

## People and Events

### Spring Valley Assembly of God Welcomes Pastor Tristan S. Planas and The Filipino Community



**S**PRING Valley Assembly of God, under the leadership of Rev. David Childers, opens its doors to Filipinos in Las Vegas Nevada. It has welcomed Pastor Tristan S. Planas to be its Filipino Fellowship Pastor. Pastor Planas has 25 years of ministry experience in the Philippines, U.S. and Japan. He is the first Filipino to join the ranks of the Assemblies of God here in Las Vegas. He will be preaching at Spring Valley A/G located at 7570 Peace Way, Las Vegas, NV 89147 at the 8:30am and 10:50am services on November 30, 2008. Everyone is invited to this momentous event.

Spring Valley Assembly of God belongs to The Assemblies of God, the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world made up of some 300,000 congregations in 110 countries with almost 60,000,000 members. Rev. David Childers is the Senior Pastor of the church and at the same time is the Presbyterian of the Southern Nevada Section. He believes that Christians from every denomination and race must start uniting in the endeavor to reach America for Christ. For the past 23 years, Rev. Childers has been

ministering in Las Vegas shining a light where it is darkest. Now, together with the Filipino community, he hopes to shine the light of the Gospel even brighter. ■

### Limited number of seats released for De La Hoya vs. Pacquiao at MGM Grand Garden Arena December 6

**F**ANS now have an additional opportunity to attend one of the most anticipated fights of the year as a limited number of seats have become available due to an arena reconfiguration for *The Dream Match*—Oscar De La Hoya vs. Manny Pacquiao at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

It's the type of epic match-up that fight fans dream about. However, this is not a dream—this fight is real. *The Dream Match* is on as two of boxing's biggest attractions, Olympic gold medalist and 10-time world champion "The Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya and current *Ring Magazine* No. 1-ranked pound-for-pound champion Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, will collide in a welterweight showdown that pits boxing's most popular boxer against the recognized pound-for-pound king. Scheduled to take place Saturday, Dec. 6 at MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the bout will be produced and distributed live by HBO Pay-Per-View beginning at 9 pm EST/6 pm PST.

MGM Grand Garden Arena is at MGM Grand 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89109. Tickets are now on sale and available for purchase at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at (702) 474-4000. ■

### City of Las Vegas offers Youth Basketball Leagues Team

**T**HE city of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services invites boys' and girls' basketball teams, grades two through eight, to participate in recreation leagues that begin Jan. 20 at Doolittle Community Center. Separate boys and girls leagues will be divided into four divisions by grades. Teams will play for an eight-week regular season, plus a single-elimination tournament. Team registration will be open at the center Dec. 6 through Jan. 12, or until full. The cost is \$250 per team, plus officials' fees. Games will be played in the center's gymnasium, located at 1950 N. J St., near the corner of Lake Mead Boulevard. For more information or to register, call (702) 229-6374.

Each team is required to have matching numbered shirts, a roster of six to 12 players and at least one coach over 18 years of age. Players must wear rubber-soled gym shoes.

Coaches must attend a mandatory meeting Dec. 11 or Jan. 8 at 6:30 pm at the center. Trophies will be awarded to first- and second-place teams. Individual awards will be given to the first-place team members.

Doolittle Community Center offers two indoor gymnasiums, a swimming pool, water tot lot, computer lab, game room, cardio/weight room, kitchen and banquet room. The center is open Monday through Thursday from 8am to 9pm; Friday from 8am to 8pm; and Saturday from 9am to 4:30 pm, providing a variety of activities and special events. Youth enjoy many sports, martial arts, dance classes, educational workshops, computer labs, and camps during school breaks. Adults benefit from weekend and evening basketball, exercise classes and use of the weight room and fitness equipment. Call the center for a class and activity schedule at (702) 229-6374. ■

## RE-UNION

Filipino-American Associations in America

*Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you Re:Union, Filipino American Associations in America—your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.*

### Filipino-American Leadership Council (The FALCON)

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**T**HE Filipino American Leadership Council, with the acronym FALCON, is a coalition of major Filipino American professional, humanitarian, business, and socio-civic organizations in the United States, founded on November 10, 2007, at the Summit in Las Vegas, as an advocacy group to safeguard, protect, and defend the constitutional rights, honor, image, integrity and general welfare and interests of the Filipinos in the United States.

