

A double celebration fundraiser for Gawad Kalinga's livelihood programs

Friends pool talents to host NYC's biggest GK benefit to date

NEW YORK CITY—Gawad Kalinga's Livelihood Programs will enjoy a boost thanks to two upcoming events in Manhattan sparked by infectious strand of volunteerism sweeping the country. Starting with an Octoberfest celebration at an Upper West Side bar and ending on a cruise leaving from the Lower East Side, a group of professional and graduate student friends spearhead Gawad Kalinga's biggest benefit aimed at young professionals in NYC to date.

The work of Gawad Kalinga and its holistic approach to alleviating poverty was not news to the group of friends, as they needed no convincing about the merits of Gawad Kalinga and its great strides at nation-building in the Philippines. The real challenge was how to help meaningfully from the US, and Manhattan specifically.

The group comes together several times a week for good times typical of the NYC lifestyle and has a penchant for throwing great parties. So the most natural way to help was to do what they did best: host an event that would be meaningful to the cause and fun for the guests.

Jonah De Lumen, the logistical genius, had

the idea to host two parties and elicited her close circle to help. What started out as merely a fundraiser turned into an effort to meaningfully integrate Gawad Kalinga's message into the parties. In came the negotiating genius, the event planner, the marketing graduate student at Columbia, and the other friends in the group to share their talents to increase the scale of the benefit.

"Planning the event with my friends for the benefit of GK's Livelihood Programs has made me fulfilled beyond words. My friendship with them has become that much more meaningful," says Crisa Castro, who was tasked with event design.

The first event, Octoberfest, is on October 17 at the Gin Mill on the Upper West Side. The culmination of the efforts ends with NY Cruise on Friday, October 24 on board the Paddlewheel Queen docking off East 23rd and FDR at 7pm. The NYC Cruise will use decorations made by GK's Livelihood Programs. There will be a silent auction and complimentary appetizers. One of NYC's finest disc jockeys, JP Solis, is spinning for the event. For information on purchasing tickets, please contact Maan Cruz at maacruz@yahoo.com. ■

Still seeking the light...

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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.

Or you can completely shut 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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Leaders' digest

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Eduardo Angeles The Special Counsel to LA City Council

THE highest-ranking Filipino American and one of the highest-rated Asian Pacific Islander lawyers in the Los Angeles City Hall is Eduardo Angeles, the first Filipino American lawyer to serve as the Special Counsel to the LA City Council. Besides representing some of the most powerful people in Los Angeles, he is a significant voice for the FilAm community.

As the right hand man to the LA City Council, Angeles has his hands full everyday.

Formerly Chief Attorney of Public Protection of San Francisco, Angeles also served as the lead lawyer of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Airport Division.

Born in Pasig City, Manila and raised in Angeles City in

Central Luzon, Angeles grew up as the only son of his mother and father. He is the youngest of seven siblings from his mother's side and the eldest from his father.

In September 1972, his parents separated. His father stayed in the Philippines and his mother chose to immigrate to the US.

Angeles completed his studies at Balboa High School and received a Bachelor's of Arts degree at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB). He then attended UC Berkeley's Hastings School of Law to further his education.

While attending Hastings, he quickly found out he was in a different and more competitive environment than the lax beach lifestyle he led in Santa

Barbara. Hastings Law is a top ten law program in the US. The school prides itself in making life difficult for freshmen students.

Angeles credits his perseverance to his mother who has always been supportive of his dreams of becoming a lawyer.

After starting his career in the San Francisco City Attorney's office, LA City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo named Angeles as chief counsel to the Los Angeles World Airports.

"Then he [Delgadillo] said 'I got another job for you,'" Angeles says. And he became LA City's highest-ranking Fil-Am.

Overall, Angeles says his true motivation for all of his accomplishments is to make a difference. ■



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