

People and Events

The Filipino Heritage Celebration



UPAAN volunteers for the Filipino Heritage Celebration

THE Filipino Heritage Celebration held October 4 and 5, 2008 was a very touching historical event. It was in commemoration of the venturesome spirit of our *manongs*, who blazed our way to this great country. It was also a time of thanksgiving for our successes in this land of challenges and opportunities. It was a very well attended event with a variety of service activities and entertainment.

The University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Nevada (UPAAN) was one of the numerous organizations that participated in the celebration. Officers and members of UPAAN

helped monitor the long line of applicants for dual citizenship through a Consular Outreach Program under the direction of Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon, Los Angeles Consulate General of the Philippines. They also mingled with the other organizations, congratulating each other for their achievements and sharing notes on membership drives and rewarding fund raisers. All these were held daytime at Seafood City. In the evening, the newly organized Filipino American Foundation that hosted the event, presented a very enjoyable, sentimental, and impressive programme.

The organization also had its

induction of officers and directors. The president Dr. Romualdo Aragon, Jr., is also the president of UPAAN; Elizabeth Ilagan, the treasurer, is also the secretary of UPAAN; and Luzviminda Micalbal, one of the directors, is also a director of UPAAN.

The culmination of the Celebration will be on Sunday, October 19, at the Masonic Memorial Temple. In the picture, proudly wearing their UPAAN name tags, are those who participated in the daytime service activities: (L-R) Pete Puertollano, director; Connie Puertollano; Estella Bugtong; Elizabeth Ilagan, secretary; Ester Reyes; and Lydia C. Fontan, PRO. ■

Still seeking the light...

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about 39 in all with Gallup, Rasmussen and smaller wannabe outfits like Zogby and upstarts like Quinnipiac and other pseudo pollsters from either side, their pronouncements must be taken with a grain of salt, okay, a sack of salt if you will, particularly during these weeks. The importance of polls as proven in the last two national elections has been blown to smithereens. Poll results are no longer reliable indicators of future results—not in the last decade anyway.

The bottom-line: your guess is as good as theirs. Pollsters use supposedly scientific random samplings and complicated weights and measures to sell to the public that they have foreknowledge of how things will turn out. Only God remains prescient and omniscient. And yes, there is a God who sent his son, Christ, to save us, contrary to what high priestess Oprah and her fashionable Internet religion based on Eckhart Tolle's belief in one's self as Savior instead of Christ, would have you believe. Most times, and with very few exceptions, pollsters have proven themselves inept at their trade. So ignore them and go with your gut. Poll results have figures that can be manipulated to reflect a predetermined outcome in the same way news and commentary by so-called political pundits with cheap words as currency and a presence on the boob tube are being used to sway public thought. Polls are not objective indicators of future results. Ignore the polls, the media and the pundits, go deep within the silence and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and vote your conscience. So much of what we hold sacred, like human life, love of God manifested in a Christian faith, our survival, peace and prosperity as a nation, are on the line.

Whatever you decide in either engaging or tuning out of this raucous, unnerving, deeply unsettling play by play of Election 2008 with its twists and turns, plots, subplots, text and subtext, there is no pretending that the results of this election affect us all, immigrants and citizens alike and, by extension, that of the whole world. This is a defining chapter, a turning point that can make or break this country. If we all do our part, no matter how small, to preserve the integrity of the vote, this 2008 election will be the rudder of the ship that will determine the direction of where our deeply troubled country is headed.

out the political drama currently unfolding. You can stay in the eye of a hurricane where there is light and complete calm. You can choose to turn to the light in a season of darkness, to pray without ceasing, for a good outcome completely trusting that the Good Lord who makes the sun to rise and set at the appointed time, the One who, according to Einstein himself, does not play dice with the universe, the One who is really in charge, the One whose WILL, will be done at all times and in all places, is laughing uproariously till His sides are split, at the puny efforts and arrogant audacity of those who would connive, plot and subvert His plans for the people who choose to love, trust and serve

Him. All rise and say AMEN to that.

Nota Bene: My views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of AJPI. I encourage you to read my book, "The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life: How to Survive, How to Thrive, How to be Fully Alive." If you have very little time to read, browse through "The Immigrant's Little Quote Book for Success." Your local public library might have these books available or you can request your librarian to purchase copies. These are also available at amazon.com or immigrantsuccess.com. Past articles are on the Internet at www.asianjournal.com. To ask questions, send feedback and requests, e-mail monetteamaglaya@sbcglobal.net or monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com.

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