

People and Events

The 111th Philippine Independence Day celebration at Bonaventure

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress

LOS ANGELES—Preparations are now in high gear for the 111th Philippine Independence Day celebration to be held at the Bonaventure Hotel downtown on June 13, 2009.

"I am planning ahead, and I am trying my best to pull in a many of the 3.5 million Fil-Ams as much as possible," said Darna Umayam, chair of next year's celebration. "We are adding a humanitarian touch to the celebration, as usual, by donating part of the proceeds to charitable institutions in the Philippines," Umayam announced. She said she was encouraged by the pledges of support of so many FilAm community organizations.

"We need more leaders like you. Let's all be Filipinos on June 13 (2009). Let's announce it to the community," Umayam said. She said that she had already paid for ten tables. "I am very confident that we will be very productive this coming year. We need all of you to participate," she said. "Call on me, or e-mail me, and let's all be proud to be Filipinos."

Umayam also reported that the organizing body has been incorporated and it will soon seek tax-exempt status from the Board of Equalization to enable the corporation to receive discounts from Hotel Bonaventure. She said the committee has already negotiated a nine-course Chinese banquet,

plus one free drink with the hotel. The price of the dinner-dance ticket is \$59.

Tickets are now available, and so are sponsorship packages. Call Ms. Umayam or Mr. Jojit Paredes, vice president for external affairs. Invitations have been sent to possible guest speakers, including Philippine Department of Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, who has indicated he would attend; and Sen. Manny Villar and Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos. More invitations will be sent to other possible guest speakers, Umayam said.

Meanwhile, she also appointed the other officers of the 111th Independence Day Organizing Committee, including Paredes, vice president for external affairs; Rene Villaroman, secretary-general; Shirley Lumanog, recording secretary; Leah Dinsay, financial officer; Trini Foliente, grand ball chair; Errol Santos and Cynthia Molina, event coordinators, Willie Manacsa, musical director; Tessie Lightholder, Carson coordinator; Cora Pastrana, entertainment committee; Tita Golez Sulita, reception; Jecj Dayola, Philippine liaison officer, and Atty. Abraham Lim, parliamentarian. More appointments will be made, according to Umayam.

The organizing committee's official address is 5221 Eagle Rock Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90041, and the telephone number is (323) 258-4879. ■

Fil-Am INS to hold dinner-dance

THE Filipino-American Employees Association of the Immigration & Naturalization Service will hold their dinner-

dance at the Embassy Suites in Garden Grove on Saturday, October 25. The association is headed by its energetic president, Lilibeth Ferrer. Music

will be provided by The Midnight Motion Band. For reservations, please call Ludy Gamo or Lilia Alog at (562) 865-7048. ■



PLONING IN LA. On October 15, Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon met with Ms. Guia Gonzales (2nd from left), producer, and Mr. Dante Nico Garcia, director, of the film "Ploning." "Ploning," which stars Ms. Judy Ann Santos, will be the Philippines' entry to the Foreign Film Category of the Oscar's for 2009. Also in photo is Vice Consul Charmaine Serna-Chua (right).

'Message of Hope' in times of crisis

Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy to speak before thousands in California

IF US Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama's famed slogan "Change We Need" has brought a sweeping influence in the lives of millions all over the US, this global television evangelist's "unique message of change" has led millions across the world to "repentance".

Barely two weeks after his mammoth concert in HongKong, the world renowned television evangelist Pastor C. Quiboloy, Executive Pastor of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ The Name Above Every Name, is set to speak before thousands in twin concerts in California on November 2 at the Kingdom of Jesus Christ Worship Center Compound in 14424 Vanowen St., Van Nuys and on November 9 at the South San Francisco Conference Center in San Francisco.

Teresita Dandan, the ministry's administrator for the US said the pastor's growing number of followers and viewers all over the United States are excited to once again hear him speak live in series of concerts.

"In these times when Americans and people from different races here in The United States are in distress because of the economic crunch, the message being delivered by Pastor Apollo is what the people need most. It is a message of going back to the Father's will. It is the change that the people need," Dandan said.

Pastor Apollo has been preaching the powerful message of change he calls Spiritual Revolution for more than 23 years.

This according to him is man's voluntary surrender of his sinful will, to the Father's will upon repentance, by making a promise that not his, but the Father's will be done in his life.

His message may seem radical but it has, for many years, brought change in the lives of his millions of followers.

"All the crisis, the endless disputes, and the hopelessness which people all over the world experience today are brought by the serpent seed," Pastor Apollo stresses in one of the episodes of his popular nightly program, Give Us This Day.

