



**P8** Veteranos Day

# PHILIPPINE Fiesta

A Division of Five D's Arts, LLC

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**P9** Thanksgiving Day

## ICON Awards: Honoring Exemplary Filipino Americans

BY ANGELA ALEJANDRO

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity hosted the first ICON Awards: Honoring Exemplary Filipino Americans at the Jose P. Rizal Community Center. In celebration of Filipino American History Month, the Filipino American community in Sacramento recognizes and honors the ICONS of our community. Proceeds from the event support the building of the first ever Filipino Community Center in the region.

Josie Patria and Cynthia Bonta served as mistresses of ceremonies and welcomed guests at the start of the event, along with event co-chair Vince

A. Sales.

The program started with the Posting of Colors with participation of local Filipino American veterans, as well as the singing of both the United States and Philippine National Anthem, sung by Lorraine A. De Arco.

Recipients of the awards were then given their honors for their exceptional leadership and contributions to the advancement of the Filipino community.

Dr. Jose D. Villarica was awarded his ICON Award for service in Health and Medicine, the Sacramento Fil Am Lions for Community Service, Dinnah San Pedro for contributions to Media, and Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez for Education. Following a dinner of Filipino cuisine, catered by Carol Munar and Roselie Crandall, the guests were entertained by Dane and



ICON Awards for their exceptional leadership and contributions to the advancement of the Filipino community from (L to R) Dr. Jose Villarica, Dave Tamayo, Elaine Abelaya-Mateo, Attorney Gen. Rob Bonta, Dinnah San Pedro, Nilda Valmores and Dr. Robyn Rodriguez

Amanda Newsan and their Rize All Lyrical Hip Hop dance performance to the athenic song Dahil Sa 'Yo.

The program continued with remarks from the Sierra Health Foundation CEO Chet Hewitt

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Photos by Dave San Pedro

"Ako ay Pilipino" sung by Remy Solomon and the Filipino Community ensemble.

## 2nd Annual Magkaisa (Unite): Filipino American History Month 2022 Celebration



Mayor Bobbie Singh Allen, Vince Sales, Chris Mateo and Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez.

BY ANGELA ALEJANDRO

The two-day 2nd Annual Magkaisa (Unite): Filipino American History Month 2022 Celebration was held earlier this month at Elk Grove's Laguna Town Hall.

Community members in the Elk Grove and greater Sacramento area joined together to honor Filipino American history, culture, and experiences through sharing community resources,

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## California is in the Heart



Opening and ribbon-cutting of "California is in the Heart."

BY MEGAN SAPIGAO

On Saturday, Oct. 29, Filipino Americans from all over the region and the San Francisco

Bay Area took part in the opening program and ribbon-cutting of "California is in the Heart"—the first-ever exhibition in

the California Museum dedicated to highlighting the contributions of Filipinos in California.

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# New laws address anti-Asian hate in the long-term, but what about feeling safe right now?

BY JEONG PARK

On Sept. 13, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed two bills seeking to address harassment — often based on race — on public transit and in businesses. The new laws will create a model survey for transit agencies to help them gather data about the harassment of passengers and a pilot program that recognizes businesses that provide “safe and welcoming” environments for customers.

The same day, the Citizen personal safety app announced it was providing up to 20,000 Asian Amer-

icans in the Bay Area with a free one-year subscription to its premium service, which provides 24/7 access to what the company calls “live safety agents” who can track users’ locations and help them assess their safety. Agents could even call 911 on the users’ behalf.

Both try to address anti-Asian hate, but their differences illustrate the complexity of the issue.

One approach focuses on institutions, while another looks at individuals. One is aimed at laying the groundwork for a potential long-term solution, while another wants to make people feel safe now.

As part of the Stop AAPI Hate coalition, which tracked more than 4,000 reports of anti-Asian hate incidents in California between 2020 and 2022,

Annie Lee sees the power of data. It shines the light.”

As businesses continue to invest in and shift toward a digital-first model, there seems to be a general trend toward investing further in the human element, as well as putting best practice in place, to address current and future challenges.

Anti-Asian-American and Pacific Islander hate “has been happening for a long time, but people started to listen when we started collecting data,” said Lee, the director of policy at Chinese for Affirmative Action based in San



In March 2021, a 76-year-old L.A. resident holds a sign in her apartment from a rally against hate crimes she’d attended. (Jae C. Hong / Associated Press)

Francisco. “That’s the power of data. It shines the light.”

It doesn’t make sense, Lee said, to address anti-Asian hate through increased policing. After all, many of those hate incidents, which may consist of someone yelling ethnic slurs or making inappropriate gestures, are not criminal. It’s incumbent upon the institutions such as public transit agencies to create a safe environment, and those bills lay the groundwork for that to happen, Lee said.

“What we need to do,” Lee said, “is to shift our culture and understand-

ing of how we treat each other and put pressure on institutions to change.”

But for Carl Chan, the president of Oakland’s Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, increased policing and partnership with groups and companies like Citizen are essential.

Citizen has faced criticism for potentially encouraging overpolicing and racial profiling. Last year, the app incorrectly labeled someone as an arson suspect in a fire in Pacific Palisades. Some have raised privacy concerns about its premium service, although the company’s director of government affairs and public policy, Trevor Chandler, said user data is deleted every 30 days. Hundreds of those self-identifying as Asian Americans in the Bay Area have already reached out to ask for the

service, Chandler said.

After hearing about Citizen’s partnership with the Chinese American Assn. of Commerce in San Francisco, Chan said he wanted to see how his group could work with the company as well.

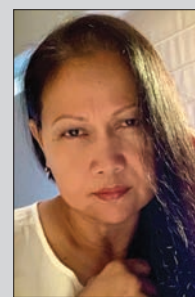
Chan has long railed against what he calls “defunding” of the Oakland Police Department, although in the last few years, the money it has gotten from the city has increased consistently. Chan says apps such as Citizen can supplement the police service.

“People getting hurt, people getting killed, it’s no comfort to the families, the community or the entire country,” Chan said. “It’s time for us to focus again on how to keep everyone safe.... People are dying.”

*Los Angeles Times*



In her positions as an Executive Director for Asian Resources, Inc. and Elk Grove City Councilmember, Stephanie has been a leading voice in Sacramento to combat the rise in Asian hate crimes.



## Editor’s Note

It had been a very busy month of October in our Filipino American community in Sacramento, as we have celebrated in many ways, the commemoration of our humble beginnings and migration to the United States. In this issue, are highlights of those events, as

Philippine Fiesta is here to always celebrate with our readers.

It was a great honor to be one of the recipients of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity’s ICON Awards. I can’t thank them enough for recognizing the Philippine Fiesta News’ 20 years of existence in our community. I share this award with all of our contributing writers and most especially with my husband and children who all have been by my side, in support of what I’ve wanted to achieve in life and in serving our Filipino community with this publication. I say this with so much gratitude, from the bottom of my heart. And congratulations to the other awardees: Dr. Jose Villarica, Dave Tamayo, Ellaine Abelaye-Mateo, Nilda Valmores, Dr. Robyn Magalit-Rodriguez, and Attorney General Rob Bonta.

