

People and Events

'Miracle in Rwanda' set for exclusive engagement at LATC

LOS ANGELES—Filipino-American actress, playwright, and producer Leslie Lewis Sword brings the true life story of Rwanda genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza to the stage in the upcoming extended run of her powerful one woman production of *Miracle in Rwanda*. The production kicks off Latino Theatre Company's Face of the World Festival at the newly renovated Los Angeles Theatre Center (the New LATC) and is set for a three-week run beginning Sept. 11.

In the play, Leslie portrays ten different characters in depicting the remarkable story of how Immaculée bravely survived the genocide of the Tutsis by the Hutus following the assassination of the Rwandan president in 1994. Along with seven other women, Immaculée was hidden by a Hutu pastor for 91 days in a tiny bathroom while Hutu killers repeatedly search for them.

With only her deep devotion to her faith to keep her alive, Immaculée prayed the Rosary every day until she and women make a dashing escape to a nearby French Army camp for refugees. Ultimately, the man who butchered her family is captured by the French and comes face to face with Immaculée. What will Immaculée choose to do when she sees him?

Leslie Lewis Sword, who is the daughter of Filipina philanthropist Loida Lewis, received degrees from Harvard University and the UCLA Department of Theatre. She made her New York debut as Dorothy Dandridge in *Yesterday Came Too Soon*, a solo show at the National Black Theater of Harlem which played to sold out audiences. She also co-starred with Billy Zane in the short film *Starving Hysterical Naked*, a biopic about the Beat Generation Writers.

Drawing from her friendship with Immaculée, Leslie, along with co-writer Edward Vilga, developed *Miracle in Rwanda* through workshops in New York in 2006. The first full performance of the show took place on February 8, 2007 in Naples, Florida (TheatreZone) and has since been performed across the country and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year to sold out audiences.

For more information about Immaculée Ilibagiza and the Rwanda genocide, please visit www.lefttotell.com (taken from Immaculée's New York Times best-seller *Left to Tell*). Leslie Lewis Sword's profile can be found at www.leslie-land.com. Additional information about *Miracle in Rwanda* can be found at the production website, www.miracleinrwanda.com.

Chow King Carson Awards Cavite Youth Team



CARSON, CA—The Gray Team of the youth division won first place in the championship games of the yearly summer basketball league of the Cavite Association of Southern California held Sept. 6 at the Veterans Park gym in Carson. The Gray Team which beat the blue team received prizes from Chow King Carson.

Ross Joya of the Cavite association expressed his gratitude to Chow King Carson for the donation.

"These young players are very glad to receive the donation. We are thankful that Chow King Carson has annually supported the youth basketball league. We hope that they will continue to encourage sports among the Filipino American youth," Joya said. Cavite Governor Erineo Maliksi, who spoke at the sports championship event, said that he is thankful for being invited. Maliksi said that the Cavite association should continue to hold the basketball league so that Cavite town associations can get together in friendly competition. (Fe P. Koons)



Valenzuelans launch Project 'Alay Bigas'

GLENDALE—The poor residents of Valenzuela City, Metro Manila have a reason to be thankful this coming Christmas season.

The Valenzuela Association of USA has launched its Project *Alay Bigas* which will benefit the people of depressed, underserved and underprivileged communities of this city which is formerly known as Polo, an erstwhile town of Bulacan province.

In a meeting held at the office of S. S. San Diego & Associates on Windsor St., Glendale, the

association has identified the various barangays which will get free rice from December 2008 to January 2009.

Expenses for Project *Alay Bigas* will come from the funds of the association headed by Alfred M. Deato, 2008-2009 president.

Aside from this, the Valenzuela Association will soon hold a fund-raising activity to augment the amount earmarked for Project *Alay Bigas*.

The recent meeting of the association was presided over by Deato and had for its guest Frank N. Mendoza, president of Samahang Bulakan, Inc.

Founded in 1993, the association's first president is

former Valenzuela Councilor Pete G. Francisco.

Isidro "Sid" S. San Diego succeeded Francisco and served as president for two years, 1994 and 1995.