"This is the spirit that Satan Lucifer has implant-

ed within man, upon our first parent's fall. Unless this spirit is taken out from within, all the problems that we have in the world today, will never be solved. Change has to happen from the very spirit of man," he says.

From his ministry's home base in Davao City, Philippines, the Pastor is broadcasting his television programs in real time, 24/7 on FREE TV through satellite technology—making his TV network, Sunshine Media Network International (SMNI), the only Filipino channel to reach millions of viewers all over Asia, North America, Europe, Middle East, Australia and Africa on free-to-air TV. His concerts all over North America & Europe have been drawing thousands of people for the past two years.

Sunshine Media Network International, ACQ-Kingdom Broadcasting Network's carrier, is being transmitted all over North America by GALAXY 25 satellite (formerly TELSTAR 5) direct to millions of household televisions via satellite receiver also called decoder box.

Those subscribing to World TV can easily tune in to ACQ-KBN TV with no subscription or smart card needed. TFC subscribers (using Galaxy 25 satellite) can also tune in to ACQ-KBN TV channel without monthly fee. Viewers in North America need only a satellite dish and a receiver or decoder to receive the channel for free without subscription fee or tie-ups with any service provider. Hotbird 6,7 and 8 or even Orbit subscribers all over Europe and the Middle East can also see ACQ-KBN TV for free.

For more inquiries about Pastor Apollo C. Quiboloy's concerts in California, contact Marlou Tesoro (808)772-7510, Harry Estalante (818)391-0032, Cleofe Fortuna (818)915-8790, Susan Antonio (818)797-9068 and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ Office in California (818)787-4466 to those in Los Angeles area.

In the Bay Area call Guia Cabactulan (818)744-3198, Tony and Medy Aguirre (650)892-1171 and Anabelle Obligation (925)234-5321.

To learn more about the Kingdom, visit www.kingdomofjesuschrist.org, www.sonshineradio.com and www.acqkbn.tv. (Advertising Supplement)

Word International Ministries-Los Angeles celebrates 18th Anniversary

EIGHTEEN years ago, Word International Ministries (WIN) LA was born, when several Filipino friends got together in a home in Los Angeles and agreed to meet every week for fellowship, prayer and bible study. As newly-arrived immigrants, they were lonely and homesick and needed to know God more as they started out their new lives away from the Philippines. The group later moved to bigger venues as they steadily grew in number, attracting *kapwa-Pinoys* who were drawn by the vibrant music, dynamic teaching and study of God's Word, and the undeniable life-changing presence of the Holy Spirit.

WIN-LA quickly became a family church where every member of the—from the youngest to the oldest—found a loving support group of *kababayans* bound together by a common culture, language and love for God. Over the years, WIN-LA established

several more churches in Southern California, whenever and wherever some member families transferred to—in Orange County, Inland Empire, Rosemead/Alhambra, Artesia and San Diego. Other WIN churches in America soon followed: San Francisco, Newark, Seattle, Tacoma, Auburn, Texas, New York, New Jersey, and Hawaii.

As the church expanded, God has brought in families of different races so that WIN-LA has transformed into a multi-cultural church with Filipinos, Thais, Vietnamese, Chinese, Europeans, Kenyans, Hispanics, Guatemalans, Blacks and Whites all worshipping together in an English service.

Belonging to the global network of Word International Ministries with 200 churches in 33 countries, WIN-LA celebrates its 18th anniversary this Sunday, October 26, at 1021 Grandview Ave in Glendale, CA 91201. Right behind Jack in the Box restaurant

and in front of Carl's Jr, the venue is just a stone's throw away from Glenoaks Blvd. Everyone is invited to the worship service which starts at 9:30 am. Senior Pastor Alberto "Chito" Cordero will be the main speaker, and there will be special numbers by the different ministries. You won't want to miss this if you want to feel and experience the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit

Everyone will surely feel at home at WIN-LA. It has several ministries for all the members of the family—Children, Ladies, Men, Couples, Youth and Young Professionals and the Music Ministry. There are weekly bible studies and prayer meetings held at different homes in LA, Glendale, Eagle Rock and Cerritos. Readers are invited to visit www.win-la.com. They also have a Youth & Young Adults website at www.pyros.rocks.it. For more info, contact Pastor Chito Cordero at (818) 653-6956, or Pastor Mark Briones at (310) 498-4736. ■

Edison International and USC launch 3rd annual Edison Challenge competition

ROSEMEAD, CA—Middle school and high school students are encouraged to create original science projects related to energy and the environment for the third annual Edison Challenge, a competition co-sponsored by Edison International and USC. School teams can register for the event until Oct. 31.

