



The Marcoses's obsession with power - Page 8

PF NEWS

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Constitution Day Page 15

Duterte says he's now friendlier with US

BY NESTOR CORRALES



President Rodrigo Duterte

President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday said he was now on friendlier terms with the United States, which he has frequently slammed for interfering in the domestic affairs of the Philippines.

Duterte said the US has "redeemed themselves a lot." He declared in October 2016 that he was breaking the Philippines' long-standing military and economic alliance with the US.

"There are so many factors involved but I'd rather be friendly to them now because aside from these episodes of, I said, sad incidents, overall I think the Americans also redeemed themselves a lot," he said in a speech during the 116th commemoration of the Balangiga Encounter Day in Eastern Samar.

Duterte acknowledged the assistance of the US throughout the years, even citing Washington's help to quell terrorists in strife-torn Marawi City.

The President, known for his expletive-laced speeches, said he was advised by

the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to "temper" his language not to issue any incendiary statement against the US government while it was trying to recover the bells.

"I was under advice by the Department of Foreign Affairs that I would just temper my language and avoid [cussing]—which I'm prone to do if I get emotional," he said.

During his second State of the Nation (Sona) in July, the President demanded the return of the Balangiga bells.

He said efforts were ongoing between the Philippine government and the US on the return of the historical bells.

"I was under advice that the negotiations are going on, that the government of America is looking for ways how to get out of this problem of the Balangiga bells because it remains to be not only the source of irritation but the source of a painful reaction, what really happened to our countrymen," he said.

Philippines drug war alarms 39 countries in UN



AP/Aaron Favila

MANILA, Philippines — Thirty-nine countries, including the United States, have expressed alarm over what they described as a rising "climate of impunity" in the Philippines as drug-related killings continue to increase. Continued on page 2.



Photo by Dave San Pedro

L-R, FWC Pres. Zeny Yagen, Josie Patria, Danny Yap-Diangco, Marcos Belasco Jr., Mrs. Leonor Brooks and Mrs. Lourdes Belasco.

Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento

Senior Prom

BY CARLE and SARAH ENLOE

The Filipino Women's Club (FWC) hosted an elegant Senior Prom Night honoring Mrs. Lourdes V. Belasco, 2017 Mrs. FWC, at the Jose Rizal Community Center on September 9, 2017.

Continued on page 10

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Philippines drug war alarms 39 countries in UN

BY HELEN FLORES

In a joint statement delivered by Iceland through representative Högni Kristjánsson on Thursday, the countries noted that the human rights situation in the Philippines continues to be of serious concern, particularly in the light of killings associated with the Duterte administration's war on drugs.

The states called on the Philippines "to cooperate with the international community to pursue appropriate investigations into these incidents, in keeping with the universal principles of democratic accountability and the rule of law."

They also expressed concern over threats against human rights defenders and urged the government to ensure they are accorded full protection.

They also called for a safe environment for journalists and indigenous communities.

The joint statement came as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Philippines was adopted at the 36th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) last week.

Thousands of drug-related killings have been recorded by non-government organizations since the Duterte administration took over in July last year.

According to the Children's Legal Rights and Development Center, some 54 minors have been killed in connection with the administration's war on drugs during the same period.

The Senate is currently conducting an inquiry into the recent

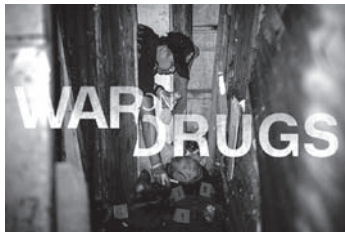
surge of police killings, including those of minors.

Aside from the US, the countries that signed the joint statement were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

The Philippines did not fully accept more than half of the recommendations it received during the 36th session of its UPR at the UNHRC.

R. Iniyang Ilango of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) said the Philippine government's failure to fully accept and implement nearly 60 percent of the recommendations it received during its UPR is "deeply concerning," especially given that these include most of the recommendations by over 40 states on its so-called "war on drugs."

"A growing chorus of voices is speaking out at the United Nations' top human rights body to condemn the thousands of killings in the Philippines perpetrated in the name of President Du-



terte's so-called war on drugs," John Fisher, Geneva director of Human

Rights Watch, said.

"The Philippines has so far shown itself unwilling to heed the calls to end this murderous campaign and hold those responsible to account. The Human Rights Council should step in and do all that it can to end the violence, support an international investigation into the deaths and demand accountability for all unlawful killings," he added.

More than 3,800 Filipinos have been killed by police in anti-drug operations since President Duterte came to office 15 months ago and launched what he promised would be a brutal and bloody crackdown on drugs and crime.

Human rights groups say the figure is significantly higher and accuse police of carrying out executions disguised as sting operations, and of colluding with hit men to assassinate drug users.

Opinion polls show Filipinos are largely supportive of the war on drugs as an antidote to crime the government says is fueled by narcotics.

The latest survey by Social Weather Stations, however, suggests that Filipinos are not convinced of the validity of official police accounts of the killings, with about half of 1,200 people polled doubtful that victims were involved in drugs, or had violently resisted arrest as police maintain.

'Who... are you to tell me': Duterte hits IBP over 'onion-skinned' remark

BY MIKAS MATSUZAWA

Manila, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte slammed the Integrated Bar of the Philippines on Saturday for telling him not to be onion-skinned as the Office of the Ombudsman probes into his alleged ill-gotten wealth.

"I want a discussion with you tonight, I do not intend to deliver a speech. Let me start with 'onion-skinned' and a cliché which says that a thousand lies being run every day becomes the truth," Duterte said to an audience of IBP members as he spoke during the installation of new officers and induction of new members of the organization's Davao City chapter.

The IBP made the remark Friday, reminding the president that he made his life open to public scrutiny upon assuming government office. The organization said this after Duterte threatened he would form a commission to look into corruption allegations against the ombudsman.

The ombudsman is currently investigating into accusations that the president acquired ill-gotten wealth.

"The creation of another body either by executive issuance or by an act of Congress that effectively defeats the independence and flexibility needed by the ombudsman in the discharge of her duties is, at best, constitutionally suspect," IBP President Abdiel Dan Elijah Fajar-



President Rodrigo Duterte applauds as he witnesses the program proper during the oath-taking ceremony of the newly installed officers of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Davao City chapter at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City on Sept. 30, 2017. Also in the photo is (leftmost) Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio. Robinson Niñal Jr./Presidential Photo

do said.

Duterte in a curse-laden speech Saturday, however, claimed that evidence against him was fabricated and threatened to snub the investigation of the ombudsman, which he called "lousy."

"And you just say 'do not be onion-skinned.' Who the f*** are you to tell me, in face of fabricated evidence. Sinabi ko na sa before the election wala ako niyan, at wala ako ngayon... Ihampas ko sa mukha mo yang p*****j***** papel na yan," he said.

"Onion-skinned yan. How about my right again to freedom of expression?"

Duterte said that if his critics could prove he has P200 million in the banks, he would resign immediately.

"I do not lose my freedom of expression so there are lies based on baseless hundreds of millions and even if I wanted to steal, saan ko kukunin yang p*****j***** amount na yan?"

Duterte had earlier explained he had in-

herited millions from his father, who served as Davao governor, walking back from previous speeches where he said he was born into a poor family.

Duterte challenges Morales, Sereno to resign

He also challenged Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno to resign.

Duterte has repeated his allegations of "selective



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales

justice" against the ombudsman.

"Nagpapagamit yang dalawa e. Eh di, mag-resign tayo. I challenge the two. We will go to Congress in a simple ceremony. We sign the letter of resignation. Sige nga," he said.

The ombudsman Friday remained unfazed by Duterte's tirades, saying the agency would not give in to the president's attempts to "intimidate" it.



Editor's Note

As always, this issue of PhilippineFiesta News is one important copy to keep. I try to review the files at the end of Dave's rendezvous in compiling files in the wee hours of the night. I have to say, he's done a great job in putting together this one beautiful issue for our Fil-Am community.

It's packed with activities that have happened and are about to happen in our beautiful city of Sacramento and vicinity. Our contributing writers continue to wholeheartedly cover news of entertainments, fundraising events, family gatherings, and all sorts of issues and concerns in our community and back home.

In this issue are coverage of the Filipino Women's Club's first-ever Prom Night, the University of the Philippines' Tipanan sa Museo event, and the Constitution Day celebration by the ALA Magellan Post 604. Upcoming events include concerts, crab feed, festivals, golf tournament, and Fun Run hosted by our Fil-Am community organization.

The month of October is Filipino History month. Take time to participate in several activities to take note of the Filipinos' continuous presence in America from the past, present, and into the future. I encourage the Fil-Am youth of today to make their own presence, to try to continue the legacy of our ancestors, and in preserving their contributions to this beautiful country we are living in. Most of all, try to stand for what is "just" to make this country great, as it has ever been!

With love to you all,
Dinnah S. San Pedro

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Duterte on ‘millions:’ ‘They can take it’

BY LLANESCA T. PANTI

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has insisted that he did not have millions in his bank accounts and that if the money existed his critics “can take it.”

At the same time, Duterte reiterated that he would step down from the Presidency if it could be proven that he had deposits outside the Philippines.

“If there is P211 million, they can take it. And I’d be happy if they give me P1,000 and they can...if there is one, they can confiscate it,” Duterte said in a speech during the 116th anniversary of the Balangiga, Eastern Samar encounter between Filipino and American soldiers.

“And if I have a deposit outside of the Philippines, even just for a dollar, I will step down from the Presidency and you can kill me in a moment in the name of those who suffered for the greater good of what is now the Republic of the Philippines,” Duterte added.

The P211 million Duterte was referring to was the money that Sen. Antonio Trillanes 4th claimed the then Davao mayor allegedly had at the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) branch in Pasig.

The bank issued a certificate saying that Duterte did not have an account with them.

Trillanes, however, filed a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman in May 2016, election month, claiming that Duterte and his family amassed P2.4 billion through corrupt activities from 2006 to 2015.

‘Politicking’

The President dismissed on Friday the controversy on his bank accounts as politicking and that the public should believe him.

“You know politics. But just take my word for it, there is really none.



President Rodrigo Duterte joins ceremonies marking the anniversary of the clash between Americans and Filipinos in Balangiga, Eastern Samar in 1901.

I don’t have P200...P211 million. [If I had that] I would not have run for President. I would have just rested,” Duterte said.

“It’s like this. If you believe these...go ahead. Believe them. If you believe me, then so be it,” Duterte added.

Ombudsman unfazed

Meanwhile, the Office of the Ombudsman said it would pursue the case of Duterte’s alleged ill-gotten wealth even after the President announced that he would be creating a commission to investigate the Ombudsman.

“The President’s announcement that he intends to create a commission to investigate the Ombudsman appears to have to do with this Office’s on-going investigation into issues that involve him. This Office, nonetheless, shall proceed with the probe, as mandated by the Constitution,” according to a statement released on Friday.

“This Office, all the same, welcomes, as it has always welcomed, efforts to help it cleanse its ranks. Its Internal Affairs Board has, in fact, entrapped and removed Ombudsman officials and employees for various offenses,” the statement said.

Duterte accused the Office of the Ombudsman of corruption and accused it of choosing who it would investigate.

The Ombudsman said it would

be investigating the complaint Trillanes filed in May 2016.

“If the President has nothing to hide, he has nothing to fear,” it said.

AMLC report

Meanwhile, Trillanes asked the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to focus on expediting its report on the President’s bank transactions as requested by the Office of the Ombudsman instead of issuing unnecessary statements that seemed to absolve the President.