Come next week on the 8th, is the general election. Please exercise your right to vote. Vote for the persons that you feel in your heart will support your life’s values and will help improve our situations in our community. I’d like to invite you to read the article of Benjamin Abaya on page 9.

May you find peace and prosperity in your heart, as we celebrate this Thanksgiving season!

With love always,  
Dinnah San Pedro

# Paeng death toll climbs to 98; 1.8M individuals affected – NDRRMC

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

**N**inety-eight people have already been killed by Severe Tropical Storm (STS) Paeng as more cadavers were retrieved by search, rescue, and retrieval teams in the aftermath of one of the deadliest storms to hit the country this year, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Monday morning, Oct. 31.

As of 6 a.m., the NDRRMC said in a situational report that 58 fatalities were already validated while 40 reported deaths are still being confirmed.

The validated deaths were recorded in the municipalities of Datu Odin Sinsuat (35), Datu Blah Sinsuat (7), Upi (8), Barira (2), and South Upi (1) in Maguindanao; Sibalom (2) and Hamtic (1) in Antique; and Kalamansig (2) in Sultan Kudarat.

The victims died either due to drowning, landslide, or fatal injuries after being hit by fallen trees. One of the victims in Sibalom, Antique — a 61-year-old man — died of cardiac arrest due to hypothermia.



SEVERE tropical storm 'Paeng' left Patnongon town, Antique province in shambles. (Antique PIO)

Meanwhile, the NDRRMC is validating 16 reported deaths in Western Visayas (Region 6), 12 in Calabarzon (Region 4A), six in Eastern Visayas (Region 8), four in Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9), and one each in Bicol Region (Region 5) and SOCCSKSARGEN (Region 12).

The NDRRMC also reported that 69 people have been injured while 63 individuals were missing: 29 in Region

8; 22 in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM); six in Region 6; two in Region 4A; and one each in Mimaropa (Region 4B), Region 5, Region 12, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The storm has affected 575,728 families composed of 1,812,740 individuals in all 17 regions of the country. A total of 213,726 people were staying in evacuation centers.

### Agri, infra damage

Paeng added to the woes of local farmers and fisherfolk who had been devastated by Typhoons Maymay, Neneng, and Obet — all of which hit in October.

Per the latest tally, Paeng already incurred P435.46 million worth of damage to agriculture in Mimaropa, Regions 5, 6, 10, and 12; and P757.84 million worth of damage to infrastruc-

ture in Mimaropa, Regions 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11.

There were also 4,188 houses that were damaged in 15 regions.

### Power, water supplies

Electricity has yet to be restored in 169 out of 263 cities and municipalities that experienced power interruption due to Paeng, leaving in the dark thousands of residents in Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, and BARMM.

Meanwhile, seven out of eight cities and municipalities that experienced water interruption in Calabarzon, Regions 5, 6, 7, 8, and BARMM were still without adequate water supply, forcing residents to endure days and nights without something to drink.

NDRRMC Chairman Jose Faustino Jr. already tapped the Armed Forces of the Philippines to bring potable water, water-filtering machines, and additional food packs to the affected areas. He also instructed concerned agencies to help electric cooperatives to expedite the restoration of power supply in the storm-hit places. *mb.com.ph*

## 2 Manila cemeteries closed to visitors due to Paeng

BY DEXTER CABALZA

MANILA, Philippines — It seems like the advice of the police for the public to pay an early visit to their departed loved ones during the long weekend to avoid the massive crowds on “Undas” (All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day) was all for naught.

A few people who braved the heavy rains brought by Severe Tropical Storm Paeng (international name: Nalgae) on Saturday morning were surprised and disappointed to learn that Manila North Cemetery and Manila South Cemetery were closed to visitors.

Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna on Saturday ordered the closure of the two public cemeter-



UNDAS 2022 | Despite the bad weather, a man cleans the grave of his departed loved ones at Manila South Cemetery in Makati in time for All Saints’ and All Souls’ Day. (Photo by RICHARD A. REYES)

ies as Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 3 was raised over Metro Manila.

The Manila government announced on Friday it would close the gates of the cemetery for visitors if Signal No. 2 or higher would be raised in Metro Manila by Saturday.

Roselle Castañeda, director of

the Manila North Cemetery, apologized to the visitors affected by the cemetery’s closure.

“I apologize for all those who got frustrated because they were not able to enter the cemetery today,” she said, noting that some of those who were barred entry came all the way from the provinces.

“I hope you understand the decision to close the cemetery was all for your safety,” Castañeda added.

She said they were afraid that allowing thousands of visitors to pay their respects to their departed loved ones’ graves in the middle of a storm would pose a risk to the public.

“Some of the visitors may get injured by the falling branches of the trees. Or maybe we have a visitor who could slip while walking along the wet pavement and may get seriously hurt,” Castañeda added.

The continuous rains flooded some parts of both Manila North and South cemeteries. The strong winds of Paeng fell down some trees inside the cemeteries.

At Manila South Cemetery, one of the fallen trees hit a parked

motorcycle. No one was hurt.

The Manila government has imposed a “no mask no entry” policy at the Manila North Cemetery and Manila South Cemetery to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Lacuna, a physician, said the policy was implemented amid the large volume of people expected to pay their visit until Nov. 2, which could reach up to a million people. Philippine National Police chief Gen. Rodolfo Azurin Jr. on Friday advised the public to visit their departed loved ones during the long weekend.

“This coming Saturday, Sunday, and Monday are the best days to consider when planning to visit cemeteries, memorial parks, columbaria, and other holiday places of convergence to avoid crowding,” he said. */ Philippine Daily Inquirer*

# Jaclyn Moreno will Carry the Torch for Filipinos as Sacramento County Supervisor

BY MEGAN SAPIGAO

This November election, Filipinos will say goodbye to a long-time supporter, Don Notolli, as he retires from his seat on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in District 5.

Many Filipinos are familiar with Notolli's face, as he has attended events with us, often been a phone call away for many needs, and worked with us in his district, where a huge chunk of the County's Filipino community reside.

So, who can we depend on to pick up the torch and represent our voice at the County?

This election, we need Jaclyn Moreno to fill the seat. Jaclyn has been an elected official serving as a Director with the Cosumnes Services District (CSD), where she has ushered in an era of strong fire services in Elk Grove and beautiful, safe parks



Supporters of Jaclyn Moreno

(where we all love to take our children to play).

Jaclyn is no stranger to the Filipino community, as she has been working with us in South County to welcome Lion's club and community events like Malaya's Induction and Magkaisa at CSD facilities, championing resolutions to declare Filipino American History Month the last 2 years in her district, and making sure she is present at opportunities like FCSV's Unity Kick off, Sac Fil PAC's Merienda, and the recent ICON Awards, in order to connect with the Filipino

community and get to know everyone. Jaclyn has said, "I have the most fun with the Filipino American Community at their events! I always learn so much, it is always a party, and I deeply appreciate the Filipino constituency."

