



**US senator speak. Philippine senator and DDS have apoplexy**  
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# PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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**Pinay Visionary Honoree**  
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## PH warned anew of climate impact



**FURY OF 'YOLANDA'** A road in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, lined by damaged coconut trees in the aftermath of the 2013 typhoon.

BY JHESSET O. ENANO

MANILA, Philippines — Extreme sea level rise as the oceans further heat up and more intense cyclones threaten coastal communities around the world, including those in the Philippines, said a United Nations report that looked into the impact of climate change on the ocean and the cryo-

sphere.

Released last week, the special report by the UN-backed Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned of even more drastic consequences that the world will face due to the unabated warming of the ocean and the rapid thawing of the cryosphere, or the frozen parts of Earth.

While these impacts will be felt globally, the Philippines — an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean with far less adaptive capacity than developed nations — will surely bear the brunt of these extreme events, said Lourdes Tibig, the lone Filipino contributor to the report.

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## Magalong drops Albayalde's name in 'ninja cops' probe

BY MAILA AGER

MANILA, Philippines — The name of Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde was dragged into the Senate's probe into the alleged "ninja cops" when a 2013 anti-drug operation under his watch was brought up in the hearing.

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Former CIDG chief and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong speaks on the Senate Blue Ribbon Inquiry on "Ninja Cops" as PNP chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde looks on him.

## Hawayan Nayt sa Nayon Honoring Our Partners



Photo by Dale Esperante

The Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento with partners and friends.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

The Tag-lish (Tagalog and English) headline of this article describes the theme of The Filipino Women's Club's (FWC) 80th Anniversary Celebration held on 14 September 2019, at the Jose Rizal Community Center,

Sacramento. Before the official introduction, beautifully and colorfully dressed models (members and guests) of Hawaiian fashion mingled about to socialize and enjoy the company of new and old friends.

Mistresses of Ceremonies Josie Patria and Sarah Enloe

started the official agenda by requesting Ms. Carmelita Pangilinan to lead the dinner invocation. After dinner and before the singing of the national anthems, Sister Josie Tanudtanud (RVM) offered a special prayer for the members, partners, and friends of FWC.

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## Observance of Citizenship Day

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Citizenship Day is observed and celebrated with Constitution Day on September 17 every year. In Sacramento, the only organization in our community observing and celebrating Citizenship Day is The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604.

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Photo by Dale Esperante

The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604.

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# Why PEN

BY F. SIONIL JOSE

International PEN is a global organization of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, Novelists. This week, around 200 members from some 120 PEN Centers will convene in Manila for the annual PEN Congress to discuss the future of minority languages and the condition of writers and literature today. In focusing on minority languages, the conference emphasizes their importance and their plight. In our own country, several languages, among them Zambal, Pangasinan, and Kapampangan, will probably die in the next century. It is important that a record of the literature in these languages is made, a study, too, of their cultural attributes.

This year's Congress is hosted by the Philippine Center, which I organized in 1957. It came about this way. In New Haven, Connecticut, in 1955, I met Malcolm Cowley, the poet and editor of Viking, a major publisher. He saw my novel, *Tree*, and wanted it published in the Spring of 1956. Why I did not let him is another story. He asked if there was an organization of writers in Manila. When I said there wasn't and since I was going home via Europe, he told me to stop in London and see David Carver, who was then PEN's International Secretary.

I met Mr. Carver in London and upon arriving in Manila, I set up the Philippine Center immediately. The following year, the Philippine Center held the first National PEN Conference in Baguio. Alfredo T. Morales was the first PEN Chairman, Virginia Moreno was the Treasurer, and I was the National Secretary. President Carlos Garcia opened the conference, and Senator Claro M. Recto delivered the first Jose Rizal lecture, which has become the main feature of PEN annual conferences.

Our foremost writers, including Leon Ma. Guerrero, Teodoro Locsin, and Nick Joaquin, have delivered that lecture. At one time, the famous Spanish writer, Salvador de Madariaga (I met him in Berlin in 1960) delivered the lecture, too,

and he said, a country need not be colonized by a foreign power, it can be colonized by its own leaders. Chief Justice Hilario Davide from Cebu has also delivered the lecture. This year's Jose Rizal lecture will be delivered by the historian, Resil Mojares, also from Cebu and the newest National Artist for Literature.

The economic insecurity of Filipino writers persists; no one can live on their writing. Still many young writers persist; and they are our fond hope for the future of our literature, particularly if they recognize their roots, and belong to a community much larger than themselves.

The first years of the Philippine PEN were really difficult. Hardly any Philippine writer at the time could afford to pay the annual dues. Every so often, I had to pay the dues for some members to keep the status of our Center. The Philippine Center also hosted two Asian writers conferences and published an Asian PEN anthology that included the foremost writers of the region.

Our darkest days came when President Marcos declared Martial Law in 1972. Some of our members were imprisoned, and several publications, including my journal *Solidarity*, and radio stations were closed. I myself was harassed and prevented from traveling for four years.

At the time, when we felt so helpless and in despair, International PEN did not forget us. The international secretary, David Carver, the English writer, Kathleen Nott, and PEN President Mario Vargas Llosa came to Manila to ask Marcos to release the imprisoned writers. It was during this time, when we were so despondent, that I realized how important PEN is as a beacon not only to preserve freedom but also to assist writers in prison.

The Martial Law regime was, in a sense, the moment of truth for so many of us. It illustrated clearly where so many of our writers stood. It was indeed a time when courage, as well as integrity, were clearly defined. Some writers who were with Marcos oppressed their

fellow writers and even made fortunes for themselves shouting hosanna for Marcos and his wife. Marcos was, of course, very deliberate. He censored movies and newspapers, but not the stage and he allowed literature, knowing as he did that Filipinos do not read novels or appreciate poetry.

PEN gave a reception for Norman Mailer when he visited during the Marcos years. He declared how much he appreciated the writers who opposed dictators, particularly the Russians because if he were in the Soviet Union, he would have conformed. He liked his comforts, he said.

PEN Chairman, the writer Salvador P. Lopez who was also President of the State University declared it is better to be silenced than be silent. He was fired from his job.

Writers are solitary workers, sometimes, so immersed in themselves and their work that they seem detached from society itself and from all its tensions. They often cannot appreciate the group, the community, and the nation that nourishes them. They forget that, as writers, they are the staunch and traditional keepers of memory, without which no nation can exist.

Writers often thrive best in the most difficult times. There is that old saying, bad times create good literature. But who are those who really desire the worst of times except masochists?

But then, perhaps, there is a bit of masochism in us, for which reason there is even a nostalgia now for the dictatorship of Marcos. If writers are the staunchest keepers of memory, then we have not succeeded in making our country remember.

In citing all these, I hope that not just our writers in the region but all writers elsewhere are bonded together to comfort and assist one another in times of stress and distress. But most of all, to uphold freedom not just for us writers but for all.

# Justice not served through death penalty



We would like to ask you to take a moment and imagine this: sweaty hands and staggering knees, and a clammy, overwhelming fear.

The clock is slowly ticking, similar to a heart monitor counting a person's dwindling heartbeat. A powerful voice echoes throughout the room: "I hereby sentence you to death." Silence fills the air. At that moment, injustice is delivered under the guise of justice.

If there's anything that ignites the fire of violence, it is violence itself. And our government appears bent on fueling this destructive cycle, intensifying the harmful flame of death with its push to reinstate the death penalty.

As part of the country's youth, we are disheartened to see our President neglect the rights of fellow Filipinos and taint our country with the blood of its citizens, when his primary duty as our leader is to protect us.

We, Catholic Filipino Youth, strongly plead against the reimposition of the death penalty in our country. Envision a world where violence serves as

a blanket that swathes everything in darkness — this will become the norm for us Filipinos once we are under a death penalty regime. We will fall victim to injustice, robbed of our humanity, once we are subjected to such remorseless treatment.