At the same time, Trillanes also questioned the authenticity of the statement issued by the AMLC.

“AMLC should just expedite its final report regarding Duterte’s questionable bank transactions as requested by the Ombudsman, so that the public would know the truth about the Duterte bank accounts,” said Trillanes, a staunch critic of the Chief Executive.

The AMLC, in a statement Thursday, denied giving Duterte’s bank records to either Trillanes or the Ombudsman.

According to the AMLC, it received on September 6 the request of Overall Deputy Ombudsman Melchor Arthur Carandang to initiate an investigation into the President’s accounts, but added it would have to first evaluate the request.

Carandang said the copy of the bank records from AMLC was “more or less” the same as the ones exposed by Trillanes.

Trillanes expressed doubts on the AMLC statement because it was unsigned and undated.

“The signature is important so that the statement could be attributed to a particular person, who has been authorized by the Council to issue such a message,” he said.

“It is improper in its necessity for release and in its tenor, which sounded like the AMLC was de-

Trump to visit PHL in November –White House

BY STEVE HOLLAND

WASHINGTON – Donald Trump will travel to Asia next month for the first time since becoming president, stopping in Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines on a trip expected to be dominated by the North Korea nuclear threat.



Pre. Donald Trump

Joined by his wife Melania, Trump will travel Nov. 3-14. His visit will include attending two major summits, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vietnam and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations conclave in the Philippines.

Trump’s attendance at the Manila summit had been in doubt until recent days, with officials saying he was reluctant to reward Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has been responsible for a number of anti-American outbursts.

A US official said Asian leaders who met Trump at the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week helped persuade him to attend in unity with key Asian allies.

The president, who has been engaged in an increasingly bitter war of words with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will have the opportunity to bolster allied resolve for what he calls the “complete denuclearization” of Pyongyang.

He has denounced Kim as a “rocket man” on a suicide mission for test launches of ballistic missiles and for nuclear weapon tests. He has warned North Ko-

rea would face total devastation if it threatens the United States. Kim has blasted Trump as “mentally deranged.”

“The president’s engagements will strengthen the international resolve to confront the North Korean threat and ensure the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula,” the White House said in announcing the trip.

Trump’s visit to China will reciprocate a trip to the United States made in April by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has applied heavy pressure on China to rein in North Korea. While his efforts have had limited success thus far, he went out of his way to thank Xi on Tuesday for his efforts.

“I applaud China for breaking off all banking relationships with North Korea — something that people would have thought unthinkable even two months ago. I want to thank President Xi,” Trump said at a news conference with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

ending and absolving Duterte,” Trillanes said.

In September or more than a year after filing his complaint, Trillanes challenged the President to sign waivers that would authorize the banks in question to open his accounts to the public.

Trillanes issued the challenge af-

ter signing 12 bank waivers himself to disprove Duterte’s claims about his alleged multimillion-dollar deposits in several banks abroad. The President turned down Trillanes, saying that he won’t give in to the senator’s whims, saying that as the accuser, he should present evidence



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Napoles wants bail ala Jinggoy

BY PETER TABINGO

WHAT is good for Jinggoy can also be good for Janet.

The camp of businesswoman Janet Lim Napoles yesterday said the same grounds cited by the Sandiganbayan in approving the bail request of former Sen. Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada are applicable in her case and could be a key to securing her release from detention.



Janet Lim Napoles and former Sen. Jose “Jinggoy” Estrada

Defense lawyer Dennis Buenaventura said he and other members of Napoles’ legal team are now reviewing the court ruling to prepare her own request for setting of bail in all her plunder cases.

“As far as we are concerned, this is favorable to us. We shall go over the actual terms of the resolution, then we will file our own (motion). We will start here at the Fifth (Division), then we’ll see about the others,” Buenaventura said.

Napoles is facing five plunder cases before different divisions of the Sandiganbayan in relation to allegations that she conspired with senators, congressmen, and executives of government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) to siphon off hundreds of millions of pesos of Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF).

Prosecutors said the money was funneled into bogus foundations allegedly created by Napoles and her employees supposedly to undertake livelihood and agricultural assistance programs that turned out to be non-existent or “ghost projects.”

The Office of the Solicitor General early this year said Napoles was wrongly convicted of illegal detention, giving rise to speculations that a deal for her freedom is being worked out with the Duterte government.

Buenaventura noted that Napoles has already been granted bail in the plunder and graft cases of former

APEC party-list Rep. Edgar Valdez involving P95 million PDAF, and former Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete involving P112 million pork barrel funds.

“Bail has been granted (to Napoles) in two cases against congressmen. This is the first time for a senator...other than the Enrile case which was on a different ground. But this (court ruling granting bail to Estrada) definitely touches on the main information. It changes the complexion (of the case),” Buenaventura said.

In a resolution dated September 15, 2017, a special division of five justices voted 3-2 to grant Estrada’s bail request citing weaknesses in the prosecution’s evidence in light of recent pronouncements by the Supreme Court in the dismissal of plunder charges against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The majority resolution signed by Associate Justices Maria Theresa Mendoza-Arcega, Reynaldo Cruz, and Lorifel Pahimna held that there was insufficient evidence that Estrada was the principal plunderer saying the evidence so far presented created an impression that Napoles was the mastermind.

In addition, the court declared that Estrada’s stature as a former senator and the fact that he voluntarily surrendered and served detention for more than three years are proof that he cannot be considered a flight risk.

Associate Justices Rafael Lagos and Zaldy Trespeses dissented, noting that the strength of the prosecution’s evidence has already been upheld after a lengthy bail hearing where the accused was allowed to challenge testimonies of witnesses and documentary evidence offered.

Napoles’ camp, however, said the theory of conspiracy among the plunder defendants essentially means that what benefit one of them will likewise benefit the others.

“As we have argued earlier...the nature of the information does not really amount to plunder. The legal definition of plunder says it cannot be a private person, it should be a public officer. So, if at all appears like that, this is not plunder, this is something else...a very different matter,” Buenaventura said.

Prosecutor Ma. Christina Marallag-Batacan, however, said the Ombudsman’s panel of prosecutors have also reviewed the Sandiganbayan resolution and found several bases to mount a challenge.

She said the prosecution will also file an appeal to ask that Estrada’s bail be revoked.

“We will file an MR (motion for reconsideration) of course, we have good grounds so we hope the ruling granting bail will be reversed,” Batacan said.

Abu Sayyaf has ‘franchise’ of ‘Bamboo triad’, Duterte claims

BY DHAREL PLACIDO

President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday claimed that local terrorist group Abu Sayyaf has a “franchise” of the notorious United Bamboo Gang.



Abu Sayyaf

Pres. Rodrigo Duterte

Duterte has tagged the 14K and “Bamboo Triad”, which are based in Hong Kong and Taiwan, as among groups allegedly behind the proliferation of illegal drugs in the Philippines.

In a recorded interview on state-run television which was aired Friday evening, Duterte claimed that the Bamboo triad, allegedly based in Taiwan, has penetrated the southern portion of the country through the terrorist group. Advertisement

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“Meron nang humahawak. Alam mo sino? The Chinese Triad, the Bamboo Triad. Kinonsolidate (consolidate) na nila lahat at meron na sila parang representante dito. O dito may franchise ka. Ang binigyan nila ng franchise dito sa Jolo banda, ang mga Abu Sayyaf,” Duterte said.

“Magluto kayo diyan, ipagbili ninyo ano? Kaya karamihan diyan, pagka mag-attack, mag --- sabihin may nakita na mga sachet. Hihirit muna ‘yan kaya matapang masyado.”

Duterte also said that some 17,000 cops are involved in the illegal drug trade.

The President also claimed that the crisis in Marawi City was triggered by the drug trade, contrary to the earlier claim of government authorities that the violence was triggered by the attempt to arrest Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon.

“Kagaya sa Marawi. It started with a raid kasi may huhulihin o may warrant. O ‘di anong nakita natin? The rebellion opened. Pero droga ‘yun. Ganun sila ka-powerful na lumaban. Ngayon naghingi sila ng tulong kasi sabi nila Islam,” he said.

On Monday, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Manila denied being a source of illegal drugs in the Philippines, saying it would continue working closely with Philippine authorities to fight the narcotics trade.

In May, P6.4 billion worth of shabu from mainland China was discovered in a warehouse in Valenzuela after it slipped past through the port of Manila allegedly through the help of corrupt Customs officials.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) spokesman Derrick Carreon also said in December that mainland China is the origin of most meth in the Philippines.

“It’s safe to say that the majority of the meth we have comes from China,” he told Reuters in an interview.

Of 77 foreign nationals arrested for meth-related drug offenses between January 2015 and mid-August 2016, nearly two-thirds were Chinese and almost a quarter were Taiwanese or Hong Kong residents, according to the PDEA.

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History, adventure amid urban bustle

BY MARICAR CINCO

It's probably because of Cavite province's history and strong link with the past that we have come to know its people as fierce and clannish. But Caviteños are warm and accommodating hosts.



Aguinaldo Shrine

"Here, people are very welcoming," said Lei Aldea of the Cavite El Viejo Heritage Tourism Association.

Cavite El Viejo, the old name of Kawit, is the hometown of the first Philippine President, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo.

Only 21 kilometers south of Manila, Cavite is the country's most populous province with 3.68 million residents as of 2015.

From what used to be vast tracts of farmland, it has evolved into an industrial and residential hub, absorbing the spillover of investments and development in Metro Manila.

The daily traffic along Aguinaldo Highway, Cavite's 41-km main thoroughfare, proves its rapid urbanization. "It's becoming the new Edsa," Aldea said.

Fly high, swim deep

Cavite has a lot of less prominent but interesting sites for a 48-hour travel.

Among its "hidden gems" are the Cabag Cave in Maragondon town; the Matala and Pitan caves in Indang town; and a number of falls, such as Palsajingin Falls in Indang, Balite Falls in Amadeo town, and Saluysoy Falls in Alfonso town.

From Manila, the easiest entry points are via the Cavite Expressway (a 14-km expressway from Roxas Boulevard) or the South Luzon Expressway.

An early Saturday adventure may start in Carmona town, with a daring flight on a canopy wing of a paraglider.

Paragliding is the most popular air adventure sport in the Philippines, said Randall Reginald "Buko" Raymundo of the Federation of Paragliding and Hang Gliding of the Philippines.

Since 2009, Raymundo's group has been organizing tandem rides (riding with a

certified pilot) in Barangay Lantik. "It started as a hobby but is now being offered as a sport to boost Carmona's tourism," he said.

Tourists may want to bring their own food since there are no facilities on site. A 15-minute ride at an altitude of 500 to 1,000 feet costs P2,500 to P3,500.

But the sport is seasonal as it depends on the wind direction. In Carmona, paragliding is offered between November and April, with early morning as the best time to fly.

Those afraid of heights may try trekking and swimming in the Malibiclibic Falls in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo town.

Travel from Manila takes about two hours through Cavite's quaint, historic towns of Kawit, Tanza, Naic and Maragondon before taking the turn toward



Cabag Cave in Maragondon

Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, a fifth-class town and a favorite destination among bikers and trekkers.

"If you ask locals for directions, ask for Bailen. They might not know where Aguinaldo is," municipal tourism officer Glori Ann Sain said, referring to the town's old name.

From the town center, a tricycle (fare: P50) takes the visitor to Barangay Lumipa where a 20-minute trek to the falls begins.

The town also promotes a strawberry farm in Barangay Kabulusan and the "tilbok," a local delicacy made from glutinous rice

and coconut milk.