Jaclyn is very astute about our push to build the first ever Filipino Community Center in the district, and has stated, "I want to be there with the Filipino Community to push this along and get this done f."

Jaclyn is a small business owner and youth counselor with a long



Megan Sapigao, Jaclyn Moreno, Dr. Robyn Rodriguez and Derek Ledda

background in public service. She is committed to supporting Sacramento County's Filipino-owned small businesses, strategically addressing the homelessness crisis, and fighting for high-quality and accessible healthcare. Unlike her opponent, she did all she could in her position as CSD Director and community advocate to support front line workers and their families as they endured the toll the pandemic took on them. During the pandemic, she voiced her priority for PPE, vaccines, and therapies for communities of color

like the Filipino community. As a mental-health youth counselor, she understands the importance of culturally responsive care for our young people and our elders, and would be an ally to our health-care workers if elected.

Jaclyn is endorsed by the Sacramento Filipino Political Action Committee, and FilAm Leaders like

Attorney General Rob Bonta, SMUD Board Director Dave Tamayo, Cynthia Bonta, Vince Sales, Megan Sapigao, Derek Ledda, Elaine Abelaya and Chris Mateo. They all know that having Jaclyn in this swing seat in the county is crucial for Filipino Americans in Sacramento and Elk Grove. Let's get her elected on November 8th!

For more information on Jaclyn Moreno for Supervisor, or for opportunities to canvass, phone bank and donate to the campaign, visit [www.jaclynforsupervisor.com](http://www.jaclynforsupervisor.com).

# SacFilPAC Endorsements Pave the Way for Better Representation, Collaboration

BY CHRIS MATEO

One of the Sacramento Filipino Political Action Committee's responsibilities is "To assist candidates for state and local office who will represent the values of, support the issues of, and promote the advancement of the Sacramento County Filipino community of the Sacramento region." And just by looking at the nine candidates that SacFilPAC has endorsed, the organization is off to a good start. SacFilPAC Board Secretary and Endorsement Committee member, Megan Sapigao is very proud of the PAC's first set of endorsed candidates. "Each of them demonstrated a comprehensive understanding and deep respect for our community" and most of them are bringing years of service to some of the most underserved populations of the community, including Filipinos.

For the 2022 General Election, SacFilPAC is endorsing:  
 Rob Bonta, California Attorney General  
 Paul Villescaz, California Senate, District 6  
 Dave Jones, California Senate, District 8  
 Eric Guerra, California Assembly, District 10  
 Jaclyn Moreno, Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, District 5  
 Rosanna Herber, SMUD Board,



Dave Tamayo and The Sacramento Filipino Political Action Committee

Ward 4  
 Dave Tamayo, SMUD Board, Ward 6  
 Porsche Middleton, City of Citrus Heights, District 5  
 Michael Vargas, Elk Grove Unified School District, Area 2

In the summer of 2021, the steering group that would eventually recruit members to become the founding Board of Directors for SacFilPAC set a goal of developing a thorough PAC endorsement process. Specific members were recruited to form the endorsement development committee. These members included individuals with prior experience serving on a PAC, being interviewed by a PAC, or being a political scientist. In the case of Dr. Cirian Villavicencio, he was all three.

Along with others such as SMUD Director Dave Tamayo

and current PAC Board Member Bobby Roy, Cirian helped begin piecing together the foundation of what would ultimately become SacFilPAC's process to endorse candidates. "In designing the endorsement process, our committee paid careful attention and consideration to crafting the candidate questionnaire and interview questions," said Villavicencio. With input from the rest of the steering committee, it was decided that these questions posed to the candidates would be values-aligned and would find out what candidates knew about our culture. "We desired to know whether candidates knew about Filipino American history and our contributions in California. We desired to know whether they were aware of our issues and whether their values aligned with our PAC's mission of creating a more inclusive and eq-

uitable society. We also wanted to know what candidates would do to advance our interests in the region if elected." After the questions were finalized, the team worked on the process and presented it to the official Board, formed when the PAC filed with the State of California in early 2022

After the PAC filed and once Villavicencio was appointed Chair of the PAC's official Endorsement Committee, his team quickly implemented the process ratified by the Board. "Our committee reached out to all the candidates running within Sacramento County to determine if they desired our endorsement," said Villavicencio, who assigned the task of outreach to Bobby Roy. "We interviewed a number of well-known and lesser-known candidates and in doing so learned more about the important roles and responsibilities of these political offices - from our local water district to those who will represent us in the State Capitol."

With many recent, historic events happening in the Filipino community of the Sacramento region such as the appointment (and re-election) of local favorite, Rob Bonta, the founding of the Bulosan Center for Filipino studies at UC Davis, and the prospect of a new Filipino Community Center in Sacramento

County, SacFilPAC Board Secretary and Director of the Asian American Liberation Network Megan Sapigao believes that local Filipino Americans are on a clear and intentional path for representation and power. "The PAC's endorsement process was thoughtfully crafted to not only uphold the values of our community here in Sacramento, but also continue the bold political and civic advancement of our population," said Sapigao. "I was elated to be part of this endorsement group, which represented a variety of identities, experiences, generations, local neighborhoods, and job sectors - a true reflection of our growing PAC!"

As a member of the Endorsement Committee, Sapigao commented that in their interviews, it was clear that each candidate was thoughtful and dynamic in his or her own way. However, to build upon Villavicencio's goal to extract what candidates knew about the Filipino community, Sapigao said the Endorsement Committee intended to go beyond what a candidate knew about Filipino culture. "Of course, it's a beautiful thing to have an affinity for our cuisine or our history, or have Filipino friends whom you deeply care for," she commented, "but Filipinos know leaders who love our

Continued on next page

# ERIC GUERRA, The Filipino Political Action Committee's Choice for State Assembly

BY DEREK LEDDA

In the upcoming November 8 election, California voters will be making important choices regarding who will best represent their critical interests in the broad range of elected positions for which candidates are now running. For Filipino-American voters, making the right choices at the polls are all the more important because the Filipino community's interests have historically not been a priority for a elected officials, in part because the community has had very few Filipinos holding elected positions but also because we have not had enough information to make informed decisions about which candidates share our values, understand and appreciate our community's needs and can be counted on to advocate for our interests.

The Sacramento Filipino Political Action Committee (SacFilPAC) is fulfilling its mission to politically empower the Filipino community by helping Filipino voters to identify candidates who care about and will effectively promote the interests of the Filipino-American community long after the election is over. SacFilPAC is enthusiastically endorsing Eric Guerra as a friend and partner of the Filipino community and the most qualified person to partner with us as the next Assembly member for District 10 which includes Elk Grove and much of Sacramento.

Eric Guerra's values and life experience remind us of our own community's values and heritage. Eric and his family were immigrants whose lives depended on their work in the fields as a migrant farmworker family. It is not surprising that



Eric Guerra and Derek Ledda with The Sacramento Filipino Community leaders.