Others who became presidents include Conrado "Boy" Tan, Emil C. Mendoza, Romy Eulogio, Gloria S. Francisco and Erlinda F. Ganiron.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the association for its "commitment to strengthen the camaraderie among the Valenzuelans in the United States."

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has earlier commended the organization for

its "sound reputation for service and achievement."

"I applaud your dedication to bringing together (Filipino) community members together for a celebration of shared heritage," the chief executive of the Golden State said.

Likewise, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa commended the Valenzuela Association for its "dedication to providing mainstreaming activities to our Filipino community."

Its officers and members are looking forward for a grand homecoming-reunion in Christmas season 2012 which will be held in Valenzuela City, Philippines.

Manuel dela Fuente Grand Reunion

CALLING all Batch '69-77 Manuel dela Fuente teachers and graduates. There will be a grand reunion on May 9, 2009 to be held in Santa Ana, Manila. For more information, please log on to geocities.com/mdfhs, or call and leave a message to (562) 426-1672.

'Love one another as I have loved you...'

WELCOME! You're cordially invited to Couples for Christ—"Christian Life Program" starting September 13, 2008 and every Saturday at the Holy Family Church on Lomita Street, Glendale, CA.

There are no fees or any monetary expenses required of participating. The only investment required is your time and your openness.

...We are called to promote the well-being of all, to share our blessings with those most in need, to "defend marriage," the renewal and strengthening of Catholic Christian family life, the work of Christ which raises up Christian couples and establishes Christian families committed to the work of evangelization through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are part of a global community that hold fast to a mission of the Seven Pillars of God—guiding, nurturing and educating the young, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless, feeding the hungry, to defend the sanctity of life, and to reach out to those who need Jesus to become the center of their lives. We are the Couples for Christ, an international private lay of the faithful approved by Vatican. Couples for Christ is a movement intended for the

renewal and strengthening of Catholic Christian family life, and is a work of Christ which raises up Christian couples and establishes Christian families committed to the work of evangelization through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Christian Life Program (CLP) is open to all married couples and unmarried couples that have no impediment to becoming validly married, kids, youth, singles, divorced men and women. We believe that the family is a creation of God and no one else has any right to change it, its structure and its purpose. We believe that God's plan for all creation continues to operate, "namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship" (Eph 1:10). Peace is with you all.. JOIN US and WELCOME.

(Kids Watch and refreshments will be provided) For more information, please call any of the following: Chris Lopez (818) 244-1046, Eric Picazo (818) 421-4937, Bing Herrera (323) 490-2936.

Aggie Dolinska is an associate attorney with Wilner & O'Reilly, APLC. Ms. Dolinska's immigration practice involves all areas of Immigration and Nationality Law, including family and employment-based immigration, non-immigrant visas, deportation defense, litigation, and asylum law. Ms. Dolinska is currently the head of the litigation and deportation department at Wilner & O'Reilly. Her removal defense practice includes representing clients in proceedings before the Immigration Court, and on appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Dolinska is admitted to both the State Bar of California and the State Bar of Utah. She is also admitted to practice law before the United States District Court for the Central District of California and the US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit.

Aggie can be reached at Wilner & O'Reilly's main office number 562-207-6789 or aggie@wilneroreilly.com.

(Advertising Supplement)

Philippine music and dance interconnect under the stars at Ford Amphitheatre

Four multi-disciplinary folk and traditional arts groups collaborate for Sept. 13 event

LOS ANGELES—The Philippines' rich and diverse culture of dance and music will be presented in celebratory fashion—under the stars—as Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts presents *MAGKAUGNAY* ("Interconnectedness"), Saturday, September 13, 8 pm at The Ford Amphitheatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East in the Hollywood Hills, just off the 101 Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl. Presented as part of The Ford Amphitheatre's *LA Oasis Summer Series*, the evening premieres a creative, rarely performed vibrant collaborative numbers featuring a mix of traditional and post-modernist dance accompanied musically by the resounding rhythms of drums and metal gongs, the spellbinding sounds of the kulintang and the splendidly sublime stringed rondalla instruments.

