacon” he had expected to bring home.

Last June 5, the U.S. handed over – I mean, given free -- \$150 million worth of brand-new weapons that included 300 M4 assault rifles, 100 grenade launchers, and four M134D Gatling-style machine guns that can fire thousands of rounds a minute. The U.S. Embassy issued a statement, saying: “This equipment will enhance the [Philippine Marines’] counterterrorism capabilities, and help protect [troops] actively engaged in counterterrorism operations in the southern Philippines.”

It’s interesting to note that on June 2 -- a few days before the handover – Duterte had complained about the quality of “secondhand” American military hardware. “I will not accept any more military equipment that is secondhand. The ones the Americans are giving, I do not want that anymore,” he said.”

Boots on the ground

But weapons were not the only ones Uncle Sam had given free. A Pentagon spokesman, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, confirmed the presence of 50 to 100 special-operations forces that are helping the Philippine marines in Marawi. He said that the U.S. also maintains a force of 300 to 500 to support regular bilateral training, exercises, and other activities in the country. He said that they’re in Marawi to provide technical assistance to the Philippine troops. However, they’re authorized to fire back if attacked.

In addition, another U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the support included aerial surveillance and targeting, electronic eavesdropping, com-



Joint Training: US soldiers train a member of the Philippine Coast Guard during one of their joint exercises in Mindanao. (Photo from Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines)

munications assistance, and training.

One might question the presence of U.S. troops in the country, which the Philippine Constitution bans. Philippine military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla told reporters in Manila, “The presence of armed U.S. troops in Marawi was covered by a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which calls for both parties to aid each other in times of enemy aggression.” He added, “That capacity has been moved to help ground forces in Marawi, and that arrangement should not complicate our military engagement.”

Who’s in charge?

But what is strange is that the day after the handover of U.S. weapons, Duterte held a press conference and told the reporters that he “never approached America” for help. He said that he was “entirely unaware of their presence until they [the Americans] arrived.” But while he claimed that he didn’t ask for U.S. military help, it begs the question: Did the

Philippine military request the aid independently without consulting Duterte? To avoid embarrassment, Duterte told the media that might have been the case. He said that due to years of U.S. training, “our soldiers are pro-American, that I cannot deny.” However, he did not comment on whether the Philippine military asked for U.S. help without his “approval.” And this raises the question: Who is in charge?

While one may wonder whether Duterte is still in charge, the answer is Yes and No. Yes, because he is still the president of the Philippines. No, because by declaring martial law, he turned over certain government functions to the military. He designated Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, a retired major general, as martial law administrator in Mindanao and Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief Gen. Eduardo Año as the chief martial law implementer. Año will be directly under the deputy martial administrator, who has yet to be named. He will also work with PNP Director General Ronald dela Rosa.

Indeed, little did Duterte realize that he had more power before he declared martial law. With martial law, he has to carefully work with the generals, giving them a lot of latitude. And to make sure that they remain loyal, he has to share power with them. Indeed, they can make or break him. And he knows that.

So, are you for or against martial



The late dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos and son, former Sen. Ferdinand (Bongbong) Marcos Jr.

law? As the Visayans would say it, “Martial law kuno,” while the Tagalogs would say, “Martial law daw.” But the Ilocanos will always say, “Marcos pa rin kami!” And Bongbong Marcos would be so delighted and he would say, “Martial law forever!” But the powerless and poor common tao could only say, “Hay naku, here we go again!” And for Donald Trump, he can only say, “It’s fake news.” And guess what Digong would be saying? “Sons of whores!” (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

American Public Education

Public education is supposed to be available to all American school children for free as the framers thought it should be.

The U.S. government policy on "No Child Left Behind" support this thrust as this policy is aimed to educate all children in the community.

The idea behind public education is brilliant and acceptable. Majority, if not all, locals are in favor for it. The concern lies on the funding. Can the county able to fund it?

Funds to operate a school district is dependent on the fiscal income of the city. Not all cities have the same amount of annual budget. There are rich cities that can afford to support high public school fundings; there are also poor cities that cannot support such budget.

A school district in rich city can afford to have top of the line educational resources to include teachers, equipments, and school fa-



ilities. A school district in poor city can hardly manage to support all of its financial needs just to meet both ends.

In this connection, school children living in a rich and well funded city enjoy the benefits of quality free American public education while the school children in poor city could not experience the same quality of education provided by rich city.

Schools in the district have quota on the max number of students to accept every school year. Parents of school children living within the school zones have to wake up early in the morning to queue at the school's registration center, where their children are listed, just to beat the cut off number.

Too bad if parents or guardians come late for registration, the students suffer. They have to wait for the next school opening to be accommodated; some go to other public schools using different home address.

On my family experience with American public education, my wife was quick enough to be in the line on time when my two sons were in their pre-school, kindergarten, and elementary grades. I did not see problem in registration in middle school and high school. I cannot say my comment yet in college level based on parental experience because my sons are still in the high school.

Public education is supposed to be free for all; however, not all qualified school children benefit from it. The government should have a good fiscal plan to implement the policy it created. (gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

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Vallejo's Philippine Cultural Celebration

By Dale Esperante

The refreshing bay area's 60 degree Fahrenheit morning welcomed the early visitors of Pista Sa Nasyon at Mare Island Waterfront on 3 Jun 2017. Pista Sa Nasyon translated in English means Town Fiesta. Quoted from the program, "The Philippine Cultural Committee (PCC) in cooperation with the City of Vallejo and GMA Pinoy TV presents a Filipino Cultural Celebration."

The list of the Pista's sponsors included Philippine Fiesta aka PF News of Sacramento, thanks to the invitation of PCC's PRO Jess Ramos and wife, Annie Frias-Ramos, one of two Festival Directors.

A parade at 9 am started the official celebration. First to reach the festival grounds, a squad of ROTC cadets guided by a Naval officer, carried the national colors. The cadet squad was followed by the following: (1) A high school drill team complete with cheerleaders and a marching band, (2) VIPs led by Vallejo's Mayor Bob Sampayan, (3) Deputy Consul Escalon and the Philippine Consulate General of San Francisco, (4) Filipino Community of Solano County, (5) Visayan Circle of Northern California with Mr. and Mrs. Tony Esperante carrying the banner, (6) Windsor Vallejo Care Center with Activity/Volunteer Director Norma Cumay-Ao, and (7) Vallejo Sister City Association. The list may appear brief; however, the support of the parade participants contributed to the resounding success of the day! The partial list of corporate sponsors was significant.

The introductions of the parade participants were followed by the singing of the national anthems, opening remarks by the organizers, introduction and speeches by the VIPs led by Mayor Sampayan, and the ribbon cutting by the mayor to officially open Pista Sa Nasyon.

After the official ceremony, a group of Golden State Warriors' uniform-clad women made a beeline towards the stage. The ladies graciously stopped for a photo shoot to accommodate a request from a photo enthusiast. For that moment, the smiling yellow and blue shirted Filipinas seemed to be the prolific flowers in the landscape of the immediate area. Seconds ticked, my camera clicked in bursts, then the ladies dispersed. The group then performed a Zumba exhibition joined by a healthy looking young man. The Warriors' shirts gyrated to the beat of the lively exercise music. A performance that may have been a prelude to the NBA Warriors' Game 2 Finals Win over the Cleveland Cavaliers the next day. After the Zumba group, the stage welcomed other performers: talented singers, instrumentalists, and bands to entertain the morning



Photos by Dale Esperante

and lunch time crowd. Tequila, a Santana like band, got some ladies dancing and frolicking in the grass area next to the stage. I almost participated but I was on duty as a photographer/reporter.

With the abundance of booths and food vendors available, folks who browsed around either shopped for merchandise or bought and tried delicious pinoy food. The partial list of food vendors included: Bogtsi - Ola-MP & Company, LLC; DBA Irma's Pampanga Cuisine, Ramar Food International, Jeepsilog, La Perla De Jalisco, The Orient, Pamapanga's Cuisine and more. Those who opted to stand next to the waterfront enjoyed the refreshing sea breeze and a respite away from the crowd.