Tourist strip

The next best stop is Tagaytay City. Known for its perfect vantage point of Taal Volcano, it is a top tourist destination not only in Cavite but also in the Southern Tagalog region.

A ridge that stretches 28-km from the Tagaytay rotunda to the boundary of Nasugbu town has been dubbed its "tourism strip," as it is lined with restaurants, coffee shops, retreat houses, hotels, and bed and breakfast (B&B) facilities.

Restaurants commonly serve "bulalo" (beef marrow stew), crispy "tawilis" (herring), and "kare-kare," but if one is up for a more authentic feel (at a cheaper price), head straight to the Mahogany market for lunch. It is a beef market and a "pasalubong" center with several "carinderia." Bananas and "kapeng barako" (brewed native coffee) come free.

Tour the Museo Orlina and be awed by the works of renowned glass sculptor Ramon Orlina.

Visit the Puzzle Mansion, where over 1,000 jigsaw puzzles earned collector Gina Lacuna her Guinness record in 2012.

Also in Tagaytay, Nurture Wellness Village has been running a 6,000-square-meter organic farm of medicinal plants and vegetables since 2001.

Try its signature "nilaib," a traditional massage that uses hot pouches of herbs and sand wrapped in banana leaves. The village also hold Tai Qu Gong and basic yoga, and juice and coffee roasting demonstrations every morning.

But, of course, what is Tagaytay without a view of Taal Volcano. Try the perfect vantage point atop the Sky Eye, a 63-meter-high ferris wheel inside the 5-hectare Sky Ranch. From



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there, simply cross the street to the newly opened The Barracks Food Park for dinner and choose from over 20 homegrown food stalls.

Visit Amira's Buco Tart Haus, just a few meters from the rotunda, for a uniquely Tagaytay treat. Owner Virginia Malipol said Amira's started as a home-based business in 1998.



Paragliding in Carmona

Tagaytay has kept its steady influx of tourists, which reached over 2 million this year alone, said city tourism officer Lani Diesta.

Heritage tour

Cavite played a key role in the 1896 Philippine Revolution, which ended when General Aguinaldo, from the balcony of his home in Kawit, declared Philippine independence from Spanish rule on June 12, 1898.

At least eight museums, several markers and monuments, are spread all over Cavite.

From Tagaytay, it takes about an hour to reach Imus

City, the "Flag Capital of the Philippines." Head straight to the heritage park in Barangay Alapan where the second tallest flag pole in the Philippines, next to Luneta, stands.

"You better go to Imus before proceeding to Kawit if you want to follow the historical trail," said city information officer Jay Saquilayan.

On May 28 1898, revolutionaries led by Gen. Hipolito Saquilayan won the almost five-hour Battle of Alapan, the last before Aguinaldo unfurled the Philippine flag for the first time.

The road leading to Alapan park is still underdeveloped.

About half an hour drive away are the Cuartel (Camp Gen.

Pantaleon Garcia, currently the provincial police headquarters) and the Our Lady of the Pillar, or the Imus Cathedral, one of the oldest in Cavite.

Imus is one of the earliest economic and religious centers in Cavite with a monument of local hero, Gen. Licerio Topacio, at the plaza.

A 10-minute walk from the cathedral, Big Ben's Kitchen serves Imus "longganisa" for lunch. "Imus used to be a hacienda and the old way of doing longganisa was meant for (food) preservation," owner Gene Gutierrez said.

Big Ben's also serves "batchoy" Tagalog, "adobong" Tagalog and the adobong "tinali" among the heirloom dishes bequeathed by Gutierrez's grandfather Ben.

Get a quick stop for Digman's "halo-halo" in Bacoor City. Digman is a small village with narrow streets and a couple of diners serving halo-halo, "siopao" and "tahong" (green mussels) chips.

"When you say Cavite, two things (come to mind): Tagaytay and the Aguinaldo Shrine," Aldea said. "(But Cavite) has a very rich historical and cultural heritage, it's like taking you back to the time of the Katipunan."

The road leading to Kawit normally takes about three hours, starting or ending at the iconic white mansion of Aguinaldo.

The lesser known but historic Gen. Baldomero Aguinaldo Shrine in Barangay Binakayan also stands as perfect example of the "bahay na bato" (colonial stone house) with a "kamalig" (granary). It used to be the home of Baldomero, a cousin of President Aguinaldo and a cofounder of the Philippine Veterans.

Proceed to the St. Mary Magdalene Church, built in 1737 and one of the oldest in Cavite.

Heritage tours, according to Aldea, are not only meant to pique tourists' interests but also to encourage locals to know and preserve their own heritage.

St. Paul Festival



St. Paul Multi Cultural Fundraising dinner and dance held at St. Paul Parish hall, on August 26, 2017, from 5-11 PM. The event was well attended by friends and parishioners of St. Paul. In the picture with Fr. Joyle Martinez, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church. The proceed for this event was for the building fund.



St. Paul Church Fall festival held last 9-17-2017 chaired by Filipino parishioners, famous Filipino delicacies were sold wherein the proceeds were for St. Paul projects

Bicolandia Association



Penafancia Fiesta

Our Lady Virgin of Penafancia Fiesta held on September 2, 2017 at St. Joseph Church in Elk Grove, CA.



The 8th day novena to our Lady Virgin of Penafancia on September 1, 2017 hosted by Norma B, Beth and Andrea R, Nellie R, Annie H, Zeny V and the ladies of St Paul Church. There were about 50 attendees. Viva La Virgen!



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Source: gettyimages.com



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Keynote Speaker



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2017 Legislator of the Year Award

Opening Remarks



Darrell Steinberg*
Mayor of Sacramento

















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Pamela Wu*

Special Guests Invited: API Legislative Caucus & CA Commission on APIA Affairs

Candidates Invited (*confirmed attendance - candidates declared as of 9/1/17)

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APAPA 16th Annual Statewide Voters Education & Candidates Forum

BY JACQUI NGUYEN and PAUL KEKAI MANANSALA

Recent events make it clear that politics plays an important role in our lives. Whether we like it or not, or involvement or lack thereof in the country's democracy can determine the future course of events for good or bad. For this reason, the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA) will be hosting the 16th annual Voters Education and Candidates Forum in October 7 at California State University, Sacramento.

Among the participants confirmed for the forum so far is Assemblymember Rob Bonta, the first Pinoy elected to the state legislature. APAPA has also invited local elected and other government officials to the event mixer where there will be on open mic.

Prominent local Filipino Americans like California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, former acting Lt. Governor Mona Pasquil and West Sacramento mayor Christopher Cabaldon may also show up to speak and to mingle with the crowd.

"I am in awe everyday when I walk through the State Capitol and look up at the dome. I am an immigrant. My family escaped from Vietnam before the

Fall of Saigon. No money, no clothes, and no food, we arrived to America," said Vietnamese-American, Jacqui Nguyen, who works in public service and politics. "We pursued the American dream. More than 40 years later, I am blessed to have the opportunity to work in a field where I can educate other Asian Pacific Islander Americans on the importance of civic engagement."

In less than 3 months, 2018 will soon sneak up on us and so will the midterm elections. Next year will be an important year for Asian Pacific Islander American voters. The very first Asian American candidate will run for a statewide office and vie for the title of Governor.

According to Professor Paul Ong from the University of California Los Angeles, Asian-Americans are the fastest-growing racial demographic in the country today. As our numbers grow, we have the opportunity to grow our political clout. Professor Ong says that in the year 2040, the Asian-American electorate nationally will double to 12.2 million.

Candidates running for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, just to name a few, will be showcased and asking for our vote. Notable guests

will include Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg who will make opening remarks. Candidates such as Assemblymember Travis Allen, state treasurer John Chiang, and board of equalization Fiona Ma have been invited to attend, just to name a few.

Here is your chance to learn more about the candidates and where they stand on issues such as health care, public safety, and education. As our political clout continues to expand, it's also imperative to make educated choices about who we want to elect to lead California. After all, our choices will impact our children's future and the future of our children's children.

The 16th annual APAPA Voters Education and Candidates Forum will held at the campus of California State University, Sacramento in Union Hall from 1-4PM with a reception following the forum. It is a free event open to the public.

Contact Jacqui Nguyen at (858) 999-7706, President of Sacramento chapter of APAPA for more information. Jacqui Nguyen is the press secretary and director of Asian Pacific American outreach for the Senate Republican Caucus.

For victims' families, a fatal shooting means a lifetime of grief

For the loved ones of gun-violence victims, a moment of tragedy can mean a lifetime of pain and a search for justice.

BY TYRONE BEASON

One of the bedrooms in Lourdes Reyes' home in Federal Way belongs to her son George Gabriel Jr.

Its walls are covered with framed photos of Gabriel when he was an adorable kid, posing at high-school dances with girls who found him adorable (in a distinctly more grown-up way) and gazing into the camera while dressed in his blue Marines uniform and white cap.

But Lance Corporal Gabriel has never set foot in this house. This room full of lovely memories is, in fact, a loving memorial.

Gabriel was killed by a stray bullet fired during a shooting on May 13, 2014, while he was on leave, visiting his mother at the Federal Way apartment complex where she lived at the time. Gabriel and his new wife had just driven home from a night out and were waiting for a parking space when they got caught in the crossfire of a dispute, police said.

It was his birthday. When shots ring out, the pierced air causes ripples that spread well beyond the trauma of the wounded.

They send shock waves through a community's consciousness that don't diminish after the headlines fade away and the cameras gravitate toward the next day's news.

The perverse thing about much of the Seattle-area gun violence that has captured the public's attention in recent years — including a series of incidents, some fatal, this spring and summer — is that shootings too often go unsolved for months and even years, with witnesses refusing to cooperate and investigations stalling.

Families and friends of the victims are then left with the dual traumas of grief and mystery, making it that much harder to heal the wounds of loss.

Gun violence, no matter where it happens, damages our sense of the natural order of things.

It is not natural, in any community, to say goodbye to a son or daughter or neighbor when they head out into the world, and wonder whether you'll ever see them again.

Reyes heard the commotion outside that night, but she never imagined that her son was caught up in it.

That revelation came a short time later, when police knocked on her door to deliver the news that her son was gone.

Gabriel was a born engineer. He installed auto alarms and sound systems for people and could take the shell of a



Lourdes Reyes, right, and her husband, Mario San Agustin, visit her son's gravesite at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent.

Honda or Acura and build it out into a fully functioning car.

Reyes, 50, admits with a smile that she spoiled her son. She let him eat dinner in front of the TV in his bedroom when he was younger. Gabriel never washed his own dishes.

One day, when he was 18, Gabriel told his mother he'd just signed papers to join the Marines.

Reyes remembers saying, stunned, "You're kidding, right?"

Gabriel said no; he was serious.

"You don't even know how to wash a plate," she retorted.

"He was my baby, and you always expect the worst," Reyes says. "But he was happy ... When he left, I was crying, crying, crying, but he called me every single day."

"What I hope is, I just want justice," says Lourdes Reyes, whose son, George Gabriel Jr., was shot and killed in his car as he was waiting for a parking space three years ago.

Reyes was 19 when she came to the United States from Tamaulipas state in Mexico. She worked seven days a week in janitorial services and ran her own cleaning business. She raised Gabriel on the income from the business. When he died, Reyes stopped working, and her husband, Gabriel's stepdad, stepped in to support them.

She and her son were always close. Gabriel, known as "Junior" to most people in the apartment complex, never missed an opportunity to tell his mother he loved her, sometimes five or 10 times a day, even in front of his high-school buddies.