MAGKAUGNAY features a range of specialized works led by Kayamanan Ng Lahi, with northern hill tribe celebrations by Institute of Native Arts, lowland Spanish-tinged festivities by the Rondalla Club of Los Angeles, and the southern islands' time-honored cultural heritage represented via San Diego's Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble. The evening marks the first time that all four accomplished groups, rooted in tradition but inspired by contemporary movements, have interconnected to celebrate the Philippine spirit in music and dance.

"Kayamanan Ng Lahi is excited to be working

with Institute of Native Arts, Rondalla Club of Los Angeles and Pakaraguian," Joel Jacinto, cultural program director of Kayamanan Ng Lahi noted. "These groups are the best in their genre of Philippine dance and music. Although a small island country, the Philippines is very diverse in cultural traditions. Our hope with this collaboration is to show that however different our cultural heritage between the different regions of the archipelago, Filipinos are working together to build a stronger community here in America and we are achieving it through the universal themes and through love of dance and music."

The event will also feature special guest soloist Camile Velasco, the *American Idol Season 3* top ten finalist, to serenade the audience with a Filipino love song as part of the production.

Tickets, priced at \$25 for adults and \$5 full-time students and children, can be purchased at www.FordTheatres.org or by calling the Ford box office at (323) 461-3673. The \$5 tickets are made possible thanks to a grant from Target, sponsor of Target Dance Series at the Ford. Target strives to make the arts affordable and accessible to youth and families because the arts help foster an appreciation and understanding of various cultures and points of view.

Tickets are also available by through Kayamanan Ng Lahi at 310-391-2357 or via email at kayamanan@earthlink.net.



MAIN EVENT PATRONS. Ms. Trinity Foliente, staunch supporter starmedia concerts poses with Grace Mercado Ouano and Rupert Ouano, a Pilates enthusiast who will open a Pilates and Yoga Center in North Hollywood very soon. Photo taken at the Main event concert last Sept. 6 2008 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.



US naturalization test – not as scary...

From PAGE C4 For example, the applicants who fall under the scope of the new test will be required to name one American Indian tribe, identify one of the U.S. states bordering Canada, and list two Cabinet-level positions like Secretary of State and Secretary of Labor.

The information about the new redesigned test is available on the USCIS website found at www.uscis.gov. The redesigned naturalization tests, including the reading and writing tests, as well as history and government questions, are available on the website as well. Additionally, the USCIS has come up with the US Civics and Citizenship Online: Resource Center for Instructors, which is a web-based program for teachers and volunteers who work with adult immigrant population. The program will provide lesson plans, teacher assessments, and materials on civics and citizenship that can be used by English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers.

Good luck to all of you embarking on the quest to become US citizens. Please remember that a reputable and knowledgeable attorney can help you through this process, including the testing. In our office, we guide our clients through the

Breast cancer awareness

DEAR friends,

On June 18, 2008, Ms. Alva Marie Argonza, a more than five-year civil servant for the State of California passed away in less than two years of being diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer. She was only 35 years old. Family and friends of Ms. Argonza were devastated by the loss. I had known Alva since grade school. She was my maid of honor at my wedding and the godmother to my daughter.

Equally shocking was learning that Filipinos have the HIGHEST DEATH RATE from breast cancer than any other Asian-American group. As a result, I am organizing the first ever Filipino Breast Cancer Awareness Day in Southern California. The purpose of the event is to inform, educate, and empower the Filipino community to take charge of their breast health.

This free community event is open to the public and will be held on Sunday, October 5th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Center Court of the Eagle Rock Plaza (in front of Seafood City Supermarket) located at 2700 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles, 90041.

Representatives from organizations including Glendale Adventist Medical Center, the American Cancer Society, and Comprehensive Community Health Centers will have booths providing free health screenings and information. Door prizes will also be presented at the end of the event.

Other collaborating partners include Kiwanis Club of Verdugo Hills, Botana & Gomez Company, Filipino American Business Association of Glendale, Eagle Rock Chamber of Commerce, and the Glendale Commission on the Status of Women.

For more information about the event, please call (818) 409-8100.

If you would like to donate a door prize or make a donation, please call me at (818) 409-8547. I hope to see you at the event. Thanks so much for your support.

Sally