A more appropriate solution in place of the death penalty would be to enforce and strengthen rehabilitation efforts. We strongly believe in condemning the crime, but for the perpetrator's life and dignity to be protected. We must never fight fire with fire, for it will lead to a remorseless cycle of desensitization to violence and bloodshed. In the same way that everyone receives forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance, rehabilitation provides people with the chance to reform themselves into better human beings, even those under life imprisonment.

It is ironic that President Duterte has said, "We are our own tormentors — we are our own demons; we are as rapacious predators preying on the helpless..." The President's demand for the reimposition of the death penalty will precisely lead to such a situation, where human life becomes compromised and much cheaper. The inhumane act of state killing will only breed harm and destruction in this country, for violence only begets violence.

*Inquirer.net*



## Editor's Note

Philippine Fiesta News is back on print for another 6 months, due to popular demand, and in association with East Lawn Mortuary and Funeral services, with its Filipino Garden project for the Filipino community in Sacramento. With this information, this October issue is in time to announce the upcoming All Soul's Day celebration, which will be held on November 2, at the proposed Filipino Garden site area.

The month of October is Filipino American History Month. Be a part of this celebration to continue to remind each and everyone of the Filipinos' contributions and existence in America. The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity will be holding an event, as part of this celebration, on October 19 at the Jose Rizal Community Center. Be reminded also of the Philippine National Day Association's Filipino Fork Food Festival, which will be held on October 30, at Sacramento Turn Verein.

Other upcoming activities are My Sister's House Fun Run at William Land Park on October 26 and the Bayanihan Club's fundraising raising concert at St. Charles Borromeo Social Hall, on November 30. At the concert, Dave will be making a special presentation with his live painting on stage, so come and join the fun!

With you in celebration,  
Dinnah San Pedro



In celebration of Filipino Cuisine and Culture in California's "Farm-to-Fork Capital" and Filipino American History Month, the Philippine National Day Association is hosting its 3rd annual Filipino Fork Food Festival.

## Filipino Fork 2019



Wednesday, October 30, 2019  
6 PM - 9 PM  
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# UN cannot interfere in state functions – Teddy Locsin

BY JANVIC MATEO

The United Nations should not interfere with any state in its functions of protecting its citizens and eliminating threats, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said, amid a UN resolution seeking a review of the way the Philippine government has carried out its campaign against illegal drugs.

Locsin, speaking at the high-level debates of the UN General Assembly here in New York on Saturday, said the UN should not be used as a platform to threaten members that take a tough approach to crime.

“Some in the rest of the world may not like the electoral result; but the people back home are happy with their choice. It is theirs to make; and regret; but it is not the UN’s to decide,” he said, in an apparent reference to the landslide victory of administration candidates in the recent midterm polls.

“That may cause dismay among the civil in society; civil society is free to complain. Better yet, they should run for public office to gain legitimacy and be able to do something about it. But the UN is not free to interfere with the state in its defining function of protecting its citizens and stamping out threats,” he added.

In July, the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in the Philippines and directed the UN High



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are flanked by Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. and his wife Ma. Lourdes during the diplomatic reception at the Lotte New York Palace in New York on Sept. 24.

Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a comprehensive written report on the matter.

The resolution divided the 47-member body, with only 18 members supporting the proposal forwarded by Iceland.

Fourteen countries, including the Philippines, have voted against it; while the remaining 15 members abstained.

Protesting the resolution, President Duterte directed all concerned government agencies to suspend negotiations for and the signing of all loan and grant agreements with countries that co-sponsored and voted for the resolution.

At least two loans, from Germany and France, have been suspended in line with Duterte’s directives, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III was reported as saying.

In his statement before the UN, Locsin stressed that the

UN is a collection of sovereign states and not a sovereign collective itself, noting that the organization is only effective as its members make it.

“The nations herein united should not let this platform be used to threaten others with accountability for taking a tough approach to crime; instead of taking seriously what they cannot: the Western proposition that the sure-fire way to end crime is to legalize it,” he said.

“Then it is no longer criminal. Well, that works after a fashion: not to punish lawbreakers but sit down and talk them out of repeating the only thing at which they are any good: crime,” he added.

While the country remains committed to the ideals of the UN, Locsin noted that human rights should start “with the right of the many who are good, to be safe and be protected from the bad.”

# PH warned anew of climate impact

From page 1

“Whatever permanent thawing that had happened, it will affect us even if we are far away because it results [in] what we call as major contributions to sea level rise,” she said in an interview with the Inquirer during the report’s Philippine launching on Thursday.

“There could be areas that will be permanently inundated, especially the low-lying ones. Productive agricultural areas near the coast could also be saline because of the intrusion of sea water,” she added.

Without proper preparedness and access to resources, more human lives could also be put at risk, due to more severe tropical cyclones, similar to Super typhoon “Yolanda” (international name: Haiyan) that battered Eastern Visayas in 2013.

“More intense storms may become the new normal,” Tibig said.

The report also projects that more extreme El Niño and La Niña would also likely intensify existing impacts, with drier and wetter events in several regions worldwide.

“With the ordinary [El Niño], we already find difficulty in adapting to it. What more if it becomes extreme?” Tibig said.

With these projections, coastal communities may suffer from a “triple whammy,” or compounded hazards that can happen simultaneously, with the threats of extreme sea level rise, El Niño and stronger storms ahead, she noted.



Typhoon Yolanda in 2013

The report was the third to be released by the IPCC, a UN-backed body that assesses the science related to the changing climate.

More than 100 scientists from 36 countries worked on this report on the ocean, citing nearly 7,000 scientific papers and eliciting more than 31,000 comments during the reviews.

The report observed that the global ocean, which is considered a major carbon sink, has already taken up over 90 percent of the world’s excess heat since the 1970s. Scientists noted that its rate of warming has doubled since 1993.

Marine heat waves, or periods of extremely high ocean temperatures, have already adversely impacted marine organisms and ecosystems, as well as “critical foundation species,” including corals, seagrasses and kelp.

Tibig said these could ultimately threaten the country’s livelihood and food security, as many Filipinos depend on the ocean and the seas for catch.

“There could be decreasing fish catch potential because fish usually stay away from warm waters and seek colder temperatures,” she said. “The common observation now is that our fishermen need to go farther out to sea for better catch.”

With this grim scenario,

abrupt changes in the ocean and cryosphere can still be dealt with through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions globally, the report said. In managing these risks, “transformative governance” is needed, which

would integrate a variety of strategies and benefits to help reduce the risks posed by compounded events.

For the Philippines, Tibig said policymakers should listen to the science in the report and push for more integration of climate actions that would go beyond the time frame of their political positions.

“The government should really push for more ambitious targets in terms of adaptation and mitigation, because adaptation is not enough,” she said. “Ecosystem-based adaptation... should be in conjunction with mitigation or reduction of emissions.”

The special report should also push the government to invest more in research and studies to fully understand the risks faced by the country, particularly for coastal areas threatened by sea level rise, said Denise Fontanilla, associate for policy advocacy of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities.

“There’s such a lack of research and information,” she said. “We need to know what the impacts truly are of climate change on our coastlines and coastal village. [Right now,] we see a huge gap in the collection of data.”



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## Magalong: Albayalde also got SUV out of 'agaw bato' operation in 2013

BY DAPHNE GALVEZ

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong accused Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Oscar Albayalde of being among those who bought new units of sport utility vehicles (SUVs) after an anti-drug operation was conducted in November 2013.



Gen. Oscar Albayalde

Pampanga.

"Nabanggit po na pati 'yung [Pampanga] provincial director, mayroon din siya [na SUV] [It was also mentioned that the Pampanga provincial director also bought an SUV]," Magalong said during the Senate inquiry into the issue of the so-called "ninja cops."

He said PNP chief Alan Purisima asked him in February 2014 to investigate a Nov. 29, 2013 anti-drug operation conducted by several policemen in Woodbridge Subdivision in Mexico,

car back in 2013 was "an old model" of a pick-up truck.

"I really don't know what personal gripes Major Magalong here has against me because this happened in 2013. What I have in 2013 was a pick-up truck, the model I don't know, an old model one. I can even say that I bought that from a neighbor," Albayalde said as a response to Magalong's accusation.