The military portrait of George Gabriel Jr. sits in a frame in the home of his mother, Lourdes Reyes. Gabriel, a Marine on leave, was shot and killed in his car as he was waiting for a parking space at Reyes' Federal Way apartment building on May

He might have been a devoted mama's boy, but Gabriel stunned Reyes once more when he called three weeks before his death to say he'd gotten married to a fellow member of the military in San Diego, where he was based.

But Reyes couldn't stay upset at her son for long.

When Gabriel was in high school, a young man visited the apartment, she says. He put a gun to Reyes' head and demanded to know where "George" was. Because of the way he referred to her son, she assumed the stranger knew him from school. Terrified, Reyes pulled Gabriel out of school and sent him to live with relatives in Miami. But only a month later, she had Gabriel sent back to be with her after he complained.

She decided to move the family to a different apartment complex, thinking the new location would be safer. A few years later, that's where the shooting happened.

Gabriel's room is lined with chairs. A U.S. flag folded into a triangle, which Reyes received at her son's military funeral, hangs above the portrait of him in his Marines uniform.

"I still have his clothes," she says. "People always tell me to get rid of them, but I'm not ready."

The gold pendant hanging from a chain around her neck spells out "George Jr.," with angel wings around the "Jr."

"He lives in me," Reyes says.

She visits Gabriel's gravesite every weekend.

Every 13th of the month, she hosts a gathering to celebrate his life. On his birthday this year, Reyes arranged for a mariachi band to play in his memory.

Some relatives have urged her to let her son rest, to let go of her grief. But it is grief that has a hold on her.

To lose any child, but especially in such a random and horrific way, brings a distinct kind of pain, she says. "I think I'm never going to get up from this."

Even worse, three years later, no arrests have been made in her son's death.

Federal Way Police said at the time that a man who was suspected of involvement in two other shootings around the same time, one a fatal shooting, was a person of interest in Gabriel's, as well. The man spent a year in prison on murder charges connected to that other fatal shooting, but was released in 2015 for lack of sufficient evidence to carry out a successful prosecution.

"All I want is justice," Reyes says. "If there was justice, my son could rest in peace."



PerryScope

The Marcoses' obsession with power

BY PERRY DIAZ

If forty-five years after the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos proclaimed martial law and 31 years after he was deposed by the People Power Revolution of 1986, you'd think that his heirs would stay out of politics and lead a quiet life? You're wrong. The Marcoses are nowhere living their lives in the quietude of obscurity; they're basking in the limelight of power.

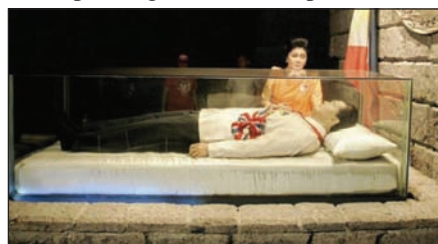
Indeed, during a forum commemorating her father's 100th birthday in Batac, Ilocos Norte, Governor Imee Marcos reminded the attendees of a statement made by her father after they were ousted from power, that "history was not done yet" with her family. She was referring to her late father's comment when they landed at the Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. "We were all in tears and everyone said, 'The end is nigh, it is finished, we are dead and doomed,'" Imee said. "My father said, 'No, children. To my family and to everyone, history is not done with me yet.'"

It is interesting to note that when the Marcoses fled into exile in February 1986, they were prepared for it. When they landed at Hickam, the official U.S. customs record took up around 23 pages. In the two C-141 transport planes that took them away, they had packed: 23 wooden crates; 12 suitcases and bags, and various boxes, the contents of which included enough clothing to fill 67 racks; 413 pieces of jewelry, including 70 pairs of jewel-studded cufflinks; an ivory statue of the infant Jesus, adorned with a silver mantle and a diamond necklace; 24 gold bricks, inscribed "To my husband on our 24th anniversary"; and more than 27 million Philippine pesos in freshly-printed notes. The total value was \$15 million. [Source: kami.com.ph]



Deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos (L) listens to a U.S. Air Force officer on his arrival at Hickam Air Force Base

to file for a recount, which is now pending before the Supreme Court acting as Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET). If Bongbong gets the vote of at least eight Supreme Court justices, he'd serve the remainder of Robredo's term until 2022 when the next presidential election is held. At that time, Bongbong would be an "incumbent" vice president and would therefore benefit from the power of incumbency, which would allow him to use government resources in his campaign. In a sense Bongbong is just eight votes away from dislodging Robredo from the vice presidency. But his biggest advantage is that President Duterte is supporting him. With Duterte's appointment of four new Supreme Court justices, he has achieved in the High Court who are expected to support his agenda in a manner no other president before had enjoyed. And with the retirement of eight of the remaining 11 justices during his term, Duterte would stack up the bench with 12



Marcos entombed in a crypt in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Marcos died in 1989 in Honolulu. In 1993, his remains were flown back to the Philippines when then

President Fidel Ramos allowed the Marcos family to return provided that they bury the Marcos patriarch in Ilocos Norte. The family complied with the condition and the remains were entombed in a crypt in Batac.

The Marcos family incessantly lobbied to have Marcos' remains buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani - Heroes' Cemetery - in Taguig City. But every president opposed it until last November when President Rodrigo Duterte allowed the burial of the dictator



Defiant to the end: Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos on the eve of their ouster.

with full military honors despite a public outrage.

Spectacular comeback

In a span of three decades, the Marcoses mad their way back to power. The matriarch, Imelda Marcos, now 88, currently represents her late husband's second congressional district in Ilocos Norte. The only son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., was elected Ilocos Norte governor in 1998 and representative of the second district in 2007. In 2010, he ran and won a senate seat. Termed out in 2016, he ran for vice president but lost to Leni Robredo by 263,000 votes. This prompted him

gold bars." But how many is a "few gold bars"? However, it is a fact - and they admitted it - that the entire cache of gold bars in the Philippines' central bank depository was spirited away. Nothing was left. Although it was not acknowledged by the Marcos family, the offer to return part of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth and a "few gold bars" begs the question: Why is the Marcos family returning part of the estimated \$10-billion loot that Marcos is accused of embezzling from state coffers during his 21-year rule? To date, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which was created by the 1987 Constitution, recovered some \$3 billion in the last 30 years.

Marcos' heirs: Imee, Bongbong, Imelda, and Irene.



justices of his own choice. Should the PET come to a vote before Duterte's term ends on June 30, 2022, the question that comes to fore is: Could Bongbong secure the votes of at least eight of Duterte's High Court appointees? Well, this is just like asking, "Does the dog bark?"



A few gold bars?

A few gold bars Bongbong must then have every reason to think that power is within his grasp. His political benefactor Duterte announced in early September that the Marcos family was willing to return a "few gold bars" they had hidden away. The Marcos family has been accused of stashing billions in secret bank accounts abroad. Duterte said a spokesman for the Marcoses had told him that the family was willing to "open everything" and to return the stolen wealth accumulated during the Marcos' decades as president. "They are ready to bring it back... including a few

A few gold bars

Marcos remains reburied at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. victims criticized the offer, saying that the Marcos family should return their ill-gotten wealth, dis-



close any condition for its return, and hold them accountable.

Vice President Robredo also believed that the Marcos family could only be offering to return part of the loot to dodge the "legal repercussions" of stealing from the country. She rejected the notion to grant the late dictator's heirs immunity without them admitting to their crimes. However, Bongbong's supporters insist that immunity must be granted as a condition for returning the stolen wealth.

And this brings to mind the question: Is the presidency worth more than the billions that Marcos had stolen and stashed in secret bank accounts? While one can say that the ill-gotten wealth has a finite value, the value of the presidency is infinite. Immense power comes with the presidency and it opens



Bongbong Marcos vs. Leni Robredo.

a lot of doors to opportunities of immeasurable wealth. In other words, the Marcos family could regain the ill-gotten wealth and a lot more than what they would have returned to "secure" the presidency.

At the end of the day, one wonders if what the late dictator had in mind when he told his family who were then languishing in exile in Hawaii, "To my family and to everyone, history is not done with me yet."

This reminds me of the Shakespearean novel "Macbeth," which says, "The protagonist Macbeth is caught in a down spiral induced by his ambition, which in the end, was the cause of his tragic end. Macbeth, once a great hero falls victim of his ambition for power. Although the protagonist initially tries to resist his human urge, he in the end committed crime his country, his friends, and sadly himself."

Marcos' remains reburied at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



session with power is passed on to his son, Bongbong? (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

Could it be then that the late dictator's ob-

PerryScope
By Perry Diaz

Dutertesized Supreme Court

Rodrigo Duterte's appointment of four new Supreme Court justices, he has achieved in creating a bloc of magistrates in the High Court who are expected to support his agenda in a manner no other president before had enjoyed. And with the retirement of eight of the remaining 11 justices during his term, Duterte would stack up the bench with 12 justices of his own choice.



President Duterte swears in new Associate Justice Samuel Martires, a classmate at San Beda College.

By the end of Duterte's term on June 30, 2022, there will only be three justices left who weren't appointed by Duterte and that is Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno and Associate Justices Marvic Leonen and Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa. With Sereno still at the helm of the Judiciary Branch, Duterte would be vulnerable to attempts to bring him to justice to settle a number of issues against him once he's out of office. And considering Duterte's alleged complicity to the filing of impeachment against Sereno by lawyer Larry Gadon, it would be unlikely for Sereno to bat for Duterte.



The then Chief Justice Renato Corona testifies before the Senate during his impeachment trial.

Déjà vu

The attempt to remove Sereno reminds me of the impeachment of former Chief Justice Renato Corona. Corona shielded then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who ducked several attempts to impeach her during her presidency. Corona, who is now deceased, owed his appointment to Arroyo whom he worked for as presidential legal secretary before his Supreme Court appointment.

But Corona earned the ire of then president Benigno Aquino III for blocking Aquino's executive orders. But when Corona successfully maneuvered to break up and distribute Hacienda Luisita – a huge plantation owned by the Cojuangcos, Aquino's other side of his family – Aquino allegedly bribed congressmen and senators to impeach and remove Corona

from the High Court.

To accomplish the alleged "bribery," Aquino used the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), otherwise known as "pork barrel," and also create another funding source called the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP), which was a "special" budget allocated to accelerate or hasten a government project without Congressional approval. The Supreme Court ruled both programs as unconstitutional.

Impeachment complaint

Recently, the impeachment complaint against Sereno moved another step when the House of Representatives justice committee ruled that the complaint is sufficient in form and substance. Among the Supreme Court documents used were official lists of Sereno's travel expenses and appointment letters.

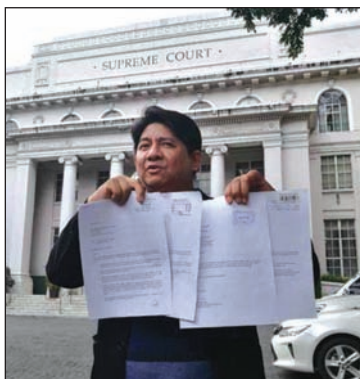
While there are several allegations of inappropriety, the discrepancies on Sereno's statement of assets liabilities and net worth (SALN), arising from her attorney's fees in the Piatco Case, are at the top of the list. But one can argue that she earned her attorney's fees legally. Her only "sin" is that she did not report it on her SALN, which begs the question: How many government officials missed filling out their SALNs? Is it serious enough to warrant removal from office? In the past, when there was a discrepancy in someone's SALN, he or she was given the opportunity to correct and resubmit it. It would have been a different situation if Sereno



President Duterte and Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno

couldn't explain how she earned her attorney's fees.