Eric Guerra with Cynthia Bonta and Megan Sapigao



Supporters of Eric Guerra for State Assembly

Eric also grew up with Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta and our own Filipino American hero, Larry Itliong as his role models. With the farmworker struggle as a backdrop, Eric developed his unwavering commitment to family and community which gave him his strong work ethic and focus on issues that affect the quality of life for everyday people and are important to the Filipino community, discrimination, hate crimes including anti Asian and Filipino violence, access to education and good medical care, affordable housing, public transportation, having a clean environment and supporting small businesses. The community which inspired him included the Latino and

Filipino farmworkers with whom he worked and their families who united to support each other during difficult times. It is not politics when Eric says that he has a stake in the community building a Filipino Community Center and that he will do all he can to help ensure that the community succeeds. No matter what position Eric holds, he will continue to work hard to help build a Filipino Community Center because he share's the community's dreams and aspirations. As an Assembly member, Eric will be able to do that much more to reach the goals that he shares with us.

Eric Guerra cares about Sacramento which he has called home for over 20 years. He now lives comfortably with his wife and

sons in Tahoe Park but had to overcome a lot in his early years to eventually graduate from Sac State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and then receive a Master of Public Policy and Administration. Eric is without a doubt the most qualified candidate for the State Assembly. He will use what he knows to serve the priority needs of Filipinos and other people who have not always been treated fairly by their elected officials. He is honest, hard-working and well respected for his lifetime of public service including as a current member of the Sacramento City Council. His 18 years with the State Legislature make him particularly well qualified to serve in the California State Assembly. He has broad experience,

having also served as the Governor's appointee on the California State University Board of Trustees, President of the Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, Chairman of the Sacramento County Planning Commission and President of the Sacramento State Alumni Association.

Ultimately, the decision about who to support in the race for the Assembly is about who you can trust to advocate for your interests. Will you trust Eric Guerra's opponent who just received about \$900,000 from Big Oil corporations to make their interests her priority or will you trust Eric who has been endorsed by the Sacramento Filipino Political Action Committee and the following organizations and prominent Filipino and other community leaders (Partial Lists):

Organization supporters: The Sacramento Bee, CA Democratic Party, CA Academy of Family Physicians, CA Nurses Association, CA Federation of Teachers, Community Colleges, California Attorneys, Administrative Law Judges and Hearing Officers in State Employment, Elk Grove-South County Democratic Club, National Union of Health Care Workers, Sacramento Asian Pacific Labor Alliance, CA Labor Federation, CA Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Women Democrats of Sacramento, NARAL CA and the United Farmworkers Union, among others.

Individual supporters: Christopher Cabaldon, Dave Tamayo, Vince Sales, Dr. Robyn Rodriguez, Megan Sapigao, Cynthia Bonta, Bobby Roy, Elaine Abelaye-Mateo, Sarah Enloe, Chris Alvarez, Ian Barlow, Derek Ledda, Mayor Darrel Steinberg, City Council Member Mai Vang, Warren Furutani and Dolores Huerta, among others.

Please vote for Eric Guerra for State Assembly.

## SacFilPAC

food, yet still consistently vote against our interests. And we too have friends, and even family members who we care about, but who have historically not voted in our collective favor.

"We are in a time where it is no longer acceptable for folks to just know of us," continued Sapigao, "We must be fully humanized and represented at all levels. We want to know what the candidates on the ballot understand about us now. How many Filipino Americans do they serve in their area? And in this County, 'none' is not an acceptable answer. Do they know how the seat impacts our

community? How well do they understand our current relationship to the seat? And how would they represent us and our current needs?"

Melissa Sagun, another member of the PAC's Endorsement Committee, shared Sapigao's sentiment about the final list of endorsed candidates. "The endorsed candidates of the SacFilPAC have shown exceptional knowledge and dedication to uplifting not only the Filipino American community, but ensuring greater equity, solidarity, and justice to our black and brown communities," said Sagun. "We need elected officials who recognize the hard work and value of Filipino Americans

and who will ensure that our collective history - the stories of our elders and ancestors - are recognized. Many of these individuals have been long-time leaders who have been on the ground, listening and supporting our most impacted communities."

Like her fellow Board members, Sagun shared that the Sacramento Filipino PAC is here to ensure that her community has a seat at the table. "The SacFilPAC exists because Filipino Americans need to be in the 'room where it happens.' With almost 80,000 individuals of Filipino heritage in Sacramento County, we need to remind our electeds that we exist, we have a voice, and we are a force to be reckoned with."

## Philippine Fiesta

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# California is in the heart

BY MEGAN SAPIGAO

Carefully curated by the Bulo-san Center for Filipino Studies at UC Davis, with the support of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), the exhibit features a vast array of stories from the formation of the Filipino Agricultural Labor Association in Stockton, to the strike at the International hotel in San Francisco, to Filipinos' role in the fight to combat anti-Asian hate during COVID and protect its health-care workers.

“It’s amazing to see how our community is woven into the very fabric of California history throughout this exhibit. I’m so proud,” marveled Vince A. Sales, first vice president of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, as he recognized faces of community members who raised him after immigrating from the Philippines in 1980s, the activists he worked alongside to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the late 80s and 90s, and the mural he helped commission as arts programmer for the Philippine National Day Association Lahi Arts program in 2018. “This is such a gift,” he added.

The exhibit highlights heroes such as Larry Itliong and Philip Vera Cruz of the Filipino farm worker movement; Filipino healthcare activists like Zenei Triunfo-Cortez of the CA Nurses Association; Tani Cantil-Sakauye, CA’s first Filipina Chief Justice; our first Filipino Attorney General Rob Bonta, and the Filipino Women’s Clubs of California, to name a few.

See this exhibit from now until April 9, 2023.  
 General admission is \$10.  
 Children 5 and under are free.  
 Youth 5-17 and seniors 65+ are \$8.

CA Museum  
 1020 O street  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

*Megan Sapigao, Co-Executive Director, Asian American Liberation Network*



# 2nd Annual Magkaisa (Unite): Filipino American History Month 2022 Celebration

From page 1

sources, art, food, and more.

Organized by Sacramento Filipinx LGBTQIA, the Asian American Liberation Network, Cosumnes Community Services District, JSV Events, Kommunity Hub, PNDA LahiArts, and FilAm Nexus LLC, the program took place from Oct. 7-8. The first day held the main stage programming, and started with a welcome from event stage hosts, Chris Mateo and Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez, who spoke about the history of Filipinos in the region, the current data on the population, and the important issues affecting the community. Caressa Nguyen from Sacred Land Native Hands led the group in a land acknowledgement presentation.