Early afternoon, the throng of people increased awaiting the anticipated arrival of Filipino Pop and Jazz singer, actress, model and fashion designer, Ms. Kuh Ledesma, and Best Actress Marian Rivera and husband, Best Actor Dingdong Dantes.

At 4 pm, the organizers stamped my hand allowing me access into the arrival area of the celebrities. Kuh Ledesma arrived first. The organizers' security greeted and led her to the dressing room next to the stage. My brother Tony, his wife Nida, and a couple of ballroom dancers' friends of mine (Imelda Barbadillo and Elizabeth Warren) were part of the security

volunteers. They were assigned to positions beside the stage.

Finally the introduction. Kuh Ledesma graced the stage and the crowd went wild with joy. Kuh's voice sounded mellifluous as she sang English and Filipino songs. She also connected verbally with the audience between songs. She admitted to have matured and grown wiser through the years. The audience appreciated her anecdotes about life, love, challenges and strength as a Filipina. I've watched her perform a few years back. She was beautiful then and she is still a very beautiful lady now. Such an honor to be on the same stage with Kuh Ledesma, though me away from the spotlight, taking photos and soaking in the experience will be forever treasured. A-Kuh ay isang tagahanga talaga!

While Kuh was concluding her stage performance, the organizers and security detail greeted Marian and Dingdong. Escorts walked with Kuh back to the dressing room after her show. The three mega-stars stayed inside the dressing room for a few minutes. Kuh left first escorted by heavy security, appreciating the fans reaching out and calling her name.

The crowd came back alive as Dingdong appeared next onstage. With his movie-star good looks, I

heard ladies scream excitedly. He opened with a Tagalog song and the audience seemed to know his words as they sang along. After the song, he welcomed his wife Marian and the fans cheered resoundingly. The couple owned the stage as they sang and moved around flawlessly. As a photographer, I felt gifted again to be onstage, now with two beautiful people. The focus of my photography started with the celebrity couple, taking zoomed in and out shots of them. Then I noticed their connection with the shoulder to shoulder mass of people watching from below the stage becoming the landscape of the surrounding area. My camera refocused between the couple and the audience trying to capture the magical moments. It was a breathtaking experience for all including yours truly. After their awesome performance, Dingdong and Marian left the stage to head on to the GMA booth, stopping occasionally to sign autographs. Marian deviated and made her way to some fans blocked by a security barrier. A woman was carrying a baby. Either the mother asked Marian to carry the baby or Marian asked, but Marian seemed happy to accept the baby in her arms, cuddling the little one. Lucky baby, lucky fans and lucky me for catching this moment! The only regret, I didn't

capture it on camera. Because I was so touched by the scene, I forgot my camera. Marian and the Baby, beautiful like a nativity scene. Marian gently handed the baby back to the mother. Marian walked back with her head bowed and her hands together in front of her pointing up as if in prayer. This I captured on camera.

A feeling of euphoria tinged with deflation seemed to linger after the mega-stars' performances. It was thrilling but now back to the reality for most of us, to our day to day existence. Philippine Fiesta aka PF News of Sacramento is grateful to the hospitality of Vallejo's Philippine Cultural Committee: General Chairperson Nelita Sotto, Secretary Karen Ang, Treasurer Susan Encarnacion, Auditor Ernestine Villanueva, PRO's Jess Ramos—Ron and Rochelle Del Rosario—Flo Verano, Festival Directors: Norma Placido—Annie-Frias Ramos—Eloise Scott—Pam Abulencia—Eva Calilan, Entertainment Coordinator Mel Orpilla, Graphic Artist Miro Salazar, Chairman Emeritus Fred Pono, and all the officers and volunteers. We also wish to thank Stage Manager Victoria Grace and Head Security Omar Martinez for allowing this writer to be onstage, Closer to the Stars. Maraming Salamat Po Vallejo!



Sacramento's Filipino Fiesta

By Dale Esperante

A slight breeze and 75-degree Fahrenheit weather blessed the morning arrivals at the Fiesta on 4 Jun 2017. The theme this year is "Remembering and Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March."

At 10 a.m., the parade started from the corner of Florin Mall Drive and Orange Avenue. The order of the parade started with the Colors carried by the Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) headed by President Dick Weitzenberg with Squad Sergeant Ato Delacruz calling commands. Followed by: FAVA Banner carried by the FAVA Ladies, Grand Marshall Cecilia Gaerlan, Dignitaries, Bataan Legacy Historical Society (BLHS) Bataan Death March Never Forget, US Filipino War Veterans Region (President Julie Bucsit), Filipino Royal Courts, Aklan Association Ati-Atihan Band and Members (President Danny Yap-Diangco), Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (President Mercy Guerrero), Ilocano Foundation of California, Filipino Womens Club (President Vickie Debord), UP Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity (President Dr. Fred Aquino), Filipino Family Fraternity (President Aida Azurin) and Santa Cruzan, United Federation of Filipino American Educators, Sacramento Chapter (President Murray Navarro), My Sisters House (Director Nilda Valmores), Eskwela Natin (President Dolores Diaz), Sinagtala Filipino Theater Arts Association (President Beep Alo). The parade was judged by the following: Rosie Dauz, Lauren Carpio, Jinky Dolar, Dan Dolar, and Conrad De Castro. The winners were judged for the following: Best Representation of the Fiesta Theme, Most Enthusiastic, Most Colorful, Most Participants, Most Creative, Best Regional Representation of the Philippines. Donors for the Parade: Manny Buenaventura, Josie Patria, George Victorioso, Dick Weitzenberg, Ray J. Nalangan & Family, and UPAASV.

The parade participants were introduced at the Wells Fargo Stage on the best sound system provided by Rolly Wagas. The opening ceremonies included the Advance of Colors by the FAVA Veterans, the national anthems sang by the Sinag-tala Children's Ensemble (Kristina Garcia, Apollross Reyes, Jasmine Lewis), Welcome by Filipino Fiesta President Lilia Rivera, Speech and Video by Grand Marshcall Cecilia Gaerlan (Executive Director of BLHS), Brief Remarks by Special Guests: Congressman Ami Bera, Roger Dickinson, Dave Tamayo (SMUD Board of Directors), Jaime Escalon (Deputy-Consul for the Philippine Consulate in SF). Rob



Bonta's Representative, Evan Corder, presented certificates signed by Rob Bonta to the following Bataan Death March Honorees: Alberto P. Arcaya, Nicanor Benueza, Moises Fernando, Gen. Luciano Prieto, Leon Pelare, and Dr. Dionisio Tonel.

While watching the presentation of certificates to the WWII veterans onstage, I noticed someone sitting in a wheelchair in the audience wearing a WWII cap watching quietly. I approached this gentleman and found out his story from Tisa, a daughter standing nearby. I got behind the stage and walked respectfully to Josie Patria who called for this gentleman to be recognized as well. Tisa emailed me this after the Fiesta:

Thank you again for photographing today's, 6/4, Filipino Fiesta and recognition of WWII veterans in Sacramento. My 94-year-old father, Demetrio Lorenzo, recently moved to Sacramento

from the Bay Area. He served in the 15th Infantry, US Armed Forces in the Philippines-Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NL) in Ilocos Norte from 1944-45. Sincerely, Tisa Josie Patria thanked all the WWII veterans followed by a group photo onstage.

At conclusion of the official ceremonies at 12:20 p.m., a young girl named Isabella Paragas stepped onstage and performed a couple of musical numbers to the delight of the audience. Isabella mentioned that she will be heading to New York in the immediate future for a chance to be part of something big in the musical world. After

hearing Isabella, the girls in the audience were rewarded by a local promising pop artist named L J Matias. L J's style from hip-hop, R&B, to rock and his effortless transition to falsetto captured the attention of passers-by. The seats began

to fill. Raeselle Lourdes, Apoll Reyes, and Kristina Garcia sat in a section of the audience who sang along with L J, sprinkled with some animated cheers of delight. Normally, I try to refrain from taking video with my camera, but this time I videoed L J more than any other. I could think of a successor for Bruno Mars someday, fingers crossed.