Another accusation leveled against Sereno was the purchase of a P5.1 million Land Cruiser 2017 model, which Gadon deems as "extravagant." But what is "extravagant"? We are not talking about a Cadillac or Mercedes Benz here.



Lawyer Larry Gadon sends his own request letters to the Supreme Court for his impeachment case buildup against Chief Justice Sereno.

Ever since president Joseph "Erap" Estrada was ousted in the People Power revolution in 2001 -- oftentimes called EDSA Dos or EDSA 2 -- it had become a national pastime to jail or detain the president upon finishing his or her term. It was no surprise then when Aquino jailed Arroyo after she stepped down from office. Now, Duterte wants Aquino jailed. But Aquino has four Supreme Court appointees, which includes Sereno, who could give him a boost should Aquino be brought to justice and, if convicted,

would have to reckon with a High Court that is slowly being packed with Duterte's appointees. However, Chief Justice Sereno could exert influence on some of the justices whom she had developed good rapport and collegial relationship.

If Duterte succeeds in removing Sereno and appoints someone whom he knows would be loyal to him, it would create a 13-justice super bloc that could easily provide him with a minimum eight-vote majority, his last line of defense against any attempt to jail him for corruption or plunder.

Martial Law

And if all else fails, then Duterte could declare martial law. Indeed, martial law is the ultimate method of asserting one's predominance over the people. But while it is effective for as long as you have the military behind you, abuses against the people are bound to happen, which would then result in the collapse of the power structure that you have put in place to control the people. What you'd end up with is a corrupt govern-



President Duterte and his generals. Getting ready for martial law?

ment that would eventually be overthrown by the people, just

like what happened to the Marcos dictatorship.

But declaring martial law wouldn't be easy. Article VII Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution stipulates the following:

- 1) Within forty-eight hours from the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, the President shall submit a report in person or in writing to the Congress. The Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its Members in regular or special session, may revoke such proclamation or suspension, which revocation shall not be set aside by the President.
- 2) The Supreme Court may review, in an appropriate proceeding filed by any citizen, the sufficiency of the factual basis of the proclamation of martial law or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or the extension thereof, and must promulgate its decision thereon within thirty days from its filing.
- 3) A state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor supplant the functioning of the civil courts or legislative assemblies, nor authorize the conferment of jurisdiction on military courts and agencies over civilians where civil courts are able to function, nor automatically suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus.

Of these three stipulations, Duterte shouldn't have any problem in getting the support of Congress, which is packed with die-hard Duteristas. The problem would be in the Supreme Court where the justices led by CJ Sereno would balk at giving him absolute and unmitigated authority that would allow him to stop the operation of the civil government. Removing Sereno would therefore result in a Dutertesized Supreme Court that swings like a pendulum whichever way the puppet master wants it

to go. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento Hosted an Elegant Senior Prom Night

Lourdes V. Belasco, 2017 Mrs. Filipino Women's Club

By CARLE and SARAH ENLOE

The evening was filled with anticipation and excitement, exactly like a Senior Prom Night when everyone was still back in high school. FWC, as usual, stepped outside of the box once again and changed the evening's format from the usual Pista Sa Nasyon evening to a Senior Prom Night Theme. How creative and innovative! It seemed that no sooner had the doors opened and the first guests were already arriving – no one wanted to be left behind. The Rizal Center was elegantly decorated, thanks to Vicky and Norm Johnson, and committee members; and also, Estela Rabara, with the photo booth.

In the blink of an eye, the evening activities begin with Mrs. Sarah Enloe, a past President of FWC and 2nd Vice District Governor (VDG) of Lions Clubs International, District 4-C5, and Mrs. Josie Patria, another past President of FWC, were Mistresses of Ceremonies (MC) for the evening and welcomed everyone to the FWC's Senior Prom Night honoring 2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes V. Belasco. Sister Josie Tanudtanud, from the Religious Virgin Mary, delivered the invocation. Then the Bayanihan Association of Sacramento, USA Choir sang the National Anthems of both America and Philippines.

Following the National Anthems, dinner was ready to be served and MC Josie surprised the guests by announcing that, instead of a buffet dinner, the guests would be treated to a delicious plated Italian dinner served by members of FWC. Also, the dinner was prepared by Ms. Zenny Yagen, current FWC President - another example of the creativeness of FWC. It was evident that the FWC was stepping outside of the box to provide the Filipino Community, a refreshing change.

As dinner ended, MC Sarah introduced Ms. Zenny Yagen, President of FWC, who presented a warm welcome address. She was truly honored and humbled to be the President of such an empowering Filipino Women's Club - especially since she grew up with the pioneer women of FWC. She shared that she's not a new girl on the block – she has returned to the neighborhood.

Mrs. Josie Patria, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented the Filipino Women's Club 2017 Scholarship Awards. Recipients of the 2017 FWC's Scholarship Awards were: Jocelyn Avera; Andrew Oineza; and Jaylene Claro.

Following the Scholarship Awards presentation, the traditional Mrs. Filipino Women's Club Ceremony Farewell Walk was



2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes V. Belasco escorted by her son Marcos Belasco Jr.



2017 FWC Scholarship Awards, Jaylene Claro, Jocelyn Avera and Andrew Oineza.

taken by 2015 Mrs. FWC Leonor Brooks, escorted by her husband, Ray Brooks. After the Mrs. FWC farewell walk, 2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes Belasco, (a petite beauty with a big, loving, and generous heart; and regal as usual in her fully beaded gown), escorted by her eldest son, Marcos Belasco, Jr., began her royal entrance.

Past Council Chair Derek Ledda, Multiple District 4 of Lions Clubs International and endorsed candidate for International Director, assisted by 2ND VDG Sarah Enloe, pinned the Sash on 2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes Belasco. Her three daughters, Mary Cablayan; Debbie Kania; and Marlene Robertson, escorted by Marcos, Jr. and Jonathan, her two sons, presented their Mother, the incoming 2017 Mrs. FWC, with a beautiful bouquet.

Mrs. Leonor Brooks, 2015 Mrs. FWC, assisted by Danny Yap-Diangco, President of the Aklan Association of Sacramento and Vicinity, had the honor of Crowning 2017 Mrs. FWC. Then 2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes Belasco with her escort took the traditional introduction walk as the guests warmly applauded. Following

her traditional introduction walk, 2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes Belasco, gave her brief welcome remarks. Her daughter, Debbie Kania, gave the following tribute to their Mom – the matriarch of the family.

"I'm speaking on behalf of all my siblings as we pay tribute to our Mom on this special day. Mom, you showed us your Art of mothering and we are the product of your craft. There was never a moment when we did not know that you and Dad loved us. It was and is unconditional. You raised such good children and many of those lessons, you've passed on to our own children. It has always been Family First, Family Always. Because of you, we know how to give love, to show respect, and to survive life's challenges. As a very young Mother, we were also given the privilege, over the years, to watch you grow, mature, and thrive. We've learned that it's a journey. As you have always expressed how proud you have been of us, we are proud of you!

I'd like to share a few things about Mom that you may not know. She never had a chance to further her education, but she's been a teacher most of her life. She has enriched

many with whom she's touched. She is very opinionated which makes her a great leader. She is confident and strong. She takes good care of herself. She makes you feel important. She says the Rosary every morning. She loves to dress up and dance. She knows the meaning of aging gracefully. And by 6 a.m. every morning, she has her full face make up on. And she may even throw on her fake lashes for no reason.

As the matriarch of this family, she held us together, as we struggled with Dad's passing 2 years ago. She worried more for us, than herself after losing her partner of 66 years. In turn, we are committed to making sure the rest of her life is filled with love, laughter, and purpose.

To all of you that joined us tonight, I leave you with this prayer: I pray that you have eyes that see the best in people; a heart that forgives the worst; a mind that forgets the bad; and a soul that never loses faith in God."

After their message and heartwarming tribute to the matriarch of the family, 2015 FWC Mrs. Leonor Brooks performed a solo for the 2017 Mrs. FWC. Then



2015 Mrs. FWC Leonor Brooks and husband Ray Brooks.



Eva Alcavav and Pete Delacruz, the 2017 FWC Senior Queen and King



The Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento

2017 Mrs. FWC Lourdes Belasco, escorted once again by Marcos, Jr., her son, took her Royal Dance as Mr. Ray Brooks serenaded her with "Young at Heart".

The Selection of and Crowning of the FWC Senior Prom Queen and King along with the accompanying Dance Extravaganza was enter-

taining, fun, and definite success. Thanks to Beep Alo, Committee Chair, Leila Pereira, and special aid from some friends from University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity and Sinag-Tala: Joe Gonzalez; Johnny Regadio; Dick Mazon; Albert Guevara and Dr. Fred Aquino. The guests enthusiastically participated during the Dance Extravaganza. Kapitbahay's strategy paid off; Congratulations to Eva Alcavav and Pete Delacruz, winners of the 2017 FWC Senior Queen and King. Pete Delacruz had his 15 minutes of fame and a dream come true!

The FWC ladies opened the dance floor to the dancing of the Conga Line and the guests followed and danced the night away. As Beep shared.... "Really, as the song aptly said...." Girls just want to have FUN!" What a marvelous event presented by the FWC as usual. It was indeed an evening of fun and camaraderie!

We would like to congratulate the FWC, Event Committee, and Members for another fabulous event and evening to remember. We would like to also congratulate the recipients of the 2017 FWC's Scholarship Awards.

Photos by Dave San Pedro

University of the Philippines Alumni Association Sacramento & Vicinities

Saturday Night Live!

By SUSAN P. CASTILLO

Saturday night was generally that -- a "tipanan" -- a gathering. "Tipanan sa Museo".

On September 23, 2017 at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, friends, relatives, guests, guests of guests, acquaintances, all gathered together, enjoying an evening of camaraderie among old friends and the hand shaking of nice-to-meet-you acquaintances. Everyone was busy with chit-chats crammed into the night, in-between speeches, awards, dining, presentations, bids for auctions, and dancing.

This is the UPAASV team -- officers and members who are one happy collection of U.P. grads who know how best to raise funds for its many on-going projects, specifically, the "Museo Pilipino".

Museo Pilipino started showcasing its assortment of museum artifacts in 2012 when another Filipino community group, the FCSV, offered UPAASV use of the four showcase windows of the Deacon Room inside Jose Rizal Community Center in Florin, Sacramento. It has since housed the growing collection of Philippine social, historical, ethnic, and cultural arts and artifacts.

Fund-raising events such as "Tipanan sa Museo" are geared towards the acquisition and ownership of a building or structure for Museo Pilipino. It will be the first permanent Philippine museum for the appreciation and education specially of second, third, and future generations of Filipino-Americans in the Sacramento area.

What is a fund-raising affair without its structured program of events. The presence of former Ambassador George Aducaen signaled the formalities of the evening with his inspirational talk. He cited the many ways UPAASV inculcates Philippine heritage in the minds of Filipinos, steadily paving the way for their gradual unity in America. He strongly urged Filipinos to serve as "effective leaders in unifying a strong and healthy Filipino community and for the preservation of our national and cultural heritage." This is important for future generations to understand what it means to be



UPAASV officers and members



Award of appreciation to Amb George and Caridad Aducaen



Dr. Fred Aquino



Susan Castillo



Atty. Beep Alo



Igorot Pot dance



Carinosa dance



Malong dance

Filipino growing up in another culture. UPAASV President Dr. Fred Aquino formally inducted already active members Joe & Carina Gonzalez, Pete & Rose dela Cruz, John & Santi Galinato, Vicky Generao, Linda & Richard Gibson, and Aida Antonuncio.