The PNP chief said he does not know the motive behind why Magalong is resurrecting the issue after six years, especially when the 13 policemen who were found guilty of grave misconduct over the said operation was already ordered dismissed.

"If there's anything against these people, it could've been done, even against me, it could've been done back in 2014, 2015, not during my time as chief PNP," he said

## Magalong drops Albayalde's name in 'ninja cops' probe

From page 1

Albayalde's name was mentioned by Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, who finally disclosed in an open public hearing of the Senate committee on justice on Tuesday his earlier testimony in an exclusive session conducted by the panel.

At that time, Magalong was head of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

"During the executive session, I mentioned a particular incident, sometime on November 29, 2013 wherein intelligence officers of the Pampanga Provincial Police Office conducted an anti-drug operation in Lakeshore Mexico Pampanga

"During that time the provincial director was the incumbent chief PNP, General Oscar Albayalde," he said.

Magalong said then PNP chief Alan Purisima directed the CIDG to investigate the anti-drug operation after receiving information that several intelligence officers of the police provincial office suddenly acquired new sports utility vehicles.

The anti-drug operation supposedly yielded 30 kilograms of shabu and a "substantial" amount of cash. A high profile drug trafficker, a Chinese national identified as Johnson Lee, was also arrested.

But after conducting their own investigation, Magalong said the CIDG found

out that the seized shabu was about 200 kgs, and not 30 kgs.

The illegal drugs, he said, were stuffed in an oversized luggage, which was carried by four persons.

"Kitang -kita na pati yugn shabu tumutulo pa and according to one of the witnesses...pati sa hagdan nakakalat yung drugs mismo sa hagdanan," he said.

"It only showed there's no proper handling of evidence," he added.

Magalong named all the policemen involved in the operation led by Police Supt. Rodney Raymundo Louie Baloyo.

Albayalde was later relieved from his post.

## Duterte gives Mocha Uson a new government post

The pro-Duterte blogger is appointed a deputy executive director at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

BY PIA RANADA

It's back to the Duterte government for the controversial pro-Duterte blogger Mocha Uson.



Mocha Uson

Uson has been appointed Deputy Executive Director V of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), according to a new list of presidential appointees sent by Malacañang on Monday, September 30.

Her appointment was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on September 23, according to the list.

The OWWA is the government agency in charge of helping Filipinos working abroad. They assist in helping overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) adjust to life in another countries and are supposed to be the go-to office for any concerns and issues they have with their foreign employers.

The OWWA is under the Department of Labor and Employment.

Uson's appointment as deputy executive director is her third government position under the Duterte administration.

She had first been a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) back in January 2017. Some 4 months later, she was named presidential communications assistant secretary.

Her one-year-and-5-month stint at the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) was turbulent.

She had been accused of spreading disinformation and making inaccurate or

misleading social media posts on her Facebook page, which she had also been using in her work as a government officer. This led Senator Grace Poe to raise issues on conflict of interest and the responsibility of public officials during Senate hearings on "fake news."

Uson's most controversial move was to participate and promote a jingle and dance about federalism that were slammed as lewd by many government officials, lawmakers, and federalism supporters, even Duterte allies.

A PCOO colleague had called on her to apologize and take a leave of absence. In October 2018, Uson resigned in order to run as representative for the AA-Kasosyo party-list.

Uson had also violated Malacañang regulations on appearing at casinos when she performed at a casino as part of her group, Mocha Girls, even while she was an assistant secretary.

## Lacson files bill penalizing those who abandon their old, sick parents

BY PATRICIA ANN ROXAS

MANILA, Philippines — Senator Panfilo Lacson has refiled a bill that would penalize those who abandon their old and sick parents.



Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Senate Bill No. 29 or the "Parents Welfare Act of 2019" requires sons and daughters to provide the necessary support for their aging, sick and incapacitated parents.

According to the bill which the senator also filed in the previous 17th

Congress, a parent who is in need of support may file a petition for support before the court and pray for the issuance of a support order against those who failed or refused to provide the necessary support.

The legal representation of the parent would be provid-

ed by the Public Attorney's Office and no court fees would be assessed.

Violators will be slapped with imprisonment of one to six months or a fine of P100,000.

Lacson said those who left such parent in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning the latter would be punished with imprisonment of six to 10 years and a fine of not less than P300,000.

The bill also seeks to establish Old Age Homes for the elderly, sick or incapacitated parents in every province and highly urbanized city.

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# 12th Annual My Sister's House High Tea

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# Filipino American History Month

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Source: gettyimages.com



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## The Courts Are Fighting Back Against Trump's Brutal Immigration Policies

BY SASHA ABRAMSKY

Federal judges just issued rulings protecting immigrant children, slowing fast-track deportations, and restricting ICE detention orders.

The Noise: Trump's rambling statement at his press conference last week, shortly after the impeachment inquiry was announced, in which he congratulated himself on building an impenetrable border wall that even mountain-climbers wouldn't be able to scale. The Signal: Over the past several days the administration has unveiled a draconian cut in the number of refugees to be admitted next year and, via executive action, has sought to unravel the decades-old refugee resettlement program by giving cities and states the ability to veto resettlement in their communities.

Next year, the number of refugees admitted will be capped at 18,000; the number actually admitted will likely be lower still. That's down from the target of 110,000 that Obama set in 2016, in his last presidential determination on the issue. In fact, Trump's cap is the lowest since the modern refugee resettlement system was codified, in 1980.

At the same time, as the administration locks down the southern border via a series of rule changes, it announced an agreement with

Honduras allowing asylum seekers to be sent there rather than admitted into the United States. That came after Trump had already strong-armed Guatemala and El Salvador into similar agreements. What does this mean? Basically, that anyone who transits through Central America en route to safety in the United States can now be arrested and put on a plane to one of those three countries—which have high crime rates and are among the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. That's not just absurd, it's criminal.

That's the bad news on the immigration front. But lost amid the other headlines this week were three extraordinarily positive judicial rulings.

First, in California, Federal Judge Dolly Gee ruled that the terms of the Flores agreement, which have the effect of limiting how long immigrant children can be kept in detention, could not be superseded by new Trump administration regulations allowing for indefinite detention. The administration will, of course, appeal the ruling, but at least for now, its sick plan to create family concentration camps is on hold.

Then, in quick succession, a Washington, DC, court declared illegal the adminis-



Yazmin Juárez

tration's plans for fast-track deportation of undocumented immigrants arrested anywhere in the United States who can't prove they have been here continuously for two years. That's important; currently there's a zone, within 100 miles of the border, in which undocumented immigrants have few constitutional protections and little access to immigration courts. Trump had sought to extend that zone to the entire country, but the court ruling puts the kibosh on that.

Finally, in Gonzalez v. ICE, a federal district court restricted when and how ICE could request that local police detain immigrants; the judge ruled that ICE was violating the Fourth Amendment in its catch-all missions against immigrants by mining federal databases that contain inaccurate or incomplete information.

These are huge developments. Pay attention to the Signal—the struggle over how this country treats immigrants is truly heating up.

## Duterte off to 2nd Russia visit, to meet 'favorite hero' Putin

BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRE

President Rodrigo Duterte left Manila for Moscow on his second trip to Russia on Tuesday night to meet his "favorite hero" Russian President Vladimir Putin for the fourth time.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and President Rodrigo Duterte

President Duterte took a chartered flight and left the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 at 9:20 p.m.

This was the first time he took a chartered flight since he started flying on private jets in April 2018 for his foreign trips in Southeast Asia and China.

The President's visit from Oct. 1 to 5 to Moscow and the easternmost city of Sochi in Russia will pick up from his first trip to the country in May 2017 that was cut short by the Marawi City siege.

He is set to deliver a speech at the plenary session of the Valdai Forum on October 3 in Sochi.

Aside from the Valdai forum, he will also attend a Philippines-Russia Business Forum to promote trade and investment opportunities between the

two countries.

The President will hold a bilateral meeting with Putin.

This will be the fourth meeting of the two leaders so far. They first met in November 2016 on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Peru. This was followed during President Duterte's visit to Russia in May 2017, and then another one on the sidelines of the APEC Summit in Da Nang, Vietnam in November 2017.

