

# People and Events

## New York Filipinos to hold Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral

**T**HE Filipino Apostolate of the Archdiocese will celebrate the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, first Filipino saint, with a solemn high Mass in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick on Sept. 28, 2008 at 2 pm. The Mass will be videotaped and beamed on TFC (The Filipino Channel) hopefully to be watched by the thousands of OFWs and Filipino migrants in many parts of the world. The telecast will be called "San Lorenzo Global Hour."

Rev. Onesimo Gordoncillo, Archbishop of Capiz, Philippines, will be the principal celebrant. Some 20 to 30 Filipino and American priests in the Tri-State will concelebrate. An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 Filipinos are expected to attend the Mass.

According to Father Erno Diaz, archdiocesan Filipino Apostolate coordinator and director of the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, a church on Broome Street in Little Italy designated for Filipino Catholics, this will be the 26th year of the annual Filipino Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. A three-foot bronze statue of San Lorenzo Ruiz that was given in 1982 by the late Cardinal Jaime Sin to the Filipinos of America, presently enshrined in the New York chapel, will be displayed for veneration in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

There are an estimated 300,000 Filipinos residing in the Tri-State area. In the Archdiocese of New York alone, some 65 parishes have a significant population of Filipinos. The Philippines is 85 percent Catholic and is considered the only Christian country in Asia. The Philippines is 85 percent Catholic.

For more information, call Fr. Erno Diaz at (212)966-1019.



## Western Union celebrates consumers

**N**EW YORK—It was all about the consumers at 1440 Broadway in Manhattan Fri, Sept. 5, as Western Union hosted its annual Customer Appreciation Day with some fun and games.

The Western Union flagship store in Times Square was buzzing as it celebrated with consumers and employees representing nearly every continent of the world. Filipina stalwarts in the company such as Jennifer Briggs and Shirleen Velasquez joined fellow kababayans in celebrating.

A yearly tradition, the day is specifically set to thank the hundreds of thousands of consumers who walk through the Western Union doors each year.

"Customer Appreciation Day is a way to let consumers know how much we value them," said Guy DiMaggio, regional vice president for the Western Union Northeast region. "It is also about recognizing everyday heroes who work hard to support families around the world. This celebration lets us recognize them," he added.

The Western Union Times Square store originally opened for business in 1934 and is the only company-owned location out of the more than 45,000 agent



Western Union in Times Square is located at 1440 Broadway, between 40th and 41st Streets. For more information, please call (212) 354-9777.



Guy DiMaggio (center), Western Union's regional vice president for the Northeast region, is flanked by (left) Filipina stalwarts Jennifer Briggs and Shirleen Velasquez.

locations that are spread across the United States. To serve locals and tourists alike, the location is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As the company's flagship location, it offers the full spectrum of Western Union products along with services for travelers and products unique to New York—including money transfers, bill payments and prepaid offerings, currency exchange services and New York Transit MetroCards.

"It's basically like a bank, but one that offers way more services," DiMaggio told the Asian

Journal. Briggs also shared that this is the third consecutive year that Western Union is hosting Customer Appreciation Day and that they hope to host more fun days in the years to come.

"*Maraming salamat sa lahat ng mga kababayan natin sa patuloy na pagsuporta nila sa Western Union*," Briggs said, adding that despite the slow economy, Filipino Americans continue to send money to their families back home.

Because of the economic crunch, Western Union has made sure that sending money through

them would be, in Tagalog, "*sulit na sulit*" (worth every penny).

"We made our Gold Card better, specially for the recipients in the Philippines because they get bonus points for every remittance they receive, so over and above the amount that was sent, *may mga libre pa silang regalo*," Briggs added.

With the holiday season already starting, Briggs said that is time to save up so friends and family back home can get more, and she hopes that *kabayans* continue to send their hard-earned dollars through Western Union.

## Gawad Kalinga NJ celebrates Christmas in November with Ryan Cayabyab and other famed artists

**G**AWAD Kalinga (GK) in New Jersey, in cooperation with ANCOF Foundation USA, has announced the holding of a four-hour GK Paskuhan on Sunday, November 9, 2008, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm in Paramus Catholic High School at 425 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.

Featured artists are ABS-CBN's Ryan Cayabyab and his famed singers, Stephanie Reese (*Miss Saigon* lead actress in Germany), and pioneer Filipino-American animator Geirry A. Garcia.

In announcing the big GK activity, Rolie Balanza, GK North East Director, said, "Gawad Kalinga has come to mean Christmas for many. Through GK, we spread the Christmas spirit everyday by sharing of the tens of thousands of GK volunteers and by giving love to the poor. We invite you on Nov. 9, and enjoy four hours of world class musical concert, silent auction, soup dinner, bazaar and exhibits."

GK is a non-government orga-

nization based in the Philippines, which builds houses and communities for the poorest people in the native country, as well as, in the neighboring countries of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Cambodia.

The GK way of helping the poor is unique in that it has a follow-up program on values formation, education and youth development, health, productivity, *kapitbahayan* (neighborhood) empowerment and clean environment.

