

People and Events



50 YEARS LATER. Letran High School 1959 classmates gathered in Southern California last Mar. 21 to organize their 50 years anniversary. It will be held in Manila in November of 2009. The festivities are scheduled for 1 week - from Nov. 16 - 21. Last week's meeting was held at the residence of Steve Avevilla in West Covina, CA. The 21st of March is a memorable date - as it was exactly 50 years to the date since they marched down the halls of the Letran gymnasium to receive their diplomas. L-R: May and Steve Avevilla, Joyce and Joey delaConcepcion, Gloria and Eddie Gil deMontes, Rose and Phil delosReyes, Alice and Nap Limson, Doris and Hermie San Luis. For details go to their class website: www.groups.yahoo.com/group/letranknights59.

Asian Pacific Community Fund recognizes emerging leaders in philanthropy

LOS ANGELES – The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) will be recognizing a young generation of community leaders at the 1st Annual Emerging Leaders in Philanthropy Recognition Awards on April 28, 2009 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the Elevate Lounge, 811 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles.

This event recognizes young leaders and high school, college and young professional organizations that are making a difference in the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community through their leadership and volunteer service. APCF will be highlighting their successes in hopes of encouraging others to get involved in the Asian Pacific Islander community. Applications and nominations are being accepted until April 3, 2009.

At a time when the need for funding in our communities is as great as ever, this event addresses the importance of cultivating the next generation of philanthropists.

APCF is a community-based, nonprofit fund that was created to fulfill a need for a unified effort to educate and encourage donors to direct their charitable giving to benefit community organizations serving the rapidly growing population of Asian Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles. Established in 1990, APCF

fills a much needed gap in the API community as the only API community-based fund of its kind in Southern California raising funds and tapping into the potential of employee workplace giving. Without the work of APCF, these Affiliate Agencies would not, on their own, be able to conduct workplace giving campaigns to raise funds.

Foundation giving to the Asian Pacific Islander community has not kept pace with the growth of API communities, according to the Asian Americans/Pacific Islander in Philanthropy June 2007 "Growing Opportunities" report. A lack of support for API organizations in turn affects long-term sustainability and the voice of API communities in civic infrastructure according to the same report.

Since its founding, APCF has raised and distributed over \$1.5 million in unrestricted grants to its 29 Affiliate Agencies providing services to the API community. These grants enable APCF agencies to both launch new initiatives and strengthen current programs and services for diverse Asian Pacific Islander clients, including: disadvantaged children, youth, disabled, seniors, immigrants, refugees, battered women, and low income families.

For more information on APCF, to apply/make a nomi-

nation or to purchase tickets to this event, visit www.apcf.org or call (213) 624-6400. ■

'The Savior of the New City': A must-see play!

THE Savior of the New City is a beautiful and inspiring depiction of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from His birth to the beginning of His ministry, from His Passion and death to His glorious resurrection.

The story of our Lord is one of compassion and mercy, a story of the greatest love ever known to man. With *The Savior of the New City*, we journey with Jesus as He brings His message of love and salvation to the world through His teachings and His healing of the wounded and sick. We meet those who lived and walked with Him during His ministry, as well as during His time of suffering. *The Savior of the New City* brings us all back 2,000 years to Jerusalem, where the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord would eventually take place.

The Lenten season is a time for all Christians to renew their faith in God by reflecting on the Passion and death of our Lord, and resurrecting our own spiritual lives just as He resurrected Himself from the cross. *The Savior of the New City* is a story that is as poignant and relevant today as ever as it continues to transform the lives of the people who open their hearts to the love and life of Jesus Christ.

This March, the Banal Na Pag-aaral will renew one of its most prominent Lenten traditions, the production of *The Savior of the New City*, the story of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. After a seven-year hiatus, the BNP is proud to bring back this powerful, moving drama, which will be presented for the first time in its very own BNP Cultural and Arts Center in Ontario, California.

Since its humble beginnings on a small stage at Camp Josepho in Pacific Palisades, California in 1985, "The Savior of the New City" has attracted thousands



of people from around the world to witness the story of Jesus Christ. What began as a simple Holy Week presentation has since evolved into a grand production filled with vivid imagery and powerful performances. The Banal Na Pag-aaral has taken the production to various places, including the Manila Film Center in the Philippines, the Chabot College of Performing Arts Center in Oakland, the Rosemead Auditorium in Los Angeles, as well as the Bridges Auditorium in Claremont.