It was then followed by the presenting of proclamations by local elected officials, recognizing Filipino American History Month from their respective offices. Trustee Sean Yang from Elk Grove Unified School District, City of Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh Allen, Councilmember Mai Vang and Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra for the City of Sacramento all presented their resolutions, proclamations, and declarations, acknowledging the importance of the month and the history of Filipino Americans in the region. The stage hosts then spoke of the importance of civic engagement and reminded the audience of the upcoming election year, pointing to the Fil Political Action Committee (PAC) booth where folks could register to vote. Other tabling organizations present were the Asian American Liberation Network,



Stage Performer



The Franklin High Haka Club



Bahay Kubo food truck



Street Vendor

Elica Health, Sierra Donor Health Services Clinic & UC Davis Women's Clinic, Sacramento Covered, Sacramento Filipinx LGBTQIA+ x Kamayan Coalition, Sacred Land Native Hands, The Reclamation Project 916, NCPASA, Liberty Mutual, Vaccinate 58, Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity (FCSV), The Laban Group, CA Northstate University School of Pharmacology, and the Bulosan Center. Lastly, the FilAm Nexus & PNDA LahiArts held an art exhibit entitled Fil Am Artists Works on Paper.

Workshops were also held in the adjoining classrooms, starting with "Tuloy Ang Laban! Continue the Fight" with Cely Corpuz and NCPASA, followed by "The He(art) of Healing Through Storytelling & Poetry" with Nikki Abeleda, and ending with "Finding Home in your Body: A Plant Magic Workshop" with Magpie Alchemy. The main stage programming continued with a schedule of performances by DJ Stephan & MC Ray Ray Finesse Mobile Entertainment, Isabel Angeles, Ana Tri, Let's Dance Group, Solstice Dance

Club, The Franklin High Haka Club, and the SinagTala Filipino Theatre and Performing Arts Association.

Outside, the event was joined by UBE Fest Nightmarket Vendors: Bahay Kubo, Fresh off the Boat Chef T, Frozen Paradise Shaved Ice, Happy Mac, Pastries, and More, O.G. Lola's, Pinorrito, Bella Nova Inc. Apothecary, Get Fitted by V, Heat Legends, Kandelita Company, Magpie Alchemy, Mälama Originals, Mie Makes, Native Sol, YAS (You Aspire Success) Queen, Art by Mindy, HV.Arteest, and Studio

Damili.

On the second day of the event, the program held the Filipinx LGBTQIA+: Inspire, Resist, & Empower (FIRE) Conference, which not only celebrated shared histories and identities but ignited the FIRE within Filipinx LGBTQIA+ peoples. This conference was co-organized by the Kamayan Coalition and Sacramento Filipinx LGBTQIA+ and was built around the theme of fire, an element which is often associated with passion, assertiveness, and transformation. The program included Filipinx and LGBTQIA+ Vendors and Community Resources, Live Art Demonstrations by Kiki, Collective Zine Making, and other Filipinx LGBTQIA+ Art Exhibits. Irma Shauf-Bajar, Executive Director of 18 Million Rising, was the Keynote Speaker.

There were also panels such as "Ang Pamilya ay Pamilya/Family is Family" with Tim and Liz Fenkell, Marcy Basila, moderated by Aimee Espiritu, and "Maki Baka! Huwag Matakot": Filipinx QT ND Organizers" with Sam Sipin, Mak Aruta, Nickel Rivera, moderated by MB Salem. Workshops were also held, such as "Call to Action: Justice for Jaxon Sales" led by Jim and Angie Sales, and "Building a Queer Asian Community and Movement" by Glenn Magpantay.

The event closed with a special thank you, screening of Late Night Love by Brian Dublin, a live performance by Kita Mahal, and Pinay Party: Pinay Party: Mya Lusion, PrincessB, Ronnie Punani, & Tsunomi Punoni.

## ICON Awards: Honoring Exemplary Filipino Americans

From page 1

and Kaying Hang, Senior Vice President of Programs and Partnerships.. Nilda G. Valmores was then presented her award for Community Leadership, Elaine Abelaye-Mateo for her Entrepreneurship, and Dave Tamayo for Environmental Policy.

Josie Patria then introduced the Guest Speaker of the night, Attorney General Rob Bonta, who was also honored with the Leadership in Government award. All award recipients were then brought on stage and serenaded by Rollie Ma-mauag.

Community members were then treated to a parade illustrating the historical and contemporary Icons from the Filipino community. The program ended with a rendition of "Ako ay Pilipino" sung by Remy Solomon and the FCSV Ensemble.



Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta (C), Cynthia, Dick, Mercedes, Josie and Vince



The Igorotas



Dinnah, Mina and Edna



Amanda and Dane



Lilia Rivera



Carlos as Pacquiao



Mercedes, Carol, Dick and Frank



Edna Delos Reyes

# 5 Facts to Know About Veterans Day

BY KATIE LANGE

**V**eterans Day is a well-known American holiday, but there are also a few misconceptions about it — like how it’s spelled or whom exactly it celebrates. To clear some of that up, here are the important facts you should know.

**Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe.**

A lot of people think it’s “Veteran’s Day” or “Veterans’ Day,” but they’re wrong. The holiday is not a day that “belongs” to one veteran or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It’s a day for honoring all veterans — so no apostrophe needed.

**Veterans Day is NOT the Same as Memorial Day.**

A lot of Americans get this confused, and we’ll be honest — it can be a little annoying to all of the living veterans out there.

Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the country in war or peace — dead or alive — although it’s largely intended to thank living veterans for their sacrifices.

**It was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I.**

World War I officially ended when the



Soldier stands at Vietnam War Memorial with flag.

Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting ended about seven months before that when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

For that reason, Nov. 11, 1918, was largely considered the end of “the war to end all wars” and dubbed Armistice Day. In 1926, Congress officially recognized it as the end of the war, and in 1938, it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

But then World War II and the Korean War happened, so on June 1, 1954, at the urging of veterans service organizations, Congress amended the commemoration yet again by changing the

word “armistice” to “veterans” so the day would honor American veterans of all wars.

For a while, Veterans Day’s date was changed, too, and it confused everybody.

Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill in 1968 to ensure that a few federal holidays — Veterans Day included — would be celebrated on a Monday. Officials hoped it would spur travel and other family activities over a long weekend, which would stimulate the economy.

**For some inexplicable reason, the bill set Veterans Day commemorations for the fourth Monday of every October.**

On Oct. 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under this new bill was held. We’re not sure why it took three years to implement, but not surprisingly, there was a lot of confusion about the change, and many states were unhappy, choosing to continue to recognize the day as they previously had — in November.

Within a few years, it became pretty apparent that most U.S. citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So on Sept. 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed another law (Public Law 94-97), which returned the annual observance to its original date starting in 1978.

**Other countries celebrate it, too, in their own ways.**

World War I was a multinational effort, so it makes sense that our allies also wanted to celebrate their veterans on Nov. 11. The name of the day and the types of commemorations differ, however.

Canada and Australia both call Nov. 11 “Remembrance Day.” Canada’s observance is pretty similar to our own, except many of its citizens wear red poppy flowers to honor their war dead. In Australia, the day is more akin to our Memorial Day.