The two leaders are also set to witness the signing of several agreements on the areas of culture, health, and basic research, among others.

President Duterte will cap off his visit with a meeting with the Filipino Community in Russia on Oct. 5, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

His official delegation in

this Russia trip include: Foreign Affairs Sec. Teodoro Locsin Jr. Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III Agriculture Secretary William Dar Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograls Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu Interior Secretary Eduardo Año Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi Communications Secretary Jose Ruperto Martin Andanan National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo

## Arrows and smartphones: daily life of Amazon Tembe tribe

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALTO RIO GUAMA INDIGENOUS RESERVE, Brazil — They hunt with bows and arrows, fish for piranhas and gather wild plants, while some watch soap operas on TV or check the internet on phones inside thatch-roof huts.

They paint their faces with dyes from seeds to prepare for battle and also use video technology to fight illegal loggers and other threats.

Daily life in the remote Tembe indigenous villages in the Amazon jungle of Brazil mixes tradition and modernity.

They bathe in muddy brown rivers in the mornings, and

play soccer in sandy fields wearing jerseys from European teams like Chelsea in the afternoons.

In a Brazilian state ravaged by deforestation and thousands of fires, the Tembe shoot photos and video to document the cutting of trees in their land by loggers and share them on social media. They also recently met with a non-governmental group that offered the tribe drones and GPS devices to track the encroachers in exchange for harvesting wood sustainably. And like their ancestors, they plant trees to teach their children the value of preserving the world's largest rainforest, which is a critical bulwark against global warming.



People gather for a meeting of the Tembe tribes in the Tekohaw village, in Para state, Brazil. (AP)

"I tell my children: I planted for you, now you have to plant for your children," Cidalia Tembe said in her

backyard at the Tekohaw village, where she grows fruits, vegetables and medicinal herbs.

"These are our home remedies," she said. "We don't go to pharmacies in the city, we make our own medicines. We have more faith in what's ours."

She also proudly pointed to four sugarcane plants — each tended by one of her children — and avocados, coconuts, lemons and acai, the Amazonian berry that's a vitamin-packed breakfast staple in Brazil.

"This is paradise," her husband Muti Tembe said. "You don't see any smoke from cars that pollute because we don't have any. In the city, at midday it gets too hot. ...

Here, you're at ease and you don't hear the noises. Only the calls of birds," he said as

birds chirped on trees.

One of the trees was planted by Muti's grandfather, a Tembe chieftain and Tekohaw founder. For generations, members of the tribe have extracted a black dye from that Jenipapo tree in the couple's yard to paint their body during celebrations.

During the rite of passage that can last for days, tribe members also hunt monkeys and birds that they later cook, while the young who come into adulthood jump, sing and mimic bird sounds with other members of the tribe inside a communal hut to banging of feet on the floor and the shaking of rattles.

# National honor is not automatic. People have to want it, and work for it.

BY JOeAM

The Philippines has been wracked by internal bickering since Aguinaldo had Bonaficio tried for treason. We see this ruthless style of political in-fighting in local elections. It is not unusual to have hundreds of casualties across the nation.



From EL PRESIDENTE TRAILER HD

time is a political tool, where does one go in the Philippines to find honesty and honor?

If battlefield losses are cause for political attack, where does one go to find that credo of military honor that “no man shall be left behind?” Hell, the Commander in Chief gets left behind in the Philippines.

National honor is not automatically bestowed through citizenship. It cannot be demanded as obedience. It is voluntary, it is sacrifice, it is recognition that “the nation must succeed even if I die.”

It is not granted to citizens by oath itself, it is a sacrifice gifted to the nation by citizens who live up to the oath. Think about that. You cannot be given honor in a certificate. You gift honor to others through your deeds.

Ethics and national honor are brothers. Ethics says my profession or organization is only as strong as the weakest person. National honor says my nation is only as strong as the weakest citizens.

There is a whole lot of weakness in the Philippines. Poor people cannot gift honor to the nation that has kept them mired in poverty. It is ridiculous to name-call people who are in no position to give anything. They feel they get nothing. The idea of nationhood simply does not exist for them.

But even among the well-to-do and educated, ethics and honor are hard to come by in the Philippines. Politicians commonly swap parties and pass bills and budgets for personal gain. Not to elevate and strengthen the nation.

Then there are Spokesman Panelo and Secretary of Justice Calida who simply do not care about truth or justice, much less being generous enough to give of themselves to the nation.

I do believe there are a lot of patriotic Filipinos. True nationalists. Most of them are yellows, living by the values stated in the Constitution. Duterte loyalists mistake loyalty for national honor. It is no such thing. It is exactly the opposite. The nation for them is not as important as the people heading it.

That is not national honor at all. It is political favoritism. It is small. It is taking. It is not big. It is not giving.

I have no idea if the concept of nationhood and honor through sacrifice is even accessible to Filipinos. I don't know what people think being Filipino means. They talk pride, but don't live it.

It is like Christianity without Jesus. Makes no sense. China has her way with

the Philippines because Philippine national honor is so weak, so fake, so poorly considered.

National honor requires that people get outside themselves and work to build unity and national well-being. Not slice away to divide Filipinos, good and bad, and try to run off with the biggest slice for oneself.

# US senators speak. Philippine senators and DDS have apoplexy.

BY JOeAM

A few US senators have been critical of the Philippines for keeping Senator De Lima in jail. They proposed legislation banning from the US those responsible for her jailing. The law may never see the light of day but the reaction in the Philippines offers a striking lesson.



US Senator Leahy didn't take kindly to Spokesman Panelo telling him to mind his own business.

Reality struck, for sure.

Acts have consequences.

Right now, the Philippines is in a bit of a rocky patch with China which shows absolutely no inclination to help the Philippines do anything constructive. They keep sailing their ships in Philippine seas as if they owned them already. INLAND seas, not just the West Philippine Sea. They lecture the Philippines about gambling establishments sucking currency out of China. Their loans and deal negotiations are one-sided. All of this is treating the Philippines as irritating little brown brothers.

Which is reflective of China's REAL attitude about other nations and peoples.

Maids and banana sellers.

The US does not demand much. Just helps AFP train and get better armed up and makes donations for Marawi and other constructive projects. And, yes, Americans keep speaking for democracy and human rights, which is why the De Lima persecution squad is feeling a little heat.

The Philippines has a friend in Japan, for sure, and talks openly with other neighbors. But no other nation likely expects much from the Philippines, and they are unlikely to do much to help the Philippines. It's like

Vietnam facing off against China. No one helps. ASEAN has no glue, no unity. It is a bunch of separate states that like to get together now and then for a big party.

So the state of the Philippine nation is about as it has always been in the worst of times, a lonely, irresponsible orphan beggar nation angry and insecure and striking out at the wrong people. Unable to be an adult.

One wonders when more Filipinos will tire of that persona. When they will start demanding responsible deeds from their leaders rather than blames and excuses to paste over their bad decisions. Bad decisions like persecuting decent people or killing thousands of poor citizens.

The criticisms from US senators were a wake-up call.

Three and a half million Filipinos live there.

Almost 100 million Filipinos in the Philippines KNOW the difference between America and China.

Even if President Duterte and a few truly dense acolytes in the Senate don't get the distinction.

Acts have results. If the Philippines persists in making bad choices, those decisions will now and then come home to roost in ways no one expected.

It does not take much to put the Duterte backers (DDS trolls and senators) on the defensive. They went immediately scrambling to concoct blames and excuses . . . because there is not much they can actually do to JUSTIFY the jailing of a woman of integrity on the bought testimony of convicts.

Spokesman Panelo said the US was interfering in Philippine affairs, as if the US cannot set rules for who is allowed – or not allowed – into America without Philippine approval.

Senator Gordon compared De Lima's jailing to what the US did to terrorists in Guantanamo. Talk about a man filled with spite or desperate for Duterte's love and attention.

Senator Go suggested banning US senators from the Philippines. Ha, as if that were punishment. More likely, it is relief.

