

120 hectares of Fairways and Bluewater exempt from SC decision

BROADSHEETS reported in its recent news articles that the Supreme Court has ruled that Boracay is a public domain, thus, creating serious concerns and confusion among the stakeholders and individual investors in the island.

However, what some of the reports have failed to clarify is that under the Torrens Title System of the government, the land which is properly titled prior to 1975 is exempt from the SC ruling.

The SC ruled that except for lands already covered by titles issued in 1975 under Presidential Decree No. 705, or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines, the whole Boracay island belongs to the government.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Ruben Reyes, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of Proclamation 1064 that classified Boracay into 400 hectares of reserved forest land and 628.96 hectares of agricultural land.

Fairways and Bluewater Resort complex, the largest single land owner in Boracay with its 120-hectare holdings, belongs to this exempt category.

The subject property has the original title issued in 1993 which was subsequently acquired by Fil-Estate Properties, Inc. in the early 1990s.

The property was developed into what is now known as Fairways and Bluewater Newcoast, Boracay. Now on its tenth year, the resort's ongoing major developments includes condotels, villas, a 5-star hotel complex, and major improvements in its 18-hole golf course dubbed as the "Golfing Jewel of the Pacific".

Cita Villanueva, Corporate Communications Director of Fairways and Bluewater, assures its members, guests, and investors that the property is exempt from such declaration and maintains the legal ownership of the land.

"This should allay fears from our members, unit-owners, joint-venture partners, and guests," assured Ms. Villanueva. "In fact, our members and investors should be encouraged by this ruling in knowing that their investment is secure and guarded by the declaration et in finis (and upon end) from the highest court of the country." (Advertising Supplement)

Live election night broadcast take County viewers behind the scenes

Co-sponsored by the SMC Elections Office, Comcast and PenTV

REDWOOD CITY—To commemorate this November's historic Presidential General Election, the San Mateo County Elections Office, PenTV/Channel 26, and Comcast have teamed up to create a unique telecast that will combine local election results and newsmakers with national news, commentators and results and an insider's look at how an election is conducted. The broadcast will air from 7pm to midnight on cable Channel 26. For people who are interested in watching the broadcast that do not live in one of the PenTV cable communities, the broadcast will be simulcast on both the Elections website, www.shapethefuture.org and PenTV's website at www.pen.tv. Election night results will be posted on the Elections Office website, www.shapethefuture.org, throughout the evening; the first returns will be issued at 8:05 pm.

"This Election night broadcast will be a first-in-the-nation democracy-based 'edutainment' that will include real-time segments that show viewers the elections process from inside the Elections Office on Election night. Viewers will see just how their Elections Office counts the votes and what it takes to make that happen," said Warren Slocum, Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder for San Mateo County.

Slocum explained that, "There is never a perfect election—it involves so many people, places, and moving parts."

"The quality of an election is not whether things go perfectly, it's the quality of the contingency plans that are prepared to handle every possible situation that can arise," Slocum explained. "That is why the broadcast of an election from inside an elections office has never been done before. Our goal is to make our process completely transparent so that San Mateo County voters can see for themselves how elections are conducted and know why they

can have confidence in the election results."

Election night guests will include members of Congress and the local representatives in the California Legislature, the Chief Elections Officer, city council members, school board trustees, newspaper editors and reporters and national and state political consultants talking about county issues, California races and the Presidential election. Anchors Mark Simon and Bob Marks will co-host this event with reporters Kevin Mullin (South San Francisco councilman) and Dani Gasparini (former Redwood City mayor).

To preview of Anatomy of Election '08, visit http://www.shapethefuture.org/anatomy_of_election2008/default.asp to you will find narrative summaries of the Anatomy of Election '08 components, the election night broadcast schedule with the names of the guests and their titles, the bios of the show hosts and reporters and an invitation to attend Election Central, the Election night party hosted by Comcast, PenTV and the San Mateo County Elections Office. PDFs of these components are attached to this press release as well.

This evening's broadcast also highlights the capability of the County's growing institutional network, the INET. This network will make it possible for remote broadcasts, joint meetings, educational seminars and training and the transport of data between governmental agencies throughout the County. When completed, sixty-six remote locations will be available in San Mateo County. The INET connection at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo where the Elections Office is located will be the first remote broadcast on this new network. The City of Foster City will be the site for the main broadcast; Kevin Mullin will provide live updates and interviews direct from the Elections Office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo throughout the evening. The show will originate at the Foster City Council Chambers. ■

LEADERS' DIGEST

Filipinos are everywhere in America – from the East to the West coast. However, as the second largest Asian American community in America, we still have to empower ourselves to become more visible in the political mainstream. Unknown to us, fellow FilAms are making a difference across the US – as appointed and elected leaders in their respective areas. The Asian Journal Leaders' Digest aims to present to readers these leaders who have made – and continually making a difference for the Filipino American community.