Great Britain calls it “Remembrance Day,” too, but observes it on the Sunday closest to Nov. 11 with parades, services and two minutes of silence in London to honor those who lost their lives in war. *DODWebmaster*

## Veteranos Day

BY DALE ESPERANTE

**Calling all Filipino American Veterans, you are invited to join us on November 19, 2022, at Magellan Hall.**

Veteranos Day is an annual event presented by the Sacramento State University sorority Kappa Psi Epsilon (KpsiE). The sorority organization will treat us with entertainment, gifts, games, and attention. In addition, they will provide dinner, desserts, and beverages. There will be no cost to the veterans and spouses.

All that’s needed is for the veterans to RSVP no later than November 11, 2022. For the veterans who are already members of Magellan Post 604, you are already counted on to

join us.

For the veterans who are not members of Magellan Post 604, please contact Adjutant Dale by email to: [esperante1868@frontier.com](mailto:esperante1868@frontier.com) to reserve your seats. Considering Magellan Hall can only accommodate 150 guests, we can only welcome the first 35 non-member veterans and spouses who RSVP to this Veterano Day.

So if you are interested to join the Veteranos Day festivities on November 19 at 11am, please email the adjutant before November 11



Sacramento State University Sorority Kappa Psi Epsilon (KpsiE)



Elk Grove Veterans Day Parade November 11, 2017





BY BENJAMIN ABAYA

# Thanksgiving Day: Remember the Homeless and Destitute

There are two events in the month of November this year that are significant for all Americans to observe. First and foremost is the Midterm Elections on November 8th that will decide between the two major parties in our country as to which of them will control the Senate and the House of Representatives of the legislative branch of our government.

The coming election has sensitive issues to be answered by all political parties such as Abortion, Racial discrimination, Inflation and Recession, Asian Hate, Immigration, Climate change, Gun control, Student debt relief and many other issues that deeply affect our day-to-day living. Ironically, many of these political issues could not easily be understood by a layman until one or two of them sting our daily sustenance from breakfast to dinner food. Even worst, in our peaceful living the unexpected could happen while walking on the park enjoying the sight and peaceful surrounding when a deranged racist will assault us because we are Asians looking at blaming us to have spread the pandemic or anything that we have nothing to do about it.

Perhaps, we will now know after almost two years of investigation on what really happened during that chaotic, destructive and bloody insurrection at the Capitol to stop and even to reverse the proclamation of the winners of the presidential election by the Electoral College as a result of the 2020 elections. The January 6 Committee of the United States Congress House of Representatives finally sent subpoenas to former President Donald Trump to be deposed and even-

tually to personally testify before the Committee and to bring out pertinent documents as subpoenaed. The said congressional power will test how strong or weak our democracy to bring out the truth about what really happened on that historic day.

It is obvious that the former president has been in the middle of this controversy as he encouraged his unruly supporters on that day to proceed to the Capitol building to stop the ongoing proceeding of the Electoral College constitutional mandate to count the votes of the 2020 presidential elections and to declare the winners of the same.

The other event in the month of November is not less important but a great tradition observed several centuries ago referred to as Thanksgiving Day. It is usually celebrated in the month of November every year since its proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln during his term. However, the date of celebration was altered several times until it was made permanent by the joint resolution of the United States Congress duly approved by President Franklin Roosevelt mandating the fourth Thursday of November every year as the Thanksgiving Day starting the year 1942, thereby removing the privilege of the executive the power to choose the date of celebration of our Thanksgiving Day.

Accordingly, this great tradition is originally traced to have begun in 1621 by the Plymouth colonists to celebrate their bountiful harvests with their befriended Native Americans. There was a semblance of peace between the early English colonists and different Indigenous tribes for more than two centuries as many of them jointly celebrated Thanksgiving Day.



Many countries have their own version of Thanksgiving Day, the celebration usually centered on their religious belief as well as a social gathering amongst family and close friends. When the Philippines was a United States territory, the celebration of Thanksgiving Day was patterned after the American way. As expected, only the rich Filipinos and Americans residing or assigned in the Philippines can afford to celebrate because of the exorbitant prices of the kind of food served for the occasion such as oven-baked turkey, ham, cranberry sauce, mashed potato, green beans, bread stuffing and many other ingredients. In contrast, the Filipinos who are traditionally gregarious enjoyed the day with their families and close friends with the kind of food that they most craved to have on their table such as roast pig or lechon, fried chicken, kare-kare, pancit and many other local recipes. When we regained our Independence from the United States, the Thanksgiving Day tradition continued until the imposition of Martial Law in 1972 by then President Ferdinand Marcos who tried to make September 21 as Thanksgiving Day, but this was stoically set aside by most of the Filipinos because of the alleged human rights abuses of the regime.

The only event that will be concluded in this coming midterm election will be the election of the candidates for their respective positions while the rest of the issues mentioned above will continue to be unsolved and what could be even worst that these subjects would be as usual placed into the limbo of

forgotten things to be revived again in the succeeding election.

Undoubtedly, there is only one political issue that

can be seen by us almost every day as we come out from our dwelling to walk or even drive along our inner main streets the presence of homeless and destitute standing at every corner or even in the middle of the road begging for alms to passerby. By just looking at fellow Americans extending their hands to receive a loose change for their food to ebb their hunger is pathetic. Obviously, these nameless and faceless individuals need help to alleviate themselves from such heartbreaking condition.

Our community leaders, regardless of nationalities, should come together with our politicians and authorities concerned in a common bound of unity, to look for themselves these seemingly endless problems of homelessness and destitution which has become a pitiful sight in our streets, riverbanks and public parks. We see these places for ourselves, rows of multi-colored tents where these unfortunate individuals shelter themselves from rain and the excruciating heat of the sun.

This is the time of the year when we look on the problems of homelessness and destitution which we confront daily in our lives, to at least give a semblance of reducing the predicament by our united efforts. Let us show our community that Asians are partners in every issue that our community face. We do not harbor any kind of hate or discrimination against anyone. We do not spread any kind of sickness because we follow to the letter the protocols strictly enforced by the authorities. Moreover, Asians are in the middle of the

COVID-19 global pandemic with our frontliners who like others are risking their own lives to combat the spread of this deadly disease.

Conversely, we are for gun control to minimize criminality. We abhor any kind of violence against anyone like what recently happened against the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi who was attacked by right winged extremist. We are for legal and documented immigration to benefit those migrants who are persecuted based on their political and religious beliefs as well as those seeking for better life. Moreover, Asians cannot be blamed if some of them are employed with high paying jobs because they are obviously hired based on their expertise and educational qualifications by both government and private sectors. The Asian community has not in any way exerted any effort to pressure hiring agencies to employ applicants based on their racial identity.

For 20 long years, the Filipino American community in Sacramento has been extending their helping hands to the unfortunate, homeless and destitute through personal efforts or through religious and civic organizations for their common good. Likewise, some community members are also willing to volunteer their services and expertise to serve in the frontlines of any calamities that might occur to augment other entities geared toward the same objectives.

Kudos to our Filipino American doctors, nurses, soldiers, law enforcement agencies and medical workers for their tireless efforts at the height of the pandemic and other calamities facing our country. Our highest respect to Philippine Fiesta News online managed by husband-and-wife team Dave and Dinnah San Pedro together with other media outlet for disseminating such lamentable occurrences and the good services rendered by our volunteers.