Senator Sotto was reciting nonsense as if a few whisks north of Scotland.

A shudder passed through social media as Filipinos, especially DDS, recognized their hostile tweets, postings, and memes would be reviewed by US Immigration if they ever decided to apply for a visa, or if they had one and planned to visit. A whooshing sound could be heard across Manila as obnoxious and threatening tweets began flying from people's web sites.

Well, I don't know that for sure, but allow me a little literary license.

## Philippine Fiesta

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# Hawayan Nayt sa Nayon Honoring Our Partners

BY DALE ESPERANTE

**B**lessed and ready for the evening's opening number, the Kapitbahay Dance Group, composed of six lovely yellow-dressed ladies and one gentleman in the center, Carlos Cordero, flicked jives and cha cha chas's to entertain the crowd. The lovely ladies: Carol Munar, Julie Vergara, Rosalie Crandall, Sylvia Fortis, Mimi Dillingham, and Linda Monzon. It is always pleasing to have a good Kapitbahay!



For the national anthems, Maria Bahoric conducted the choir whose members are grandchildren of Soo-Hoo, Faunda, Mendoza, Abad, Ilusorio, Yagen, Ramirez, Co, Simmons, Lal, and Petracek to sing the Stars Spangled Banner. Followed by a duet of Arca children who stepped forward to render the Lupang Hinirang.

President Zenny Yagen thanked the children for their inspiring rendition of the national anthems. The energetic madam president then shared a brief commentary on her beloved organization. Proudly, "The Filipino Women's Club is as iconic to the Filipino Community as Frank Fats Restaurant is to the Sacramento area. Some might say - it's no comparison - the only thing they have in common is they were both established 80 years ago. And while Frank Fat's Restaurant is well known for having had famous political movers and shakers dining at its restaurant, the FWC also had and have its share of movers and shakers within the Sacramento Filipino Community." She added, "the FWC is a sisterhood of Filipino women founded by Feliciano Neri and Segunda Reyes. Forming an all-women's club is quite remarkable—especially 80 years ago, and Filipino women at that!" Her closing remarks included an

addition to an old saying: "Behind every great man is a great woman", conversely, it could be said: Behind a great woman is a great man who is beside her. Thus this anniversary also focused on honoring the FWC partners.

The Scholarship Award presentation was officiated by Josie Patria and Cleo Sabarner. The 2019 Filipino Women's Club Scholars: Abrianna Miller, who personally received her award. Noah Brooklyn Palma's award was received by his father.

Madam President presented the Recognition of Filipino Women's Club Past Presidents. Recipients of the FWC's special recognition and certificates: Feliciano Neri, Manolita Valdez, Connie Viernes Pasquil, Virginia Ganiban, Nena Rosales, Ester Fortes (1989 - 1990), Josie Patria (1991 - 1992), Rose Basos (1993 - 1998), Josie Patria (1999 - 2006), Sarah Enloe (2007 - 2012), Dee Brown (2013 - 2014), Memie Weitzenberg (2015 - 2016), Vickie Debord (2016), Zenny Yagen (2017 - present). The past presidents who no longer could be present were represented by their family members. Special singer Norie Brooks' operatic version of "A Million Thanks to You" melodically expressed the appreciation of FWC members.

The program's segment of Honoring Our Partners included a serenade (Dahil Sa Iyo)



Photos by Dale Esperante

dedicated and sung by all the FWC members to the men in their lives. Next, a "Puting Rite" when all the men were crowned with an intricately weaved natural headband, highlighted by songstress Remy Solomon's apt delivery of "The Wind Beneath My Wings."

Time to celebrate the evening's accomplishments, DJ MC Paradela pumped up the music and nearly everyone shimmied, boogied, hip-hopped down on the dance floor. Ballroom dancers were also represented, prominently Benjz Hisoler and various partners, Mildred Mabitad Go and Rayben Manandeg. Our admiration goes

to two recently returned Philippine vacationers, who must have been still jet-lagged: Olive Jackson (bubbly but only subtly this evening), and Mildred Go (PAL arrival just a day ago). Why did they still come? Ms. Fay Alvarez was absolutely correct when she expressed, "It's just plain fun, fun, fun...!"

On behalf of the Philippine Fiesta staff, especially Dave and Dinnah San Pedro, CONGRATULATIONS Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento and Vicinity! Thank you for your quintessential service and commitment to our community!

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# Observance of Citizenship Day



Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604

From page 1

However, due to real world reasons, such as, work – family - miscellaneous, the auxiliary ladies of Unit 604 decided on a weekend, 21 Sep, to honor the day.



Photos by Dale Esperante

From 10am to 2pm, at the Filipino Bistro, the members and guests gathered. 1st Vice President Olive Jackson gave a brief opening remarks to welcome all. Followed by the singing of grace to the tune of "Edelweiss." President Lilia Rivera invited everyone to pick up a lyric sheet left on every table to sing along the prayer. The song was so beautiful that everyone decided to sing it three more times. I would be remiss if I don't include the lyrics of the song in this article.



Grace Before Meal (Tune of Edelweiss)  
Bless our food. Bless our friends.  
Come O Lord and sit with us.  
May your talk glow with peace.  
Come with your love to surround us.  
Friendship and love may they bloom and grow.  
Bloom and grow forever.  
Bless our food, bless our friends.  
Bless all mankind forever.



After lunch, President Lilia Rivera introduced The American Legion, Membership Chairman of Northern California, Lionel "Will" Williams. Chairman Williams enlightened us with important historical facts

about citizenship. For example, (Source: Densho Encyclopedia) "the Naturalization Act of 1790 restricted citizenship to "any alien, being a free white person" who had been in the U.S. for two years." After WWI and WWII, because of the multitude of refugees from other countries who immigrated

to the U.S., it became necessary for the Naturalization Act to be rewritten. Every legally immigrated applicant is now eligible to be considered for U.S. citizenship through the new Naturalization Laws. For further information, please contact the appropriate officials regarding the current laws pertinent to applying for a naturalized citizenship of this country.

Thanking Chairman Williams, President Lilia proceeded to share auxiliary, community, and cultural information. At the conclusion of the informational phase of the program, Filipino Bistro owner Marylou stepped behind the stage to electronically fill the whole restaurant with music. The proper observation of Citizenship Day included the ladies celebrating the day! Congratulations Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604!

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## Filipino American Educators Association of California Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies 2019 Dinner Banquet



Tracie Noriega, Pinay Visionary Honoree Cynthia Bonta and Dr. Robyn Rodriguez.



Teaser performance by Emil Guillermo

### *Pinay Visionary Honoree*

## Cynthia Bonta Social Justice Advocate

Cynthia Bonta is a scholar and social justice advocate known for her community service work and her involvement with the Christian ministry.

Born at Laguna, Philippines, Cynthia received her BS in Zoology in 1958, before moving to the United States in 1965 as a Ecumenical Scholar for the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She became involved with the school's Social Justice Committee, which worked with the farm worker activist in the Central Valley. Through the 1970s, she devoted more time towards the farmworker movement, eventually relocating to the United Farm Workers La Paz Headquarters at Keene, California.

She became involved with the Philippine and Filipino American issues during the 1970s, becoming an activist for the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP). Additionally, she co-founded the Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards in 1990, held several leadership positions for the Council of Asian Pacific Islander Together for Advocacy and Leadership, and in 2004 she was named a KVIE Local Hero during the 2004 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.



The Filipino community of Sacramento and Davis, California.



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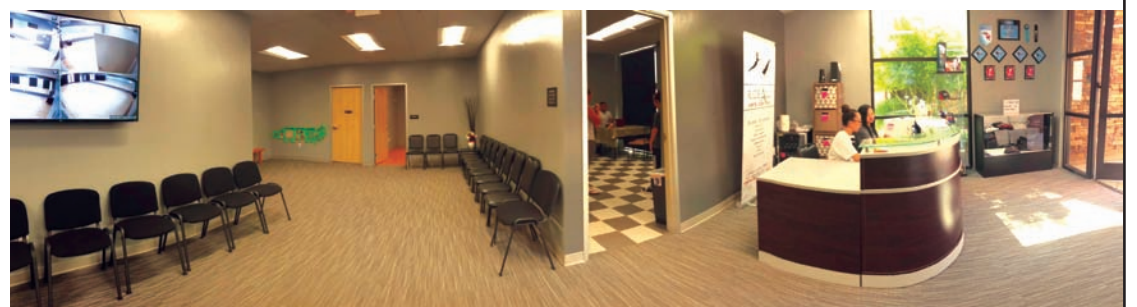


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Maharlika Lions Club President Myrna Agbunag with International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi.