Then Elona Santiago took over the stage. Wow! One after another of promising stars showed up for Sacramento's Filipino Fiesta! This year Elona invited the little ones to come up onstage with her to sing some Moana songs. This

time the section of Raeselle, Apoll, and Kristina were all cutesy smiles as they watched Elona and the little ones perform. At first Elona had to sing more verses until the little ones felt comfortable enough to join singing with her. Elona's voice exuded confidence, professionalism, and experience in the big time musical industry. She placed 6th overall out of 16 finalists on X-Factor's Season 3.

Sinag-tala Theater Ensemble showcased the cultural dances such as Subli, Flower Dance, and Tinikling. Volunteers from the audience joined the Tinikling dance onstage. Raeselle Lourdes narrated the history connected with each dance. She also joined a song performed by the group. The song Ang Bayan Ko by Kristina Garcia, Apollross Reyes, and Jasmine Lewis would have given famous star, Jennifer Lopez, "The Goosies." The Goosies got me, so now I know what Jennifer Lopez was talking about. Great song by three top-tiered singers of Sinag-



Photos by Dale Esperante

FCSV Summer Solstice

By Dale Esperante

Solstice in Astronomy means either of the two times a year when the sun is at its greatest distance from the celestial equator (info from Dictionary.com). In the summer, it means daylight hours are longer. For example, in Fairbanks, Alaska, the average day light hours were recorded to be 21 hours and 49 minutes.

On 10 Jun 2017, Summer Solstice fun by the ladies of the Filipino American Community of Sacramento and Vicinity shone brightly in the Rizal Community Center. Thanks to the leadership of President Mercy Guerrero and the Organizing Committee of Mercury Acosta, Rosie Vineles-Sloan, Lena Morelli, and Event Consultant Mina Guerra.

Dance music provided by DJ Raul Famador, and songs by Rosie V. Sloan, Vhanz Waagens, Remy Solomon, and Mystic Soul Dou rep Michelle Devol. Cyrus "MC" Paradela provided the musical accompaniment for the singers as well as vocal harmony with Remy Solomon.

When President Mercy announced the start of the fashion show/contest, the excitement level rose a couple of notches. Everyone was invited to join, male or female. As expected, only females stepped up to the invitation. Initially, Organizer Lena Morelli led the contestants to a group walk to model their summer outfit. The group walk was followed by two contestants at a time sashaying to half court and back. The Judges included 3-Time World Boxing Champion Tony Lopez, Cecilia Bitangga, and lucky me, yours truly. The judges stood at half court



Blazing Summer and First Place Winner: Annie Matias
Balmy Summer and First Runner Up: MeMe Tiong
Blissful Summer and Second Runner Up: Julie Vergara

Sacramento's Filipino Fiesta From page 11

tala, thanks to their vocal coach, Ate Raeselle Lourdes.

The day has been magical so far. With Rize All, the audience was treated by Dane San Pedro and Amanda Newsum to an amazing Magic and Dance Show. The word amazing echoed throughout the show as the audience appreciated every magical and dance number. Not only was Dane good with his hands but he and Amanda showcased hip hop and ballet dance moves. Love is magical and so is this pair—Dane and Amanda. They are the Directors of a non-profit organization called Rize-All Arts Center located at 2745 Elk Grove Blvd, Ste. 270, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Check them out at Dance@RizeAll.com (916) 538-3255.

More performers graced the Wells Fargo stage: Makamae O'Polynesia, Jack Munoz, Fatima, ShaneQ, Tin and Apoll, Art Bagtas, and ZCrew. Two more stages

featured entertainment: The Lotus Casino Stage, and the Seafood City Stage. Lotus Casino Stage featured: Sac of Soul Band, DJ Jerry, The Sacramento Asian Archery and South East Asian Martial Arts of the Philippines by Guru Ted Celeste.

Seafood City Stage featured: Senior Bingo, Tai Chi, Karaoke, Magic Show by Dane San Pedro, Storytelling "How's the Philippines Came to Be" by Fatima David, Parade of Children's Decorated Umbrellas supervised by Liz Fenkell and Cheryl Hutchins, Sinag-tala, Line Dancing w/Forever Young Dancers, Zumba, Be-boy Hip Hop Contest with Richard Pasalo.

The day was long but it was also strong with the hard work and successful efforts of the local Filipino American Community. Thank you to Filipino Fiesta President Lilia Rivera and the community of volunteers!

evaluating the confidence, fun, personality, and fashion of the models. The judges decided to use the heat of the summer as a gauge:

Blazing Summer for First Place, Balmy Summer for First Runner Up, Blissful Summer for Second Runner Up.

To keep the results in suspense, the singers entertained the crowd for a spell. Ms. Rosie Vineles Sloan delivered her lovely rendition of a Filipino song, "Bulaklak." Special Guest Singer Remy Solomon crooned a couple of wonderful standard songs with MC Paradela prompting sweet and slow dancing on the floor. Next came some faster paced disco and Cha-Cha-Cha songs by Michelle Devol of the Mystic Soul Dou Band, this time accompanied only by MC Paradela. The contestants and the crowd hit the



Photos by Dale Esperante

dance floor, once forming a circle encouraging someone to jump in the center to rock it. Well someone did! JR Villasama showed off his flexibility and brisk moves, at times getting right down on the dance floor and springing right back up again. The crowd's shrieks of delight encouraged JR to bust out more of his dope moves! With his skills, JR showed all how to look good while dancing like no one was watching. Great moves JR!

After some continuous partying on the dance floor, it was time to announce the winners of the contest:

contributed to the festivity: FCSV, the organizers, the guests, the entertainers, and especially the ladies who participated in the Hot Summer Fashion Show and Contest! This should be the event of summer every year. Congratulations again to the winners of the fashion show and the Filipino American Community, for this night would be considered as one of this summer's biggest hits in our community!

Congratulatory Breakfast for Sarah



A congratulatory breakfast given by Josie and Larry Patria for Sarah's election as 2nd Vice District Governor for District 4-C5, Multiple District 4, California, Lions Clubs International held at Café Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course on June 24, 2017. The event was attended by Fil-Am community leaders and various organizations.



Photos by Dave San Pedro

Angela and Joseph's Texas Wedding

By Dale Esperante

Everything is Bigger in Texas -- a phrase I've heard and read during my past visits to the biggest state in the lower 48. I've never paid notice to the phrase until a contingent of my California family reunited in McAllen on 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of June to attend the wedding of Joseph Esperante and Angela Fausey. Joseph is my nephew and Angela is my newest niece-in-law, both residents of McAllen, Texas. I finally realized the validity of the phrase during my short visit leading up to the big day of the newest Mr. and Mrs. Esperante.

The Meet and Greet of all the local and out-of-town family members at the Bistro Lounge of Hilton Double Tree Hotel on June 22nd produced a relaxed gathering hosted by Joseph and Angela. Everyone seemed to have socially clicked as some reminisced old times while others met some new acquaintances. The ambient music provided by the lounge duo appealed to the dancers of the family while others just sat back chatting, sipping, and taking in the moment. Stories, laughter, and energy were all recorded by some of the family's photo enthusiasts.