# The Origins of 25 Monsters, Ghosts, and Spooky Things

From myths to literature to giant squid, here's how some of our favorite eerie creatures and legends got their start.

BY SONYA VATOMSKY

Though dressing up as an angel is acceptable, it's ghouls and goblins that truly capture our imaginations during the Halloween season. As lit jack-o'-lanterns beckon and monsters lurk in the shadows, we explore the origins of 25 frightful things that go bump—or boo—in the night.

## Jack-O'-Lanterns

The name “jack-o'-lantern” comes from an Irish myth, in which a man called Stingy Jack tricks the Devil and ends up condemned to walk the earth, unable to get into heaven or hell. According to the tale, the original lantern was a carved-out turnip Jack used to light his way as he wandered in the dark. When Irish immigrants brought this story to America, they discovered that pumpkins, native to their new home, made an even spookier candle-holder.

## Zombies

The flesh-eating creatures of movies galore are Haitian in origin—animated corpses raised by Voodoo priests, called bokors. Once reanimated, the zombies would remain under the control of the bokor and do their bidding. The creatures first entered widespread popular culture in the 1929 book *The Magic Island* by William Seabrook and three years later in the film *White Zombie*, though our modern zombies have come to be associated more with plagues and viruses than sorcery.

## Crystal Balls

A fortune-teller's staple, crystal balls may have been described by Pliny the Elder in the 1st century. In one chapter of his *Natural History*, he discusses magic performed with water, balls, and all sorts of other tools. Some scholars have associated these practices with the Druids, which Pliny also discusses. It's said that Druids would employ a procedure known as “scrying,” in which they stared into the reflective surfaces of mirrors, water, and, yes, crystals, to gain insight.

## Mummies

In ancient Egypt, mummification was a type of body preservation thought to be developed by people looking to mimic the way the desert kept bodies from decaying. As the popularity of all things Egyptian skyrocketed

in Europe during the 19th century, the mummy and its supposed curse became a standard horror trope, appearing in stories by authors such as Bram Stoker, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and even Louisa May Alcott.

## Friday the 13th

So many of us fear the number 13 that there's a word for it: triskaidekaphobia. The superstitions surrounding Friday the 13th, however, are less concrete. One theory traces it to the Last Supper, attended by 12 apostles and Jesus, and the fact that the crucifixion traditionally took place on a Friday. The combined fear of Fridays and the number 13, however, didn't really take hold until the early 20th century, when Thomas Lawson published a book called (surprise) *Friday, the Thirteenth*.

## Trolls

Trolls come from Norse mythology, and are prevalent in folklore throughout Scandinavia. They generally live in caves or around other rocky formations, and can be either giant or quite small. Paleoanthropologists like Björn Kurtén have argued that the troll mythos comes from passed-down tales of when our Cro-Magnon ancestors met Neanderthals thousands of years ago.

## Headless Horsemen

In Irish legends, the dullahan is a frightening being indeed: sitting upon a horse, the man rides with his head held high in his hand so that he may scan his surroundings. If that wasn't creepy enough, don't worry. The dullahan also carries a whip made out of a human spine. Be careful if he stops and says your name—you'll die instantly.

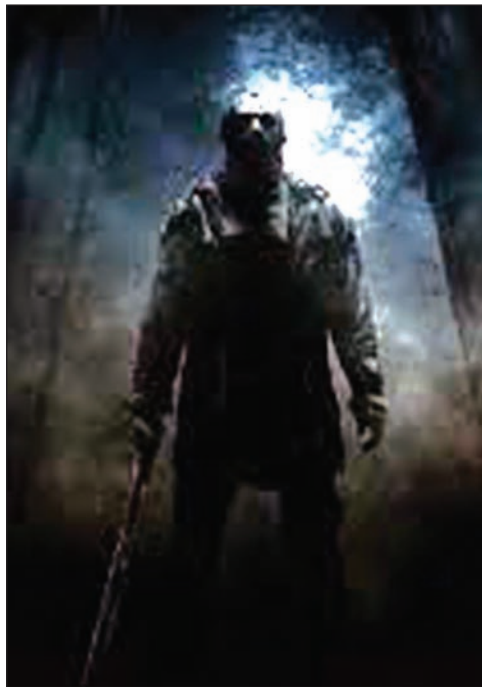
## Bigfoot

Bigfoot is a large, furry, ape-like creature that predominantly lives in the mountains and for-



Headless Horsemen

ests of the Pacific Northwest—though he has also been spotted throughout the rest of North America. While many Bigfoot sightings are said to be hoaxes, it's believed that Bigfoot shares an origin story with other similar



Friday the 13th

creatures, like the Abominable Snowman: Humans, it turns out, have a tendency to make up giant, wild, ape-like creatures that live at the edges of civilization. Similar creatures are found in the First Nations myths of British Columbia, where some say the Sasquatch was a figure meant to keep children from misbehaving.

## Vampires

Vampires entered modern society through the publication of John Polidori's *The Vampyre* (1819) and Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897). Though vampire-like creatures are present in the mythologies of many cultures, it was literature that began to shape their traits into the iconic ones we know today. The vampires of Eastern Europe, for example, were not pale and thin, but ruddy and bloated.

reported in the 6th century, and told of an Irish monk's encounter with a “water beast,” it was a 1934 photograph that brought international attention to Loch Ness. Known as the “surgeon's photograph” after the London doctor who took it, the image has since been exposed as a hoax.

## Dragons

Because cultures across the world have myths featuring dragons, it's likely the beasts have their origins in a much more mundane creature. One theory holds that dinosaur fossils, like those of the stegosaurus, were thought to be the remains of dragons. Anthropologist David E. Jones has another theory. In his book *An Instinct for Dragons*, Jones argues that a fear of large predators is inherent to the human mind.

## Mermaids and Mermen

Half-human and half-fish, mermaids exist in multiple mythologies as both beautiful maidens and frightening monsters. One of the earliest examples of such a hybrid are the apkallu of Babylonian mythology, sages associated with the god Ea that were depicted as half-man, half-fish.

## Chupacabra

The well-named chupacabra, which literally means “goat-sucker,” goes back to the '90s in Puerto Rico, when eight sheep were found dead and entirely drained of blood. Since then, it has been a popular, ahem, scapegoat whenever livestock are suspiciously harmed. Theories hold that mange-infected dogs and coyotes, not chupacabras, committed the actual crimes.

## Magic Wands

Ancient Egyptian practitioners of magic used metal or ivory wands decorated with images of deities. In Homer's *The Odyssey*, written in the 8th century BCE, the sorceress Circe turns men into pigs through the use of a magic wand.

## Bloody Mary

Chanting “Bloody Mary” in front of the mirror of a dark bathroom is a sleepover tradition with debatable origins. The titular Mary could be English Queen Mary I, who accused many Protestants of heresy and sealed their fate, earning her the nickname “Bloody Mary.” Given the common name, however, it's possible Mary doesn't refer to anyone at all—she's scary either way!