Members from District 4-C5 at the Lions Leadership Forum. — with Victoria Tagatac- Debord, Andy Anderson, Cat Gon, Donna Prince, Zenny Yagen and Laurie Dapelo O'Brien.



KRISTINA and BENJAMIN ABAYA  
1st Wedding Anniversary, October 19



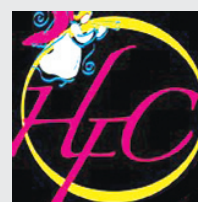
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## Celebrating Filipina American Women

October is Filipino American History Month (FAHM)! For its 2019 FAHM theme, the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) recognizes “Pinay Visionaries: Celebrating Filipina American Women” and their contributions to history and the Filipina/o American community nationwide.

Throughout history, Pinay — Filipina American women — leaders, laborers, scholars, scientists, and activists have been the backbone of the Filipina/o American community. These Filipina Americans have overcome racial and gender discrimination, and have persevered to contribute to their respective fields.

This year, we celebrate Filipina American women across the United States, including Pinays like:

**Dr. Dorothy Laigo Cordova** — Founder and Executive Director of the Filipino American National Historical Society. She began organizing and advocating for the Filipino American community

since the 1950s. Her vision has paved the way for FANHS, Filipino American History Month, and Filipino American Studies.

**Victoria “Vicki” Manalo Draves** — the first Asian American Olympic gold medalist. She won two gold medals in platform and springboard diving in 1948. -Dr. Felicisima “Ping” Serafica — the first Filipina American professor of psychology to receive tenure in the US. She helped establish one of the Philippines’ first hospitals for children with mental disabilities and the country’s first interdisciplinary mental health

clinic.

**Thelma Buchholdt** — the first Filipina American elected to a legislature in the United States in 1974 and the first Asian American elected to serve as President of the National Order of Women Legislators.

**-Dr. Dawn Bohulano Mabalon** — the first Filipina/o to receive a Ph.D. in History from Stanford University. She was a professor, a historic preservationist, and the author of *Little Manila is in the Heart and Journey for Justice: The Life of Larry Itliong*.

### PINAY VISIONARIES

Celebrating Filipina American Women



Throughout history, Pinay -- Filipina American women -- leaders, laborers, scholars, scientists, and activists have been the backbone of the Filipina/o American community. These Filipina Americans have overcome racial and gender discrimination, and have persevered to contribute to their respective fields. This Filipino American History Month (October 2019), we celebrate Filipina American women.

#FAHM2019  @fanhs\_national

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Larry and Josie Patria  
Philippine Fiesta Newspaper



## Why We Celebrate Filipino American History Month

“There’s nothing to put on the map. We’ve BEEN on the map.”

BY KEVIN NADAL, PH.D.

In 1983, the late Fred Cordova of the Filipino American National Historical Society wrote a book called *Filipinos: Forgotten Asian Americans*, a pictorial essay that documented the history of Filipinos in America from 1763 to 1963. He used the word “forgotten” to highlight that Filipino Americans were invisible in American history books during that time.

Though Filipino Americans were the first Asian Americans to arrive in the U.S. in 1587 (33 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620), little was written about the history of the Philippines or of Filipino Americans in the U.S. So although the U.S. had a long history with the Philippines (including the Phil-

ippine-American War, American colonization from 1899-1946, and much of World War II being fought in the Philippines), American history books have typically glared over any mention of the Philippines.

In addition to this, when the field of Asian American Studies emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, most literature concentrated on the experiences of East Asian Americans (particularly those of Chinese and Japanese descent). In the 1980s and 1990s, some authors wrote about how common it was for Asian American organizations to exclude Filipino Americans from leadership positions; others reported that Filipino Americans often felt marginalized or discriminated against within pan-Asian organizations.

Decades later, scholars have described how many Filipino Americans often branch out to form their own ethnic organizations, or how Filipino Americans tend to form coalitions with Latina/o/x and Black communities — with whom they sometimes feel more connected than other Asian American ethnic groups.

In April, The New York Times released a video on Asian Americans, as part of their “Conversations on Race” series. The film featured 12 Asian Americans of



diverse ethnic backgrounds (e.g., Korean, Indian, Vietnamese, etc.) talking about their experiences with race and racism. Not one Filipino American was included. While Filipino Americans are the second largest Asian American ethnic group (comprising about 1 out of every 5 Asian Americans), this exclusion symbolizes that we are still forgotten in many ways.

Perhaps this is why Filipino Americans have advocated for October to be recognized as Filipino American History Month. The month has been celebrated

every year since 1988; it has been recognized by President Obama and Congress. The month commemorates the many ways that Filipino Americans have contributed significantly to American History — from serving in World War II to strengthening our labor movement.

As one of the largest immigrant groups in the country, we want our history to be recognized and our stories to be told. It is because of this that I asked my friend Marris Aroy (Emmy-award winning filmmaker) to produce a short film that explores what it means to be Filipino American.

With this, I wish you a happy Filipino American History Month, and I present to you: “TGIF Thank God I’m Filipino!”

# Underrated Places You Need to Visit in Cavite

These hidden spots in the South deserve a spot on your road trip itinerary.

BY ANRI ICHIMURA

We're sure you've already visited the likes of Aginaldo's Shrine and Sky Ranch, but the South has way more to offer aside from the typical tourist spots—and we're here to show you the underrated places to visit in Cavite that aren't highlighted on Google Maps.

In the South, the best things are out of sight. That's the way locals like it—for community hideouts to stay secret. But some of these places deserve way more credit than they get. From fancy resorts to beautiful waterfalls, Cavite is a treasure trove of discoveries and it's only a few hours from the city.

In no particular order, here are some of the best underrated places to visit in Cavite. Drop by during your next road trip down south.

## Alitaptap Artists' Village, Amadeo

This is about as down to earth and rustic as Cavite gets. Developed by the Pitopito Art Group, Alitaptap was designed as a refuge for artists, musicians, and creatives alike. There are quite



a few artworks and sculptures strewn around the grounds, and the village hosts a number of art and outdoor events throughout the year that you can sign up for.

Interested campers should always contact the village at least one week ahead of their stay, as it doesn't accept walk-ins. If you're lucky, you might catch a session of Philippine tai chi during your stay. Aside from the fresh air, visitors can also enjoy the Talong Malapad Falls, which is a picturesque waterfall located on the village grounds.

## Puente de Binambangan, Indang



Not exactly a tourist destination, Puente de Binambangan is an old bridge that was built during the Spanish Colonial era. The bridge itself isn't particularly dazzling, but the stones underneath it tell a different story. The inside wall of the bridge's underside is marked with mysterious symbols that bear a resemblance to Baybayin or perhaps even Masonic symbols.

History buffs will remember that the 13 martyrs of Cavite who were executed in Trece Martires (which was later named after them) were also freemasons, and Trece Martires borders Indang to the east. If you're feeling like Indiana Jones or Ben Gates, stop by this mysterious bridge and be the first to decipher the curious code.

## Balite Falls, Amadeo



Balite Falls has been gaining more visitors over the years, but it's still managed to keep its stream fresh and clean. Aside from the waterfalls, there are small relaxing lagoons dotting the area around the main river. There's a P100 entrance fee to the falls, and cottages are also available starting at P300.

Be warned: Locals love going to the falls during the summer and on holidays and weekends. The best time to go is early in the morning on a weekday so you can enjoy the little wonder of nature when no one else is around in one of the most underrated places to visit in Cavite.