GK Paskuhan is also being held in 20 other cities around the United States as a massive show of volunteerism and advocacy through the growing work of ANCOF USA, the financial arm of GK in the United States.

Tickets to the GK NJ Paskuhan cost \$35 per person and are available by calling 201-306-2524, 201-370-6328 and 201-832-7682. Limited seats are available, so ticket sales are on a first come, first serve basis. For questions, email [elmermpacia@msn.com](mailto:elmermpacia@msn.com).



Birthday celebrant Father Joseph Marabe, SGsK over-all chairman.

## Simbang Gabi sa Katedral dinner dance and birthday celebration of Father Marabe at Our Lady of Pompei Church



## THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**September 14 | Sunday**  
**Kulay Rosas, race for the cure**  
 Join the Kulay Rosas Team of Fil-American women and men as the group enters its 8th year with the premier event in NYC of the largest grassroots network of survivors and supporters focused on fighting breast cancer and raising awareness, the Komen Race for the Cure. Pledge online NOW, walk on Sept. 14 at Central Park with thousands of others and be seen on TV, or do both! For website and other information, please contact Robert P. De Tagle at [robnewyork@gmail.com](mailto:robnewyork@gmail.com) or call (201) 434-1964.

**September 17 | Wednesday**  
 The New York realism artists group presents a new art exhibit titled: "Stage Spirit" on Sept. 17 at Uncle VANYA, Art Space Café (315 W 54 St., NY). Artists will demonstrate their differences, techniques and styles. Gallery hours: Mon-Sun. 12 nn-11 pm. For more info, please call (212) 262-0542.

**September 19 | Friday**  
**Ateneo Chamber Singers Benefit Concert**  
 The Ateneo Chamber Singers will have a benefit concert, *Umawit sa Kagalakan*: An evening of classical and spiritual songs at Our Lady of Pompei Church, 25 Carmine St. @ Bleecker, West Village, NYC (Subway to West 4th St., Christopher St.; Path to 9th) on Sept. 19, 7:30 pm.  
 The winners at the Tolosa, Spain choral competition in their 2nd US tour perform for one night only. Tickets at \$20 (\$25 at gate), Carlo Zenarosa at (914) 619-7346, or email [E2Commphil sourcing@gmail.com](mailto:E2Commphil sourcing@gmail.com).

**APMMA 's 28th Anniversary Ball**  
 Everyone is invited to celebrate APMMA's 28th Anniversary Ball on Sept. 19, 8pm at Terrace on the Park, Flushing, NY. For more info., contact Aris Francisco (201)641-9452; Menchie Pulido (718) 297-5091; or Cleoty de Dios (516) 750-8553.

**September 20 | Saturday**  
**Simbang Gabi sa Katedral's Atlantic City Fun Run**  
 Everyone is invited to come and join the trip to Atlantic City on Sept. 20--7:30am assembly at the Greyhound Bus Area, NYC Port Authority 41st. and 8th Ave. \$40 per person. Contact Nory Teruel (212)421-3134 or (917)860-0987.

**Marinduquenos in the Eastern Seaboard USA to celebrate its 25th year**  
 The Marinduquenos of the Eastern Seaboard of America (MESA) will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Sept. 20, 2008; Saturday with a Dinner Dance at Newark International Airport Marriott Hotel.  
 Steve Sosa, the current MESA President, explains that its celebration will highlight the milestone projects it has continuously supported since its founding in 1983 namely: Providing college scholarship to deserving poor students in the island province, the pre-school children program

(Marinducare Foundation's Punla Ng Karunungan), and its continued participation in six Medical Missions to the impoverished towns of the remote island.

MESA, which comprises the families of Marinduquenos in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania will also salute its past presidents and outstanding members with the attendance of Marinduquenos from MD, VA, Washington, DC, the West Coast, Canada regions, Midwestern States, Texas and the Gulf States.

For inquiries: Please call Jorge Bunag (732) 249-6937, Rey Muhi (732) 827-2905, Al Molato (732) 727-4923, Thelma Santos (732) 406-1487 or Dr. Mary Ann R. Curiba (732) 574-2194.

**Ninth Annual Walk Against Poverty**  
 Foot Soldiers join the 5K walk against poverty. Register to rid the world of the most vile of illnesses-POVERTY.

Building Futures Together is doing its annual fundraiser, the Ninth Annual Walk Against Poverty on Saturday, September 20, 2008. The 5K (3.1 miles) walk takes place at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens, New York. Foot Soldiers, participants meet at the Park under the Unisphere. Registration starts at 9am and the walk begins at 10am. The primary beneficiaries of the funds raised are the communities in the Provinces of Samar in the Philippines.  
 Visit [www.buildingfuturestogether.org](http://www.buildingfuturestogether.org) or send an e-mail to [info@buildingfuturestogether.org](mailto:info@buildingfuturestogether.org) or call (718) 426-9471.