"The competition has provided a wonderful opportunity for students in the region to create innovative projects and expand their knowledge of energy and the environment," said Barbara J. Parsky, senior vice president, Corporate Communications, Edison International. "Participants in the Edison Challenge are our future environmental stewards who are gaining practical experience and learning the valuable benefits of math and science, which may inspire their career choices."

Edison pledged \$1 million over four years, its largest environmental education grant, to fund the program. It is one of the company's premier community-based initiatives designed to expand educational opportunities and upholds Edison's long-standing commitment to preserving and protecting the environment.

Edison International partnered with the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, a unit of the USC College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, to create the Edison Challenge in 2006.

Students from more than 50 middle schools and high schools across Edison International subsidiary Southern California Edison's (SCE's) 50,000 square-mile service territory registered in the 2007-2008 competition. Gabriellino High School in San Gabriel took first place honors in that competition, and SOAR High School in Lancaster placed second. In the middle school category, Sycamore Canyon Middle School in Newbury Park was the first place winner, and Murray Middle School in Ridgecrest came in second place.

Members of the first place teams enjoyed a week-long trip to the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina Island. Second place finishers took a four-

day trip to SCE's Big Creek Hydroelectric Facility in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This year's winners will receive similar trips.

Sycamore Canyon students said creating and completing their winning project was rewarding in many ways. "They gained immeasurable knowledge, and their experience in Catalina working with marine biologists was one that they will remember for a lifetime," said Pam Bluestein, teacher and team adviser.

Members of Gabriellino High's team also said their experience with the Edison Challenge was life-changing.

"For our team, the opportunity to study and perform research at the Wrigley Marine Institute transformed the students' perspective on what science is when applied in the real world," said Michael Winters, teacher and team adviser. Both schools plan to compete again this year.

Edison Challenge entrants must submit projects that focus on one or more of the following topics:

- Energy transfer through wind, ocean currents or water cycle.
- Energy conservation and energy efficiency for residential, commercial or industrial users, water conservation, land conservation, recycling or waste management.
- Environmental protection and sustainability (habitat or endangered species protection, watershed management and climate change).
- Renewable energy sources (small hydroelectric, solar, wind, biomass and geothermal).
- Air and water quality (compliance and stewardship, environmental justice and traffic congestion management).
- Alternative transportation (electric, biodiesel and alternative fuels).

Registration for the Edison Challenge runs through Oct. 31. Final projects are due by February 2009, and winners will be announced in March 2009. For more information about the Edison Challenge or to register, go to www.sce.com/edisonchallenge. ■

SINGGALOT

The Ties that Bind

Filipinos in America

From Colonial Subjects to Citizens

Victoria Manalo Draves
1948 Olympics Gold Medalist



Victoria Manalo Draves was born in 1924 to an English immigrant mother and a Filipino immigrant father. At the 1948 Olympic Games in London, England, Victoria won two gold medals in the springboard and platform diving competitions. She became the first woman to win multiple gold medals and the first Asian-American woman to ever win a medal.

Now 83 and living in Palm Springs, CA, she credits her teammates and coaches for treating her as an equal in spite of being segregated from white divers at the Fairmoat Hotel Swimming and Diving Club where she practiced but was denied membership.

"Victoria can be translated into victory", she said in an interview, "and Manalo means winner is Filipino."

In 2005, San Francisco's Recreation and Park Commission voted unanimously to name a South of Market park after Draves. Since that time, Filipino American students at San Francisco State University have organized the "Manalo Movement": to induct Vicki Manalo Draves into the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.

Sources: Dr. Margaret Costa, Vicki Draves - An Olympian's Oral History, Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles (1999) San Francisco Chronicle, June 3, 2008 Eloisa Borah, UCLA

Photos from: www.america.gov/st/sports-english/2008/May/20080530165620xirenef0.5189478.html

Visit Singgalot: The Ties that Bind Exhibition and Learn about Filipino American History and Stories of Immigrant Pioneers.

Singgalot Exhibition runs from August 2 through October 30, 2008 at

Remy's on Temple Art Gallery
2126 W. Temple St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90026

GALLERY HOURS
Friday & Saturday
11am to 7pm
Sunday
12 noon to 8pm
All other times
by appointment.