## Werewolf

The werewolf, whether a human

## Trick-or-Treating

Mumming, or going around the neighborhood in costume and saying specific lines in exchange for food, has been a staple of certain holidays since the Middle Ages. This custom first applied to Halloween in 16th century Scotland, when it was called “guising.” The term “trick-or-treat” wasn't used until the 1930s, and is decidedly American.

## The Kraken

According to Nordic folklore, the Kraken was a giant sea monster that could devour a ship and its entire crew in one swallow. The legend likely has its origins in sailors' encounters with giant squid—reaching up to 60 feet in length, they might not be monsters, but they're pretty close.

## Flying Broomsticks

Mumming, or going around the neighborhood in costume and saying specific lines in exchange for food, has been a staple of certain holidays since the Middle Ages. This custom first applied to Halloween in 16th century Scotland, when it was called “guising.” The term “trick-or-treat” wasn't used until the 1930s, and is decidedly American.

## The Loch Ness Monster

Arguably the world's most famous sea monster, Nessie is said to inhabit Loch Ness in Scotland. Though the earliest sighting was

Continued on next page

# Pandemic movie 'Broken Blooms' wins awards at international film festivals

Director Louie Ignacio receives the Special Jury Award for his film "Broken Blooms" at the 8th Brasilia International Film Festival in Brazil.

BY MARIDOL RANO-A-BISMAR

MANILA, Philippines — Director Louie Ignacio is a veteran of many awards for film and television. But the prestigious Special Jury award he got from the 8th Brasilia International Film Festival in Brazil for "Broken Blooms" is different.

"It's the first and only Filipino film that made it in the Brazilian filmfest," he told the press in a thanksgiving event at the Manila Hotel.

The director's heart leaped for joy when he saw his kababayans wave tiny Filipino flags when he went up the stage after traveling 40 hours from Manila to Brazil to receive the award.

The Brazilians applauded, too. It turned out they identi-

fied with some of the scenes. The crystal clear waters where lead stars Jeric Gonzales (named Best Actor at Italy's 4th Montelupo Fiorentino International Independent Film Festival and at India's Mokkho International Film Festival) and Therese Malvar (Mokkho International Film Festival Best Actress) romped as a couple in the film, are reminiscent of Brazil's long coastline. The Brazilians were also able to relate to the wedding scenes and the COVID-19 situation.



Director Louie Ignacio

Producer Ferdie Lapuz recalled a comment in the Q and A (Question and Answer) session following the film screening.

"Someone said we handled the pandemic better. The Brazilians also commented that the film should be in competition because it tackled the COVID issue," Lapuz shared.

The edge of "Broken Blooms," added Lapuz, lies in how it treated the themes of COVID-19, family and social matters. The themes were serious, but the treatment was not heavy-handed.

The film's other awards are the Gold Remi Award at Houston International Film Festival and Best Narrative Feature at two festivals, namely, the Mokkho International Film Festival and the Tagore International Film Festival.

The Tagore International Film Festival gave Gonzales and Jaclyn Jose Outstanding Achievements for Best Actor and Best Actress awards; Ignacio, the

Critics' Choice for Best Director and TM Malones, Best Cinematography honors. Gonzales also won Best Actor at the Harlem International Film Festival in New York.

The Mokkho International Film Festival gave Ignacio a Special Jury for Director.

The director considers Gonzales his trophy actor since the former succeeded in bringing out the best in the GMA talent.

"I motivated him by promising to give him a best actor award if he does his job well. An award is every actor's dream. I know Jeric is good. His talent surfaced in 'Broken Blooms,'" the director said.

The film will be shown in the Philippines this year. It is the maiden venture of Engr. Benjamin Austria's Bentria Productions.

## The Origins of 25 Monsters



Werewolf

who shifts into a wolf or a human/wolf hybrid, was first mentioned in The Epic of Gilgamesh, which tells of a woman who turned a previous lover into a wolf. Another popular origin story is the Greek myth of Lycaon, whom Zeus turned into a wolf in a fit of rage. A synonym for werewolf is, of course, lycanthrope.

### Banshee

Female spirits from Irish mythology, banshees foretell death by screaming or wailing. They can appear as young maidens or old hags, and usually have unkempt hair and green or red clothing. Their name, ben side in Old Irish, literally means "female fairy" or "female elf."

### Kodama

Kodama are Japanese tree spirits. According to legend, they live in trees that are over 100 years old;

in some stories, they reside in specific trees, but in others, they can move throughout the forest. Introduced to the West through the Studio Ghibli film Princess Mononoke, their legend goes further back—the Kojiki, or "Records of Ancient Matters," the oldest surviving Japanese book, mentions something similar.

### Poltergeist

Poltergeist, which means "noisy ghost" in German, is usually a spirit that haunts a person rather than a location. They usually express their anger through the disruption of the household: slamming doors, moving chairs and other objects, and even pinching people. The first investigated cases of poltergeists happened in Scotland and England in the late 1600s, and involved enchanted drums, beggars seeking revenge, and devil worship. The famous

movie, however, didn't come out until 1982.

### Dybbuk

A dybbuk is a malevolent spirit from Jewish mythology that possesses its human host—the name comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to cling." Said to be the soul of a dead person, the dybbuk first appeared in 16th century literature before frightening us in films like 2009's The Unborn and 2012's The Possession.

### "Boo"

The oldest record in the OED for the modern spelling of boo is found in the writing of two 18th-century Scots—Gilbert Crockett and John Monroe, who said it was "used in the north of Scotland to frighten crying children." It has since spread far and wide.

### Razors in Candy Bars

Poisoned candy, chocolate bars with needles inside, and even treats containing razor blades have been used to scare children around Halloween since the mid-1900s—the myth gained traction through news segments, advice columns like Dear Abby, and word of mouth. The good news is that fear of candy-tampering is almost entirely unfounded: Sociologist Joel Best investigated and discovered only instances of adults messing with candy to try and get money, or children doing the same for attention.

*Mental Floss*

# OCRETO ALVARADO

FRIDAY  
NOVEMBER 4TH, 2022  
5:00 PM - 7:30PM

## THROUGH MY FATHER'S EYES

THE FILIPINO AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS OF RICARDO OCRETO ALVARADO

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF TMFE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL TOUR

Through My Father's Eyes: The Filipino American Photographs of Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado is a collection of 50 photographs chosen from more than 3,000 discovered by his daughter, Janet Alvarado after his death. This exhibit offers a rare view into the daily lives of Filipino Americans in the post-World War II era.

WEST SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY CENTER ART GALLERY 1075

1075 WEST CAPITOL AVENUE WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2022 5:00PM - 7:30 PM



# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED

**MAGELLAN POST-604**

**INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE**



**"OPEN TO ALL U.S. MILITARY VETERANS"**

**Time: 1500 Hours (3:00pm)**

**Location: 8831 Gerber Rd. Sacramento, CA 95828**

**Food and Refreshments will be served**