The cultural side of the evening featured both UPAASV and U.P. guest singers and dancers. Mel Rosenow serenaded the guests

with her kundiman selections. Dance numbers represented the three main islands of the Philippines:

"Igorot Pot" dance of Luzon portrayed the graceful movements of Kalinga women as they weave their way through the narrow rice terraces while balancing their pots of water on their heads;

"Carinosa" of the Visayas is a courtship dance, a flirtation between a man and a woman, with steps resembling the hide-

and-see movements; and "Malong" of the Mindanao region showed the many ways Maranao women wear the malong, a tubular and highly functional and colorful piece of cloth.

The highlight of the occasion was the fund-raising segment, which auctioned off several items, products, and services: Walt Disney Museum and California Museum passes, CA Railroad train ride vouchers, Jackson Rancheria buffet and overnight stay, Tahoe Donner ski vouchers, SF Pier 39 Rocketboat vouchers, to name only a few.

Dancing to the music of Double Vision Band capped the UPAASV Saturday Night Live, episode 2017.



October -Fil-Am History Month

Celebrate and appreciate our roots through our folk songs and folk dances

Sponsored by the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV), with the cooperation and participation of the Filipino American Community Organizations or Group of Individuals.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Donation \$20 / 6:00 - 10:30 pm

Jose P. Rizal Community Center

7320 Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento, CA 95823

Contact: *Edna 916.549.0058 *Rose 916.895.7102 *Remy 916.995.2563 *Mercy 916.266.1923

UNLUCAI attends Naguilanders Outdoor Get Together

BY FAINA E. ABAYA

It seems that the passing of time has strengthened the common bond of relationship among people who for many years have extremely enjoyed being neighbors, schoolmates and friends in a place so far away, yet they proudly called it, our hometown Naguilian in the great province of La Union, Philippines.

Undoubtedly, the memories of yesteryears have been coming back to haunt everyone to nostalgically remind them of what they can do for the best interest of their beloved hometown and their town mates who need help and assistance in their time of difficulties. Just like in their respective Filipino American communities in the State of California where they have found comfort and shared whatever commendable and meritorious undertakings that they indulged in.

The members of United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Incorporated based in Sacramento are always united and in the forefront of any activities that redound to the betterment of the Filipino American community and in their beloved town. When they were invited by other Naguilanders through Mannie and Cora Ojascastro to have outdoor get together on September 23, 2017 at the Blue Rock Spring Corridor Park on Columbus Parkway, Vallejo, CA, they readily accepted the invitation.

The well maintained and managed beautiful Park has built in grills and concrete tables with seating slabs for the convenient and comfort of the picnickers. Tall trees for shades from the heat of the Sun and the organizers likewise brought portable tents for the same purpose in addition to folding chairs to place it in the most convenient spot for anyone to relax while engaging in a conversation.

All the group attendees brought their own favorite dishes but mostly food that caters to the simple pro-



Unlucai picnic at Vallejo



Unlucai members



Jun and Faina Abaya



With Tina Bambao

ageless photo album with many pictures that showed them how they looked when they were young which drew laughs and melancholic memories for many of them were already in the Kingdom of their Creator enjoying everlasting peace and tranquility.

Oswald Joven, former community president of the Tricities of Suisun, Fairfield and Vallejo started a game of draw lots with three prizes in kind and corresponding monetary equivalent depending on the collected donations from the participants. This game added enjoyment and excitement among holders of tickets being drawn.

UNLUCAI president Cristina Bambao has reminded everyone about the previous activity of the organization, the Garage Sale at the of house Erna Bambao which netted modest amount of money but it helps to finance three boxes of assorted aids to the several Barangays of Naguilian on time for the Christmas Season. Whatever goods left from the Garage Sale will be donated to Salvation Army. She also added, the Casino Trip on November 4, 2017 to raise money for both the community and town's expenses.

Further, she urged everyone to support the Naguilian Global Reunion which will be held in February at Naguilian. In Addition, she also mentioned the organization has supported the September Affair of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity. Likewise, UNLUCAI also donated modest amount of money for the

vincial taste of the Naguilanders from pinakbet to munggo with pork and ampalaya leaves or beef pinapaitan, caldereta, dinuguan and pansit with lot of deserts like palitao, rice cake, leche flan and fruits that sometimes their last choices would be grilled beef, pork and chicken.

As expected the more than eighty Naguilanders and friends who attended the picnic from all over California have something to say about their experiences in the places where they established their respective families. However, most of them were talking the years when they were in the town where they were born and raised. The same place where they spent the happiest moments of their young lives with their families, relatives and closest of friends who, incidentally, some of them were also in attendance.

The conversations even went to politics in their hometown to the national scene of the Duterte's administration especially the issue of Extra Judicial Killings in the name of the War on Drugs. Many were critical on the issue but there were handful who favored it. Waveline Aragon even brought her

Magellan Dance Hall



Commander Luz Molina leading the line dance.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 9 Sep 2017, the veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604 hosted a social dance party from 6 – 10 p.m. The purpose of the social dance was to raise funds for the improvement of Magellan Hall that was built in the 1940s. Those who came enjoyed the vocal numbers of Rodolfo "RJ" Mata, the DJ of the evening. The song "Portrait of My Love" came on during dinner that sounded like a CD, until we realized it was a live performance by RJ.

The words encore and more were heard when RJ finished the song. He then encouraged the guests to review his song book for those who may also like to sing. Andrew, RJ's son, performed a guitar and song number entitled "Can't Help Falling in Love with You" that showed his potential to become a true artist.

The chaplain at 6 p.m. made a brief welcome and introduction followed by Commander Luz Molina. The speeches were very short, more like announcements. The prayer by the chaplain was meaningful but also short and strong. The cozy crowd enjoyed the dinner and dessert prepared or procured by the members and friends of Post 604.

After dinner, the dance floor got busy. And the music, singing, and dancing continued without interruption until the announcement of the last song at precisely 10 p.m. by RJ. Requested to sing the last song of the eve-



Loyal supporters of Magellan Hall



Friends of Foresee.

Photos by Dale Esperante



Sweet desserts.

ning, RJ accommodated with an Elvis song, It's Now or Never, as the dancers closed out the evening with a cha-cha-cha number.

The veterans of Magellan Post 604 wish to thank all who came to support their fundraising effort. They also wish to thank those who couldn't come but donated monetarily anyway. All who came or helped out in some way for this September to Remember dance will be remembered by the Magellan veterans. Much appreciation to California

Hurricane victims in Florida after getting approval from the members.

To sum it all up, the outdoor get together which has been going on for many years has once more proved the strong bond of friendship and camaraderie among the former residents of the small town of Naguilian. Yet it becomes a tangible testimony of the sincerity

of Naguilanders that aside from their respective communities where they established themselves for better and successful lives, there still exist in their minds that small town which they will always call it, my hometown.

Among those who attended were; Henry and Tina Bambao Mannie and Cora Ojascastro, Rudy and Sonia

Carehomes who donated significantly. Commander Luz and the staunchest members and friends of Magellan Hall made this evening successful, in ways only a camaraderie with respect for the legacy of WWII veterans can achieve.

Magellan Hall continues to be a Filipino-American Veterans' property gifted to us by our predecessors. In Sacramento, this may be the only historical property owned and managed by Filipinos. Any support for Magellan Hall from the community will be appreciated. If you wish to assist the veterans in preserving the Veterans Magellan Hall, their address is: Magellan Post 604, POB 292091, Sacramento, CA 95829-2091. Or go to their GoFundMe page and search for Veterans Magellan Hall. Maraming Salamat Po.

Delizo, Erna Bambao, Dick and Marilyn Bernal, Charlie and Caring Delizo, Teddy and Letty Cheng, Edgar and Charity Avena, Adolfo and Wevelyn Aragon, Oswald and Lori Joven, Jun and Faina Abaya, Eli Floresca, Jun and Josie Pabros, Erwin and Carmencita Jose, Emma Moran, Pacita Castillo, Lydia Gaposin and Manuel Ojascastro.



A Vineyard Wedding

Thomas "TJ" Amaba
&
Cherielyn M. Joslyn

BY DALE ESPERANTE

The invited guests arrived at the private estate either by their own personal vehicles or via complimentary luxury shuttles. For the Sacramento friends of Tom and Lerma Amaba, a special shuttle service picked them up from their hotels at 4:30 p.m. After the celebration, the same shuttle service transported them back to their lodgings before the stroke of midnight.



Photos by Dale Esperante

Newberry Estate Vineyards in Brentwood became the perfect setting for Thomas "TJ" Amaba and Cherielyn M. Joslyn's matrimonial celebration on 2 September 2017. The pond and the dazzling fountain spray behind the wedding gazebo created a perfect background for the ceremony. For the significant moment, the minister by his winged TJ to express his commitment with the words, With This Ring I Thee Wed. Cherielyn enunciated the same line next with loving clarity.

The blue sky, the swaying palm trees, the pond, the manicured lawn, the Tuscan ambience, and the ceremony of the evening overcame the sizzling 100 degree-plus September heat of the central valley. After the garden wedding, the vineyard's banquet hall became a welcome place for its cool interior. The Host Bar became one of the first favorite stops for the guests. The generously prepared hors d'oeuvre tables strategically arranged in various areas of the cavernous hall offered another appetizing pause for the guests.

Besides the catered salmon and beef and vegetable entrees, crispy lechon and an abundance of kakanin were available as appetizing self-served fare.

As for the precious moments, three professional photographers worked as a team capturing every pose and action. They brought along three light stands (tripods for the flash), various lenses to encapsulate every detail, and three cream of the crop Canon 5Ds ensuring an album of lasting memories. For the sounds, the DJ-cum-Emcee provided flawless music and narratives. His four remote speakers blasted enough volume to pulsate the still country air. Good thing the Newberry Estate Vineyard has no neighbors in the nearby vicinity, making it an ideal place for a

grand hopping party.

This vineyard wedding venue is a model for a private wedding celebration when filled with loving family members and friends. Everyone who came brought along their loving support and care for the newly married couple. On behalf of PF News, Congratulations to the Amaba and Joslyn Families on the union of Thomas "TJ" Amaba and Cherielyn M. Joslyn, the newest Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Amaba! It is also noteworthy to recognize and congratulate two very important ladies in the wedding party: Lerma Joslyn, the radiant parent of Cherielyn, and Lerma Amaba, the proud mom of TJ!

May Thomas "TJ" and Cherielyn Amaba Live Happily Ever After!

Mama Lal & Papa Del

The Filipino Community Center of Vallejo's ballroom has a new flooring better suited for dancing, thanks to the weekly Tea Dance fundraising. Two of the weekly regular dancers are known as Mama Lal and Papa Del.



On 24 Sep 2017, the last Sunday of the month, Mama Lal celebrated her 91st birthday. Mama Lal, as always, came with her lifetime partner and loving husband, 94-year old Papa Del. They came to celebrate along with other September birthday celebrants. Every regular patron of the Tea Dance knows this respected nonagenarian couple because of their love for dancing.



They are also known and respected by a company of fun-loving youngsters in ages ranging from 50-plus year olds. The group they often sit with is known as the Wednesday Club, although they all come every Sunday to meet at the Tea Dance. Every table has a name, e.g., TGIF, Happy Together, FARUSAFa and others. They all come because of their common love

on dancing! Kudos to Jess Ramos (Filipino Community Center Manager) and Annie Ramos (President of Visayan Circle of Northern California) for putting together this weekly dance event and monthly birthday dance event,



for dancing Ballroom and Latin. Ladies have been heard to say that the best leading partner in dancing is Papa Del. "He really knows how to lead" is a phrase often heard about Papa Del. Of course, Mama Lal would have to give her permission first before Papa Del would dance with someone else.