Kris Valderrama

Following her father's path

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJPress



KRIS Valderrama's father, David Valderrama, became the first Filipino-American elected to a state legislature on the mainland United States when he was elected representative of Prince George's County to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1990 and served for three terms.

Seventeen years later, his daughter was elected to the same post. "I got into politics because of my father's influence, and I want to see more of us taking the risk in running for public office because this will advance the cause of our political empowerment," Valderrama shared to the audience attending a gala event in Washington, DC last year.

Kris is a life-long resident of the 26th Legislative District and Prince George's County and a proud product of the Prince George's County public school system, where she graduated from Oxon Hill Senior High School. After high school, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from Salisbury State University, in Salisbury, Maryland.

Following her career in the health care field, Kris pursued another interest—communications. She worked with the 1.4 million-member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO in their Public Affairs Department—Strategic Communications Unit, working on such issues as child care, home care and health care organizing.

Kris is married to Abraham Lobo of Seattle, Washington and is the mother of two daughters, Jordan, age 4, and Evan, age 2.

There are more than 34,000 people of Filipino heritage in the Washington area, scattered around Northern Virginia and Maryland, especially in Prince George's County and Fort Washington. At St. Columba Catholic Church in Oxon Hill, mass is offered in Tagalog and English.

Kris has been active in the labor movement for over a decade campaigning and rallying in support of working family issues. She can be seen weekly on Valderrama's America on Comcast channel 80 in Maryland and Comcast channel 77 in Washington, DC, co-hosting, reporting and interviewing politicians and community leaders on issues of interest to Prince George's County.

Outside of work, Kris has always been involved in the community and is no stranger to the political arena. She has devoted her time to the campaigns and electoral process of the 26th Legislative District for over two decades—everything from GOTV efforts, to voter registration drives to precinct polling work.

Today, Kris remains fully engaged in the issues and concerns of people in her district and driven to make her childhood home of Prince George's County an even better place to live, work and visit. ■

Belen Gabato

A nurse's moment in the spotlight

by BILLY DELA CRUZ
AJPress



ONE of the founders of the Philippine Nurses Association of Las Vegas, nurse Belen Gabato was appointed December 14 last year as one of the seven members of the Nevada State Board of Nursing. Gabato is now not only nurturing the public health, safety, and welfare of Nevada through nursing regulation, she now also represents all the many Filipino nurses in Nevada. Gabato is also a member of the Women's health connection Coalition of the Nevada State Health division.

Gabato, a graduate from the the Southwestern University in Cebu City, was once a fifth placer in the Philippine board of nursing exam. She went to the US in 1964 and became a nurse at a hospital in Chicago while she continued her studies at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital and finished her graduate degree. Gabato, through her timeless commitment as a health care professional has been honoured by Asian American groups in Las Vegas for her service to Nursing and Nurses in their community.

With almost a year in service now as one of the Board of Members of the Nevada State Board of Nursing, Gabato is very serious in representing and supporting her fellow Filipino nurses. Her aim is to inspire and push Filipino nurses to pursue their career path as a medical practitioner to gain higher ranks in different offices.

Although her term as member of the Nevada State Board of Nursing will end on October 31, 2011, Gabato, through her achievement, will still continue to protect and serve the people of Nevada and her fellow Filipinos nurses to further promote the Philippine excellence in the healthcare industry. ■

People and Events

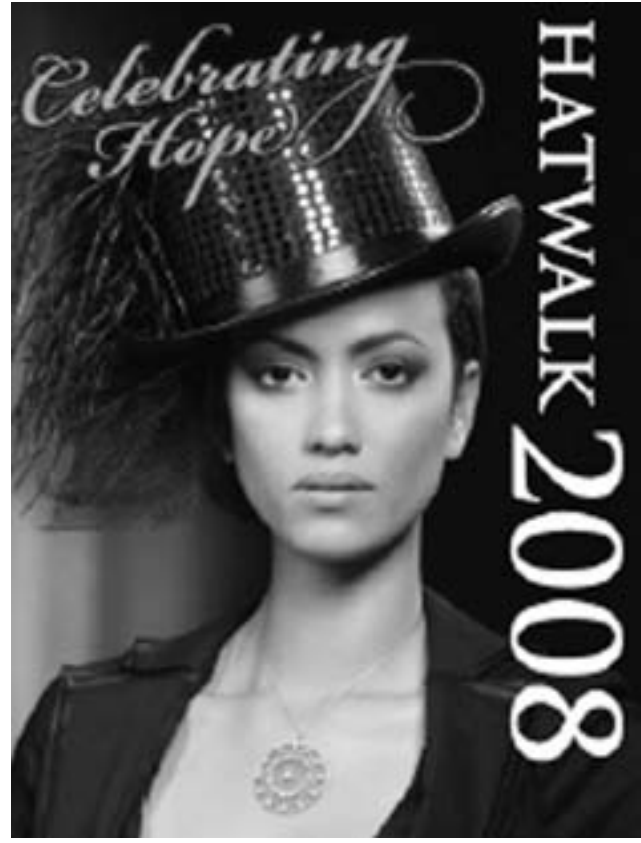
Local nonprofit to raise cancer awareness in the Filipino community through annual gala fundraiser

BURLINGAME—The Asian American Cancer Support Network (AACSN) is proud to host its fourth annual fundraiser gala, called *HATWALK 2008* to celebrate the value of "HATS" and the comfort they bring to cancer patients. This year's theme and spotlight country is the Philippines.