## La VeryOl's Mountain View Garden, Tagaytay

This resort's Kawa Hot Bath is not only absurdly instagrammable—

it actually feels pretty damn amazing. The best part of La VeryOl's Kawa Hot Bath is the view you get while basking in a large wok.

If you aren't familiar with these types of baths, don't



fret—it might look like you're about to get cooked alive as a tribal sacrifice, but you're not. The bath uses herbs and flowers to remove the toxins from your body and reduce your stress level. One Kawa Hot Bath will cost you only P399.

## Korean Buddhist Temple, Silang



Deep in the heart of Silang is the Korean Buddhist Temple, a meditation center and place of worship. It's a quiet, scenic spot that'll transport you to the Far East, but to make it clear, the temple is more than just a background for

your latest IG post.

It's a sacred place, so be sure to respect its rules for visitors. There's no entrance fee, but visitors aren't allowed to take any photos when inside the temple itself.

## Museo Orlina, Tagaytay

Nestled in a small neighborhood in Tagaytay is Museo Orlina, which houses some of the best

work of critically acclaimed glass sculptor Ramon Orlina. Aside from his stunning glass sculptures,

the museum also exhibits the works of local artists, ranging from paintings to metal sculptures.



The museum's quiet hours are during weekdays, so be sure to drop by when no one's around. Walking through the galleries, which feature ceramic sculptures and contemporary paintings, is definitely more impactful when surrounded by silence. Everything looks pretty fragile, so walk with caution. The house-turned-museum has four floors and an entrance fee of P100, making it one of the budget-friendly places to visit in Cavite.

## A FAIRY-TALE LOVE STORY IN PHILIPPINE HISTORY

# A King Visited the Philippines and Fell in Love

Source: **Ambeth R. Ocampo**, "Romances in History"

Visiting kings are rare in Manila. We've seen two Popes but not monarchs on state visits. Some Filipinos in 1872 had their first look at a real live king when King Norodom I of Cambodia arrived in Manila with his retinue, on-board a French vessel for a two-week visit.

The King was given all the usual courtesies – 21-gun salute, state dinner hosted by the Spanish governor-general and, of course, trips to the "tourist destinations" of the late nineteenth-century Philippines (Taal volcano and fiestas in Pampanga).

On returning to his palace in August 1872, Norodom I had been so pleased with his stay in Manila that he accorded an extraordinary promotion to all sub-lieutenants and lieutenants serving with his Tagalog guards. Norodom I also brought back with him from this voyage Filipino musicians, who formed the nucleus of the Cambodian Royal Brass and Reed Band.

One jewel that the King was not able to bring home, however, was a pretty lass from Bulacan named Josefa Roxas y Manio.

Sources are sketchy and the main story comes from the pen of Felix M. Roxas, former mayor of Manila (1905-1917), who wrote a historical column in the Spanish newspaper, *El Debate*, from 1926-36. Roxas mentions that Norodom I fell in love with a pretty Bulakena from Calumpit, but that nothing came of this romantic affair.

Josefa Roxas y Manio, the woman who caught the king's fancy, was gifted with a solid gold jewel as big as a mangosteen, which her descendants used to refer to as the



King Norodom I of Cambodia



The "concha" which King Norodom I gifted to Josefa Roxas

gintong granada (golden pomegranate). With this present, Norodom I proposed to her through an interpreter but, as we say today, basted siya! (He was turned down.)

First, there was the problem of religion. "Pepita" Roxas would not give up Catholicism to marry a man who had the right to have more than one wife. She thus politely refused the King's proposition with the lame, but very Asian excuse that she couldn't get married yet, as she had to take care of her aging parents. She died a spinster in

1883. This would have been the end of the story, but when Prince Norodom Sihanouk was here in 1969, he paid a visit to the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City, not to pay homage to the Nuestra Señora del Santo Rosario, but rather to see one of the church's jewels, a medallion given by Norodom I to Senorita Ana Roxas y Manio, younger sister and constant chaperone of "Pepita" Roxas during the short and unsuccessful courtship.

Believed to be miraculous, this jewel was given to the Santo Rosario in October 1892 by Ana Roxas as a panata (pledge), because one of her brothers was cured of illness. Unlike the gintong granada, this jewel survived the thefts and

a world war. A fence tried to sell it to the jewelry shop, Estrella del Norte, which promptly returned it to its owner after seeing the inscription on it, which said, A la Srta Da Ana Roxas y Manio. Recuerdo de SM Norodom I Rey de Cambodia.

I have not seen this jewel, so I do not know if the inscription is accurate. Another source claims it says, "SM El Rey de Cambodia a la Srta Ana Roxas." I asked writer Chita Gatbonton, who was doing research in the UST Archives, if she knew about the jewels of the Santo Rosario and who was in charge of them. By a stroke of luck, she had a catalogue of the Santo Rosario's jewels, which mentions that Ana Roxas had donated it to the Santo Rosario, but it has since been given or assigned to the Santo Niño. Described as being (hold your breath) "a solid gold medallion in the shape of a shell encrusted with eight diamantitos, twenty-nine chispas, eight pearls, and twenty-four emeralds." You now know why it is always kept in the vault.

# Never imagined he would be in a Spider-Man movie

BY RICKY LO

**D**oes Jacob Batalon throw his weight around?

No, he doesn't. Instead, he impresses people not with his overwhelming presence but with his "lightness."

Jacob, 23, is the Pinoy actor making a name in Hollywood as the sidekick of Peter Parker/Spider-Man, first introduced in Spider-Man: Homecoming, the 2017 outing of the superhero played by Tom Holland (coming after Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield) on his debut in the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe), followed by Spider-Man: Far From Home in which Jacob reprises his Ned Leeds character.

One good look at Jacob and it was easy to see that he has grown (and how!) considerably since June 2017 when The STAR did a one-on-one with him during the Homecoming junket in Singapore. Jacob was here for barely 24 hours (arriving on Friday and going back to the US on Saturday) as part of the Far From Home Asian tour spearheaded by Sony which has just acquired the rights to the Spider-Man franchise. GMA, the official media partner of Sony, hosted a Jacob fans' meet after a series of interviews capped by 24 Oras that served Jacob a huge plateful of Filipino goodies (puto bumbong, bibingka with salted egg, pandesal etc.) which he lapped up with gusto (yummy, burp-burp!!!).

In a brief interview, Jacob told The STAR that it was his second visit to the Philippines and he hardly remembered the first time when he was only four years old. "Definitely," he smiled, "I don't remember much."

It's a pity that he didn't have enough time. Otherwise, he admitted, "I would have wanted to go to the beaches and hundred different islands, something like that, that the country is famous for."

Well, maybe next time? Although Jacob didn't say when that would be.

In a 2017 interview, Jacob said that he comes from a close Filipino family in a typical Filipino home, "and we watch a lot of Filipino shows on cable TV and we do a lot of karaoke" ...so did that make him feel a certain affinity to his parents' homeland?

"Yeah. You know, for the most part, it's a really cool thing to have Filipinos on TV because we are not represented in the media that much. I think it's great to have our own outlet."

Born and raised in Hawaii by Filipino parents, Jacob graduated overnight from one small role (in North Woods, 2016) to a big break in Spider-Man.

"The gravity of it didn't sink in until we went to Comic-Con last year (2016)," he admitted in that interview. "During that Comic-Con, I saw how much fans love Spider-Man; they just go crazy for Tom."

Describing his character, Jacob said, "Ned is very sweet and very genuine. You could even say that he's somewhat nerdy. He loves technology, he's super-duper smart. The only thing he wants is to be Peter's right-hand man, so he feels frustrated when he feels that Peter is getting too cool for him, like he's losing somebody very important to him. Finally, Ned learns about Peter's secret and it's cool having Spider-Man as his best friend again."

He never imagined that he would be in a Spider-Man movie.

"Uhm, you know, in any profession, you kind of imagine yourself at the very top of it. While I am not at the top of my profession per se, I think that I am in a very good spot. I've always imagined myself doing well whatever I did. And being in this film really, really is a dream come true."

As a kid, Jacob recalled that the first superhero movie that he watched was Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man.