The 23rd started with a big south Texas breakfast buffet in the courtyard restaurant of the hotel. I regret that I only took one serving of the meat and tortilla dish because I found out later that the menu changes every day. The next two breakfasts of my stay didn't have any more of my favorite spicy meat and tortilla serving. At 10:30 am, two carloads of family beachgoers headed to South San Pedro Island. The drive down was pleasant and not as hectic as a California drive. Atop the long curve bridge connecting Port Isabel to San Pedro Island, the view of the gulf waters seemed to be a palette of emerald green in varying shades. I realized I've seen a photo of it before in a National Geographic magazine. For that view alone, the hour-long drive was well worth it. On the beach, my niece April Baez and her husband Carlos rented 2 large beach umbrellas and 7 lounge chairs installed by a friendly beach staff, who drilled deep into the sand to ensure the wind will not blow away the umbrellas. The gulf water was pleasantly warm, enjoyed especially by my grandson Jai and grand-nephew Topher. In the evening, the wedding



The Esperante family from California



Joseph and Angela



The McAllen Texas family

rehearsal dinner included the groomsmen, bridesmaids, family, and close friends of the engaged couple. Joseph and Angela planned this event to thank all for coming, especially those who travelled from great distances to be part of their wedding. By request from Joseph and Angela, the hotel chef prepared for the guests a lot of real delicious Texas barbecue. Personally, I savored the pleasant visit with the family, the new friends, the food, and the hospitality in this south Texas city of McAllen.

At 2 in the afternoon on 24 Jun 2017, Angela C. Fausey and Joseph Martin Esperante celebrated their matrimony at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen, Texas. The evening reception at McAllen's Valencia Event Center amazed all the invited guests. The back of every chair was decorated with a beautiful rose, ceilings decorated with lace, various chandeliers, inviting table arrangements, A Strings Quartet played dinner music, the coolest DJ/MC for partying, an accommodating professional photographer, a chocolate candy galore long table, two sinfully delicious cakes, a special dining alcove for the newlyweds, heartfelt speeches by the best man, maid of honor, and great friends, what else could top the evening? Remember the phrase Everything is Bigger in Texas? The world of love and support based on the words spoken this evening covered years of genuine affection, respect, and honor for the newlywed

couple. And when I watched my nephew and his loving wife, I could honestly relate that the Lone Star State now has added two wonderful brilliant stars. A Bighearted Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Esperante!

From Angela

Joseph and I first met in geography class at McAllen high school back in 2004. Over the years we shared classes and our common interest orchestra. We both played the violin and we are both very competitive. Not only in orchestra but in our classes and everything else. Over the years, our friendship grew and we promised to keep in touch after high school. Joseph moved to Corpus Christi Texas for college while I stayed in McAllen Texas for college. When he visited his family every other weekend, he would also visit me. Our first date was the first twilight movie that came out. When Joseph asked me out that night of November 30, 2008, I was extremely excited to start my new chapter with him. Over the years, our long-distance relationship held firm through all the challenges we faced in college. Though we had our ups and downs, we always managed to support one another and always be there for each other. We were each other's biggest fan. We rooted for each other's success. To this day we can see our accomplishments. We are not perfect but we try to do our best for each other and for everyone in our lives. We are happy and blessed to hear

that we are an inspiration to everyone in search of love. I love Joseph because he never loses faith on anyone, he is always very supportive, caring, and is always there for me. I married my best friend and I am starting my forever after with him. I look forward to the day we are old and look back on all that we have created together and the impact that we've made. I am honored to hear our friends and family say that we have played a special role in their lives and that they look forward on true love.

Angela's Bridesmaids

Matron of Honor Sunny Ramon is my very close friend who I look up to. Amber Castillo – we share the same personality and are constantly joking around about anything. Trina Esperante – I can always count on her and I know she will be a great aunt when the day comes for Joseph and I to have kids. Kristine Aquado – we met in high school orchestra. I know I can count on her for anything. Fernanda Uchoa – a friend since high school who is supportive and caring of all my decisions.

From Joseph

1. I first met Angela in 2004 at McAllen High School in geometry class. Fate must have had plans for us since I sat right behind her. Unfortunately, we never got the chance to date in high school until our first year of college when I was in Corpus Christi and she was at the University of Texas Pan American. We

were both in orchestra in high school and attended several other classes together such as Spanish. Our mutual friend, Carlos, had this spontaneous idea to call her one night after clubbing in Corpus while we sat down on Ocean Drive to eat Whataburger. Angela and I exchanged plenty of phone calls and text messages throughout the year and eventually Carlos and I moved back down to McAllen. One night Angela and I decided to go on a date to watch the movie Twilight which we both came to love over the years. That same night I had asked her to be my girlfriend and things started to progress from then on. Eventually time went by and I began to know more about Angela and her family, including her father whom she respects so much. An ex-marine and WWII veteran, Clyde "C" Fausey was a soldier battling cancer. Times were rough for Angela, but I stood by her side supporting her every day he was alive until the one day he passed. I was the last man he had ever seen to be with his little girl and I had the privilege to have met him. Although I was not able to ask him for her hand in marriage I'm still glad I was the last and only person he saw to be right for Angela. More time went by, 6 years to be exact, and I had finally graduated as a Registered Nurse. Angela had also graduated a year after that and I decided to treat her to a graduation trip to Las Vegas. It was there where I proposed to her in the Grand Canyon and our wedding

planning had started with a clock in place. Now we are married and I can honestly say that Angela has been the best friend I could ever have. She is my greatest supporter in everything I choose to do and my role model to make myself a better person. She is my other half and my partner for life. For me, Angela is the only person who could fit in my life as my spouse.

2. My mother, Malou Lastra Esperante is the only other woman in my life. She has made me who I am today. I love her and she will always be the first woman in my life. Although she may seem like a humble and loving person, she is a strong woman who raised two children who were a handful. She supported me thru school and gave out a roof over my head. She is a highly respectable woman and will always be put up on a pedestal in my eyes.

3. Although they were not formally introduced during the wedding presentation, Kody and Kyle Howden have been in my life ever since the matrimony of my loving Aunt Len and Uncle Roger "Woody". There was a time I was thought to be a "Howden" because of all the road trips I was seen with them. I took care of them both when they were very young and always saw them as my little brothers and I always will. Now they've grown as two fine young men and are developing the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life. They played a very important role in the wedding by escorting my wife down the aisle in place of her father who unfortunately passed away 7 years ago. There was a very heartwarming and emotional feeling when they gave Angela away to me. They have and will always be a very important part of OUR lives.

Joseph's Groomsmen:

Best Man Martin Gonzalez has always been the one to understand me the most. He is like a brother. Carlos Villalobos – my friend since high school orchestra. He is a very important part of my life and I'd never forget the great times we had in Corpus Christi. Richard Ramon – a very dignified individual. Husband of the Matron of Honor, we've become great friends and he has made me more of a gentleman than a regular guy. Roel Acosta – one of the smartest individuals I've ever met. A great influence in my life and I will always see him as one of my brothers. Michael Liang – a childhood friend and a major competitor when it came to gaming. The competition developed into a friendship that would never fade. Flower Girls: Mikayla and Reana Sy – daughters of Ricky Sy and my cousin Iyay Sy of New York from my mother's side.

Calendar of Events

JULY 12, 2017 (WED.)
ART with a HEART
 ART SHOW FUNDRAISER
 5:30PM - 7:30PM
 Sierra 2 Center /
 2791 24th St., Sacramento
 All proceeds support
 My Sister's House to Work Program



JULY 22 & 23, 2017 (SAT. & SUN)
ADOBO FESTIVAL
 10AM - 6PM
 Yerba Buena High School Grounds
 1855 Lucretia Ave. San Jose, CA
 650.290.0542
 650.290.4457
 www.adobofestivalusa.com



AUG. 12, 2017 (SAT.)
FAVA Filipiniana 2017
Scholarship Awards
Dinner & Dance
 6pm - midnight
 St. Paul Catholic Church Hall
 8720 Florin Rd. Sacramento, CA 95828
 Attire: Barong/Filipina Dress
 Donation: \$35.00
 Olive Jackson 916.262.6273



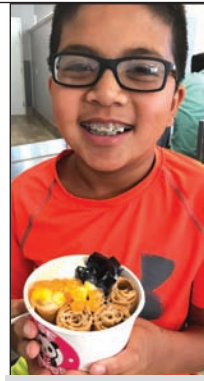
Birthdays



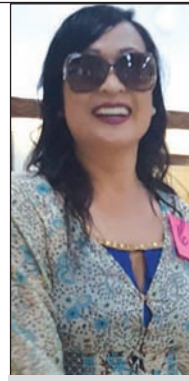
KRISTINE and EDDIE ADUCAYEN
 JUNE 29 and JULY 28