The Filipino American Leadership Council dreams and envisions the Filipinos in the United States to be equal partners of the American people in enjoying their legitimate rights, liberties, and freedom as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, and be afforded every opportunity, without bias, to achieve their greatest potentials, in their personal and professional

life, and significantly impact the greater future of the United States as the most powerful nation on earth.

The Filipino American Leadership Council embodies the American Dream of all of its members and all peoples in America, where equality, tolerance and justice are as sacred and as revered as individual honor and human dignity themselves. FALCON shall provide the inspiration, vigilance and leadership in setting excellence among all Filipinos in the United States, enabling them to have a leveled playing field, a more just environment, and greater opportunities for them to achieve their best as citizens of this great nation, in rearing their family, educating their children, and in serving America by productively contributing to the progress and development of the United States. ■

### Embassy welcomes NAFFAA National Chair Greg Macabenta and delegates to NAFFAA board meeting



Officials of the Philippine Embassy welcomed the national and regional leadership of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations headed by its National Chair, Greg Macabenta, at a reception at the Philippine Embassy on 21 November 2008. The 70 strong delegation of NAFFAA leaders and were in Washington D.C. for a Board meeting on plans and strategy at the Philippine Embassy on 22 November 2008 to set out the Federation's priorities and directions for 2009.



### Philippine diving creates an impact at DEMA Dive Show 2008

**T**HE Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) participated at the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) Dive Show, the only international trade-only event for the diving, action water sports and adventure travel industries held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 22 – 25, 2008.

The Philippine participation highlighted the qualities of the Philippines as one of the most exciting and top value dive destinations in the world. Ms. Lynn Funkhouser, an internationally-published photographer, author, and a leader in dive travel, detailed the rich biodiversity of Philippine seas in a seminar she conducted during the Show. She said that the Philippines being a part of the Coral Triangle, a magnificent region in the world that covers more than one-third of the world's coral reefs and holds nearly 75 percent of all known coral species, makes it a must destination for any diving enthusiast. Indeed with 2500 species of fish compared to Australia's 1500 and Hawaii's 460; and 720 species of corals compared to the Great Barrier Reef's 350 and Hawaii's 40, the Philippines is definitely a place where a diver can discover the most diverse marine life.

Being one of the countries exhibiting in the prestigious event participated in by 703 exhibitors from around the world, the Philippines maximized its exposure to the lucrative North American dive market. The strength of the Philippine participa-

tion was anchored on the strong presence of the North American DOT offices and the US and Philippine-based dive sellers who worked hand in hand to ensure that Philippine diving makes an impact in the DEMA Show.

The Philippine delegation, headed by the Head of Team North America, Ma. Corazon Jorda-Apo and North America Tourism Directors Annie Cuevas, Rene De Los Santos, Vernie Morales and Emma Ruth Yulo, was joined by Philippine dive resort owners and representatives, as well as dive tour operators and live-aboard dive boat operators.

The Philippine-based dive tour operators and dive resorts that participated include Access Marine Corporation, Atlantis Dive Resort, Bahura Resort/Scuba World, Balicasag Dive Resort, El Galleon Dive Resort with Asia Divers, El Nido Resorts, Eureka Dive Inc., Kasai Village Beach Resort, Marco Vincent Dive Center, Pacifico Azul Resort/Pacific Blue Dive Center, and Sea Explorers Philippines.

The US-based dive tour operators that joined the Philippine delegation were Adventures, Airbound Travel, Great

Destinations, Scuba Travel Ventures, and Ultimate Dive Travel.

All sellers in the Philippine booth reported that they were able to generate sales leads either as pure leads or actual bookings. A majority of the dive operators/wholesalers, dive shop owners and dive instructors/masters who dropped by the Philippine Booth and answered a survey, a majority indicated that the Philippines is an "interesting" dive destination and are actually interested in selling Philippine dive packages. Almost half responded favorably and said that they will bring dive groups in the Philippines in the next 6 to 12 months.

For the divers who visited the booth and answered a related survey about Philippine diving, almost 70 percent said that the three most important qualities that they look for in a dive destination are value-for-money, variety of dive sites and a diversity of marine flora and fauna, qualities they believe they can find in Philippine diving.

For more information on diving, please log on at <http://www.experiencephilippines.ph> ■



Department of Tourism's Administrative Officer Gabby Aycaoil and Tourism Director Rene de los Santos at the DEMA Dive Show 2008