

People and Events

Councilman Bob Yousefian leads speakers at Glendale 'Resource Day' event

GLENDALE – Councilman Bob Yousefian led a group of public and private individuals in addressing the concerns of this city's senior citizens during a "Resource Day" event held at the Incarnation Catholic Church on Sunday. Yousefian, who is running for a third council term on April 7, told the workshop attendees that the city government is trying to stay within the confines of the revenues that the city is generating.

"Nevertheless, we have also shifted focus from what we used to do to what is necessary and needed today, and that is to provide services for the public who are having difficult times," Yousefian acknowledged. Yousefian said that the dire situation is very clear to the councilmen and the commission on housing. He said the city of Glendale is receiving financial help from the Federal government, "and we want these funds to be awarded to programs that help people in dealing with homeless, food and shelter," Yousefian said.

"The reality is, if you are only one person and you are making \$26,000 and less, you are considered to be very low income," Yousefian said. "If you are two people and you are making \$30,000 and less, you're very low income. And don't think that you have to qualify for these things if you no money."

Peter Zobac, the city's Deputy Director of Housing, said his department is charged with trying to develop affordable housing programs for the community. "As many as we can, given the limited funding," Zobac said. He revealed that every US city receives funding that must be reserved for affordable housing. In Glendale, that source is the Federal government, which awards upwards of \$8 million every year to city. The other source of is redevelopment projects that are undertaken by the city.

Zobac said that the city government is very aggressive in developing affordable housing. "We are very busy and we hope that some of these programs and projects will be able to help you or someone that you know," Zobac said. Apart from developing affordable housing, Zobac's department also offers low interest, preferred loans for residents who wish to make improvements in the homes they own. "We also have a loan program for rental apartment owners, and if you are interested in trying to find some financing to fix up your units, we have loans that

we can offer that are better and have lower interest rates than you can get at the banks," Zobac said.

In return, the city government requires the apartment owner to restrict its rent structure to affordable levels for some income groups. The city also has a first time homebuyer program that provides up to \$75,000 to be used as a silent second mortgage to help buyers purchase a home. However, at today's depressed home prices, it would be difficult to obtain such a loan. Zobac hoped that home prices would decline in a few years, making them affordable to some people.

Yousefian added that Glendale's Department of Water and Power has programs for seniors. "If you belong to these categories and you want to lower your electricity bill and water usage, the city will send people and audit your apartment or your house and they will provide you with water aerators, check and adjust your appliances to ensure that they are functioning properly," Yousefian indicated. "That's another way of lowering your costs."

Judith Sernas, who is the Director of the Verdugo Job Center on Central Avenue, told the workshop attendees that California operates several employment resource centers all over the state. "So if you or anybody you know is unemployed, I can give you information in terms of what other employment centers you can access in other states," Sernas said. The employment resource center also gives out information related to disability benefits, as well as social services. They determine the marketable skills of a job-seeker, making sure, through a skills training program, that the person who is looking for a job is well versed in terms of the industries that are hiring, customer service, how to write a resume, and how to present themselves properly in interviews.

The other resource speakers who participated were Charley Egan, foreclosure and real estate specialist, Bill Aranda, stress management and marshal arts expert, Edrick and Elizabeth Reyes, real estate financing and mortgage professionals, and Thelma Aranda, career coach.



Bob Yousefian



Judith Sernas, Bob Yousefian and Peter Zobac

La Sallians converge at World Congress In Los Angeles

THE De La Salle Alumni Association of Southern California hosts the 7th La Salle Alumni World Congress on May 22-24, 2009. The Congress, a biennial event, will be held at the Hilton Universal City, atop the scenic hills of Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

In line with the event's theme of "Green and White Convergence," the World Congress serves as a grand reunion of the different La Salle alumni chapter officers and members from around the world, representing the 17 La Salle schools throughout the Philippines, from the oldest, De La Salle Taft (established 1911) to the newest, the Jaime Hilario - La Salle school in Bataan (2006).

From the first one held in Manila in 1997, with the theme of "Animo La Salle, Wherever You Are," the DLSAA World Congress has gone on to keep the Animo spirit alive globally, with the succeeding reunions held in Oakland, CA, and then Cebu, Washington, DC, Baguio City, and finally Toronto in 2007.

Elections, golf & jazz

During the World Congress, a new set of officers for the umbrella alumni association will be elected by the presidents of the La Salle alumni chapters.

In addition, numerous activities and entertainment have also been lined up during the three-day event. Festivities include a big golf tournament at Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena, bowling, a picnic, fellowship/welcome cocktails featuring world-class jazz talent Boy Katindig, informative round table discussions on the La Salle system's current state of affairs, motivational speakers, Hollywood entertainment tours, and a star-studded dinner-dance with plenty of surprise guests.

One La Salle Raffle

The host chapter has launched a souvenir program fund-raising drive to ensure the event's success, with a unique incentive provided to sponsors. In keeping with the green eco-consciousness promoted by the De La Salle Philippines system, a 2009 Honda Civic Hybrid will be raffled off to a lucky advertiser, along with numerous other door prizes, during the dinner-dance on May 23.

More important, net proceeds will go to the One La Salle Scholarship Endowment Fund, which aims by year 2011 to provide scholarship to 1 out of 5 students enrolled in all La Salle schools in the Philippines based on financial need. Likewise, other causes and ministries supported by DLSAASC in the past will benefit from the net proceeds.