CHLOE VILLEGAS
 JUNE 19



CHRISTOPHER ERESPE
 JULY 21



CRISSEL CENTENO
 JULY 4



VILMA MANANSALA
 JULY 5



CAROL MUNAR & hubby
 Melchor - JULY 27



CAROLINE KANG
 JUNE 24



JUN ABAYA
 JULY 28

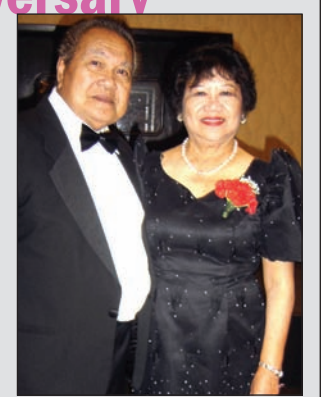


JOEY ABAYA
 JULY 2

Anniversary

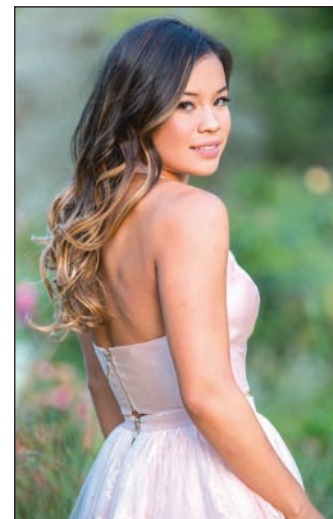


DAVE and DINNAH SAN PEDRO
 36th Wedding Anniversary
 July 24



SEGUNDO and AIDA AZURIN
 35th Wedding Anniversary
 June 16

The Graduate



Chloe A. Miller

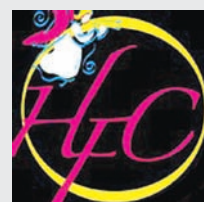
Granite Bay High School - 2017
 Attending Texas Christian University

- Presidential Athletics Award 2017
- Scholar Athlete Award 2017
- All-American Swimmer 2016
- All-American Swimmer 2017

Chloe's graduation party was held June 9, 2017 at South Villa Restaurant. The restaurant was closed to the public for Chloe's private party. Hosted by her parents: Stephen and Marie Miller, sisters: Gabrielle and Sophie Miller, and Grandma, Maria Bahoric.



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By Dale Esperante

Commander Luz Molina American Legion Magellan Post 604



On 11 Jun 2017, The American Legion District 6 Commander Will Williams installed the new officers of Magellan Post 604: Commander Luzviminda Molina, 1st Vice Commander Gualberto Aglubat, 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Amaba, Adjutant Dale Esperante, Judge Advocate Bill Versoza, Chaplain Dale Esperante, Finance Officer Joseph Ventura, Historian Joe Gonzalez, Sgt-at-Arms Dave Floresca, Assistant Sgt-at-Arms Bill Bostock, Immediate Past Commander Thomas Amaba, Board of Directors: Alfred Aquino—Ato Delacruz—Paul Cordeiro—Marcus Evangelista—Andy Tancioco.

Commander Luz was born in Dagupan City but grew up in Rosario, La Union, Philippines. She does speak the native dialects of Tagalog and Ilocano. Education: Associate in Science Degree in Nursing – Sacramento City College 1994; 30 Unit Option Certificate – California State University Sacramento 1997; Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing from University of Phoenix 2004; Master’s Degree in Nursing—University of Phoenix 2006; Family Nurse Practitioner—University of Phoenix 2006. Work: Director of Staff Development, Director of Nursing (1994-2002); Assistant Nurse Manager—Kaiser Permanente—Sacramento (2002-2007); Clinical Nurse Manager—Sutter Senior Care (2010-2011); Family Nurse Practitioner—Sutter Senior Care (2011-Present). Military Background: USAF Nurse Corp –1st Lieutenant 2006-2007 Travis AFB; USAF Nurse Corp—Captain Select 2007-2010 Travis AFB; Separated in 2010.

After being installed as Post Commander, Comrade Luz delivered this standing ovation-worthy speech:

It is my greatest honor this afternoon for the trust and faith you bestowed upon me as the commander of Post 604. With some reservation and I am certain of challenges that come with my acceptance to serve us all, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous initiatives and challenges that come with my acceptance. I am of the belief that this journey will not be a smooth



Commander Luz Molina

one if I am to walk it alone. I must also acknowledge the tremendous initiatives, challenges and work that were undertaken by our previous group of officers. Indeed, you are an inspiration. This is now a challenge and an avenue for us to continue doing these great works that you began, I am certain, that with these officers that we have, we shall even do much better because I have faith we all can be better.

To our members who may also be belonging to other associations, we still want to say that, this journey we cannot make alone as leaders, but it is through your support, critics and encouragements that we shall have something to do together because together we can make a difference and an even more impact in our community.

The Mission of this leadership: Provide service and support to fellow veterans and the community. Our Vision: Because of the service our veterans provided to the country and the community, it is time to recognize their patriotism by providing resources and services through education, increasing awareness and through information sharing.

Provide what I call the four pillars or a friend told me the 4 “Fs” - Faith, Family, Fitness, and Finances.

1. Faith – were brought together because of our common interest and a common ground, our service to our country, our community and each other. Let us continue to serve, support and protect each other until we part ways.

2. Family – more than ever, our family comes first. We are role models and we all need to continue to be one. Attend and participate in the community events and community outreach – Boys’

State, Boys’ Scouts.

3. Fitness – when we were in active duty, we were all expected to pass our fitness tests. Why stop now that we are getting older. Access the resources in our community to stay active and fit. If we are ill, we should be even more in touch with our Post. Let us know how we could be of an assistance. Utilize the UCD Bayanihan Clinic. Understand you’re not alone.

4. Finances – Any organization needs funds to function. We have programs, we need to meet certain requirements in order to provide more service to our veterans. More than ever, we will require assistance in our fundraising efforts. Our goal is to create an ADA accessible building and this will not happen without our combined efforts.

Let me close with this message, I have to give credit to Mahatma Gandhi. To everyone – Be Selfless – Gandhi believed that we should focus more on positive impact and kindness, instead of personal achievement and personal gain. He believes everyone can do small things to improve the life of their neighbors.

To my fellow officers and comrades – Lead by example – before we can change the world, we must change ourselves. Gandhi believed that before we even consider changing the world, we commit ourselves to personal improvement. Only then, we will know, understand and appreciate what it takes to make meaningful change.

Standing ovation and thundering applause followed the speech of the second female commander, and clearly the youngest commander of Magellan Post 604!



The new Officers of Magellan Post 604

The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604

President Lilia Rivera’s Speech After Installation on 11 Jun 2017

Every Installation of New Officers is a new beginning. I believe that newly installed officers are traditionally expected to:

1. Continue to build on the previous administration’s accomplishments,
2. Improve what needs to be done, and
3. Contribute something new for the betterment of the organization.

As one of the fairly new members (compared to the years’ others have), we will begin the new year at ALA 604 by reviewing and learning together:



The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604

1. Parliamentary Procedures - understand why this is important in making sure every member is comfortable in expressing their opinion, and because each one deserves to be heard in a fair, honest and respectful discussion.

2. Review and learn about the Programs and Committees in ALA and how it benefits the veterans in general. Since there are required mid-year and annual reports to be submitted, it will help in the planning of project activities. In addition,

this is important for training new leaders. We want our members to be ready to assume leadership next time around.

3. Building a budget that will provide each committee chairs and their teams, the resources and tools for their planned activities. And as part of the budget, fundraising activities to replenish the funds expended in the year.