"That was a big part of my childhood. I can't believe that I am now a part of building that story. I have come full circle and it feels pretty crazy. I've always had this particular interest in superheroes and see how they look like. Before, I thought superheroes were superheroes all the time and they never really had another life."

Jacob got the plum after doing a self-taped audition set by his manager at that time, beating dozens of other aspirants.

"After two weeks, they gave me a callback for a screen test with Tom. I went to Burbank in L.A. and did the test with Tom. After two months and a half of waiting, I finally got a call that was the moment that changed my life. They liked me and they

home, he noted, "most everybody is speaking in Tagalog. But I can understand it as if it's English." He has a brother and a sister from his mother's side, and a brother

I got over my fear of performing before an audience."

And how is he like Ned Leeds?

"I like Ned Leeds. I love the character so much. He's a very new character in the MCU. I think he's a very fresh take on people in the superhero world. Some superheroes crack under pressure; and Ned Leeds, who is not a superhero, doesn't."

In this current interview, Jacob was asked what his next project is.

"There's this film called Let It Snow that's gonna come out on Netflix on Nov. 8 I believe. I'm doing something in Vancouver next month but I can't really speak on that. That should be an interesting project. Right now, I'm pretty booked through November. I'm really happy with what's going on. I'm so happy that I got to squeeze this Asian trip. It was really cool to be able to come back to the Philippines so randomly like this."

Oh yes, Jacob did know a Tagalog word or two such as kuya and salamat which he mentioned to thank his Filipino fans for supporting him.

"I wouldn't be here without you," he said.



Pinoy actor Jacob Batalon, who plays Spider-Man's sidekick Ned Leeds, was in the Philippines for barely 24 hours as part of Sony's Spider-Man: Far From Home Asian tour.



Jacob with Tom Holland in the 2019 Spider-Man: Far From Home.

took a chance on me."

Asked if his being Asian helped him bag the role, Jacob (still in that 2017 interview) said, "That was regardless of nationality or race. I like to think that our director, Jon Watts, didn't choose the people who looked right for the role, he chose the people who were right for the role."

Although a pure Filipino (both parents are Filipino), Jacob doesn't speak Tagalog even at

and two sisters from his father's. He studied in a Catholic school in Oahu and went to a film school in New York.

"Growing up, I wanted to be a musician. As I've said, we are a typical Filipino family that loves to sing. My mom was a typical Filipino mom. If your kid can sing, let him go up the stage and sing. I would sing Elvis Presley songs. As a kid, that would mortify me. But I think that was how

## LIVING LIFE TO THE FULLEST... What does that mean?

BY MEREMEL ASIS HECHONA

We live in the society where a lot of us think of what others may say about how we look, act, dress, our lifestyle, socio economic status which greatly affects how we respond to situations. Come to think of it, given the above, we deprive ourselves of what we called total self satisfaction and ultimate happiness. We should act in accordance to what society expect us physically,

emotionally, psychologically leading to self expression deprivation and discontentment. As a result, we are self limiting to ultimate pleasure thus the self frustration and disappointment.

So how do we resolve this? How can we achieve happiness? Release yourself. Discourage inhibition, move forward. Tell the person you love them, eat heartily, laugh excessively, scream!!!,

dance vigorously. Do what your heart desires.

Learn to love, learn to accept, learn to release yourself of doubts, of uncertainty, of insecurities. Let go of the fear that hinders freedom, limit possibilities that trapped yourself into oblivion. It will swallow you down, immersely overwhelming, drowning you to total inevitability. Never known, never the same, never coming



back. Whatever you do, express yourself. Be happy. We only live once. Never let others define who you are. Your life. Your rules..

# Lucio San Pedro's Ugoy ng Duyan: Immortal lullabye

BY DANNY DOLOR

**L**ucio San Pedro has composed many songs and hymns, but he is most known for and associated with the lullabye Sa Ugoy ng Duyan. It is said to be as familiar as the Philippine National Anthem. Indeed, Sa Ugoy ng Duyan is the greatest, the most beautiful and famous Filipino lullabye. It is immortal.

San Pedro composed Sa Ugoy ng Duyan in the '40s, meant to be an entry to the competition in 1943 during the Japanese Occupation. But because he could not find a collaborator to write the lyrics, he was not able to submit it.



Lucio San Pedro: National Artist for Music

### Sa Ugoy ng Duyan

Music by Lucio San Pedro  
Lyrics by Levi Celerio

*Sana'y di magmaliw ang dati kong araw  
Nang munti pang bata sa piling ni  
Nanay*

*Nais kong maulit ang awit ni Inang mahal  
Awit ng pag-ibig habang ako'y nasa  
duyan*

*Sa aking pagtulog na labis ang himbing  
Ang bantay ko'y tala  
Ang tanod ko'y bituin  
Sa piling ni Nanay  
Langit ang buhay  
Puso kong may dusa  
Sabik sa ugoy ng duyan mo Inay  
Sana narito ka Inay*

*Sana'y di magmaliw ang dati kong araw  
Nang munti pang bata sa piling ni  
Nanay*

*Nais kong maulit ang awit ni Inang mahal  
Awit ng pag-ibig habang ako'y nasa  
duyan*

In 1948, on his way home from studies at Juilliard School of Music in New York, San Pedro met Levi Celerio while on a stopover in Honolulu, Hawaii. During the rest of their trip, Celerio completed the lyrics of Sa Ugoy ng Duyan.

San Pedro drew inspiration from his mother Soledad Diestro, who hummed when he and his siblings were put to sleep.

Various artists interpreted Sa Ugoy ng Duyan, including baritone Aurelio Estante and soprano Evelyn Mandac. Popular singers also recorded Sa Ugoy ng Duyan, the likes of Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma, Lea Salonga, Aiza Seguerra, Christian Bautista, Jeremiah and Regine Velasquez. The song is also part of the soundtrack of the Lorna Tolentino starrer Abakada...Ina.

Both San Pedro and Celerio were later named National Artists. They died in 2002, only two days apart from each other.

# Liza Soberano hailed the most beautiful woman in the world 2019

BY FILIPINO TIMES  
Staff Reporter

Actress Liza Soberano is the only Filipina who made it to the top 10 of the 100 Most Beautiful Women in the World 2019 by entertainment blog, "Starmometer".

She bested other known figures like Selena Gomez, Gal Gadot, and even Kim Jennie, Kim Jisoo and Lalisa Manoban of the South Korean girl group Black Pink, who were also in the top 10 list.

According to the entertainment blog, they conducted the online poll last April where a total of 2,404,407 million votes were cast worldwide in different social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Other Filipina beauties who made it in the top 100 are Miss Universe 2018 Ca-



Liza Soberano

triona Gray (No. 12), actress Nadine Lustre (No. 23), and Kapuso star Gabbi Garcia (No. 70).

# Alden Richards hailed "Sexiest Man in the Philippines" 2019

Kapuso actor Alden Richards was hailed as this year's "Sexiest Man in the Philippines".

This is the second year in a row that Richards topped the said poll.

According to the entertainment blog Starmometer that organized the online poll, the 10 finalists came from hundreds of nominees.

Netizens were given the following criteria as the basis for their online poll: 30 percent charm, 40 percent physique, and 30 percent popularity index (with the visibility in the last 12 months).

Richards garnered 56.9 percent of the votes.

The second person in the list is Kapamilya actor Daniel Padilla, who garnered 11.91 percent of the votes during the final



Alden Richards

poll. Then another Kapamilya actor Enrique Gil got 10.57 percent of the votes.

Other actors who made it in the top 10 list are Dingdong Dantes (4th), James Reid (5th), Derek Ramsay (6th), Carlo Aquino (7th), Coco Martin (8th), Marco Gumabao (9th), and Erwan Heusaff (10th).

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Funds raised will go towards the support of the youth of St. Charles School and Parish, Concordia Children's Services in Old Santa Mesa, Manila and the Philippine National Day Association's Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards Scholarships here in Sacramento. This year Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA will also put funds raised towards a Music & Arts Scholarship for the deserving young artists in our community.



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