

People and Events

Singer Anthony Castelo endorses McCain/Palin Ticket

'Sarah Palin is like a Filipina, a real beauty inside out.' - Castelo

PHOENIX, AZ—International singer/composer Anthony Castelo declared his support for Sen. John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin for President and Vice-President during a jam-packed Filipino-American community event held here at the Asia Bistro over the weekend.

Organized by staunch McCain supporters and prominent community leaders—Dr. Red Espiritu and businesswoman Marie Cunningham—the gathering drew even more excitement as Anthony sang his famous hit songs plus an original composition he has dedicated to the McCain/Plain campaign called *Sarah Barracuda, All-American Girl*. (Available at www.youtube.com, search: sarah palin castelomusic). Castelo told the cheerful crowd that "Sarah Palin is like a Filipina, a real beauty in and out." According to the singer, he was privileged to meet Palin at a rally in California recently, where the Governor was happy to receive a copy of his composition. Castelo said, he told Palin his family was always praying for McCain and her, and the candidate responded with "Thank you, thank you so much."

"I am proud to endorse the McCain/Palin ticket to the large Filipino-American community across the country," Castelo said, "we must remember that the economic crisis we're facing is temporary, but a leader's character and values—are permanent," he pointed out.

For his part, organizer Dr. Red Espiritu said, "We've seen John McCain in action as American hero in Vietnam... as Senator in our home state of Arizona... next, we will see him shake up Washington DC as President!"

Community leaders here who attended the event were proud that the well-known singer/composer chose to announce his support for John McCain for President here in Arizona, it being the home state of their beloved Senator.

For information on Anthony Castelo, please visit www.Anthony-CasteloMusic.com. Or email: castelomusic@yahoo.com

'Chinese LA Daily News' & 'Vien Dong Daily News' endorse Bernard C. Parks for Supervisor, 2nd District- LA County

LOS ANGELES—For the first time in Asian American Media history, the *Chinese LA Daily News* and the *Vien Dong Daily News* have endorsed Bernard C. Parks for the Supervisor of the 2nd District, County of Los Angeles.

"Parks is the candidate of choice in this high-profile election, and he is the only non-Asian candidate in a long time to have taken interests in the APIA community and our most always overlooked vote." (*Vien Dong Daily*)

"This is too important of an election to ignore, and Parks has not only demonstrated his commitment and understanding of our communities, but he has been a genuine friend. Bernard Parks is the candidate that best understands and is best equipped to serve our

community and Los Angeles County in general." (*Chinese LA Daily*)

Upon hearing the news, Parks commented, saying "it has been my privilege to meet, listen and work with the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities throughout the years, and I am pleased that my vigorous outreach efforts to the APIA communities have been met with such positive and warm responses. Thank you, and I look forward to continue working with you as Supervisor of the Second District."

Known as the "biggest small election," the 2nd Supervisorial District race is regarded to be one of the most important and pivotal race to come in decades; an election that will have a greater impact to the lives of local residents even greater than the outcome of the presiden-

tial. Regardless, it is an election that is often overlooked by the general voters.

"We are pleased the *Vien Dong Daily* and *Chinese LA Daily* have boldly taken the leap from the sidelines to support the Councilman in this historic and record setting race; and being outspent eight to one, every bit counts and every vote counts," said Campaign Manager Mike Hernandez.

Parks is endorsed by a majority of the mainstream press (*LA Times*, *Daily News*, *Sentinel*, *Daily Breeze*, *Press-Telegram*, *93.5 The Bear-KDAY*), a majority of elected officials (federal, state & local) that represent the areas in and around the 2nd District, as well as from a broad spectrum of business, community, ethnic and religious leaders. ■

Asian Pacific Health Care Venture holds free health fair at Philippine Consulate

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJ Press

LOS ANGELES—The Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, a community non-profit health center located in East Hollywood, conducted its fifth health fair at the Rizal Hall of the Philippine Consulate General Office here recently. The health fair was called "*Pagpapahalaga Sa Kalusugan ng Pamilya* (Giving Importance to Family's Health)" and was held in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in

Los Angeles.

"It's a health fair exclusively intended for Filipinos, so that we could reach out to our community and emphasize that prevention is best; it is better than medicine," said Marilyn Johns, an APHCV outreach worker who established the health fair five years ago. The goal of the



free health fair was to reach out to Filipinos that are marginalized and underserved. "*Ang mga kababayan natin na walang insurance, yung mga bagong dating at hindi pa nakapaghahanap ng trabaho at walang kakayahan na magpatingin sa doktor*," Johns informed the *Asian Journal*. (Our Filipino countrymen that do not have medical insurance; those who have just arrived here and have not found jobs yet, and cannot afford to see a doctor).