Congratulations Mama Lal and Papa Del and keep

Mr. DJ, Mike Rayos del Sol, for being the DJ, and of course to Norma Placido who is the current President of the Filipino Community of Solano County. Great ap-

preciation also to Master of Ceremonies Flo Verano and Annie Ramos for recognizing Philippine Fiesta aka PF News during the acknowledgements.

Katelyn Enero 15th Birthday - September 26



Happy 15th birthday to our beautiful granddaughter, Katelyn Enero! A family picture was taken after the celebration of her special day at The Bangkok Garden in Sacramento, California. With love from grandparents George and Caring Aducaen and family.

Calendar of Events

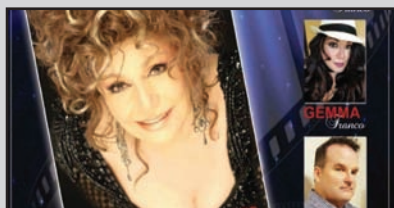
OCTOBER 7, 2017 (SAT.)
 Sacramento Midtown Lions Club
 20th Anniversary
 6pm No Host / 7pm Dinner
 \$50 per person - all seat reserved
 Lions Gate Hotel
 8831 Gerber Roa - McClellan Park
 3410 Westover St., Sacramento
 916.261.1051
 916.601.9895



OCTOBER 7, 2017 (SAT.)
 Maharlika Lions Club
 GOLF TOURNAMENT
 8:30 am shotgun start
 \$75 per person - Awards, prizes,
 plus lunch included
 Mark Bamba 916.872.3477
 Benefiting the Sacramento and beyond



OCTOBER 21, 2017 (SAT.)
 An Evening with PILITA
 Asia's Queen of Songs
 8:00 PM
 \$60 VIP, \$40 premium, \$30 gen.adm.
 Crown Plaza Sacramento
 5321 Date Ave. Sacramento, CA
 Call: 916.791.5325 / 916.308.2219



Birthdays



DANIELA DOLAR
 OCTOBER 1
 Happy 16th Birthday Daniela!
 We are so proud of the beautiful, smart, talented young lady you become! Dream BIG!
 We love you so much, Tatay and Nanay♥



RAESELLE LOURDES
 SEPTEMBER 25



SARAH ENLOE
 SEPTEMBER 29



MARLON COSTES
 OCTOBER 1



CYNTHIA BONTA
 OCTOBER 9



JENNY SALVADOR
 OCTOBER 7



SIMON & DAISY MAGSUCI
 OCTOBER 23 and NOVEMBER 2



CORA SY RAMIREZ & hubby Jose
 SEPTEMBER 23



AIDA AZURIN and husband Segundo
 OCTOBER 16



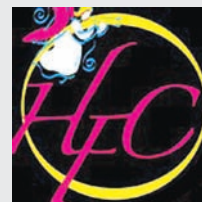
LETTY O'QUINN & Oscar Tence
 OCTOBER 8



Surprise 87th birthday party given to JIM FORSEE, love of Aurora Forsee held at the Fuji Sushi Buffet in Elk Grove, CA on SEPTEMBER 30, 2017.



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BY CHAPLAIN DALE ESPERANTE

Constitution Day

Also known as Citizenship Day celebrated every year from the 17th through the 23rd of September. The members of The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 took it upon themselves to remember Constitution and Citizenship Day every year by inviting the community to join them in a dinner and dance FUNdraising event. Proceeds from such event would go towards helping in programs such as: "Rehabilitation of Veterans, Children and Youth Activities, Serving the Local Community, Disaster Relief Activities, and Peace and Security."

On 23 September 2017, the official program started by the Introduction of President Lilia Rivera. President Lilia's brief intro was followed by the Magellan Post 604 chaplain, this writer, for the invocation. The volunteer servers (Meding Mangosing, Linda Cordero, Frenie Williams, Letty O'Quinn, Joe Rivera) behind the buffet line became busy after the invocation. For dinner entertainment, new auxiliary member Angie delos Reyes was introduced by President Lilia. Angie sang some standard songs appreciated by the dinner audience.

The program continued with the Welcome Address of Event Chair Lita Calindas. The strong and respected organizing skills of Chair Lita were instrumental in the favorable outcome of this Constitution Day tribute, considering three separate events by other community organizations were scheduled on this same night. Chair Lita



President Lilia Rivera



Captain Leanne Babcock with Lilia and Letty.

gratefully recognized the tremendous support she received from the members, families, and friends of the Auxiliary.

The introduction of the Guest Speaker became the responsibility of Carmela Calindas-Yamamoto, the beautiful daughter of Chair Lita. Carmela and the guest speaker met

and became friends during Carmela's Air Force reserves assignment. Carmela introduced Captain Leanne Babcock of the United States Air Force who is also a Top 25 Finalist for Ms. Veteran America 2017.



The members of the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Post



Auxiliary members dancing with guests

Photos by Dale Esperante



With Commander Luz Molina

talk of Captain Leanne. Then the FUN started. The Kapitbahay Line Dancers spearheaded the fun with a couple of rhythmic line dances. Then just like the parting of the red sea, the dance floor became populated by dancers of all ages, levels, and skills. The music provided by Paul and Edward Cordero.

President Lilia wish to acknowledge the following: MAIN EN-

TREE by Chef Roselie Crandall. MONETARY DONORS: Virgie Lara (\$300!), Frenie Williams, Luz Arcaya, Linda Gibson, Angie delos Reyes, Aida Calindas, Aida Azurin, Aida Berdal. FOOD AND BEVERAGES: Lilia and Joe Rivera, Linda Cordero, Josie Banag, Malou Amper-Bella Anderson-Nidoy-Lerma Amaba, Angie delos Reyes, Lita Calindas-Ched Descargar-Meding Mangosing, Oyen Abad, Olive Jackson, Lita Calindas, Bella Nidoy. SUPPLIES: Alice Pambid and Letty Oquinn.

The Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 sends this message: FOR WOMEN WHO ARE RELATED TO SOMEONE IN THE MILITARY, WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 604.

duty. Frequent address changes could be a sign of a permanent residence problem for the reservist according to the captain. When or if there may be a pattern of address inconsistencies, the captain would ask her first sergeant to evaluate the morale and welfare of the reservist. If needed, the captain and her team would find ways to find a safe and consistent shelter for her homeless troop. Check out the Ms. Veteran America link to learn more of this growing population of homeless women veterans.

President Lilia and Alice Pambid (a driving force in The American Legion Auxiliary community of the Sacramento district) presented Captain Leanne a bouquet of flowers brought forward by auxiliary officer Letty O'Quinn. The audience learned something new this evening, thanks to the outstanding

In Captain Leanne's presentation, she revealed the need to assist women in the armed forces who may be categorized as homeless veterans when not performing reservist duties. Captain Leanne would always check the addresses of her reservists when they report in for

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For more information visit www.RizeAll.com

Magellan Hall Masquerade Ball

October 28, 2017
\$20 per person
Join the Fun.
We hope to see you!



FILIPINO MYTH

Compiled and illustrated
By Dave San Pedro

Here are five of the most scary and unusual monsters in Filipino mythology.

5. Aswang

The aswang is probably the most common of Filipino monsters since there are so many different kinds. In general, they are shape shifters who are human by day and then at night turn into a dog, a pig, a bat, cat, snake... the type of animal depends on the regional lore. They break into funeral homes and steal recent corpses. They are also known to enter homes to drink human blood and can turn people into aswang by tricking the human to bite

them in return. The aswang are especially hungry for human fetus so some of the more superstitious stories include neighborhoods patrols set up in front of the home of a pregnant woman to protect her from wandering stray animals in case they are the aswang in disguise.

4. Tiyanak

The tiyanak is similar to the Greek mythological siren in that it lures its prey with its voice. A person hears a baby cry from deep in the woods and then follows the sound to rescue the baby. Some stories say the person wanders aimlessly in search for the baby and becomes hopelessly lost. Other stories claim that the person eventually finds a baby in the middle of the woods. When it is picked up, the baby then shape-shifts into a monster with large, sharp teeth. It then eats the person and transforms back to a baby to await its next victim. With either version, the story ends with "... and he was never found again."

3. Tikbalang

The tikbalang is described as having the head of a horse, the body of a man and the hooves of a horse where human feet would be. In northern regions, the tikbalang is considered a nuisance but generally harmless. They enjoy disorienting weary travelers and making them imagine things that don't exist. Travelers can easily stop the pranks by turning

Top 5 Scariest Filipino Monsters



their own shirt inside out and asking the tikbalang to stop bothering them. The stories of tikbalang from southern regions paint the creature as a much more sinister monster. He has glowing red eyes, a large cigar and smells of the stench of burning hair. When angered (and he angers easily), the tikbalang will stamp you to death. To tame the beast, the person must pluck the one of three unusually long hairs found in its mane. After that, the tikbalang is your slave. Folklore states that when the sun shines through the clouds while it is raining, a pair of Tikbalang are getting married.

2. The White Lady / Kaperosa

The White Lady is a specific kind of Multo, or ghost. Most multo tend to be family members who come back to certain relatives to take care of unfinished business but the White Lady is unique in that she doesn't appear to only her relatives or even to specific people she knew when alive. Many sightings have reported her in empty buildings, near forests and on cliffs. However, she is most commonly reported seen along Balet Drive in Quezon City. She was a young lady who was raped and killed by two Japanese soldiers during WWII. While there haven't been stories of the White Lady being a purposefully malicious being, she has been reported as the cause of more than a few car

accidents by drivers who look in their rearview mirror and see a young lady in the backseat wearing a white dress. Sure, some strange, unknown lady sitting in your backseat is bad enough but the White Lady is also said to have no face or a face covered in blood.

1. Manananggal

The Manananggal is sometimes considered to be a special breed of the aswangs. They are sometimes referred to as "Tik-tik" because of the sound it makes while in flight. To confuse its victims, the tik-tik sound becomes fainter as she nears. These creatures generally take on the form of a beautiful woman with large, leathery bat wings. The lower half of her body takes root to the ground while the upper part detaches as she flies in search of food. The manananggal has a taste for human blood and a particular craving for the hearts of human fetuses which it retrieves with its long, proboscis-like tongue. Like the Western culture's vampire, the manananggals hate garlic and salt so hanging garlic or placing a bowl of salt near the window is the best way to keep them away. To kill a manananggal, one must find the lower body and spread salt or ashes on the open wound. That prevents the two halves from joining and transforming back to human form when daylight breaks.

Distress Call Inflight



BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

It was around 11:30 pm and I just closed my eyes to begin my sleep on a 12-hour straight flight from Manila to San Francisco via Philippine Airlines' Boeing 777-300 ER when I heard an overhead paged for medical assistance: "Any medical doctors or registered nurses on board please contact any of our flight attendant." I waved my hand to the lady FA and told her I am an RN. I asked my wife to go with me to respond to the call.

There was no medical doctor on board. My wife and I, who are both RNs at Kaiser Permanente in South Sacramento, were the ones who managed the condition of the 71 years old male passenger who complained of chest pain and looks pale.

The patient has cold-clammy skin, radial pulses on both arms were weak, and he complained of dizziness, with no nausea or vomiting.

When I asked the patient to point the location of pain using his index finger he pointed at his epigastric area. When asked to de-

scribed the intensity of pain from a scale of zero to 10, 0 as no pain and 10 as the worst pain, he said the pain was at six. When asked the character of pain whether it was pressure-like, dull, or sharp, etc., he responded it was sharp pain.