**Dancing with the Starlets**  
 Everyone is invited to watch Dancing with the Starlets at Immaculate Conception School Cafeteria 21-63 29th St Astoria NY 11105, 7pm-11pm. Donation is \$5. This event is sponsored by The Immaculate Conception Prayer Group. For inquiries, call Carmelle (917)535 3498; Maria (917) 340-7438.

**September 21 | Sunday**  
**Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz and Last canvassing for Mrs. Pangasinan 2008**  
 Please join us in the celebration of the mass in honor of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila at 1pm, St. Lucy Church 104 Street Manhattan.

Following the mass is the last canvassing for the Mrs. Pangasinan USA 2008 sponsored by the Pangasinan Association USA, Inc. Candidates are Zenaida Jimenez, Linda Costes-Mangilit, Rose Valdez, and Aurora Mijares Regaspi. The candidates represent the towns of Sta. Barbara, Mangaldan, Manaoag, and Bayambang respectively. Proceeds will benefit the casualties during the recent typhoon in their respective towns. A dinner dance featuring the coronation of the four beauties will be held on Oct. 5, 2008 at 5pm-10pm at the World Astoria Manor located at Astoria Boulevard, Astoria, Queens.

For more information contact Nida Cortez (718) 393-0348, Linda Castro (718) 461-5730, Michael Calicdan (516) 616-5613, Ruby Maramba (718) 432-9443, Dr. Raul Calicdan (718) 262-0649, Dr. Teofila Malanum-Santos (516)569-6504 and Msgr. Oscar Aquino (212) 289-0730.



UNITED STAFFING REGISTRY, INC. FAMILY SUMMER OUTING 2008 POCONO, PA



Mr. Ben Santos, RN, BS-HCM, President and CEO and his team. L-R: Mariluna Bongado, RN; Grace Salinas, RN; Stefanie Salinas; Tina Datan, RN; and Nilda Marcera, LPN

## ROCK IN THE BOX WEEKEND 'Our Gratitude'

**T**HE historic Rock in the Box Weekend was another milestone for all artists and supporters of Filipino music in North America. This is indeed the farthest we have all gone in terms of our unity as one people. We have all made history and we will forever be remembered for all our sacrifices and love. Never to be forgotten.

Many of us have traveled far to be able to connect with one another and celebrate our likenesses through music. We have gathered as one people and we have shown everyone that nothing is impossible.

We at Soulworks are indebted to all of you who made this writing of history possible:

The artists—ACI9, Binky Bianca, Steel Polly, Then Again, Trickbag, PI, Circled Sin, Carpools, Super Kabote, Rayzed, Noizytoyz, Out of Luck, Diablo Royale, The Marys, Qwadra, Stella's Notch, Bleud, The Kuwagos, Alfa, Blue Mellon Pop, The Happy Analogues, Bagwis, Lucidblur, Inddiagos, John Violago, Jason Castillo, Kayumanggi, Sodapop Suicide, The Third Element, Earplug, Wallows;

The community—Ugnayan NYC, Chicago Pinoy Music Scene, Five Points NYC, Tambayan Productions, Bionic Leg

Productions, P.I.G. Productions, EdSun Entertainment, Minerva Records;

The individuals—our host for both nights, Jeffrey Wiley, Nikka Trinidad, Feliza Mirasol, Ivan and Anna Balasi, Jerwin and Kristine Glorioso, Marie Borja, Patrick and Emjhay Reyes, Dennis Diaz, Annette Ortiz, Brian Joseph Miguel, Tere Ignacio, Emilie Lao;

Our Crash Mansion door volunteers—Jenny, Gladys and Mira, Paul and Beverly Zurita, Marc Lacsamana and Charmaine Sanchez, Cho Lopez and Rosette Vilorio—Lopez, Jay Estrada and Lyn Pelaez, Arnold Derama, Valter Guevarra, Juan Miranda,



Anthony Murgola, Tito de Leon, Ed Sunico, John Ynayan, Archie D, Baloi Valenzuela, Michael Violago, Lea Manalo, Riya Ortiz, Anang Palomar, Chet del Mundo, Marco Galsim, Jojo Valenzuela, Pao Moral, Ryan Arreola, Ginger

Cacnio-Maguigad, Demetrio Maguigad, Natalia Alvarez, Melanie and Dario of MYX, Ria Marquez;

The venues—Ilana Dubrovsky of Crash Mansion, Jasper Coolidge of Rehab; and The media—Poptimes Magazine, The Asian Journal, Newstar Philippines, MYX (ABS-CBN), The Filipino Express.

(From Soulworks Records: *Ted Reyes, Ronnie Lao, Gatchie Ignacio, Richard "Jonze" Saguirre, Sheryl-Garcia Reyes*)



poptimesmagazine.com /photo by Baloi Valenzuela  
 (Clockwise from the top) L-R: Arnold Derama on guitar, Jay Estrada on drums, lead singer Brian Miguel, Ted Reyes on guitar, and Jerwin Glorioso on bass -; Ginger Cacnio, and Randizio of the Chicago-based ethnic-fusion group, Bgwis; Jeff Wiley and Felza Mirasol, Rock in the Box 2 Weekend second night hosts