The evening will commence at 6pm with cocktail hour and silent auction. Dinner will start at 7 pm with a full program to include an inspirational address from a cancer survivor, live entertainment from local Bay Area artists, an exciting live auction, raffle drawing, culminating with AACSN's unique fashion show of HATS modeled by volunteers, cancer survivors, and those battling cancer.

HATWALK 2008 will be held Saturday, November 1, at the Hyatt Regency SFO on 1333 Bayshore Hwy, Burlingame, CA. Tickets are \$100 each or \$150 for VIP. For more information, please visit www.aacsn.org or call (650) 968-8488. You can also purchase tickets online via Paypal at info@aacsn.org.

All donations to AACSN, including those from the gala, will be used for cancer support activities such as sponsoring cancer related support



workshops, supporting our Bay Area Paddle Past Cancer, cancer survivor dragon boat team, developing pamphlets in different Asian languages that answer frequently asked questions about cancer, mammography screening for women in underserved communities and providing comfort to newly diagnosed cancer patients through care baskets. Funds will also be used to support other local cancer support groups.

AACSN was founded in July 2003 by May Bakken and Fidelia Butt, MD, as a

501c3 non-profit, volunteer-driven organization with a mission to become a community resource network for Asians, Asian-Americans/Pacific Islanders affected by cancer in the Bay Area through social programs and creative fundraising. AACSN programs, services, and resources are welcome to everyone, not just the Asian community. ■

Westlake School for the Performing Arts and Young Performers Inc.'s 'The Nutcracker'



SOME 150 students, community artists, parents and faculty of the Westlake School of the Performing Arts (WSPA) and its artist organization, Young Performers Inc. (YPI), in cooperation with the Daly City Parks and Recreation Department, will once again mount the full-length ballet production of *The Nutcracker* on December 6 and 7 at the Palace of Fine Arts. This timeless ballet classic promises another breath-taking experience for new and veteran ballet patrons this Christmas season that should not be missed.

The cast and crew are all set to leap to the stage with their wonderful repertoire: guest artist James Seratonin plays as the Cavalier, principal dancers Reina Victoria and Janelle Villanueva will be alternating as the Sugar Plum Fairy. Alexis Pineda and

Mary Caldeo alternate as Clara.

Malu Rivera-Peoples is artistic director and is the heart and soul of this annual Christmas extravaganza for the last 11 years. Her staging is an endearing and entertaining version patterned after Petipa's classic choreography. The WSPA version incorporates other modern dance styles like hip hop for the mechanical robot toy, tap dance for the toy soldiers, and line dancing for the parents in the party scene. These makes the *The Nutcracker* more creatively contemporized added to a feast of great ballet classic performed to the majestic music of the great Russian composer Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

For ticket information, please call (650) 757-1244. Tickets for the 2pm shows are \$30 Reserved Seating, and \$25 for students and seniors. ■

The Voice of FilAmerica

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accustomed to. As a member of the council, I will focus on reviewing and restructuring present and future plans in order to maintain and improve our quality of life."

Joanne also stated that her over 33 years experience in the legal, business and financial world will help bring fresh perspective to the job, and that she will work to ensure that the present and future needs of Colma residents are fully met.

And win she did, although a close one at that. After all was said and done, she had slid onto the

town council by garnering 172 votes, or 30.8 percent of the total votes cast. Joanne had conquered a mountain, eking out Philip Lum, a former five-time Colma Mayor, by a mere nine votes. Her term runs until November 2010.

Today, Joanne Del Rosario is Vice Mayor of the Town of Colma. With some experience tucked under her belt, there is now a calmness within her, unlike when she was fresh into her term and had to learn the ropes fast.

Joanne has even begun to give time to causes near to her heart, including participating in CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) activities as a CORA Kumare and as a member of the Community Advisory Committee

at Seton Medical Center.

"As an elected official and in particular a Filipina elected official, I hope to bring this issue (domestic violence prevention) to the forefront, especially in the Asian community," Del Rosario said.

The youngest of seven children born to Luis Del Rosario and Amparo Ferreros has certainly gone a long way, just like the Virginia Slims slogan of yore. It remains to be seen whether she will stay where she is, firmly ensconced in a town which she believes is a great place to live, or if she will aspire for something higher and more challenging.

(Some information in this article extracted from "Colma Vice Mayor's New Advocacy" by Cherie M. Querol Moreno.) ■