

US Bank to look into investing in the Fil-Am community

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Richard K. Davis, Current Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of US Bank and a few of his partners, visited and spent a few hours at SIPA headquarters on Thursday, April 2, to see "up close the great things that are happening here in Historic Filipinotown."

Davis was in Los Angeles to speak at Greenlining's 16th Annual Economic Summit at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels.

The *Asian Journal* caught up with Davis at SIPA and discussed the importance of the banking industry to reach out to ethnic communities.

AJ: Good afternoon Mr. Davis. Tell us what brings you out here today?

RD: I wanted to see some of the community activities that are supporting this great [Filipino] market. Historic Filipinotown is something that I have heard a lot about. [SIPA Executive Director] Joel [Jacinto] has spoken a great deal about it. Bob of Greenlining is also very supportive of this and he wanted us to see up close the great things that are happening here."

AJ: When I was listening in to the presentation a moment ago, you had mentioned how completely unaware you were of the potential of the Filipino community. Please elaborate on that.

RD: Well, it's a joint responsibility. You guys [Filipinos] need to tell your story better and we need to listen better. Days like today really move those things together. We had a chance to come out and see it first hand, we had a chance to have our attention completely focus on what your mission is, and now, we'll be much more focused on helping in the future."

AJ: How important is that to collaborate with ethnic communities like you had mention during the presentation the Hispanic, and now possibly the Asian market?

RD: It's very important but it's not just ethnic. Banks are

supposed to be in the community. In the original days, 150 years ago, when banking started it was all about helping the community. Banks basically took money from customers that needed to be safely kept and would turn around and lend it to people who have a dream. And a 150 years later, here we are in different communities. What's so neat about this and Historic Filipinotown and everything that you guys have all done is it gives us another place to find that core or that nerve center so we look forward to opportunities like this to get closer to communities and [the Filipino community] has done a great job creating a place to gather.

AJ: You just toured Historic Filipinotown, what's your reaction? What do you think of this place?

RD: We did [tour Historic Filipinotown]. It's great. It seems to me you [Filipinos here] have a great opportunity to tell your story outside of Filipinotown... From what I understand this is the gateway for people as they immigrate into the states, they often come here to this community and what I would say to you is when they move out to the Greater Los Angeles County and Orange County and other places to keep coming back here [to Historic Filipinotown] as their place to keep connected.

AJ: Last question, where do you go from here now that you know about the Filipino community and have attained all this knowledge about us?

RD: Well, I came here with the head of our business in California. We have a number of [Filipino] employees. So we are going to go back and learn more about our own involvement with the Filipino community, Filipinotown, and our own employees who are Filipino. We'll take this as a learning step to see what we can do more for us, for you [the Filipino community] and together we'll be better. (Joseph Pimentel)

International Women's Day

Human beings are not born violent: Associate Professor Leny Mendoza-Strobel

by RENE VILLAROMAN
AJPress

SAN PEDRO—"Perhaps if women had never lost parity with men and we live in a society that honors both genders equally, we wouldn't even need an International Women's Day," declared Dr. Leny Mendoza Strobel, an Associate Professor of American Multicultural Studies at Sonoma State University, and a cultural and community advocate.

The celebration of International Women's Day, which began in 1911 and celebrated in 63 countries and 982 events this year, is a "gesture of multiculturalism in its conservative form," according to Dr. Strobel, who spoke at the *Men Reading Women's Writings* luncheon held at the Ports of Call Restaurant in San Pedro on Saturday, March 28. Her speech was entitled *The Power of Healing: Remembering our Babaylan Spirit*.

"Human beings are not born violent, do you agree?" she began. "We now have access to accounts that tell us of prehistoric hunter-gatherer societies that lived in balance with nature and harmony with each other and with other species. They had conflicts, but they did not have war."

Dr. Strobel said that even today, according to Filipino author Katrin de Guia, in the Philippine island of Palawan, there are still indigenous peoples that do not have a word for war in their language. "When developers began to encroach on their ancestral domains, they mainly avoided the conflict by moving deeper into the forest."

Historians write that matriarchal societies ended at the beginning of the agricultural era 10,000 years ago. That era also marked the beginning of patriarchal civilizations. "Matriarchal societies," says Dr. Strobel, "are non-hierarchical, egalitarian and deemed the relationship to the universe and all species as sacred. With the rise and evolution of patriarchy, these feminine values and energies were repressed and exiled into the narrow spaces of expression under the control of patriarchal institutions and systems."

Philippine Society in general is under-guarded by an egalitarian, lateral kinship system, according to a talk by Filipino professor Jaime Veneracion, at a lecture he delivered to a group of Fullbright scholars that included Dr. Strobel. "This is the reason," says Dr. Strobel, "why we have a difficult time adjusting to the requirements of modernity because underneath all these modern impositions is a bilateral egalitarian system."

Dr. Strobel said she recently had a discussion with her Fil-Am classes At Sonoma State University in which they talked about the values of "kapwa" (fellow humans) and "Bathala na" (God's will), the value of "loob" (inner self) and "dangal" (honor) and "pakikiramdam"



Dr. Leny Strobel and Linda Nietes



Men reading Womens Stories

AJPress photos by Rene Villaroman

(sensitivity). "Many of the white students remarked how beautiful these values are, and that they would like to live their lives being more in tune to those values," Dr. Strobel revealed. "Our modern

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Language discrimination bill approved by Senate Committee

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civil rights act."

In September of 2008, Senator Yee led an effort to oppose a discriminatory policy by the LPGA which would have required players on Tour to be proficient in English starting this year. Despite there being no relevance to the sport, the LPGA claimed that it was important for players to be able to interact with American media and event sponsors. Ironically, many of the sponsors are international companies and a number of the tournaments are not held in the United States. No other professional sports league in the United States

has such a mandate.

"It is quite disheartening that in the 21st century any organization would think such a policy is acceptable," said Yee. "With the passage of SB 242 such discriminatory mandates will not only be unfair, but illegal."

Under SB 242, it would be a violation of state law for an entity to adopt or enforce a policy that limits or prohibits the use of any language in a business establishment, unless the language restriction is justified by a business necessity and notification has been provided of the circumstances at the time when the language restriction is re-

quired and of the consequences.

A business necessity would be defined as "an overriding legitimate business purpose for which all of the following are true: the language restriction is necessary to the safe and efficient operation of the business; the language restriction effectively fulfills the business purpose it is supposed to serve; and an alternative practice to the language restriction that would accomplish the business purpose equally well with a lesser discriminatory impact does not exist."

SB 242 will now be considered by the entire Senate. (AP)



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