We lost seven members this past two years. Hence, ALA 604 is always looking to increase its roster and find new members who can help with their projects. Some people forget that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604 is a separate and independent organization from the American Legion Magellan Post 604. But both work towards helping the veterans as its primary mission. With the ties that

bind the group (since most of the spouses are members of the other) I am hopeful that working towards fulfilling the mission will be harmonious and fun. We have had a challenging year this past 2016. But the year will go very quickly. Pretty soon, it may be time to elect a new set of officers!

The new team of Auxiliary officers with President Lilia are: 1st Vice President

Florentian Abad, 2nd Vice President Carmelita Calindas, Secretary Letecia O’Quinn, Assistant Secretary Rosalinda Delacruz, Treasurer Jocelyn Banag, Parliamentarian Alice Pambid, Sgt-at-Arms Linda Gibson, Marshall Elinda Cordero, Historian Olivia Jackson, Past President Jocelyn Banag. Directors: Marilou Amper, Mercedes Descargar, Aida Calindas, Yasco Floresca, and Bella Anderson-Nido. Auxiliary Installing Officer – Glenda Schultz, District 6 President.

Lilia Rivera Assumes Leadership of American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604

By Faina E. Abaya

Historically, the American Legion Auxiliary is officially affiliated with the American Legion which has a mission to support and honor the men and women who gallantly served their country in time of war and peace. As such, Auxiliary members and volunteers serve our veterans, the military and their families of whatever activities that could redound to their best interest.

The American Legion Auxiliary which has been founded almost 100 years ago is the world largest women's organization and their presence can be felt in almost every large and small community in our country. Obviously, one such organization is our very own the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604.

The American Legion Magellan Post 604 and Auxiliary Unit 604 have a long tradition and precedent of holding their joint installation for their respective incoming officers in just one venue which is usually at the Magellan Hall of the American Legion building on Gerber Road, Sacramento, California. As expected, that continuing tradition was held on June 11, 2017 in the presence of their respective members and some officials from the Department and Regional District of the Legion and Auxiliary.

In a simple yet solemn ceremony, the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 incoming officers led by Lilia Rivera took their oath of office before inducting officer Glenda Schulz, the District 6 Auxiliary president witnessed by another distinguished guest Wendy O'Brien, the Auxiliary California Department president.

In her brief acceptance speech, Auxiliary President Lilia Rivera said among other things that "We have some serious challenges this past year. I hope that the new Commander of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 will be open to suggestions and that we can work together"

When interviewed for her future plans Lilia Rivera said that she will continue the great tradition of the Auxiliary serving and supporting our veterans, the military and their families of whatever capacity that they could render. Moreover, she will also continue the Auxiliary long time programs such as Girl State, Girls Nation, Poppy Program as well as the veteran affairs and rehabilitation program.

Lilia Rivera is also the incumbent president of the Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento for the 2017-18 term and just recently she led the successful holding of the Filipino

Fiesta of Sacramento to remember the 75th Anniversary of one of the most brutal events during World War II, "The Bataan Death March".

It is refreshing to note also that Lilia Rivera has been with the Filipino American Community of Sacramento since 2004 when she held lower positions with the Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation and Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity. Eventually, in 2005 she was elected vice-president of the FCSV with Fred Aquino as the president. However, in the middle of their term Fred Aquino resigned from his position due to enormous pressure of his job paving the way for Lilia Rivera to immediately succeed him as president of FCSV.

During her term as president of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Lilia Rivera initiated several significant and commendable fund raising events to continue and sustain their meritorious programs, especially, the dream of everyone, the construction of our Filipino Cultural Center. The Center will become the repository of our great Cultural Heritage showcasing our literature, music, songs, dances and our traditional customary practices.

It is also worthwhile to mention that in 2007 Lilia Rivera with Dick Mason were able to get a space at the Seafood City Grocery building aptly called "Kabit bahay" where different community organizations can hold their meetings or other activities suited for the size of the place.

Lilia Rivera was born in Singalong District, Manila however the family established their residence in Palanan, Makati, Rizal where she enjoyed the happiest moments of her young life with 5 other siblings under the loving care of their parents Felix and Jovita Estante. Her father was a policeman while mother was a midwife-nurse whose kindness and generosity were known in the neighborhood. People who were in need for help were always welcomed even in the middle of the night or in the wee hours of the morning who asked for assistance related to her work or any help for their well beings. At a very young age, Lilia learned the rudiment of how to extend a helping hand to those kinds

of people.

Being a product of public school, Lilia Rivera decided to enroll at the University of the Philippines to pursue her college education looking up to become a Chemical Engineer. However, after her first year with the university, her father met an accident which constrained her to stop to help her father's recovery. When she resumed her college education her accreditation subjects with the University of the Philippines were obscured so she decided to enroll at FEATI University where she shifted her educational course to Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

Lilia Rivera had a brief stint as a Chemistry professor with the FEATI University but the greater challenge of adult life in the Philippines for further improvement was so limited. Together with four other friends who were her college classmates and also taught Chemistry in the same school decided to find their luck in the United States with their educational attainment as their tool for possible success.

She arrived in the United States

stepping-stone. However, after ten months I decided to stay permanently because I liked the slower pace compared to the hectic social life in LA".

She retired from the Center of Analytical Chemistry of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2005 after 34 years of service. She is proud to reminisce that she was the very first woman chemist promoted to supervisor thereby paving the way for other women chemists to hold such position or even higher. She received another promotion as Program Supervisor III and she was the only woman managing four laboratory sections which she held until her retirement. Her staff was composed of chemists, laboratory technicians, and agricultural aides working for the Pesticide Compliance and Monitoring Laboratories Program, consisting of the Pesticide Formulations/EPA Lab. Standards Repository, Environmental Moni-



Lilia Rivera

to obtain multi-discipline ISO accreditation as a testing laboratory.

Lilia Rivera is married to Joe Rivera, a very popular gentleman in our community who is always available as a volunteer to any meritorious and commendable community activities in any capacity that he is requested to do. Joe Rivera is usually known for his culinary and dancing skills aside from being an impeccable fashionable dresser.

Joe Rivera the dashing handsome US Coast Guard Petty Officer met Lilia at the residence of his parents in San Francisco, California while he was on vacation from his military duties. He was smitten by the natural beauty and intelligence of his future wife that after a whirlwind courtship, they were married. The happy marriage is blessed with two equally talented children. Son Brian is a stage thespian who is currently touring the country with the casts of "The King and I" playing the role of Kralahome supposedly the King's confidante or right hand man. Brian positive review of his role makes him a candidate to play the lead role of the stage play, the King himself. Daughter Eloisa is a lawyer connected with the government of the State of California.

"Always protect your integrity" that is the saying Lilia Rivera lives by because she says "you really have no control of your reputation".

The ALAM Unit 604 Officers for 2017-18 term are: Lilia Rivera, President; Florentina Abad, 1st. Vice-Pres.; Carmelita Calindas, 2nd Vice Pres.; Leticia O'Quinn, Secretary; Josie Banaag, Treasurer; Remedios Mangosing, Sgt.-at-Arms; Erlinda Cordero, Marshall; Alice Pambid, Parliamentarian; Olive Jackson, Historian; Linda Gibson, Chaplain; Executive Committee Members: Nariou Amper, Yasko Floresca, Bella Nido, Mercedes Discargar and Aida Calindas.



American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 Officers for 2017 - 2018

in 1968 together with four other classmates and friends. She has a vivid recollection on how she and friends started their lives in the United States and in her own words said "We stayed together for a year or two in Los Angeles before going our separate ways when each got new better jobs. Before I worked for the State of California, I worked in private laboratories, first at Vita minerals Inc., and then at McGaw Laboratories Research Division in Los Angeles. It was in Southern California that I went back to school to pursue post graduate studies in chemistry while working during day time and studying at night. In 1972, I moved to Sacramento to work for the California Department of Food and Agriculture with the intention of using the job as a

toring, and Worker Health and Safety Lab.