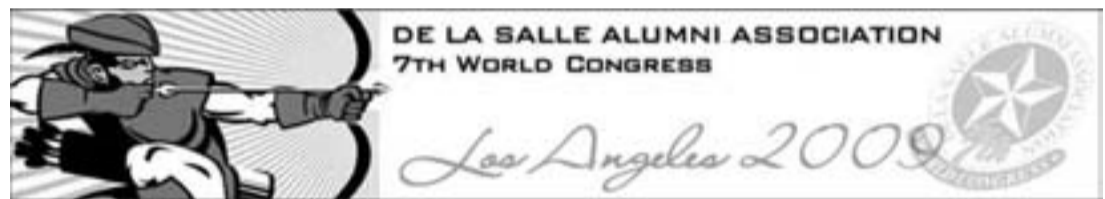
Recognition

In an effort to highlight the diversity of the alumni group, the host chapter will recognize the attendance of different La Salle 'batches,' in addition to honoring significant La Salle achievers.

So, from Zama Zipa Zam to Rektikano, come on to LA and Cheer, Cheer for Old De La Salle! The DLSAA and the Southern California Chapter invite all alumni to relive and share the La Sallian spirit and camaraderie. Whether Archers, Cowboys, Blazers, Crusaders, Chevrons, Patriots, Greenies, Rangers or Stingers, we're all La Sallians: One La Salle!

For details, please check out our website, www.dlsaasc.org, and register online.

Hold La Salle's banner high and bright. ANIMO LA SALLE!



2nd Annual FASGI Fundraising Gala HOPE (Happiness, Opportunity, Progress and Equality) for All

THE 2nd Annual FASGI Fundraising Gala will be held on March 27 at the Universal City Hilton, 555 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, CA 91608 at 5pm. Dinner and a silent auction are some of the highlights of the event.

The fundraising gala will honor Greg Macabenta (Community Service Leader of the Year Award); Jess Espanola (American Dream Award); Seafood City (Entrepreneur of the Year Award); Honorable Xavier Becerra (Leader of the Year Award); Honorable Quentin L. Kopp from California High Speed Rail Authority (Corporate Visionary Leader of the Year Award) and Emmanuel 'Manny' Pacquiao (Sportsman of the Year)

Catholic Education Foundation celebrates high school seniors at special reception

LOS ANGELES - Last Sunday, March 15, the Catholic Education Foundation (CEF) honored over 450 high school seniors during a special morning reception at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels plaza in downtown Los Angeles. These high school seniors, many of whom live at or below the poverty line, were able to complete their Catholic education thanks to the generous tuition awards given them by CEF. KABC-TV's Jovana Lara will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies at the breakfast reception, which will immediately follow the mass at the Cathedral. The event celebrates students' hard work and their parents' dedication to Catholic education.

Scheduled to speak during the reception are Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles; Rob Smith, President of CEF and Theresita Fragoso, Director of Programs, CEF. Additionally, (Julie) Suechu Eng Taing, a student from San Gabriel Mission High School, will read her award-winning essay. Both the St. Genevieve High School Choir from Panorama City and the St. Matthias High School Bell Choir from Downey will add their voices to the festivities with musical performances.

Since being founded in 1987, CEF has provided over 98,000 tuition awards to students living at or below the poverty line. CEF Tuition Awards give students the opportunity to attend Catholic elementary and high schools throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. These CEF students have a 98% graduation rate, and 98% of CEF high school graduates continue on to higher education. Catholic schools continue to play an important role in serving the poor, immigrant and minority communities in the greater Los Angeles area. With a Catholic education, CEF students are given an "Ad-

vantage for Life."

An award-winning news anchor, Ms. Lara has been with KABC-TV since 2000. She attended Holy Family Schools in Glendale before graduating from Loyola Marymount University. She began her career in broadcasting at KESQ-TV in Palm Springs which lead to a job with KNSD-TV in San Diego. While with the station, Ms. Lara, who is fluent in Spanish, did several news stories about the challenges facing Latinos in Tijuana. During her first year with KNSD-TV, Ms. Lara won an Emmy Award for a story about a small village near Tijuana washed away by mudslides of El Nino in 1997. In addition to anchoring *Eyewitness News*, Ms. Lara is co-host of ABC7's *Vista LA*, a Sunday morning public affairs program.



(L-R) San Gabriel Mission High School Senior (Julie) Suechu Eng Taing, KABC-TV News anchor Jovana Lara and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles.

The RN contract trap...

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penalties and liquidated damages. Unfounded complaints, or threats of complaints to licensing agencies, can also be grounds for defamation suits against the employer. Many courts may find the contracts one-sided and unconscionable that the entire contract is voided out.

Immediately challenging the employer also creates a record that can be used to prove to the Immigration Service that the RN had every intention of keeping her obligations to work permanently for the employer. The RN can show that her employer breached the contract and promises. Forcing her to remain working for the employer under these circumstances could be considered endorsing slavery or indentured servitude.

RNs who did not challenge the employer from the outset will have to work harder to demonstrate to the Immigration Service that they had the intent to work permanently. The challenge typically comes when an RN applies for citizenship. The Immigration Service will revisit the basis of the RN's green card and then determine if the RN met her obligation to her employer. The complaint filed by the sponsoring employer, no work history, or a short work history will be deemed by the Immigration Service as proof that the RN never intended to work for the employer. This will be the

basis for revocation of the green card.

RNs in this situation must document the circumstances that forced them to leave. They must show why remaining with the employer would have been tantamount to slavery or indentured servitude. The U.S. Constitution prohibits slavery and indentured servitude and because in many cases the sponsoring employer breaches the contract, the employee is not liable for any damages. This core constitutional value is the basis for providing relief to those forced to leave their sponsors. RNs trapped in an unconscionable contract should seek immediate legal assistance in order to preserve their rights, their dignity, and their immigration future.

Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.
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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case.

(Advertising Supplement)

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