The all-volunteer cast and crew are members of the Banal Na Pag-aaral family who devote countless hours each year towards the success of this production. Under the guidance of the director and writer of *The Savior of the New City*, Sister Salve Stuart, the performance of the cast is not only a reflection of their talent, but of their faith in and love for God. This year they hope to once again deliver the universal message of love to the hearts of the people, and invoke in each one an inner awakening of their love for God. *The Savior of the New City* has been a tremendous apostolate work in the Banal Na Pag-aaral's mission to bring the people back to God, and to bring God back to the people, and we invite you all to take part in this journey as we celebrate the life and times of our Lord.

The Savior of the New City will play at the BNP Cultural and Arts Center in 1030 Riverside Drive, Ontario CA 92761 on March 28, 3pm and 8pm; March 29, 3pm and 8pm, April 4 3pm and 8pm and April 5, 7pm.

For more information, please visit www.saviorofthenewcity.org or call (909) 673-1603. ■

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

You can Bring Down Your Loan Amount to Your Home's Current Value

IF you are upside down by \$100,000 or more
IF you purchased in the last 4 years or refinanced in the last 3 years

IF you have a "problematic loan":

- 1 yr/2 yr ARM or Option ARM loan • Interest Only loan
- Non-Amortizing/Negative Amortization loan
- No Doc or Low Doc Loan • Stated Income Loan

You may be a victim of abusive lending by the mortgage industry

You have legal rights to a WRITE DOWN of your mortgage to your home's current value

SAVE YOUR HOME!
SAVE YOUR MONEY!
SAVE YOUR CREDIT!

Not "Attorney-assisted".
Not "Attorney-backed".
Licensed ATTORNEYS fight for your rights against predatory lending.

Total Legal Services for Foreclosure Prevention



In Foreclosure? Not Behind?
Severely Delinquent? Job Loss or Pay Cut? Investment Property? Residential Property? Struggling to Pay Monthly House Payment? CALL NOW!

THIS IS NOT A LOAN MODIFICATION

You must be upside down by 100,000 to qualify. And you do not need to be behind in your payments!

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LEGAL NETWORK
 Protecting Your Legal Rights with Compassion and Action

Legal Home Helpline for Filipino Homeowners 888.233.5485

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ALAY KAY MARIA FLORES DE MAYO AT SANTACRUZAN

The search is on for Reyna Elena

THE Filipino Ministry Council of Servant Leaders is on the prowl for the next lady to take the title of Reyna Elena, as well as the other *sagalas* for the 5th annual Alay Kay Maria: Flores de Mayo at Santacruzán—a celebration in honor of our Blessed Virgin Mary. This event is slated to happen on May 9, Saturday, at 10am in Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

The Committee, headed by Ellie Miller and Minnie Arvisu, has been meeting since the start of the year in mid-January to make this event a memorable one for all the participants and attendees. With all the spokes of the wheel pretty set, we are now in the process of accepting applications for participants age 12 years and above (the *sagalas* for the Santacruzán) as well as girls age 7-10 years old to be our angels who are given the task of joyfully announcing Our Lady's name by holding the AVE MARIA GRATIA PLENA letters.

Our Director, Sr. Mary Christina Sevilla, RGS, has always focused on the historical and religious relevance of the cultural events that the Office of the Filipino Ministry in Los Angeles undertakes —be it the celebration of our *Sim-*

bang Gabi or the upcoming celebration of Alay Kay Maria. "There has to be a solid basis for holding an event. For the Santacruzán, our *sagalas* or the participants are asked to write a paragraph or two about the character they select from a list that includes women from both the Old and the New Testament. In essence, the supposedly "social event" becomes a learning experience for each participant since the *sagala* learns a bit about her heritage as well as about the character she will represent.

In addition, we are still accepting applications for the AVE MARIA girls. If you are interested in joining, please feel free to give Ellie (323) 660-0745 or Minnie at (818) 985-8600 a call or email us at TessRobert@yahoo.com. Just give us a call for any question you may have—it is NOT TOO LATE!

Of course, at this early date, we are inviting all of you to join us in these festivities on May 9, the second Saturday of May. Make it another family event! Check it out this year – and maybe you'd be interested in attending the event as a participant next year! Keep our contact information and sleep on it!

Ave Maria!! Mabuhay Kay Mama Mary!!! ■