Lilia has two things she is most proud to mention about her work with the State of California. The first was her successful legislative quest for funding to establish the Standard Repository, which became the jewel of the Center for Analytical Chemistry and was recognized and often visited by other scientists including from other countries. The second was her leading the successful efforts to achieve international accreditation for the laboratory under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It took more than two years to complete all paperwork, training, documentation and ISO audit to get the accreditation in 2004. The Center became the first state laboratory

Breast implant and cancer

By Philip S. Chua

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported last week that “nine deaths and hundreds of cases of a rare cancer have been linked with breast implants.

The malignancy here is not breast cancer but an immune system cancer known as anaplastic large-cell lymphoma (ALCL). The cancer nurtures itself in the breast, notably in the scar tissue around the foreign body implant. Fortunately, in most cases this is treatable.

The implant-cancer link was noted in 2011. As of February 2017, the FDA has recorded 359 cases of ALCL linked to breast implant.

The Times reported stated “the disease is most likely to occur with textured implants that have a pebbly surface rather than a smooth surface...and of the 359 reported cases, there was information about the implant surface in 231. Of those, 203 patients had textured implants and 28 had smooth implants.... Whether the implants contained silicone gel or saline appeared much less important than surface texture in disease risk.” The number of this ALCL cases worldwide is not known.

According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons there were about 290,000 women in the United States in 2016 who had implants for breast enlargement and 109,000 received implants

for reconstruction after breast cancer surgery.”

Any pain, lumps, fluid accumulation or swelling of the breast after an implant, no matter when surgery was done need to be evaluated by the surgeon.

To prevent blindness

A retrospective study published in the JAMA Ophthalmology found that many children and adolescents with diabetes are not being screened in a timely fashion for diabetic retinopathy, a common cause of blindness among diabetics.

Diabetic retinopathy is a dangerous complication of diabetes which causes blood vessels in the eyes to leak, causing distortion of vision and can eventually lead to blindness. In early stages, this disease of the retina may not have symptoms.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology strongly recommends retinopathy screening be performed five years after a diagnosis of type 1 (Juvenile) diabetes is confirmed to reduce the risk of blindness. For those with type 2 diabetes, common among adults, screening is done at the time diagnosis is made, not later.

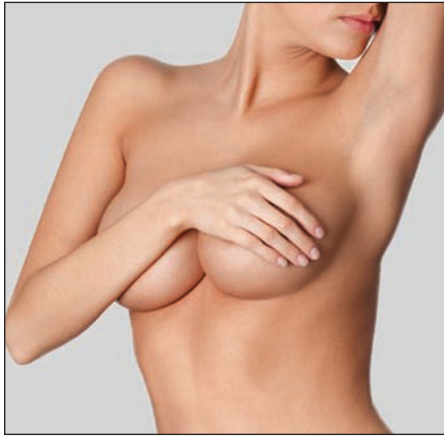
Diabetics and parents/guardians of diabetic children are advised to confer with their attending physician about this retinal screening.

Dangers of body art

Body Art is a popular fad

especially among adolescents and young adults, which includes tattooing or body part piercing. The tattoos are usually on the chest, arms, belly, butts, ankles, or on just about any area of the body. They come in different shapes, design, color and various objects, like a girl, snake, flag, heart, words of protest or love messages. It is estimated that 10% to 25% of young adults (25 and under) have at least one tattoo.

A survey in one university involving 454 students (236 females and 218 males), which was 14% of the total enrollment, revealed that 23% (106) of them had one to three tattoos. This could well mirror the prevalence in other schools and universities in the country, perhaps higher in big cities, compared to the conservative communities. The most popular sites were the back among women and the arms and hands among men. One hundred twenty nine (51%) of those surveyed had a least one body piercing, 90% of men having had ears pierced, and 54% of the females had pierced navel, 49% ears and 27%, the tongue. Some of both the males and females had pierced nipples, eyebrows and genitalia.



between the eyebrows, for frown lines and furrowed brows. The cosmetic effect has been impressive, but this is temporary. Besides this, botox shot has also been found to stave off migraine headaches among individuals who are resistant to conventional therapy. There are many more uses of this “good” toxin in clinical medicine today.

Colonoscopy saves lives

Colonoscopy is a procedure where a flexible endoscope (malleable tube like a telescope), equipped with fiberoptic lighting and (video CCD) camera, is passed through the anus, to view and examine the inner walls of the colon (large bowels) and distal part of the small bowels for any abnormality, like bleeding, ulcers, or the presence of benign poly(s), or cancer. Thru the colonoscopy, excision of polyps, or biopsies may also be performed for a definitive microscopic tissue diagnosis. A sigmoidoscope is another scope that examines the final two feet of the colon, while the colonoscopy examines the rest of the entire colon which is about four to five feet long. Many times it is done in conjunction with colonoscopy.

Colorectal cancer is the third-most common cancer in humans, topped only by cancer of the lungs and female breasts. More than 150,000 people in the United States each year discover they have cancer

of the colon or rectum, and approximately 46,000 will die from it this year alone. The incidence starts to rise at the age 40 and the peak is between ages 60 to 75. Colon cancer is more common among women and cancer of the rectum among men. About 5% of the patients have both (synchronous cancer).

It appears that meat eaters have higher risk for the development of colorectal cancer. This malignancy is found more prevalent in populations whose diet is low in fiber and high in animal proteins, fats, and refined carbohydrates. The incidence of colorectal cancer is indeed high among those who eat red meat (pork, beef, etc) compared to those who eat high fiber diets (vegetables, fruits, wheat, bran, etc) and fish. The other predisposing factors include chronic ulcerative colitis, granulomatous colitis, and familial polyposis. The older the person is, the higher the risk. Smoking and alcohol abuse increase the risk for cancer in general.

Everyone 50 years old and older should have an annual fecal occult blood test (FOBT), a rectal digital exam, and a prophylactic colonoscopy every 3 to 5 years. Those with a strong family history of cancer should have the examinations more frequently in accordance with the physician's determination.

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RizeAll Arts Center DANCE *Magic*

By Lorrie Ann

The Rize All Non-profit Organization was formed by co-founders Dane San Pedro and Amanda Newsum in 2014, with an initial focus of bringing dance education to after-school programs. Dane and Amanda were both involved in dance programs throughout their youth and have aspired to bring the positive benefits of dance to as many children in the greater Sacramento area as possible.

Having successfully delivered their dance program to numerous school sites in the Sacramento Unified and Elk Grove school districts, they launched the Rize All Arts Center in Elk Grove to expand access and opportunity to the Elk Grove, Sacramento, and surrounding communities. Local resident and parent Daisy Magsuci chose Rize All Arts Center for her daughter, "...because of the convenient location and because I have a long history of dance with Dane, I trust his ability. I love how well Amanda is teaching ballet to my daughter. She is learning proper dance vocabulary as well as how her body should move."

Since the Rize All Arts Center opened their doors in March 2017, students have participated in over 400 classes, from a variety of styles including: ballet, tap, hip-hop, ballroom, magic, jazz, hula, Hmong, pointe, breaking, and contemporary. In just four months, the creative, skillful Rize All staff choreographed routines for all the students to demonstrate their skills at the recent recital. Director Dane San Pedro has a philosophy about performing on the stage, "When a student participates in the recital, they gain a confidence from an experience that some are never exposed to their entire life."

On Friday, June 23, 2017, the Rize All Arts Center held their first annual dance recital performance "Dance Magic", at the Laguna Town Hall center in Elk Grove. The hour-long show entertained the audience with colorful costumes and some music favorites accompanying the dancers. A few highlights that dazzled viewers were the dash-



Photos by Dave San Pedro

ing bow-tied tappers prancing to the original rendition of "Boogey Wonderland"; hula dancers with elegantly tied skirts and flowers in their hair swayed beautifully to Moana's "How Far I'll Go"; and tiny ballerinas dotted the stage with bright yellow tutus as they sashayed to the classic, "Tale As Old As Time".