Some of the services and activities provided during the two-and-a-half day fair included blood pressure screening, glucose screening, BMI screening, on-site osteoporosis screening, on-site oral health counseling, and Bone Marrow Registration. APHCV workers also provided information on enrolling seniors and children into health care programs such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, and Medicare, WIC, Food Stamps, mammograms and pap smears, nutrition education for diabetics and obesity prevention, parenting workshops, CPR training, APHCV clinical services, HIV prevention, family planning and counseling.

The most common ailment that plagues Filipinos is diabetes, according to Johns. "This is because of our diet," Johns explains. "*Ang spaghetti natin may sugar pa. Mahilig tayo sa matamis. Masarap tayong kumain ng kanin at mga kakanin*. (We add sugar to our spa-

ghetti. We love sweets and we eat a lot of rice and native delicacies). Those are loaded with sugar," she said.

Johns said that breast cancer is the number one killer among Filipino women. The clinic offers free mammogram to qualified women aged 40 and older.

"We owe a lot of favors to members of the media like you," Johns informed journalists who covered the opening day of the fair. "We have Goldilocks, which has consistently donated products since our first fair five years ago. There's Mommy Lucing of Bahay Kubo Natin Restaurant. She is so generous with the food," Johns acknowledged.

The clinic, like other safety net organizations that depend on government funding and grants from charitable foundations, is suffering from state budget cuts. "We have lost around \$300,000 to \$400,000 because we have to continue to provide those PPP patients with free services, and we have earned this reputation as a free clinic," Johns told the *Asian Journal*. APHCV was established in 1986 and obtained a Federal 330 grant from the Federal Bureau of Primary Health Care to begin providing primary care services. It is located on Hillhurst Avenue in East Hollywood. For more details about the health fair, call (323) 644-3880 ext. 229 or e-mail MJohns@aphcv.org. ■

Goldilocks hosts Tourism...

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popular Goldilocks products such as *pandesal*, *polvoron*, *ensaymada* and *mamon* are made.

The tour included a food preparation demo by Goldilocks Director/Executive Chef Yojie Leelin and a cake decorating demonstration by Goldilocks Wedding Director Carmela Leelin.

After the tour, guests were treated to a sumptuous buffet lunch featuring dishes reflective of the historical and contemporary influences on Filipino cuisine, such as fried noodles called *pancit* introduced by Chinese migrants, Spanish-influenced *empanaditas* which are baked pastries filled with savory ground chicken or meat and the ubiquitous chicken *adobo*, now widely regarded as the Philippines' national food.

Another highlight of the event was the launching of Goldilocks' Annual VIP Rewards Raffle Draw. The Philippine Department of Tourism—LA is sponsoring the first prize consisting of two airline tickets to the Philippines and a free Culinary Tour for the winners. Other major prizes include a three-day, two-night stay in Las Vegas plus two concert tickets, courtesy of Goldilocks Board Directors Mendrei and Cecille Leelin; 32" LCD TV; Blackberry cell phone; Nintendo Wii; Apple Ipad Touch 8GB MP3 Player; Digital Camera, Apple Ipad Nano 8GB MP3 Player plus thousands of dollars worth of Goldilocks products and gift certificates.

According to Tourism Director Annie Cuevas, "The Philippine Department of Tourism, Los Angeles Office is honored to partner with Goldilocks in the promotion of Philippine Tourism through its VIP Rewards Program. We hope that this will be the start of a continuing partnership to promote the Philippines through Goldilocks. We are pleased that the Philippine trip will be the first prize offered during this VIP Program promo. The prize will be a trip to the Philippines that includes two roundtrip air tickets to the Philippines via Philippine Airlines and a Culinary Tour of Laguna and Quezon.

Mr. Leelin said, "We are pleased to be working with the Department of Tourism and grateful for their sponsorship of the first prize of our raffle draw. The Philippine trip and culinary tour will afford the winners of our VIP raffle draw the unique opportunity to see and experience Filipino culture at its best, by sampling and savoring the country's native dishes at different culinary destinations. We are excited at the prospect of more and more people learning to appreciate the Philippines through the native dishes and treats we all love to eat."

Consul General Aragon gamely led some of the guests in signing up as VIP members and thanked Goldilocks for promoting Philippine culture through Filipino culinary arts.

"I have been eating Goldilocks products since I was a child so I was glad to know that the company has been expanding and that you have a production plant in Santa Fe Springs," Congen Aragon said. "I was also very happy to know that Goldilocks products have 0% trans fat because I've been trying to keep my weight down," she quipped. ■

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