The FA handed me a manual bulb-operated blood pressure apparatus and a stetho-



scope which I used to check the patient's blood pressure; I also used the stethoscope to listen to his heart rate. I had a hard time getting his blood pressure. I rechecked it twice but I cannot appreciate it. On the third try BP revealed 80/55 and a weak radial pulse rate of 42. After 15 minutes I rechecked his BP and it was 82/50, HR of 40.

I suggested to start an intravenous fluid but there is no available IV fluid. There was no EKG to check the patient's heart rhythm.

My wife and I reclined the passenger seat to put his head down to improve blood circulation back to the heart and brain. My wife manually held his right

leg straight while I held his left leg straight. Then I rechecked his BP which revealed the same but his HR went up to 81/minute and it was strong. His skin became warm to touch. Patient felt better. Dizziness was lesser but still had epigastric pain.

When asked about his medical history, the patient said he has hypertension and

takes maintenance medication once a day which he took at 8 am. Our flight to SFO was at 10 pm. Other than hypertension, he has allergy to shrimp which

makes him itch all over his body. The passenger's wife told us that in their previous flight the patient experienced the same condition as he just had.

The passenger denied gastric ulcer but his wife told us he is taking acid reducer tablet which we gave during the flight.

We kept the passenger warm and comfortable on his reclined seat. The condition improved until we arrived in San Francisco.

The patient's wife and the lead flight attendant came to us to say thank you.

Thank God we save another precious life.
(gabbyortigo@yahoo.com)

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The nightmare called 'bangungot'

BY AMBETH R. OCAMPO

Bangungot is known by many complicated medical names: acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis, sudden arrhythmic death syndrome or sudden adult death syndrome (SADS), bed death, sudden unexplained death syndrome (SUDS), Brugada Syndrome, and sudden unexpected nocturnal death syndrome (SUNDS). Bangungot is the Tagalog word for "nightmare," but it can also refer to a malevolent spirit or elemental in Filipino folklore: Also known in Ilocano as batibat, it appears in the shape of an overweight man (bangungot) or overweight Botero-like woman (batibat) who sits on the chest or head of the victim (always male) and suffocates him to death. According to witnesses, the victims groan (ungol in Tagalog) while struggling against the bangungot, and if they do not rise from sleep (bangon in Tagalog), they die. It is useless to try to push away the bangungot or batibat, but one can survive if one is able to wiggle a big toe and wake up.



While much of the current medical literature is focused on Hmong deaths in the United States in the 1980s, the earliest medical references to bangungot are Maria Paz Mendoza Guazon's 1917 journal article "Algunas notas sobre bangungot" (Some notes about Bangungot) that appeared in the *Revista Filipina de Medicina y Farmacia* (Philippine Journal of Medicine and Pharmacy) and A.V. Majoska's "Sudden Death in Filipino Men, an unexplained syndrome" that appeared in the 1948 *Hawaii Medical Journal*.

Dr. Alvin Majoska was a forensic pathologist who rose to become the chief medical examiner in Hawaii. His inquiry into bangungot caused a panic in Hawaii in the early 1950s—another footnote in the history of Filipinos in Hawaii. Erle Stanley Gardner, author of the famous Perry Mason detective novels, dedicated his 1955 "The Case of the Sun Bather's Diary" to Majoska with a foreword that made reference to bangungot:

"I have spent many hours with Dr. Alvin V. Majoska in Honolulu, discussing the strange 'Nightmare Deaths' of Honolulu. I first heard of these deaths when I was attending one of Captain Frances G. Lee's seminars on homicide investigation at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. Dr. Milton Helpem, the famous forensic pa-

thologist of New York, was lecturing there and remarked that it was not always possible to determine the cause of death. He cited as an example that he had recently been called upon to examine vital organs from bodies sent him from the Hawaiian Islands, and that in each case it had been impossible to discover a cause of death. There was no sign of poison; the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys, and all of the vital organs were in perfect working order. These men simply had ceased to live, and medical science was powerless to find out why they had ceased to live.

Driven by intense interest, I finally went to Honolulu and tried to find out about these strange deaths. What I found amazed me. The deaths occurred only in young Filipino men who were in the prime of life and the best of health. These men invariably died at night, under circumstances indicating a nightmare. They would go to bed apparently in the best of spirits. During the night they might be heard to moan. Before help could reach them, they would be dead."

Bangungot medical literature was built slowly over the years from the work of Mendoza Guazon and Majoska. A 1998 article in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* by Ronald G. Munger and Elizabeth A. Booton is based on a review of bangungot deaths recorded in Manila from 1948 to 1982; 96 percent of the victims were male, the mean age was 33 years old and the modal time of death 3 a.m., with cases peaking in December-January.

In time we will come to a full scientific explanation of what all Filipinos know from folklore as bangungot.

Post Everlasting Memorial

By CHAPLAIN DALE



On 6 Sep 2017, a memorial service for fallen veteran, Rouel Lara, took place in Magellan Hall located at 8831 Gerber Road in south Sacramento. Comrade Rouel was born September 6, 1951, gone on to Post Everlasting on August 1, 2017, and was memorialized to mark his birthday. He hailed from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, Philippines. Served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era. Became a long-time resident of Sacramento. Employed by the United States Postal Service for 20-plus years.

The service started with a Flag Detail posting the Colors—the flags of the United States, the Philippines, and The American Legion Magellan Post 604. Past Commander Tom Amaba officiated the American Legion Post Everlasting Memorial Service along with this chaplain. The following American Legion words resonated among the veterans, family members, and friends, "Another Legionnaire has been called to the High Command, and has gone to report to the Commander of us all... Farewell, our friend, Legionnaire and Comrade, Rouel Lara."

U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant Robert Samaniego was the first to speak after the Legionnaires, followed by a few more who had known Rouel for the longest time. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all of the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

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September 15, 2017

Dear Friends & Supporters,

The Sinag-tala Theatrical Revue has been a mainstay in the Sacramento Filipino-American community for the past 27 years. Through local artists, choreographers, and theater professionals, the beauty and sound of Filipino and Filipino-American culture has been brought to the stage year after year. Exploring our folk dances, Original Pilipino Music (OPM), presenting original choreography and highlighting local playwrights and actors have been at the heart of Sinag-tala from the beginning. We have tackled topics from revolution and immigration, to love and loss, all while celebrating the basics of growing up as Filipinos today.

Over the past two decades, we have been a family that grows and changes, new families and friends come and go, but all can claim they were part of Sinag-tala. But just as families grow and change, Sinag-tala must also allow for growth and change. Being a relevant part of the greater theater and performing arts community is essential to allow us to bring new and exciting projects to the Sacramento community.

Beginning this Fall, we will be taking some time to revisit our mission and have decided to postpone our annual December production. We will be taking the next few months to develop new and empowering programs that educate and advocate Filipino & Filipino-American arts. Our focus will be on exploring avenues that not only present the artistic side of our culture, but that examine and reflect on timely themes that affect our community and society today. We cannot do this alone, collaboration will be key to our work in the coming months. Look for upcoming opportunities to bring your ideas and feedback to the table.

It is an exciting time for the Sinag-tala family as we embark on a new chapter of our journey. By identifying and developing new opportunities and increasing visibility of our arts programs, we hope to be a more effective vehicle for this new generation of creative thinkers and leaders to explore their cultural identity.

We hope that you will join us in our efforts by supporting our continuing programs and by providing feedback on what you would like to see included in this next phase of development. Please continue to visit our website or social media pages for all of our exciting and upcoming programs!

From our Sinag-tala family to yours, salamat!

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Haters gonna hate, but John Lloyd Cruz feels Ellen Adarna 'really did something good' to him

BY CLARIZEL ABANILLA

While controversial Kapamilya actors John Lloyd Cruz and Ellen Adarna have yet to officially confirm that they are indeed together now, their no-brainer posts imply that there is something extra special in their constant togetherness and obvious sweetness.

At first, it was Adarna who was mostly posting photos and videos of Cruz spending time with her. But lately, Cruz has finally become more demonstrative himself with a recent meaningful post, further intensifying speculations of a romance between them.

Uploaded on the Instagram page of @ekoms, believed to be owned by Cruz, a photo of the actor being kissed by Adarna on the cheeks was unapologetically shared to the public. Cruz wrote, "sobrang baduy neto



Ellen Adarna and John Lloyd Cruz

pero (this is so cheesy but this girl really did something good to my soul. i'll always be grateful.)"

Assumptions about their budding romance started when they embarked on a controversial beach trip in Bantayan, Cebu. Netizens lashed out at Cruz following his viral videos that showed him engaged in awkward situations, such as when he appeared intoxicated, and when he flashed the dirty finger. He immediately issued an apology specifically directed to his young fans. He also clarified that he was

simply having fun.

Friends such as Star Magic founder Johnny Manahan, entertainment columnist and comedian Ogie Diaz and Kapamilya TV host-actor Luis Manzano, spoke in his defense.

But not long after, Cruz, again, irked fans and non-fans when he posted a photo of a crucifix in a successive, artsy manner. He was called out for being undiscerning and insensitive, with some fans assuming that the bad boy in the actor is being brought out by his new flame.

LIST: Best dressed, special awards at Star Magic Ball 2017

BY ROSELLE ADEL

Manila, Philippines — Kapamilya stars once again stunned and turned heads at the Star Magic Ball 2017 but who were among the standouts?

For the most-awaited best dressed award not one but two celebrities won.

First-time goers Kisses Delavin and Marco Gallo took home the Cornetto Tip-To-Top Best Dressed Award as they wowed in their formal attire. The two former PBB housemates won along with Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach who slayed the red carpet sporting her short hair.

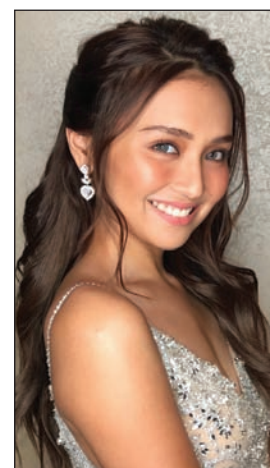
Kisses earned the most-coveted award wearing her white Francis Libiran high-neck gown while Marco shone in his dapper look powered by Nat Manilag's black tuxedo.

Pia on the other hand successfully strutted her stuff in her black fully crystallized embroidered sheer and off-shoulder dress designed by Ezra Santos. She was styled by Liz Uy.

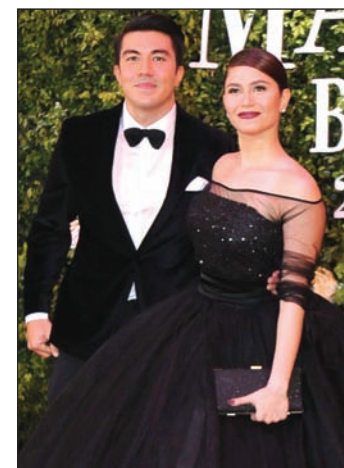
Winners of the special awards for the Star Magic Ball were also named.



First-time goers Kisses Delavin and Marco Gallo took home the Cornetto Tip-To-Top Best Dressed Award as they wowed in their



Kathryn Bernardo



Luis Manzano and Jessy Mendiola

Kathryn Bernardo was named the Pond's Brightest Star of the Night award while Julia Barretto was recognized as the Pond's

Belle of the Ball.

Real-life couple Jessy Mendiola and Luis Manza-

no also took home the Oppo Couple of the Night Award.



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