The recital was a culminating event to showcase the various

skills, techniques, and individual growth the students have gained in their classes. The end-of-year show brought out families and friends to enjoy the medley of performances. Daisy Magsuci reflected that, "I loved the recital! Getting to see my daughter and all the kids show what they've learned thus far was great. And to see the confidence in my daughter's eyes after the

recital was priceless."

Rize All Arts Center Director Amanda Newsum commented on the success and future of the center, "We have truly enjoyed seeing our students in their first few months at Rize All. We have a lot planned for our students, and the community can expect to see our winter and spring shows, as well as numerous family event nights!"

Classes are registering now for Summer Session classes that run July 10-September 3, 2017. The classic styles such as ballet, tap, hip-hop, and jazz are offered, as well as some unique additions: Kid Jitsu, Lightsaber Training/Duel, Magic, and Musical Theater. Check out the full class list and schedule at www.rizeall.com/classes. Fall class schedules are coming soon!

Nadine Lustre on 'sexiest' title: I'm really proud

ABS-CBN News

Manila – Kapamilya star Nadine Lustre is thankful to all those who have voted for her in the 2017 “100 Sexiest Women” poll of the men’s magazine FHM Philippines.

Lustre emerged as No. 1 in the poll, getting a total of 491,039 votes or 9.85% of the total.

“Thank you po. Maraming, maraming salamat po sa lahat ng mga bumoto. And of course, sa FHM,” she said in an interview with ABS-CBN News.

“I’m really happy and I’m really proud,” she added.

The “Till I Met You” lead star only knew about the results on Thursday morning, when FHM Philippines made the announcement on its website and social media pages.

“This morning ko lang po nalaman, noong nag-announce sila online,” she said.

FHM Philippines will not be holding a party for the results of its “100 Sexiest Women” poll this year, with the magazine’s editor-in-



Nadine Lustre and James Reid

chief saying that they have plans to allocate resources toward their digital platform.

Lustre said she has yet to be informed about FHM’s plans for her, but she would rather just enjoy the moment.

“I don’t know, wala pa po,” she said with a laugh.

Pia Wurtzbach on Maureen Wroblewitz’s winning AsNTM photo: Sensual but not offensive

By Deni Rose M. Afinidad-Bernardo

MANILA, Philippines — Maureen Wroblewitz looked up to fellow Filipina-German model, Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach, for inspiration to become the first Filipina to win “Asia’s Next Top Model” (AsNTM).

“I didn’t see that because she’s a Filipina, she’ll be rooting for me,” Wroblewitz said when asked by Philstar.com if she thinks she got the upperhand in the contest because Pia was there.

Just as Pia ended the Philippines’ Miss Universe drought, so did Maureen at AsNTM.

“She (Pia) wasn’t biased at all. She was being really fair. I really didn’t feel that because she’s in the competition, I already have the chance to win. I was just happy that she was there because I was looking up to her and I’m still looking up to her. That’s something that just happened to be part of the competition.”

Pia praised Wroblewitz’s final photo as “sensual but not offensive.”

The final photo shoot challenge, “Homeland,” asked for the finalists to portray their country’s traditional garb with pride and strength. What went on in Maureen’s head while she was doing the shoot?

“I was really keen to show this strong, powerful Filipina. My mom would always tell me about Filipino culture that we’re proud as Filipinas and I’m really proud to be a Filipina. Even if it’s just half, I’m really very



Maureen Wroblewitz as the “pearl princess” in “Asia’s Next Top Model” final photo shoot challenge.

proud to be a Filipina!” she told Philstar.com.

She wore a traditional outfit as a pearl princess and though the pearls were dragging her down, she gave her all for the final shot. What she cannot bear to put her down, she said, is Filipinos’ crab mentality, as she experienced from a fellow Filipina in the competition.

“If you feel good about other people feeling bad, you shouldn’t do those things to others if you don’t want those things to happen to you,” Maureen urged.

She cannot accept how a fellow Filipina’s crab mentality has almost made her give up.

“At first, I didn’t understand because I was always welcoming of the idea of Filipinas supporting each other.

On the other hand, if you just forget us that we’re Filipinas, but rather, we’re in a competition, maybe she felt threatened by me, and maybe all the competitiveness comes out during a competition and she maybe got that to pull me down or maybe make me feel like I don’t want to be in this competition anymore.”

Fortunately, there are other Filipinas, like Pia, who is proud of what Maureen has achieved.

Pia said she likes Maureen’s subtle movements that made her stand out in the final runway show.

After the contest, Maureen’s plan is visit a favorite travel destination, Palawan.

“Actually, I want to explore the Philippines, the whole country!” she shared.

“And I really like palabok and my favorite celebrity, I would say, is Maja Salvador!” said the 18-year-old, proving that though half German like Pia, she is a Filipino in every way.

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Bayanihan's Fathers' Day

By Dale Esperante

On 18 Jun 2017, Bayanihan of Sacramento, U.S.A., scheduled an Installation of Officers 2017-2018 and Outreach Program Appreciation luncheon for all the volunteers of the Consulate of Wheels project in Sacramento. The Philippine Consulate General of San Francisco spent a whole day at the American Legion Magellan Hall in March 2017, to process passports, dual citizenships, and provide legal counseling for all the area's Filipino Americans requiring assistance. The months of preparation for the consulate's visit was spearheaded by the Bayanihan organization led by Dr. Tony and Remy Solomon with support from the following organizations: American Legion Magellan Post and Unit 604, Cabalen Club of Sacramento, Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club, Philippine Fiesta News, Student Volunteers, and United Naguilan La Union Circle of America, Inc.

Rose Delacruz welcomed the guests with a special greeting to all the fathers on this Fathers' Day. Scrumptious entrees and desserts contributed by the guests and volunteers added to the main staples of meat, rice, and vegetables served for the luncheon. Dinner music provided by Dr. Tony.

Everyone being satisfied with dinner, music, and some dancing, it was time for Dr. Solomon to express his thanks to all the Bayanihan members and supporting organizations and volunteers for all that you do. He also shared plans of the organization to provide initial scholarship funds to promising students in the Philippines who need assistance, support aid missions to the Philippines, and continue the Consulate on Wheels in Sacramento.

At this point, Dr. Tony introduced the Installing Officer for Bayanihan's newly elected officers, Magellan post 604 Immediate Past Commander Tom Amaba. Tom shared a story about four gentlemen who founded Bayanihan because of one lady's insistence. The four gentlemen are Tony Solomon, Tom Amaba, Mon Veridiano, Lloyd Castaneda. For these four men, one woman stood strongly behind them to ensure Bayanihan was founded. The lady is Dr. Tony's wife, Remy Solomon.

Past Commander of Post 604 Tom Amaba inducted the following: President Dr. Tony Solomon, Vice President Lito Pabon, Secretary Leila Pereira, Assistant Secretary Tina Bambao, Treasurer Erlinda Aglubat, Assistant Treasurer Remy Solomon, Public Relations Officers Dave San Pedro and Dinnah San Pedro, Auditor Henry Bambao, Board of Directors: Chairman Espie Espena, Maria Bahoric, Virgil Faundo, Placid Butcher, Don Padilla Gwen Carlos, and Lee Ramires.

Congratulations are also befitting to the supporting organizations and volunteers. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!



Photos by Dale Esperante

Bayanihan's Sarah Enloe called the names of volunteers from organizations who contributed significantly to our Sacramento Fil-Am community, while Lee Ramirez presented the certificate of appreciation to every deserving recipient. Kudos to the tireless and selfless volunteers of American Legion Post and Unit 604, Cabalen Club of Sacramento, Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Sacramento Maharlika Lions Club, Philippine Fiesta News, Student Volunteers Gabriel Shane Aguiree--Dylan Montalbo--Ryan Joshua Ramos, and United Naguilan La Union Circle of America Inc.

The Spirit of Bayanihan is indeed alive and well in Sacramento! Mabuhay!



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